



Newsletter

Term 3, Week 8, 2026

10 September 2026

Dear Parents and Friends of Manukau Christian School,

It has been another busy and rewarding few weeks at MCS, with students learning, creating, competing and enjoying many opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. I am always blown away by the enthusiasm of students when they understand a new concept and can apply it in practical terms.

At Manukau Christian School, our mission is to develop responsible and courageous disciples who apply Christ's kingship to all of life. Pursuing that mission successfully requires that we help our students grow into people who can exercise wise and godly leadership.



When we hear the word leader, we can easily think first of someone with a title: student leader, captain, manager, principal or prime minister. But while titles can give people authority, they do not necessarily make them good leaders. Fundamentally, leadership means influence. A person with a title whom nobody is influenced by is not really much of a leader. On the other hand, whenever our words, attitudes or actions affect the people around us, whether or not we have a title, we are exercising leadership.

Consequently, leadership development is not only for a small group of students who may one day receive a badge or formal position. Every student is already influencing others, for better or for worse. The important question is what kind of influence they are developing and where that influence will lead others.

In Term 4, as a way of complementing our virtues programme, we have decided to make leadership our focus. Our primary school will begin a new series of leadership lessons which will become part of a broader leadership cycle that we hope to develop over the coming years. In the high school, a new series of morning devotions will also focus on leadership. The theme of this first cycle is Leading Yourself.



We have chosen to begin there because the ability to lead others rests upon the ability to lead oneself. Before students can ask others to be responsible, they must learn to accept responsibility themselves. Before they can expect others to listen, work hard or tell the truth, they must seek to practise these things in their own lives. To lead a team through difficulty, we must have first learned to govern our own attitudes, fears, desires and pride.



Throughout next term, students will explore different aspects of this foundation. They will consider how trust is built through repeated acts of faithfulness and why even small responsibilities matter. They will learn to “check their ego” by receiving correction, admitting mistakes and welcoming good ideas from others. They will think about how self-discipline produces greater freedom and how the habits formed little by little help shape the people they become.

The lessons will also encourage students to develop courage. Children can easily become dependent upon the approval of the crowd, allowing others to decide what they should enjoy, think or do. We want students who are humble enough to listen to wise counsel but strong enough to stand apart when faithfulness requires it.

Other lessons will consider the importance of practising what we preach, taking responsibility rather than blaming others, learning to have a hopeful approach to God’s world, and developing the kind of healthy influence that encourages others towards what is true, good and beautiful.

These ideas connect naturally with the virtues we have been emphasising throughout this year. Leading yourself requires wisdom to recognise what is right, strength to do it when it is difficult, and humility to admit when you are wrong and need to change.

However, Christian leadership is not simply a collection of useful techniques for becoming more successful or persuasive. It begins with recognising that Jesus Christ is Lord. We do not ultimately belong to ourselves, and leading ourselves does not mean inventing our own direction. It means learning to govern ourselves under Christ’s authority.

Jesus is also our perfect example of leadership. He used His authority to serve. He washed His disciples’ feet, welcomed children, cared for the weak, taught the truth and ultimately gave His life to save His people. He did not merely tell His disciples what faithful service looked like. He showed them.

Nor do we expect children to transform themselves through determination alone. We all fail to live as we should. The good news of the gospel is that Christ forgives His people and, through His Spirit, changes them. Christian leadership development therefore includes repentance, grace and growth. Students do not need to pretend that they never fail. They need to learn to admit failure, receive forgiveness, make things right and continue growing.

We are also considering how we can provide more intentional, age-appropriate opportunities for students to accept responsibility, serve others, organise activities and contribute positively to school life. I’m hoping to be able to share with you some exciting developments on this front in our next newsletter.

MCS has always wanted its students to become leaders. However, we recognise that this aspiration must be supported by deliberate teaching and meaningful opportunities to practise leadership. This is something our school needs to grow in. We want to become increasingly thoughtful about helping students not only understand leadership but also begin exercising it through faithful service.

