



Newsletter

Term 2, Week 8, 2018

20 June 2018

Manukau Christian School



NCEA versus Cambridge

You can be pleased you are at a Cambridge school. Recent suggested changes to NCEA do not inspire confidence in the national qualification. As much as I love New Zealand, I do believe the CIE assessment system is a more valid and useful assessment tool than our home grown NCEA.

The headmaster of Auckland Grammar School, Tim O'Connor, describes the proposed changes to NCEA as evidence that *'...we are standing in the quick sands of NZ education right now.'*

(NZ Herald https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12059594)

We all want to see more students do well at school. However, we need to ask what value there is in 'doing well' at an assessment that

has little credibility? Why do I suggest NCEA has little credibility, when NCEA pass rates have increased over the last few years?

'It is an inconvenient fact that while pass rates in NCEA are increasing year on year, our performance in international tests like PISA is steadily falling. This tends to indicate that our students' learning/knowledge/skills are not genuinely improving. Rather, we are witnessing grade inflation.'

(John Morris, former headmaster, Auckland Grammar 1993-2012 https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11517082)

Briar Lipson from The Think Tank, The NZ Initiative, concurs.

'If NCEA data can paint a picture of constant improvement, while almost all other measures expose decline, there is reason to believe we have a problem.'

(<https://nzinitiative.org.nz/reports-and-media/reports/spoiled-by-choice-how-ncea-hampers-education-and-what-it-needs-to-succeed/>)

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
International Education

CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATE SCHOOL

ACSNZ

ASSOCIATION OF CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOLS IN NZ INC

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Principal's Message Continued

Cambridge qualifications are likely to gain more popularity in the wake of declining confidence in NCEA. Cambridge courses are not elitist, reserved for the brightest of the bright. Students of average ability can do very well, provided they have a supportive learning environment and they are prepared to apply themselves fully and work hard. Manukau Christian School's teacher-directed learning and focused, quiet environment sets diligent students up to do very well.

From the Principal's Desk



Welcome to Mrs McAullay and Mrs Wood



We welcome Mrs Raewyn McAullay to Manukau Christian School. Raewyn has started working as office assistant to Mrs Oosterbeek for three days per week. Raewyn has had many years' experience as an office manager and administrator and we are fortunate to have secured her for our school. Please make her feel welcome.

At the start of next term Mrs Logan will be sharing her teaching responsibilities with Mrs Wood. Mrs Wood has done several days relieving at our school, so many of the students have already met her. She is a very capable and experienced teacher and I am sure she will be a great asset to the class. We are sorry to lose Mrs Logan from full time employment at our school, but we are glad to be keeping her for three days per week.



School Chaplain and Emotional Wellbeing Support Person

We are committed to ensuring a safe physical and emotional environment for students and staff here at MCS. To that end, we are appointing a school chaplain who will be available for a few hours each week. More details about this will be made known at the start of Term 3.

School Enrolments

MCS continues to attract unprecedented interest and enrolment applications. Please tell your family and friends to submit their application forms **early**, in all year levels.

Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18	19	20 PIPS High School Information Evening	21	22 Y4 Swimming Rippa Rugby
25 Year 12 & 13 Mission Trip Parent Meeting 7.00–7.30pm	26	27 PIPS	28	29
2 July	3 Parent Interviews Years 1 and 2 only	4 PIPS Parent Interviews Years 1 and 2 only Year 4-8 Soccer Tournament (to be confirmed)	5	6 Cultural Day Assembly 12.00pm End of Term <u>School finishes 12.30pm</u>
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS				
23 July Whole School Assembly 8.50am	24	25 PIPS	26 Reports given out	27
30	31	1 AUGUST PIPS	2 Parent Interviews Years 3 to 12 <u>School finishes 12.30pm</u>	3

Cash Payment of Fees

The current Anti-Money Laundering Act places obligations and regulations on our school. As from 1st July our bank is changing how they will receive cash. Depositing cash is 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 bank 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.

Cultural Day

On the last day of this term, **Friday 6th July**, the Years 1 to 8 classes are going to hold a '**Cultural Day**'. What happens at 'Cultural Day'? Students are encouraged to **come to school dressed in the traditional costume of a particular culture**. Students are also asked to **bring a small plate of traditional food from this culture** to share with their classmates for morning tea. At 12pm we will hold an **assembly to celebrate all of the different cultures represented**. Parents are welcome to join us for this assembly. Being the last day of term, school will finish at 12:30pm. Students can have lunch when they go home. A separate notice will follow.

