

We hope you enjoy the **Term 1, 2025** edition of 'Mission Heights Junior College Newsletter.'

Please click [View it in your browser](#) to view text plus images in this newsletter.

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



"It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves."

~ Sir Edmund Hillary



Acting Principal, Mr Naddy Naidoo

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Kia ora koutou*

*It is with mixed emotions that I submit my resignation from my position as Associate Principal at the conclusion of this term. While I am saddened to leave, I am equally excited about the new challenges that lie ahead and look forward to embracing them with enthusiasm.*

*I was honoured to be appointed as **Deputy Principal** to **Jeffs Road School**, which was later renamed **Mission Heights Junior College**. This appointment marked a significant milestone, as I believe it was the first time the **Ministry of Education (MOE)** appointed the senior management team prior to the development of the school's architectural plans. Alongside **Mrs Joan Middlemiss** and **Ms Jane Furlong**, I was entrusted with the unique opportunity to help design a new 21st century learning environment from a "blank canvas". The process was both exhilarating and challenging, and I will always treasure the countless hours spent with architects and builders as we conceptualised and brought the vision of the school to life.*

*Looking back, I am incredibly proud of the school we have created, a school that stands as a testament to the values and principles we set in place from the beginning. The foundation we established has proven to be enduring, and the vision of "growing greatness" remains strong and firmly embedded within the school's culture.*

*One of the most rewarding aspects of my time here has been working alongside our students. Their energy, enthusiasm, and passion for learning have been a constant source of inspiration. I will dearly miss the bright young minds who have enriched my time at the school. Their growth and achievement have been one of the greatest joys of my career, and I have no doubt that they will continue to thrive in their future endeavours.*

*Following **Mrs Middlemiss**' retirement, I have been fortunate to work with our new Principal, **Mr Ian Morrison**, who has embraced the school's original vision and enhanced it with new ideas and leadership. I leave the school confident that under his guidance, **Mission Heights Junior College** will continue to thrive and move forward with purpose. I also have the utmost confidence in my successor, **Mrs Raeesa Dada**,*

## Our Vision:

'Growing Greatness through innovative, constantly evolving personalised learning'



## CONTACT US



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### 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.



*I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the **Board of Trustees**. Over the years, their unwavering support and passion for the school have played an integral role in ensuring the success of our institution.*

*Mission Heights Junior College will always hold a special place in my heart. It has been an honour to service this incredible community, and I am excited to see what the future holds for both the school and myself.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this journey.*

Naddy Naidoo

### Leadership Changes Term 2

Term 2 marks some changes across MHJC's Senior Leadership Team. We say farewell to two individuals who are foundation members of staff. **Mr Naidoo** will be off on new adventures from next term and **Mrs Lal** will be starting her new position as Deputy Principal at **Sancta Maria College**. **Mrs Dada** (*Deputy Principal Takutai/Coast Whānau*) has been appointed as our new Associate Principal, effective next term. She will be replaced by **Mr McKimmon** who has been the Assistant Principal of Takutai/Coast for a few years. **Mr Suckling** (*Deputy Principal Maunga/Mountain Whānau - on leave*) has been appointed as our new Deputy Principal with schoolwide responsibilities.



### Ngā Pou Kahikatea at Polyfest

MHJC collaborated with Ormiston Junior College and Ormiston Senior College to enter the **2025 ASB Polyfest** competition. Their amazing performance comes from resilience at weekly practices and at many weekend noho. The roopu was tutored by **Matua Leeroy** and kaiako from the other kura. Ka pai to all those involved!

Below is a link to the performance.

<https://shorturl.at/D2bXU>



\* See **Sports Report** for dates of sporting fixtures.

### Term 2 Starts

Monday 28th April

### Y7 Grade 1 Cycle Skills

Monday 5th - Thursday 8th May

### Otago Maths

Wednesday 7th - Thursday 8th May

### NZ Sign Language Day

Thursday 8th May

### Te-Moana-nui-a-Kiwa Festival

Friday 9th May

### Y7 Grade 1 Cycle Skills

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May

### Enviro Days

Tuesday 13th - Wednesday 14th May

### Big Science

Wednesday 14th May

### Rotuman Language Day

Thursday 15th May

### PINK Shirt Day

Friday 16th May

### Y10 NZQA Co-requisite

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd May

### Hwa Chong Leaders' Summit

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd May

### AMC CAT Competition

Tuesday 20th May

### Māori Speech Competition

Friday 23rd May

### Y7 Buddhist Temple

Friday 23rd May

### Boostrix Talk- Year 7

Monday 26th May

### Y8/9 Coast/Mountains Blake NZ

Tuesday 27th May

### Y8/9 Water/Forest Blake NZ

Wednesday 28th May

### MHJC Mathex

Thursday 29th May

### Samoan Language Day

Friday 30th May

### King's Birthday (no school)

Monday 2nd June

### Mid-Year Testing Y7/8

Tuesday 3rd - Friday 6th June

### Mid-Year Testing Y9/10

Monday 9th - Friday 12th June

### Y7 Mountains Stardome

Monday 9th June

### 40 Hour Challenge

Friday 13th - Sunday 15th June

### National Hearing Screening Y9

Monday 16th - Tuesday 17th June

### Matariki Celebrations

Monday 16th - Thursday 19th June



## 2025 Executive Council

Congratulations to the following students who have been appointed to the **Executive Council** for 2025. They have already participated in the **GRIP Leadership Conference** to learn valuable skills that will help them lead across MHJC this year.

