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## MHPS NEWS

# The Mission Heights Primary School Newsletter

Issue 7 / August 2019

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## Principal's Message

### Dear Parents

Last week I had a very interesting conversation with some parents and friends outside our school community. The topic of our conversation centred around Challenges and issues that confront us in today's much advanced and diverse society where we all have a very busy daily schedule, responsibilities both at work and home...and most importantly how these are impacting on our children, their anxieties and their schooling and home life.

Of all the cards of life's opportunities, environments and experiences that are dealt to our children right from the time they are born and through their growing up years into their future, we know for sure that schools only get to deal with around 30% of the factors. Clearly the remainder of the pack of their life's journey, we are told by researchers, are beyond a school's reach.

Internationally credible studies including Russel Bishop and John Hattie's work show that home background and the child's individual make-up, typically account for 70 – 80 percent of achievement; and that relationship building and socioeconomic factors have been shown time and time again as a key factor to determine our children's future.

Our job as adults is that of being a good and responsible coach in our children's life. And therefore, we must be 'on the field' where the game is being played by our children and students, be it at home or at school. If we are serious about being there for our children, then there has to be a better balance struck between the relationships we have with our children however old they may be for them to cope with the challenges that they are faced with each day. It is our relationships with our children that matter the most in building their trust.

Not surprisingly therefore, it is at each and every intersection and intervention at school or home that either enhances or diminishes our relationships and trust with our children. Importantly it is at these very critical crossroads that people be it an adult or a young child feels affirmed, anxious or stressed and demeaned. Being able to have difficult conversations and yet enhance your positive relationship as the adult is an art form that can be learned and must be by us constantly.



I am hoping that the Parenting seminar on 19th September about 'Dealing with various forms of anxiety that today's young children face' will enable us all to answer some of the questions that are foremost in our minds and how well we are preparing our youngest for their world of tomorrow where they will have so many more factors to deal with that we did not have to in from our primary schooling up years.

Please do make a note in your diaries to attend this free session we have organised for our community.

**Kind regards**  
**Veena Vohra (Mrs)**  
**Principal**



## **H** PPA Dance

Congratulations to our MHP Dance Group who participated in the Howick and Pakuranga Dance Festival 2019 on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th August. The group of 13 students, along with Mrs Keber produced an impressive contemporary dance set to the music 'Rise Up' by Andra Day. Each and every student danced beautifully and contributed to an a impressive "festival of dance". The dancers were a credit to Mission Heights Primary School. We look forward to seeing more from them in the future.



## **K** iwi Kids Can Cook Finals Competition - Third Place Winner - Aanya Ashrita

Congratulations to Aanya Ashrita who was placed third in the country at the National Kids can Cook finals held over the weekend in Auckland. She created a curry infused entree dish for her finals dish. Well done Aanya for a fabulous effort and pursuing your passion for cooking from such an early age.



## **S** pell-a-thon Champions

Here is the spell-a-thon championship blurb & photo:

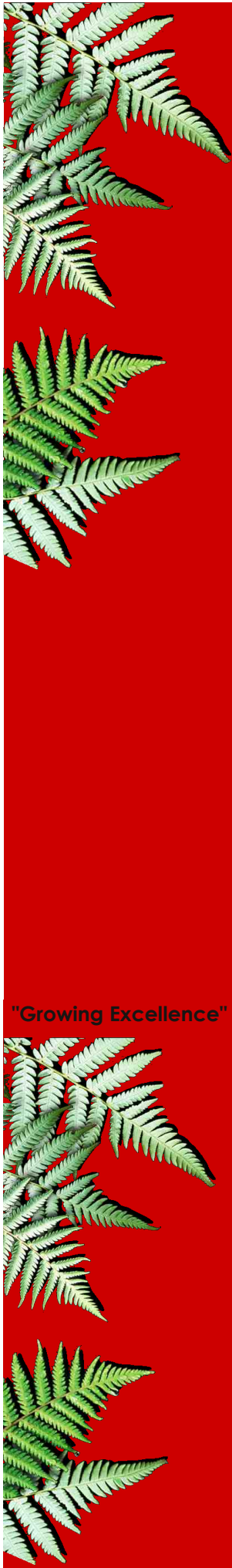
The spell-a-thon championship took place last Friday for the top speller of each class. Congratulations to the winner of each year group.

- Year 1 - Matthew Jiao
- Year 2 - Faith Yoong and Anaya Palit
- Year 3 - Haaniyah Bashir
- Year 4 - Samanyu Garg
- Year 5 - Nate Yoong
- Year 6 - Savir Selagan

The overall winner of the spell-a-thon championship was Nate Yoong.

Please keep up the fundraising efforts for the spell-a-thon. The winners of the prizes for those students who have raised the most money will be announced at assembly on 23rd August.





## MOTAT Trip

On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of July the SLC embarked on a journey through the history of communication and technology. The purpose of this trip was to expose our students to technology that has revolutionised the world we live in today. As part of our topic for the term, the SLC took part in an education session where they learnt about the nature of technology, and how everyday items such as telephones and computers have changed over time.

Our students really enjoyed this experience! This experience has set them up for what's ahead in their learning. The students have been given a challenge brief where they have been tasked to create something that is futuristic! They will be given the opportunity to ideate, create prototypes and dream about what the future could look like in the realm of communication and technology!