Mid Year Reports and Parent Interviews

Parent Interviews for pupils in **Years 1 and 2** will be held on two consecutive afternoons this term on **Tuesday 3rd July and Wednesday 4th July 2018**. School will finish at the normal time of 3.00pm. Reports will be handed out at that time.



Mid-year exams are in full swing. For pupils in **Years 3 and up**, mid year reports will be sent home to parents **in the first week of next term**. This will be followed up with parent interviews in the **second week of Term 3, on Thursday 2nd August 2018**. This provides a useful re-focussing point for students and allows parents to discuss with teachers how to encourage their child for the second half of the year.

Meeting for Parents of Year 7 and 8 students

Parents of Year 7 and 8 students are invited to an information evening on **Wednesday 20th June** from 7.00 to 8.00pm at school in Room 9 (south end of the property). This will be an opportunity for you to gain the information you need to decide whether MCS high school is suitable for your child. You will learn about subjects offered, our points of difference, and what you can expect if you send your child to our high school. **If you wish to enrol your Year 8 child in Year 9 for 2019, it is important that you attend.** Refreshments will be provided.

A parent from our school will be interviewed and will share her experiences teaching and observing teaching in public high schools and at MCS.

Courtesy in the Car Park

Please be considerate of other people in the carpark. Please **DO NOT** drive down the side where the teachers park their cars—this poses a safety danger not only to other drivers in the carpark, but most importantly to children walking toward the steps. Please **WALK your child** to the steps.

Miscellaneous

- Thank you to those parents who have donated spare clothing in smaller sizes.
- Thank you for your prompt reply to our recent notice for updated contact details.
- Please ask your child to check the lost property container in the central junior foyer area—all unclaimed clothing will be removed at the end of the term.
- Please keep collecting YUMMY stickers for sports equipment.

MCS Chess Team Performs Well

Four of our pupils — Devin Du, Darius Jin, Dillon Kelp and Rain Guo — took part in a Primary Schools Chess Tournament in Manukau last week. Out of fourteen teams, our team came an admirable fourth. What a fantastic effort, boys!

Did you know that playing chess helps exercise both sides of the brain, thereby increasing creativity, it increases IQ, improves memory and problem-solving skills, as well as increasing concentration?



Senior School ESOL

In ESOL we study how to write a story. We learn English and read books.

When we are in the ESOL class Mrs Orr teaches us how to read English stories, how to remember words and how to write.



Art in Year 1 Robins

Using newspaper print to make their dogs, each picture is a unique masterpiece.



Rippa Rugby



Students in Years 4 to 8 have enjoyed their rippa rugby training sessions on Friday afternoons with Jamie Clark from Counties Manukau. One more session to go! Thanks Counties Manukau.

Junior Storybook Day

As part of their portfolio on public speaking, students in Years 1 to 3 chose a book and retold the story to their class. Dressing up in costume as their chosen character at the same time was a lot of fun. Great effort, everyone! Special certificates were presented to the following pupils.

	Best Speech	Best Costume	Special Award
Year One Robins	Grace Lottering Hannah Shallard Elizabeth Abraham	Jesse Faletanoai Jaeha Lee	Yunho Kang Riley Young Evion Fan Pawarisa Phoncha
Year One Fantails	Jewel Jinoy Mannreet Maan	Abigail Anbunathan Prabhmeet Gill	Harshaan Dhaliwal Anabel Taffy
Year Two	Amelia Foronda Angelo Cuadra Ashveer Dhesi	Oriana Kuik Siautu Alefaio Khushi Shekhawat	Nathan Samuel Aiden Mathews Japleen Hara
Year Three	Subble Ahluwalia Poki Toli Jigar Singh	Sukhman Sandhu Eric Joo Levi Saseve	Jessica Dass Wendy Zhou



Storybook Day Speech

Hi, I am Ruth. I live in Moab with my husband and his family. My husband is from Bethlehem where they worship God. My husband taught me to love and worship the God of his people. One day my husband died and my mother in law, Naomi, decided to return to Bethlehem. I begged Naomi, "Please do not leave me. For where you live I will live, where you go I will go, your people will be my people and your God will be my God." Naomi knew I'd look after her, so she accepted that I wanted to go. Finally, we arrived at Bethlehem and we were hungry, so I went to pick ripe barley. The rich man who owned the field, Boaz, saw me and asked his servant, "Who is this young beautiful woman?" His servant told him that I was from Bethlehem looking after my mother in law. Boaz grew to love me because of my patience and hard work. On harvest feast day, Boaz asked me to marry him and I said yes, and we lived happily ever after.

