

**Mission Heights Primary School**  
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## MHPS NEWS

### The Mission Heights Primary School Newsletter

Issue 9 / December 2018

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

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#### "Growing Excellence"



#### Principal's Message



As our 10th academic year draws to a close we have much to celebrate and many happy memories and milestones to hold onto of our journey at Mission Heights Primary School. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of our senior leaders, teachers and support staff over the past year. We are only as good as what is happening in our learning zones, team meetings, school administration offices and behind the scenes work to keep our school's reputation and our systems working smoothly to deliver our vision.

As the foundation Principal of our school since 2007 it has been a great help working closely with my team over the last few years to ensure a well informed and smooth transition continues when new staff members join us. And this year has been another example of how well our processes work with all our new staff well settled timely into their roles as well as the senior leaders with their next year's responsibilities. I would also like to thank the many parents who have come to see me during the year to share their ideas and thoughts. To have a good understanding of our parent body is very important to me as it enables the school to meet the needs and aspirations of our families and students and their expectations too.

Most importantly our students have enjoyed another fabulous year. They have excelled in so many fields that it is impossible to list them all. I have attended many celebration events and have listened in awe as their achievements have been described. These achievements have been in their academic studies, sport, music performances to name just a few and we are as a school justly proud of them and their teachers who have enabled the students.

Before the summer vacation ends I will be working with my team and the Board to put into place a smooth opening to the new academic year and setting the priorities to build upon the successes of the school so that we can improve still further in 2019. I firmly believe that we should as a school always seek to do better; to challenge ourselves and our students to set the highest standards and enable ways to achieve our ambitious future goals.

I would like to wish you all the very best for the summer vacation and look forward to welcoming you all back, refreshed, for what will be an exciting, new academic year when we celebrate our tenth milestone year.

Kind regards  
**Veena Vohra**  
Principal

## **A** dmin Matters

### **Students Not Returning 2019**

If your child/ren are not returning to MHP in 2019 and you have not informed the school already, could you please send an email to admin@mhp.school.nz. Your earliest attention to this matter would be appreciated.

### **Returning Students 2019**

If your child/ren are returning late and will not be starting school on the first day of Term 1, 2019 - 29th January, please email admin@mhp.school.nz to ensure they are not taken off the schools roll.

## **C** ongratulations

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following students who won the top 9 awards at the Year 6 Graduation on Thursday 7th December;

**Digital Technologies - Obli Shri Ram Ravi Shankar**

**Creative Arts - William Lee**

**Stewardship of the Environment - Shiona Prasad**

**Public Speaking - Josiah Yoong**

**Sports - Leilani Smith**

**English - Nai'mah Daud**

**Mathematics- Cyril Chen**

**Growing Excellence Award - Jamie Wright**

**Service to the School - Josiah Yoong**

## **E** pro8 Challenge



Ian, Cullen, Jak and Ram did MHP very, very proud at the Vector EPro8 engineering competition. The students were given challenges that they had to build solutions for along with some very tricky maths problems they had to solve under pressure. The MHP students really shone in how they communicated and worked as a cohesive team. Delegating jobs to each other's strengths and not getting frustrated with when something didn't work.

The boys finished first in their heat, first in the semi-final and despite leading for most of the 2-hour competition came a respectable third out of the 24 teams competing in the grand final. 1000 students entered so we did really well to finish third.

## **F** irst Day Term 1, 2019

Students commence the new academic year on Tuesday 29th January 2019 at 8.40am and go directly to their learning zone. Students who are unsure of where they need to go, please go to the school hall for direction. All students are to come to school in their clean & tidy uniform and shoes from day 1. Please refer to the school's uniform expectations listed in this newsletter.



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## Information for New Parents

There will be an orientation to MHP meeting for all new families on Thursday 24 January at 11.00am in the school hall. This will be followed by a school tour. Information will also be mailed to the parents of all new students who will be starting in Term 1.

