



Newsletter

Term 4, Week 8, 2025

27 November 2025

Manukau Christian School

Dear MCS Friends and Families,

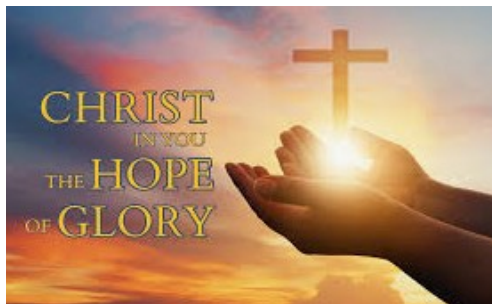
At our recent Graduation Dinner, I shared a message with our graduates about the inbuilt desire we have for glory.

The Path to True Glory

Young people look ahead with enormous confidence. They talk about their plans with great expectations — building a household, pursuing a trade, business, medicine, engineering, teaching, or the arts. And that hunger for greatness is not something to be embarrassed about. Scripture tells us that God crowned humanity with *glory and honour*. We were made to build, create, steward, and influence the world under our God.

The desire for glory is not the problem. The problem is how we seek it. Sinful man seeks it like a magnet seeks its opposite pole — trying to pull glory *into* himself. He chases applause, identity, platform, or recognition, hoping greatness will accumulate within. But Scripture warns that when we grasp for glory in this way, we fall short of it.

We see this contrast in the great biblical figures. Adam grabbed at glory, seeking to become like God. Nebuchadnezzar grabbed at glory in his pride. Each one fell in humiliation.



On the other hand, Abraham **received** his great name from God. David **waited** for God to raise him up as king. Christ humbled Himself. Each one was made glorious as a result by God.

Scripture pictures **human glory as a mirror**. It is not something we manufacture or absorb — it is something we **reflect**. We are, after all, made in the *image* of God — a reflection of the infinitely greater glory of God. Like every other element of creation, we are meant to reflect God's

splendour into the world around us, just as the moon reflects the sun's radiance and speaks of its glory.



This is the difference between worldly ambition and godly ambition. Worldly ambition tries to *possess* glory. Godly ambition wants to *reflect* it — like a mirror catching the light of Christ and casting it into the world.

Two Paths

Living as a glory mirror rather than absorber requires courage because it feels like loss. That's why many don't choose that route. How can we get the glory we desire through humility?

One path demands control. The other requires trust. One path is loud with pride. The other is quiet with obedience. And that path — the humble road — is the harder one, but it is the one that leads to lasting glory.

This is why C.S. Lewis said that “*courage is the form of every virtue at the testing point.*” We can desire the glory that comes from humility — but without courage, we will not walk. Humility is not passive. It is not soft. It is the courageous decision to trust God and seek glory as a mirror when the world is telling you to seek it like a magnet.



Excellence in Every Calling

Sometimes Christians fall into the trap of thinking that glory is a bad thing — that seeking greatness is worldly, and that the only truly spiritual path is to aim small, stay invisible, or avoid ambition entirely. This is completely false. Scripture never condemns greatness; it condemns *pride*. The issue is not whether we pursue glory, but *whose glory* and *by what path*.

We are called to seek excellence in everything God gives us to do. We should want excellent households. We should want outstanding engineers, gifted artists, skilled surgeons, and sharp software developers. We should want teachers, tradespeople, business leaders, parents, and pastors who pursue mastery in their calling.

Why? Because excellence is one of the ways God's people honour God's name and it is one of the ways we express love for our neighbour. Excellence is worship

when it flows from obedience — when it seeks to serve others and magnify God rather than ourselves. Godly ambition doesn't build a personal empire; it builds Christ's kingdom with strength, skill, and joy.

