

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

To translate our newsletter, please  
[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.



Principal, Mrs Joan Middlemiss.

## OUR VISION

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



## Message from the Principal

### October Newsletter

*Information for students and parents*

We are only two weeks into the final term and already the pace of life in the school is hectic as you will see from this newsletter. In all 4 Cornerstones, Academic, Sport, Cultural and Leadership through Service, we see our students engaged in such a wide range of activities.

At the same time our Year 9 and 10 students are preparing for their examinations. This is an opportunity for students to experience this type of assessment and possibly some of the pitfalls, before the stakes become too high. As adults we probably all have stories about the things that we wished we had or had not done when we were under the pressure of exams but for our students this is new learning. We wish them well.

We probably remember too the conversations we had about school when we asked such things as "Why do we have to learn this? What use will it be?" The amazing MHJC students who have experienced such outstanding success in both the **Community Enterprise Project Competition** and the **Transpower Neighbourhood Engineers Awards** will know all too well the value of the learning they have done as they have been able to combine challenging learning with making a real difference in society.

To win such competitions at this level is testament to the calibre of our students and the teachers who support them. Many schools will never have the pleasure of celebrating students as champions at a national level. We are proud to once again be able to do so.

Regards,

**Joan Middlemiss**

## Upcoming Events

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

### Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 28th October

### Year 9 & 10 Examinations

Tuesday 29th October to  
Wednesday 6th November

### BOT Meeting

Wednesday 30th October

### MHJC Hosting SEZ Mixed Touch Rugby Competition

Tuesday 5th November

### Athletics Day at Lloyd Elmore & Tabloid Day at MHJC

Wednesday 13th November

### Year 6 MHJC Orientation Day

Friday 15th November

### Teacher Only Day:

Monday 18th November

### MHJC 'Family & Friends' Netsafe Meeting: 7pm

Tuesday 19th November

### Year 10's Ormiston Senior College 3 Day Transition Visit

Thursday 21st November to  
Monday 25th November

### BOT Meeting

Wednesday 27th November

### Road Patrollers' Trip to Rainbow's End

Thursday 28th November

### Term 4 Ends

Thursday 12th December is our School Prize-Giving Day and the last day of Term (9 Week Term)

### Prize-Giving Times:

Year 9's: 9:00 am

Year 8's: 11:30 am

Year 7's: 1:30 pm

Year 10's: 6:00pm

Please do not book overseas travel during term time.



Pictured: Gay Watson from FutureIntech & the Project ALERT Team: Year 9 students Cailey Dayu, Dylan Townsend, Courtney Powell, Krishin Rama, with the team's mentors, Brendan Veroelen, (Engineer) and Mrs Middlemiss (Teacher).

## Transpower Neighbourhood Engineers Award Winners

This year Mission Heights Junior College entered 8 teams into the Transpower Neighbourhood Engineers Awards programme. This week we learned that our Project ALERT Team (pictured above) were the National Winners in the Senior Division (Year 9-13) winning a prize of \$2000 for the school.

In addition to this, MHJC's 7 other teams impressed the judges to such a degree, that they were awarded a combined Merit Award of \$1000 for the school.

These are magnificent results, thanks to a great deal of hard work throughout the year. Congratulations to all the students, teachers and engineering mentors from the 8 MHJC teams.

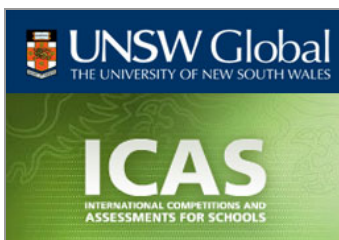
Project ALERT's innovations featured recently in the Eastern Courier. Please scroll to the base of the newsletter to read more...





A meeting organised through our 'MHJC Family and Friends' group for the combined MHP, MHJC, and OSC school communities looking at issues around young peoples' use of digital media, including aspects such as cyber bullying, staying safe on the internet etc, will be held on...

