



Newsletter

Term 3, Week 3, 2024

6 August 2024

Manukau Christian School

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of Manukau Christian School,

Welcome to Term 3

Term 3 has started with a hiss and a roar. In my walks around the school I've seen busy children working hard in developing their minds. I was impressed particularly to see our Year 1 students writing down sentences as Mrs du Plessis dictated to them. It's amazing how much progress they have made in two terms! We've had educators from the Auckland Museum in to speak about volcanoes in the primary school, and a new series of modules have begun in the high school. Senior high school courses are being wrapped up in the next few weeks and revision and exam preparation are about to begin!

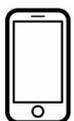
Another highlight for us as teachers is the opportunity that Term 3 gives us to meet with parents and discuss the progress of our students. We see these meetings as an opportunity to celebrate achievement and identify the next areas our students need to develop and grow. We hope that you found these interviews a useful opportunity to get a window into your child's progress in academic pursuits as well as character development.

Contentment

At our beginning of term assembly, I spoke with our students about one of the most dangerous sins we can fall into – complaining and grumbling. On the surface, this doesn't seem such a terrible activity. In fact, many of us can get quite a bit of enjoyment out of a decent whinge session. But a Christian perspective on this is helpful.

Contentment is an attitude that says, "I will be satisfied with what God has given me."

A great narrative that highlights how seriously God views



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the ingratitude that grumbling and complaining represents is found in the book of Numbers where God's people are on the edge of the Promised Land. God had rescued them miraculously from slavery in Egypt, performing 10 great signs or plagues. He made a way through the Red Sea for them but drowned the Egyptian warriors chasing them. He fed them with manna from heaven, and water from the rock. All through the wilderness wanderings, the people of God grumbled and complained despite all these miraculous examples of God's love and care for them.

The final straw was when the Israelites sent 12 spies into the land that God had promised them, to scope it out. The spies came back with a mixed report. The land God promised them was a fertile land that was full of milk and honey, and the spies brought back a bunch of grapes which was so big that it was carried on a pole between two men. But 10 of the spies sowed discontent and doubt amongst the people of Israel. The people in the Promised Land were too big, their cities were too well-protected. There was no way they could take this land. And so once again the people complained and grumbled. They even wished they were back in Egypt where they were slaves and wished they had died in the desert. God granted that wish and sentenced them to die in the wilderness.

This narrative reminds us once again of our 2024 school virtue – gratitude. The

people of Israel forgot all the good things God had done for them. Discontent is like a poison. It ruins our lives and turns us into people who are not very fun to be around. But more than that, it can poison our relationship with our Creator. Grumbling and complaining is not just a small matter – it's a rejection of God and his providence. It's saying to God, that his way of running the universe stinks, and we think he could be doing a better job. As parents, one of the most important



things we can teach our children is contentment. Whining and complaining are not minor issues in the life of a toddler or child. They are serious errors that need to be corrected. No child should be left to whine without correction, for a child who is never disciplined for complaining and grumbling is set on a bitter path away from God and his blessing. Paul teaches us that godliness with contentment is great gain.

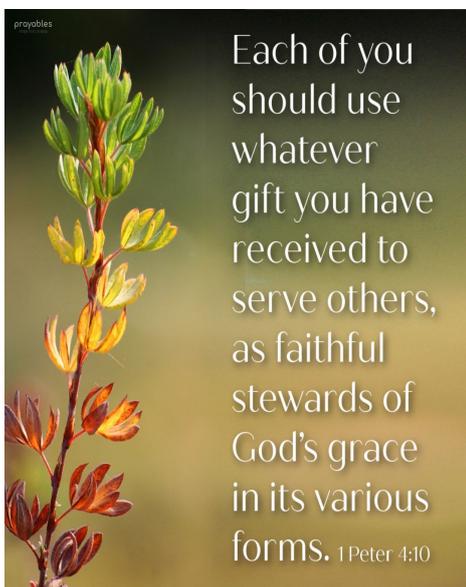
If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you have been given enormous riches – an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade in the salvation that has been won by Christ and received through faith. Look for opportunities in your home to remind your children of

all the good things God has given them and teach them the importance of being thankful and content with the blessings God has given them.

