



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We hope our students and families enjoyed a restful break—despite the eventful weather! We are excited to begin a new term of learning and look forward to continuing our partnership with you as we seek to train your children to be courageous disciples of King Jesus. Term 2 is always a full and busy one. Our Year 11 students are preparing for (or perhaps quietly dreading) their IGCSE external examinations in English and Mathematics. Mid-year examinations for all high school students (Years 7–13) will take place in Weeks 6 and 7.

In the primary school, Years 3–6 will be enjoying swimming lessons on Fridays, while our Year 1 and 2 students will be participating in Gymsport. In the high school, a wide range of modules will be on offer, including Chess, German, Fabric Crafts, Squash, Cooking, Knitting, Art, Poker, and Badminton. These provide a great way for students to finish the week with something both engaging and enjoyable.

## Discernment: Choosing God's Path Over What Seems Right

On our first day back, I welcomed the students with some thoughts on this Term's virtue topic: wisdom, and specifically, the concept of discernment. I shared with the students Proverbs 14:12: *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."* This verse captures something deeply important—not just for our students, but for all of us. There are paths in life that can appear good, easy, and even wise at first glance, yet ultimately lead us in the wrong direction – a direction not of flourishing and life but of death.

I liken this to times I have been out in dense bush, and the trail forks. One way looks broader and easier. The other way looks more difficult – up a steep slope. But the important thing is to check the map and the trail markers, because what can look like a path can lead you deeper and deeper into bush and further and further from your destination.



An example of this right from the Scriptures is the fall narrative. Adam and Eve looked at the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which God had specifically commanded them not to eat. But as they looked, they didn't see the death that God had promised. Instead, they saw only benefits. The fruit would make them wise. It looked good to eat. It would make them like God. So they took the way that seemed right to them and its end was death. This narrative is a paradigm of all human folly. It's now in our nature, as sons and daughters of Adam to choose paths that seem right at first but are ultimately not for our good.

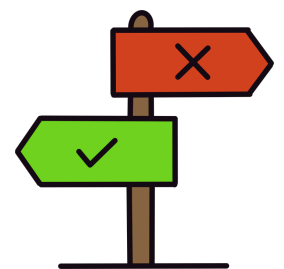
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This lack of discernment is something especially found in the nature of children. Proverbs 22:15 points out that *"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him."* The role of parents is to drive folly far from the child. This is done through instructing a child in wisdom and disciplining the child by giving him the consequences of his folly so that he may understand the link between choosing a path that seems right to him and undesirable consequences.

The Christian school assists parents in driving folly from the heart of the child. We do this through teaching our students the Scriptures. *What does God say about how life works? What does He say about how life should be lived? What does God say our life priorities ought to be?* The Scriptures are our compass to choosing the right path, not our feelings. Thus the Apostle Paul can say that the Scriptures are sufficient to equip the man of God for every good work. To help our students learn the wisdom of discernment, we will focus on five objectives:

### 1. Telling Right from Wrong

Adam and Eve wanted to determine good and evil for themselves, but this led to ruin. God is the one who defines right and wrong, good and evil. We need to train our students to know right from wrong by studying God's Word carefully. This is a central part of our Bible programme.



### 2. Seeing What Really Matters

Sometimes, it's easy to miss the essential thing and get distracted by trivial matters. Jesus once told a parable about a rich man who focused on wealth and comfort but ignored his soul. It is therefore our task to teach our students to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

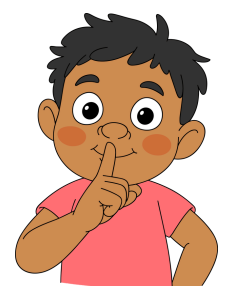


### 3. Asking Questions Before Acting

We will also be thinking about the importance of asking good questions before acting. Once again the Proverbs help us develop wisdom. *"Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed"* (15:22). Discernment means asking older, wiser Christians how to apply biblical truth to our particular circumstances.

### 4. Knowing When to Speak and When to Stay Silent

Discernment also requires us to know whether to speak. As a father of 7, I know the temptation children, not to mention adults, have, to always want the final word. But the Proverbs teach us that there are times when it is best to hold our tongue, and other times when discernment requires we speak up. Wisdom helps us determine what kind of situation we are in.



### 5. Recognise Deception and Manipulation

Finally we will be helping our students recognise deception and manipulation. We know that the devil is the father of lies, and he seeks to deceive and manipulate people to follow the path of folly which leads to destruction. Sometimes deception is very smooth and desirable and the truth seems rough and even harsh. Proverb 27:6 puts it this way, *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."*

It is important that our children learn that things that come in the form of kisses are sometimes directly from someone who hates us, whereas a true friend will sometimes wound us for the ultimate purpose of building us up. The gospel of Jesus Christ is that true faithful friend that breaks us down by showing our utter helplessness and wickedness before a holy God before it builds us up through the offer of salvation through Jesus Christ.

