



Student centred Learning – your principal's perspective

There is a lot of excitement about 'student centred learning' these days. Some of us remain unconvinced. Schools in a sense have to be 'student centred' because schools only exist because students need to learn. It is not as if schools can bypass the students and do their educational task without them! However, students are being made central to the whole learning process, determining how they will learn, what activities they will engage in and what assessment task they will agree to produce. This is the 'new and improved' design of education. Sometimes nobody stops to ask whether the

educational Emperor is actually wearing any clothes? There is also a disturbing lack of discernment shown by Christian school leaders who seem to not be able to recognise the thrust of humanism even as it stabs them in the heart of their school's distinctiveness. 'Child-centred' and 'Christ-centred' education are essentially opposites, diametrically opposed. The darkening of our worldview glasses has led to some critical errors of judgment.

The out-of-vogue traditional classroom trains students to listen. In so doing they also learn respect. They learn task-commitment. They learn that whether they feel like writing an essay or preparing a practical report, they must commit to the assigned task, irrespective of whether it suits their learning style or not and whether it ticks their preference box. What a quaint idea, to actually tell students what they will do and expect them to

Continued over the page

Term Dates 2018

Term 2: 30 Apr to 6 July

Term 3: 23 Jul to 28 Sep

Term 4: 15 Oct to 12 Dec



**Cambridge Assessment
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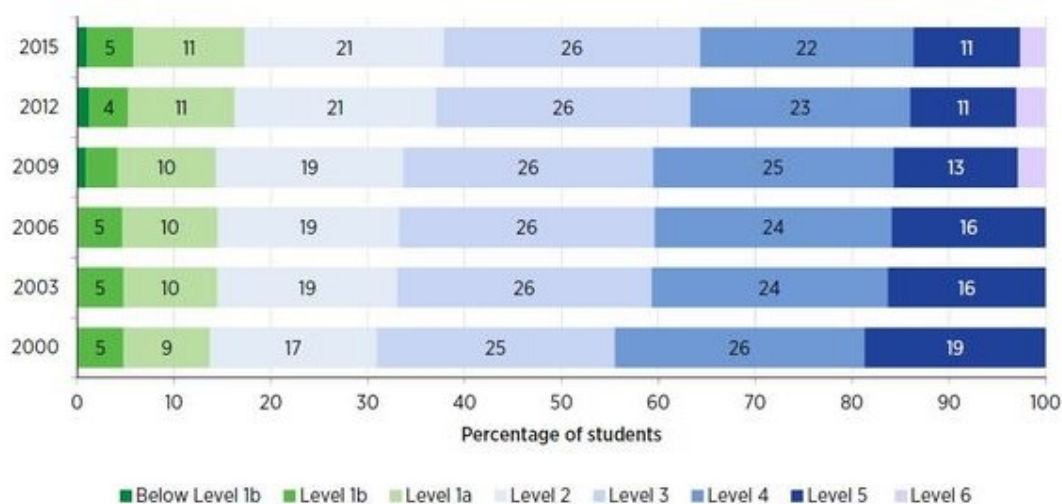
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Principal's Message Continued

actually follow instructions! It is almost as if teachers are trained professionals and students need to acquire knowledge! Surely not! When these students enter the workforce they will know how to work for several hours on end at a task that somebody else sets for them and hopefully they will be able to do so without checking their Instagram status every ten minutes. They learn at their Christian school that the world does not revolve around their needs and wishes. We think this is valuable and necessary.

And then there is the topic of written communication skills. 7th December 2016 John Gerritsen from Radio New Zealand cheerfully pronounced that NZ teenagers' scores in international tests of maths, science and reading have reached their lowest level since testing began in 2000 <https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/319783/nz-scores-drop-but-rankings-rise-in-international-test> (accessed 17th April 2018).

Figure 2.3: Trends in New Zealand reading proficiency levels



Notes: In 2009 Level 1b and Level 6 were added to provide a finer distinction of the proficiency levels of students that were previously classified as below Level 1 and at Level 5 and above for the 2000, 2003 and 2006 assessments. percentages less than four are not labelled on the graph.

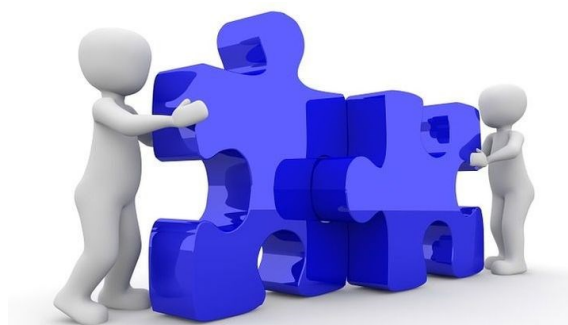
Table sourced from <https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/319783/nz-scores-drop-but-rankings-rise-in-international-test> (17th April 2018).

