



# Newsletter

Term 3, Week 8, 2024

12 September 2024

Manukau Christian School

Dear MCS Friends and Families,

Term 3 is always an active period for both students and staff. Our primary school students have enjoyed the swimming module, as well as plenty of running practice to gear up for the much-anticipated **Run4Bibles** event. A big thank you to parents for your continued support in this worthy cause.

Meanwhile, our high school students are fully immersed in their mock exams as they prepare for their upcoming IGCSE, AS, and A2 exams at the start of Term 4. Their dedication and perseverance in the coming weeks will be essential to their success.

Looking ahead to 2025, preparation is already underway. From confirming new enrolments to setting up courses and timetables, we are excited for what the future holds. As we plan ahead, it is the perfect time to revisit and reaffirm our school's mission and vision, ensuring we continue to provide the best possible learning environment for our students.

## A Generational Vision

Our Mission at Manukau Christian School is “*Pursuing academic excellence to develop responsible and courageous disciples who apply Christ’s kingship to all of life.*” We think this mission sets our school apart and encapsulates what makes us unique in the educational landscape of New Zealand. But what does success in this look like? What will the future hold if we as a school hold to this mission? This is something that we as leaders have thought long and hard about, and we believe that success in our mission will be evidenced in generational faithfulness.

This generational faithfulness will be seen in our mission and DNA, in the impact we have on our students, in the kind of staff we attract, in the commitment of our parent body, and in our cultural impact.



## In Mission and DNA

One of the future markers of success will be seen in generational faithfulness.



Manukau Christian School will, by God's grace, remain unwavering in its commitment to its Reformed Christian heritage. It will not drift into a 'Christian in name only' status, nor will it baptise secular culture with Christian terminology. We aim to remain different.

### In Our Students



What will the future look like if we are successful in our mission with respect to our students? Once again, only by God's grace and kindness, our students will excel academically, placing themselves among the top achievers in New Zealand.

Not only that, but they will also be theologically equipped and grounded with a practical Christian worldview. They will be capable of understanding the times they live in, discern how they ought to live in these times, and win others to truth through the persuasiveness of both their speech and life. With a heart for the lost world, they will apply their faith to all areas of society, humbly submitting to Christ and His Word seeking not only individual redemption but cultural transformation. Our graduates will go on to raise faithful, godly families where the biblical roles of men and women are honoured and children are seen as a blessing and the normal means through which God extends his kingdom.

### In Staffing

When thinking of the future and staffing, we aim by God's kindness to attract and retain the highest quality staff who love God wholeheartedly and are committed to applying Christ's lordship to every aspect of life. We pray that God will call some of our best students into the teaching profession to come and work amongst us. Our teachers will be knowledgeable, engaging, and gifted in their craft, continually growing in and striving for excellence. Recognizing the supreme importance of teaching in the battle for Christ's kingdom, we aim to be in a position to compensate our staff generously and provide opportunities for them to mentor and train others.



To protect generational faithfulness, we hope to raise up leaders from within our school community and train them in our worldview. As leaders retire or are called by God elsewhere, it is our desire that successors will emerge from within our community.

### In Our Parent Community

What about our parent community? We envision a future where we have a parent

community that fully understands and supports the mission, vision, and goals of MCS. Parents will understand the carefully honed model of education that MCS offers, and fully support our traditional academic approach combined with our practical Christian worldview training.

Furthermore, our parents, along with us will desire to see their children submit themselves to Jesus the king to receive salvation. They will prioritize character development and support MCS as we seek to encourage, rebuke and exhort their child on to Christlikeness.

### **In Our Cultural Impact**

Our students will shape society through their faith and influence, and Manukau Christian School will be recognized as a leading institution not only in Christian education but in education as a whole in New Zealand. We aspire to be a "city on a hill," shining a light that draws others to the value of Christian education. Pastors and churches will increasingly see the biblical necessity of Christian education, reinforcing our role in extending Christ's kingdom.



As we seek such an exciting future, it is extremely important to remember the truth that God is sovereign. The book of Proverbs says, "*The heart of man plans his way, but Yahweh establishes his steps.*" It is our great desire that God will bless our school as we seek to be a part of his great purposes in seeing his kingdom grow and more and more of the world acknowledge Jesus is Lord. May God bless these desires of our heart and establish our steps for the glory of his name and the extension of his kingdom.

