

We hope you enjoy the **Term 3, 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.



"Some people want it to happen. Some people wish it would happen. And others make it happen."

~ Michael Jordan



Principal, Mr Ian Morrison

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora koutou

Mate atu he tētēkura, ka whakaeke mai he tētēkura.

As one frond perishes another grows in its place.

This is my last message and so I wish to close by thanking everyone who has contributed to making my time at MHJC so rewarding.

MHJC is an amazing school and I feel privileged to have been able to serve as its leader for eleven of the most stimulating years of my teaching career. This community is blessed to have a highly skilled and capable leadership team, who has and will continue to assist and guide our support and teaching staff to provide a high quality service to our students.

I have truly enjoyed working with the MHJC staff, students and community. While I am excited about the next stage in my journey at the **Education Review Office**, I know I will miss the warm, caring and friendly culture that makes this such a special place.

I was given an amazing send off by the **AIMS Netball and Tournament of Minds** teams who, in the same week in early September, became National Champions. An amazing achievement which shows the talent of our students.

I look forward to visiting from time to time, and even though physically I will not be here, MHJC will always hold a special place in my heart.

Best wishes to you all as you continue growing your greatness.

'Kia mana ake - growing greatness'

Ian Morrison

Our Vision:

'Growing Greatness through innovative, constantly evolving personalised learning'



CONTACT US



**Coast
Te Takutai
Whānau**

coast-absence@mhjc.school.nz
coast-studentservices@mhjc.school.nz

**Forest
Te Ngahere
Whānau**

forest-absence@mhjc.school.nz

Water Te Wai Whānau

water-absence@mhjc.school.nz
water-studentservices@mhjc.school.nz

Mountains Te Maunga Whānau

mountains-absence@mhjc.school.nz
mountains-studentservices@mhjc.school.nz



Dates are also published on our school website:
[Mission Heights Online](#)

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

Term 4 Starts
 Monday 12th October

Pōwhiri
 Thursday 15th October

NPK at Ahurea
 Saturday 17th October

Niue Language Week
 Monday 19th - Friday 23rd October

Year 9 & 10 CATS
 Monday 19th - Friday 23rd October

Year 7 & 8 e-asTTle Writing



Tournament of Minds

Tournament of Minds (TOM) is an amazing problem solving competition where students have six weeks to work on a challenge and present their solution in a 10 minute performance. They have to create their own props, costumes, write short scripts, create videos and much more! We had four teams attend the **Regional Competition** in Auckland with one team coming third in the Language Literature Competition and one team coming first in the Arts Competition, earning them a spot in the **National Finals** in Wellington. After a jam packed day in Wellington, our Arts team also won the National Competition! It is the first time MHJC has won the Arts Division! Congratulations to these students!



Ngahere Whānau in Wellington

Nineteen Year 9 students from Ngahere/Forest Whānau travelled to **Wellington** this term as part of their 'Our Voice, Our Choice, Our Future!' learning context, enjoying an inspiring day exploring New Zealand's democracy and history.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to **Parliament**, where students watched the **House of Representatives** in session and gained a first-hand understanding of how New Zealand's laws are debated and

Monday 26th October

Tokelau Language Week

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Year 7 Vaccinations Dose 2

Tuesday 27th October

Road Patrol Training

Tuesday 27th October

NZ Shake Out Drill

Tuesday 27th October

Non-Uniform Day

Wednesday 28th October

Great Learner Evidence Day

Tuesday 3rd November

Diwali

Monday 9th November

Year 7 VegRun

Wednesday 11th November

MHJC Diwali Celebration

Thursday 12th November

Year 9 & 10 e-asTTle

Monday 16th - Thursday 19th November

Road Patrol Rainbow's End

Friday 20th November

Soloman Islands Language Week

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th November

Santa Show

Friday 27th November

Year 10 Careers Workshops

Monday 30th November - Tuesday 2nd December

Māori and Pasifika Evening

Wednesday 2nd December

Year 6 Whole Day Experience

Thursday 3rd December

Champions Assembly

Monday 7th December

Whānau Day Out

Tuesday 8th December

Year 10 Prizegiving

Wednesday 9th December

Year 9 Prizegiving

Thursday 10th December

Year 7 & 8 Prizegiving

Friday 11th December

as a member of Parliament and answered students' questions.

