

We hope you enjoy April's edition of 'Mission Heights News.'  
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with titles and names.



Acting Principal, Mr Naddy Naidoo

## OUR VISION

*"Growing Greatness through  
innovative, constantly evolving,  
personalised learning..."*



## Message from the Principal

### April Newsletter

#### Information for students and parents

As we reach the end of Term One we can now reflect on our achievements. Our year began with a rapidly increasing roll. This clearly reflects our communities confidence in MHJC. Our BOT has reaffirmed our commitment to only enroll in-zone students. This is a wise decision given the rapid increase in the housing development and population in our school zone.

New Zealand is surrounded by water and it has beautiful beaches. Our children can enjoy swimming in the sea and rivers, sailing, kayaking and even yachting. To really enjoy these sports our students must learn swimming. There are many swimming facilities which teachers swimming and I would encourage parents to get swimming tuition for their children. Our swimming sports on Friday 7th March revealed that many of our students need to learn to swim if they are to enjoy the benefits of this beautiful country. Our students enjoyed themselves and they have the potential to become strong swimmers if they get the necessary help.

We have a beautiful environment at MHJC. We need to respect and protect it. Parents can encourage their children to keep their school clean. Parents can pack lunches in lunch boxes instead of wrapping them in paper. Discussions on recycling and maintaining a clean and healthy environment should be a discussion at home. Parents can help us to develop a culture in their child which values and respects our environment.

We value the four cornerstones of our balanced education which are academic, cultural, sport and leadership through service. Parents can use this as a guide and encourage activities related to the four cornerstones at home. This term 47 students received the **Champions Award**. The criteria for a **Champions Award** is: First in a school-wide activity; first, second or third in a local, regional or national competition. We also recognise students who receive more than one

## Upcoming Events

Key dates are also published on our website, [Mission Heights Online](#).

### Term 2 Starts

Monday 5th May, 8.15am

### Year 8 Boys SEZ Football

Tuesday 6th May

### Yr 8 & 8 ABSL Basketball Module Starts

Wednesday 7th May

### Family & Friends Meeting

Wednesday 7th May, 7pm

### Year 8 Girls SEZ Football

Thursday 8th May

### Year 7 Boys SEZ Football

Tuesday 13th May

### Year 7 Girls SEZ Football

Thursday 15th May

### Inter-Zone Orienteering

Tuesday 20th May

### ICAS Computer Skills Exam

Tuesday 20th May

### Big Science Competition

Wednesday 21st May

### Boys Open Rugby

Tuesday 27th May

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 28th May

### Ormiston Senior College Careers Evening

Wednesday 28th May

### Boys Restricted Rugby

Thursday 29th May

### ICAS Science Exam

Wednesday 4th June

### Family & Friends Meeting

Wednesday 4th June, 7pm

### Class Photos

Thursday 5th June

### Talent Quest Finals

Thursday 12th June

### Board of Trustees

distinction in academic competitions. Parents can have a conversation with their children about these awards and motivate them to strive to achieve an award.

We have many visitors and out-of-zone parents coming to visit our school on Tuesdays. All are absolutely amazed at what we provide and many ask whether we are a private school. They appear shocked when I inform them that we are a state school. When I inform them that the parent's donation is only \$250.00 for the first child, \$220.00 for the second child and free for the third child they are even more amazed as they expect it to be thousands of dollars. I would like to encourage parents to pay their donations and if they cannot pay all at once to make arrangements with us to pay it in small installments. Paying the donation will help us to provide even more for your children. Also, a number of activities are subsidised and expensive equipment purchased using the money received from school donations.

Enjoy the term break and we look forward to Mrs Middlemiss's return in Term Two.

Regards,

**Naddy Naidoo**

## United Nations Association of New Zealand Northern Secondary Speech Competition



Pictured: Laila Abada (centre), with Northern Secondary Speech Competition Finalists.

Year 10 student, Laila Abada placed **second overall** during Wednesday evening's **United Nations Association of New Zealand Northern Region Secondary School Speech Competition**. Laila was the youngest speaker and only female in the competition, which featured mainly Year 13 students from the wider Northern Region. Laila spoke with conviction for eight minutes, and was a magnificent ambassador for Mission Heights Junior College. Congratulations, Laila!