How We Ought to Think about Our Children

In talking with parents over the years, I've found that almost without fail, there are high expectations for their children's education. This is good and right. We should want our children to excel. But at times, we let worldly prestige inform our plans for them. When I ask parents what they would like to see their child studying after school, I invariably get one of these answers:- doctor, something in the medical field or engineer.

Why do we want this for our children? Sometimes it's because we legitimately think that God has made them in such a way that these fields would be fulfilling and offer them a chance to use their God given gifts in serving the world. But often there are less noble motives. Sometimes we are interested in the prestige that our children will have in their career, and perhaps the reflection that prestige will have on us. There is after all a hierarchy in the world in the ways that vocations are thought of. Sometimes we are concerned about the money our child can make.



There is an element of validity to these concerns, but it is important that we consider the way our children have been made by God. Not all children should be doctors or engineers. Some should be plumbers, some should be mechanics, others hairdressers, some should be salespeople and others chefs. Expecting all our children to fit into a particular mould could be working against the grain of the person God has made them. The key things to think about for the Christian is what is God calling me to do? Help your child think through the following questions as you and they consider a future vocation.

- What does it mean to be made as a male or a female in the image of God? What is God calling me to be and do as a man or a woman?
- What skills and abilities has God given me?
- What do I enjoy doing?
- How can I serve others as I engage in work?
- Where are some good opportunities to serve God and his kingdom?

Family First



On the last day of Term 2, Mr Aloiai and I attended the Family First organised Forum on the Family. It was a great opportunity to meet with like minded people and hear excellent speakers on conservative issues. One of the highlights was Bob McCoskrie's interview of Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist at New York University's Stern School of Business. Haidt has recently published a book called *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*. The interview explores how social media has led to a decline in teen mental health, and considers ways we as parents can protect our children. We strongly encourage you to watch this interview. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVmad03NF2w>

Kind regards,

Scott Kennedy,
Principal

NOTICES

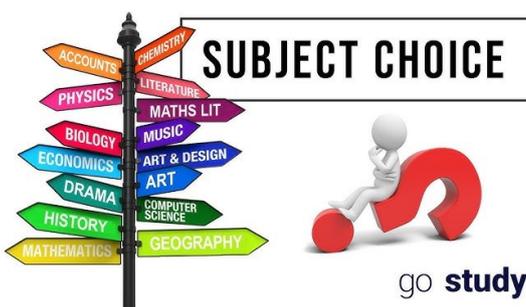
Health and Safety

- Please be vigilant in the carpark and show respect for other parents coming and going. The carpark is available in the afternoons for parents of students in Years 1 to 3 only. A **one-way** traffic flow exists and no stopping unless you are in a carpark please.
- Please report any hazards to the office.

Senior Pathways Information Evening

Parents of senior students, in particular Year 11 parents
Please mark this date:

Thursday, 8th August 2024 at 7.00pm.



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

CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 AUG	6	7	8 Swimming Yrs 5&6 1.30pm and 2.00pm Senior Pathways Information Evening 7.00pm Yr 11 parents	9 PIPS
12	13	14 Super Smash Cricket Skills Yrs 1 to 4	15 Swimming Yrs 5&6 1.30pm and 2.00pm	16 PIPS High School Assembly 1.30pm
19	20	21 Trustboard Meeting	22 Swimming Yrs 5&6 1.30pm and 2.00pm	23 PIPS Run4Bibles Yrs 1 to 4
26 Whole School Assembly 850am	27 Run4Bibles Yrs 1-4 Rain Date	28 Run4Bibles Yrs 5 to 8	29 Swimming Yrs 5&6 1.30pm and 2.00pm	30 PIPS Father's Day Yrs 1 to 4
2 SEP	3	4 Run4Bibles Yrs 5 to 8 Rain Date	5 Swimming Yrs 5&6 1.30pm and 2.00pm	6 PIPS High School Assembly 1.30pm
9	10	11 Book Character Day Yrs 5 to 8	12 Swimming Yrs 5&6 1.30pm and 2.00pm	13 PIPS
16	17	18	19 Nanogirl Yrs 3 to 6	20 PIPS
23	24	25	26	27 Whole School Assembly 8.45am School finishes at 12.30pm

Enrolments for 2025

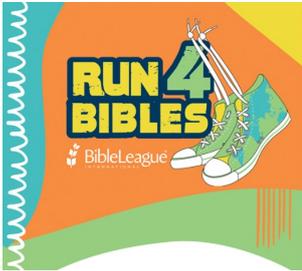
Our school roll continues to grow as our Lord blesses us with increasing numbers of enrolment applications and a constant flow of enquiries. Our classes are at capacity and there are waiting lists in place. Siblings of existing students should ensure that they have submitted an enrolment application so that a place can be reserved. Please also encourage your family and friends to enrol well in advance.

