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MHPS NEWS

The Mission Heights Primary School Newsletter

Issue 4 / May 2019

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Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Its great to be back on deck after a very refreshing, energising and restful break from the day to day business of a busy school after nearly 12 years of being appointed. I am appreciative of the opportunity I have had and the many Principals of complex urban schools that I met and interviewed for my research study.

This short research project as part of my sabbatical has been very rewarding and enriching in the various ways that the new urban complex schools have been set up, managed and are operational since the concept of Mission Heights Schools in 2007. The hard work and determination of all these principals to make their schools succeed cannot be underestimated as it has been a phenomenal aspect of their professional commitment, enthusiasm and inspiration as school leaders.

There are lessons learnt from the journey of these principals, the challenges they face on a day to day basis even well after opening and how they overcome these in different ways to ensure that their schools are being managed successfully to a cutting edge, innovative curriculum within the New Zealand context. I wish to acknowledge and thank each and everyone of them for their time and honesty despite their busy schedule. Without their time to meet with me this project would not have been possible.

As foundation principal of Mission Heights Primary, I will certainly be using/taking some very useful learnings from this study into the governance and administration of complex schools to mitigate any present or future risks that could occur whenever there are changes at principal and or board level and share these with others on our joint campus. I wish to thank the Board of Mission Heights Primary for their support of me to make this research project possible and to take this time away from school for the first time in 12 years since 2007. It has been a rich journey of 10 weeks that came alive for me once again as I reflected on my journey experiences at MHP too.

Next a huge thanks to my staff and senior leadership team who carried on with their responsibilities sincerely and wholeheartedly with the day to day business of a busy school term. As a school we are only as good as each and every member in the team who can work collaboratively and yet independently as professionals to support our students and the community.

Finally it has been a privilege to receive this prestigious TeachNZ scholarship award when there are so many new generation schools being built on a

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single campus with shared facilities that made this project possible. I hope the findings from my study will be seen as well worth the knowledge gained for the new people coming on board be it the foundation Principal, Boards or the MoE and ERO teams as 'Together is a great place to be' for our people who lead these complex schools in urban settings.

I look forward to seeing some of you at our 3 way conferences and assemblies before the first half of the year comes to an end. Thank you to each of you for your support to our school and your children who make MHP a truly vibrant place of learning.

Kind regards
Veena Vohra
Principal

Thanking the Outgoing Board



Each triennial year in May is the time when we as a school thank our outgoing School Board of Trustees and recognise and acknowledge each one of them for their dedication and willingness to serve as advocates for our children and school.

As elected officials, they are the voice of our community, serving first and foremost in the best interest of all MHP students and families. They work tirelessly as dedicated volunteers with me to provide the best possible learning environment and resources for our students now and in the future too

While the MHP Board serves as a crucial link between the community and classroom they are mindful of their governance role to support the Principal in the efficient and smooth management of the school.. Over the years the expertise, wisdom and commitment to MHP's vision for education has shaped our school into what it is today, They certainly keep students at the center of everything they do and plan.

As the outgoing Trustees leave, I wish to particularly thank our Board Chair Chris French and Deputy Chair John Bassano who have served as trustees for nearly eight years while their wives Mrs French and Mrs Bassano led our first Family and Friends committee to get the many resources and grants for the Junior playground and other things at the time. It is their wisdom and tireless commitment to our school and the future education that has made Mission Heights Primary a top-notch school in our cluster. As trustees and parents they have both been part of our school's 10 year journey and supported me in my role as foundation principal celebrating our successes of course, but most of all supporting the school and assisting me through some challenging times over the years as the school grew unprecedentedly.

I am almost appreciative of all the outgoing board and on behalf of the school I wish to thank them for their loyalty to our school and the wider perspective they provided in their governance role as leaders and Trustees of Mission Heights Primary over their time on the MHP Board.

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Teachers' Paid Union Meeting

On behalf of our teachers and school we wish to thank all the parents who supported our teachers strike action on Wednesday 29th May. The work that our teachers do and the work load and pressure they work under everyday to provide the best possible programme for their students and their learning needs to be recognised and appreciated by the government too.

Kelly Tarlton Trip

On Friday 24th May, Ngahere Studio went on a school trip to Kelly Tarltons where our learnt more about NZ marine animals. Our year four students had a fabulous day exploring the shark tunnels, watching the aquarium animals get fed, and learnt a lot about adaptations and habitats from the class session led a marine expert, P.J. Did you know that an octopus can fit through a hole as small as the size of its eyeball?! The highlight of the day was definitely getting to touch the shark skin and teeth. It was an amazing experience!



Howick Historical Village

In term two Ahi studio went on a trip to the Howick Historical Village to learn about human migration. We explored a range of items that people brought with them when they first arrived in New Zealand in 1850's. There were some items that we didn't even know what they were used for. We also learnt that people moved to NZ for many different reasons such as education, better lifestyle, good jobs and pay. After that we became archaeologists and dug for treasure which was very exciting. Later, it was time for us to make our own butter. It tasted delicious! We found our trip to the Howick Historical Village very informative.



Curriculum Expo

We held our very first Curriculum Expo on Wednesday 22nd May. There was an opportunity for parents and students to find out about our curriculum areas with displays and activities, demonstrations and videos covering all areas of the curriculum. The robots area proved very popular, as did the world map where families were encouraged to mark their family's cultural homes. This was also an opportunity for students to try out the interactive whiteboard and for the teachers to explain how these valuable tools are used across the whole curriculum.

The evening was very well attended and we hope to be able to repeat this event next year.

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Samoan Language Week: May 27 - May 30

It was great to see all the teachers dressed in Samoan outfits as part of our Samoan language week. This week was a great opportunity to appreciate the diversity of cultures in our school. Embracing, accepting and celebrating different worldviews such as the Samoan culture of the many much valued Pacifica cultures at MHP has been fantastic for all.



Teacher Only Day-Tuesday 4 June

On Tuesday the 7 schools in the Flat Bush cluster will be having their second annual conference for all staff of the schools. This year's event will be held on the Mission Heights Schools site. The theme for the event is 'Transform and Transcend' and will centre around the subjects: well being, inquiry, cultural responsiveness, and connections. It will be a busy day with guest speakers and workshops held by staff from all the seven schools.

Please note school is closed for students.

3 Way Conferences

Commence Monday 10 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.



Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair is back on 10th - 14th June from 8am - 8.30am, 3pm - 4.30pm & Thursday late night 3pm - 7.30pm in the Meeting Place next to the library. Your child would have received a flyer about this exciting event.

Book Fairs build the excitement and fun of reading in a pop-up bookshop event at our school. It brings students, teachers, families and the community together to celebrate reading, and raise funds for books and resources for our school.

School Uniform

With winter coming please ensure that your child has got full sleeves polo t-shirt and a school jumper or jacket to keep warm it would be great if they have well uniform to ensure they do not get cold.



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