### Meeting

Wednesday 25th June

### SEZ Boys Hockey

Thursday 26th June

### Family & Friends Meeting

Wednesday 2nd July, 7pm

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## 2014 Term Dates

### Term 2

Monday 5th May to

Friday 4th July

(9 Week Term)

### Term 3

Monday 21st July to

Friday 26th September

(10 Week Term)

### Term 4

Monday 13th October to

Wednesday 10th December

(9 Week Term)

Please do not book overseas  
travel during term time.



## Careers New Zealand CEO Visit MHJC

Year 10 is a time when students start to consider their future and what pathway they would like to take in tertiary studies. 10M2 started this process by completing a quiz on the Careers NZ website recently, however were disappointed not to see their ethnicities represented in the photos. This prompted them to write persuasive letters, fueled with passionate points of view, graphs, charts and eloquent writing to Careers NZ, hoping for a response such as a letter or an email. The class were delighted when asked to host the CEO for half a day.

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March students of 10M2 welcomed Careers NZ CEO Amanda Santos to MHJC. After a tour of the school, a discussion of our vision for learning and amazing photo opportunities (that will be used on the Career NZ website), they held a multi-cultural morning tea. The students were thrilled to be able to discuss their career options with Ms Santos and she gave them some great tips for their future - and encouragement to continue writing letters!

*"...To know that everyone in the office had read our letters was really important...when we want to do something or change something, we can actually go ahead and give it our best shot."*

- Rylee Fraser

*"...My opinion on the written word has changed somewhat, because I always believed that it had strong capabilities, but now I understand just how powerful it can be."*

- Courtney Powell



## MHJC Family & Friends What's Coming Up?

The next **Family & Friends Meeting** will be held at 7.00pm on **Wednesday 7th May**, in the **MHJC Staffroom**. The focus of the evening will be on learning techniques...

*"How parents can help their children succeed in Reading, Writing and Mathematics".*

The evening will be presented by **Mr Tashi Hishey** and **Mrs Reshmika Lal**. We hope you can join us!



Pictured: Katrina Mohammed, Annika Maritz, Kayla Pieterse & Arta Farzinbeh. (Front) Ryan Ngo, Matthew Painter, Eugene Chua & Salah Mohammed.

### South Eastern Zone Tennis

On Tuesday 25th March eight students represented **MHJC** at **Somerville Intermediate School** for the annual **South Eastern Zone Tennis** competition. This was the first time that **MHJC** had taken a full squad of 4 girls and 4 boys.

A big congratulations to all squad members who, as always, represented the school with pride. The competition was of a very high standard and a particular mention must go to **Salah Mohammed** who was our top performing student on the day.



Pictured: Coast students exploring sculptures at the Botanical Gardens.

### Coast Whanau Explore Botanical Gardens & Totara Park

To set the scene for learning around 'I am a Story' students from **Coast Whanau** spent an action packed day at the **Botanical Gardens** and **Totara Park**. The programme for the day consisted of a **scavenger hunt** to find and photograph a variety of sculptures and a tramp up to the **Totara Park** lookout. This day out gave students of **Coast Whanau** the opportunity to come together and celebrate their **Whanau Spirit**, and engage in some quality learning outside the classroom.





## Debating Update

MHJC students expressed a keen interest in debating once again this year. Hence the competition maximum number of four teams were entered and compete fortnightly against other Zone schools.

After three rounds of debating, MHJC 1: Rashmeen Sandhu, Laila Abada and Rylee Fraser (pictured above) remain the only undefeated team in the Zone. The other three MHJC teams are all tied in second place with two wins each. There are two rounds of the season remaining, then the winning teams move on to the Octo-finals.



### Congratulations Akaash!

Akaash Shashikumar's softball prowess was recognised in Howick Softball Club's recent prize-giving. He received a trophy and certificate for being the "Most Valuable Player" in the Under 13 Blue Team. Akaash has been playing softball for the past two years.

