



Mission Heights Primary School
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MHPS NEWS

The Mission Heights Primary School Newsletter

Issue 1 / February 2018

www.mhp.school.nz

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Principal's Message

I am pleased to welcome each and everyone of our new and returning families to the 2018 academic year. I hope you have all had a very relaxing and enjoyable family time during the summer break.



At the end of this year our school will have completed its 10th year of being open for a milestone celebration in 2019. What an amazing journey it has been for our young and future focussed school so far. We have had a positive and settled start this week with all our new and returning students. A special welcome 'Powhiri' will be held for our newcomers on February 16th at the week 3 school assembly.

This year the annual curriculum context is 'The Future'. Within this context that will be reflected across all the learning objectives, MHP's curriculum coverage and development will enable the students to consider and think about their future lives, impact of changing technologies, communication, world's changing climate, transportation and skill sets needed in future work forces.

In considering our innovative and constantly evolving personalised vision students and teachers will centre their discussion and research on why or how schooling in the future may need to be different from schooling today? And importantly as a consequence in our role as parents and teachers we will also need to think and question ourselves too about how well are we preparing our young people and communities/society to engage with specific future challenges to address serious and real life problems linked with sustainability, globalisation, citizenship, enterprise through authentic and relevant problem solving contexts.

The rich context of 'The Future' over the whole year will depict the wider purpose of schooling within a continuum of learning that you will see in learning zones and collaborative studio learning opportunities through each term that will have a specific sub-theme. The way the students will experience learning will not only exemplify MHP's modern learning environments but also our collaborative teaching and learning practices in all studios.

Teachers planning and curriculum delivery over the year will be organised around four fundamental types of learning: Learning to know, that is acquiring the skills of understanding; Learning to do, so as to be able to act creatively on one's environment; Learning to live together, so as to participate and cooperate with other people in all human activities; and Learning to be, as an essential progression of being an individual yet a global citizen which proceeds from the previous three to succeed in a fast changing

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and complex future world. These four fundamental skills of being a successful learner will certainly be the overriding focus at Mission Heights Primary for 2018 to maximise our students learning journey.

As students get immersed, busy and involved in academic, sports and cultural events planned for the first term, I am hoping that alongside a strong, supportive and successful home school partnership, we will achieve positive education outcomes for all our students and help them to succeed as learners and to showcase their learning at its best.

So once again this year, I would like to welcome each and everyone of you to an exciting year ahead, and look forward to working and meeting with you as together we make 2018 a great and successful year for all our students and our school.

Kind regards
Veena Vohra - Principal

Mrs Carol Norton



I am the Deputy Principal with an overview for the Junior Learning Community this year. We are starting the year with 13 learning zones and two new teachers: Claudia Chan and Nicole Melchor. We are also welcoming the return of Janet Twentyman to our junior team from the seniors. Nadine Fiebiger is working as the Leader of Learning for the juniors this year. For those of you who already know me, I will be continuing to support our students with Special Needs and our new students and families to the school alongside ensuring our ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) students and families are receiving support where needed.

Mrs Cheryl Hill



As part of my role as Deputy Principal this year I will be leading the Senior Learning Community. Monique Browne is working as the Leader of Learning for the seniors this year. We also welcome two new teachers this year, Mr Edward Gee and Mr Richard Campbell, who I am sure will be great assets to the team. Life in the Senior Learning Community is always a busy one as we prepare students for their growing responsibilities and for the Year 6 to be the Graduates of 2018. I am sure you look forward, as I do, to see our students grow and succeed in the many challenges we place before them.

Mrs Jenny Keber



As Deputy Principal of School Operations and Achievement my role will continue in much the same vein as 2017. There are two big changes in education this year that I will be directly involved with. Firstly, there are major changes to assessment and reporting with the removal of National Standards. This has meant that we will be assessing and reporting more comprehensively on all aspects of the curriculum. This has also lead to major changes to our report format. You will be introduced to these changes during the goal setting meetings in March. Secondly, the Digital Technologies curriculum has been introduced (in draft format), giving a greater emphasis to Digital Technologies. Luckily, at Mission Heights Primary, we are already well ahead of the learning curve in this area.



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School Organisation 2018

Listed below is our professional team for this year.

