

We hope you enjoy our **February** edition of 'Mission Heights News.'
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As this is 'Google Translate', exact
translation will not be achieved,
especially with titles and names.



Principal, Mr Ian Morrison

Message from the Principal

February Newsbrief

Information for students and parents

May I extend a very warm welcome to all our families, particularly those who are new to the school. I am sure you will have a wonderful educational experience at MHJC and I look forward to meeting you some time in the near future. 2016 promises to be an exciting year and we look forward to the challenging programme students can enjoy on their continued journey to greatness.

Highlights include the **Board of Trustees** elections which will be held in Term 2 and the school musical which will take place in Term 3. We are also delighted to provide the **Education Review Office** highlights of our learning journey in the same term.

I thought it would be useful for parents to be as well informed as possible about some key initiatives starting this year.

Foreign Languages - Mandarin

I am pleased to introduce **Juliet Gao** our new Mandarin teacher. She will be teaching our Year 7 and 8 students and we hope to extend the opportunity to Year 9 students in 2017. We have also acquired the services of a **Mandarin Language Assistant, Tongyue Wang**, through the **Confucius Institute** as part of a strategic plan to develop Asian languages within the school. We have entered this partnership along with **Mission Heights Primary School** and **Ormiston Senior College** and I am pleased that both schools willingly supported our application. We are also fortunate to have the services of **Jenny Wang** whose students have achieved outstanding success in **NCEA** assessments which are offered during after school study sessions over the years. This learning area is prepared and ready to meet the needs of our students and fulfil our vision of developing global citizens.

ICT

To support our Vision of innovative, constantly evolving and personalised learning we have leased four class sets of **Chrome Books**, one for each Whanau. The **Chrome Books** will enable our teachers to investigate the possibilities provided by these mobile devices. Teachers will also be receiving professional development in **e-Pedagogy** with a

OUR VISION

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



Upcoming Events

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

Waitangi Day Holiday
(No School)

Monday 8th February

Meet the Teacher Evening - All Whanau
Tuesday 16th February,
6:30pm

9W1 & 9W2's Water Safety Day
Thursday 18th February

7M1 First Aid Training
Tuesday 23rd February

7M2 First Aid Training
Friday 26th February

South Eastern Zone Tennis
Tuesday 1st March

9W1 & 9W2 EOTC at Goat Island Reserve
Tuesday 1st March

MHJC Swimming Sports
Monday 7th March

Coast Yr 7 & 10 Leadership Camp
Wednesday 9th March to
Friday 11th March at
Shakespeare Lodge

Forest Yr 7 & 10 Leadership Camp
Wednesday 9th March to
Friday 11th March at Camp
Adair

Water Yr 7 & 10 Leadership Camp
Wednesday 16th March
to Friday 18th March at Piha
Mill Lodge

Dental Van for Year 8's
Monday 21st March to
Wednesday 23rd March

SEZ Boys & Girls Cricket
Tuesday 22nd March

Easter Long Weekend
(Please return to school on
Wednesday 30th March)
Friday 25th March to
Tuesday 29th March

South East Auckland 7's
Wednesday 6th April

Teacher Only Day/SLC's
Thursday 7th April

SEZ Orienteering
Tuesday 12th April

Last Day of Term 1
Friday 15th April at 3pm

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particular focus on strengthening our commitment to collaboration and co-construction using **Google Classroom** and other related applications. The lease has been signed for two years to allow time to review the impact on student engagement and achievement such devices can provide.

It must be noted that we are blessed to have one stand alone device for every two students which has allowed the school to provide digital learning opportunities for students since our opening day. **Mission Heights Primary School** has also entered into a similar lease agreement and we will work together during the trial period to obtain meaningful feedback from the trial. This will ensure we continue to provide students with a seamless transition from the primary school to the college.

