



Manukau
Christian School

High School Update

July 2018

Welcome

Dear Parents

Doesn't time fly? Our Year 9-12 students are almost all through their mid-year exams, and our Year 11 & 12 students have passed the half way mark for their school year.

Reflecting on these exams is a very important part of the learning process. Rather than just focussing on a grade or percentage, we encourage all of our students to read the feedback they receive from their teachers as well as listen to the oral feedback they get in class about how to improve. This is especially important for our IGCSE and AS level candidates. The mistakes they make now can be worked on and avoided in the Term 4 externals.

Upper High School Pathways

On Wednesday 8 August we will be holding a meeting for parents of students in Year 10 upwards. In this meeting we will be explaining what our upper high school looks like, what improvements we are making to our AS and A level programme in 2019, the pathways to university entrance, and how you as a parent can help your child plan for their future education. The meeting will be held in Room 9 from 7:00-8:00pm. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided.

High School Enrolments for Year 8 students



Thank you to all the Year 8 parents who have enrolled for the high school in 2019. We have had excellent interest. If you are still thinking through your options we encourage you to come and have a chat to the high school teachers about what MCS high school offers. We'd love to help you see whether MCS is the right place for your child in Year 9.

Mission Trip

In the first week of the July holidays, 2019, MCS is looking to take a small mission team of Year 12 and 13 students to a remote part of western Fiji to engage in Christian outreach, supporting a local church. Why? Because Jesus said to go into all the world and preach the gospel, making disciples of people. We believe in the importance of religious freedom, but all people need to hear the gospel and be given an opportunity to respond to God's grace through Christ Jesus. Our team will spend Fridays after school training for mission so we are prepared and equipped to share our faith.

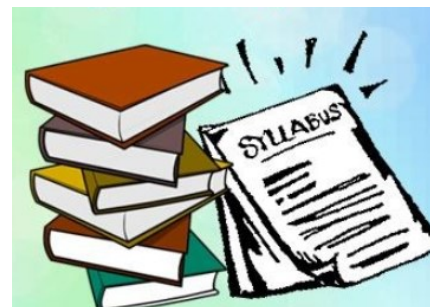
Mission is theology with hands and feet

What will we do in Fiji? Our team will most likely present brief gospel messages, pray for sick people, share personal testimonies, run children's programmes, visit people in their homes, run sports events for children, run evening evangelistic meetings (in partnership with the church leaders) and put on outreach programmes at schools. In all that we do, we will be working with a local church in Fiji. We will stay at the local church just outside of Tavua. To see what previous mission trips have got up to just 'Google' *Foursquare New Covenant Churches Fiji* and you will find some photos of recent mission trips. This trip can be expected to stretch us, challenge us and grow us, as we make ourselves available to be used by the Lord, away from the familiarity and the distractions of kiwi life. We look forward to seeing what God will do in and through our team.



Preparing for IGCSE and A Levels

As our Year 10 - 12 students **begin Term 3**, we strongly recommend that they set up an examination study timetable allocating study time to each subject per week to help them prepare for the external exams which occur in the first five weeks of Term 4. If unsure about the scope of the course, they should ask their teachers for details of what knowledge and skills they need to have.



A number of students confuse study with homework. Even when a homework load is lighter, the hours of study a student performs should remain consistent in order to be thoroughly prepared. Wise students will maintain a steady effort over Term 3, rather than cramming and becoming stressed in the few weeks before the exams. Preparation in the form of regular study pays off when it comes to exam day.

Recommended resources include:

znotes.org – a website where you can find study notes for many of the Cambridge courses

cambridgeinternational.org/i-want-to/resource-centre/ - contains past papers and marks schemes as well as learner guides which have helpful lists of the skills, knowledge and applications students should be familiar with.

Highlight Spot— Geography Year 9



Geography is the science dealing with the different features of the earth and its effect on humankind. This term, we are learning about natural disasters and agriculture in Year 9 Geography. The study of geography offers us the chance to master skills such as reading maps, comprehension and application of knowledge to different situations.

We have also had the opportunity to look at the complexity of earth's natural features and climate, which gives us a glimpse of the incredible creativity shown by the Creator. The different ways in which humankind deals with nature, be it ways to reduce the impact of natural hazards to people, or ways by which we use natural resources for our well-being, reminds us how our resourcefulness comes from being made in the image of our creative incredible God.

Replacing Tech in Our Lives

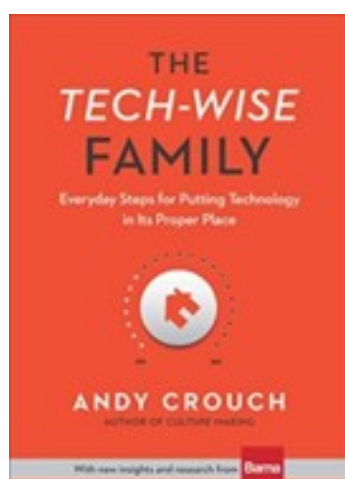
In our last newsletter, we looked at the way technology can be a danger to our teenagers, and suggested some ways these dangers can be mitigated. One of the best ways to reduce the power of a bad habit is to replace it with a good habit. So, what good habits can we make a part of our family culture to help us replace our overuse of technology and our addiction to screens?

One excellent way to avoid the isolation that technology fosters is to play board games and card games together as a family. Why not make one night a week family games night? Games allow people to interact and talk and engage with others in the family in positive ways.

