



Newsletter

Term 4, Week 8, 2024

5 December 2024

Manukau Christian School

Dear MCS Friends and Families,

As most of you are aware, our character virtue highlight this year has been gratitude. We have sought to instil in our community a sense of gratitude for all that God has done, is doing, and will do among and through us. In our last newsletter of the year, I thought it would be fitting to focus on some of the things we can be grateful for.

This year has seen the ongoing progress of our largest building project to date: the construction of a new block adjoining the current high school block. This project will provide us with a full-size classroom, a mid-size classroom, and a much-needed toilet block. This has been a massive undertaking, fully self-funded through our school savings and overdraft facility as well as generous donations from parents and supporters of the school. Along the way, we've faced numerous challenges, including redesigns after consultations with the church, delays in construction, and



significant unexpected costs—such as a \$100,000 Watercare-required pipe replacement. While the project was initially planned for completion earlier this year, we now look forward to opening these spaces in Term 1 of 2025. The progress is encouraging, with foundations laid, framing up, and critical infrastructure completed. Though this year has meant high school classes had to meet in less-than-ideal spaces like the staff room, we are thankful for God's provision throughout this process and eagerly anticipate the benefits these new facilities will bring to our school community in the new year.

Another reason to be thankful this year is the incredible start our students receive in Year 1. Recent data from Mrs du Plessis, our Year 1 teacher, shows that by the end of their first year of school, her current Year 1 students have achieved a median spelling age of 8.1 years and a median reading age of 7.9 years, with some reading at a 10-year-old level or above.

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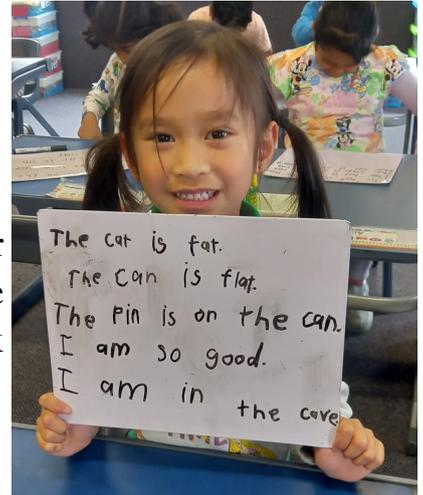
CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International School



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
OF NEW ZEALAND

This is a testament to the strong foundational work Elaine provides, giving our youngest students an excellent platform for future success. We are also excited for Elaine, who is expecting her fourth child, though we will miss her while she takes maternity leave. We are thankful, however, that God has provided Janina Harris to step in next year. Janina, who taught Year 3-4 at our school about a decade ago, brings creativity, enthusiasm, diligence, and a love for the Lord. We are confident that she will continue the excellent work in Year 1 and are grateful to have her back on the team. Elaine and Janina will team teach in term 1 so as to ensure a seamless transition.



At the other end of the school is another reason for gratitude. Recently, many from our community had the opportunity to attend the graduation dinner for our Year 13 graduates, along with a couple of Year 12 students moving on from the school next year. Held off-site for the first time at Formosa Golf Resort, the evening was a celebration of gratitude, as students gave heartfelt speeches thanking their parents and teachers. A spirit of thankfulness permeated the event, highlighting the Lord's goodness and the strong relationships between students and staff. These relationships were evident not only in the sincere words shared but also in the light-hearted banter, as students and teachers reflected on humorous moments and character traits.



It was a joy to see everyone dressed in their best, enjoying a meal together with parents, staff, and students, celebrating the partnership that has supported these students throughout their school years. I came away deeply encouraged, thankful for the ways God has blessed our school community, and excited for what lies ahead for our graduates.