Our goal is not simply to produce confident young people who know how to persuade others. We want to help form trustworthy, courageous and humble Christians who use whatever influence God gives them for the good of others and the glory of Christ.

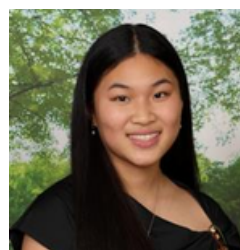
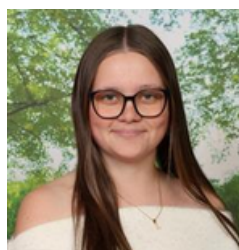
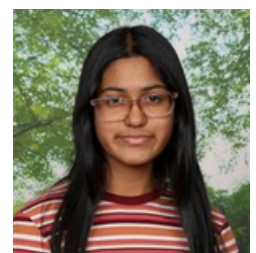
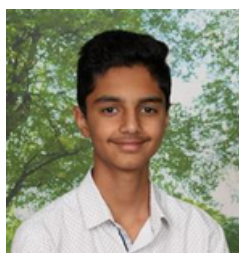
That begins long before a student receives a title. It begins in the ordinary decisions of everyday life. It begins with learning to lead yourself.

Celebrating Results!



We thank God for blessing our students with another set of excellent IGCSE results. In the English and Mathematics examinations, 61% of all grades were A* or A, and *every* student passed. We warmly acknowledge Mrs Everitt and Mrs Maney for their hard work, both this year and last, in preparing the students. We are also grateful for all the teachers who helped build the foundations that enabled our students to succeed at this level.

Some particularly outstanding results deserve special recognition. Nandu Arun, Saranya Seth, Veer Bhatia, and Naye Yoon all achieved percentage uniform grades in the high 90s (high A*s). Rebecca Datt and Saranya Seth received A*s in both English and Math (90% or above). Students who achieved an A* in IGCSE Math or IGCSE English are Emmanuelle Conda, Bryan Zheng, Leila Harvey, and Katelyn Zhu.



*Top row: Nandu Arun, Saranya Seth, Veer Bhatia, Naye Yoon and Rebecca Datt
Second row: Emmanuelle Conda, Bryan Zheng, Leila Harvey, and Katelyn Zhu*

Congratulations to these and all our hardworking students. These are remarkable achievements. We wish all our students well as they prepare for their upcoming examinations in October and November.

Scott Kennedy

Principal

Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 Sept 2026 Primary Assembly 8:50am	8	9	10	11
14 High School Assembly 8:30am	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 High School Assembly 8:30am Primary Assembly 8:50am Last Day of Term School Closes 12:30pm
28 Holidays	29	30	1 Oct 2026	2
5 Holidays High School	6	7 High School starts Term 4 High School Assembly 8:30am	8	9
Holidays Primary				
12 Primary School starts Term 4 Primary Assembly 8:50am Year 12/13 on Study Leave	13	14	15	16 Year 11-13 Reports Issued
19	20	21	22	23

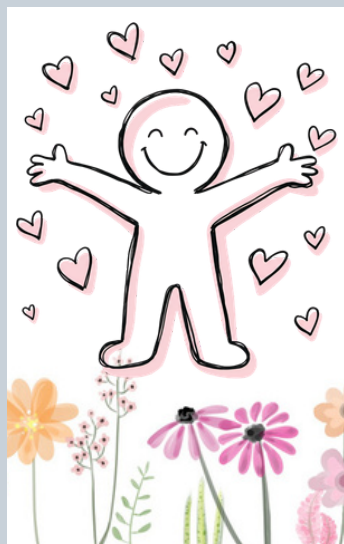
Junior Classroom Roof

Following some of the recent very heavy downpours, we have noticed occasional water droplets coming through the roof into one of our classrooms. We are aware of the issue and are actively addressing it. Repairs have been undertaken, and the Board is investigating a longer-term solution. As the building is constructed primarily from steel and polystyrene panels, there is very minimal capacity for moisture to be retained.