Teacher Only Days

Two afternoons will be allocated in Term One (Thursday 7th April) and Term Three (Wednesday 7th September) to provide teachers with adequate time during the school day to hold **Student Led Conferences**. As a result there will be no instruction on these days. The mornings will also be devoted to **Professional Learning and Development Programme**.

MHJC Community Survey

We are very pleased with the high level of satisfaction showed by our community in the school.

Nearly all the key indicators scored at 80% or higher. The responses have provided us with a couple of areas of further investigation where differences in perception between students were shown:

1. To understand what students understand quality teaching to look like;
2. To assess how digital texts can be used to further enhance student learning;
3. To ensure that the **DEEP** programme achieves its objectives.

It is difficult to respond to every comment, particularly when some indicated high satisfaction and others less so relating to the same topic. However as a school which strives for excellence, every comment will be passed on to the relevant staff member who can reflect on it and make adjustments where possible. Our **DEEP** programme has already been overhauled thanks to feedback from the survey comments and a student forum.

I will attempt to address several broad topics raised:

Property

1. The **Ministry of Education** will be assisting us to develop a new 5 and 10 year **Property and Maintenance Plan**. The first step in this process was to assess the needs of the community through the survey.
2. Several comments related to property improvements referred to the access of vehicles to the site. The gate at the front entrance was introduced several years ago after the drop-off area was identified as a hazard. Several accidents had occurred including two drivers who had

2016 Term Dates

Term 1

Wednesday 3rd February
to Friday 15th April
(11 Week Term)

Term 2

Monday 2nd May to
Friday 8th July
(10 Week Term)

Term 3

Monday 25th July to
Friday 23rd September
(9 Week Term)

Term 4

Monday 10th October
Wednesday 14th
December
(10 Week Term)

*Please do not book
overseas travel during
term time.*



We Welcome our New Teachers . . .

We welcome back **Raeesa Dada** from study leave and extend our best wishes to the following new members of our teaching team:

Coast Whanau

Marianne Wullings, Global St.
Claire Morris, English
Rajesh Joshi, English

Forest Whanau

Satendra Lal, Maths

Water Whanau

Juliet Gao, Mandarin
Jamie Kent, Global St. & English

Mountains Whanau

Rob Hargreaves, Graphics/Tech
Ezra Bartlett, Business & Music

Mandarin Language Assistant
Tongyue Wang

Counsellor

Tamryn Broodryk

lost control and their vehicles had to be retrieved from the flower bed. Restricted vehicle access has improved the safety of our students. For these reasons, neither we nor the primary school are considering changing our approach to this access point. We also urge parents to drop their children further away from the school on quiet roads where they will be able to walk to school safely.

3. There were several very good suggestions that would promote teaching and learning and these will be considered with the **Ministry** who will also identify potential hazards and general maintenance before new projects can be approved.

4. Again we are very fortunate as we have a very modern site and should the roll remain stable as projections indicate we would not need to increase capacity, merely enhance what we already have.

Communication

5. This is an area that we always strive to improve and we note the need of parents to gain more **feedback** from subject teachers. We believe this can be addressed through **Mission Heights On-line** and as teachers' capacity to provide **e-Marking** to students is strengthened, this too can be accessed by parents which provides immediate feedback and feedforward relating to a specific assessment. Naturally, **Student Led Conferences** will continue as will the regular reports already received by parents.

6. We will be emailing **newsletters** at the end of **every term** with highlights of student achievement and activity instead of every month. The **web site** will, however be updated to provide the community with regular news.

7. I would also urge parents to visit the school and see the teaching and learning in action. Tours are led by **Mr Naidoo** and I every **Wednesday** from 9.45 to 10.30 am and while many visitors from other schools enjoy this opportunity, I would love to meet more parents at this time.

Academic Rigour

8. There were several comments about the need to continue to challenge students and ensure that we promote a **positive work ethic** and this "rigour" will be promoted. For example, **Senior Leaders** will be working with teachers to ensure that a consistent approach to homework is followed. We remain committed to ensure **homework** is **relevant, differentiated**, enhances and promotes **student achievement** and **engagement** and also promotes a **collaborative approach** so that classmates assist each other.

