



Newsletter

Term 3, Week 2, 2026

30 July 2026

Dear Parents and Friends of Manukau Christian School,

Welcome back to Term 3. We hope you had a refreshing mid-year break and that everyone is ready for another busy and rewarding term. Cyclically, this term is one of reports, parent-teacher interviews, preparation for end of year exams and a time where planning for next year commences.

Settling Back To School

Have you ever asked someone a simple question and received a ten-minute answer involving a diagram, three technical terms and several important exceptions? Well, that is, in effect, what I think educational professionals sometimes do when it comes to thinking about success in education. It's not rocket science, but we can sometimes make out as though it is pretty close to it.

There are a number of key factors in educational success. The first has got to be the home. A stable home life with a Dad and a Mum who love each other is the first and foundational platform for educational success.

The kind of things happening in the home matter too. Reading to your children each night, and yes, that includes when they are teenagers and talking to them about their life is essential. Not letting your child have unfettered access to screens and absolutely prohibiting social media are also key components in raising a happy and healthy child who will enjoy learning about God's world.



Then there is getting your child to school every day on time. It's very hard for a child who is at school every day to fail. That's the job of the home.

What about the school? What simple things should we be doing to ensure success?



One ingredient is....teaching. Yes, that's right. I remember interviewing a person for a position in our primary school some years ago. I asked, "What do you think the job of a teacher is?" I am not joking. The first words out of this teacher's mouth were, "Well...not really teaching."

This thinking is representative of some educational theory today – that the teacher is more of a facilitator and students learn from each other. This is why we end up with desks arranged in table groups rather than facing the front of the class, and why we also ended up with the modern learning environments debacle where we created large open spaces for children to learn in, only to find at great expense to the taxpayer that this is not conducive to student success.

At MCS, teachers are expected to know a lot about their subjects and communicate this to their students.



Another important ingredient is making the most of the school day. In some schools, children are hauled out of classes for different activities and clubs and it is a rare thing to have the whole class together in a lesson. At MCS, we believe that every minute matters, and that our most important asset in teaching is **time**. More time spent focusing on learning equals better results. Therefore, we focus on simple things such as punchy lesson transitions, expecting students to get to class quickly after lunch and establishing routines so that students are not sitting around waiting to be told what to do. We also think carefully about the most effective and efficient ways to help students grasp new knowledge and skills.



Relationships are also key to the learning process. When we know that the person teaching us loves us and cares about our progress, we are more open to correction and more willing to become like our teacher. At MCS, we aim for a ‘warm-strict’ approach. This pays off relationally in the same way that authoritative parenting is far more effective than permissive parenting.

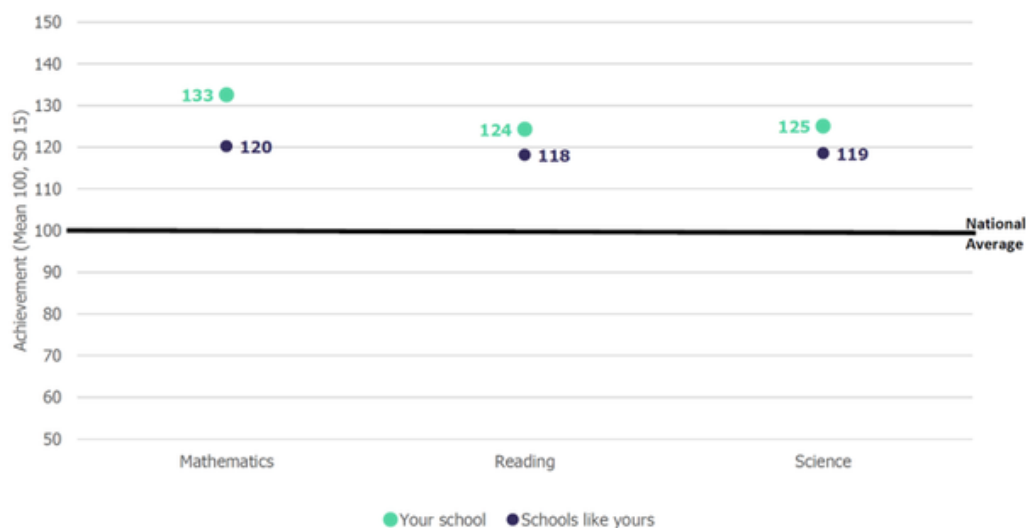
Just before the end of last term, I had the pleasure of welcoming six of last year’s alumni into my office and having a good half-hour conversation with them about how university was going, what campus Bible studies they were attending and what else was going on in their lives. When students voluntarily come back to see their teachers - after they have left school - it speaks volumes about the kind of environment we are trying to create.

