



Newsletter

Term 4, Week 2, 2024

24 October 2024

Manukau Christian School

Dear MCS Friends and Families,
Welcome to Term 4.

In our last newsletter, our generational vision was emphasised. Manukau Christian School seeks long-term generational fruit through an unwavering commitment to our Reformed Christian heritage, the academic and theological excellence of our students, the quality and faithfulness of our staff, the full support of our parent community, and the lasting cultural impact our graduates will have. Ultimately, we trust in God's sovereignty as we seek to advance His kingdom through Christian education.

As we kicked off Term 4 in the primary school, we met for an Assembly where we looked at the fifth commandment and discussed how it related to our character goal for this year – that of **gratitude**. In Exodus 20:12, we find the fifth commandment: *'Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.'*

But how does this commandment connect to our character goal of gratitude?

Honouring our father and mother flows from a heart of gratitude for all they have done for us, most importantly giving us life. It is unnatural and sinful for a child to show ingratitude towards his

parents. The Reformers saw that this commandment should be applied not only to biological parents, but to forefathers – to those who came before us. It is unnatural and sinful to be ungrateful for those who have built what we enjoy today.

So as a school, we not only look forward in faith, but we look back in gratitude, first of all for what God has done, but also in gratitude to those He has used in our school's history. This list is not exhaustive, but

contains some of the key figures who contributed to Manukau Christian School's existence and flourishing in its early years.



Mrs Kay Coulthard was our foundation teacher. She started in 1987 with a class of twelve students ranging from 4 years old through to Intermediate age. Considerable financial sacrifices were made, yet Mrs Coulthard cheerfully served her students and their parents and was a favourite teacher for many past students of our school. She continued faithfully working amongst us until 2012. Her versatility was shown in her ability to manage a year 1 class through to teaching in our junior high school. Her knowledge and ability to capture students' interest in History, Bible and Geography were exceptional.

Mrs Kay Coulthard Mr Ross Thompson



Mr Ross Thompson was the minister of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Manurewa. Despite opposition amongst his elder board to the concept of a Christian school, Ross was a firm believer and supporter of the school and was integral to seeing it get off the ground.

Mrs Julie St George had a son who was a foundation student and she was our second ever teacher. She joined Kay Coulthard in 1989 and taught the senior primary students. Julie had a love for music and was a key person in organising Thanksgiving productions for many years in the school. Julie's versatility was seen in the way she managed multi-level classes for many years.

In 1993, Julie stepped down for a year to allow Mr Shane Kennedy to teach senior primary. Shane was the founding principal of St Andrew's Christian School, serving in a voluntary capacity as principal while working at a public Intermediate school. He did a full day's work at his school, and after school did the administration and paperwork for the Christian school. His educational expertise was invaluable as the school was being set up, and when he joined the school in a paid capacity, and despite only having primary training, he spearheaded a drive for the formation of our first high school: a junior high school that commenced in 1994. Shane remained as



Mrs Julie St George and Mrs Kay Coulthard on a school trip in early years

principal until 2017, and has continued to teach Psychology in a part-time capacity to our senior high school students.

Mrs Cherry Peek's two children were foundation students, and she, along with her husband Mr Rod Peek were active supporters of the school from its inception. Cherry joined the teaching team as our fourth teacher. She began as an intermediate teacher and later taught a variety of levels in senior primary. She served in the school from 1995 to 2012, and remains a reliever and exam invigilator to this day.



Mr Shane Kennedy reading to a group of students

Mrs Shirley Smith was a Board member and one of the parents on the original committee that set up St Andrews Christian School (now Manukau Christian School). She joined the teaching team when an emergency left our intermediate class without a teacher at the end of Term 1 in 2005, and taught amongst us until 2017. She became a beloved intermediate teacher. Shirley was responsible for putting together our school's Bible programme, and was known for her wisdom in dealing with children. She had a great understanding of working with boys. Her daughter Janina has also taught at our school.



Mrs Shirley Smith, Mrs Cherry Peek and Mrs Kay Coulthard

In addition to these teachers, we are grateful to the founding families: the Hunter, Kennedy, Little, McKenzie, Melville-Smith, Peek, Ready, St-George and Wilson families. Culturally, to reject the public system in favour of an untested Christian school with very little money and next to no resources, was courageous and a real sacrifice. The principal of one of the local schools that these students were being removed from called parents in to tell them they were making a mistake! These founding families had to volunteer as parent-helps, supervising play time and

making resources for the fledgling school. As a founding student however, I look back fondly on those days – even the fact that we had to use a plastic two litre bottle as a bat for PE!