By Poki Toli Room 201, Year 3

God's Amazing Promise to Abraham: Trust in the Lord

Hi everyone I am Sarah and Sarah means Princess!

Abraham and Sarah were childless. One day God told Abraham who lived in Haran to go away and live in another land. Abraham came running home to tell me and I thought and said, "If God said so, we should go." God said, "If you do so, you and your wife Sarah will have more descendants than the stars." God said, "Abraham's children will be of a great Nation." Abraham said, "But I have no children." God said to go to Canaan.

When we arrived, three messengers came and said, "A son will be born next year on this day." I heard and I laughed and then I said, "Why would I have children at this age? Next year I will be 91 and Abraham will be 100." One of the messengers said, "Why is Sarah laughing?" When the messenger left Abraham asked, "Why did you laugh? Anything is possible with the Lord."

Next year God blessed me with a son- Isaac. Abraham and I were jumping up and down with joy and praising the Lord for he has fulfilled his promise.

Moral of the story: God can do anything. If He promises, He will fulfil it.

By Subble Ahluwalia Room 201, Year 3

ACS Netball Tournament

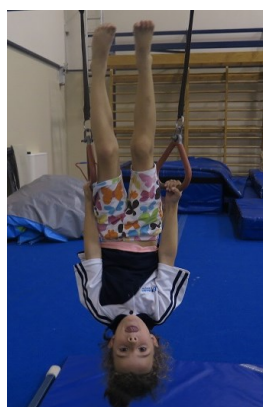


Our netballs teams did very well at the Auckland Christian Schools Tournament held recently in Northcote. All teams won some games and our Year 4 and 5 team came 3rd equal. Mrs Busch accompanied them and took charge on the day. Special thanks to Mrs Willis and Mrs Faletanoai for the time spent coaching these teams attending the tournament. And thank you to all the parents and supporters who arrived on the day! For more photos go to our Facebook page.

Special thanks also to Mrs Busch, Mrs du Plessis and Miss Sonneveld who coached our older girls. Although they did not enter the ACS competition, they recently attended an Independent Christian Schools' competition where they played against Tyndale Park Christian School and Pukekohe Christian School.

Gymsport

Taking part in the Gymsport programme is always an exciting time for students. Year 2 students took part in a four week programme at Bruce Pulman Park. Strengthening core muscles and increasing gross motor co-ordination translates into increased fine-motor co-ordination in the classroom and assists with writing and learning outcomes.



Corban Estate Art Centre

Visiting Corban Estate Art Centre at the end of May proved to be an exciting opportunity for students in Years 4 to 8 to create and automate their own three-dimensional model. Year 6 students applied this learning to their study on different styles of poetry, in particular *Haiku*.

Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. Haiku poems consist of 3 lines. The first and last lines of a Haiku have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7 syllables. The lines rarely rhyme.

*Enjoying this trip,
Creating cardboard machines,
Corban Arts Centre!*

Isileli Latu

*Awesome Arts Centre,
I wish to stay much longer,
Who wants to go back?*

Asher MacDonald

*Corban Art Centre,
Authentic Automattas,
Unique creations.*

Ruby Carter



*Visiting this place,
We met Ellis and Ashlee,
Plus a big weta.*

Norene Cuadra

*Exploring this place,
Everybody shouts "Hooray!"
Corban Arts Centre!*

Mia Wang



Life Education Trust



Students enjoyed a change from their normal learning environment when they stepped into the mobile classroom. This in-depth learning about the body and its many facets and functions proved to be hit. Year 6 pupils had this to say about their visit.

"Harold's jokes were hilarious and rib-tickling."
Laura Redmond

"We learnt that our body has 12 systems. It was really interesting and I wanted to learn more!"
Nelson Tan

"Life Education van was inspiring because we learnt about our bodies and how a balanced diet helps us with everyday tasks."
Thomas Fryer

"On my birthday I was "x-rayed" by a special machine which helped us discover new facts about our nervous system. The Life Education van was a breath-taking experience and an exciting way to celebrate my 12th birthday."
Tash Mann



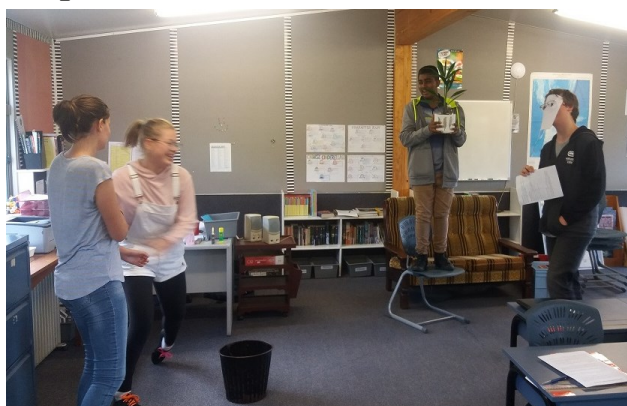
Physics—Year 12

Cambridge AS Level Physics students are learning to take precise measurements of the period of a pendulum, to investigate a relationship between the length of the pendulum and its period of oscillation.