**Tuesday 19th November,**  
in the MHJC Theatre at 7:00pm



#### Results for ICAS Writing:

##### **Year 7 'Distinction'**

Jing Ying Foong

##### **Year 8 'Distinctions'**

Sophie Chen

Avinash Sathiyaseelan

Daniel Strong

Justin Tan

##### **Year 9 'Distinction'**

Rashmeen Sandhu

##### **Year 10 'Distinction'**

Asha Shashikumar



Pictured: MHJC Students learning about the art of Chinese calligraphy.

### Chinese Culture & Book Festival Calligraphy Workshop

Mission Heights Junior College students had a chance to try their hand at calligraphy guided by experts at the Chinese Culture and Book Festival held at the Mount Eden War Memorial Hall last weekend. Mrs Middlemiss was invited to speak on behalf of the Principals and MHJC was generously presented with calligraphy paper, ink, brushes and copies of the English version of a newly published calligraphy textbook. Students were treated to a delicious dumpling meal and thoroughly enjoyed their experience. Chinese calligraphy is offered as a DEEP course for any student wishing to learn more about the art of Chinese calligraphy.



Pictured: Winners of the Community Enterprise competition, Pita Niubalavu, Ali Alkathemi, Chanse Tofilau, Carven Chong, David-Johnson Toleafoa and Edward Baker.

### Winning Community Enterprise Proposal

Congratulations to Ali Alkathemi, Carven Chong, Pita Niubalavu, David-Johnson Toleafoa, Edward Baker and Chanse Tofilau for gaining 'First Equal' in the National Community Enterprise Project competition. The 9C1 students were successful in compiling an award winning business proposition to support the Wild Bird Care Charitable Trust, based in Whitford. The boys will receive \$1000 to fund the construction of their bird enclosure, designed to house native species. We wish the boys well with their forthcoming project.



### Mackenzie's a National Champion

During the school holidays, Mackenzie Winder competed in the New Zealand National Gymsport Championships in Napier. Mackenzie competed against approximately 150 gymnasts in her age group in the Rhythmic Gymnastics section. She won two gold medals: in the Individual Free-hand Title (12-14 years) and in the Group Grade 4 Competition. Congratulations to Mackenzie on this fantastic achievement.

### Assessment of Language Competence Exams

MHJC students had the opportunity to take part in the Australian Assessment of Language Competence this year, which covered key skills such as reading and listening and saw students achieving Distinction or High Distinction in the Chinese, Japanese and French exams. Our congratulations to...

#### Distinctions:

- **Angela Wu**  
Japanese Level 1
- **Lucy Lu**  
Japanese Level 1
- **Anthony Fukofuka**  
French Level 1
- **Cherhern Chang**  
Chinese Level 2 (Listening)
- **Fiona Yu**  
Chinese Level 1
- **Yiwen Lin**  
Chinese Level 1
- **Samuel Lee**  
Chinese Level 1

#### High Distinctions:

- **Aisha Koike**  
Japanese Level 1
- **John Yang**  
Chinese Level 2
  - Distinction for Listening
  - High Distinction for Reading
- **Yvonne Ruan**  
Chinese Level 2
  - High Distinction for Reading
- **Jessie Huang**  
Chinese Level 2
- **Wei Ning Yong**  
Chinese Level 1
- **Caleb Ye**  
Chinese Level 1
- **Chenxi Lin**  
Chinese Level 1
- **Kevin Gan**  
Chinese Level 1



Pictured: Art Gallery guides discussing the works with students.

### Option Art Students' Trip to Auckland City

As part of their 'Setting the Scene' for their Term 4 learning journey, our Year 10 Option Art classes visited the Auckland Art Gallery and other sculptures in the Auckland CBD and Wynyard Quarter area. Students were able to view artists' work from New Zealand and all over the globe including paintings, sculptures and installations. The field trip has helped students generate many ideas for their next project.



Pictured: (Left) Ms Trudi Wigg with Sano Senior High School home-stay students and at the Kansai Kokusai Centre with other teacher participants.

### Japanese Conference a Rich PD Experience

Japanese teacher, Ms Trudi Wigg attended a two week conference in Osaka, Japan during the holidays. She was one of six Japanese teachers selected to represent New Zealand at this conference, which was jointly run by International Language Education Pathways NZ and the Japan Foundation at the Kansai International Centre in Osaka. The conference focused on integration of culture, and the use of technology in the Japanese language classroom. Ms Wigg is looking forward to sharing her experiences with Japanese language and culture students at MHJC, and using the resources and techniques from the course to further enhance Japanese at MHJC.