Our Goal at MCS

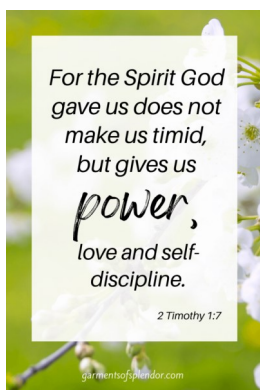


At MCS, we are unapologetic about calling our students to wisdom, discipline, hard work, and competence. Not so they can create their own little kingdoms of self-importance, but so they will have the strength and ability to serve Christ faithfully in every sphere of life. New Zealand desperately needs men and women who reject the pride of self-glory and instead pursue *glory through humility* — men and women whose excellence shines because it reflects their King.

If we long to see this nation renewed — if we truly pray for New Zealand to be a Christian nation once more — then we must raise a generation marked by **humility, mastery, service, and courage**. These are the men and women God uses to rebuild cultures.

The Irony of Glory

And here is the great irony woven into creation: the more we act as mirrors — reflecting God's glory rather than absorbing it — the more glorious we actually become. By giving away glory to God and serving others in humility we become more glorious. This is the pattern God has stitched into the world. When we stop grasping for our own name and instead seek the honour of His name, God clothes us with a glory that outshines anything we could have seized for ourselves.



This is what we want our students to see. To live as glory mirrors. To pursue God's honour, the greatness of His name, and the extension of His kingdom in everything they do — in their studies, their friendships, their households, their future work. And as they do this, they will become more glorious, not less. Their lives will take on weight, substance, and splendour — not the fleeting, fragile shine of worldly applause, but the deep, abiding radiance that comes from Christ.

That is the glory worth pursuing. It is eternal glory — a glory that never perishes or fades. It is the glory God gives to those who walk the humble road of obedience, and it is the glory that will begin with the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

As we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Saviour, may your Christmas be filled with peace, joy, and time with loved ones. Thank you for partnering with us throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

Scott Kennedy

Principal



CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24 Y13 Trip	25 Y13 Trip	26 Y13 Trip	27 Y13 Trip	28
1 DEC	2	3	4	5 Primary Thanksgiving Y1-4 1.30pm
8 Reports home Y8-10	9 Last Day Y8-10 High School Assembly 9.30am Senior Thanksgiving Y8-10, 1.00pm	10 High School Teacher Only Day Primary Thanksgiving Y5-7 1.30pm	11 High School Teacher Only Day Reports home Y1-7	12 Primary Assembly 8.40am School closes 12.30pm
HOLIDAY				
26 January 2026	27	28	29 – Term 1 Starts –	30
2 February	3	4	5	6 Waitangi Day
9	10	11	12 Meet the Teacher 6.30pm	13

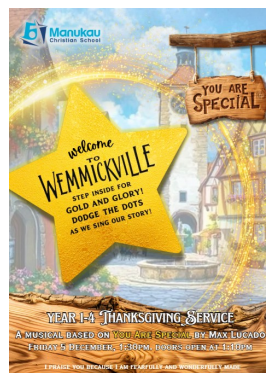
Please note that school closes at **12.30pm** on the last day of term. Please do not be late to collect your child.

It is **most important** that students are at school for the first day of Term 1 next year (Thursday 29 January, 2026). This day not only sets the tone for classroom engagement, but routines and activities are explained. It is helpful in building relationships. Please note there is **no school on Friday 6th February 2026**.

GENERAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving Services and Reports

We warmly invite all parents to join us for our Thanksgiving Services and prize-givings, where we come together to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our students and more importantly, give thanks and praise to our Lord and Saviour for his provision and blessing over the year. Students have been practising hard and will no doubt, enjoy performing on the day!



Alongside these special end-of-year events, our teachers dedicate countless hours to crafting thoughtful reports. These reports are more than just feedback—they reflect our commitment to inspiring each student to grow, learn, and develop their God-given potential. While glowing comments are encouraging, our ultimate goal is to ignite a lifelong love for learning and a desire to continually improve and thrive. Primary school reports will be issued on Thursday 11th December 2025. Please ask your child for their report.

Enrolments for 2026

Thank you parents for your unwavering support of our school. Your endorsement and word-of-mouth recommendations are truly valued and play a vital role in the ongoing demand for places at our school, which continues to exceed availability.