### **June Series Cambridge Exams**

Year 11 students have been following a very full program, and by sitting their English and Mathematics exams in June, they were able to ease the pressure of having six external Cambridge exams at the end of the year. The results were impressive, with **10 out of 15 students** earning either an A\* (90% or higher) or an A (80% or higher) in English. The remaining students achieved B grades, showing strong overall performance. In Mathematics **27% of students** attained an A or A\* grade. Well done Year 11 students. Once the Year 11 students complete their end-of-year IGCSE exams, they will be in a position to select their preferred subjects for further study.

Kind Regards,  
Scott Kennedy *BA/BSc, Dip.Tch*

**Principal**

## CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
16	17	18	19 Nano-Girl Y3-6	20
23 St John Y7-8	24	25	26	27 Assembly Y1-8 School finishes 12.30pm
HOLIDAYS				
7 OCT HOLIDAYS	8 OCT	9 OCT High School Students start term 4	10 OCT	11 OCT
14 OCT TERM 4 starts 8.30am Y1-8 Primary Assembly 8.50am CAIE Exams start Y6 Checkpoint Exams	15 OCT Y6 Checkpoint Exams	16 OCT Y6 Checkpoint Exams	17 OCT	18 OCT

## GENERAL NOTICES

### ***Enrolments and Withdrawals for 2025***

We are incredibly thankful for the Lord's provision, as our enrolments for next year have exceeded available places, and we now have waiting lists for all year levels. We kindly remind families to encourage friends and relatives to enrol early. Lodging an enrolment form does not indicate acceptance.

Last week, we sent an email outlining our plans for 2025. If you are considering withdrawing your child at the end of this year, please notify us by returning the withdrawal slip by the end of this term. Families who wait until the end of the year to inform us of their withdrawal will be responsible for paying Term 1, 2025 fees. If you are unsure or considering a withdrawal, we encourage you to speak with Mrs. Oosterbeek in the office as soon as possible.

A friendly reminder that fees are due in the first week of each term unless you have an established payment plan. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Oosterbeek.

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## GENERAL NOTICES

### *Thank you*

- For your attendance at the Pathways Evening earlier this term.
- For your support of the recent Run4Bibles event, supporting your child in getting sponsors and encouraging your child with their run on the day. Please return any sponsorship money to school and/or make your donation online.
- For supporting the junior Father's Day celebration.
- For supporting our high school's sausage sizzle fundraiser for their end of year graduation celebration.
- For your offers of help with various activities, including swimming—without which we could not take part.
- For spreading the word about our school.



### *Health and Safety*

- We are serious about Health and Safety at school. Thank you parents who consistently ensure the safety of their children by parking your car in the correct place, and walking your child to the central courtyard area from the upper carpark. Parents, **please** be respectful of others by parking your car, not blocking the driveway, and parking along the road if your child is Year 4 and up.
- Please observe the direction of the arrows in the upper carpark.
- Please update your contact details—address, phone number and email if this changes. Often this only comes to light when a child is unwell.
- If your child has had vomiting or diarrhoea, they need to stay home for 24 hours before returning to school to prevent spreading illness.
- Please download the Skool Loop App—not only do we use this for messages and notices, but we will use this in an emergency. Information loaded to this app is available instantly and can be viewed on your phone. Student absences can also be notified via this app.
- Any new medications that your child may be taking e.g. asthma inhaler, must be accompanied by a *Medications Advice* form, available from the office.
- Please report any hazards to the office.

### *Late Students or Absent students*

Please ensure that your child has signed in at the office if they are late. We will follow up and ring you, assuming your child is not here if they have missed the morning roll. If your child is going to be away and you have let their teacher know, please also let the office know. Thank you.

# HAPPENINGS

## Run4Bibles



Running our cross country in August does create it's own challenges weather-wise! We are thankful that both the Year 1 to 4 and Year 5 to 8 events were able to take place on their scheduled days. Students and marshalls knew exactly what to do and where to go—and go the students did! The many laps students ran during training sessions paid off as they got fitter and fitter, enabling them to run with ease. If any parents are interested in continuing on this fitness, there are great parkrun programmes on Saturday morning that families can attend.

Students have worked hard to get sponsors to raise funds for those that are Bible-less in South Africa. Please ensure that your child has returned their form and money now. We will update you with totals as soon as we can.