So what do all these ingredients add up to?

Last year, MCS was selected to take part in the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment, better known as **PISA**. This international study, held every four years, assesses the knowledge and skills of 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics, science and digital learning. It also gathers information about students’ attitudes and experiences, along with their home and school environments.

As a participating school, we recently received a report showing how our students’ performance and perceptions compared with national results.

There are some wonderful highlights from this data that indicate our school is performing well both academically and in creating a warm environment conducive to learning. Our students are performing well above the national average in Mathematics, Science and Reading.



PISA Results against National Average

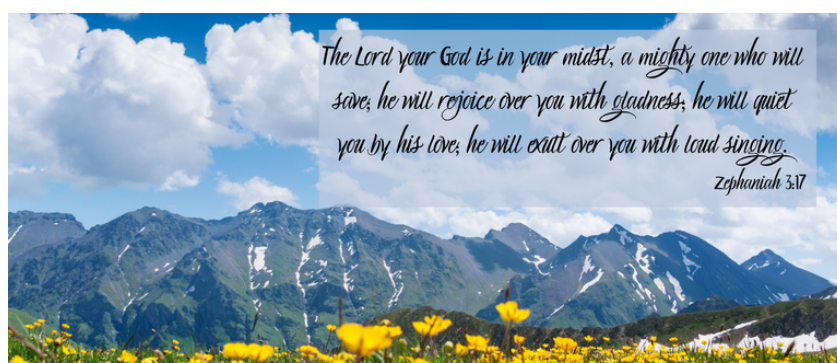
The survey results concerning teacher-student relationships were also very encouraging. Our students said that their teachers get on well with students from different cultures and backgrounds, are friendly and genuinely interested in them and would be concerned if a student walked into class upset. They also believed that their teachers would be excited to see them if they returned to visit the school in three years' time and that their teachers believe all students can do well.

No students thought that their teachers were mean to them. When you think about what your own children may think of you as a parent when you have to correct them, that is quite an achievement!

This data provides a valuable checkpoint. It indicates that we are on the right track, both in achieving academic success and in creating an environment that supports learning. At the same time, we will continue to look for ways to improve in both of these areas so that our students receive the best education we can offer.

Scott Kennedy

Principal



Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 Jul 2026	28	29 Parent Meetings Y7-13 3:30-5:30pm	30 Parent Meetings Y1-13 1:10-7:30pm	31
3 August High School Assembly 8:30am	4	5	6	7
10 Primary Assembly 8:40am	11	12	13 Y11 Pathways Evening 7:00pm	14
17 High School Assembly 8:30am	18	19	20 Run4Bibles Y5-8	21 Run4Bibles Y1-4
24 Y10-13 Prelim Exams Begin Primary Assembly 8:40am	25	26	27 Corban Art Y5-6	28
31 High School Assembly 8:30am	1 Sep	2	3	4
7 Primary Assembly 8:40am	8	9	10	11 Y10-13 Prelim Exams End
14 High School Assembly 8:30am	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 High School Assembly 8:30am Primary Assembly 8:50am School Closes 12:30pm

Mid Year Reports and Parent Meetings

Mid-year reports were handed out last week. Please bring your child's report to the Parent Meeting for discussion. If you have yet to book an interview, please ring the office.

- **Primary School:** Thursday 30 July 1:10pm-7:30pm
- **High School:** Wednesday 29 July from 3:30pm-5:30pm **and** Thursday 30 July 1:10pm-7:30pm

School finishes at 12:30pm on Thursday 30 July 2026.

These interviews are an opportunity to provide parents and teachers time to discuss how to assist students and help with re-focussing efforts for the latter part of the year.

High School Term 4 Exams

Students in our high school will sit external Cambridge exams in Term 4. These are completed over several weeks in October and November. Exam dates cannot be changed as they are pre-set by Cambridge International. Students are expected to sit exams for all subjects that they are studying.