The group also visited **Te Papa Tongarewa**, New Zealand's national museum, where they explored interactive exhibitions showcasing New Zealand's history, culture, science, and identity.

The experience brought classroom learning to action, helping students deepen their understanding of democracy, civic participation, and the importance of having a voice in shaping New Zealand's future.



Kotahitanga in Rotorua

As part of the Term 2 context in **Ngāhere Whānau**, Ngā Whetū e Kotahi Ana - Promoting Kotahitanga through Social Action, our Year 10 students travelled to **Rotorua** at the beginning of Term 3. The trip provided students with opportunities to strengthen relationships, work together and demonstrate Kotahitanga - unity, togetherness and collective responsibility.

Students experienced a range of activities including the Luge, Polynesian Spa, Redwoods Forest and Zorb. Each experience encouraged students to step outside their comfort zone, support one another and build positive relationships with their peers. Through shared experiences, challenges and opportunities to have fun together, students developed a stronger sense of belonging and connection to one another.

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**.



Maths Champion

Congratulations to **Vihaan Chowdavarapu** from Forest Whānau who has achieved an outstanding result in the **Kiwi Maths Championship**, placing first in New Zealand. He has won a certificate and a \$100 voucher. Congratulations to Vihaan on this remarkable accomplishment!



Inter-School Quiz Competition

On Thursday 6th of August, a group of Year 10s participated in the **Inter-School Quiz Competition** hosted by the **Pakūranga Rotary Club** for senior schools in the **Howick Local Board**. Our students demonstrated their local, national and worldwide knowledge through teamwork, communication and problem solving skills. Well done to the boys for their contribution and support of each other!



Lip Sync 2026

Earlier this term was our annual **Lip Sync** competition! Each whānau entered two teams - one junior and one senior - to compete for this inter-whānau title. To the student leaders in each whānau that took on responsibility for organising, choreographing, and making each performance happen - thank you! It is always a highlight to see these performances. Well done to **Coast Juniors** and **Forest Seniors** for placing 1st in their respective categories. A huge congratulations to **Coast Whānau** who are the overall winners of Lip Sync 2026!



Learning About Law

This term, Te Whānau Maunga had a session with **Family Court Associate Singh** and **Legal Research Clerk Sam**. The session was learning about the NZ Court Systems, what is the Family Court and how the Family Court works with families and young people. This learning connected directly to their context “Elections” as it explored “Voices, Choices and Active Citizenship.”



Science Fair

After placing at our school **Science Fair**, our students had the opportunity to compete alongside schools from across South and East Auckland, showcasing their investigations, problem-solving and passion for science. And what an incredible achievement - 5 MHJC groups placed at the **NIWA Regional Science Fair**!

To celebrate their hard work and achievements, the winners from both our School Science Fair and Regional Science Fair were treated to an action-packed day at **BOUNCE!**

A huge ngā mihi to all of our Science Fair students for representing MHJC with such



Speech Competition

The **2026 MHJC Speech Competition** showcased some outstanding speakers, with the following students taking top honours in their categories:

- Junior Category Y7-8 Winner: **Ryan Foong**
- Senior Year 9 Winner: **Danny Chen**
- Senior Year 10 Winner: **Bella Graham**

Ryan went on to represent our school at the **Rehu Tai Speech Competition**, confidently sharing his thought-provoking views on Deforestation.

Danny and Bella proudly took part in the **Eastern Zone Speech Competition**. Danny engaged the audience with his thought-provoking speech, *Would Society Survive Without the Internet?*, while Bella captivated the audience with her powerful speech, *Is Love Just a Feeling or a Connection?*, exploring the deeper meaning of love and human connection in Aotearoa.

Congratulations to Ryan, Danny, and Bella for their outstanding efforts and achievements. We are incredibly proud of their growing confidence, dedication, and the powerful messages they shared!

proud of you!

Thrive Programme

Thrive classes are returning to Mission Heights Junior College for Term 4!