Principal

Mrs Veena Vohra - MEd (Hons), AdvDipT, DipEdM

Deputy Principals

Mrs Carol Norton - Junior Learning Community Years 1-3

Mrs Cheryl Hill – Senior Learning Community Years 4-6

Ms Jenny Keber – School Operations & Achievement

Junior Learning Community

Water Studio

Kirstin Meehan, LZ 1 - Year 2

Renlen Bolland, LZ 2 – Year 2/3

Deborah Law, LZ 3 – Year 3

Earth Studio

Janet Twentyman, LZ 4 – Year 1

Manjula Bhattacharay, LZ 5 – Year

Stephanie Thompson, LZ 6 – Year 1

Fire Studio

Leigha Falzone, LZ 7 – Year 1

Nicole Melchor, LZ 8 – Year 2

Nadine Fiebiger, LZ 9 – Year 1

Air Studio

Sharon Garimella, LZ 10 – Year 2

Ruth Cooper, LZ 12 – Year 1/2

Forest Studio

Emma Passmore, LZ 28 – Year 3

Claudia Chan, LZ 29 – Year 3

Renuka Lal, LZ 30 - Year 3

Senior Learning Community

Wai Studio

Erna Bornman, LZ 13 – Year 5

Richard Campbell, LZ 14 – Year 4

Helen Stevens, LZ 15 – Year 5

Whenua Studio

Ashlee Morse, LZ 16 – Year 5

Ashika Devanath, LZ 17 – Year 5

Hau Studio

Monique Browne, LZ 20 – Year 6

Nicole Dennis, LZ 21 – Year 6

Ahi Studio

Wanda Wright, LZ 22 – Year 6

Edward Gee, LZ 23 – Year 6

Gina Heo, LZ24 – Year 6

Ngahere Studio

Bill McCutcheon, LZ 25 - Year 4

Katie McAra, LZ26 – Year 4

Marcella Djongianto, LZ 27 - Year 4



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Classroom Release Teacher

Teacher - Mrs Karen Hishey

Music Specialist

Mrs Yun-Pai Hsu

Administration

Executive Secretary/PA - Mrs Sue Kennedy

Receptionist - Mrs Kyra Edwards

Finance/Accounts - Mrs Kathryn Pullar

Librarian - Mrs Sibylle Townsend

Library Assistant – Mrs Elise De Silva

ICT Managers- Mr Ben Doughney, Mr Mark Chang

Caretaker – Mr Marcus Revell

Maori/Pasifika Support - Mrs Justine Tuhaka

Learning Assistants/Teacher Aides

Mrs Simone Davies, Mrs Jill Rodgerson, Ms Mayada Yagot, Miss Emma Swires,

Mrs Vaishali Manocha, Ms Tracey Currie, Ms Sally Cutfield, Ms Belinda Knight

Meet the Teacher Evening - 15 February 6.30pm

We have our first orientation and induction evening for all parents and families in the coming weeks to meet with the teachers and our senior staff. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet our senior leadership team and your child's learning zone teacher, learn about our unique school curriculum, assessments, RTL times, online reporting/forums and learning programmes and chat with senior staff informally to clarify any other questions further. For the senior learning community there will be some information regarding the Year 6 school camp which is coming up in the middle of the term.

Please be seated in the hall by 6.25pm for a prompt start to the evening by the Learning Community Deputy Principals. 2017 National Standards achievement report and 2018 targets will also be shared before the visits to the learning zones along with the new reporting format for individual student reports.

Important: Please do bring along your child/children to this evening.

MHP A-Z Parent Information

An A-Z parent I-Desk school information is available for your perusal from our school website's home page www.mhp.school.nz once you log on as well in your child's 2018 communication book. Please refer to it to learn about our school protocols such as late arrivals, RTL time, administering medication at school and paying of school accounts.

MHP Board Meetings

Board meetings are held once a month on the 4th Thursday of each month from 5pm onwards. Please feel free to contact the Board secretary Sue Kennedy at skennedy@mhp.school.nz or the Principal if you have any questions regarding school policies, procedures or the role of Trustees.

MHP Family Picnic and Twilight Sports - Friday 23 February - 5.30pm onwards

A popular feature of our school community's calendar at the start of the summer term is the 'MHP Family Picnic and Twilight Sports' event on the 23rd of February starting from 5.30pm.