We would like to thank all of the parents that came to help us on both days! Without your help we wouldn't be able to organise trips such as these. Thank you also to our amazing SLC teachers for your great organisation and enthusiasm!

## MHP Kapa Haka 2019

This year, we have had a number of new members join our kapa haka group - many of who have never participated in kapa haka before. Because of this dynamic, we've had to work on existing songs to ensure the whole group on the same page. Another new edition to our team has been matua Kalebh, one of our school's amazing Learning Assistants. His presence and contribution to the group has been very well received by the students.

Since the start of the year, we have had a strong focus on discipline and organization. This means that we spend the first third (at least) of our ACE time working on how to present themselves on stage, moving on and off the stage, and working through transitions between songs in a bracket. This is often a tedious task, but it has already shown good fruit.

This Term, we are excited to participate again in the Koanga (Spring) Festival hosted this year by Howick College and Cockle Bay School, on Friday 30 August. We have been working through a simple, yet dynamic bracket for this festival. Our performance is at 12:00pm that day, and emails will be sent to parents to inform everyone of the finer details at the start of week 4.



It is a great privilege to support students in the learning of the Maori language and protocols through the medium of kapa haka - it is definitely an avenue for growing excellence - kia hiranga ake.



## S ports Update

It has been really exciting to watch sport grow over the year. We have had good success in Rugby, Soccer and Netball despite the weather and its interference. All teams have had a mixture of wins and losses but have improved dramatically over the weeks of playing. It has been a pleasure to watch the growth!

The HPPA Gymnastics competitions also take place this month and we wish our team of 43 students well!

Rugby has now finished up for the year, Netball has a few rounds to go and Soccer is also nearing an end. Moving into Summer we will be competing in Touch Rugby and Girls Cricket.

At this time I would like to thank Mr Chris Lowry and Mr Jason Tuhaka for all of the work they have put into the rugby team. We could not run sports in our school without the help of parents and their expertise. The boys developed so well under your coaching! Thank you.

This week saw the weather interfere with the Cross Country, but we made it in the end. Thank you to the parents who came out to help with marshalling and to support your children running. It is always great to see the enthusiasm that the Cross Country brings to our school!

Congratulations to the following runners:

Year 1 Boys - 1st Jason Nguyen LZ8, 2nd Jeremy Lin LZ1, Karamveer Bath Singh LZ5

Year 1 Girls - 1st Aria Anguna LZ3, Akira Bala LZ8, Gurleen Buttar LZ5

Year 2 Boys - 1st Andy Zhao LZ7, Tim Madoka LZ12, Michael Huang LZ10

Year 2 Girls - 1st Faith Yoong LZ11, Lydia Liu LZ7, Isabella Chen LZ11

Year 3 Boys - 1st Nivaan Gounder LZ24, Nathan Fung LZ29, Kashif Bhatti LZ29

Year 3 Girls - 1st Rong Xi Liu LZ22, Alvyna Zang LZ22, Jasleen Braich LZ 23

Year 4 Boys - 1st = Ryker Tolich LZ28 and Faizan Bari LZ26, 3rd Cooper Bowers LZ26

Year 4 Girls - 1st Ruby Zang LZ28, Ishani Tuteja LZ27, Ankita Lal LZ26

Year 5 Boys - 1st Rohan Rama LZ21, 2nd Kevin Luo LZ15, 3rd Amar Singh LZ13

Year 5 Girls - 1st Anika Naidu LZ17, 2nd Elliza Zeyni LZ21, 3rd Selena Chen LZ18

Year 6 Boys - 1st = Toesh Rawat and Ethan Monk LZ19, 2nd Rayaana Kapadia LZ20

### 2019 Term Dates

#### Term 3

Monday 22 July –  
Friday 27 September

#### Term 4

Monday 14 October –  
Friday 13 December  
Labour Day – Monday  
28 October



"Growing Excellence"





## Basketball

The MHP Eagles basketball team has been doing great this term. They have shown great improvement in both teamwork and individual skills while striving hard in practices. Last week we had a win against the Shelly Park Aqua team, and I'm sure there will be more to come!



## SLC Speech Final

The SLC had their speech final on Wednesday morning. As usual the competition was very tough. Well done to all the finalists and in particular to our runners-up and winners.

Year 5 Runner-up: Zahir Daud "Funny excuses for not doing your homework"

Year 5 Winner: Nate Yoong "Big Dreams"

Year 6 Runner-up: Reyah Sahib "Being the older sister"

Year 6 Winner: Savir Selagan "Peer pressure"

Savir will be representing MHP at the HPPA speech competition in September. Thanks to Mrs Reshmika Lal from MHJC for helping judge the competition.



## School Photos

School photos will be taken this week. Please ensure that all students are in their correct, clean & tidy school uniform. Information regarding the photos will be sent home this week. Please note that individual and sibling photos will only be taken if they are pre-paid.

Thursday 15th August - Class and Portrait

Friday 16th August - Team and Sibling Photos

## Safety at the School Gates

We have staff ensuring our students cross the road safely on their way to and from school and have added extra staff at the school entrance. In spite of this, we still have parents who do not put children's safety first and insist on driving into the school entrance and then performing dangerous reverse maneuvers off the school property.

WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE.

Thank you