

We hope you enjoy the **Term 1, 2026** edition of 'Mission Heights Junior College Newsletter.'

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.



"Every mountain top is within reach if you just keep climbing."

~ Barry Finlay



Principal, Mr Ian Morrison

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora koutou

*Our waka has set sail and we are travelling towards our destination; however, it is an understatement to say that the seas we navigate are a bit choppy. The disruption caused by the conflict in the **Middle East** has had an impact on everyone in some way. I often wonder about how helpless we might feel at these times. At the start of the year, I mentioned to the school that our motto, '**Kia mana ake**', can be interpreted in many ways. One is how we encourage students to strive for excellence and perform some amazing feat. Equally important and perhaps accessible to all, is the notion that we can all make a difference simply by doing the right thing and reaching out with kindness to others. Doing small things to the best of our ability qualifies as 'growing greatness' and perhaps, if everyone felt the same, we can make a positive change in the world.*

Thank you for your support of our students who need to know that we can make a difference.

'Kia mana ake - growing greatness'

Ian Morrison

Our Vision:

'Growing Greatness through innovative, constantly evolving personalised learning'



CONTACT US



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Dates are also published on our school website:

[Mission Heights Online](#)

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

Term 2 Starts

Monday 20th April

Talanoa Ako Evening

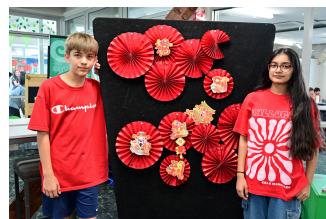
Tuesday 21st April

Y9 Wai Whānau Rangitoto

Wednesday 22nd April

Pōwhiri

Thursday 23rd April

**Cultural Update**

This term, our students enthusiastically participated in several cultural celebrations that highlighted the diversity within our school community. We welcomed the Lunar New Year with a vibrant red dress-up day and an engaging **Chinese Calligraphy** session, where students explored traditional writing and cultural meanings.

Our talented students also represented our school at the **HPPA Cultural Festival**, proudly performing the graceful **Korean Fan Dance**, energetic **Giddha**, and lively **Bollywood Dance**.

To celebrate **Eid**, students participated in a cultural dress-up day, wearing beautiful traditional outfits that added colour and joy to our school. These events provided valuable opportunities for students to share their cultures, learn from one another, and celebrate diversity together.



Anzac Day Observed

Monday 27th April

Te Moana Nui-a-Kiwa

Wednesday 29th April

Y7 Buddhist Temple Visit

Friday 1st May

Interwhānau Enviro Week

Monday 4th - Friday 8th May

Year 7-10 Attitude Talks

Wednesday 6th May

Student Led Conferences

Thursday 7th May

Pink Shirt Day

Friday 15th May

Y10 NCEA Coreq. Reading

Monday 18th May

Y10 NCEA Coreq. Numeracy

Wednesday 20th May

Y10 NCEA Coreq. Writing

Friday 22nd May

Mathex

Wednesday 27th May

Y6 Whole Day Experience

Friday 7th November

King's Birthday

Monday 1st June

e-asTTle Y7/8

Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th June

e-asTTle Y9/10

Monday 8th - Thursday 11th June

Non-uniform Day

Wednesday 10th June

MHJC Enviro Week

Monday 15th - Thursday 18th June

Y10 Careers Expo

Tuesday 23rd June

Y9 Hearing Screening

Monday 29th - Tuesday 30th June

Talent Quest

Tuesday 30th June

Celebration Assembly

Thursday 2nd July

End of Term

Friday 3rd July - 1pm



Year 7 Camps

Our Year 7s Camps are always a highlight of Term 1. Year 7 students from all four Whānau, as well as Year 10 leaders and staff, attend **Camp Adair** in the **Hunua Ranges**. These camps work to help new students establish relationships with their peers and teachers. It enables ākonga to step outside of their comfort zones and experience new outdoor education experiences. The weather this year cooperated for all four camps! Highlights included the confidence course, high ropes, raft building, kayaking, and the ever popular mud slide! Please see the photo montage at the end of this newsletter for more memories.

Ngā Pou Kahikatea (NPK)

The **Ngā Pou Kahikatea (NPK)** kapa haka team are preparing for another Polyfest campaign. After a successful 2025 performance, the group progressed into Division 2 for 2026! This is an amazing accomplishment for our students.

We wish our MHJC performers (**Amethyst Woods-Morunga**, **Shia Lal**, **Dayton Hirawani**, **Corban Costello**, **Awhina Wikotu-Kaihau**, **Lebron Chu-kau**, and **Sione Vaenuku**) all the best.

For whānau wanting to watch live, NPK are performing on Wednesday 1st April at 10:55am at the **Due Drops Event Centre**. Tickets can be purchased online [here](#). **Māori TV** is also going to livestream performances.



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!

Emergency Contact Details

Please help us ensure your child's safety by updating your emergency contact details and any important medical information through the **Kamar Parent Portal**.

School Uniform - Long Skirts

We have had a recent addition to our school uniform. Long skirts are now available for purchase from **John Russell Schoolwear**, both in-store and on their website.



String Together Concert

Patchara Khamphawa (7C1) recently featured in a **New Zealand Herald** article for his participation and performance at the **String Together Concert** - a gala concert helping young musicians develop their technique and skill. What an excellent opportunity for Patchara!

The context in **Ngahere** for our Year 9s has focused on **Kotahitanga** - coming together as one. Throughout the term, students have worked on building strong relationships, supporting one another, and collaborating to achieve shared and personal goals. Our experiences at **Wero Whitewater Rafting and Climbing** challenged students to step outside their comfort zones, trust their teammates, and demonstrate teamwork, resilience, and unity in action.



