

We hope you enjoy February's edition of 'Mission Heights News.'
Please click [View it in your browser](#) to view text plus images in this newsletter.

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[View it in your browser](#) then click 'Translate'
(top right).

As this is 'Google Translate', exact
translation will not be achieved, especially
with titles and names.



Mission Heights News

JUNIOR COLLEGE



Principal, Mrs Joan Middlemiss.

Message from the Principal

2013 Newsbrief

Important information for students and parents

2012 ended on a high note for us as we celebrated the achievements of our students at our formal prizegivings. Thank you to the many parents and friends who came along to support their children and to celebrate their success.

This first newsbrief is being sent before we begin sending our regular monthly newsletters, as we already have important upcoming dates and information to share with our families.

We have begun 2013 with over 680 students. Our new initiative, Administration Day, has meant that our students have been able to settle quickly and our new Year 7's came on day one feeling confident and ready for their next steps in education. It is a pleasure to have such positive and motivated students.

We have another exciting and successful year to look forward to at Mission Heights Junior College and I want to thank you, in advance, for your on going support of our wonderful school.

Regards,

Joan Middlemiss

OUR VISION

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



Upcoming Parent & Student Information Evenings

This is a great opportunity to meet the Principal, Deputy Principal and Senior Leaders to learn more about MHJC's learning programmes. Students are encouraged to accompany parents at their year level meeting, which all start at 6:30pm.

- **Parents of Year 7 Students**
Monday 11th February, in the theatre
- **Parents of Year 8 Students**
Wednesday 20th February, in the library
- **Parents of Year 9 & 10 Students**
Thursday 21st February, in the library



2013 Dates

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

Term 1 Starts

Monday 4th February

Easter Break

Friday 29th March to
Tuesday 2nd April

Term 1 Ends

Friday 19th April
(11 Week Term)

Term 2 Starts

Monday 6th May

Queen's Birthday

Monday 3rd June

Term 2 Ends

Friday 12th July
(10 Week Term)

Term 3 Starts

Monday 29th July

Term 3 Ends

Friday 27th September
(9 Week Term)

Term 4 Starts

Monday 14th October

Labour Day

Monday 28th October

Teachers' Only Day

Monday 18th November

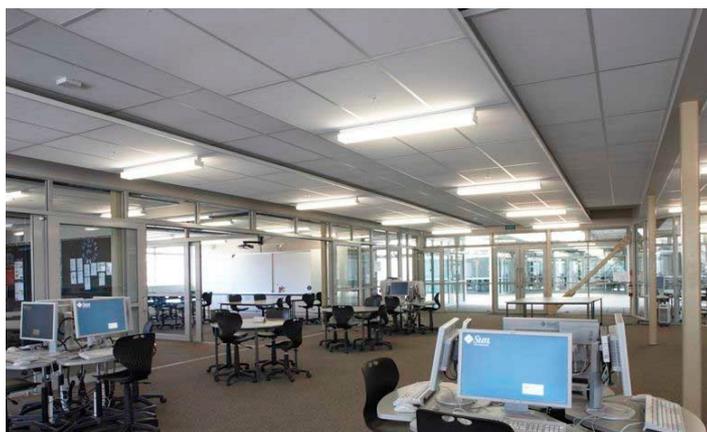
Term 4 Ends

Thursday 12th December
(8 Week + 4 Day Term)

Please do not book overseas travel during term time.

Payment of Compulsory Fees Due Now

Payment of outstanding compulsory fees must be made next week please. Students will



Early Finish on Wednesdays for classes

A reminder that school will finish at 2:00pm on Wednesday afternoons this year to allow teachers to participate in Professional Development. Students who do not have permission to go home must stay at school in the following Whanau areas where they will be supervised for independent work...

- **Mountains Whanau:** Upstairs in Mountains Whanau area.
- **Forest Whanau:** Upstairs in Forest Whanau area.
- **Coast Whanau:** Upstairs in Coast Whanau area.
- **Water Whanau:** Upstairs in Water Whanau area.

Please click on one of the buttons below to send an email to **Student Services** as to whether your child will go home or stay at school at 2:00pm each Wednesday, starting next week. Please write your child's full name and year level in your email.

Please click below...

(Alternatively email studentservices@mhjc.school.nz)

My child is to stay at school each Wednesday, 2:00 to 3:25pm

Or...

My child can be dismissed from school at 2:00pm, Wednesdays

2013 School Times

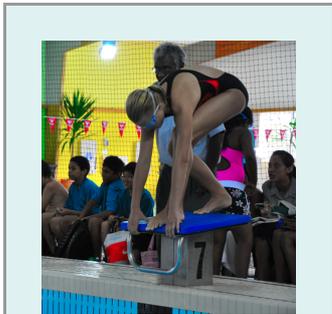
School officially starts at 8:15am (ready to learn time) on every day of the week. Whanau buildings will be opened as soon as staff arrive in the morning and students can go in and work quietly. Students need to be in class ready for Session One by 8:30am. Students who arrive late must go to reception to sign in.