All these teachers sacrificed significantly for the school. In those early days, salaries were far below what public system teachers earned, yet these servant-hearted individuals saw the vision of Christian education as more important than material advantage. To tell all the stories of those who sacrificed their time and finances for the school's success would take many newsletters, but we remain deeply grateful for every pioneer. May we carry forward this same sacrificial spirit, striving to pass on an even better school to future generations.



Kind Regards,

Scott Kennedy *BA/BSc, Dip.Tch*

Principal

Principal Awards

Congratulations to those students who received principal awards at the end of Term 3. These are awarded to students for outstanding effort in a wide range of activities.



Yr 2: Honour-Grace Betham and Alina Xu



Yr 3: Ayin Varghese and Joy Carter



Yr 4: Luca Pei, Julia Prakasa and Nikki Kumar



Yr 1: Mehrsa Mussa, Paulo Mathew and Flora Abdul-Farooq



Yr 5: Ryaan Bhatia, Veronica Chu and Akshaya Sureshan



Yr 6: Anaya Varghese, Emily Willis and Zane Jobin



Yr 7: Mannreet Maan and Yunho Kang



Yr 8: Nathaniel Dibu, Oriana Kuik and Kaitlynn Mathews

CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28 October School Closed Labour Day	29 SSA Cricket Yr 5 to 8	30	31 Botanic Gardens Y1 to 2 Corban Art Yr 7 to 8	1 November
4	5	6 Trustboard Meeting	7	8
11 Yr 9 to 10 Exams start	12 Kiwi Kapers Yr 7 to 8 1.00pm	13	14	15
18 Assembly Yr 1 to 8 8.50am	19	20	21 Graduation Dinner 6.00pm	22
25	26	27	28 High School Thanksgiving	29 Last day Yr 11 to 13
2 December Bike Skills Yr 5 North Island Trip	3 Bike Skills Yr 6 North Island Trip	4 North Island Trip	5	6 Thanksgiving Yr 1 to 4
9 Reports home: Yr 9 to 10	10 Last Day Yr 9 to 10	11 Thanksgiving Yr 5 to 8	12 Reports Issued: Yr 1 to 8	13 Assembly Yr 1 to 8 8.50am <u>School finishes 12.30pm</u>

GENERAL NOTICES

Maurice Papesch

Recently our beloved ex-caretaker Maurice Papesch passed away after a battle with cancer. Maurice was a faithful and gentle man of God who served his family, church and community quietly. We wish his family God's comfort, and find hope in the resurrection to come.



Enrolments for 2025

Thank you parents for your support of the school throughout this year. Your endorsement and word of mouth recommendation continues to help the school with a thriving roll. We give thanks for the substantial waiting list, with demand exceeding available places. Please also ensure that you complete an application form for younger siblings should you wish to enrol them in the future.

If you intend to withdraw your child, a full term's notice is required. If you do not notify the school a term in advance, then you are liable for the following term's fees, whether your child attends or not. If there is any possibility of withdrawal, please speak to Mrs Oosterbeek in the office.

GENERAL NOTICES continued

Thank you

Every year Bible League is incredibly grateful for the passion and commitment students and staff show in support of the Run4Bibles event. This year is no exception. Students and families raised \$18,547—that's 2,649 Bibles and 219 more Bibles than last year. Phenomenal effort! Our top fundraisers are:

Isabel Asairigadu Yr 1: \$1115

Oriana Kuik Yr 8: \$1008

Julia Prakasa Yr 4: \$839



Thank you for furthering Christ's kingdom work and for enabling bible-less families in South Africa to hear and read the Word of God.

Thank you too for supporting our senior students with the sausage sizzles this term. Mr. Kennedy loved nothing more than firing up the bbq, proudly donning his "The Boss" apron—because nothing says BBQ master like a title embroidered in bold letters! Armed with tongs in one hand and sheer optimism in the other, he put his barbequing skills to the ultimate test with the sheer volume of sausages to be cooked.