We will continue to monitor the classroom carefully, particularly following heavy rain. As we plan for a more permanent solution, any donations towards this project would be very gratefully received. We are always thankful for the generosity of our school community and the many ways our families support the ongoing care and improvement of our facilities.

Thank You to Our Parents



Thank you for attending our Pathways Evening earlier this term. We are here to assist you as your child chooses their subjects, and their path toward tertiary studies.

Thank you for promoting our school amongst your friends.

Thank you for your amazing support with the Run4Bibles event, for your donations and help on the day. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you for your help with the Year 5 and 6 Corban Art Visit. We do appreciate parents taking time out of their busy days.

Thank you for supporting your child in their learning and character development. Being a team is the best pathway to success.

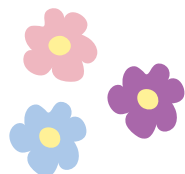
Cambridge Exams

The end of year external Cambridge Exams are fast approaching. High School students are currently sitting internal exams, and these will be a good indicator of how ready students are for next term's IGCSE, AS and A2 Exams. Please encourage your child to prepare well, rest well and focus well.

Year 12 and 13 students will be given permission to study at home, from Monday through to Thursday, pending conditions have been met. All students must attend school on a Friday.

Year 6 students will sit their Checkpoint exams on Tuesday 13 October (Maths) and Tuesday 20 October (English). All Cambridge exam dates are pre-set and cannot be altered.

Congratulations!



We are delighted to share that Mr Aloiai and his wife Naomi have been blessed with a handsome boy and beautiful girl: Ezekiel and Zoe.

Mrs Vaea and her husband have been blessed with a beautiful girl, Fiona.

We thank the Lord for the safe delivery of all three babies.

Calendar Art

Our students have been busy creating their own special masterpieces, ready to be turned into calendars, diaries, cards and sketchbooks. These make wonderful keepsakes and gifts for family and friends. This year, both the artwork and ordering process are available online, making it easy to view your child's creation and place your order. Visit www.kidsartworks.com and input our school code: KZ486.



Run 4 Bibles - Years 1 to 4

There was plenty of energy and enthusiasm on display as our Years 1–4 students took on their cross-country run at school. From speedy starts to determined finishes, it was wonderful to see everyone giving it a go and cheering each other on.

Cross-country running is a great chance to put our virtue of Strength into action – showing courage, endurance and determination, especially when those legs start to get tired! We also had superb support from our parents and Covenant Kids Preschool, who came along to cheer on the runners and added so much to the atmosphere. Thank you for supporting our runners.

Well done to all the students for crossing the finish line with smiles and a great sense of achievement.

	1st Boy	2nd Boy	3rd Boy	1st Girl	2nd Girl	3rd Girl
Year 1	Simba Mushambi	Kayven Chawla	Jayden Zhu	Jessica Lutui	Faith Anbunathan	Fiadh Curran
Year 2	Daniel McAuley	Luke Taylor	Micah Tagore	Carol Xing	Sarah Huang	Holly Lu
Year 3	Liam van Rhyen	Wesley Li	Ryder Edmonds	Janella Choong	Athena Ong	Leah Cheung
Year 4	Winson Wang	Jenson Wang	Jayden Song	Amelia Posthuma	Emily du Plessis	Ariel Lu



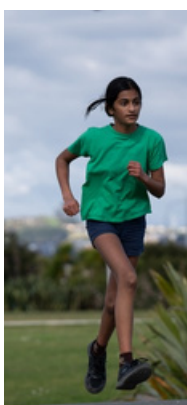
Run 4 Bibles - Years 5 to 8

Our Years 5–8 students headed to Barry Curtis Park for their cross-country run, ready to tackle a longer and more challenging course. There was some fantastic running, great pacing and plenty of encouragement as students pushed themselves all the way to the finish.

