

MHJC News

Issue three

May 2011

Kia Ora,

Term two is off to a very busy and positive start both in classroom programmes and with many of our students also involved in other activities including winter sports teams, representing our school.

Our beautiful spacious art studios are proving their worth as hundreds of students and teachers are working hard to create giant letters which will be suspended above the ground to welcome visitors flying into New Zealand for the Rugby World Cup later this year. We have been asked to create the words Haere Mai, Welcome in Maori, and we have been allocated the prime spot by the Telstra Events Centre. Each letter is themed with a typical New Zealand flavour including a giant kiwi, a pohutukawa tree, our flag and of course the silver fern. Use is being made of recycled and natural materials wherever possible and the results so far are amazing.

Coast students are busily involved in "Science in Action" projects and our technology students are taking on the challenge of creating products of real need, within the school, having conducted surveys and developing design briefs. These authentic learning experiences are just some examples of the type of learning that has prompted the Education Review Office to include our school in a review of best practice in enterprising learning. Two reviewers recently visited the school over two days and were very excited by what they saw. One comment made was that our students were sharing work with them that rivalled that which they had seen in a Year 12 class in another school the previous day.

Our students are again featuring on the world stage with three of our Executive Council currently participating in a Young Leaders Convention in Singapore and the MHJC Community Problem Solving team and their coach Mrs Dada representing us in the World Finals in the United States. We wish them all the best for successful events.

Joan Middlemiss

Principal

Enrolments for 2012 and Weekly Guided Tours

As the time for 2012 enrolments approaches we remind parents and prospective parents of the opportunity to take a guided tour of the school in operation every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am from reception. We are proud to be recognised both within New Zealand and overseas as a leading example of a 21st Century school but there are many misconceptions about what this really means so please do come and have a look for yourself.

Our Board has made the decision that in 2012 we will, once again, not accept out of zone enrolments as our prime focus is to benefit our in zone students. This means that students must be living in our zone at the time of first attendance and for one year following. The zone boundaries are on our website www.mhjc.school.nz or please phone reception for assistance.



**Mission Heights
Junior College
"Growing
Greatness"**

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Student Led Conferences are Underway.

At MHJC we believe that parents, teachers and, of course, students all have an important role to play in learning. Our student led conferences happen twice a year and are an extended discussion, looking in depth at a student's progress. These are held at a mutually convenient time and we aim to have all families participate.

You can expect to be contacted by your child's learning advisor during term 2 to arrange a time for this very important interview.

We look forward to seeing you!

School Dental Care

Wakaaranga School Dental Clinic is undergoing major refurbishment. During the refurbishment they will continue to provide dental care, with staff relocating to Pakuranga Intermediate School Dental Clinic, 45 Reeves Road, Pakuranga.

The telephone number will remain the same and calls will be automatically redirected to Pakuranga Intermediate. For further information please phone

0800 TALK TEETH

(0800825583)

www.letstalkteeth.co.nz



Mission Heights Junior College
103 Jeffs Rd, Mission Heights.

Ph: (09) 2777881

e-mail: admin@mhjc.school.nz

www.mhjc.school.nz

MHJC is Welcoming the World

In conjunction with the Manukau beautification Trust we have embarked on an art project, as many other East Auckland high schools have, creating welcome messages in all of the languages of the cultures entered into the Rugby World Cup. These 'welcome' words are made up of 8x3½ meter letters and designed to be visible from the planes as they descend into the Auckland International Airport here in Manukau. They will be placed across the different parks in this region. We (MHJC) have the honour of creating the New Zealand word "HAERE MAI". Our design includes images unique to our country and has involved every student in our school creating and adding at least one element to it. One example is the 1700+ hand made flax flowers used to create a bush in which our Kiwi bird sits.



MHJC Continues to attract many visitors

Despite being in our 3rd year of operation MHJC continues to be very popular with visitors from NZ and overseas. This month we have been visited by around 30 Principals and teachers from Christchurch, 17 Australian Secondary School Principals, representatives from the Education Review Office, The Ministry of Education- New Schools Division and local politician Jami-Lee Ross, all of whom were most impressed with our school and our vision for learning.



Wai Care



Coast students have been actively involved in the Wai Care Environmental project this year. Students have been monitoring stream health in the local area and using the results as part of their maths studies. Representatives of the group presented their results at a regional meeting this weekend.



How to contact us if your child is going to be absent

For short term absence, such as sickness, please use our direct dial number

2505600 or e mail absence@mhjc.school.nz

Permission for extended absence must be sought well in advance from the principal please

jmiddlemiss@mhjc.school.nz

SWIFT (Schools with an Interest in Innovative Technologies) Forum, Singapore



Recently Miss Kindley and Mr Smith represented MHJC at the SWIFT Forum in Singapore with other teachers from innovative school from across the world. It is important that we continue to remain at the forefront of high quality teaching and learning for the 21st century and as one of the founding schools for this forum MHJC is doing just that. The annual Forum will be hosted in turn by participating countries and we look forward to our turn to host and share our amazing school with participants from around the world.