Health and Safety

Please take every step necessary to ensure your child practises good hygiene. If your child has a sore throat, please get it swabbed for strep throat as this is highly contagious and spreads quickly, especially amongst our younger students. Please report any hazards you notice to the office.

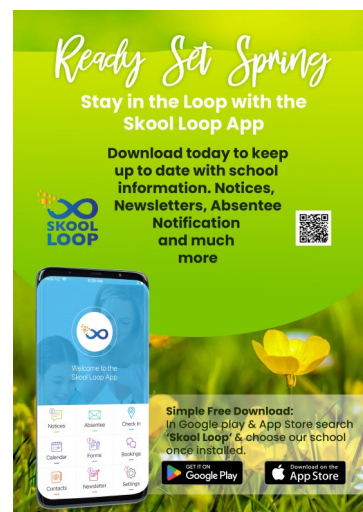
Please also be considerate and mindful of others as you use the carpark. Do not park in the disabled carpark unless you are displaying a permit. Please do not drive against the direction of the arrows: a **one-way** traffic system operates. Thank you.

Skool Loop App

Please download the App—this assists with absences and notifications, especially in an emergency. Please ensure that you select your child's correct class/year level.

Hats for Terms 1 and 4

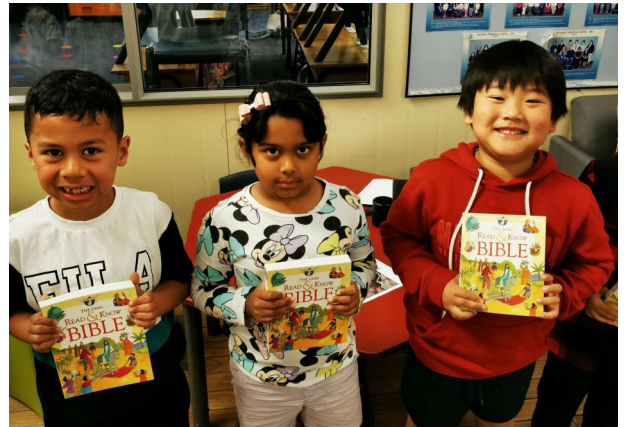
A reminder that your primary school child is required to wear a hat during morning tea and lunch time in Terms 1 and 4. If you would like to purchase a school hat or cap, these are \$18 each. Please remember to name your child's hat. Second-hand clothing items are available in the office.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 1—Phonics Completed

Year 1 students have been reading fluently for several months now, and to celebrate their success, each student was gifted a Bible. We pray that as they continue to grow in understanding and comprehension, they will find joy and guidance in God's Word, applying their newfound knowledge to their faith journey.



Year 1 students with their individual Bible

Years 3 to 6—Nanogirl



At the end of last term, Nanogirl wowed the Years 3 to 6 students with an exciting showcase of science experiments that left everyone in awe. From fire and water to colour-changing tricks, students were captivated by her dynamic presentations. Many had the chance to participate, creating an interactive experience full of surprises.

Highlights included the fiery “dragon breath” demonstration, thrilling fire explosions, and the mesmerizing display of fire changing colours with different chemicals. The



science was both fun and educational, with students describing the event as exciting and unforgettable. Everyone is already eager to see Nanogirl back again next year for another round of spectacular science!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Art in Year 5 and Year 6

Working with clay allows students to unleash their creativity as they roll, cut, and shape the material into a variety of imaginative items. Through this hands-on experience and the skilled guidance of Mrs Tegg, students not only have fun but also learn about different textures, shapes, and forms. Manipulating the clay helps them develop fine motor skills and brings their ideas to life in a tangible way, fostering both artistic expression and a deeper understanding of the world around them.



Drawing inspiration from artist Michel Keck, our Year 5 and 6 students were given images of cats or dogs, focusing on the original eyes and nose for their final collage. Using scrapbooking and wrapping papers, they created vibrant, textured pieces that brought their visual narratives to life in a unique and imaginative way.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Surf to School Years 7 and 8

Surf to School was a fun and educational experience. Rip currents and dangerously big waves may be something to look out for when you are on the beach. Thankfully, lifeguard Nick taught us how to escape them and stay safe if caught in one of them.

Jesse Faletanoai Yr 7

Safety will be between the yellow flags because Unknown currents can be found. Rips regularly drag people out, so Finding safety with the lifeguards is what it is about.