We are so grateful to the many alumni, parents, staff and helpers who helped marshal, scan and cheer our students across the finish line. There was a wonderful atmosphere of joy and community gathering as the students displayed their courage to take on the challenge, the endurance to keep going, and their determination to finish well.

	1st Boy	2nd Boy	3rd Boy	1st Girl	2nd Girl	3rd Girl
Year 5	Euan Alarcon	Adilpreet Randhawa	Ayin Varghese	Jerusa Choong	Chunyu Sun	Bonni Li
Year 6	Eben Schellingerhout	Jonty Faletanoai	Daniel Slabber	Jessica Smilde	Teegan Posthuma	Zarya Zhang
Year 7	Basti Alarcon	Matthew Di	Honour Carter	Kayla Posthuma	Wenny Wang	Iris Yim
Year 8	Harry Smilde	Jean Schellingerhout	Manik Singh	Jovel Ong	Natanya Locksam	Anje Schellingerhout

Overall Winners		
First Boy	Harry Smilde	16:08
First Girl	Jovel Ong	17:47



Street Racket Sport - Year 6

Year 3 to 6 students are privileged to receive tuition from Brian Barnett, former professional squash player and a highly experienced international coach. What a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn from someone with such a wealth of experience and a passion for developing young players. This is what some Year 6 students had to say:

I enjoyed balancing the ball on the bat because it helped me to be able to control where the ball went. - **Bayan Chen**

The coach was very polite, and I had a lot of fun.
- **Johnny Luo**

The coach was very encouraging and made us feel like we could be successful. - **Jonty Faletanoai**

I enjoyed the part where we had to drop the ball, hit it and then catch it again as it helped me focus on my hand-eye coordination. - **Zoey Samuel**



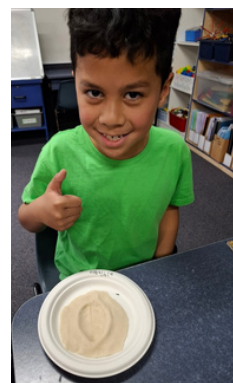
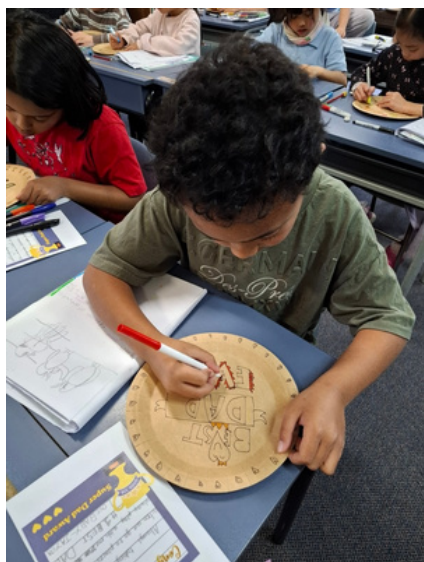
Feathered Friend - Year 1

Our Year 1 students had a very special visitor recently when Sophia Kennedy brought her lovely chicken to school! The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting both Sophia and her feathered friend, with the opportunity to gently stroke the chicken proving a real highlight. There were plenty of smiles and excitement all round!