To ensure a smooth process, we kindly remind families to enrol siblings well in advance by completing a form. Additionally, if you are considering withdrawing your child, please remember that **a full term's notice is required**. Without this notice, the following term's fees **will still apply**, regardless of attendance. Should you have any questions or concerns about possible withdrawals, we encourage you to contact Mrs. Oosterbeek in the office, who will be happy to assist.

House Points

Term 4	Wilberforce	Calvin	Te Wiremu	Tarore
Week 8	107	86	93	86
Term 4 Total	???	???	???	???

House points to date as above—and who is going to win the coveted house trophy for 2025? Watch this space!

GENERAL NOTICES

Achievement Certificates

At Manukau Christian School, we take student learning seriously, and we want to keep parents informed about how we recognise academic progress. **Achievement Certificates** are awarded to students in **Years 7–13** based on their **examination results**. These certificates recognise student success in three categories: **Achieved, Merit, and Excellence**.



We also use these examination results as our **entrance requirements** for moving into the next year of study. While many schools routinely move students up the year levels regardless of whether they are prepared, this is **not** our approach at MCS. We believe that academic progress must be built on a **proper foundation**, and that it is neither fair nor wise to promote a student who has not yet developed the skills needed for success at the next level.

For this reason, **students who do not receive a minimum of “Achieved”** on their Achievement Certificate **will be required to repeat the year**—not as a punishment, but for their own long-term benefit. An Achieved certificate should be well within reach for an average student, as it simply requires them to gain an average mark of **over 50% in at least five of their subjects**.

We understand that this approach may feel challenging for some families. However, we are convinced that it is in the **best interest of the students** entrusted to us. Our desire is to see every student flourish, and that begins with a strong academic foundation on which future success can be built.

Fees 2026

The fee structure for 2026 was circulated last term and is also available on the school website. Please remember to **add your child’s name** when paying your fees into our school account. A prompt payment discount is applicable when paying within the first five days of the start of term. If payment is not received in full at the start of each term, three equal payments are required by the 20th of the month.

Term 1: January, February, March

Term 2: April, May, June

Term 3: July, August, September

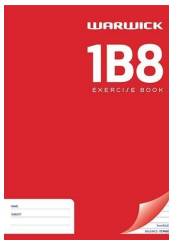
Term 4: October, November, December



Late payments will attract a **late penalty fee** as stipulated in the Prospectus.

GENERAL NOTICES

Stationery 2026



An email has been sent to all parents detailing the exercise books that are required for next year. A further letter will be sent shortly to let you know how many to bring to school on the first day. Please make sure your child has their exercise books with them on the first day. Order early to avoid the rush!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Visit by Miss Katherine—Missionary in Africa

- Katherine is a nurse who lives on the border of South Sudan and Sudan.
- She started a healthcare training school three years ago as she saw the need for more health workers. Her two hands could only do so much!
- It took 5 planes to get from Katherine's house to NZ. It's her first time back in 3.5 years. It also took 15 tractor rescues in one day to get to the airport.
- Sometimes it rains so hard that they have to stop doing classes because the rain makes a loud noise on the roof.
- It takes a one day trip to get to the shop to buy toilet paper.
- To get water you have to pump it out of the ground, fill your bucket, and carry it on your head back to your house.
- Katherine teaches mostly in English and also in the Arabic language.
- They don't have elephants and lions to worry about, but they do have scorpions, termites, and mosquitos!
- The locals live in houses made from stones, mud and grass. When they get a hole in their roof, they go and cut more grass and repair the roof, easy peasy.
- Katherine doesn't just teach people about healthcare, she also teaches them about God.

Comments from students in Year 1:

Micah Tagore: "She talked nice and clearly. I like the neighbours houses and I liked her house more better because it had a flying fox and a slide."

Sarah Huang: "Miss Katherine was very interesting especially how they sell tomatoes over there, and it was funny when the cows went into class to learn!"