As we reflect on the many reasons to be thankful this year, it is vital to remember that the success of our school does not rest on our own efforts, the abilities of our teachers, or the talents of our students. As Paul reminds us in his epistle, "What do you have that you did not receive?" Everything we achieve and everything we have comes from God's gracious hand. Let us not grow complacent or self-reliant, but instead, allow our successes to deepen our gratitude to God, who has enabled and blessed us in all that we do. As we celebrate the achievements of this year, may we remain grounded in humility and continually point back to the goodness of our Lord, who is the ultimate source of all our blessings.

Exciting Changes for Year 8 in 2025!

We are thrilled to announce some fantastic updates for our Year 8 students in 2025! As part of their transition into high school, Year 8s will now officially be part of the high school team. This means they'll enjoy the benefits of a more specialised learning experience, with dedicated subject teachers for each area.

While they'll stay in one classroom, having different teachers for different subjects will give them a great introduction to high school learning. It's an opportunity to build independence and engage deeply with each subject in preparation for the years ahead.

There will also be a slight adjustment to the school day for Year 8 students:

- **Start time:** Administration and homeroom will begin promptly at **8:30am**, so students should ensure they're in class by then.
- **End time:** The last class will finish at **3:10pm**, followed by a short admin period to wrap up the day by **3:15pm**.

The slightly longer day is designed to maximize learning opportunities and prepare students for the high school structure. The process of entrance into Year 9 remains as it has been: families must apply to enrol and acceptance is not guaranteed.

We're confident these changes will help our Year 8 students grow academically and personally, readying them for a smooth transition into high school life.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership throughout this year.

Kind Regards,
Scott Kennedy

Principal



CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 December Bike Skills Y5 North Island Trip Y13	3 Bike Skills Y6 North Island Trip Y13	4 North Island Trip Y13	5 North Island Trip Y13	6 December Thanksgiving 1.30pm Y1 to Y4
9 Y9 and Y10 reports issued	10 Last Day Y9 and Y10 (Y9 and Y10 finish at 3.15pm)	11 Thanksgiving 1.30pm Y5 to Y8	12 Primary School reports issued	13 Assembly 8.50am Y1 to Y8 School finishes 12.30pm
HOLIDAY				
3 February 2024 Term 1 starts	4 February	5 February 2024	6 February 2024 Waitangi Day	7 February 2024

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 the new term next year. This day not only sets the tone for classroom engagement, routines and activities are explained and it is helpful in building relationships. Please note there is **no school on Thursday 6th February 2025**.

GENERAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving Services and Reports

We warmly invite all parents to join us for our upcoming Thanksgiving Services and prize-givings, where we come together to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our students. Students have been practising their songs, actions and lines for their items, 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 12th December 2024. Please ask your child for their report.



GENERAL NOTICES

Enrolments for 2025

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.

Fees 2025

The fee structure for 2025 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. Please check the *Schedule of Fees* page as published in our prospectus.

Miscellaneous

- Thank you again for saving your stickers from Yummy Apples. The school benefits from this with sport equipment.
- Thank you for supporting your child with their calendar art masterpieces.
- Please ask your child to check the lost property basket in the Junior foyer area. All lost property will be donated to charity at the end of the term.



House Points

Term 4	Wilberforce	Calvin	Te Wiremu	Tarore
Week 8	92	111	119	128
Term 4 Total	???	???	???	???

House points to date as above—and who is going to win the coveted house trophy for 2024? Watch this space!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Missionary Visit



Miss Goodwin came to talk to students in Year 1 to 5 about her time as a missionary in Indonesia. She gave us wonderful facts about her experiences in Indonesia. For example, sharing the gospel of God to people who don't know about Jesus.

Akshaya Sureshan and Caitlyn Chand

Year 1 Writing—Missionary Visit

Missionary Visit

There's a lot of floods and a lot of monkeys in the forests in Indonesia. There's also lots of villages and no electricity. They eat chicken every day and rice. They do wash their dishes in the river. They travel with boats.