On Friday 18th October 180 students from Coast Whanau attended a pre-screening of the new film 'Beyond the Edge' at the Howick Monterey Cinema. Sir Edmund Hillary's journey to the summit of Mount Everest illustrated many of the ideas explored within the students' '100% Pure NZ' learning journey.

Order your 2013 Photo Yearbook Today!



We are now accepting payment for pre-orders of our **2013 MHJC Photo Yearbook** at the school reception. The **Photo Yearbooks** cost \$15 each and contain class plus team photos. They are a wonderful memento for years to come...

## AUCKLAND MIDDLE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION ART EXHIBITION AT 'MOTAT 2'



Pictured: MHJC artists pictured with their exhibits, at Motat 2

### MHJC Students Contribute to Art Exhibition

Thirteen of our Year 7 and 8 students have artwork in the Auckland Middle Schools Association Art Exhibition at 'MOTAT 2', Western Springs. This exhibition is open to the public from Tuesday 22 October through Labour Weekend to Monday 28 October, 10am to 5pm.

Congratulations to Charu Bhella, Min Su Chang, Emma Chen, Jasmine Chen, Si-Min Chung, Timothy Kree, Oanh Le, Queenie Lim, Chenxi Lin, Disha Mehta, Imogen Schulz, Genna Young and Fiona Yu for contributing to this exhibition.



Pictured: MHJC's Bollywood Dancers receiving their \$300 prize.

### Bollywood Dancers Succeed at Diwali Festival

MHJC's Bollywood dance group was invited to perform at the Diwali Festival, hosted at the Vodafone Events Centre by the Manukau Indian Association. They placed in the top 3, winning \$300 for the school. The girls worked extremely hard to master their dance in just 3 weeks and thanks are extended to parents, students and teachers for their time and support.



### 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...

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Forest Pastoral

Water Pastoral

Mountains Pastoral



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.



Pictured: Year 10 student, Karina Gesmundo representing MHJC at the New Zealand Spelling Bee Finals in Wellington.

### 'Myopia' Proves a Challenge on the Day

During the last weekend of the school holidays Karina Gesmundo traveled to Wellington to compete in the **New Zealand Vegemite Spelling Bee Finals**. Karina was one of 18 contestants on the National stage. Despite not winning, Karina valued the opportunity to compete against *'the best of the best'* and to see the country's capital.

Whilst at the Nationals, Karina toured the **NZ Parliament Buildings**, where she viewed the **NZ Debating Chamber** and went to the top of the **Beehive**, where **Cabinet Ministers** and the **Prime Minister** hold meetings. Following that, she attended a dinner buffet where the Spelling Bee's patron, playwright **Roger Hall**, gave a speech and a medal to each contestant. After several rounds, the word that proved too challenging was 'myopia', placing Karina 11th overall.

We have also learned that Karina gained the **'Best in School'** award for the **University of Otago Junior Mathematics Competition**. Karina is to be congratulated on her many wonderful achievements!



Pictured: Ms Hetaraka and members of the MHJC TravelWise Group promoting their "Slow Down!" campaign.

### "Slow Down Around Our School!"

Members of the **Travelwise Group** reminded drivers after the holiday break to **"Slow Down Around Our School."** Banners and signs reinforced this message within our community. Our **Travelwise Group** is also promoting the walk, wheel or bus to school message to their peers.





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Pictured: Water Whanau students preparing their 'Blind Date with a Book' display at the Botany Library.

### "Blind Date with a Book"

Following the success of 'Blind Date with a Book' in the Mission Heights Library, 7W2 organised another "Blind Date" - this time at the Botany Library. Twenty Year 7 to 10 students from Water Whanau parceled and labelled books for a wide range of ages and placed them on the central display stand.

Library users chose books based only on the recommendations written on the outside, and unwrapped them later to discover what book they had chosen. The event was a huge success with the books disappearing from the display within three days. The "Blind Date" and the "Book to a Film" are part of 7W2's "Love your Library" context.





