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We hope you enjoy the **Term 4, 2023** edition of 'Mission Heights Junior College Newsletter.'

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"Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another."

~ Walter Elliot



Principal, Mr Ian Morrison

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora koutou

As the MHJC waka returns to harbour after another amazing year, we anticipate some choppy waters caused by the change in government. There has been a degree of speculation about whether this might cause any changes of educational direction and policy with the new National, ACT, and NZ First coalition. Some change is inevitable but our strategy at this point is simply to "keep calm and carry on".

Our vision statement ensures we remain ready to innovate and adapt our practice to ensure our tamariki get the best possible educational experience during their time at MHJC. Should changes be asked of us, we hope they will be based on reliable evidence and best practice and not merely the whim of leaders or political expediency. We also hope that there will be suitable consultation with education experts who know what works in practice.

I am confident our learning model of providing real world, authentic learning will continue to thrive in the new educational landscape and we will continue to focus on the students and help them to find and grow their greatness.

As we approach the last few days of Term 4, may I express my thanks to everyone who has supported the school in any way. From coaching and managing our cultural and sports teams, serving on the Board or simply making sure our students arrive properly dressed, on-time, and ready to learn. Every positive contribution, no matter how big or small, is appreciated and makes our jobs that little bit easier.

Merry Christmas to the MHJC community and safe travels wherever your destination may be during the summer holidays.

'Kia mana ake - growing greatness'

Ian Morrison

Our Vision:

'Growing Greatness through innovative, constantly evolving personalised learning'



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CONTACT US

Coast
Te Takutai
Whānaucoast-absence@mhjc.school.nz
coast-studentservices@mhjc.school.nzForest
Te Ngahere
Whānauforest-absence@mhjc.school.nz
forest-studentservices@mhjc.school.nzWater
Te Wai
Whānauwater-absence@mhjc.school.nz
water-studentservices@mhjc.school.nzMountains
Te Maunga
Whānaumountains-absence@mhjc.school.nz
mountains-studentservices@mhjc.school.nz

Credit Card Payments

A reminder that MHJC has launched its Kamar Web Portal for parents. Parents can make payments via credit card from home. To access the portal, please use this [Kamar Web Portal](#) link . If you have not received your username and password, please feel free to contact **Reception** or your **Whānau Assistant** for assistance.



Māori and Pasifika Celebration

The Māori and Pasifika Celebration evening is held annually, celebrating and recognising excellence amongst our Māori and Pasifika ākonga. Awards are presented across the 4 cornerstones of cultural, sport, academic, and leadership. This year, in addition to the two major awards (Te Piki Kōtuku and Tautua Award) we were also privileged to introduce our 4 cornerstone awards and another major award - the Ta'ita'i Award. The evening showcased the many talents our students hold in cultural singing, dance, and performances, and ended with a delicious spread of kai to share with our students and their whānau. Congratulations to our big award winners:

Kōtuku Award - Solomon Anderson (10M2)

Tautua Awards - Kiana Pao (10F1) / Nevaeh Tito (10C2)

Ta'ita'i Award - Salote Lavemai (10W1)



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MHJC 2024 Calendar
**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Dates are also published on our school website:

[Mission Heights Online](#)

Important dates for 2024:

Term 1:

Tuesday 30th January
Compulsory Admin Day Interview
(All)

Wednesday 31st January
First Day, Year 10 Students Only

Thursday 1st February
Year 7 & 10 Students Only

Friday 2nd February
All Students

Friday 12th April
Final Day of Term 1

Term 2:

Monday 29th April - Friday 5th July

Term 3:

Monday 22nd July - Friday 27th
September

Term 4:

Monday 14th October - Friday 13th
December (staff)

School will be closed on the following days in 2024:

Waitangi Day (observed)
Tuesday 6th February

Easter (during term time)
Friday 29th March - Tuesday 2nd
April

Anzac Day (during school holidays)
Thursday 25th April

King's Birthday
Monday 3rd June

Matariki
Friday 28th June

Labour Day
Monday 28th October



Te Ahurea Tino Rangatiranga

Inā te mahi he rangatira

"By deeds a chief is known".

Enabling every student to reach his or her potential by educating them via their own language and cultural values.

These words are a philosophy from **Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwae**, a Māori school in Māngere East. They hosted **The 2023 Te Ahurea Tino Rangatiranga** (one of two Auckland Secondary School kapa haka regional competitions) and the kaupapa has been going for nearly 25 years.

MHJC and OSC kapa haka were able to join and create a collaborative kapa haka called "**Ngā Pou Kahikatea**". **Matua Willie** (OSC) and **Matua Leeroy** (MHJC) created this name in reference to how the Kahikatea tree grew abundant in **Ōtara** (now split into the suburbs Mission Heights, Murphy's Park, Ormiston, etc.), and the schools themselves being the "Pou" - the main pillars of the area today, meaning the great pillars of the Kahikatea forest.

This was the first time the local junior and senior schools of **Flat Bush** have been a part of any Auckland Secondary Regional kapa haka event, so it was a milestone for the two schools involved. Students only had three weeks of intense practices, whereas other schools practiced for months in advance. MHJC is exceptionally proud of all the students, whānau, and teachers involved.

