



Newsletter

Term 2, Week 2, 2024

9 May 2024

Manukau Christian School

Dear Parents and Friends of MCS,

Welcome to Term 2

The warm and long summer days are far behind us, and the temperature changes tell us winter is not far away. Our Year 11 students have been diligently preparing for their external examinations in Mathematics and English, and soon enough our Year 7 to 13 students will need to commence studying for their mid year examinations. But surely a highlight of this demanding term is Culture Day in week 5 where we are able to dress up in our cultural attire and enjoy a variety of foods while celebrating that Jesus, the cosmic king, brings us together, and there is a day coming when people from every nation, tribe and tongue will be united around his throne in worship.

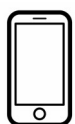
Message

Have you ever wondered what teachers do to grow and improve? Like our students we are constantly trying to learn, grow and improve.

At MCS, one of the key ways we do this is through employing teaching techniques from a wonderful book called "Teach Like a Champion" by Doug Lemov. The book is full of practical techniques that teachers can use in their classrooms to improve learning. This year we are focussing on 12 techniques.

Classroom Culture

The first three techniques relate to creating a classroom culture that is conducive to learning. SLANT is an acronym for Sit up, Listen, Ask and Answer Questions, Nod your Head, Track the Speaker. Our teachers train our children to do these things and if attention is waning, all that needs to be said is "SLANT!".



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From the Principal's Desk

Warm/Strict reminds us to be both warm and strict at the same time to send a message of high expectations, care, and respect. The technique Radar helps teachers think how they can be aware of non-productive behaviour by thinking about where to stand and how to subtly remind students that they are looking.

Check for Understanding

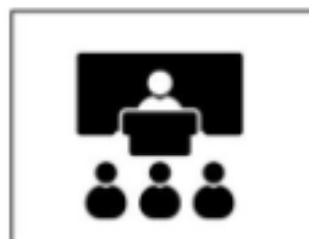
Next we are working on three particular techniques that help us develop a feel for whether students are understanding what we are teaching. The first technique we are developing is Tracking not Watching. When we set a task, we ensure we know what we are looking for, and then in moving around the classroom or in asking questions, we are checking to see whether the responses of our students indicate an understanding of the task. Plan for Error is a technique that more experienced teachers are able to implement. Having taught a course or lesson before, they are able to anticipate what is likely to go wrong and how students are likely to misunderstand. In the technique Excavate Error we learn to not just correct errors in our students understanding, but to dig into them so we can better understand the reasons our students are struggling and address those areas more effectively.

Academic Ethos

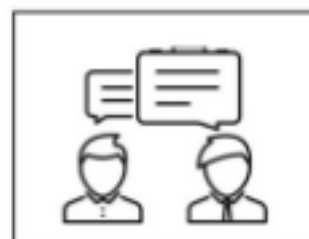
To help us create an academic ethos we employ Do Nows which are short warm-up activities at the beginning of our classes. We use the technique No Opt Out to ensure that all students – even those who are reluctant to participate are encouraged into participating in the learning process. Every Minute Matters is a technique that we use to ensure we are respecting our students' time by spending learning time productively.

Ratio

Recently we have been having some professional development on the all important topic of Ratio. With implementing Ratio, the principle is that we need to get the students doing as much of the thinking as possible. We think about how we can get as many students participating in thinking at any one time in a lesson, and how we can get them thinking at more rigorous levels. The technique Cold Call requires teachers to call on students regardless of whether or not they've raised their hands. In Everybody Writes, we prepare our



COLD CALL
We answer questions so that everyone can practice the learning



THINK, TURN & TALK
We practice in pairs so that we can check our understanding

From the Principal's Desk

students to engage rigorously by giving them the chance to reflect in writing before a discussion. We also use Turn and Talk by including short, contained pair discussions.

Regular Walk In Observations

A key part of improving our teaching is in regular observations. All teachers are encouraged to observe others as they teach. Every teacher is encouraged to give and receive feedback on how we can improve in our implementation of the Teach Like a Champion techniques and give suggestions for improvement in our craft. No one is immune from this process and even the principal, Head of High School and team leaders encourage others to view their teaching and give constructive feedback. Of course, this can be a bit nerve-wracking, but we believe teaching children is such an important profession that we cannot allow ourselves to stagnate. We need to be constantly thinking about how we can improve, and other teachers regularly giving us feedback is like iron sharpening iron.