Pictured: Mission Heights Junior College students making a difference in the community through their '*Make a Difference*' social action projects

## MHJC Students 'Make A Difference'

Acts of kindness, generosity, team spirit and community involvement are what the '*MHJC Make A Difference*' DEEP class engaged with this term. The students assisted two very deserving organisations in CANTEEN and Rongomai Primary School, located in Otara.

A youth representative, Ellen Thomas, was invited to MHJC where she gave a presentation on the value of donations, as these not only assist patients but also their families whom need support to cope. Brightly colored bandanas were sold, with \$330.30 ultimately being raised by the students.

One hundred story books were collected and bake sales were held to assist Rongamia Primary School children. A total of \$250 was raised through sales and donations. Students engaged in active research where they interviewed the school principal, Mr Matthew Williams, to discover what items would be suitable as gifts for his school students. A total of 25 raincoats were purchased at \$10 each for students aged between 5-10 years of age.



## Language Perfect Competition

Mission Heights Junior College started preparing for the Language Perfect World Champs with a competition being held between students who have subscribed to the full year programme. The competition ran for the month of March, and involved students testing themselves on foreign language vocabulary.

Although competition was tight, our congratulations go to winner Max Clegg, who came through at the end to beat Hufriya Kermani by just 42 points. Well done to Max, Hufriya, and all students who took part in this challenge. Any students interested in the Language Perfect programme should contact Ms Wigg. The 'World Champs' is coming up soon, and emails will be sent home about this in the near future.



### **Congratulations Aaron!**

Year 8 student, Aaron Sund is a member of the Pine Ridge Archery Club and was awarded top archer in his division - the Cubs. He was also awarded a second place in Kiwi 3D which involves shooting at moving targets. Congratulations, Aaron!



### **Auckland Orienteering Finals**

Auckland Orienteering finals were held on Saturday 5th April and MHJC were represented in the Junior categories by Ivy Capundan, Paris Yee and Dylan Townsend. Although our students tried their best in challenging courses at St Kentigern's and Orewa College and no silverware was won on the day, Paris Yee gained 13th place in her class. Well done to all members of MHJC's orienteering squad this year, and a special 'Congratulations' to our three finalists!



### **Piha Mill Camp & Waiwera Adventures for Coast Whanau**

During Week 10, 73 students from Coast Whanau departed to Piha Mill Camp in West Auckland. The efforts of teachers and the exceptional leadership of Year 10 student leaders made the camp a memorable and exciting experience for the Year 7 students.

The fantastic weather allowed the students to take advantage of all of the outdoor activities which included hiking to the Kitekite Falls, archery, bush survival activities and the exhilarating burma night trail. Leisure time at the Waiwera Hot Pools was a relaxing way to conclude the camp.



### Wai Care DEEP Clean-Up Waterways

On Thursday 3rd April, the Mission Heights Waicare DEEP class organised a day to clean out the local stream on Valderama Drive by picking up waste and hazardous items. The purpose of the group is to promote and sustain our waterways, making them clean and healthy environments for everyone to enjoy. With help from the Auckland Council, students from the DEEP safely removed dumped polystyrene, TVs and litter from the surrounding area, making the area clean once again. Unfortunately, last year in the middle of June MHJC's Waicare DEEP class also held an extensive clean up of the area. This shows that as a community we must start demonstrating more care for our reserves and waterways.



### New Leos Club

The Leos Club is a new group established at MHJC this year. With over 30 members, they have been busy organising a 'Guess The Number of Easter Eggs' challenge for Week 11, with all proceeds raised being donated to the SPCA.



### Camp Adair a Big Success for Mountains Whanau

Year 7 students and a group of wonderful Year 10 student leaders from Mountains Whanau had the opportunity to get to know one another during their stay at Camp Adair. Friendships were made and trust was tested as students worked their way through an obstacle course, high ropes climbing and the giant ladder - to name just a few activities! Evenings were spent singing around the campfire, roasting marshmallows and taking bumpy rides down the waterslide. Camp Adair was a great way to start the year and has given students stories to re-tell for the entire year.