School finishes every day (except Wednesdays) at 3:00pm for Year 7 & 8 students and 3:30pm for Year 9 & 10 students. Once again, students are dismissed at 2:00pm on Wednesdays, starting next week. Students can stay and work in their Whanau daily until 4:30pm. The library is open daily until 4:00pm.

be given full access to **Mission Heights Online** only when any outstanding compulsory fees are paid.

We are happy for parents to make regular direct debits throughout the year, but this arrangement must be formally established first. Please contact Principal's Secretary Pamela Lyness plyness@mhjc.school.nz or 277-7881 to initiate this.

Please contact Mrs Middlemiss jmiddlemiss@mhjc.school.nz or Mr Naidoo nnaidoo@mhjc.school.nz if you have any concerns relating to payment.



MHJC Swimming Sports

Our swimming sports are being held this year on Friday 22nd February, at the Panmure Lagoon Pools.

Cost for transport and entry is \$6 per student. This year only those who are participating in the sports will attend. Other students will remain at school.

For health and safety, all parent supporters and spectators need to collect an entry pass into the Panmure Pools, free of charge from the MHJC reception.

Join Our Family & Friends!

The first meeting of 2013 for **MHJC's Family & Friends** will be held on Wednesday 13th February at 7:00 pm, in the MHJC staffroom (upstairs).



Absences from School

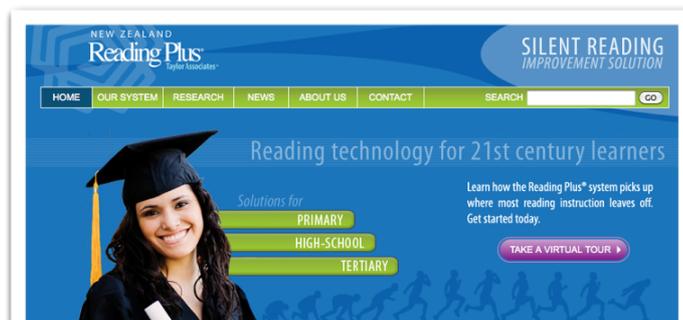
We would appreciate it if you could please continue to inform us of your child's absence(s) from school by phoning our absence line on 250-5600 or emailing as at absence@mhjc.school.nz as early as possible in the morning. You can leave a message if you call before reception is open.



MHJC Sports Report

During the first week of school all students have worked alongside their learning adviser to identify the South Eastern Zone (Year 7 & 8) and College Sport (Year 9 & 10) sporting events that they would like to trial for throughout the year. Nevertheless, students must ensure they read the eUpdates daily, for notification of trial times and practices. Students are encouraged to contact hgroenewald@mhjc.school.nz for any sport related queries.

All students are encouraged to participate in at least one sporting cornerstone during the year. No trials are held for the **Pakuranga Cross Country Fun Relay Event** in Term 3, so this is a great opportunity for all students to participate to achieve a sporting cornerstone. A reminder that all sporting teams will have a formal school photo at the conclusion of each term that will be available for purchase from our school reception as a complete set for \$15 (reduced to \$10 upon payment of school contribution), in MHJC's 2013 Yearbook.



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to parents of all new as well as existing students to join us. The focus of this meeting will be planning for the **Cultural Festival**, on Saturday 23rd March.

Academic Competition Entries

We encourage students to participate in the range of academic competitions that are on offer this year (there are 9 in total), as these provide excellent practice at sitting tests in exam conditions. A full schedule of competitions will be e-mailed shortly.

Please look out for this as entries are taken early in the year and we want to ensure students do not miss out. Entries close on Friday 22nd February.



MHJC Cultural Report

This week at school students have had the opportunity to signal which cultural activities they would like to participate in during the year to their Learning Advisers. From the wearable arts, to productions, ballroom dancing, stage challenge, debating and a rock quest - there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Your Feedback on MHJC's 2012 Reading Plus Trial

For new families to Mission Heights, Reading Plus is an eLearning site where students work to develop the speed and accuracy of their reading, vocabulary, analytical reading and comprehension skills.

Instructional Programs

PAVE™ Develops perceptual accuracy/visual efficiency, the basic requisites for fluent silent reading.

GUIDED READING™ Ensures development of basic visual and perceptual processes resulting in ease and comfort, increased reading rates and improved comprehension.

CLOZE-PLUS™ Develops meaning completion strategies through structured cloze instruction with vocabulary-in-context activities.