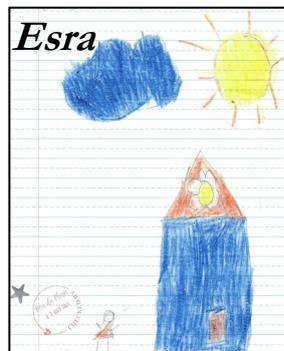
Wesley

Missionary Visit

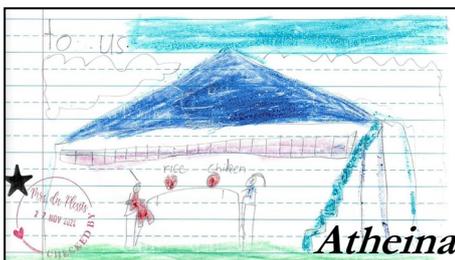
There was a lot of floods. They do have a different language. They don't have electricity like a washing machine. In the jungle there are a lot of monkeys and goats. They don't drink dirty water from the rivers. They eat chicken for lunch and they eat rice for dinner. When there are a lot of floods, the rescue girls and boys say "Go to the boat."



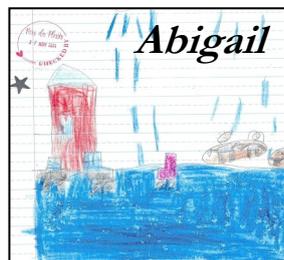
Mila



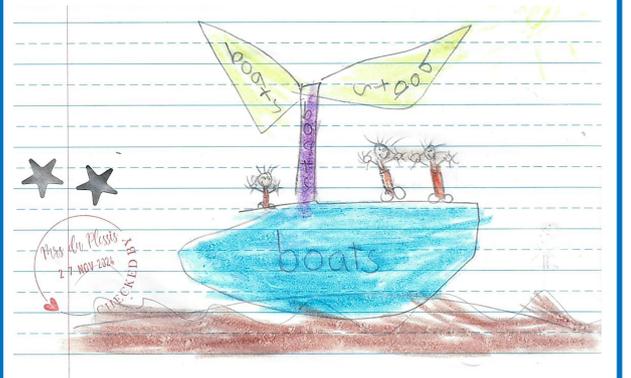
Esra



Atheina



Abigail



Mehrsa

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 1 and 2—Botanic Gardens



On a recent trip to the Botanic Gardens, our students examined the structure of plants and discovered the diverse habitats of plants and insects. This hands-on learning experience solidified their school learning. It was a superb outing and a special thank you to parent helpers for your assistance.

Year 2 Circuits



Students in Year 2 worked hard to create their own circuits. This helped them to understand the flow of electricity as set out in the science curriculum. Well done!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 2 and Year 11 PE

The Year 11 students had the task of planning and running a mini athletics session for the Year 2 class this term. They spent a lesson planning the station they would run around the concept of Run, Jump or Throw and then got to play with the equipment to make sure the station would run smoothly. The Year 2s then had the opportunity to experience each station in a PE lesson. All students enjoyed the lesson, had fun, and learnt new skills.



Lunchtime—Year 6

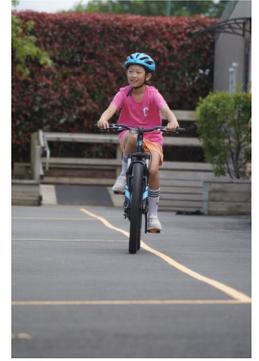
The 'Instrument Game' is an extremely fun game that tests your ability to keep a rhythm and concentrate. We learnt how to play it in class and loved it so much that we decided to play it during break times too. Everybody is assigned a different instrument which has a particular move that goes with it. The goal of the game is to send a signal around the circle by doing your instrument first and then the actions of another instrument. It gets harder as the rhythm gets faster. You are out if you miss the beat or do the wrong instrument actions. Basically, you want to be the last instrument left.