November series IGCSE, AS and A Level exams have been invoiced. Please settle these fees now. Students who have not paid will not be able to sit their exams.

Please note that June Series Cambridge Exam results will be available on 11 August for AS and A Level and 18 August for IGCSE examinations.

Yr 6 Checkpoint Exams

Students in Year 6 will sit the internationally recognised exam in Week 1 and 2 of Term 4.

Tuesday 13 October:

Maths Paper 1, Maths Paper 2 (45 min each)

Tuesday 20 October:

English Paper 1, English Paper 2 (1 hr each)

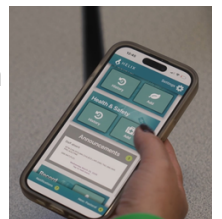
Lockdown Procedures

With lockdowns being in the news recently, we would like to remind parents of our communication procedures should a lockdown occur at our school.

Firstly, please ensure you have downloaded the **Helix App** and have notifications enabled. In the event of a lockdown, we will use Helix to provide parents with timely updates. If you do not have this app downloaded, you will not receive a notification.

During a lockdown, please **do not phone** the school office. Our priority will be the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, and we will not be able to answer incoming calls. Even a small number of concerned parents calling at once can quickly overwhelm our phone lines.

Please be assured that we will communicate with you as soon as appropriate. Thank you for helping us communicate in an efficient and effective way.



Run 4 Bibles

Our annual Run4Bibles is coming up soon. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to get active while helping provide Bibles to people around the world. We encourage all students to seek sponsorship from family and friends, with every donation contributing to the work of placing God's Word into the hands of those who need it most. Together, let's run with purpose and make a lasting difference—one step at a time.

Students in Years 1 to 4 will run on Friday 21st August at school, and students in Years 5 to 8 will run at Barry Curtis Park on Thursday 20th August.

Please encourage your family and friends to support Bible League.

Contributions can be made at: <https://bl.org.nz/fundraising-team.php?id=10399>

Please ensure your child's name and year level is included in the comment section.



Senior Pathways Information Evening



Parents of senior students, in particular our Year 11 students, please mark this date:

Thursday 13th August at 7:00pm in Room 202

The meeting will be held to explain AS and A Cambridge International programmes, the pathways to university entrance and how you can help your child plan for their tertiary education.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Sylvia Soo** in Year 8 on an outstanding achievement at the World Robot Olympiad New Zealand 2026, held on 30th May in Auckland.



Sylvia was awarded a Bronze Medal in the Future Engineers category of the Junior High Division. The World Robot Olympiad is an international robotics competition that encourages creativity, innovation and STEM skills among students.

This is an outstanding achievement and we commend Sylvia on her hard work and dedication - a well-deserved success.

We also congratulate **Adilpreet Randhawa** in Year 5 for winning First Prize in the 5–10 years category at the Radio Spice NZ Painting Competition. This year's theme, "Racial Harmony," encouraged children to express the importance of unity, kindness and respect through art. It is wonderful to see young minds sharing such meaningful messages with our community.



Farewell to Mrs Vaea and Mrs Harris



We farwelled both Mrs Vaea and Mrs Harris at the end of last term, with both teachers going on maternity leave.

We are pleased to share that Mrs Harris has been blessed with a wee son Silas, born during the holidays.

"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth." Psalm 127:4

Crazy Hat Day

Primary school students enjoyed a fun-filled **Crazy Hat Day** at the end of last term as part of a fundraiser for the High School graduation. Student leaders chose their favourite hat in each year level:

Year 1: Ella Van Hove, Ethan Kim

Year 2: Ayaana Walia, Sebastian Ramirez

Year 3: Mehrsa Mussa, Baby-Jay Setu-Alesi

Year 4: Alina Xu, Clyde Panganiban

Year 5: Chunyu Sun, Issac Pan

Year 6: Ember Alarcon, Jared Posthuma



"My favourite part of Crazy Hat Day was seeing others' silly and crazy hats. Although some students did not win, I felt very impressed by how much effort they put in." - Ember Alarcon (Year 6)

"Although Crazy Hat Day was a fundraiser for the high school, it was fun for everyone. Everyone put a lot of effort into creating their hats." - Paariq Ahluwalia Shah (Year 6)