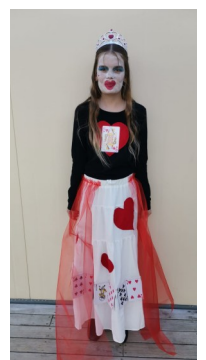
SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Book Character Day



Fables and fiction, bears and bees — what a day! Our students were buzzing with excitement as they stepped into the world of Book Character Day. From brave heroes to mischievous animals, they arrived dressed as beloved characters from stories that have captured their imaginations. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate reading, creativity, and the joy of storytelling together. Well done to everyone — your enthusiasm and effort were truly stellar!

	Best Dressed Boy	Best Dressed Girl
Year 1	Hayes Yap	Gia Ahn
Year 2	Darsh Saleesh	Atheina Paras
Year 3	Kiaan Chopra	Amelia Posthuma
Year 4	Isaac Pan	Chunyu Sun
Year 5	Hugh O'Neill	Zoey Samuel
Year 6	Basti Alarcon	Caitlyn Chand
Year 7	Harry Smilde	Emily Willis



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 1 and 2—Botanic Gardens

Raincoats, gumboots, pottles and spades were all put to good use as our Year 1 and 2 students headed off to the Botanic Gardens for a hands-on day of learning. They prepared soil, mulched, planted, watered, and even tidied up—discovering what it takes to grow healthy plants from seed to seedling. A highlight was examining the wriggly residents of the worm farm and learning how worms help a garden thrive. The children came away excited and confident, equipped with the know-how to start their own little gardens at home. A big thank you to our wonderful parent helpers for making this trip possible.



Year 1—Art



Miscellaneous

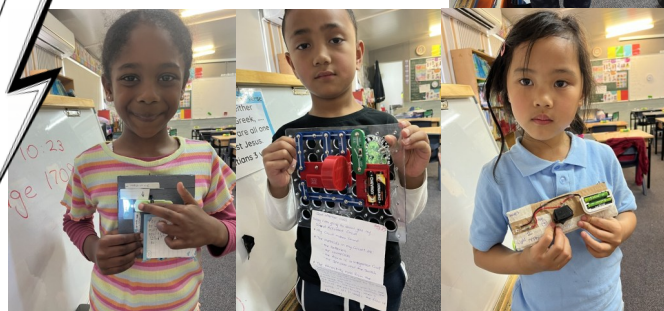
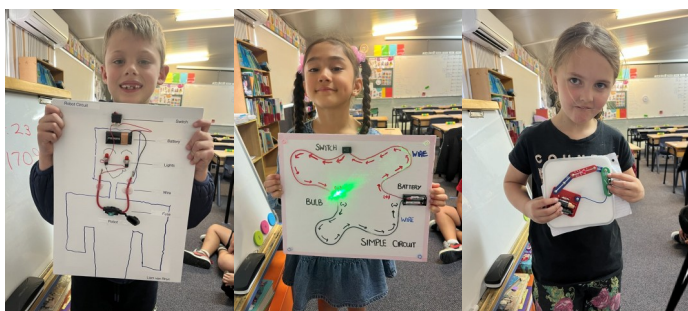
- Thank you for saving your stickers from Yummy Apples. The school benefits from this with sport equipment and we expect our delivery soon.
- Thank you for supporting your child with their calendar art masterpieces. We raised \$624.60.
- Please ask your child to check the lost property basket (Junior foyer area). All items will be donated at the end of term.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 2—Circuits

This term, our Year 2 students have been busy becoming little electricians as they explored the exciting world of circuits. A circuit is like a special pathway that electricity follows. When all the parts are joined together correctly, the electricity can travel around the pathway and make things work — like turning on a light or making a buzzer buzz!

To make their own circuits, students used batteries, wires, and small light bulbs. They discovered that the light only turned on when the circuit was complete — just like how a circle has no gaps. If even one wire wasn't connected properly, the electricity couldn't flow, and the bulb stayed off. There were lots of “Aha!” moments as they tested, fixed, and tried again.