2011 MHJC Cross Country Champions

Our 2011 Cross country was a great success with 93% participation.

Congratulations to our 2011 Champions

Samantha Cowley- Year 7 Girls

Te Kani Williams -Year 7 Boys

Sanara Swarnadhipathi
-Year 8 Girls

Pranav Deo -Year 8
Boys

Monique Randell -Year
9 Girls

Joshua Neale-Year 9
Boys

Billy Jean Randell -Year
10 Girls

Brendan Lee-Year 10 Boys



Congratulations Bright Lin!



7F1 student Bright Lin received a **Bronze Award in the Asia Pacific Primary Schools Mathematics Olympiad.**

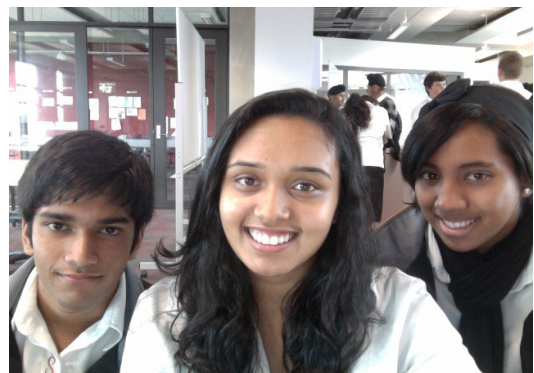
Bright took 3rd place in the

New Zealand section of the very challenging competition which is aimed at Year 7 age group students.

Shaping O.S.C. Community Problem Solving Team

We wish our MHJC international competitors the "Shaping OSC" team, Shivani Rajan, Archal Lal and Mavish Prasad all the best for the International Finals in June. The students began their project in 2010 with teacher Mrs Dada as coach and, after winning the right to go to the United States to represent NZ at the end of 2010, they have continued to work with her this year preparing for the competition. They have put in long hours creating their 12 page competitive booklet, their scrapbooks, display and a 5 minute video summarising their work. On their exciting journey they were involved in decision-making regarding furniture, subject choice, uniform, branding, and technology. They represented student voice and built important relationships, consulted stakeholders, collaborated with others and made key decisions in Shaping Ormiston Senior College.

You can check out their video on MHOnline.



Mavish, Archal and Shivani: Shaping O.S.C.

International Young Artist of the Year Award

On Saturday 16th April some of our young artists took part in this competition at Fo Guang Shan Temple in Flat Bush. This coincided with their annual Buddha's Day festival. This competition involved the students completing an artwork about the "Three Acts of Goodness" under exam conditions for 4 hours.

90 students from the local area were involved in this competition and our students did very well winning 4 of the possible 10 awards.

Congratulations to:

Elaine Sio who won the Selected Award, Anmol Sandhu, winner of the Masterpiece Award, Joanna Huang who placed 2nd in the Premium Award (junior age group) and Rizwa Zulfikar who took 2nd Place in the Premium Award (senior age group).



Water whanau "Have a Go"



At the end of term 1 Water whanau students and teachers organised and participated in a range of activities intended to give students new and challenging experiences. The day was the grand finale of the whanau's learning context and was a great success. Here students participate in the "human chain" on ice where team work was essential for success.

Year 8 Trip to Ormiston Senior College

Recently we took all our Year 8 students to visit Ormiston Senior College. For many students this was the first time they had had a chance to visit their future school. The



students were welcomed by Principal, Mr Jackways in the school's theatre and then Year 11 students took students, teachers and parents



on guided tours of the college. The college is purpose built for students in their senior years, when they will have a focus on gaining their qualifications for entry to university and the workforce. Students were impressed

with the specialist facilities and also the school's cafeteria and astro- turf courts attracted much attention! Year 9 and 10 students and parents will also have an opportunity to visit later in the year.

Debating

This year, for the first time, MHJC has entered the Auckland Secondary School's debating competition in the open division. Coach Mrs Lal has been delighted with our first year's results with us winning three of our four debates. Debating requires students to research thoroughly, understanding both sides of any argument, but equally as important, students must be able to think on their feet and present a logical convincing argument on the spot. Here one of the squad members



Nate Lecointe takes his turn speaking. We look forward to building on our early successes in 2012.

**Family and Friends
June Meeting
Wednesday 8th June
7:00pm MHJC Staffroom**

(Please use the side door to the admin block opposite the theatre)

The focus for the June Family and Friends meeting is **Using Mathletics and Spellodrome**. Parents will learn how to get the best from these resources and how to best assist their children at home.