Some Sad News and Some Exciting News

It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of Mrs Amanda Wichmann our Year 8 teacher. Mrs Wichmann will complete the term with us, so you have plenty of time to say goodbye! We wish Mrs Wichmann God's blessing as she begins a new role at Ormiston Primary School.

It can be difficult to find teachers, but God has blessed us with finding a replacement and we are excited to announce the appointment of Mrs Cynthia Anbunathan who will take over the Year 8 class in Term 3. Mrs Anbunathan is currently teaching at Pukekohe Christian School where she is teaching Year 12 and 13 Chemistry as well as Science, Bible and Mathematics to Year 6, 7, 9 and 11 students.

Ceilidh



Our inaugural Ceilidh (kay-lee) is scheduled for later this term for Year 11 to 13 students, alumni and staff. It is a great community event with live music and a caller who teaches all the dances so that everyone has a lot of fun. We want our inaugural ceilidh to be a real success so that students in younger age brackets look forward to their turn.

Scott Kennedy
Principal

Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13 MAY	14	15	16 Swimming Years 3&4 1.30 and 2.00pm	17
20 MAY	21	22 Trustboard Meeting 7.30pm	23 Swimming Years 3&4 1.30 and 2.00pm	24 Career Day Years 1 to 4 High School Assembly
27 High School Mid Year Exams Start	28	29	30 Swimming Years 3&4 1.30 and 2.00pm	31 Culture Day Whole School Assembly 2.00pm
3 KNGS'S BIRTHDAY School Closed	4	5	6 Swimming Years 3&4 1.30 and 2.00pm Year 8 Parent Information Evening for Year 9, 2024 7.00pm	7
10	11	12 Trustboard AGM	13 Swimming Years 3&4 1.30 and 2.00pm	14 High School Assembly
17	18	19	20 Swimming Years 3&4 1.30 and 2.00pm	21 Saturday 22 May Ceilidh 7.00pm
24	25	26	27	28 MATARIKI School Closed
1 JULY	2	3	4	5 Whole School Assembly 8.45am School finishes 12.30pm

Year 8 Parent Information Evening

This is the time of year that many schools start their high school enrolments for next year. We encourage parents of Year 8 students to attend the Parent Information evening on 6th June at 7.00pm. If you are keen on your child continuing on in the high school, you will need to attend this evening. Parents will need to complete an enrolment form for their child to enter Year 9. Please mark your calendars now.



General Notices

Culture Day

We are excited to hold another Culture Day on **Friday 31st May 2024**. This will include wearing ethnic dress, and bringing ethnic food to school. The day will finish with an assembly for the whole school where we hope to witness exuberant but authentic cultural creative expression. This day is about honouring different cultures and honouring God by being united in our diversity.



Help Please!

Please help us keep our students safe. Please help us prevent gridlock around the carpark and getting into and out of the school grounds. If you ask a family friend or grandparent to collect your child at the end of the day, **please make sure** they understand our carpark rules for afternoon collections.

- If your youngest child is in Year 4 or older, **please park on the road** and walk into the school grounds to collect your child.
- Display your parking token when you enter the carpark in the afternoons. This is only for parents of Years 1 to 3.
- There is a **one way** traffic system. **DO NOT** drive against the direction arrows.
- If there is no carpark place available, **DO NOT** stop. Drive **OUT** of the school grounds, and then come in at the gate again.
- **Please be considerate and mindful of your speed** in the carpark, especially in the high school carpark. We have received complaints of vehicles speeding in and out of our carparks. Please help us keep all children safe.
- Parents are also reminded that **mobility carparks** are for users with mobility cards only. If you park in the mobility carpark, please display your card. These carparks are vital for parents who have limited mobility and students who need to park close to the steps and have extra space for equipment.

General Notices

Late Students and Early Collections

Did you know that you can also use Skool Loop to inform us if your child has an appointment and will be arriving late to school, or if you wish to collect your child early. Using this app is fast and efficient and helps us to have your child available in the office on time for early collection.



Enrolment and Withdrawal

If you know of any family or friends who wish to enrol their children, please encourage them to enrol early. We currently have waiting lists for every year level. Parents, if you have a pre-schooler who is starting school next year, please make sure we have a completed enrolment form.