As a school community, we encourage you to consider these matters of discernment and keep them at the forefront of your family conversations this term as we do so here at school.

May God grant that we all grow in wisdom and discernment so that we may more effectively serve our King and His kingdom.

*Scott Kennedy*  
Principal



## Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>27 April</b> <b>ANZAC DAY</b> <b>School Closed</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1 May 2026</b> Swimming Y3-6
<b>4</b> High School Assembly 8:30am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Swimming Y3-6
<b>11</b> Primary Assembly 8:40am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Swimming Y3-6
<b>18</b> High School Assembly 8:30am	<b>19</b> Gymsport Y1-2, 1:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Swimming Y3-6
<b>25</b> <b>SCHOOL BIRTHDAY (39 Years)</b> Primary Assembly 8:40am Mid Year Exams Y7-13 Start	<b>26</b> Gymsport Y1-2, 1:30pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Museum Visit - At MCS - Volcanoes Y3-5	<b>29</b> Swimming Y3-6
<b>1 June</b> <b>KING'S BIRTHDAY</b> <b>School Closed</b>	<b>2</b> Gymsport Y1-2, 1:30pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Swimming Y3-6
<b>8</b> Primary Assembly 8:40am	<b>9</b> Gymsport Y1-2, 1:30pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Swimming Y3-6

# Important Note for Parents of Y7-10 Students

As our high school students approach Term 2 examinations, we would like to remind you that for students to progress to the next year level, students must achieve at least an **Achieved certificate** at the end of the year.

This requires *an average of 50% or more in at least five subjects* (including Bible), based on their Term 2 and 4 exam results. Students who do not meet this standard will be required to repeat their current year level. To avoid disappointment, we urge you to encourage your children to begin studying now, and seek teacher support in areas of weakness. Our teachers are always willing to go the extra mile for students who seek help.



## Student Leaders Update



Congratulations are in order to our two newly elected student leaders: **Lilly Peka** for Tarore and **Liam Nai** for Wilberforce.

Student leadership is about stepping up to serve others with humility, courage, and a willingness to take responsibility. Our students will be in great hands as they are guided by peers who model the school virtues.

## High School Enrolment

In case you did not read the notice in our previous newsletter, we would like to remind you that entry into the high school is now at Year 10. This is due to the recent restructuring and inclusion of Years 7 and 8 into the high school.

Students who are **currently** in Year 8 will have automatic entry into Year 9 next year. Students who are **currently** in Year 9 will have automatic entry into Year 10 next year.

## Yummy Fruit

We are still collecting completed sheets of stickers from Yummy Fruit. These stickers help us earn sports equipment for our school. Please download your sticker sheet from the website, <https://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/schools/> or collect one from the office. There is also a bonus variety sheet for Sweet Tango, Ambrosia and Lemonade Apples.

An advertisement for Yummy Fruit stickers. At the top, there is a row of various Yummy Fruit stickers, including brands like Rose, Ambrosia, Sweet Tango, and Red. Below this, the text reads: "Time to COLLECT Yummy stickers for our School's share of \$200,000 SPORTS GEAR". The "\$200,000" is in large white font, and "SPORTS GEAR" is in large orange font. Below that, it says "Download extra sticker sheets at yummyfruit.co.nz". At the bottom, there is a red apple with a green leaf, and a sticker on it that says "THE Yummy FRUIT COMPANY". The background is a blue sky with a green field.

# Rogers Road Carpark, Year 1-3 Students



Parents, if you are dropping off your child to walk through the carpark unattended, please remind them to **look up and around**. Aim to use the striped pedestrian pathway. Reversing cars cannot see shorter students and this is a safety hazard. For the safest method, consider holding your child's hand as you bring them to the Junior courtyard steps.

We sincerely thank our school community using the Roger's Road car park before 3:15 pm **only** when collecting Year 1-3 students.

Please put the Year 1-3 blue permit on the driver's side so it is visible from outside. This helps our traffic duty teacher to welcome you quickly.

Drivers, please assist us by not speeding through the carpark. The limit is 10km/hr for the shared zone.



## Year 1 Letterland Day



Our Year 1s have been 'travelling' through Letterland, a phonics programme that combines lively characters, funny stories, catchy chants and action movements! This culminated in a full day of Letterland-themed phonics activities, complete with dress up. We thank God for our dedicated teachers and parents for their hard work.



# Year 5 Street Rackets



# Year 5 Clay Art



# Year 5 Seed Germination



What makes a seed grow? Our Year 5 students investigated warm and cold, wet and dry, and light and dark conditions for seeds. We discovered that the seeds would always germinate as long as there was moisture and warmth! These plants are now growing in Mrs Goodwin's garden to make space for the new deck area under the Oak tree.