Summer Li

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 5 and 6—Bike Day



Bike Day was fun. Whether we were a beginner rider or experienced, we all learned many skills. The instructors taught us about how and when to use gears and how to signal to other road users.

Check your helmet:

- Shell
- Styrofoam
- Sticker
- Straps

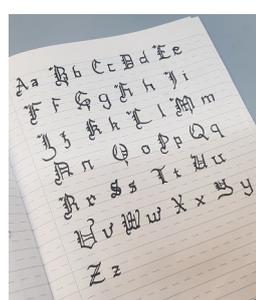
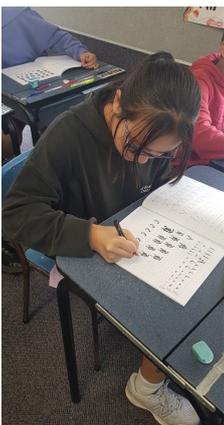
Check your bike:

- Air
- Brakes
- Chain
- Direction
- Drop
- Quick release levers

Getting on a bike:

- Left
- Levers
- Lean
- Look
- Lift Leg Over
- Be pedal ready by lifting the pedal from underneath

Year 8—Calligraphy



Year 8 students embraced the art of calligraphy, finding it both enjoyable and rewardingly challenging. This creative journey not only enhanced their fine motor skills but also taught them the value of perseverance. It encouraged them to slow down, focus, and take pride in crafting beautiful characters—a very enriching experience!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 7 and 8—Kiwi Kapers



Kiwi Kapers is always a calendar highlight for our Year 7 and 8 students and this year was no exception. The Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, joined by the New Zealand Dance Company, delivered a captivating performance, blending music and dance into a mesmerising story.



Year 7 and 8—Corban Art



It was an appropriate time to take up paint brushes and create spring putiputi saucers as the trees outside were blossoming and Spring had sprung. Creating their own sand saucer compositions with fresh flowers and



leaves, students then used their observation skills to make a colourful kaleidoscopic watercolour. Students also learnt about the history of gardens and NZ flora, flower arrangements and sand saucers. This workshop was both inspiring and rewarding.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

High School Thanksgiving Service and Award Presentations

Celebrating students' efforts and achievements at Thanksgiving Services is a fitting way to end the school year.

In particular, we congratulate **Thomas Fryer** and **Matthew Shallard**, both in Year 13, who each received a prestigious University of Auckland 140th Anniversary Academic Scholarship. Each scholarship is valued at \$5000 and recognises and rewards excellent academic performance for school leavers. Over 6000 applications were received and the panel were impressed with the dedication and hard work these students displayed. Well deserved!



Thomas Fryer and Matthew Shallard



Character Awards

Naye Yoon, Xavier Bethan, Lilly Peka, Samantha Goodwin, Ropati Laulala-Moala

Excellence Awards: 75% or above in all subjects

Year 9	Rebecca Datt
Year 10	Dane Mann
Year 11	Keira Shallard
Year 12	Opal Ahuja, Oswald Kuik, Ezra Liu, Rohan Prasad, Sahil Sandhu, Samardeep Singh, Serena Wang
Year 13	Matthew Shallard

Top Academic Awards

Year 9	Arun Nandu
Year 10	Dane Mann
Year 11	Keira Shallard
Year 12	Ezra Liu
Year 13	Jessica Goodwin

MATTERS FOR PRAYER



Give thanks:

- for the progress on the high school building project
- for the generous supporters of the school, helping support the project
- for the successful graduation dinner that was a testimony to God's goodness in the lives of our students
- for dedicated staff as we move into 2025



Please pray:

- for Mrs du Plessis that she will have a safe pregnancy
- for good rest and refreshment for all members of the school family over the holidays

Scripture to Ponder with your Family

¹⁷ What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?"

1 Cor 4:7b

TERM DATES 2024 and 2025

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 (Y1-7)
 1 Oct to 9 Dec 2025 (Y8-10)
 1 Oct to 21 Nov 2025 (Y11)