If you are withdrawing your child from the school, please ensure you are familiar with the conditions of enrolment that you signed when enrolling. The school requires **a full term's notice** (or 10 school weeks) if you intend to withdraw your child. If you do not provide sufficient notice, you **will** be invoiced for the next term's fees.

School Happenings

Swimming

Students in Years 3 and 4 have started their swimming lessons on Friday afternoons at the Manurewa Aquatic Centre. This is a wonderful opportunity that we are privileged to enjoy through the flagship programme of the John Walker Find your Field of Dreams Foundation. Entry, transport and lessons are free for all students. Year 5 and 6 students will attend lessons next term. Thank you parents for your help with supervision.



School Happenings

Poi PE Year 4



Keeping fit and enjoying a variety of activities during PE is always fun. Under the watchful eye of Mrs Smilde, Year 4 students were challenged with this activity, using techniques and muscles that they had not used before! Thanks for your expertise Mrs Smilde.



Skipping PE Year 1



Theatre Outing

Hoist the Flag of Fun and Mayhem

Shiver me timbers! The pirates are restless, yearning for a grand piratical adventure. “Oh, for a pirate party!” they proclaim. But, as any good pirate knows, a proper pirate party must be a stolen one. The Great Piratical Rumbustification, came to life in a swashbuckling stage performance. Oliver Terrapin opened the doors of his oblivious parents’ home for a party – a party with real pirates!

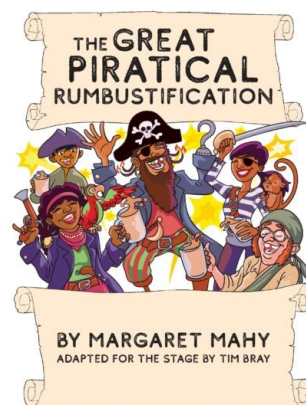
Paariq Ahluwalia Shah Year 4: My favourite part was when the son said “money” and the dad turned green and fainted.

Natalia Haw Year 4: My favourite part was the pirate songs that they sang.

Eben Schellingerhout Year 4: My favourite part was when the dad turned green when anyone mentioned “Money”.

Matthew Slabber Year 6: On Wednesday 1 May, the Year 3 to 6 classes went to see The Great Piratical Rumbustification. The show was funny, chaotic, mysterious and weird in a good way. Most of all, however, it was a hilariously enjoyable show. I really liked it and would love to see it again.

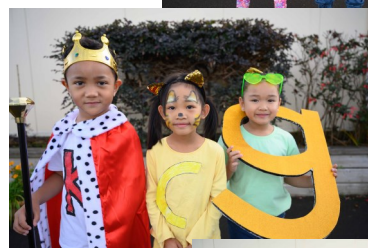
Summer Li Year 6: The Year 3-6 students had a blast watching The Great Piratical Rumbustification! The actors on stage were hilarious, with so much energy. Near the end of the show, we even got to dance a pirate dance!



School Happenings

Letterland Day

The grand culmination of learning all the letters and characters: Year 1 students enjoyed dressing up in their preferred Letterland character and celebrated with a picnic to mark the occasion. What an exciting morning! They are now going from strength to strength in their reading. At MCS we place great importance on teaching students the skills needed to sound out unfamiliar words, reading for fluency and comprehension and thereby discovering a love for reading. Well done everyone—I mean, Golden Girl, Clever Cat, Kicking King, Peter Puppy, Red Robot, Yellow Yo-Yo Man, and Uppy Umbrella!



Student Teachers

We currently have two student teachers at MCS for the next five weeks. Mae Savill (a former student) is doing her practicum in the high school and Avinesh Narayan is in Year 4. We warmly welcome student teachers to MCS where we can share our Christian worldview in our teaching practice.



School Happenings

Poetry—Year 6

Recently in Year 6, we learnt all about figurative language by reading through a range of different poems. We became proficient at spotting examples of metaphors, alliteration and personification. Poets use imagery for a particular purpose and to create a certain picture in the mind of their reader. After looking at various poems, we were able to create our own imagery within a poem. We worked hard to

Ocean

Above the calm ocean
Behind the gravel-grey clouds
In the large open
Sat a very still moon
Glistening on the sea
That only came at noon
As the moon slowly drifted away
More and more stars appeared
Like glitter sprinkles in the sky
After a while it disappeared

- *Emily Willis* -

use precise vocabulary, thinking about the picture we wanted our reader to imagine. We all had the opportunity to present our poems. Although it was a bit scary speaking in front of the class, we learnt a lot about how to project our voices and pause in places for effect. Enjoy reading a sample of poems from our Year 6 poets.