Each year this event is a huge success with families, staff and children enjoying the opportunity to relax with a picnic dinner on our courtyards or grassed areas



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before participating in some light-hearted sports organised by the staff should you wish to. It is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know other MHP families particularly for those new to the school and mix and mingle with the teachers.

All our families are most welcome!

Mission Kids

Mission Kids are available for before and after school care in our school hall. For further information, please contact Paul on 0204 999 019 or email paul@missionkids.org.nz.

Parent Logon & Password for MHP Online

Parent logons and passwords are available from reception and via email to admin@mhp.school.nz. You will be able to view your child/ren's reports and studio information online once you have them.

Road Safety

It is great to see everybody back safe and well. We really want to keep it that way so please ensure you are using the pedestrian crossing to cross the road. We had a near miss at home time on Tuesday, the first day of school, when one child crossed and there was oncoming traffic and the family was left on the pavement, he became stranded in the middle of the busy road! Please also make sure that you are parking safely before letting your children out of the car and do not pull into the school entrance gate.

Your support in these matters is vital as we are all trying to keep our children safe and remind all our parents timely about the safest way to bring your children to school.

Parents can drop off their child/ren in either Valderama Drive or Norwood Road enabling them to walk the short distance to school without crossing any roads. Parking is available around the Mission Heights reserve and in neighbouring streets. This is an easy walk to school for parents and students. The main crossing on Jeffs Road is manned from 8.15 - 8.30am. This is the safe and expected pathway into school from across Jeffs Road. We would ask that parents crossing the road also do so only at the crossing so that we reinforce to students that this is the appropriate place to cross.

We are encouraged by the 75% of our students who walk all or part of the way to school and back home responsibly each day.

School Assemblies

MHP school assemblies are very special events where we celebrate the success and achievements of our students in their ongoing effort of 'Growing Excellence'. All school assemblies are held in the hall. The whole school assemblies are held on odd weeks on a Friday morning from 8.45 am to 9.30am approximately. The Learning Community assemblies are held once a term at the same time. Prior information is sent about the Learning Community assembly and is online too. We value your time and presence at these events and encourage you to join us in sharing the learning journey and success of our students at these celebration events.

School Communication/Newsletters- email contact

We prefer digital communication for all school notices and would like to encourage you to keep in touch with us via email, mission online, and in particular through your child's teacher to be well informed about our school and your child's learning progress.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school office and they will refer you to the appropriate person immediately.

To receive our newsletter, weekly updates and all school notices via email please email us your current/ most updated email address to: admin@mhp.school.nz.

Please remember that you should be receiving our monthly newsletter either by email or accessing it via the school's website. If for some reason you have not been receiving our newsletters or notices, please inform our school reception urgently.

School Contribution/Stationery

We are thankful to the families who have come in recently to pay their school contributions and compulsory fees. We strongly urge once again to those families who have not paid for their child's stationery, fees or the school contribution, to please consider paying these as early as possible in the coming week.

Benefits of paying the school contribution timely:

5% discount: The school contribution is a voluntary payment which is discounted if paid prior to 31 March 2018. Should you pay the contribution after 31 March 2018, you will not be eligible for the 5% discount.

Free Yearbook: All families who pay their contribution will receive a complimentary 2018 school yearbook at the end of the year. These books are a valuable record of your child's time at Mission Heights Primary and may seem unnecessary now but they are a treasure to look back on, in years to come.

Tax rebate: In April we will send out tax receipts for donations such as school contributions. These tax receipts can be used to apply for a part refund of this year's donation and are available on request.

Details about how to make timely, regular and affordable direct debit payments and tax rebate receipts are available from Mrs Kathryn Pullar at finance@mhp.school.nz

School Library Time Changes

The Mission Heights Library will now close at 3:30pm every day. The original intent of having the library open until 4pm was so that students and the community could have access to computers if they didn't have them at home. However, due to the rapid change in technology and the prevalence of personal devices, the library no longer needs computers for students and the community to use. Students are still welcome to return and issue books from the library until 3:30pm. Please note, on some occasions the library will be closed after school due to staff professional development, training and cluster school meetings.

Start of the School Day

Students are expected to be in their learning zone by 8.30am so they can prepare for the start of the school day which starts promptly at 8.40am. All learning zones are open from at 8.00am. Due to health & safety, the side gates at the front of the school will be locked at 8.30am, therefore all students arriving after this time will have to go up the main entrance stairs. All students arriving after 8.40am must report to reception.

