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## MHPS NEWS

### The Mission Heights Primary School Newsletter

Issue 7 / September 2019

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

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#### Principal's Message

Dear Parents



It is nearly the end of Term 3 already and most of the year is just about gone and yet every day I feel privileged watching our students learn and interact with each other positively and productively. As I am hearing their conversations it is pleasing to see that they are not just acquiring information or following directions, but are certainly engaged in exploring their curiosities and wonderings through questions and solving problems. How our students are learning in and out of school and hearing and interpreting conversations around them is exciting to witness, as I think it is something truly special to get an insight on how young minds work and interpret their world.

I hear, in the laughter and excitement of our students, the lure of curiosity and the thrill of discovery as they share their emerging interests and talents through their many learning experiences each day. In fact as early as a few weeks ago I had three Year 1 students walk up to me wanting me to confirm for them if I was the Mayor of MHP. It shows how much they hear the conversations around them by the adults outside of school and through the media. For all of our students, learning is powerful and transformative, and it's a great pleasure for me to watch it unfold as in turn their learning fires the imaginations and creativity of our teachers as well. No one knows for sure what children can do until we challenge them to be their best selves and take the opportunity to listen to their emerging views and ideas about their world and things that puzzle them.

It seems like a small thing, I guess, but watching our students from Years 1 to Year 6 managing and leading school assemblies reminds me that the values and vision of this school for learning don't emerge spontaneously they are reinforced by the dedication and concentrated effort of our teachers and our parents each day through a range of intentional ways.

Our school assemblies offer a wonderful window on our school's culture of 'Growing Excellence- Kia Hiranga Ake'. At these events, I'm often struck by the warmth of our students' support for one another. They cheer each other's successes they support one another's learning zone events and share their special learning milestones and aspire to achieve their personal goals. Assemblies at MHP are run by students, from all year levels who recognize each other by name. These events offer our students a chance to show-case their skills, but even more importantly, they give them a chance to

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collaborate, to work together in presenting a product whose success depends on their own effort and commitment to learn.

We recognize the effort of our students and their joy in achieving success, and that is one of the reasons our school assembly events bring us so much pride! However teaching our students to accept failure and be resilient is an aspect that we must also focus on so that they have a go and take risks with new opportunities their desire to learn from failure. Hopefully the glimpses of students learning you get through your own and your children's experiences at our school events and assemblies offer you as parents a window into our world.

Have a great spring break with your children so that when they return for the final term of the year we can celebrate together another significant year of learning at MHP.

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

## **H**owick Historical Village

In Term 2 and 3, as part of our integrated studies programme, our JLC visited The Howick Historical Village. Despite the challenging weather, the students had an exciting day and learnt so much from the educators. They had the opportunity to explore a range of activities, just to mention a few; games of the old times, the herb garden and the art of butter making. After talking to the students, we've heard that one of the highlights were walking through the Village to experience how people lived in those days. A huge thank you to parents who offered to help on this excursion. We could not have done this without you.

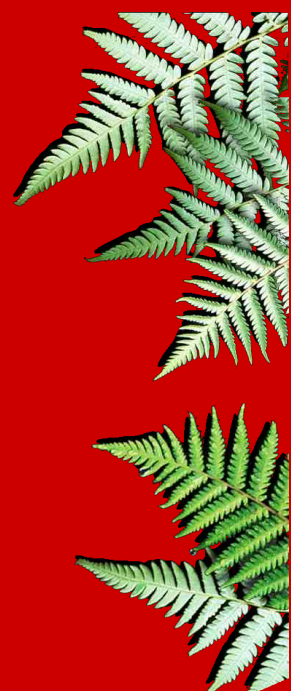


## **M**andarin Speech Finals

On the 10th of July Mr Gee took Emily Pan from LZ17 to the APPA Mandarin speech competition at Meadowbank Primary. The competition was extremely tough and Emily did really well to represent our school. Well done to Emily!



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## **H** PPA Rugby

The MHP under 45kg rugby team had a very good season, considering this was the first time playing rugby for many of our players. We were very fortunate to have Mr Chris Lowrey, former Auckland Blues loose forward, as our coach this year. His coaching saw our team go from strength to strength. This year, we finished the inter-school tournament in 10th place out of 17 teams.

### **Stand out players were:**

Ethan Monk, who did a great job as captain and exhibited excellence on and off the field. Younger brother Jayden also contributed greatly to the team with his resilience and skill.

Jake Evans showed natural talent on the field considering this was his first time playing rugby. He stopped many tries with his fearless defence. And, the youngest player in the team, Gafa Lowrey, showed great heart and skill throughout the tournament.

### **Most improved players this year were:**

Dylan Naicker, showed great attitude and a teachableness that saw him utilise his speed on attack as well as develop the skills for a strong defence. Gurpreet Singh also improved with every game, gaining confidence along the way.

Overall, the team played very well together and learnt a lot from their wins and their losses. We look forward to strengthening rugby at MHP.

### **MHP U45kg Rugby Team:**

Ethan Monk (c), Jayden Monk, Jake Evans, Liam Kidd, Dylan Naicker, Gafa Lowrey, Gurman Brar, Nimit Singh, Toesh Rawat, Charles Nguyen, Harry Nguyen, Gurpreet Singh, Tamati Campbell, Sameer Mehta, Jack McSaveney, Rayaan Kapadia and AJ Mosa'ati



## **O**dd Clothes Muffi Day

There were many strange and odd outfits worn to school for Muffi Day on Friday 13th, backwards clothes, odd shoes and even a unicorn head! The Student Council did an amazing job delivering hot chips, samosas and sausages to the learning zones and most students enjoyed an ice block too. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. All money raised will be donated to Auckland Starship Children's Hospital.