The Mexican Ambassador to New Zealand, her Excellency Leonora Rueda (speaking centre bottom) visited recently, to learn about our languages programmes and how multiculturalism is embraced at Mission Heights Junior College. The Ambassador was very impressed with the school's facilities and the high level of engagement students demonstrated during her visit. Thank you to our Spanish teachers and Mr Sanchez-Navarro for organising this outstanding event.

## Project ALERT featured in the Eastern Courier

Publishing permissions gained from Editor, Janet Taylor: 21/10/13

Go to their website: <http://easterncourier.realviewdigital.com/?iid=82464#folio=1>

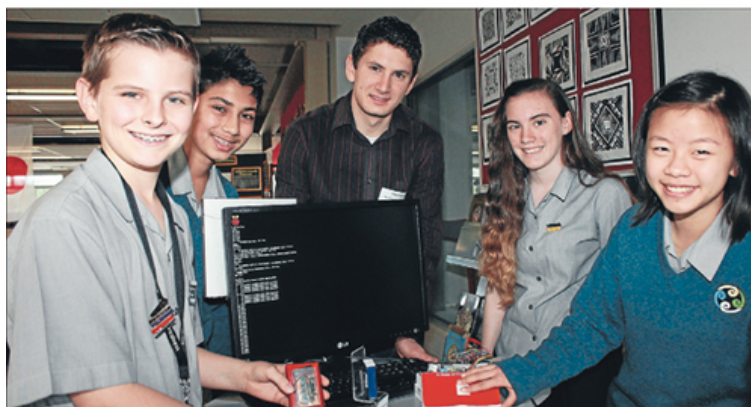
# Eastern Courier

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Friday, October 11, 2013

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**Silent saviour:** Project Alarm members, from left, Dylan Townsend, 13, Krishin Rama, 14, mentor Brendan Vercoelen, Courtney Powell, 14, and Cailey Dayu, 13, set off the silent alarm which helps alert deaf students to the possibility of a fire.

Photo: ROSE CAWLEY



**Great buzz:** Deaf student Jane Fifta, 15, feels the silent alarm which in the future will hopefully help alert her to a fire alarm being sounded.

Photo: ROSE CAWLEY

## Innovative new alarm

By ROSE CAWLEY

A BLARING fire alarm results in an almost gut reaction – evacuate.

But what happens if you are deaf?

Four students from Mission Heights Junior College have invented a new device they reckon might answer that question and save a few lives.

The small vibrating alarm they've created is now due to be entered in the Transpower Neighbourhood

Engineers Award competition on October 16.

Thirteen-year-old Dylan Townsend is part of the Project Alert group that wanted to make sure the 14 students in the school's Kelston Deaf Education satellite class had a unique way of being alerted to danger.

He says the deaf pupils were just as keen.

"They were eager to have a device that would tell them what was happening because they were scared and unsure whether the fire alarm was

ringing. "All they have are other people's reactions and if they are in the bathroom or on the field then they have no clue or idea what is going on," he says.

Fourteen-year-old Krishin Rama says group members learnt a lot about programming and electronics while making the pocket-sized device.

"We looked at restaurant pagers and vibrating alarm clocks.

We knew we wanted to do something similar but they

are quite bulky and you can only buy them in bulk."

The group did everything it could to centre the project around the deaf students, he says.

"We have the personalised cases because we want them to be part of the project and for them to feel that the alarm reflects themselves.

"We don't want them to have to carry around something they don't want, it has to look good."

He says the feedback has been inspiring.

"We had two deaf students come in and trial it. They put it in their pocket and felt the vibrations when the alarm was raised – they were very excited by it."

The students still have to iron out a few kinks but aim to take the idea further than the awards.

"We want to see if we can get funding so we can put them in to our local senior college which is where the students will be going.

"A man who worked in a very noisy industrial work-

place said he didn't hear a fire alarm until the fireman tapped him on the shoulder so it has many other uses as well."

The group is mentored by Fisher & Paykel Healthcare engineer Brendan Vercoelen through Futureintech which promotes tertiary careers in engineering, science and technology.

He says the students have shown extreme promise and enthusiasm.

"It has been an awesome project."

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