## Last Day of School - 14th December 2018

The last day of the 2018 academic year is Friday 14th December and the students will finish at 1.00pm. Please ensure that you collect your child(ren) promptly or make alternative arrangements for them to be collected. The staff will not be available to supervise your child(ren) after 1.15pm as they will be involved in a meeting from this time.

## Office Hours January 2019

The school reception will open from Monday 14th January 9.00am–1.00pm for new enrolments and paying of accounts and stationery for all students. Regular office hours will commence from Monday 21st January 8.00am – 4.00pm.

## Principal's Sabbatical

Mission Heights Primary School's Board of Trustees is proud to announce that Mrs Vohra has been awarded the prestigious Principal's Sabbatical Award by the Ministry of Education in 2019 for a period of 10 weeks. Mrs Vohra's topic of research is to study the 'The role of foundation Principals and Boards in setting up and running of complex urban schools' as there is no research on this topic in New Zealand. Her research findings will be shared with the Ministry, the Education Review Office and Boards of Trustees of new schools. With 19 more schools opening just in the Auckland region her research findings will be very useful to many government agencies. We congratulate her and commend her for her choice of study and wish her all the best.



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## School Uniform – Important Note



The summer break will be a good time to check your child's school uniform to ensure that it is clean, tidy, washed and replaced if needed before the new academic year starts on 29th January 2019.

We have noticed many students wearing incorrect uniform items along with ill fitting and torn uniform that is in need of mending or replacing.

Please ensure that your child's uniform is worthy of the pride we have in our school and reflects this in the way they present themselves as ambassadors of our school when they are wearing the MHP school uniform. We have introduced a new PE shirt and will be phasing out the old ones as these will not be on sale anymore.

Next year the school is going to expect that all MHP students come to school with polished shoes, correct uniform which include the correct tights for the girls instead of footless leggings which are incorrect. If any student is wearing



the incorrect uniform, parents will be contacted to ensure that this is rectified promptly.

If you are unsure of the school uniform code please feel free to contact reception.

## **S**taff Matters

### **Farewell to Staff**

We wish to acknowledge the work and commitment of a few of our staff who will not be returning to MHP next year. We wish to thank Mrs Cheryl Hill and Miss Deborah Law as they move to new horizons. Each one of these staff members have contributed much to the success of MHP and it's students, staff and the community over their time with us.

We also bid farewell to Mrs Paramjit Grover and Mrs Alyssa Kenney who's fixed term positions end this year. Their input to our staff and students learning during their time here is truly appreciated.

As we say goodbye to the staff moving on from MHP, we also wish them all the best for the future.

### **Welcome to Staff**

Congratulations to Mrs Helen Gillanders, our new Deputy Principal and Mr Kiran Solanki (year 5 teacher) our newest staff members who will be joining us in 2019. We look forward to welcoming them to MHP in January during our Teacher Only Days and introducing them to our school community.



## **S**tationery & Compulsory Fees 2019

The compulsory fees were emailed previously to all families. There is still time to come in and pay before school closes on Friday 14th December at 1.00pm. You are most welcome to come in from the 14th January 2019 and pay for your child(ren)'s stationery, compulsory fees and school contribution. We would appreciate your payment before the first day of term one to avoid the rush and delay.

## **U**niform Voucher Draw

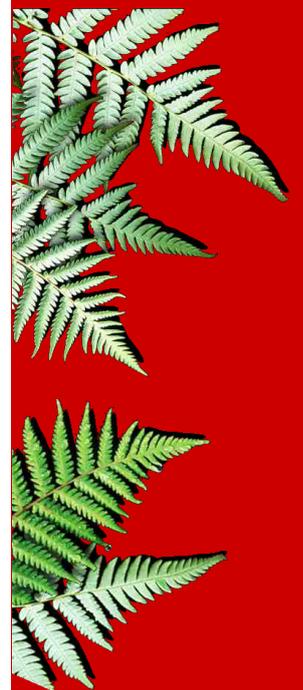
Congratulations to Cyril Chen and Nina Chen who won The John Russell Schoolwear uniform vouchers (1x girl & 1x boy), that was drawn at the Awards Assembly on Friday 7th December. All families that paid their school contribution this year were in the draw.