### Results per Year Level

	1 <sup>st</sup> boy	2 <sup>nd</sup> boy	3 <sup>rd</sup> boy	1 <sup>st</sup> girl	2 <sup>nd</sup> girl	3 <sup>rd</sup> girl
Year 1	Wesley Li	Ryder Edmons	Paulo Mathew	Isabel Asairi-gadu	Rheia Daniel	Stella Alarcon
Year 2	Fateh Maan	Jayden Song	Clyde Panganiban	Amelia Posthuma	Beatrix O'Neill	Emily du Plessis
Year 3	Euan Alarcon	Japjot Boparai	Ayin Varghese	Chunyu Sun	Bonnie Li	Elva Wang
Year 4	Eben Schellingerhout	Jonty Faletanoai	Hugh O'Neill	Teegan Posthuma	Jessica Smilde	Sky Alarcon
Year 5	Basti Alarcon	Torres Young	Hunter Edmonds	Kayla Posthuma	Iris Yim	Ivy Li
Year 6	Harry Smilde	Jean Schellingerhout	Matthew Slabber	Jovel Ong	Anje Schellingerhout	Summer Li
Year 7	Evan Nebu	Joshua Wang	Joshua Zhu	Abigail Anbunathan	Kadia Wong	Kudrat Boparai
Year 8	Alaric Maney	Harrison Willis	Victor Carter	Emma Kurian	Oriana Kuik	Harmony Maireroa

### Overall Winners

<b>First Boy</b>	Alaric Maney	17:37
<b>First Girl</b>	Abigail Anbunathan	22:00



Congratulations on a race run well!



# HAPPENINGS



It was an unimaginable feeling to be able to run at Barry Curtis Park. Although I felt like collapsing, God gave me the strength to power through and run all the way to the end.

**Jesse Faletanoai**

It was a wonderful experience to collect money as well as complete the run for Run4Bibles. It is a privilege to provide Bibles to students in South Africa.

**Abigail Anbunathan**

Run for Bible was tiring, but worth it. Bringing Bibles to the unfortunate is a privilege. I hope the people who receive them are improving their lives through God.

**Pawarisa Phoncha**

Rookies going for gold  
Unbelievably long distance  
Nausea starting to kick in  
Not knowing what to do  
Insane amount of money raised  
Needing medical attention  
God's plan for us.

**Asher Reitsma**



# HAPPENINGS

From cross country, I learnt three memorable lessons: generosity has no boundaries when advancing the kingdom of God, putting others first gives off a spectacular feeling and juices are delicious after a hot day of running.

**Hannah Shallard**

Cross country was not only a time for us to run for fun, but a time for us to show we are God's people. It was an experience I will never forget.

**Harjannat Mangat**

Although I was feeling exhausted, I did my ultimate best to run the 4km. It was amazing how well I did.

**Rikhil Shankar**





# HAPPENINGS

## Father's Day Celebration

Dads, Dads, Dads everywhere! We were overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and support you gave to this event and appreciated that many dads could take time off from their busy schedules. Students whose dads were unable to attend, were matched with a senior student 'stand-in' dad. Dads enjoyed their morning coffee or tea, cookie, and playing games with their children—darts, ring toss, bean bag toss and water cascade—and their skills were outstanding. The photo booth proved very popular too! We loved having you and had some key takeaways on how we will improve the event for next year. Book this in now!



### Comments from Year 1

**Wesley:** My favourite game was throwing marbles into the water. It was nice having dad at school.

**Isabel:** I loved it when my dad gave me a piggyback ride on his back.

**Rheia:** I loved playing darts with my dad. My dad won the most.



# HAPPENINGS

## Years 1 to 4—Father's Day Celebration



**Above:** Students whose dads won a game proudly display their certificates and chocolates. We're sure the chocolates were generously shared with their children!

### Comments from Year 2

**Alvin:** I enjoyed throwing the beanbag toss. My dad loved being here with me.

**Kiaan:** I enjoyed the beanbag throw because I got lots of beanbags in and my dad got none. The funniest moment was during the water cascade game because my dad got one marble in the cup.

**Emily:** I loved the dart game because me and my dad got a lot of points. The best thing was that my dad won a box of chocolate.

**Caoimhe:** I enjoyed the dart ball game because I got lots of points.

### Comments from Year 3

**Jahnvi:** My favourite thing was taking photos with my dad using the props.

**Japjot:** During Father's Day the funniest moment was when my dad slipped and the beanbag made it into the hole, so we both started laughing.