Asher Reitsma Yr 7



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND



During the Surf to School presentation, by the lifeguard, I learnt many new things. Spotting rip tides was extremely fun and getting to know about the four types of waves (spilling, dumping, shore-break and surging) was exciting too. I have thoroughly enjoyed this event, and hope to have this experience again.

Isaac Li Yr 8

Recently, our school was visited by the Surf to School programme who shared their knowledge on how to keep safe at the beach. During this hour-long session, we learnt what to do in an emergency at the beach, what potential dangers may be there, and how to avoid them; most importantly, we learnt how to safely have fun.

Harmony Maireroa Yr 8

The Year 8s truly enjoyed learning more about what lifeguards are able to assist people with, and more about their fun job. Nick, the lifeguard, taught us important skills to keep in mind especially when in danger. The three R's is an acronym used to help us when drowning. It stands for R- Relax, R-Raise R-Ride as well as which waves are safe, and how to detect a rip in the sea. Thank you for taking our time and coming to teach, we really appreciate it.

Vani Gupta Yr 8

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Year 7 Perspective

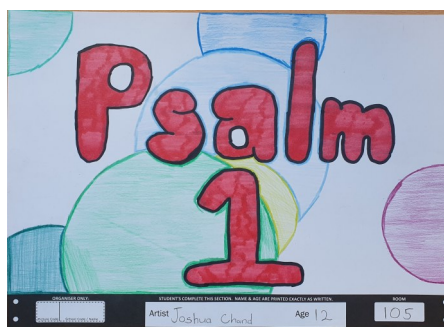
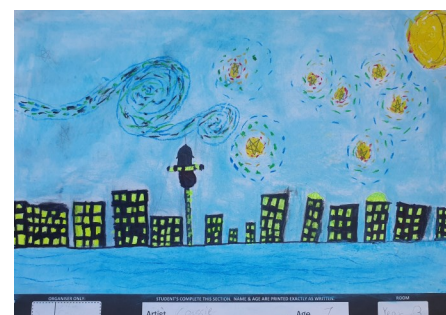
Our Year 7 students have been working on perspective art, featuring a lizard peering through a window or door from across the room, showcasing their developing skills in depth and dimension.



Calendar Art



Please return your form and money now to receive your order of calendars, cards, diaries, sketchpads and mousepads in time for Christmas.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

High School

We recently received results from the 2024 RACI International Chemistry Quiz that students in the high school sat. The Royal Australian Chemical Institute hosts an annual quiz that serves as an opportunity for teachers to gauge their students' understanding of chemistry and acts as a platform to encourage students to pursue studies and careers in chemistry. This works well alongside our Cambridge curriculum, giving our students opportunities to compete on the world stage. Our school scored above the average score for NZ schools with students enjoying the process.

The awarding of certificates of merit is described below:

Excellent—Awarded to a student who has 100% correct answers

High Distinction—The top 10% of students in the region

Distinction—The next 20% of students in the region

Credit—The next 20% of students in the region

Participation—Below 50% of students in the region



The following students are to be congratulated for achievement with **High Distinction**:

- Matthew Shallard • Opal Ahuja • Ezra Liu • Rohan Prasad • Rebecca Datt.

The following students did very well and attained achievement with **Distinction**:

- Oswald Kuik • Vinayak Sharma • Keira Shallard • Nandagopal Arun
- Veer Bhatia • Nathan Nischol • Naye Yoon • Aarya Ahlowalia
- Josiah Willis • Linda Liu • Amanjot Dhaliwal.

Student Achievement

Two of our students, Jean and Eben Schellingerhout (Year 6 and Year 4) recently each received *Player of the Year* awards in their respective soccer teams at Papakura FC. Both boys had a great season, learnt many new skills, and scored lots of goals for their teams.



Well done and congratulations boys! Keep up the great work and fitness levels!

Jean and Eben Schellingerhout

MATTERS FOR PRAYER



Give thanks for

- pioneering families and individuals who sacrificed much to allow this school to flourish
- the progress on our high school building project



Please pray for

- the Papesch family that they will be comforted in their loss
- our seniors sitting external exams
- the upcoming end of year school events, that they will be a testimony to God's faithfulness to us

Scripture

'Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long
in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.'

Exodus 20:12

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

(Years 9 to 13 finish dates to be confirmed)