### Forest Make Lasting Memories at Camp Adair

Year 7 and 10 students from Forest Whanau traveled to YMCA: Camp Adair for their 2014 school camp. With many challenging activity rotations, students rallied together to support each other to face fears and rise to new challenges. Students shared laughter and made unforgettable memories that shall be treasured years from now. Forest Whanau teachers would like to thank their Year 10 leaders for the considerable support and care they demonstrated towards others, throughout Forest's 2014 Camp Adair experience.





Students, please contact Mrs Barrow [jbarrow@mhjc.school.nz](mailto:jbarrow@mhjc.school.nz) to participate in a school Dance Sport competition.

This competition serves as a wonderful lead up to the interschool Dance Sport event.



### Please Contact Us

Please do not hesitate to send an email to the Assistant Principal in your child's Whanau if you would like to communicate any pastoral needs/concerns.

Click on the Whanau button(s), below to send a confidential email...

Coast Pastoral

Forest Pastoral

Water Pastoral

Mountains Pastoral



### Shakespear a Special Camp Experience for Water Whanau

Year 7 and Year 10 students had the opportunity to test their skills and abilities in a range of fun and challenging activities at Shakespear Lodge, located at the end of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula recently.

Shakespear Lodge offered many great outdoor activities in a wonderful setting, including mountain biking, off road hill-boarding and kayaking. All students enjoyed their time away and made new friends. The Year 10 student leaders were fine role models and really showed their leadership potential.

### ANZ Netball Grant Fundraising Initiative

The screenshot shows the ANZ Netball Grant Fundraising Initiative website. The header includes the ANZ logo and navigation links: Home, Grant Scheme, Future Captains, Win Tickets, Score Select, Fan Zone, Fixtures, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Mission Heights Junior College" and includes a "What the grant is for:" section with a "School Gear Grant" icon. Below this is a "Why we should receive the grant:" section with a detailed description of the school's netball program and its need for funding. On the right side, there is a "VOTES" section showing 423 votes and a "SHARE YOUR APPLICATION TO GET VOTES" section with social media sharing options (Facebook, Twitter, and Email).

The link below takes you to the application MHJC has submitted to the ANZ Netball Grant website. With enough votes, we are hoping to win a grant to help us fund the expansion of our netball programme. Please vote for our school...

<https://www.anzcourtside.co.nz/grant-scheme/gallery/detail.html?id=18671>

You will need to register once, but this is a quick process. Once registered (no strings attached), we ask you to log in daily to vote for our GREAT school. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts.



We'd love you to follow us on Facebook! Simply click on the buttons below to be directed to our new Facebook page, or our website.



Facebook



Website



Like



Forward to Friend

## KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE Online

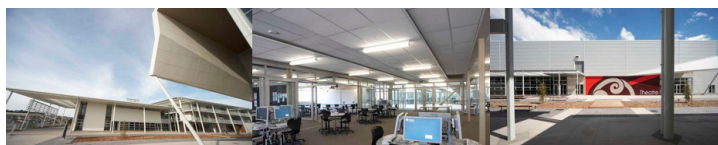


### Cyberbullying & Cybersafety

The MHJC Board of Trustees would like to remind parents and their children to review information on **PERSONAL COMPUTER USE** and issues surrounding cyberbullying and cybersafety. These two issues are topical in the media and it is important to be able to recognise potential risks. Information on these topics can be found on the **Netsafe website**. Please link to...

<http://www.netsafe.org.nz/>

The Board is currently looking at hosting a **Parent & Student Evening** on these topics. Please stay tuned for information on dates in future newsletters.