9. The appointment of a **Numeracy co-ordinator** is intended to strengthen our students' ability in **Mathematics** and the good work of our **Literacy co-ordinator** last year will also be continued to ensure we build our students' capacity in both these important curriculum areas.

10. We have also provided teachers with meeting times to share new and good practice in their learning areas. This is in addition to the cross-curricular planning time arranged by **Senior Leaders** in their **Professional Learning Communities**. This will help teachers to maintain their own professional development in this important area of curriculum delivery.

School Tours



A reminder that Mission Heights Junior College is **open for viewing** by the public on Wednesday mornings each week, starting at 9:45am from our school reception. Come and see our learners in action!

CONTACT US



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coast-studentservices@mhjc.school.nz

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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

Extra curricular opportunities

11. Several comments encouraged the school to strengthen **sporting codes** and this matches our development plan for sport. We are pleased that several codes have grown to the stage where we can compete on Saturday mornings and in more challenging competitions. **Netball** has led the way and will be followed by **cricket, football and basketball**. We believe in giving opportunities to everyone to "have a go" and provide talented students with the coaching and facilities to reach their full potential. Support from the community in the form of **coaches, managers and sponsors** would be appreciated.

12. The **performing arts** area has been strengthened with new appointments and we look forward to the **school musical** later this year which will showcase many of our students' talents.

Your responses have been extremely valuable and I appreciate the time taken to respond to the survey.

Best wishes for the year.

Regards,

Ian Morrison

CHALLENGE YOURSELF. CHALLENGE POVERTY.

OXFAM
TRAILWALKER
100KM | TEAMS OF 4 | 36HRS

Mrs Palethorpe is Trailwalking for Charity

We invite families to support MHJC staff member Mrs Roz Palethorpe, who is completing the team **Oxfam Trailwalker Fundraising Event** in Whakatane during the school holidays.

Please click on the link below to navigate to her fundraising page...

<https://www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/otw16/teams/bonnie-walkers>





Sports Report



Auckland Districts Cricket Tournament

During the holidays, six students from **Mission Heights Junior College** competed in the **White Cross Auckland District Cricket Tournament**. Eight Auckland districts were represented in this event.

Four students were named in the **Manukau Districts Year 7 Team**; **Harjot Singh Dharni**, **Tannin Khurana**, **Azhar Lambat** and **Max Herbert**. The Manukau Year 7 team beat all opponents, to win the week long event. **Benson Ireland** and **Devon Murdoch** were selected in the **Manukau Districts Year 8 Team**. They too went undefeated to claim the Year 8 title.

A special congratulations to **Azhar Lambart**, who took seven wickets throughout the tournament and to **Benson Ireland** for claiming ten wickets. It is wonderful to share the boys' achievements and to celebrate this **GREAT** success from **MHJC cricketers**.



Mission Heights
JUNIOR COLLEGE
Ph 277 7881
admin@mhjc.school.nz

Upcoming Parent Information Evening

All parents and students are invited to our upcoming...

'Meet the Teacher Evening'

Tuesday 16th February
6:30pm in your child's Whanau

- Introductions with teachers
- Meet your child's Learning Advisor
- eLearning @ MHJC
- Camp information

We hope you can join us!



Supporting success in your school.

If you are a parent, staff member or member of the school community and you draw down a new ASB home loan of \$150,000 or more, ASB will donate to your chosen participating school:

\$1,000

To take up this offer, your new home loan application must be received, approved and then documented in a facility agreement, along with the completion of a school donation voucher, between the 1 February 2016 and 30 April 2016.

ASB lending criteria, and terms apply. Fees may apply. A minimum of 20% equity is required in the security property. This donation offer is only available when you apply for new home lending through an ASB branch, contact centre or mobile lending manager. Other terms apply. For full details and to download the voucher visit asb.co.nz/schoolbanking.

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