Principal's Message Continued

In an environment where employers value written communication skills, schools seem to be dumbing down their teaching. Why would they do that? Maybe it stems from an ideology that students will learn more capably when they are happy, comfortable and able to pick and choose their learning activities? See **'Reimagining the Modern Classroom'** by Glatter, Deruy and Wong, Sept 2nd 2016 <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/09/reimagining-the-modern-classroom/498224/> for more details on this.

Now, let's not knock choice in education as it is a key element of student motivation, used by all good teachers. However, choosing which topic to write a research project on is one thing, choosing whether to write a project or construct a virtual 3-D model instead is altogether different. One will give additional practice at literary skills. The other almost certainly will not. At the heart of this educational delusion is a flawed evolutionary idea. If

humans have evolved from slime over time to reach our current apex, continual improvement is almost a given. Just stick a bunch of children in a tin can with some IT equipment and watch them learn. Unfortunately, human nature is simply not quite that good! Without the authority figure of a teacher to set some boundaries and provide guidelines, learning will be a fairly low priority. The Emperor's new clothes look great though, don't they? Just wait until somebody wakes up and gasps in embarrassment. The experiment will end. Walls will be reintroduced to learning spaces and teachers will be given pride of place in front of classes, where students will sit at desks and listen respectfully to instructions. In the meantime, schools such as ours will keep doing what we are doing, seeking to teach well, innovating and experimenting where appropriate, but not being sucked in by every trendy educational idea.



From the Principal's Desk



Mrs Lowen resigning after nine years dedicated service

Mrs Lowen has faithfully served as an administration assistant for the last nine years. Hers has been the welcoming smile, the answered question, the interface between the machinery of school and the assortment of parent's and students' needs at the front office. She has also been Mrs Oosterbeek's right hand person. Mrs Lowen feels it is time for a new season and so she is relinquishing her desk and heading for greener pastures. We appreciate the contribution that she has made to Manukau Christian School. Mrs Lowen has volunteered many unpaid hours and has busied herself meeting needs in all sorts of areas. She has been flexible, adaptable and committed to serving our school community. Mrs Lowen will be missed. We pray the Lord's blessing over her and we also pray that the Lord will lead the right person to help Mrs Oosterbeek in the administration department.

A new classroom landing soon



'Despise not the day of small beginnings' (Zechariah 4:10)! These holes in the ground will soon be foundations for a new entrants classroom. This is testament to the growth of our school over the last few years. Builders will be onsite for the next few weeks and by the start of Term 3, Mrs du Plessis will have her existing students, plus several additional new entrants in the brand new room! In the meantime we will need to put up with a reduced carpark space and the odd hiccup (such as a damaged water main) and the other inconveniences that accompany building projects.

ACS soccer and netball

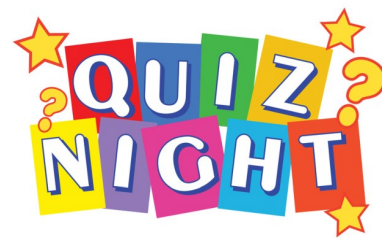
Education needs to be balanced and while MCS focusses deliberately on the academics, we also want to be able to provide sporting and other extracurricular opportunities for students, where possible. To that end we have entered soccer and netball teams into the Auckland Christian Schools tournaments where they will compete with the likes of Tyndale, Pukekohe Christian School, Elim, Jireh, Westminster, Kingsway and other Christian schools. ACS netball will be held on Wednesday 16th May (save day 18th May). ACS Soccer (Years 4 to 8) will be held on Tuesday 19th June (save day 21st June).

From the Principal's Desk continued

Science Lab Update

Over the first term of 2018 two things became very, very clear to me. Science laboratories are not cheap and building projects do not take place quickly! However, we are committed to having a high school that offers a quality core education through to Year 13, including provision for all of the sciences. I have been heartened and buoyed by the support from within our school community for this laboratory project. Some families have made donations. Others have come up with fundraising ideas and have put their hands up to make them happen. Two such initiatives are:

Quiz Night fundraiser Friday 25th May. The quiz night is for teams of six people. Ideally the teams should be of people aged between 11 and 111 (Year 7 and up). There will be baking and drinks for sale on the night, and an auction of various items. Gold coin entry. Please come along and show off your smarts! This evening will be a lot of fun! If you would like to donate goods or services for auction, please contact Pete Slaney or see Caitlin Shallard, Rebecca Shallard, or Mae Saville.