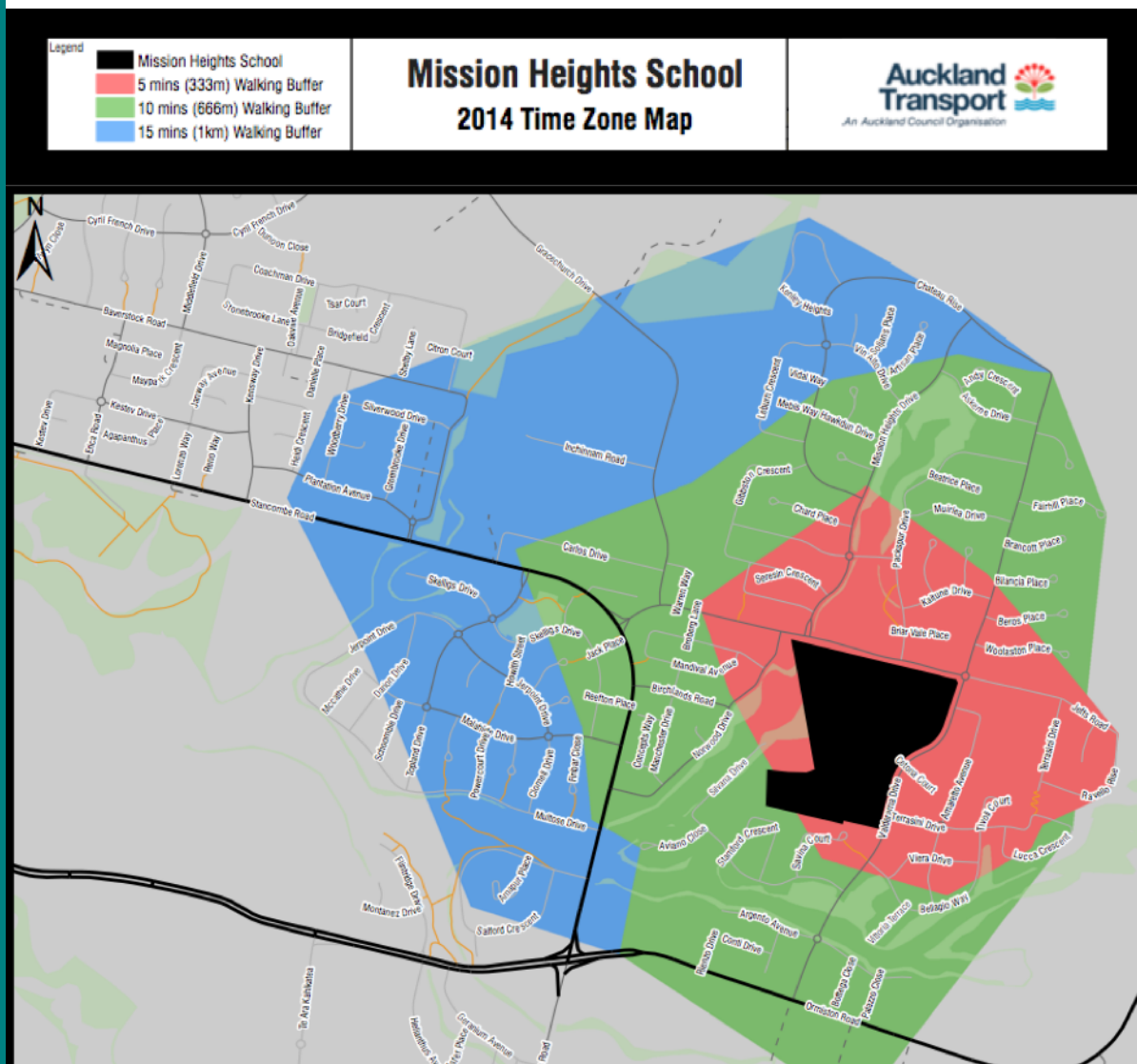


### Tuesday Open Mornings

We are extremely proud of our wonderful school, our GREAT students and dedicated staff. We welcome visitors, educators and prospective students to our school, which is open for viewing 'in action' each Tuesday morning at 10am. Appointments are not necessary. Simply report to our school reception, where either our school principal **Mrs Joan Middlemiss**, or Deputy Principal **Naddy Naidoo** will lead you on a guided tour of the school.

## Be TravelWise by Walking, Wheeling or Busing to School

As a Travelwise school, we encourage students to use sustainable transport to get to school. An area map showing the estimated walking times to the school is attached. Walking, biking, busing and carpooling all help to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce morning traffic congestion in front of the school. Please support us.



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