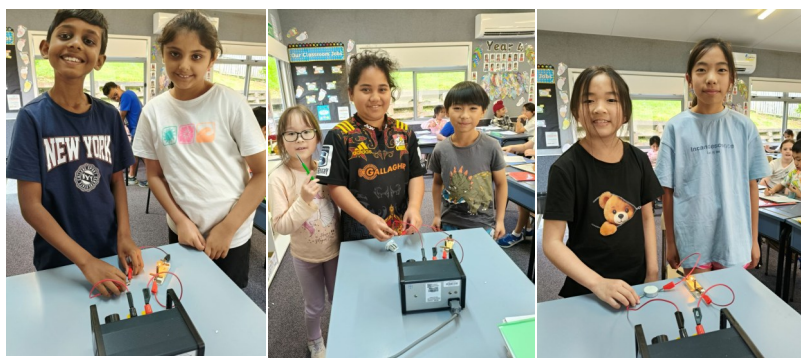


Year 4—Electricity

Through hands-on investigations, students in Year 4 have been learning about electricity and how it works—powering the things we use every day.

The class also investigated conductors and insulators, sorting everyday materials into those that allow electricity to pass through and those that block it.

It's been wonderful to see their curiosity grow as they build on what they've learned in previous years—one of the great strengths of the knowledge-rich Cambridge curriculum.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 3 to 6—Stardome



Comments from students in Year 3:

☀ I loved it! It was amazing to be at Stardome. I've never been there before. It was so exciting and it was so fun. **Caoimhe C**

☀ It was fun and it taught me a lot of new things. **Honour-Grace B**

☀ Today, I went to Stardome and I loved the movie because it was projected on the roof. **Kiaan B**

☀ I felt very happy to have so many interesting facts at Stardome and saw very pretty stars. We learnt about the moon and all sorts of different space things. Space is such a fun place to learn and talk about. I learnt that it is not a perfect sphere! **Alina X**

☀ It was good and the movie was great and there were some scary things like thunder! Stardome was great and very, very cool. **Myrah C**

Year 5—Printing



Mrs Tegg has taken Year 5 students on a wonderful journey of exploring the art of printing, and their creativity has truly shone through. Students have been exploring New Zealand's architectural past by studying images of old bungalows, cottages, and other historic homes. Using layers of carefully cut cardboard, they built up their own relief designs before rolling on ink and printing their final artworks. The results are wonderfully detailed and full of character—a creative celebration of our heritage!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 5—Bike Day

Bike Day was super fun! I really enjoyed it. I had the best bike instructor in the world! But out of everything, on Bike Day, the best part was having fun with everyone else. **Sky**

Bike Day was really fun. Our group learned how to use gears, indicate left, right, slow down, and stop. Our instructor, Briar, was really fun. She let us do some fun games like turtle racing. (Turtle racing is when you try being last without touching the ground with your feet). Bike Day was the best day ever especially because we had the best instructor. **Hugh and Paul**

Racing, biking, FUN. Those are the perfect words to describe Bike Day. At first, I was sceptical but then I closed my eyes, took one leap of faith in God and I opened my eyes and I was biking. I am grateful for Hayley. **Zoey**

Although it was raining for a bit, I learned a lot and had a great time on the bikes, spent time with my friends and learnt how to use teamwork. Not everything's a competition. **Sairra**



Year 5—Swamp

Year 5 students enjoy playing a fast-paced game, known as “Swamp”, where “alligators” in the middle—armed with pool noodles—intercept balls being thrown from one end of the court to the other. Players at each end aimed to catch the ball on the full, while the alligators tried their best to block it. Every successful catch or interception earned a ball in the team bucket, with a race to see who could collect the most.

This fun, high-energy game builds teamwork, sharpens throwing and catching skills, and boosts hand–eye coordination.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Handball Competition

No term is complete without a high-energy handball showdown. This term's competition brought out impressive skill and determination, with a tightly run series of playoffs narrowing the field stage by stage until only the top contenders remained for the thrilling final round.

