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MHPS NEWS

The Mission Heights Primary School Newsletter

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www.mhp.school.nz

In this Issue...

Principal's Message
ECE Meeting
Enrolments
JLC Trips to MOTAT
MHP Family Picnic
MHP Swimming
Carnival
Parent Logon
School Assemblies
School
Communication
SLC Trips to MOTAT
Student Leadership
Day
Uniform

P rincipal's Message

Greetings everyone. With more than six weeks behind us, Term 1 has certainly been busy and packed with many school activities, parent meetings, family picnic, field trips, student leadership development day and learning events. During these early weeks, it is an absolute delight to see our students doing things the MHP way, supporting each other and taking pride in their school and learning zone environments, their personal achievement aspirations and getting familiar with their leadership and responsibility roles around the school and in their learning zones.

A lot of time has also been spent with staff and student leaders sharing and discussing what the context of the annual focus of 'The Future' means as they immerse themselves in a learning environment where a variety of technology tools are readily accessible for students learning and curricular needs.

Thankfully with the political changes that have come to do with National Standards assessment this year to do with government policy, the greatest plus factor is that assessment is back in the hands of our teachers who can now create meaningful performance assessment that can lead to deeper learning in an educational climate where they feel empowered to build relationships with their students so as to evaluate individual learning and growth that standardised testing did not allow. This change of scene has given us all time as educators to think about what matters most in learning at schools besides just test scores.

In addition to test scores my list for what matters most in learning at primary school is quite long too with a few pointers as follows: I would really like to see our students engage deeply with their ideas, value the humanity in all people with whom they share a space with whether at home or at school in their LZs, for them to have the courage to rise to their dreams and know how to nurture that dream wisely, to see that taking responsibility is a means of improving their environment, to take the time to seek out and appreciate the beauty that surrounds them each day. Importantly to learn to listen and understand others to learn and practice caring, empathy, kindness and generosity in their daily life. Seeing our students develop self-efficacy and humility and know the difference between what is right and wrong before they leave primary school would be amazing. For our students to gain knowledge from the stories of other people and find knowledge in their own story from a young age will surely assist them to see themselves as innovators and problem solvers later on in life as they look at ways to improve their world. Most of all I feel that what matters the most in the primary schooling of our young people is to give them a helping hand to survive with confidence to live in a complex world of the future and be the best they can be.

"Growing Excellence"



With these parameters in place it has further reinforced my belief that the foundations of delivering a successful 21st century education is about providing personalised learning opportunities and increasing participation of communities and families early in students learning. Only when we do this in a cohesive and aligned way, can we ensure successful outcomes for more learners across all sectors of education that result in sustainable economic and educational growth for the future of our students who are learning at MHP and living in a globally focused environment.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that together in partnership with you, we will once again continue to make a difference to the learning and life of every child that attends Mission Height Primary School in 2018 and beyond.

Kind regards
Veena Vohra
Principal

Early Childhood Education Centre Meeting

On Wednesday we had an afternoon tea with our local Early Childhood Centres. We engaged in a very positive discussion around transitioning students into our school and we talked about our enrollment process and what the students can expect when they start school. We believe in forming good relationships with our local Early Childhood Centres as we feel it contributes to an enjoyable and easy transition for our new entrant students.

Enrolments

If your child is starting school this year or you know of any friends and neighbours children that are starting this year, please ensure that you/they enrol timely or contact the school reception for more information. Alternatively an enrolment pack can be collected from reception or the forms can be downloaded from our website. Please ensure that the supporting documentation that is noted on the enrolment form is bought in with the form. Once everything is handed into our receptionist and the enrolment is confirmed, she will organise two visits for the child before he/she starts school.

JLC Trips to MOTAT



This week, Water and Forest Studio visited the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) to continue their inquiry into forces and simple machines. After exploring the vocabulary and learning about these concepts at school, the students were given a hands on opportunity to explore levers, wedges, pulleys, wheels and axles by examining every day objects and toys. They enjoyed putting their problem solving skills to the test by building their own skateboard and pulley system. After spending time in the classroom, the students explored the rest of the displays in MOTAT. Some of the highlights included the giant machine exhibition, playing a video game by jumping on a trampoline, and looking at the old buildings from the past.

MHP Family Picnic

On Friday 23rd February we had our annual Picnic in the Courtyard. The students decorated the balconies and windows with lanterns to celebrate Chinese New Year 'The Year of the Dog' and the sun came out to play! The event was very successful with our biggest crowd ever! It was great fun for the students and an opportunity for teachers and families to mingle.



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MHP Swimming Carnival

On Friday 23rd February MHP held its annual school swimming carnival at the Otara Leisure Centre. Over fifty of MHP's best swimmers attended the carnival, which consisted of races in the different strokes (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly). It was a tiring yet fun morning and we look forward to doing it again next year. Many thanks to the parents who turned up to help. Selected students from this event will represent MHP at the upcoming HPPA Interschool Swimming Day in Week 7.

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.

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.

SLC Trip to MOTAT



MOTAT, otherwise known as the Museum of Transport and Technology was a perfect destination for the Year 5 students to explore the forces and simple machines that we are exposed to in our everyday lives, but hardly notice them. It was great chance to get a hands on experience with inventing their very own "Rube Goldberg Machine." It was such a thrill to put all their efforts together and watch the machine come to life. Another highlight of the day was a tram ride through the museum. This will be a very valued and cherished memory for the students as it gave them the opportunity to learn and have fun.

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Student Leadership Day

Every year Mrs Vohra and the newly appointed school council attend a leadership day so that they can discuss the expectation of the school council, discuss how great leaders lead, and plan out the year. This year the event was held on 20th February at the Pakuranga Golf Club. Miss Keber and Mrs Hill also joined the team to help plan this year's exciting direction. The school council were excited but tired by the experience and can't wait to get started.



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 nail 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. This is part of teaching our students to manage themselves as learners and take care of all their belongings. Please encourage your child to take responsibility for their uniform seriously.



2018 Term dates

Term 1
Tuesday 30 January –
Friday 13 April

Good Friday - 30 March
Easter Monday - 2 April
Easter Tuesday - 3 April

Term 2
Monday 30 April –
Friday 6 July

Queens Birthday – Mon 4
June
Teacher Only Day – Tues
5 June

Term 3
Monday 23 July –
Friday 28 September

Term 4
Monday 15 October –
Friday 14 December
Labour Day – Monday
22 October

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