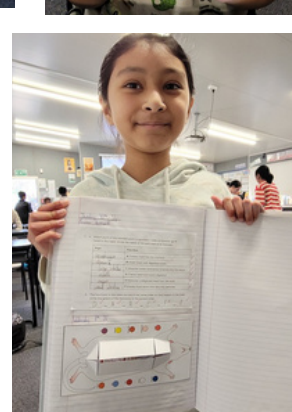
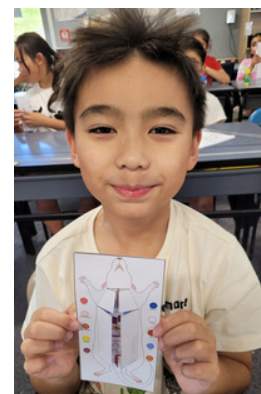
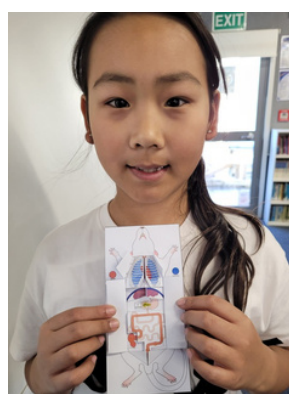
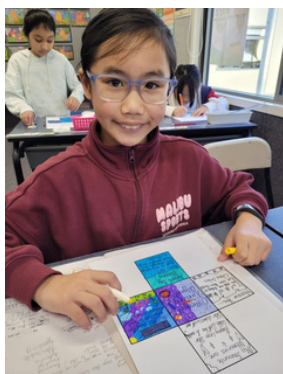
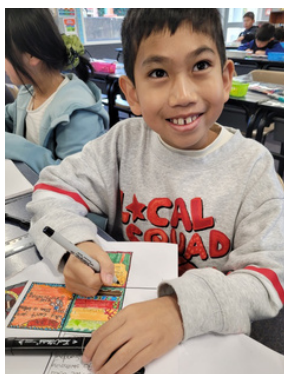
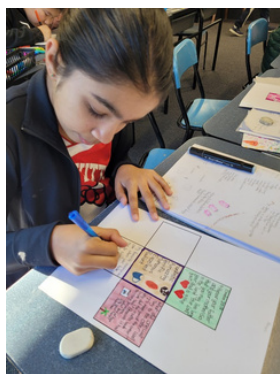
A Busy Day in the Classroom - Year 3

There is always plenty happening in the classroom! From quiet moments of silent reading and focused test time, to Maths challenges, Show and Tell, times of Praise and Worship, PE, Street Racket, creating their own fascinating fossils and not to forget birthday celebrations: each day brings something different. It's wonderful to see our students learning, sharing, thinking and growing together in so many ways.



Creativity and Precision - Year 5

Year 5 students have been combining creativity, observation and practical learning across the curriculum. In Art, students explored clay work and Hundertwasser-inspired art, developing their creativity, design skills and attention to detail. In Science, paper rat dissections supported their study of anatomy and body systems, while students also put their artistic skills to good use creating thoughtful Father's Day cards.



Lunch and Leisure

Primary students are making excellent use of the decking area at morning tea and lunch times. Can you spot Mr Kennedy having a chat? High School students recently organised a big game of Bullrush, bringing plenty of energy, laughter and fun to lunchtime.



Corban Art - Years 5 and 6

"Corban Art was amazing. The helpers taught us amazing techniques on how to draw the life of fungi. We drew some outstanding backgrounds and made our own fungi. It was a super fun activity for Term 3." - **Ryan Qi Y5**



"We all enjoyed learning how to draw fungi art. I loved how the ending of my art turned out. It looked so nice when we added Indian ink. Thank you so much Corban Art for coming to MCS." - **Armani Bassan Y5**



"I really loved the different patterns and shapes of the leaves when we used the pastels and rubbed them onto the black paper with the different leaves underneath. The teachers were also very nice when they taught us how to do it step by step." - **Cherry Kang Y6**



"I really enjoyed making the outlines of the roots, leaves and trees. All of the activities were full of creation, and I would like to thank our teachers for this privilege." - **Kingsley Huang Y6**



ICQ - International Chemistry Quiz



Recently, a number of our High School students put their Chemistry knowledge to the test by taking part in the International Chemistry Quiz (ICQ), run by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

The ICQ is a global competition, attracting more than 100,000 students from 21 countries each year. Open to students in Years 8–13, the quiz challenges participants to complete 30 multiple-choice questions in 60 minutes.