# Year 5-6 First Aid

What a way to wrap up Term 1: our students were fully immersed into the world of first aid, mastering the life-saving DRSAB (Danger, Response, Send for Help, Airway, Breathing). Groups energetically role-played broken bones and asthma attacks to strokes and choking. They learned to identify what's in a first aid kit and how to use it when it matters most.



# Year 6 Eye on Nature



Generously hosted by the Botanic Gardens, our students dove into hands-on, nature-based science. From exploring water pollution and powering up steam engines, to uncovering the secrets of animal predatory behaviour and discovering the rhythms of New Zealand's native bush cycles, curiosity was sparked at every turn.

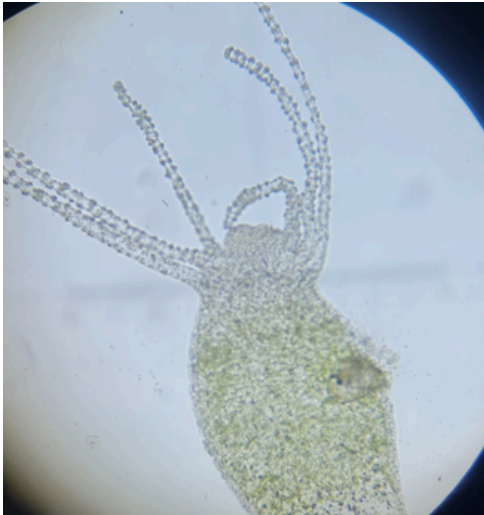
# New Junior Playground Deck



It's great to see our new decking beside the junior school playground taking shape. Custom designed by our very own Mr Ray Oosterbeek, who has a wealth of building experience, we look forward to students making good use of this deck before too long!

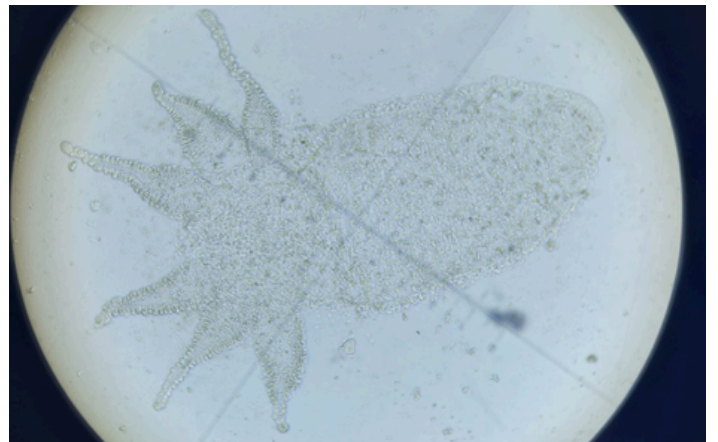


# Hydra Discovery!



*"How the Hydra got into the tank, we do not know. But there they were. One morning, after feeding the fish, I peered into the tank to see a multitude of miniscule - things. They had long, thin stems with a ring of fine tentacles around the top. We didn't know whether they were alive or not, but Mrs Prakasa took a sample and put it under a microscope. Upon looking into the microscope, she was surprised to find that the 'thing' in the sample was actually MOVING! There was no doubt that it was a living thing, and we soon found out what it was. Hydras are minute creatures. They can grow large enough to eat small fish and are able to regenerate. Overall, discovering the hydra was a fun experience and I will be sorry when they are gone."* Bethany, Year 9

*"In our class fish tank, we discovered a tiny (and kind of creepy) creature called 'hydra'. We could barely see it, but under a microscope it looked huge and a bit disgusting (in my own opinion). It suddenly popped up and gave Mrs Prakasa a fright. Some students thought it looked like an octopus, but I think it looked like a squid. We learned that hydras can be harmful to very small fishes and they are immortal. It was an interesting and exciting discovery!"* Akshaya, Year 7



# High School Tribal Wars

The last day of term erupted into action as our House Groups went head-to-head in an epic Tribal Wars showdown! Students from every year level proudly rocked their house colours and gave it their all in high-energy rounds of Capture the Flag, Battleships, Just Dance, Benches, and Volleyball.



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# High School Modules

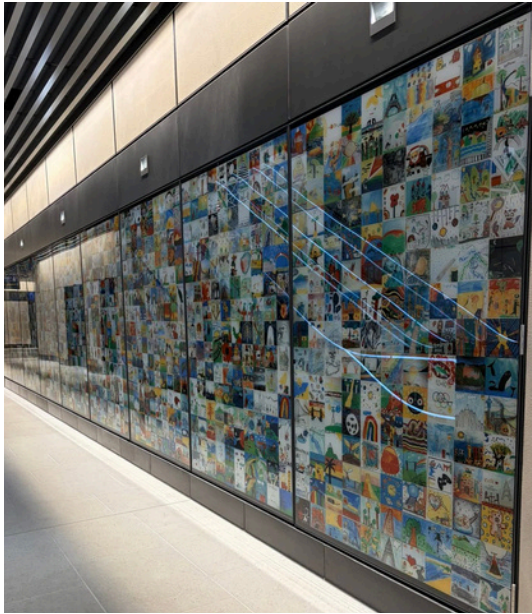
Our High School students kicked off an exciting new block of modules last week Friday that will run over the next four weeks.