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## Talent Quest

During week 9 the Mission Heights Primary School Talent Quest 2019 finals were held. There were 67 entries this year across the school, with students producing a wide range of acts including dance, instrumental playing, singing, taekwondo, a ventriloquist and gymnastics. Every act was auditioned and from those 67 auditions, 27 acts were selected to go through to the final. 12 year 1-3 acts were chosen and 15 Year 4-6.

The year 1-3 Talent Quest final was held on Wednesday 18th September and the year 4-6 on Friday 20th September. Congratulations to the winners who all gave an outstanding performance:

### Year 1-3

In first Place: Gurnek Singh dancing to 'Old Town Road' by Billy Ray Cyrus

In second place: Elsa Yang - playing 'A Little Piano Piece'

In third place: Faith Alontave singing 'A Thousand Years' by Christina Perri

### The year 4-6:

In first Place: Brooklyn Taylor dancing to 'Impossible' by James Arthur

In second place Rick Zhao playing 'Sonata in G' by Beethoven

In third place: Kalolaine Palalagi -Taulagaono with her cultural dance to 'Fotu' He La'a' by Lady Fats



## Lewis Eady Junior Music contest:

On Saturday, 24 MHP orchestra students participated in the Lewis Eady Junior Music contest at Ponsonby Primary school. This event has been running since 1983 and is the only music ensemble competition for Primary and Intermediate school age students in the Auckland area. 42 groups from 17 schools and music studios participated in this year's competition and Mission Heights Primary received a Gold award for the Percussion ensemble performance and a Silver award for the Recorder ensemble performance. The students' performances and presentation was highly poised and professional and they represented our school with great pride. It was a tremendous result for our very first attempt in this event. Congratulations Mrs Hsu and the MHP Orchestra and the Recorder Group!



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## House Tee Shirts

As part of our 10th Anniversary, Mission Heights Primary School has House Colour tee shirts for sale. Students will be able to wear these at house events, including the upcoming Athletics Day in Term 4. On sale at Reception \$15.



## HP Koanga Festival 2019

We have had a number of new students join our kapa haka group this year - many of who have never participated in kapa haka before. Another new edition to our team this year has been matua Kalebh Parata, one of our school's amazing Learning Assistants. His presence and contribution to the group has been very well received by the students.

We took 34 students to participate again in the Koanga (Spring) Festival hosted this year by Howick College and Cockle Bay School, on Friday 30 August. We also took 2 teachers, Miss Taogaga and Mrs Mohammed, as well as 2 parents, Mrs Grant and Mrs Ali. Our performance was at 12:00pm that day in the Howick College's Bill Dimery Performing Arts Centre. We performed a very simple, yet dynamic bracket for this festival. We were very proud of all of our students for showing courage and bravery to stand and perform in front of an audience.

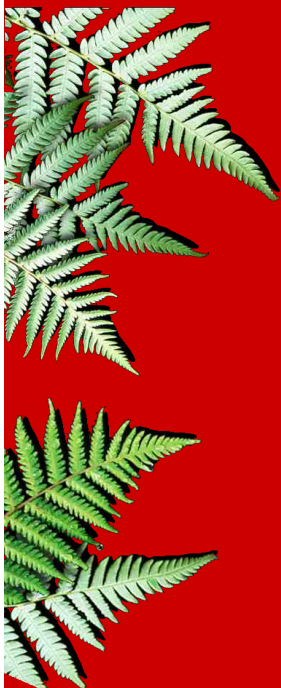
It is always a great privilege to support our students in the learning of the Maori language and protocols through the medium of kapa haka - it is definitely an avenue for growing excellence - kia hiranga ake. Mauri ora.



## Measles Outbreak

Thank you to for your support during our measles outbreak. As a community, we are nearly all immunised and so it has caused minimal disruption. Your compliance has been appreciated. The staff member has already returned to work and the school is now cleared of measles at this stage.

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## 2019 Term dates

### Term 4

Monday 14 October –  
Friday 13 December

Labour Day – Monday  
28 October

## Community Seminar

On the evening of Thursday 19th September, Mission Heights Primary School was lucky enough to welcome Prakash Grover to give a Seminar on Anxiety in Children - 21st Century Common Occurrences.

Mr Grover is a psychologist who has 30 years of experience in the field of Psychology, Speech Language Therapy and Counselling. He is well qualified and experienced to deal with a variety of learning and behaviour issues in children, youth and adults. His seminar was both informative and interesting. It not only educated the audience around the signs of anxiety in children, but gave practical advice around how to deal with the anxiety. Mr Grover interacted with the audience throughout the seminar by answering direct questions from parents, teachers and members of the local community. The seminar was very well received by all who attended.

## Mathex

On Tuesday 24th September four of MHP's finest mathematicians set out to compete at the annual HPPA mathex competition at Sunnyhills School. We are very proud of our students who came second out of close to 30 teams in this very competitive event. Congratulations to Phoebe Guo, Sumida Gange, Ian He and Toesh Rawat, and to Mr Gee, their coach.



## Last Day of Term

Thursday 26th of September is the last day for this Term. We have had a successful Term 3 and look forward to seeing your children back on the Monday 14th October for the final Term.

**We wish you a restful Spring break and thank you for all your support during Term 3!**

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