Leadership Training

High school students have been doing leadership training with Mr Slaney. Role plays are a fun way to put learning into practice.



Swimming



Year 4 students are almost at the end of an eight week swimming instruction and water safety course held at Mountford Park Swimming Pool. The *Find Your Field of Dreams Community Swim* program works together with *Water Safety NZ* to provide swimming and survival lessons. Once lessons are complete, results are uploaded onto the Water Safety Database. This generates a report for each class, along with the Community Swim certificate, after the completion of lessons.

Getting ready

I felt overjoyed. Finally, after what felt like a long lunch, but still was the normal time, half an hour, I went swimming with my class. We got changed. When we finished changing we got to read a book which I love doing and when we got in the bus we sat down. I sat down with Kirsten. We talked all the way.

Jenesis Samuel

At the pool

We sat down on the benches waiting for ten minutes because there was another class. Next we got into the warm, refreshing pool. I had an instructor named Jasmine. She told us to do four laps of freestyle. It was tiring. After that we did backstroke. At the end we did a game of mushrooms. We have to see who can hold their breath the longest. It was fun.

Jonathan Filimochala-Burling

Swimming Lessons

It was a sunny Friday. We got changed and just in time the bus arrived. We lined up to be on our best behaviour for the bus driver. After we got onto the bus we were zooming off to the Leisure Centre. We followed Mrs Logan into the pool area. We needed to wait for the other classes to finish. When it was our turn I felt a tingling feeling. Then we did a safe entry. We did arm circles, back stroke and much more. Finally our session ended. We said goodbye to the instructors. I will always look forward to do swimming again because swimming is indeed joyful.

**Varshitha Canchipuram
Paravasthu**

Parents' Corner



Is Your Child's Head in the Game?

Are you sometimes ignored when you speak to your child? Is there an invisible wall between you? Or, perhaps, a small black wall with a window, known as a phone, tablet or ipad? Is your child so captivated gaming that he/she is detached from the realities of life? While gaming is not necessarily always a negative, there ought to be some warning bells for parents.

Gaming has taken the place of running, jumping, riding bikes and climbing trees for many young people. The resulting impact on fitness is quite obvious. Gaming culture within a peer group can exert unhealthy, negative peer pressure. It is possible that children feel isolated from their classmates because they do not game. Perhaps children are so compelled by peer pressure to advance in a game that parents are being pressured to spend money, acquiring the 'necessary tools' for him/her to reach higher levels and keep up with peers. It has been reported to me that this occurs within our primary school at year levels that might surprise us.

Gaming has an addictive streak. If your child zones out of real life and is unresponsive when summoned, very slow to follow instructions, preferring to keep gaming and then suffer the consequences of not doing what has been asked, then your child might well have a gaming addiction. As with any addiction, gaming stimulates the 'rewards' centre of the brain, releasing dopamine which provides a short term 'high' followed by a longing to 'game' (verb) again in search of the next fix.

Gaming online without parental controls in place lets strangers from anywhere in the world invisibly enter your home and intrude on your child's life. You do not know what questions your child is being asked and you do not know what inappropriate information your unsuspecting child is divulging.

Finally, online gaming means internet access, maybe even unfiltered internet access. The statistics about online pornography are horrifying. Young children (aged 5, 6, 7 etc) stumble upon inappropriate images, which can often mark the beginning of a habit which becomes a pornography addiction in teenage years. Allow them unrestricted internet access in private places such as bedrooms at your (or their) peril.



Suggestions to help parents get children's heads back in the right game

Set a Positive Family Culture. God gave parents to families because parents are wise. If you are uncomfortable with the effect that gaming is having in your home then take your responsibility as a parent seriously and ban or restrict gaming. You are allowed to do that. You set the rules.

Be the Disciplinarian. Explain to your children that according to the Bible, children are not automatically good and they are not going to automatically make responsible, beneficial choices. Read them Hebrews 12:7-11. Although the context of the passage is God's discipline in the lives of believers, the principle is clear enough – children need discipline from their parents and parents who love their children will discipline them. Set a rule about gaming and stick to it despite the howls of protest and accusations that you are ruining their lives.