"At Crazy Hat Day we had lots of fun making and judging our hats. Everybody's hats were all very sparkling and beautiful. I loved Crazy Hat Day!" - Anaiah Emmanuel (Year 3)

"I really enjoyed making my hat very crazy!!!! I liked Leah's lightning stormy hat because it was crazy! My favourite part was the hat parade." - Abigail Basil (Year 3)

Ceilidh

This year's MCS ceilidh was our largest yet—and certainly one of our liveliest! With excellent music from the live band and plenty of humour from our caller, the evening was filled with energetic dancing, laughter and good company.

Our Year 9 students were especially enthusiastic. At one point, a student began dancing during a musical break, others quickly joined in, and before long the dance floor was full of people copying one another's moves!

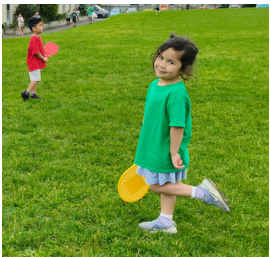
Between dances, everyone enjoyed plenty of pizza and cold soft drinks. The cooler winter weather was also very welcome after some energetic dancing.

It was wonderful to welcome students and staff from other Christian schools, members of the homeschooling community, former students, past and present staff and their spouses. Although a few people looked slightly nervous at the beginning, it did not take long for everyone to get into the swing of things.

The ceilidh was a wonderful evening of music, laughter, fellowship and community. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such an enjoyable occasion.



PE - Yr 1 and Yr 3

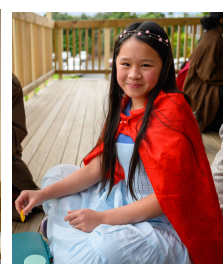
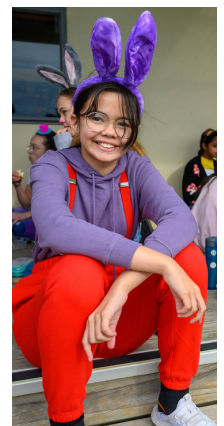


Our Year 1 students started the term off with developing ball skills during PE. Through a variety of fun activities, they are building their hand-eye coordination, balance, and confidence. These movement skills take time to develop, and it's wonderful to see the students growing in ability. Meanwhile, Year 3 students enjoyed developing their gymnastics skills through a range of apparatus activities and exercises.

Character Day - High School

Dress-up Day was a fantastic success, with students embracing the opportunity to dress as their favourite characters from books and movies. From classic literary figures to well-known movie favourites, the creativity and effort that went into the costumes made for a fun and memorable day. There was plenty of laughter along the way - and we're not quite sure if the teachers enjoyed the event more than the students!

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the day such an enjoyable event!



School Assemblies

Parents, you are warmly invited to attend High School and Primary assemblies during the term. These are wonderful occasions of celebration and community, including student and staff devotions, virtue certificates, the “Salt and Light Award” and “Wally of the Week”. See the calendar for the specific dates.



Year Group Wars - High School



The final week of Term 2 concluded with one of the highlights of the year thus far: our High School Jeopardy Quiz. Each year level battled for the coveted title in a block filled with laughter, teamwork and plenty of friendly rivalry.

Far more than a traditional quiz, the competition featured a wide range of challenges. Alongside classic Jeopardy-style questions, students faced planking contests, paper aeroplane competitions, dance-offs and a variety of light-hearted challenges. Teams also tested their knowledge of the school community with fun questions about teachers, fellow students and the world around them.

The competition was closely fought from start to finish, with every year level bringing enthusiasm and determination. After an exciting contest, the Year 11 team emerged victorious, claiming the championship and the bragging rights for another year.

Congratulations to all of our students for making the afternoon such an enjoyable and memorable way to finish the term, and a special congratulations to our Year 11 champions!

General Items

Parents in Prayer - PIPS



We are so pleased to have a group of parents who faithfully meet to pray for our school each Friday morning at 8:30am (except the last day of term). These times of prayer are a wonderful opportunity to bring before the Lord our students, staff, families and the many activities that make up school life.

We warmly invite any parents who would like to join us. Whether you are able to come regularly or just occasionally, your prayers and fellowship would be greatly appreciated as we seek God's blessing and guidance for our school community.