Eat dinner together as a family. Sit at the table. Ask every family member to participate and share the highlights and lowlights of their day. Have a 'crazy question of the day' to get people discussing and interacting with each other.

Reading aloud as a family is another great way to come together. The beauty of books is that they force you to create a world in your own imagination rather than passively absorb another's view. Reading the classics together as a family provides great opportunities to discuss moral issues, and helps us all enter into the world of others who may be very different.

Spending time together in the outdoors is another great way to replace screen time. A family mini golf tournament, or a bit of backyard cricket, or even an overnight tramp are ways for you to enjoy time together and enrich your family relationships. Auckland Council often advertises tree planting days at the Regional Parks, which are another great way to spent time together for a good purpose.



Finally, think about the ways you as a family can celebrate true human creativity. Perhaps it's singing songs together with Dad playing the guitar – perhaps it's getting out the paint brushes and canvas to try your hand at painting or copy a famous work of art.

If you would like to think more about the topic of technology and making choices that will support your family in this age, we would recommend *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch.

Worldview and Media Module

For the past few weeks, we (Year 10-12s) have been doing a module on media with Mr. Boyd. We learnt that a worldview is the lens through which we see the world. We looked at the Christian perspective and how the lens for Christians is the Bible. Throughout the module we also examined two dominant views of the world: post modernism and modernism.

To see the different worldviews today, we also analysed songs, advertisements and famous movie clips. Personally, this was my favourite part because it was interesting to see the worldviews of songs that are popular among teenagers and their meaning.

Talitha Sharma



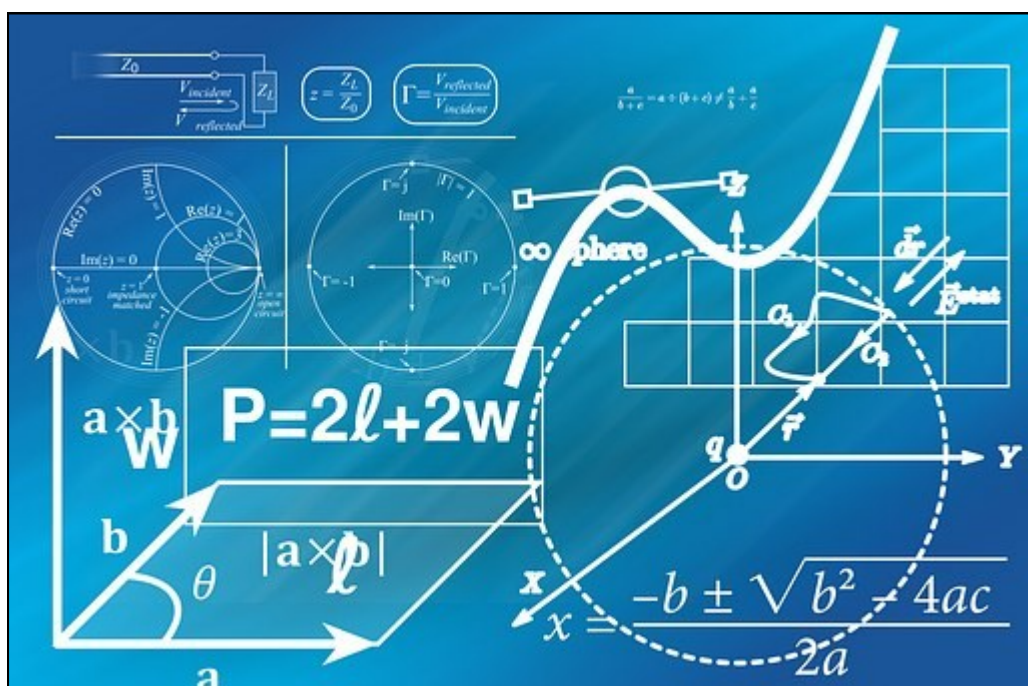
Year 12 Mathematics

Recently the Year 12s have been learning about the concepts of permutations and combinations. These sometimes involved the ! or factorial button on the calculator that many younger students have often wondered about. Permutations are used to calculate the number of ways you can arrange individual items in a line. An example of this would be the letters A, B and C. They can be arranged in the following ways.

A B C
A C B
B A C
B C A
C A B
C B A

There are 6 different ways you can arrange A, B and C. This is described by $3!$ or $3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6$. But if we make the number larger, for example rearranging 10 letters ($10!$) we get 3,628,800 different ways. The number of ways to arrange items multiplies very quickly.

Caitlin Shallard



Dramatics and Recitation

This term the Year Nines had the opportunity to do “Recitation and Dramatics” as a module with Miss D. This included learning about some aspects of recitation such as pitch, tone, pauses, appropriate volume and how they can affect a performance. Another thing we looked at is impromptu acting- watching people run out of a non-existent burning building is absolutely hilarious. As a class project, the Year Nines are currently working on a Sherlock Holmes play called “The Norwood Adventure”. This play follows the story of John McFarlane as he is accused of a horrific murder he claims not to have committed.

Kanak Ahuja



Foosball Tournament

The high school students are hosting a Foosball (table top version of soccer) tournament with a grand prize of a pizza lunch. The Foosball tournament is in a series of competitive battles to prove who the most skilful team is. The contest is fought by fellow students and even by some of the teachers. We are sure everyone will play their best in order to win the delicious pizza!

Enrique Calantog