Gala Day fundraiser Saturday 25th August. Tabetha Gorrie does not even have a child at our school yet, but she has put her hand up to organise a gala day. What was she thinking? A gala day is an immense organisational challenge, but it has the potential to raise some serious money. It will also be a wonderful community event. Think ahead about how you might be able to contribute to our gala and phone Tabetha on **021610096** to volunteer before she phones you. In particular, please contact Tabetha if you want to join the planning team.



Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14	15 Y2 Gymsport	16 PIPS Netball Tournament	17	18 Y4 Swimming Netball Save Date
21 Life Education Van Trustboard Meeting	22 Life Education Van Hearing and Vision Team Y2 Gymsport	23 PIPS Life Education Van	24 Corban's Art Y4-5	25 Y4 Swimming Rugby Session Years 4-8 Quiz Night 
28 School Assembly 8.50am	29 Y2 Gymsport	30 PIPS Corban's Art Y6-8 Storybook Day Years 1-4	31	1 Y4 Swimming Rugby Session Years 4-8
4 Queen's Birthday School closed	5	6PIPS	7 Corbans Art Years 7/8	8 Y4 Swimming Rugby Session Years 5-8
11	12 Y2 Gymsport	13 PIPS	14	15 Y4 Swimming Rugby Session Years 5-8
18 Exams start	19 ACS Soccer Tournament	20 PIPS	21 Soccer Save Date	22 Y4 Swimming Rugby Session Years 5-8
25	26	27 PIPS Corbans Art Years 5/6	28	29
2	3 Parent teacher Interviews Y1 and 2 3.30pm to 7pm	4 PIPS Parent teacher Interviews Y1 and 2 3.30pm to 4.30pm	5	6 Whole School Assembly 8.50am End of Term <u>School finishes 12.30pm</u>
<u>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</u>				

Cash Payment of Fees



The current Anti-Money Laundering Act places obligations and regulations on our school. Depositing cash is therefore a time-consuming and lengthy process. We ask that parents **do not pay school fees with cash** but make an electronic transfer directly to our school account **12-3615-0014533-00** using your child's name and invoice number as the reference. We are still happy to accept eftpos and credit card payments at the office. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Mid Year Exams

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will sit their internal exams during weeks 7 to 10 of this term. Years 9 –12 will also sit exams at this time.

These exams, along with the end of year exams and test marks, determine which 'graduation certificate' a pupil receives at the end of the year. Graduation certificates are awarded in three categories: Achievement, Merit and Excellence.

Achievement—awarded to pupils who achieve a pass of 50% or higher in at least four subjects including Bible.

Merit—awarded to pupils who achieve a pass of 60% or higher in at least five subjects including Bible.

Excellence—awarded to pupils who achieve a pass of 75% or higher in all six subjects including Bible.



School Trips

We appreciate parents giving up their time to assist us with our school trips in the way of transport and supervision. Under the new Health and Safety Regulations, if you assist on a school trip, you will need to be on our school database of police-vetted parents.. If you are not on our list you will not be able to assist with school trip transport and supervision. If you need to drive your car, we will also need a copy of your driver's license as well as checking that your vehicle's WOF is current.

Playing after school

Teachers stop supervising children after school at 3.15pm. If your child wants to play on the school playground, please would you wait until 3.15pm before allowing them to play under your supervision. Thank you.

Spare Clothing

We urgently require spare shorts, trackpants and trousers in sizes 4-6 for our sick bay. If you can help, please send the items to the office. Thank you.



Photos

Thank you for your orders for individual and class photos. These have now been processed and will arrive back at school shortly.

Donations to Building Fund

Over and above the forthcoming fundraising efforts, we do appreciate the commitment of many parents who have offered contributions towards this fund. Please talk to Mr Slaney or Mrs Oosterbeek if you can help. All donations are tax deductible.



Year 1—Physical Education



Year 1 pupils responded with vigour and enthusiasm to fitness training last week. Exercises were aimed at strengthening their muscles and building stamina. Thank you Mr Payne-Smith for running first-rate PE sessions! We look forward to your sessions every week this term.

Updated Contact Details

Please update your contact details (including email) at the school office if these have changed. It is important that we are able to get hold of you in the case of an emergency or if your child is sick.