**Chunyu:** My favourite moment was when my dad got 3 marbles into the cups during the water cascades game.

**Gurnaaz:** the funniest moment was when I ate one of the cookies my dad was supposed to eat.

### Comments from Year 4

**Aaroha:** My favourite moment was playing the water cascades game with my dad because I got more points than him. The best thing about the day was that I had an amazing time with my dad.

**Sky:** My funniest moment was when we took a photo, and my dad chose the moustache, and he thought it was under his nose, but it was actually on his chin. We even laughed that afternoon while we drove home.

**Johnny:** My funniest moment was during the beanbag toss, I tossed 3 beanbags, and I didn't hit anything, and my dad said let me try and then he also missed all three beanbag throws.

**Miranda:** My favourite memory was showing my dad around the class and telling him what we do during the day. The funniest moment was when he pretended to be me and sat at my desk.

**Jonty:** The funniest moment was when my dad joked around with the highschoolers and told them he just got out of surgery and needs another go. My favourite part was when I threw the ball on the dartboard, and it stuck. After that my dad threw the ball on the exact same spot and then it fell off. He did still win in the end.

# HAPPENINGS

## ***Year 1 to 4—Super Smash***

With summer months approaching, students in Years 1 to 4 enjoyed the expertise of New Zealand Cricket coaches to cover the fundamentals of cricket, including movements such as catch, strike, throw and move. These skills are never lost as they mature into keen sportsmen and women!



## ***Year 6—Cambridge Checkpoint Preparations***

Year 6 students are busy preparing for their upcoming Cambridge Checkpoint exams taking place at the start of Term 4. With enthusiasm and a few nerves, they will have the opportunity to work through some past exam paper questions so as to familiarise themselves with what it will be like on the actual day.

Part of the purpose of sitting these exams is for students to showcase what they are able to do by the end of Year 6. There are also important skills to be gained such as: reading questions carefully, using time wisely to ensure completion in the given time limit and checking over work thoroughly, looking for any errors they may have made.

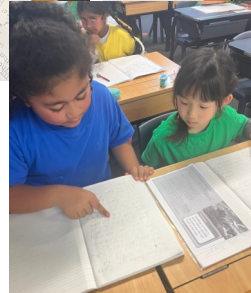
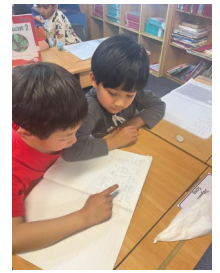
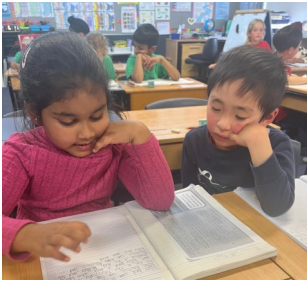
From experiencing success with sentence structure to nailing negative numbers, this preparation will be an essential element to ensure students can approach the exams with confidence.





# HAPPENINGS

## Year 2—Buddy Reading



Students have been proudly reading aloud the stories they wrote in class. Great effort and creativity.

## Year 5—Acrostic Poem

**A**t the cross, Jesus died for our sins,  
**S**atan has been defeated.  
**S**in will continue, but God will give me strength.  
**U**ntil Jesus returns, God will give us faith,  
**R**ead the Bible because it gives us faith.  
**A** wonderful life awaits for us in heaven.  
**N**o evil, sin or anger be in heaven.  
**“Come,”** Jesus tells us,  
**E**ternal Life is promised by God.

*By Ellie Luo*

## Year 5—Art Blocks



Under the guidance of Mrs. Tegg, our Year 5 students have created delightful and humorous art blocks featuring dogs and cats. These wonderful pieces were recently gifted to our local MP, Mrs Rima Nakhle, to brighten up her office.



# HAPPENINGS

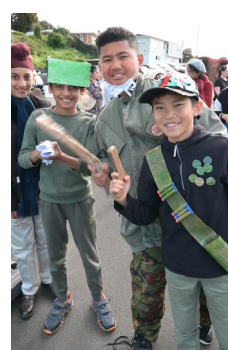
## *Year 5 to 8—Book Character Day*



Senior Primary students recently dressed as characters from novels they studied in English. They delivered speeches about their characters, with many incorporating persuasive language techniques they learned in class. The day included listening to impressive speeches that showcased students' deep understanding of their characters. It ended with a Year 5-8 assembly, where students paraded across the stage to show off their fantastic and very thoughtful costumes—with some students being completely unrecognisable! Thank you to parents for all their support in sourcing and creating costumes, and for listening to speeches being rehearsed at home.