Thank You

Photolife Studios recently deposited \$723 into the school account for commission based on sales of photos. Thank you parents for ordering photos of your children.

AUCKLAND WEEKEND

CARTOONING CAMPS

The famous Aussie program is back at the Freemans Bay Community Centre

HEY MUM!
CAN WE GO TO THE CARTOONING CAMP?

We'll get to draw all our favourite cartoon characters...
Play games, eat party food!
Make cool stuff with craft materials!
Learn drawing techniques!
AND HEAPS MORE!

Sure sounds like fun, & it's very reasonably priced!
I'll ring Mrs Field & see if she wants to book in too!

Early Bird
Available until sold out
Select Classes: 1, 2, 3 & get
Sunday Class 4 for Free

Saturday: 10^{am} - 2^{pm} / 2^{pm} - 6^{pm} / 6^{pm} - 9^{pm} Sunday: 1.30^{pm} - 5.30^{pm}
\$35 NZ per class

0011 612 9343 0833
bookings@cartoonkingdom.com.au
www.illustrating-man.com.au

Offices: Suite 2, 29 Newland Street, Bondi Junction NSW AUSTR 2022

Auckland Weekend Program
Saturday October 17th - Sunday October 18th
Freemans Bay Community Centre
52 Hepburn Street, Freemans Bay Auckland

BOOKINGS

- Go to: www.illustrating-man.com.au
- Click the **Cartoon Workshop** button on the home page
- Select: Auckland
- A professional cartoonist will be teaching
- Juniors: 4 - 7 Intermediates: 8 - 10 Seniors: 11 - 15
- Early Bird: Book 3 classes get the 4th for free

Term Virtue



- Own your actions
- Follow through
- Accept consequences
- Be punctual and prepared
- Care for your body

House Points

HOUSE POINTS

WORKING TOGETHER • SHOWING CHARACTER • HONOURING GOD

WILBERFORCE

26

TARORE

44

CALVIN

34

TE WIREMU

23

★ One School. Four Houses. United for God's Glory. ★

SAVE YOUR TRIP TO THE DOCTORS - GET DIRECT CARE AT OUR PHARMACY

Receive care and treatment for some common health needs **at no cost*** from our pharmacy.

No consultation fees apply.
No appointment required.

Ask one of our pharmacist for advice and treatment for:

- ☒ Pain and fever
- ☒ Dehydration (oral rehydration)
- ☒ Scabies and headlice
- ☒ Conjunctivitis
- ☒ Urinary tract infections (UTIs)



ENQUIRE NOW

*There is no consultation fee for this service. The only potential cost may be the purchase of over-the-counter products, if deemed necessary as part of the most appropriate treatment for your condition. Where available, fully funded treatment options will be recommended as the first choice at no cost to you.

Health New Zealand may collect some information about you when you use this service.

Unichem Takanini Village Pharmacy
2B/ 30 Walters Road, Takanini
Auckland 2023, 09 2220303
takaninivillagepharmacy@totem.nz
Open Monday to Friday 8.30 to 6pm
Saturday 9 to 5.30pm
Sunday 9am to 5pm

Matters for Prayer

Give thanks for

- the safe delivery of Mrs Harris' little boy Silas Tūmanako Harris
- a refreshing holiday break for staff and students
- continued interest in our school and strong waiting lists
- God's faithfulness to MCS and protection and His care over our students and staff each day

Please pray

- for the satellite school committee as they continue to look into the possibility of starting up another campus
- for God's blessing as we begin to raise money for Bibles in our annual Run for Bible Cross Country
- that as we focus on the virtue of strength this term, God will use our school community to disciple young men and women who have strong convictions who take personal responsibility and who act courageously for the extension of God's kingdom in New Zealand

Scripture

"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

– Proverbs 17:22



Term Dates 2026

Term 1	29 Jan to 2 Apr 2026
Term 2	20 Apr to 3 Jul 2026
Term 3	20 Jul to 25 Sep 2026
Term 4	12 Oct to 9 Dec 2026 (Y1-6) 7 Oct to 8 Dec (Y7-10) 7 Oct to 20 Nov (Y11-13)

School finishes at 12:30pm on the last day of each term.