Rather than simply testing facts, many of the questions encourage students to apply their scientific knowledge to real-world situations, challenging their problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to challenge themselves, measure their skills on an international stage, and further develop their interest in Chemistry and STEM.

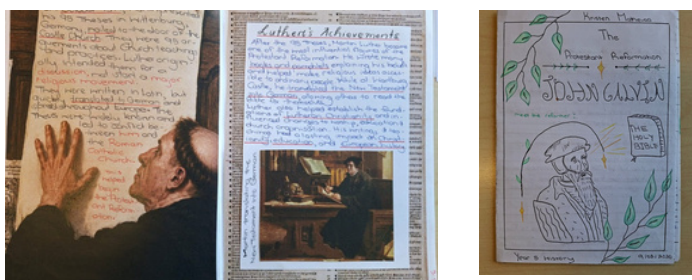
MCS had 35 students who took up the challenge, and over half of them achieved Distinction or High Distinction. In the Junior Division, Bethany Chua, Hannah Shallard and Abigail Raj achieved High Distinction, and another 15 junior students received a Distinction. In the Senior Division, Joel Dibb achieved High Distinction, with Veer Bhatia and Sellina Jiang receiving Distinction.



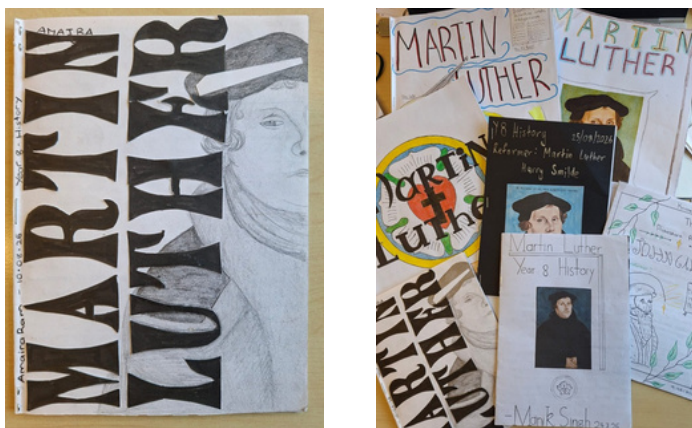
Well done to everyone who participated. We are proud of your hard work and dedication.

Some of the senior students who entered ICQ: Jenesis, Sellina, Aryan and Joel.

Year 8 History: The Reformation



Our Year 8 students have been learning about the Reformation, exploring the key events, ideas, and reformers who shaped this significant period in history. They studied figures such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Ulrich Zwingli, considering their beliefs and the lasting impact they had on the Church, society, politics and education.



To conclude the unit, each student researched a Reformer of their choice, investigating their life, beliefs, contributions and historical impact. It has been wonderful to see students develop their research skills while gaining a deeper understanding of this fascinating and influential period of history.

Year 7 English: Novel Study

Our Year 7 students have been thoroughly enjoying their novel study this term as they explore a range of meaningful themes and ideas through the experiences of the characters. Students are currently delving into how characters respond to failure, friendship, love and disappointment, considering how these experiences shape their decisions, relationships and personal growth. Through a variety of activities, students are developing their understanding of the novel while making connections between the characters' experiences and their own lives.



High School Modules: Cooking

Modules in the High School are arranged in two blocks of four weeks each. Students have now started on the second block. Cooking is always a favourite, not to mention delicious.



High School Modules: Badminton

The Badminton Module is fast-paced and full of energy! The speed at which students send the shuttlecock flying across the court is impressive. With plenty of strength, skill and youthful energy on display, badminton is a great way to get active, enjoy some friendly competition and finish the week on a high.



Practical Preparation

Our senior science students have been busy in the laboratory, sharpening their practical skills in preparation for their upcoming external examinations. These hands-on sessions give students valuable opportunities to practise techniques, work accurately and confidently and apply their scientific knowledge under exam-style conditions. Preparation, precision and practice are all part of building confidence for the exams ahead.