So much of learning at school involves communication. But knowing what you want to say and feeling confident enough to actually say it are two very different things!

Thrive gives children dedicated time each week to practice the speaking and communication skills that can help them participate more confidently in the classroom.

Students work on:

- ✦ putting their hand up and sharing ideas with confidence
- ✦ speaking clearly and loudly enough to be heard
- ✦ explaining their thoughts and organizing what they want to say
- ✦ contributing to group discussions
- ✦ making eye contact and using confident body language
- ✦ presenting and speaking in front of a group

Term 4 Programme Details:

- 📍 Tuesdays @ MHJC
- 👥 Small groups of 4 to 6 students
- 🕒 30-minute weekly lessons
- 💰 \$220 per guaranteed 8-week term
- 🎁 FREE trial lesson available for new students!

Give your child a place to practice their voice, build their communication skills and take that confidence back into the classroom.



Spelling Success

Anjali Mathew, Tanveer Kaur, and Shivika Mani spelled their way to the semi-final for the 2026 Aotearoa New Zealand Spelling Bee, sponsored by the **Wright Family Foundation**! Among the top 350 spellers nationwide to advance to this stage, this is an incredible achievement and reflects the talent and dedication of our rangatahi. Congratulations, Anjali, Tanveer, and Shivika on your exceptional result!



Sports Report

Junior Sport Codes

AIMS Games

Well done to our 13 athletes who travelled to **Tauranga** this term to compete in the **AIMS Games**! And a huge congratulations to our AIMS Netball Team for winning **GOLD**. The team worked incredibly hard all week and showed tremendous determination, playing two games a day.

groups are already full!

Enrol here:

<https://wkf.ms/3AZWDEx>



Lost Property

There are a number of pieces of lost property at our reception, including school shoes and drink bottles. These items are unnamed but can be collected from reception if they belong to your child.



incredibly proud of our first ever GOLD medal winning AIMS team!

MHJC South Eastern Zone Netball

On Friday 7th August, 16 students competed at the **South Eastern Zone Netball Tournament**. Our teams were made up of students who regularly play together on Tuesday evenings. Both our Year 7 and Year 8 teams worked incredibly hard throughout the day, playing a total of six games each. Both teams were dominant across the tournament and finished the day strong, coming away with convincing wins in their respective finals. We are incredibly proud of both teams and congratulate them for their strong showings at the **Auckland Championships**.

Senior Sport Codes

Football

Both our **Boys Teams** and **Girls Team** wrapped up their seasons earlier this term. The two boys teams had challenging seasons which saw them compete against strong teams. A core group of the boys are looking forward to returning next year and growing the football programme at MHJC. The Girls Team displayed incredible grit and determination, finishing 3rd place overall in their league. An amazing result!

Netball

The **Senior A Team** showed incredible dedication and commitment throughout their 2026 season. Their determination and teamwork paid off as they finished 3rd in the B Grade Section 1. This team was awarded a trophy from **Auckland Netball** for the team that best represented their school and uniform. Congratulations girls!

The **Senior B Team** trained extremely well and worked hard to improve their skills and teamwork. Their positive energy and work ethic saw them finish 3rd in the E Grade Section 2.

Well done to both teams on successful seasons!

Upcoming Sporting Events

- SEZ Volleyball** Wednesday 14th October
- MHJC Athletics and Tabloids** Friday 30th October
- SEZ Boys Touch** Wednesday 4th November
- SEZ Girls Cricket** Monday 9th November
- SEZ Boys Cricket** Wednesday 11th November
- SEZ Athletics** Tuesday 17th November
- AAIMS Athletics** Thursday 26th November





Term 3 ends on Friday 25th September at 1pm. MHP also finishes at 1pm.

We wish our community a wonderful break.



THRIVE Programme

At Mission Heights
Junior College

We cultivate confidence,
communication, courtesy and
critical thinking in every child:
we set them up with essential
life-skills for success at school
and beyond!





So much of learning at
school involves
communication. But
knowing what you want to
say and feeling confident
enough to say it are two
very different things!

Free Trial lesson!

Sign up for Term 4 today!

thrive.school.nz