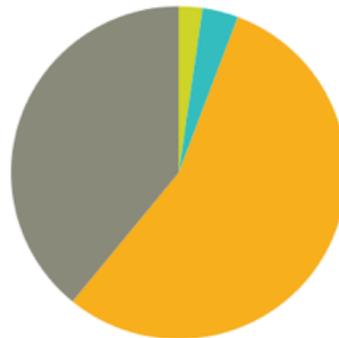
Reading Around Words™ Promotes meaning integration, comprehension skills and predictive ability through structured context analysis activities

At the end of the 2012 school year, parents of students in Years 7 to 10 had the opportunity to communicate their experiences and views of our Reading Plus trial. Students and teachers were also asked to complete online surveys.

As shown in figure 1.1 and 1.2 below, we received overwhelming parental support for Reading Plus to continue in 2013.

1.1 Parental Response

“Reading Plus was an effective eLearning tool that helped my child to increase the speed and accuracy of his/her reading.”



Strongly Disagree Somewhat Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Reading Plus was an effective eLearning tool that helped my child to increase the speed and accuracy of his/her reading.	2.30%	3.45%	55.17%	39.08%

Students are encouraged to contact pnaidoo@mhjc.school.nz for any queries about activities for the cultural cornerstone.



Uniform & Stationery

All students are expected to wear the correct uniform, including footwear to school each day. Please also ensure PE gear is at school on days with scheduled PE sessions or team practices.

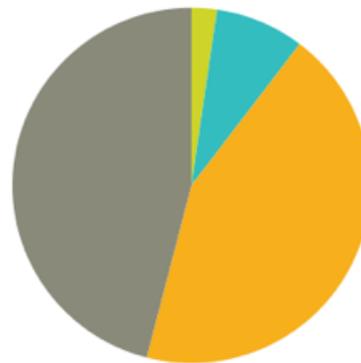
Please Note: Please refer to the school prospectus and [Mission Heights Online](#) for more information regarding nail polish, jewellery, etc. Students need to have purchased their stationery and ID card by Week 2.

Without exception, students must provide a note during any instances where it is not possible to wear the correct school uniform. These should be bought to their Whanau AP for signing before the start of Session One.



1.2 Parental Response

“Reading Plus should be an eLearning tool at MHJC in 2013.”



Strongly Disagree Somewhat Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

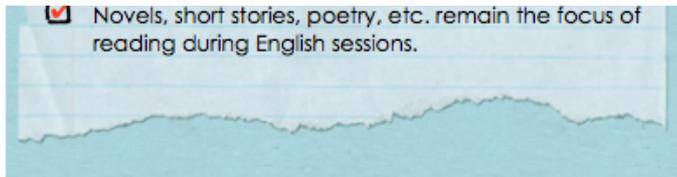
	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Reading Plus should be a eLearning tool at MHJC in 2013.	2.30%	8.05%	43.68%	45.98%

Where to Next?

We also received many suggestions and ideas for improvement from parents, students and staff through our consultation process...

CHANGES IMPLEMENTED IN 2013

- Students in Years 7 to 9 now have one timetabled eLearning session per week, with formal teacher monitoring and support.
- Teachers of eLearning will make contact with caregivers should students fall behind with their reading schedule.
- Students in all year levels will receive a year-level target at the start of Term 1. Once their target has been met, students will no longer need to complete 3 x 45 minute Reading Plus sessions per week. Of course if students wish to, they may continue to use the site.
- All students will start a second Reading Plus schedule in Term 3. Again, once a year-level (or personal) target has been met, students will no longer need to complete 3 x 45 minute Reading Plus sessions per week.
- Novels, short stories, poetry, etc. remain the focus of reading during English sessions.



Please do not hesitate to contact your child's eLearning teacher if you have any questions or concerns about their 2013 Reading Plus programme.

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...



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



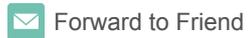
CASH UP FOR GRABS IN COOKIE TIME'S 30TH BIRTHDAY PROMOTION!

Iconic Christchurch Company Cookie Time Limited turns 30 on 7th February 2013 and - courtesy of Cookie Time Charitable Trust - is giving away \$30,000 cash, split between a New Zealand children's charity and New Zealand school.

The public is being asked to nominate their favourite school to win \$15,000 cash. The school with the most public nominations will win, and we'd love it to be Mission Heights Junior College. Please help by having your say - and encouraging all your friends and family to do it too!

The cash donation is just one of Cookie Time's mega birthday prizes, along with 30,000 free cookies and a 30 year supply of cookies for one serious cookie muncher. The prizes will all be given away via facebook, and that's where you can make your school nomination count -

Visit Cookie Time on facebook <http://www.facebook.com/CookieTimeCookies>



'Like' the page to redeem a free cookie. You will be asked to vote for a preferred charity, then go through to nominate MHJC (You can also go on to make an entry for the serious cookie muncher prize.)

The winning school will be the one with the highest number of nominations at 5pm, Thursday 28th February, 2013.

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