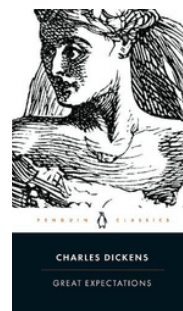
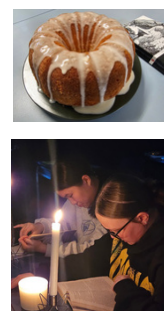


Reading by Candlelight

In response to the question, "Why read the classics?", English professor Leland Ryken writes that classics "represent the best," adding that literature that is difficult and demands more from us also often gives us more in return.

Our Year 11 students are discovering this as they read Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. Written 165 years ago, its language, length and historical setting can be challenging, yet its themes explore universal human experiences that remain relevant today.

Adding to the challenge, students are analysing passages using AS Level (Year 12) assessment criteria. This close language analysis undoubtedly assists with understanding the text as a whole, but the students' understanding of *Great Expectations*' "concrete particulars" is also supported by efforts to understand and appreciate the world Dickens portrays through activities such as sketching a wedding cake covered in cobwebs, eating a confection flavoured with orange blossom water, and reading by candlelight to gain a sense of the darkened world one of the novel's key characters inhabits. *Great Expectations* may demand a lot from our students, but, as Ryken suggests, that is part of what makes reading a classic so worthwhile.



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.

Lost Property

There are A LOT of beautiful jackets and sweaters waiting for their owners. Please ask your child to check the primary foyer if you are missing any of their clothing. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of the term.

Yummy Stickers

Please continue to collect stickers for our students' sports equipment. If you need a sheet for your stickers, please download it at www.yummyfruit.co.nz.

Carpark

Please be considerate of others in the carpark by **not** stopping as soon as you enter the school grounds. This causes queues to build up on Rogers Road. Keeping traffic moving within the carpark is crucial. Thank you.

House Points



FREE Love Tennis



Open Day Jellicoe Park Tennis Club

4 Marr Road, Manurewa

Sunday 13 September 10-2pm

All welcome

Lots of activities and giveaways

Junior coaching starts Friday 18 Sept
All queries please phone Peggy on 021 201 8824
or email jellicoeParkTennis@hotmail.com

Rotary ALLFIT COASTAL RUN
Run for Community Wellbeing

OCTOBER 18TH 2026
TE PURU PARK, BEACHLANDS

Event	Time
KIDS DASH	9.00AM
10KM	9.30AM
5KM	9.45AM
PRIZEGIVING	12.00PM

EARLY BIRD ENTRY (UNTIL AUG 14TH)

Category	Price
ADULTS	\$35
KIDS (14 AND UNDER)	\$18
KIDS DASH (FREE ENTRY WITH AN ADULT TICKET)	\$5

ALL AGES. ALL ABILITIES.
ONE AMAZING DAY!

CONTACTS:
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REGISTER NOW!
<https://www.rotarycoastalrun.nz/>

Term Virtue

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

Matters for Prayer



Give thanks for

- the substantial amount raised from our Run4Bibles fundraiser
- the school Trustboard as they seek to serve Christ and the school community
- a dedicated team of teachers who have pitched in to help each other as we have struggled through an intense period of sickness

Praise God for

- the wonderful results of our Year 11 students in IGCSE

Please pray

- for the continued development and implementation of our school virtues programme
- as we seek to help our students develop leadership qualities that God will bless the work we are doing to help see this happen
- for the satellite school committee as they continue to look into the possibility of starting up another campus

Scripture

"A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls."
– **Proverbs 25:28**

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)

Term Dates 2027

Term 1	2 Feb to 9 Apr 2027
Term 2	27 Apr to 2 Jul 2027
Term 3	19 Jul to 24 Sep 2027
Term 4	11 Oct to 8 Dec 2026 (Y1-6) 6 Oct to 7 Dec (Y7-10) 6 Oct to 19 Nov (Y11-13)

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