Watch this space for **Ngā Pou Kahikatea**.

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SCHOOL TOURS



Mission Heights Junior College is open for viewing by the public every week on Wednesday mornings starting at 9:45am from our school reception.

Come and see our learners in action!



TOM in Melbourne

MHJC had 3 teams travel to Australia to participate in the Tournament of Minds (TOM) international finals this term after winning nationals in Wellington. They spent a week in Melbourne, exploring the different attractions of the city. Team "Doomsday" came 2nd in the Secondary Division of Social Science and received the Spirit of TOM Award. Team "7 Elements" came 2nd in the Amazing Race for the Game On! Challenge. They all had an incredible experience in Australia.

Year 9 Market Day

This term, our Year 9 Enterprise students hosted their annual Market Day. Students demonstrated creativity and innovation with the amazing products that they made to sell. They demonstrated skills and knowledge of the 4P's of the marketing mix - Price, Promotion, Product, Place. Students made an overall profit of \$800 collectively and donated the funds to the Tournament of Minds teams. Well done Y9 Enterprise!



Weightlifting Champion

Laurel Swann (9W2) recently competed at the Secondary School Weightlifting Championships. Laurel worked





Rugby League - Pacific Youth Cup

Pj Solomona (8W1) recently played Rugby League for the Auckland Cook Islands U13 team competing for the Pacific Youth Cup. Well done Pj!



Horse Riding Success

Delta Stewart (8C1) took part in the Clevedon Open Ribben Day this term. Delta came away winning the Reserve Champion in the Senior Novice Class. Congratulations!

On October 27th, the annual **MHJC Tabloid Day** hosted 500 Year 7 to 10 students participating in a spirited competition for the coveted **Sports Shield**. The event saw twenty-four teams competing in activities that included haka, karaoke, basketball, water and tennis ball relays, uni-hockey, benchball, pavement arts, and various online challenges.

Students engaged in friendly competition, earning points throughout their ten 20-minute activity rotations. The day celebrated individual and collective challenge, placing a strong emphasis on creativity, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

A sincere 'thank you' to all students and staff for their positive engagement and congratulations to Wai/Water Whānau for securing the Sports Shield!



Sports Report

Summer Sport Codes

MHJC hosted the SEZ Touch Tournament this past term. MHJC had a number of students who had not played before, but had a great time



Y10 Work Placement

Our Year 10 students were out of 'normal' classes during **Week 8** to have hands-on real life work experience.



Rubal Van Rentals

Rubal Van Rentals is a vehicle rental company based in Ōtāhuhu. They are proud supporters of **Mission Heights Junior College** and would love to assist you with your next rental needs.

SEZ Volleyball was held in Takaanini at the Pulman Arena. Our teams prepared well and played a great day of matches with both teams finishing third at the event. An outstanding player of the day was **Nhemcie Theriz Canonicato (8M1)**. We look forward to volleyball growing even further in 2024.

The **SEZ Basketball** event saw MHJC competing in both the girls and boys grades. The girls team had a great tournament given their minimal preparation time. They placed second, losing to Farm Cove Intermediate. The MHJC Aces entered the boys grade and also placed second. Congratulations to both teams!

In November, MHCJ took 45 students to compete at **SEZ Athletics**. At this event, 9 students qualified for the **AAIMS Auckland Championship** event. This second event was held at Mt Smart Stadium. Congratulations to **Benjamin Huang (7F1)** on placing first in the 400m Final.

Our **Senior Volleyball Teams** entered the **SEZ Competition** for 2023. The girls team had an incredible year, completing an undefeated season. **Roman Amosa (10M1)** and **Kristina Toleafoa (10C2)** both showed exceptional skills.

The **Eastern Zone Touch** season was held at Saint Kentigern College, for the first 5 weeks of Term 4. The season saw a mixed showing from both our girls and boys teams with teams playing in heavy spring rain. Star players for these teams were **Jayden Veitch-Tamati (10F1)**, **Kelpen Fereti (10W1)**, and **Kristina Toleafoa (10C2)**.

Athletics Day

The annual **Athletics Day** was held again at Massey Park in Papakura. The rainy weather didn't hold back students from competing with great Whānau spirit. **Forest Whānau** took out the **School Athletics Shield** - congratulations! Below are the grade winners for the 2023 event:
Year 7 Girls - **Narlora Kaufisi (7F1)**, Year 7 Boys - **Benjamin Huang (7F1)**
Year 8 Girls - **Jenifer Le (8F1)**, Year 8 Boys - **Edmond Cai (8W1)**
Year 9 Girls - **Daniela Naidoo (9C1)**, Year 9 Boys - **Daniel Blanco (9M2)**
Year 10 Girls - **Anmoldeep Kaur (10W2)**, Year 10 Boys - **Alize Iosua (10W2)**





Mission Heights
JUNIOR COLLEGE

Prizegiving/Graduation Schedule

Year 10 Graduation - Monday 11th Dec. @ 5.30pm

Year 9 Prizegiving - Tuesday 12th Dec. @ 9.00am

Year 7 and 8 Prizegiving - Wednesday 13th Dec. @ 9.00am

Please see details of each event on MHJC website.

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