	Best Speech	Best Dressed
Year 5	Basti Alarcon	Nolly Kurian
Year 6	Summer Li	Emily Willis
Year 7	Hannah Shallard	Jesse Faletanoai
Year 8	Amelia Foronda	Harrison Willis

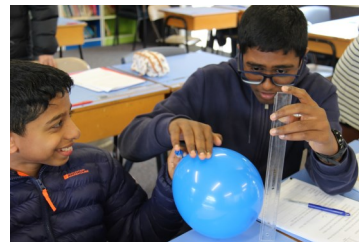
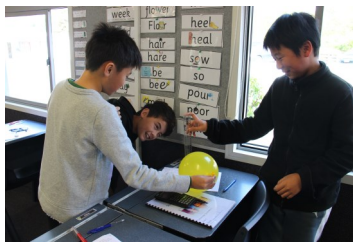




# HAPPENINGS

## Year 7 Science

Year seven science students had a lesson on “Air and its composition”. They finished the lesson by calculating their “vital capacity”, the volume of air in their lungs. This involved teamwork, reading and following instructions, measuring, calculating, and recording, as well as blowing up balloons! One of the calculations included capacity which they had learnt about in term 1 with some metre long straws”

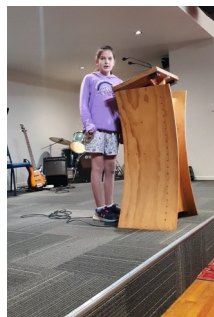


## Primary School Assembly

Primary school assemblies are a wonderful time for all year levels to get together and interact with each other. We had students from Year 2 and Year 7 showcasing their work: singing and reading folk tales that they'd written.

One of our student leaders, Matthew Shallard, delivered a thought-provoking devotion based on the armour of God. Matthew

started his devotion with an interactive question and answer session, asking students what clothing was good to wear for certain activities, and followed this with God's armour that we can wear for our own spiritual protection. Thanks to Vinayak for his great modelling





# HAPPENINGS

## High School– Anything but a Bag Day

Have you considered how heavy our students' bags are when they're filled with their books? Then try replacing their bags with anything **but** a bag! From kitty boxes to chilly bins, microwaves to dustbins, portable toilets to dollhouses—their imagination ran wild, and sparked some great conversations and laughter. Quite an amazing array of accessories!



## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**SCRATCHPAD**  
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**SCHOOL**  
Holiday Programmes

Make the most of your holidays with a fun-filled learning experience!  
**30<sup>th</sup> September - 11<sup>th</sup> October**  
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### Love Tennis?



Jellicoe Park Tennis Club  
Marr Road, Manurewa  
All Welcome.

Junior coaching starts Friday  
13th September 2024.

All queries please phone Peggy  
021 201 8824 or email  
[jellicoeParkTennis@hotmail.com](mailto:jellicoeParkTennis@hotmail.com)

## MATTERS FOR PRAYER



### ***Give thanks:***

- for the approved building consent for our high school block
- for the excellent results received in our IGCSE mid-year English and mathematics examinations
- for a wonderful celebration for Father's Day in the junior primary
- for committed and supportive school families



### ***Please pray:***

- that the building project will be completed on time for the start of the 2025 academic year
- for God's provision for staffing for 2025
- for our seniors as they prepare for these last few weeks before external exams

## Scripture

*"The heart of man plans his way, but Yahweh establishes his steps."*

Proverbs 16:9

## TERM DATES

### 2024

**Term 1:** 1 Feb to 12 Apr  
**Term 2:** 29 Apr to 5 Jul  
**Term 3:** 22 Jul to 27 Sep  
**Term 4:** 14 Oct to 13 Dec

### 2025

**Term 1:** 3 Feb to 11 Apr 2025  
**Term 2:** 28 Apr to 27 Jun 2025  
**Term 3:** 14 Jul to 19 Sep 2025  
**Term 4:** 6 Oct to 12 Dec 2025

(Years 9 to 13 finish dates to be confirmed)



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