Shortly a notice will be sent home requesting an indication from parents who are intending to withdraw their children at the end of the year. Please remember that if you do not let us know this term and wait until the end of the year, **you will be liable for Term 1, 2025 fees** if you withdraw your child. If there is any **possibility** of a withdrawal, please speak to Mrs Oosterbeek in the office.

Letters of confirmation for Year 9, 2024 will be finalised shortly.

GENERAL NOTICES

Run4Bibles



Your child has received their sponsorship form for this annual event that we support through Bible League. Please encourage your family and friends to support this worthy cause. Money raised will go towards putting bibles into the hands of those who currently have no access to them. Contributions can be made online using the link below:

<https://bl.org.nz/fundraising-team.php?id=10063>

Please ensure you add your **child's name and year level** to the comment section. The class that raises the most money will enjoy a pizza lunch.

Details about the run are currently being finalised and further information will be sent home soon. There will be two events, one for Years 1 to 4 and one for Years 5 to 8.

Students are preparing for the cross country by running laps to increase their fitness levels. Each lap is approximately 200m, with the number of laps increasing as their fitness levels increase.

Thank you

Your support of our senior students' efforts to fundraise for their graduation has been appreciated. There will be two more sausage sizzles this term—dates will be advised.

We also recently received a commission from Photolife of \$493.57. Fundraising Calendars will be made available for purchase early next term. We do appreciate your generosity.



Second Hand Clothing

We have a number of second hand school clothing items available at very reasonable prices. Please see Mrs Fickling in reception if you would like to have a look.



PIPS

Please pray for the school, students and teachers. Meet in the school staffroom on Friday morning once you've dropped off your children.

GENERAL NOTICES

Yummy Stickers

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

School Facebook Group



**Manukau Christian School
Community**

Private group

Join our page to receive updates and photos.

Used Clothing

We have a bin on site for your used clothing and bric-a-brac. The school benefits by way of a donation each time the bin is emptied.



House Points for Term 3

	Wilberforce	Calvin	Te Wiremu	Tarore
Total to date	14	15	20	19

Term Dates 2024 and 2025

Please check the term dates and the start date for next year if you are planning a holiday. We do encourage you to book your holiday travel when school is closed.

Term 3: 22 Jul to 27 Sep 2024

Term 4: 14 Oct to 13 Dec 2024

9 Oct to 29 Nov 2024 (Year 11 to 13)

9 Oct to 10 Dec 2024 (Year 9 to 10)

2025

Term 1: 3 February to 11 April 2025

Term 2: 28 April to 27 June 2025

Term 3: 14 July to 19 September 2025

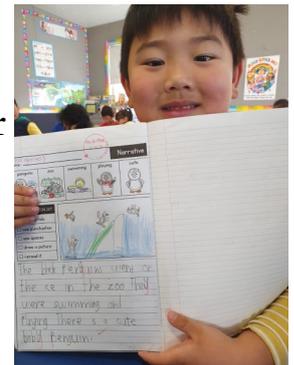
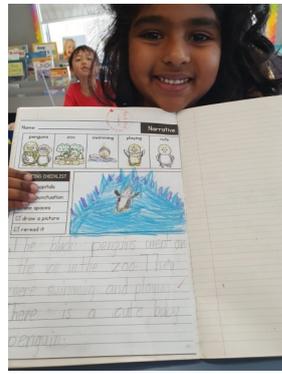
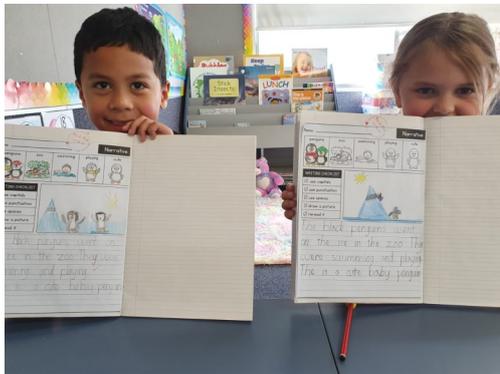
Term 4: 6 October to 12 December 2025

(Years 9 to 13 finish dates to be confirmed)

HAPPENINGS

Year 1—Handwriting and Reading

Year 1 students have learnt to write very neatly and enhance their story with beautiful diagrams. Excellent work!



