

## Mission Heights Primary School

103 Jeffs Road, Mission Heights, Auckland 2016

PO Box 64 448, Botany, Auckland 2163

Phone: +64 (09) 277 7888 Fax: +64 (09) 277 7883

email: [admin@mhp.school.nz](mailto:admin@mhp.school.nz)

Web: <http://www.mhp.school.nz>

## MHPS NEWS

### The Mission Heights Primary School Newsletter

Issue 2 / March 2019

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

#### In this Issue...

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



#### "Growing Excellence"



#### Principal's Message

Greetings everyone. With nearly half the term behind us, Term 1 has certainly been busy and packed with many school activities, parent meetings and learning events. However it is going to get busier still with our 10th anniversary celebration week approaching from 1-5th April.



During these settling in weeks for the year, it is an absolute delight to see our students doing things the MHP way, supporting each other and taking pride in their school and their personal achievements in their learning zones at school assemblies and through taking up their leadership and responsibility roles around the school and in their learning zones.

As I look at all the technologies our students, teachers and parents have available on their finger tips both at home and in our school today. I cannot help thinking that we are now on the verge of entering the third decade into this 21st century. So much has changed since those fateful last few days at the end of 1999 before the dawn of Y2K. At the time dire predictions were made on the public media about computers crashing, data being lost and the internet and machineries shutting down as the new millennium approached the next day.

Since that time, nearly 19 years ago, it has been just the opposite for the world instead. Technology development has boomed grown and advanced exponentially in all fields, giving us tools that continue to bring the world close for students and adults, infact we have it in the palm of our hands or our fingertips with our mobile phones, be it information, banking, social and professional networking. The use of digital technologies in all aspects of our daily lives today has truly made the world a truly global community and become a necessity for each one of us.

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 technological world globally focused city.... 'Auckland'.

### **My Sabbatical Topic and leave**

On another note I wish to inform the community that I will be away from school for 10 weeks starting 4 March on sabbatical leave and return on 27 May. My sabbatical study focus for research is titled: A Privileged Opportunity-Lessons Learnt as a Foundation Principal of a Complex Urban Primary School.

My theme for the study will be to encapsulate my journey as a foundation principal of a complex yet independent primary school over the last 12 years where two independent schools were built on a single site. Within this setting non compliance of collaboration between the Boards and the Principals was a huge risk factor then and continues to remain now and for the future. Much is dependent on the people involved at grassroot levels of both schools and not at government policy level to negate this risk timely.

With nearly 19 new schools opening across Auckland in the coming few years and many others already in operation since 2009, I want to compare the journey of other foundation principals to check their challenges and issues and make comparisons of how these were managed timely so that lessons are learnt from our collective experiences for the next group of newly appointed foundation principals to manage particularly the establishment, foundation and early operational stages of their work when appointed to the new schools being built in Auckland in future.

In the 12 years I have been Principal for MHP this is the first time that I am taking a break from school work for professional study as part of the Sabbatical award.

During my absence the school will be managed by Mrs Carol Norton in her role as Acting Principal. She can be contacted via the school reception.

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

Kind regards  
Veena Vohra  
Principal

### **MHP Swimming Carnival**

On Thursday 21 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 later in the Term.

### **Kids Safe with Dogs**

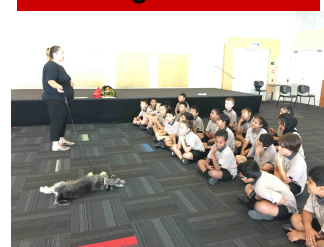
This has been a very successful programme to teach children how to keep themselves safe around dogs. Please talk to them about what they have learnt about their safety.

### **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



"Growing Excellence"







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.

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.

## 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 7th February at the Pakuranga Golf Club. Mrs Norton 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.

## Powhiri

It is always a privilege to welcome our new staff and students with a traditional Maori welcome - a powhiri. This is our school's opportunity to participate in tikanga Maori - Maori protocols and practices.

## Tane Garden

The powhiri was followed by the opening of our Tane garden, which included the unveiling of Te Kakano a Tane - The Seed of Tane (archway entrance). The designs represent the many peoples and cultures, as well as representing the student's individual growth toward excellence. "E tipu e rea" Grow, oh tender shoot.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees and the student leaders of 2018 for their amazing fundraising efforts to give us this beautiful therapeutic garden space.

Thank you also to the Deputy Board Chair Mr Bassano, Mrs Vohra and Jason Tuhaka for the formal unveiling and opening of the garden on the 15th of February, along with the MHJC Kapa haka group, guests and our students who were in attendance.

Nga mihi



"Growing Excellence"