From creative pursuits like French Knitting, Art, Fabric Arts, and Cooking, to language learning in German, and strategic thinking through poker and chess, there is something for everyone to explore and enjoy. Students also had the opportunity to get active on the squash court, adding a great balance of movement and skill development to the programme.

It was fantastic to see such high levels of engagement and enthusiasm during the first sessions. We look forward to watching our students grow in confidence and skill as they continue through this module block.



# Train Station Art



Art from our students has been selected to be displayed at the new Te Waihorotiu Station, part of the City Rail Link in the Auckland CBD. You can access the station from Wellesley St and Victoria St. The name comes from the gully that used to flow down Queen Street into the Waitemata Harbour. The station will open later this year and is expected to be the country's busiest station.

# Virtues Corner

## Seeds of Humility

It was wonderful to see junior students taking part in Mrs du Plessis' humility illustration after assembly. Students humbly followed the seed planting instructions to give their tomato plants the best conditions for growing well.



 A poster for 'Woodsmile' featuring a wooden suspension bridge over a forest stream. The word 'WOODSMILE' is written vertically in large, blue, distressed letters on the left.
 

**discernment & clarity.**

- Know right and wrong
- See what matters
- Ask questions
- Know when to speak or stay silent
- Recognise deception

# Wedding Bells!

Congratulations to former students, Mr and Mrs Ming and Jessica Chen on their recent wedding. Mrs Jessica Chen (née Goodwin) is a well-loved teacher aide in our Year 4 class.



# House Points

Term 1 totals show that Tarore is currently in the lead. We look forward to seeing how the competition unfolds!

**Tarore: 129**

**Wilberforce: 118**

**Calvin: 101**

**Te Wiremu: 97**



# Free Dental Care

**Niho Ora ki Manukau - AUT University's new oral health clinic right here in Manukau**

AUT is excited to share some fantastic news with you. A brand-new oral health clinic has opened and is offering a range of dental services, from assessment and diagnosis to prevention and treatment. Their focus is on keeping children's and young people's teeth healthy and tackling periodontal (gum) issues in adults, all while promoting oral health as something to be enjoyed by everyone.



Oral health care is provided by registered oral health professionals alongside students studying a Bachelor of Health Science (Oral Health) at AUT University. The best part? Care is completely free for children up to age 18 and for expectant mothers and babies. Parents can access comprehensive check-ups, diagnostic x-rays, and professional tooth cleaning at significantly reduced costs as well.

If the thought of the dental clinic brings back memories of the old "school murder house" you'll be pleasantly surprised. Our modern, bright, and friendly clinic is designed to put you and your family at ease. With state-of-the-art equipment and a strong focus on prevention, we are here to help you prevent tooth and gum problems.

Once your child leaves primary school, they can continue receiving care up to age 18, and then as adults can still access affordable check-ups and cleans with us. For more information, visit the clinic website, <https://adc.aut.ac.nz/> or email us at [oralhealthsouth@aut.ac.nz](mailto:oralhealthsouth@aut.ac.nz) or phone on (09) 921 9668.

AUT South Campus, ME Building, 640 Great South Road, Manukau, Auckland, 2025



# Matters for Prayer

## *Give thanks for*

- God's provision enabling us to upgrade our facilities including the new deck for primary students;
- our two new student leaders - Liam Nai and Lilly Peka.

## *Please pray for*

- the provision of a teacher to cover Mrs Vaea's maternity leave;
- our Year 11 students sitting their Cambridge IGCSE English and Mathematics exams;
- Mrs Harris to make a full recovery from her concussion, and for the safe delivery of her little one;
- our school community - that staff, parents and students will develop in wisdom and discernment more and more, so we may live aligned with God's design for His world.

## Scripture

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."



*Matthew 22:37-40*



## Term Dates 2026

<b>Term 1</b>	29 Jan to 2 Apr 2026
<b>Term 2</b>	20 Apr to 3 Jul 2026
<b>Term 3</b>	20 Jul to 25 Sep 2026
<b>Term 4</b>	12 Oct to 9 Dec 2026 (Y1-6) 7 Oct to 8 Dec (Y7-10) 7 Oct to 20 Nov (Y11-13)

School finishes at 12:30pm on the last day of each term.