## **Y**ear Book 2019

The year book will be given to families who have paid their full school contribution this year. There will be a cost of \$14 per book for any extra copies.



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## 2019 Staff Organisation

### Principal

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

### Associate Principal

Mrs Carol Norton

### Deputy Principals

Ms Jenny Keber  
Mrs Helen Gillanders

### Assistant Principals

Mr Adam Tamariki – SLC  
Mrs Renuka Lal – MLC  
Miss Nadine Fiebiger – JLC

### Junior Learning Community

#### Water Studio

Miss Mikayla Taiapo, LZ1 – Year 1

#### Earth Studio

TBA, LZ4 – Year 1  
Mrs Zelda Dammert, LZ5 – Year 1  
Ms Janet Twentyman, LZ6 – Year 1

#### Fire Studio

Mrs Manjula Bhattacharya, LZ7 – Year 2  
Miss Xin Lit, LZ8 – Year 1  
Miss Nadine Fiebiger, LZ9 – Year 1

#### Air Studio

Mrs Sharon Garimella, LZ10 – Year 2  
Miss Nicole Melchor, LZ11 – Year 2  
Mrs Ruth Cooper, LZ12 – Year 2

### Middle Learning Community

#### Ahi Studio

Miss Renlen Bolland, LZ22 – Year 3  
Mrs Rifat Mohammed, LZ23 – Year 3  
Miss Emma Passmore, LZ24 – Year 3

#### Ngahere Studio

Mr Richard Campbell, LZ25 - Year 4  
Mrs Lauren Marais, LZ26 – Year 4  
Miss Marcella Djongianto, LZ27 – Year 4

#### Forest Studio

Miss Ashlee Morse, LZ28 – Year 4  
Miss Natalie Miller, LZ29 – Year 3  
Mrs Renuka Lal, LZ30 – Year 3/4

### Senior Learning Community

#### Wai Studio

Mr Edward Gee, LZ13 – Year 5  
Mrs Wanda Wright, LZ14 – Year 6  
Mrs Helen Stevens, LZ15 – Year 5



**Whenua Studio**

Mrs Shareen Goundar, LZ16 – Year 6  
Mr Bill McCutcheon, LZ17 – Year 5  
Mrs Erna Bornman, LZ18 – Year 5

**Hau Studio**

Mr Adam Tamariki, LZ19 – Year 6  
Miss Nicole Dennis, LZ20 – Year 6  
Mr Kiran Solanki, LZ21 – Year 5

**Classroom Release Teacher**

Teacher - Mrs Karen Hishey

**Music Specialist**

Mrs Yun-Pai Hsu, Tane Studio

**Technology Specialist**

Mr George Church, LZ2

**Administration**

Executive Secretary/PA - Mrs Usar Sabri  
Receptionist - Mrs Kyra Edwards  
Finance/Accounts - Mrs Kathryn Pullar  
Librarian - Mrs Sibylle Townsend  
Library Assistant – Mrs Debbie McDermott  
ICT Managers- Mr Ben Doughney, Mr Mark Chang  
Maori/Pasifika Support – Mr Jason Tuhaka  
Caretaker – Mr Marcus Revell

**Learning Assistants/Teacher Aides**

Ms Mayada Yagot, Mrs Sally Cutfield, Mrs Tracey Stevens, Miss Tracey Currie, Ms Belinda Knight, Mr Kalebh Parata



**2019 Term dates**

**Term 1**

29 January – 12 April  
Waitangi Day holiday                      Wednesday 6 February

**Term 2**

29 April - 5 July  
Queen's Birthday holiday              Monday 3 June  
Teacher Only Day                      Tuesday 4 June

**Term 3**

22 July - 27 September

**Term 4**

14 October - 13 December  
Labour Day Holiday                      Monday 28 October



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