Black Cat (Moon)

In the puddle a black cat appears
as silent as a bat it stalks the sky
As the people come it hides
behind the clouds in the evening sky
The children wake as the sky cat
rakes the clouds away
to reveal the evening galaxy-purple sky
Then as the late working people come
it hides itself once more
behind the clouds of a purple sky
But why?

- *Matthew Slabber* -

Hello Moon!

One morning the moon got up too early
from bed,
And his eyes were all raw-red
Winter was coming, no more crystal-blue
All around ash-grey clouds flew
Sun didn't think of the Moon as a fellow,
even though he was a cheery poster-
yellow
Soon there was sunflower-orange, lolly-
pink,
fairy-purple, and day was going to sink
The Moon brightened, and white
is nicer than the Sun's yellow, right?
I'm sad that you're gone, O friendly
Moon,
Will you come again soon?

- *Guinevere Maney* -

Brightness of the Night

Stars twinkling and leaves rustling
The moon is dancing in the bright
blue sky,
The gentle breeze moves the leaves,
The silence puts everyone to sleep,
The moon sitting in the silence
shining light towards the city
This is the brightness of the night

- *Jasnoor Maan* -

School Happenings

High School Tramp—Year 9



Our 10th Year 9 Waitawheta hiking trip was one of the highlights for our Year 9s at the end of Term 1. With a bridge out due to the cyclone in 2023, our students tasted some river crossings, and the odd student experienced more of the water than they were anticipating. The health benefits of two days of walking were perhaps eliminated by the McDonald's stop on the way home to Auckland.

House Points Update Week 2

A new tally has been started this term. Results to date are:

Wilberforce:	18	Calvin:	22
Te Wiremu:	13	Tarore:	21

Community Notices

Miscellaneous

- ♦ Please remember to place your used **clothing and bric-a-brac in the bin** at the southern end of the property.
- ♦ We are still collecting stickers from **Yummy Fruits**. The school gets sports gear for students from this collection.
- ♦ Please ask your child to check the **Lost Property** bin in the junior foyer area.

PIPS - Parents in Prayer

Parents, if there is one thing you can do to assist us in educating and discipling students, please pray. Prayer moves mountains, changes hearts, breaks down barriers and turns the hearts of leaders. Please consider joining our weekly prayer meeting on Friday mornings at 8.30am in the school staffroom.

Parents, if you are interested in a career in teaching, please don't hesitate to have a chat with Mr Scott Kennedy. Ring the office to make an appointment.

Limited Spaces Available at Covenant Kids Preschool

Located at the senior end of Manukau Christian School site

If you are looking for a preschool learning environment that empowers each individual child to learn to their full potential and to set them up for future learning success then look no further!

- Only 5 full time spaces available for the year
- Passionate and dedicated teachers
- Multi-cultural team that brings diversity and a range of God-given strengths
- Individual learning pathway to develop future growth of your child
- Unique **Pathfinders Programme** for up to 6 year olds: focusing on supporting your child to be well prepared and school ready

Contact us on 09 269 1048 or email covenantkids@mcctrust.nz

if you wish to enrol your child now or later in the year as a space needs to be allocated..



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD
AND PROCLAIM HIS GREATNESS.
LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW
WHAT HE HAS DONE.

Matters for Prayer



Give thanks:

- for the provision of a Year 8 teacher
- for continued school tours and enrolments
- for the opportunity to host student teachers
- for mothers and the huge impact they have on their children's lives, for their strength and love



Please pray:

- for Mrs Wichmann as she prepares for a new role
- For our Year 11 students as they prepare for their upcoming IGCSE English and Mathematics examinations
- For the health of our staff and student body as we head into the winter months

Scripture

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 2:11-14

TERM DATES

Term 2	29 Apr to 5 Jul
Term 3	22 Jul to 27 Sep
Term 4	14 Oct to 13 Dec
	9 Oct to 29 Nov (Year 11 to 13)
	9 Oct to 10 Dec (Year 9 to 10)