We also request that parents/family leave the school grounds once the learning has commenced at 8.40am, to help the younger students to settle into class routines quicker. Thank you for your understanding.



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Uniforms- school code

We are very proud of our school uniform at MHPS and the students look very smart wearing it. Please note that the correct colour for socks and hair ties is black and that students are to wear studs for earrings to ensure student safety. The school expectation is that students come to and from school in their school uniform and wear the correct school shoes.

We encourage parents to purchase the full sleeve polo option for the school uniform if your child requires to be warmly clothed through the year. Any hair wear such as scarves are also to be plain black. Girls are not to wear footless leggings & socks to cover their legs, they must wear the black opaque tights and remove all nailish polish before the school week starts. Shoes without socks for girls, such as slip ons and ballet type slippers, are not appropriate uniform wear.

With the concerns about sun safety in NZ, and the high summer temperatures, we want all students to wear the school's wide brimmed hat to and from school and sun glasses (optional).

We encourage all our students to take responsibility for their personal belongings at all times as part of managing themselves as responsible learners. Please note that the school does not store lost property and encourages all students to take care of their belongings hence they must all be named clearly.



Welcome to New Students/Families

A very special welcome to the 40 new students and their families who have started for the first time with us this week. We hope your association with Mission Heights Primary will be long and happy in the years ahead. Each one of our students bring special talents and expertise to our school and we are delighted to start our 2018 year with such an excited and wonderful group of new students and families coming on board. At our week 3 assembly - 16 February, we will be welcoming all our new staff and families with a powhiri. All welcome.

Year 6 Camp 2018 - Parent Information Evening

The information evening for the Year 6 camp is Monday 19 February at 6.00pm in the Meeting Place. The camp will be Tuesday 20 March - Friday 23 March. Information is being sent home with students.

Term 1 Events

February

- 6 Waitangi Day Holiday
- 8 & 9 Swimming for Year 4-6
- 15 Meet the Teacher Evening
- 15 & 16 Swimming for Year 4-6
- 16 School Assembly
- 19 Camp Meeting for Year 6 Parents
- 21 HPPA Cricket
- 22 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 22 & 23 Swimming for Year 4-6
- 23 Picnic in the Courtyard
- MHP Swimming Carnival
- 28 Goal Setting meetings
- HPPA Cricket

March

- 1 Goal Setting Meetings
- 1&2 Swimming for Year 4-6

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- 2 School Assembly
- 5 Water Studio trip to MOTAT
- 6 Forest Studio trip to MOTAT
- 7 Literacy open Morning
HPPA Cricket
- 7 & 8 Wai & Whenua Studios trip to MOTAT
- 8 School Council PD Day
- 8 & 9 Swimming for Year4-6
- 9 SLC Assembly
- 14 Year 1 Breakfast
HPPA Cricket
- 15 Year 2 Breakfast
HPPA Swimming
- 15 & 16 Swimming for Year 4-6
- 16 School Assembly
Mufti Day
- 20 - 23 Year 6 Camp
- 22 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 22 & 23 Swimming for Year 4-6
- 23 JLC Assembly
- 27 Grandparents Day Assembly
- 29 Year 4-6 Thursday swimming completed
- 30 Good Friday



April

- 2 Easter Monday
- 3 Easter Tuesday
- 6 Year 4-6 Friday swimming completed
- 11 Cultural Festival
- 12 EON Trip
- 13 ACE Assembly
Last day of term 1
School closes at 1.00pm
School Library closed after school

Please note the calendar of events maybe subject to change and we will endeavour to advise parents as soon as possible if changes occur.

2 018 Term dates

Term 1

Tuesday 30 January – Friday 13 April

- Waitangi Day – Monday 6 February
- Good Friday - Friday 30 March
- Easter Monday - Monday 2 April
- Easter Tuesday - Tuesday 3 April

Term 2

Monday 30 April – Friday 6 July

- Queens Birthday – Monday 4 June
- Teacher Only Day – Tuesday 5 June

Term 3

Monday 23 July – Friday 28 September



Term 4

Monday 16 October – Friday 15 December

- Labour Day – Monday 22 October



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