Visiting Gymnasts

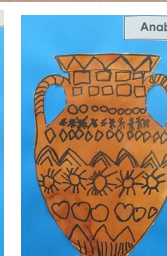
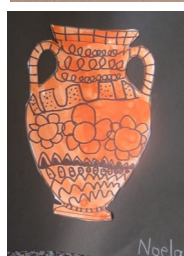


Ooh's and aah's reverberated as pupils stared in awe at three young gymnasts who flexed their muscles and demonstrated phenomenal flexibility. Their mini performance was a taster of what happens at a full Zirka Circus event.



Art around the School

Next time you are at school, pop into the office or your child's classroom to have a look at the art they are doing. Here is a sample of their creativity.





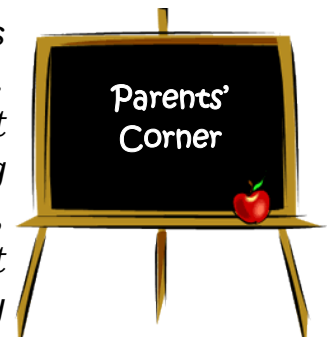
Who is this?

Can you recognise this young boy? He is now a grown man and celebrating a significant birthday!

On behalf of the staff, pupils and school community, we wish you a very **happy birthday** on Saturday **Mr Slaney**! May our Lord bless you richly as you serve Him and bring glory to His name.

Mastering the Art of Apologising

'Sorry' is up there with 'yes', 'no' and 'thank you' as one of the early important words we teach our kids. For a while though, apologies can be a difficult concept to understand. Saying sorry doesn't bring forward magic that can change what has happened, and it doesn't necessarily ease the pain. So what does it do, and how do we encourage an apology that is heartfelt, compassionate and empathic?



"People don't apologise because they're naughty or bad, they apologise because they're brave enough to admit they've made a mistake and brave enough to try to make things better."

Even though children might understand that saying sorry is important, they might not understand why. When we look at the world through their eyes, their confusion makes sense—how can one little word ease the pain and make things right again?

*An apology might not fix the hurt but it's important for building trust and strengthening the connection later on. Encouraging an apology is important for another reason—it's an important way **to nurture empathy in children**. Empathy is the cornerstone of emotional intelligence and healthy relationships. For ways to encourage empathy, click on the link below:*

<https://www.theparentingplace.com/building-character/mastering-the-art-of-apologising/>

With acknowledgement to The Parenting Place.

Community Notices

Girls Brigade and ICONZ

**Monday evenings from 6.30pm
to 8.00pm**
at Manukau Christian School.
Come join in the fun.
Ring Tabettha Gorrie for more
information 021-610-096



Dear families,

We are a Christian preschool based at 61 Beaumonts Way, Manurewa. We enrol children from two to six years old. Our centre is open Monday - Friday from 8:00 am - 5:30 pm.

For more information please ring 09 2691048 or visit the centre. No appointments are needed.

Please check the lost property basket located in the courtyard of the junior block. All unclaimed clothing will be donated to charity at the end of the term.

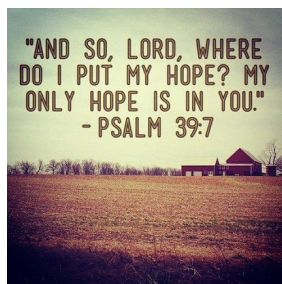
Yummy Stickers

We are still collecting stickers so that we can get sports equipment for our pupils. Sticker collection sheets are available from the office or on the Yummy Fruit website www.yummyfruit.co.nz
Thank you for your diligent collecting in the past!

Clothing and Bric-a-Brac












A reminder that we have a bin on site at the senior end of the school for used or unwanted clothing or bric-a-brac. Please support our school as we receive a donation every time the bin is emptied.



PIPS

Parents in Prayer for the school meet each Wednesday morning at 8.40am in the church lounge. Please join our parents in praying for our school and children and acknowledging God's faithfulness.
A prayer box is situated in reception. Prayer requests may be anonymous.

Matters for Prayer

-  Give thanks for Mrs Lowen and her commitment to our school over 9 years
-  Give thanks that our new reception classroom is currently being built
-  Give thanks for Parents in Prayer—interceding for our school
-  Give thanks for dedicated and capable staff here at MCS
-  Pray for all of our students as they seek to love the Lord with all of their hearts, souls, minds and strength—that teachers will know how to best guide them towards this goal
-  Pray for our neighbours—that they will be blessed and come to know Jesus
-  Pray for all of our school families—that they will also know Jesus
-  Pray for efficiency and green lights as we seek to build our science laboratory
-  Pray for our soccer and netball teams as they play against other schools

Scripture

‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.’

Hebrews 12:1-2

LORD, *teach us* to PRAY
luke 11:1



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