Y10 Wai Whānau Ice Skating

Earlier this term, Year 10 students in **Wai Whānau** travelled to **Paradise Ice in Botany** for an Ice Skating session. Students received lessons and improved their skating skills to bring their "Journey to Gold" and Winter Olympic context to life.



Maunga at the Museum

Year 8 students from **Maunga Whānau** travelled to the **Auckland War Memorial Museum** earlier this term. The trip connected to their context "**Discovering Tāmaki Makaurua**" in which students have been looking at the volcanic history of Auckland. They participated in interactive learning, such as the volcanic eruption house, as well as an informative talk from one of the museum's educators.

Blake VR Year 7 Experience

Our Year 7 students across the school recently had the exciting opportunity to explore virtual reality with the topic “**Threats to our Moana**”. The experience, provided by **Blake VR**, focused on habitats, marine reserves, food webs, pollution, overfishing, and kaitiakitanga.

This immersive experience was an incredible way to engage students and support their learning in a meaningful, school-wide context.



Polynesian Athletics Championship

Narlora Kaufisi (10F1) proudly represented Niue at the **Polynesian Athletics Championships** recently. She ran in the 800m and 1500m, showing incredible resilience and determination. MHJC is very proud of her! Well done Narlora!

MHJC is thrilled to announce the commencement of our **2026 Academic Competitions**, a core component of our Four Cornerstones. These opportunities are designed to help students “find and grow their greatness” by tackling regional and international challenges.

The season officially kicks off in Week 9 with the **Otago Senior Maths Problem Solving Competition**. This marks the beginning of a busy schedule of events running throughout Terms 2 and 3. Students can challenge themselves in the **Australian Mathematics Competitions**, the **Great Kiwi Competitions**, and the prestigious **ICAS Assessments** covering Writing, English, Mathematics, and Science, plus many more.

Following a record-breaking 2025, which saw over 150 students excel in these competitions, we are eager to see our community build on this momentum. To ensure you don't miss out, students must keep an eye on the Kiosk in whānau and check their emails regularly for registration details and updates. Let's embrace the challenge and have some fun while doing our best!

Sports Report

Summer Sport Codes

Orienteering Sprint Series

MHJC participated in the **Eastern Zone Orienteering Sprint Series** over 5 events in Term 1. Mission Heights hosted the first event on February 17th with our students making the most of their home ground advantage. Followed by events at other local schools on warm Tuesday afternoons, this was a great introduction to sport for 2026. We had students from all year groups competing. A special mention to **Anjali Mathew (9M1)**, **Kayla Hou (9M1)** and **Aneka Lowe (7M1)** for qualifying for the **Sprint Series Championships** event.

Counties Manukau Zone Secondary School Athletics

We had 34 students compete at the **Counties Manukau Secondary Schools Athletics Championships** held on Wednesday 11th March at **Massey Park** in **Papakura**. Well done to all our athletes who participated. Congratulations to the following teams that placed:

First Place - Junior Boys 4x100m Relay - **Aiden Chen (9W1)**, **Benjamin Huang (10F1)**, **Kaden Wiggins (10F2)**, **Alex Taing (9C1)**
 Second Place - Intermediate Boys 4x100m Relay - **William Breen (10C2)**, **Tej Maharaj (10W1)**, **William Nguyen (10C1)**, **Anthony Zeng (10C1)**
 Second Place - Junior Girls 4x100m Relay - **Natasha Caddy (9W2)**, **Sophia Larobis (9W1)**, **Kayla Hou (9M1)**, **Lillie Punnett (9F1)**
 Third Place - Junior Boys 800m - **Benjamin Huang (10F1)**
 Third Place - Junior Girls Shot Put - **Eden Williams (9W2)**
 Third Place - Intermediate Boys 1500m - **Mohammad Zamani (10C1)**
 Second Place - Junior Boys 200m - **Kaden Wiggins (10F2)**

College Sport Auckland Athletics Championships



Waka Ama Secondary School National Champs

Ahriella Elisara (10M1) has recently competed in the U16 Girls W1 250m at the Waka Ama Secondary Schools National Championships in Rotorua. Ahriella placed well in the semi-finals and progressed to the finals finishing 10th overall in her division for all of New Zealand.

teams and individual athletes trained well and had incredible performances. Eden Williams (9W2) threw a personal best in the Junior Girls Shot Put. The Junior Boys 4x100m Relay team narrowly missed on a medal, finishing in a respectable 4th place - Alex Taing (9C1), Kaden Wiggins (10F2), Benjamin Huang (10F1) and Aidan Chen (9W1).

North Island Secondary School Athletics Championship

Congratulations to Eden Williams (9W2) who placed third in Junior Girls Shot Put. An incredible result for Eden!

Winter Sport Codes

SEZ Boys Futsal Monday 4th May
SEZ Girls Futsal Wednesday 6th May
AAIMS Orienteering Wednesday 13th May
Y8 Girls Football Tournament Thursday 21st May
SEZ Y7 Boys Football Tuesday 26th May
SEZ Y8 Boys Football Thursday 28th May
SEZ Badminton Tuesday 2nd June
SEZ Gymnastics Friday 5th June
SEZ Girls Hockey Monday 15th June
SEZ Boys Hockey Thursday 18th June
MHJC Cross Country Friday 26th June

Term 1 ends on Thursday 2nd April at 1pm.

We wish our community a wonderful break.