Reading aloud is very important as this leads to a better understanding of what they are reading. Students must pay close attention to every word on the page. Reading aloud makes it easier for students to remember words than if they read them silently.



Years 4—Plays

Last Friday the Year 1 to 3 students were treated to an afternoon of creative plays performed by the talented Year 4 students. The Year 4's worked diligently on writing engaging scripts and showcased their hard work through impressive performances. They used their voices effectively to project their lines and captivate the audience. It was a delightful experience for everyone involved, and the Year 1 to 3 students thoroughly enjoyed the entertaining and imaginative performances. Well done, Year 4!

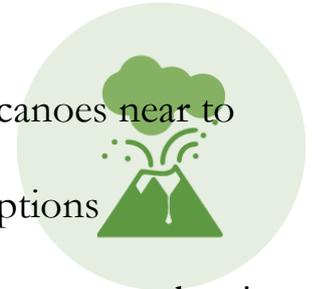


HAPPENINGS

Years 3 to 6—Volcanoes

On Friday 26 July, Auckland War Memorial Museum visited MCS. The Year 3 to 6 students were immersed in the wonderful world of volcanoes. Some concepts that we learnt about included:

- describing Auckland's volcanic field and identifying volcanoes near to our school
- making comparisons of different types of volcanic eruptions
- identifying different types of volcanic rock
- gaining an understanding of the preparation and response to a volcanic eruption or natural disaster



The students enjoyed the hands-on and practical workshops.



HAPPENINGS



Year 3—Art

Students in Year 3 learnt the skill of blending. Their sunrises and sunsets are a sight to behold and they have captured the breathtaking beauty of God's creation.

Year 6—Science

In science the Year 6 students have been learning about circuits and the components that make up circuits. After learning about 'series circuits' students had the opportunity to create their own circuits in groups. They were able to see how, as more lamps were added to the series circuit, the dimmer their light became. It was great to have the hands-on activity to demonstrate the theory learnt in class.



Year 8—Science

Magnetism is a favourite topic for Year 8 students—especially the practical applications and experiments!

Students learnt that a magnetic field is the invisible area around a magnet that attracts or repels other magnets and magnetic materials such as iron. All magnets have a north pole and a south pole. The north pole of one magnet always attracts the south pole of another. They also learnt to describe the properties of magnets and recognise and reproduce the magnetic field pattern of a magnet. Thank you Mrs Everitt for these very interesting lessons.



HAPPENINGS

ACS Cross Country



On Friday 2nd August, eleven Year 5 to 8 students took part in the Auckland Christian Schools Cross Country event in Pukekohe. A strong field of runners provided stiff competition and all our students are to be congratulated for their participation and accomplishments.

Four MCS students placed in their year levels:

Year 5: Kayla Posthuma—3rd

Year 6: Jovel Ong—3rd

Year 7: Bella Xia—3rd and Harry Smilde—2nd

A great result! Thank you parents for helping.



High School—Tribal Wars

A beautiful, clear day dawned for the end of term Nerf War between house groups. Action-packed and ready to pull that trigger, students did their utmost to avoid being hit, and fire the first shot. But as we know, there are no winners in war! See if you can spot our staff going all out to claim victory.



MATTERS FOR PRAYER



Give thanks

- for high interest in our 2025 Year 9 class
- for the great worldview courses that have been developed and are equipping our students to understand the world through a Christian lens
- for our hardworking and faithful Trustboard who govern our school with wisdom and understanding
- for our PIPS team who faithfully surround our school in prayer



Please pray

- that we would find a new ESOL teacher to replace the wonderful Mrs Fritschi
- for our building project to proceed quickly and smoothly
- for our seniors as they head into the last term before externals
- for our staff and students as winter illnesses test their immunity

SCRIPTURE

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Timothy 6:6-11