**Back row:** Rafan Jalil, Tej Kumar, Saunik Sharma

**Front row:** Angela Wang, Mya Fennessy, Dia Pokharkar, Dhristi Chauhan, Misa Pham, Karmyn Lau



## Ambury Farm Trip

A small group of students enjoyed a trip to the beautiful **Ambury Farm** in March. Students discovered the many farm animals and got to touch and feed a few. This excursion made their learning about farm animals' habitats and their needs come to life. What an awesome day out!



**Matariki (no school)**

Friday 20th June

**Celebration Assembly**

Monday 23rd June

**Y10 Careers Expo**

Tuesday 24th June

**Boostrix Vaccination**

Wednesday 25th June

**End of Term**

Friday 27th June - 1pm

**REMINDER****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!*

**Inter-whānau Chess**

The tension was high and the strategies sharper than ever at the **Inter-whānau Chess Competition!** The junior teams showed incredible skill, focus, and teamwork as they battled for a spot in the finals. Ka rawe to all our talented young players - the future of chess is looking bright.

**Academic Competitions Update**

Get ready to compete! We are excited to share that 121

**Cultural Dress Day**

One of the most loved events on the **MHJC** calendar was this term. As always, lots of students showed their creativity in the 'Passion Wear' category and others showed the strong connection they have to their own culture. Students who participated this year earned a cultural cornerstone participation e-badge.

**Ngahere Year 10s Model UN**

This term, students in 10F1 and 10F2 studies issues around social media and the impacts on the world and their generation. On Wednesday 19th March, they participated in a whole day **Model UN**, where they each took on the role of a different group in a **Global Digital Policy Taskforce** (eg. Social Media Corporations, News Outlets, AI & Ethics Experts and Governments), and had to come up and agree upon solutions to fix issues surrounding technology and social media. The students did a great job collaborating, research, presenting, and debating their topics and came up with some innovative ideas to solve these problems.



registrations for our 11 national and international competitions. Our team is hard at work processing all registrations, and we encourage everyone to join the **Google Classroom** for the latest updates and important resources.

ICAS registration will remain open until the beginning of Term 2 Week 2, so if you have missed out, there is still the opportunity to receive some important cornerstones.

It's time to get prepared - whether you're new to academic competitions or a seasoned participant, now is the perfect time to start practicing and organising your materials.

Stay tuned for more updates, and best of luck as you get ready to shine!

## Year 7 Camps at Camp Adair

Our **Year 7 Camps** headed out this past term with all Whānau travelling to **Camp Adair** in the **Hunua Ranges**. Students participated in a range of activities including river kayaking, camp cooking, high ropes courses, discos, drama games, and the famous water slide. Year 7 students gained valuable experiences which helped them step out of their comfort zones and establish new friendships with their peers. Year 10 leaders were also amazing this year helping to welcome our new Year 7 students.

Photo highlights from all camps can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

**Year 8** students from **Ngahere Whānau** recently embarked on an unforgettable trip to **Goat Island** as part of their learning context around **Kaitiakitanga**. For many, it was their first time snorkelling, and the excitement was evident as they explored the vibrant underwater world. They were amazed to see a variety of fish up close, with some even lucky enough to spot an impressive eagle ray. The experience deepened their understanding of guardianship and the importance of protecting our marine reserves.

## Sports Report

### Summer Sport Codes

#### SEZ Girls Softball

The team placed 3rd at the tournament on the 3rd of March.

#### Counties Manukau Zone Athletics

Congratulations to all our students who travelled to this event, and especially to the individuals who placed in their specialist events.

Rafan Jalil - 2nd in 100m, 1st in 200m

William Breen - 2nd in High Jump

William Nguyen - 2nd in High Jump, 3rd in Shot Put, 1st in Discus

Eden Williams - 3rd in Shot Put

Benjamin Huang - 3rd in 800m

Junior Girls 4x100m Relay - 2nd

*(Rhania Kannemeyer, Carmen Martin, Bella Graham, and Anna Eckardt)*

Intermediate Boys 4x100m Relay - 3rd

*(Donovan Nghe, Rafan Jalil, Cooper Bowers, and Aiden Jaise)*

#### NZSS Waka Ama Nationals

Congratulations to Ahriella Elisara who recently competed at the NZSS Waka Ama Nationals held at Lake Tikitapu in Rotorua. She completed in the Under 16 Girls W1 250m class and placed 10th overall. Amazing job!

We are well underway with preparation for MHJC to have an **Under 15 Boys' Rugby Team** in 2025, with training already in full swing. Watch this space for more details!

### Term 2 Sports Timetable

**AIMS Orienteering** Wednesday 14th May

**SEZ Y7 Girls Football** Tuesday 20th May

**SEZ Y8 Girls Football** Thursday 22nd May

**SEZ Y7 Boys Football** Tuesday 27th May

**MHJC x RHS Exchange** Wednesday 28th May

**SEZ Y8 Boys Football** Thursday 29th May



**SEZ Gymnastics** Friday 6th June

**SEZ Rugby** Friday 13th June

**AAIMS Rugby** Monday 23rd June

**SEZ Futsal** Tuesday 24th June

**MHJC Cross Country** Thursday 26th June

Term 1 ends on Friday 11th April at 1pm.

We wish our community a wonderful break.



## Year 7 Camps