



Newsletter

"In Pursuit of Excellence for Christ"

Dear Parents

Welcome back to pupils and parents. We particularly extend a warm welcome to our new families who have children starting this term: 30 new children and a total of 23 new families! We trust your association with Manukau Christian School will be both encouraging and beneficial to you and your children.



Tiaria Wilson, Grace Levae, Zara Greenfield and Esha Sharma at school in the first week of 2009.

ERO Visit

Review officers from the Education Review Office will be in our school from Monday 9th March to Wednesday 11th March, carrying out a Statutory Review that they are required to undertake every three years. As a school we welcome the opportunity to demonstrate the teaching and learning that takes place in our Christian School.

Staff List

Year 1 Mrs Christina Ackermann
Year 2 Miss Char Luck
Year 3/4 Mrs Leonie Logan
Year 5/6 Mrs Cherry Peek
Year 7/8 Mrs Shirley Smith

ESOL/Specialist Subjects Mrs Kay Coulthard
French (Y7/8) Mrs Maree Kennedy

Teacher Aide: Mrs Marcia van de Weg
Caretaker: Mr Maurice Papesch
Executive Officer: Mrs Geraldine Oosterbeek
Principal: Mr Shane Kennedy

Term 1, Week 3
20 February 2009



School Hours

The hours of school are 9.00am to 3.00pm. Children are expected to be at school between 8.40-8.55am, ready to start work at 9.00am. We have noticed children being dropped off as early as 8.00am—please be aware that staff are not on site at this time. If your child is dropped off early they will not be permitted to go into class until 8.45am. Teachers' prayer time is from 8.30-8.45am—classrooms are locked until this time.

School finishes at 3.00pm and we would request that children are picked up no later than 3.15pm as there is no supervision of children after this time.

School Details

School office hours are between 9.00am and 3.00pm. Please use the main entrance at the south end via reception if you need to speak with someone in the office. The side entrance to the administration block from the covered area is reserved for pupils and teachers. The office phone number: 269-1050

Absent Children

If your child is unable to attend school, please ring the school. While we endeavour to follow up on absent children, it remains the parents' responsibility to inform the school if your child is going to be away for the day. We require a note the following day if your child has been absent unless you ring to inform the school office.

Late Arrivals

We appreciate the efforts of parents to get their children to school on time between 8.40-8.50am. Each teacher records late arrivals on their class attendance register. If your child is late please do not disturb the class by going into the classroom with your child. Any communication you wish to make at this time may be done via the school

School Fees

School fees are due on the first day of each term unless paying by automatic payment. Please contact Mrs Oosterbeek if you would like to set up an automatic payment. A reminder that a term's notice must be given if withdrawing your child from school.

Term Dates

2009

Term 1: 3 Feb - 9 Apr

Term 2: 27 Apr - 3 Jul

Term 3: 20 Jul - 25 Sep

Term 4: 12 Oct - 11 Dec



Trustboard Members

The current members of the Trustboard are:

Mr Peter Boyd (Chairman)
 Mr Gus Sonneveld (Treasurer)
 Mr Rod Peek (Secretary)
 Mr Simon Camp
 Mr Richard Flinn
 Mr Rob Darby

Parking

Could parents please drop children off and collect using the entrance that is closest to the class of their youngest child. Please be considerate of other parents when dropping off and collecting children. If your child needs assistance with getting in and out of the car please park your car to prevent traffic build-up.



Picking up your child after school

Our school policy states:

- Children in Years 1 to 4 being picked up by parents, are required to wait on the seats outside the main school block.
- Parents/caregivers must come down from the carpark to the assembly point and physically accompany their child back to the car.
- Children will not be released by the duty teacher to go off unaccompanied to the carpark.



PIPS - Parent in Prayer Support of our School

PIPS meet each Friday morning from 9.00am to 10.00am in the church crèche. All parents are welcome to join and acknowledge God's faithfulness and ask for His blessing on our children and school.

Lost Property

Please check the lost property basket regularly which is located in the inner courtyard of the junior block. Unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each term.

Dress Code

Our school policy on dress code states: Parents must ensure that pupils are neatly, suitably and cleanly dressed at all times. Although there is no school uniform, all pupils are expected to be **neither unduly flamboyant nor overly casual**. Pupils are not at school to make a fashion statement but rather to get on with the business of learning.

Boys: Hair must be natural and tidy, well groomed and cut in a short masculine style. No jewellery may be worn.

Girls: Hair must be natural and tidy, well groomed and feminine. Long hair must be tied back from the face. No jewellery or make up or nail polish may be worn. Plain studs only in pierced ears.