Help Drive Positive Peer Pressure. Help set an alternative peer culture at school. Our high school has a culture of bible study. Students chew over bible passages at lunchtimes. It is led by a few but the practice has established a culture. Instead of gaming being the conversation topic during play time, perhaps it could be sport, skating, other outdoor games or even God's Word?

Game Responsibly. If you really think your child will benefit from gaming, consider a game that promotes a biblical view on life such as 'Scarlet City.'

Be the Internet Policeman. Restrict internet access for all children and teenagers. Obtain a filter or use modem settings to reduce the opportunities for children to find offensive images or sites online. Make sure browsers are in a central place where all internet activity can be monitored by a parent. Don't give young children smart phones. They do not need them.

Talk to the school. If your child's gaming bothers you, if you think your child might have a gaming addiction, please make contact with us. If there is a demand, we could call a meeting of all parents in Years 1 to 8 and discuss this issue.

Community Notices



OUTWARD BOUND

School Holiday Parent & Teen Course

Leaps & Bounds is the ultimate shared adventure for a parent/caregiver and their teenager (13 - 15 years).

Over 8 days learn about yourself and each other in a challenging but supportive environment. Form a relationship that is real, open, honest, and based on respect while sharing the experience with other adults and teenagers in your group.

Activities include tramping, camping, kayaking, running, sailing, swimming, rock climbing and high-ropes.

“ Outward Bound provided my daughter and I with a gift of experience and language/stories that we now share. ”

Upcoming course dates

Sun 15 July - Sun 22 July

Sat 6 Oct - Sat 13 Oct

To find out more get in touch on 0800 688 927

outwardbound.co.nz



Get Balling with the Rosehill Raptors, Papakura

Learn the fundamentals of Basketball with coaches in a fun environment.

Free BASKETBALL PROGRAMME



The Raptors are looking for teams and players that want to improve and represent Papakura.

When: Thursday Afternoons

Time: 3:45 - 4:45pm Years 1 to 5

4:45 -5:45 Years 6 to 8

5:45—6.55 Years 9 to 13

Where : Rosehill Sport Centre
(Rosehill College)

Cost: Free

The Lord detests lying lips,
but He delights in people who
are trustworthy. Proverbs 12:22



INTRODUCTION TO WATER POLO PROGRAMME

Year 5 and 6 students

No previous water polo experience
SOME swimming ability needed
6 coaching sessions and 6 games of
water polo with
professional coaching.
(Flyer handed out earlier this week.)



Covenant Church Holiday Program

July 2018

Registration forms available at the office

When? 9th—13th July 2018, 9am till 3pm

Where? Covenant Presbyterian Church—77 Rogers Road, Manurewa

Who? All school aged children from Year 1 to Year 8

Kids—Come along to a fun filled week of games, activities, sports, making new friends, and exploring the Bible.

Parents—you're welcome to join us at 2.30pm each day for a cup of coffee and a chat.

This is a FREE holiday program but children will need to bring their own lunch.

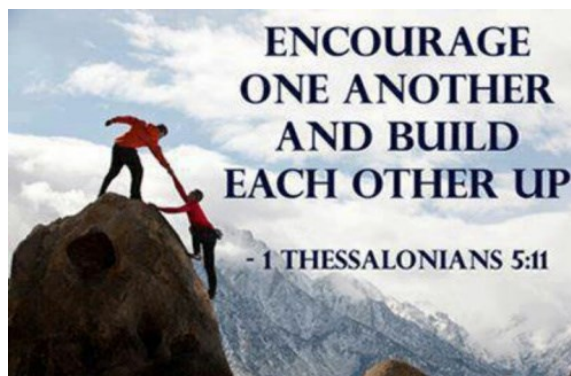
Morning and afternoon tea will be provided.



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.



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.

Prayer Points



Give thanks because....

- There is steady interest in our school and our roll continues to grow
- The new entrants classroom is nearly finished
- The good news of the gospel is reaching our students
- ACS netball tournament was a positive, enjoyable experience for our school

Please pray for....

- Good health over the winter months, for students, families and staff
- Continued focus in class
- The price for the construction of our science room to be reasonable and for construction to take place during 2018
- Senior students as they sit mid year exams

Memory and Meditation Verse

In our next newsletter we will look at ways to read God's Word in family devotions. In the meantime here is an inspiring passage to chew over together as a family. Read around the passage and see the story of a young man who has lost his way, but who finally comes home to his loving father.

'...Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

Luke 15:23-24



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