

## MHPS NEWS

# The Mission Heights Primary School Newsletter

Issue 4 / May 2018

[www.mhp.school.nz](http://www.mhp.school.nz)

### In this Issue...

Principal's Message

Board of Trustees

Book Fair Helpers

Coming Up

Girls Event

JLC Trip

Samoan Language

Week

School Uniform

Year 4 Birkenhead

Trip

## Principal's Message

Greetings to all our families at MHPS. I hope your children have had a great start to Term 2 with their learning and the many in class and outdoor learning opportunities that have taken place for the Years 1, 2 and 4 students with their EOTC trips to MOTAT and Birkenhead have been an exciting learning experience for them.

In my conversations with students it is always an absolute delight to see how our core values of respect, responsibility, inquiry and excellence have been embodied in most of their day to day student life. Developing a school culture of successful learning is central to us if we are to achieve our vision of 'Growing Excellence' which I am talking about in my editorial to you.

The great philosopher Aristotle bases his arguments on the fact that happiness comes from fulfilling our nature, as human nature is rooted in excellence. He states that the "highest good must be something final" (Nichomachean Ethics 200) He describes the inherent good for all of mankind is happiness and fulfilling our virtues in an excellent way. What an amazing journey we are pursuing at MHP with our students to expect, insist and pursue excellence from a young age. I urge you as parents to discuss how the value of excellence can be demonstrated at home with your child for an all round embodiment of our school's four values in their day to day life.

In the past schools have always been interested in three kinds of outcomes for their students: what the students are able to do; what they know and the kind of people they become because as educators we have been interested in building positive, productive citizens. Even winning in a competition or coming first in an exam is really about recognition.

However, the research states that "only when students discover personal meaning in their work do they apply their efforts with focus and imagination", purpose acts as the moral north star on the route to excellence. It offers a steady beacon for inspiring and directing students' best efforts over the long haul, within the classroom and beyond. Its the same in adult life too...when we have a purpose, we know that everything we do counts, even if we don't win a medal or recognition in the end.



Not surprisingly therefore our individual purpose determines what we

### "Growing Excellence"



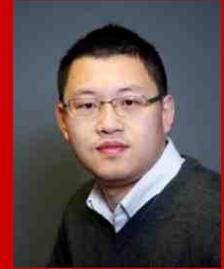
do at school and beyond. Having an internal desire to pursue with purpose is therefore important for our students and us as well to achieve excellence in our work and life.

We are very excited with what we have achieved with your ongoing support so far and look forward to your positive input with the many more things we have yet to do this term. Thank you!

**Kind regards**  
**Veena Vohra**  
**Principal**

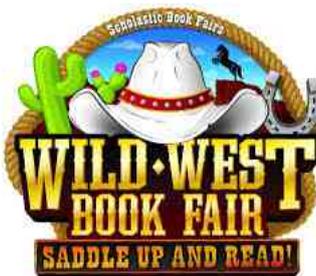
## **B**oard of Trustees

We welcome Mr Jing Zhang (father of Jaydon Zhang) to the Board of Trustees as our new member. He brings an Asian perspective along with his professional expertise to the Trustees. The role of a Trustee is complex and significant in the development of any school. Especially in today's demanding educational scenarios. We are delighted he is happy to give up his time for the wider needs of our community and school.



## **B**ook Fair Helpers

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at our school from 11-15 June 2018.



Book Fairs build the excitement and fun of reading in a pop-up bookshop event at our school. When a school hosts a Scholastic Book Fair, they bring students, teachers, families and the community together at their school to celebrate reading, and raise funds for books and resources for the school.



We need your help! We require volunteers to help at the Book Fair from 8:00-8:30am or 3:00-4:00pm from Monday to Friday. Even if you are only able to help for one of those sessions, we would be so grateful. Please email Sibylle if you are available at [stownsend@mhp.school.nz](mailto:stownsend@mhp.school.nz).

## **C**oming Up.....

### **Teacher Only Day**

Tuesday 5th June. Students do not come to school after the Queen's Birthday holiday. Students return to school on Wednesday 6 June.

### **3 Way Conferences**

Commence Tuesday 12th June. Your child's teacher will email you directly to advise the days and times available. Please do not request an appointment time before you receive this email.

### **Teachers' Paid Union Meeting**

Monday 18th June - A large number of the teaching staff will be attending this meeting. The school will remain open with a small group of teachers who are non union members to supervise the students. You may collect your child after 1.30pm should you wish to.

"Growing Excellence"





### Girls Event - 'Mama Mia'

Mamma Mia! What a fantastic time the girls had at this years Girls Event. A change of time meant pizza could be served followed by gelato and sprinkles. A hit with all Mums and daughters alike!

Super Mario helped the event go with a swing and there were lots of fun, games and dancing for everyone. Making moustaches with Mr Gee and Mr Campbell was a hit as was this years digital backdrop for the fantastic gondola made by Mission Kidz. The virtual reality tour of the Colosseum made everyone feel like they were right there and could feel the history around them. You could even make the leaning tower of Pisa!

A big thank you to all the staff and Paul Schlachter from Mission Kidz for making this event so successful.



### JLC's Trip to MOTAT



Push and Pull, Gravity, and Friction are some of the forces the Year 1's and 2's have been learning about this Term and to deepen and extend this learning the Earth, Fire and Air Studios took a trip to MOTAT. The students had fun investigating the simple machines exhibitions, they were able to use their knowledge of forces to understand the exhibitions and interact with them. The

students were able to explore linking cogs and gears, lift themselves up using a pulley and identify the forces. If this wasn't fun enough, the students thoroughly enjoyed their hands on lesson on simple machines, where they had the chance to investigate and explore pulleys, levers, wedges, inclined planes, screws, wheels and axles by making skateboards, catapults and other constructions. We were also about to explore how technology has changed over time by exploring the historical village.



### Samoan Language Week: May 28 - June 1

Our Samoan students and their families will be celebrating Samoan Language Week next week. Teachers will receive a daily email from the Maori/Pasifika team with a very basic sentence to share and use as often as you can through out the day in their learning zone.

### School Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform and shoes to school. The girl's are to wear black opaque tights NOT footless leggings and socks. The boys can now wear long school pants to school. If they wear shorts, please ensure they wear the correct school socks. Black long sleeve tshirts are no longer allowed under the polo shirt, please purchase the long sleeve polo shirt if your child feels the cold. The students are not to wear socks with their sandals. All the school uniform items can be purchased from John Russell Schoolwear in Howick. We appreciate your support in this matter. Thank you.

"Growing Excellence"



## Year 4's Trip to Birkenhead Leisure Centre

On the 14th & 15th May, the Year 4 students visited Birkenhead Leisure Centre for their EOTC (Education outside the Classroom) experience. Students participated in kayaking, archery and chariot building. They built confidence in themselves and how to work as part of a team.

Here is a piece of writing from Emily Pan in LZ26 about her kayaking experience:

Waters were waving,  
Children jumping and showing their excited smiles.  
Rainbow swimming togs filled the poolside.  
Giggling kids were in the boat,  
Whoosh! Whoosh!  
Heavy paddles were smashing and splashing  
the calm water.  
Salty water filled the children's mouths  
as they capsized.  
Wet children chattering their teeth,  
covered in lumpy goosebumps.  
Laughter with each other  
and the teachers.  
Coldness and shaking made the children crazy,  
the parents didn't mind watching.  
The wind whistled and we hoped the day would stay sunny.



## 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

"Growing Excellence"