Please note that dyeing, spiking, excessive gelling of hair and adornments are both unnecessary and unacceptable during school term times. For safety reasons, suitable footwear includes sandals with backs or straps—no jandals, scuffs or running shoes without backs please.

To help parents understand the philosophy and reasoning behind our dress code, copies of the “School Dress Code Explained” are available from the office.

Dentist

Contact with the dental therapist is once again through the Manurewa Central School Dental Clinic on Hill Road. Ring the dental clinic on 268-8020 or see Mrs Oosterbeek in the office if you have any queries.

Riding Bicycles to School

All children need to bring a letter from parents requesting permission to ride their bike to school. Children must wear a helmet and lock their bikes in the bicycle rack at school. On entering the church/school property, pupils must dismount and walk their bikes to the lock-up area. The same rule applies after school. We don't encourage young children to ride bikes to school i.e 10 years and younger.

T-Shirts and Hats

New stock of T-shirts and hats are due on Monday. T-shirts are to be worn on school outings in the interests of safety. Please order yours from the school office.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Term 1, Week 7—Wednesday 18th March

At this interview teachers will inform parents on how their child has settled in class, the results of early testing and particular strengths and weaknesses.

A time sheet will be sent home closer to the time for you to complete and return to the office. Please mark your calendar with this date. **School will close at 12.30pm on this day.**

Initiatives in the Class: Wikispaces

Do you know what’s happening in your child’s class?

Teachers update our school ‘wikispace’ every week with current homework, class discussions, reminders, happenings as well as expectations. This is an excellent way for you to help your child and can be used as a starting point for a discussion with your child. It has been proven that parental feedback and interaction with your child rates as one of the best ways to encourage high achievement.

Log onto: www.mcsclassnet.wikispaces.com



Dates to Remember

Thursday 19 and 26 February and 5 and 12 March: Gymsport for Years 1 and 2 at Bruce Pulman Park, Porchester Road.

Thursday 26 February: Coffee and Dessert evening for **new** parents to the school. Invitations have been mailed. Please RSVP to the office by Tuesday 24 February

Monday 2 March: Whole School Assembly 9.00am

Wednesday 18 March: Parent / Teacher Interviews
School closes at 12.30pm.

Thursday 9 April: End of Term 1. School closes at 12.30pm

Monday 27 April: Start of Term 2



Parents helping in the school

We encourage parents to be involved with what their children are doing and would welcome any offers of assistance. No special skills are required. We always need assistance with writing up homework books, listening to children read, supervising Maths work set by the teacher etc. Please ask your child's teacher if you can assist or speak with Mrs Oosterbeek in the office.

Welcome to Mrs Logan

We are delighted to have on our staff a new teacher for our year 3/4 class: Mrs Leonie Logan. Mrs Logan comes to us with many years of teaching experience both in New Zealand and abroad. We all look forward to working together to provide a caring and nurturing environment for your child.



Topics this Term

Science:
What is Science?
Rocks and Minerals

Culture:
Mesopotamia
NZ Geography

School Happenings

Year One Class

Pupils in our year one class have settled in very quickly and their enthusiasm is a delight to see. As part of their study on Rocks and Minerals, Braeden Aronson in Year 8, talked about and showed us his rock collection. Having tactile examples of fossils, petrified wood and rocks sparked their imagination with exciting play in the sandbox and on the playdough table.



Left: Yong Ju, Lillian Duthie, Tiaria Wilson and Harsukh Kaur making their own fossils and **above:** Lochlan Kane with his fossils made from playdough.

School Banking



Our deposit drop-box was installed last week so we can now get underway with the school banking programme. Applications are currently being processed and once approved we will be supplied with deposit envelopes and account numbers where applicable.

Once we have received these from ASB Bank pupils can bring their deposit envelopes to school **every Tuesday** and drop them into the deposit box situated in the reception area.








SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

*“O Lord, our
Lord how
majestic is
your name in
all the earth.”
Psalm 8:1*

The theme of Psalm 8 is that the greatness of God assures the worth of mankind. God, the all-powerful Creator cares for his most valuable creation — people.

Matters for Prayer

-  Give thanks for our God’s wonderful blessings and provision for our school.
-  Give thanks and pray for our new teacher Mrs Leonie Logan.
-  Give thanks to God for faithful and committed staff and trustboard members.
-  Pray for new pupils and their families. Pray particularly that the new children will make friends and quickly settle into the routines and work of Manukau Christian School.
-  Pray for our teachers and staff as they seek to know and serve Christ and our school community.

Newsletter in colour

Please email Mrs Oosterbeek if you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter (in colour) at admin@manukauchristian.school.nz

In Christ

S.M. Kennedy
Principal

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