Results: 1st: Jean Schellingerhout; 2nd: Ryaan Bhatia; 3rd: Asher Reitsma. Well done!



Graduation Dinner

Our School Leavers Graduation Dinner, held at the Formosa Golf Resort, was a truly memorable occasion. From the thoughtful planning and careful preparation to the shared meal, speeches and photo moments, the evening carried a wonderful sense of celebration. This event is eagerly anticipated by both students and staff, marking the culmination of 13 years of learning, growth, and character formation.

The evening was incredibly heart-warming as each student took to the podium: honouring their parents and teachers—expressing gratitude, recalling memories, and celebrating the journey that has shaped them.

Our graduates now step out into the wider world equipped with courage, wisdom, and a strong foundation. We are incredibly proud of every one of them.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

High School Thanksgiving Y11-13

From the opening welcome, through the Year in Review shared by Joel and Hannah Dibu, to the awards, student speeches, and a thoughtful message from Mr Aloiai, the Year 11–13 Thanksgiving Celebration was a true testimony to God's grace and goodness. It was a wonderful reminder that our hope rests in Him who reigns.

Congratulations to all our award recipients—and in particular to **Opal Ahuja**, who was named **Dux of MCS** and received a scholarship to Otago University. We are immensely proud of each student and give thanks for God's faithfulness throughout the year.



Tiritiri Matangi

Our Senior Biology students enjoyed an inspiring day on Tiritiri Matangi, exploring its unique ecosystems and seeing conservation work in action. The trip brought classroom learning to life as students observed native species, studied ecological relationships, and deepened their understanding of New Zealand's biodiversity.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Student Achievement

We are delighted to share that Syma Soo (Year 4) recently won a gold medal, a silver medal and a trophy at Bruce Pulman Park for her gym competition—a fantastic achievement for her first year of competition. Syma takes part in Rhythmic, Artistic and Tumbling Gymnastics. Syma has now been invited to join the Junior Rhythmic Gymnastics Competitive Programme starting in January 2026. This is focussed on skill development, aiming at National level competitions.

Her parents have expressed their gratitude to MCS, as Syma was first introduced to Gymsport through her participation in our Year 1 and 2 programmes. It's wonderful to see how those early experiences have blossomed into skill, confidence, and enjoyment. Well done, Syma—we are very proud of you!



TERM DATES 2025 and 2026

2025—Term 4

Year 1-7 6 Oct to 12 Dec

Year 8-10 1 Oct to 9 Dec

Year 11 1 Oct to 21 Nov

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

2026

Teacher Only Days: 27 and 28 Jan 2026

Term 1: 29 Jan to 2 Apr (10 wks)

Term 2: 20 Apr to 3 Jul (11 wks)

Term 3: 20 Jul to 25 Sep (10 wks)

Term 4: 12 Oct to 9 Dec (9 wks)

Year 7-10: 7 Oct to 8 Dec

Year 11: 7 Oct to 20 Nov

MATTERS FOR PRAYER



Give thanks:

- Thank God for a successful year and for His faithfulness to our school community in every challenge and achievement.
- Give thanks for our graduating students and for the wonderful Graduation Dinner, which was a testimony to God's goodness, His provision, and the fruit of the work being done at MCS.
- Thank God for our supportive parent community who entrust their children to us and partner with us in their education.
- Give thanks for a God-honouring Senior High School Thanksgiving Service, where students, families, and staff were able to give glory to Christ for all He has done.



Please pray:

- Pray for our graduating students—that they will hold firmly to the truth they have learned, live courageously under the Kingship of Jesus, and be used by God to do great things for His glory in New Zealand.
- Pray for our teachers as they wrap up the year and begin preparing for 2026, asking God to strengthen them and grant wisdom for the work ahead.
- Pray for safety and protection for all students over the holidays, and that God would bring our whole school family back together safely for the new year.
- Pray for our plans to build or establish a new school, that God would grant wisdom, provide all necessary resources, and clearly guide us in the where, when, and how of this vision.



Scripture to Ponder with your Family

He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life;

Romans 2:6-7

