



Principal's News

Kia ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Ni Hao, Namaste, Bula Vinaka, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Kia orana, Mauri, Greetings.

Wow! The year is nearly at an end! MCS continues to be busy with activity! There are several updates and celebrations I am very happy to share with you.

Weather Tightness Reroof & Roof Repairs projects:

Administration and Auditorium blocks. The re-roofing work is proceeding to plan. This will continue through the summer holidays. Both projects are scheduled to be completed ready for the start of the new school year, 2026. Thank you for your continued patience, particularly at the start of the school day and at 3pm pick up.

Please avoid accessing MCS Admin driveway. This is currently a construction workspace. No MCS school services operate from this area. All MCS school enquiries are at the portacom office behind the white gates behind the Cenotaph.

Road Safety & Traffic Update

The AT team and Police continue to closely monitor the Hill Rd/Great South Road lights & around the school on Hill Road and Great South Road. AT will continue to work closely with MCS in 2026 to ensure safe crossing options for our children and families.

Attendance

Regular attendance has remained a strong focus nationally, and for our school during 2025. The Board is required to have an Attendance Management Plan in place for January 2026 and this will be available on the school website. As you will notice from our most recent attendance statistics, we are some way off the government's target of 80% regular attendance and our 2025 school target of 70%. MCS attendance target for 2026 is 80%.

As a parent and caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure.

Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent from school.

Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky. Health guidance to support you to decide is available at knowing if a child is well enough to be at school – Te Whatu Ora. If you are still unsure, or are struggling at home with getting your child to school, please talk to us.

Our school continues to build a culture that fosters attendance every day by having:

- School staff who have strong relationships with students and family.
- A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who you are, where you come from and what you value.
- A school whānau that takes all practical steps to make sure your child is at school and progressing in their learning.
- A school that is safe and welcoming for everyone in our school community.

If you have any attendance queries and issues, please contact us – we are here to help.

We have many successes to share including

Curriculum Insights and Progress Study - Supporting ākonga Māori in writing

MCS recently participated in this national study and assessment of writing - Y3 and Y6 students. Our students performed very well and we were one of the few schools to be invited to share the strategies and practices we use in writing due to our strong outcomes for Māori learners. We were strong in all 6 key pou that emerged from the analysis:

1. Pou tuakiri: Anchoring writing in identity, connection and cultural authenticity
2. Pou whanaungatanga: Building relationships that foster confidence, belonging, and wellbeing
3. Pou ako: Teaching with clarity, structure and purpose
4. Pou aromatawai: Guiding growth through feedback and reflection
5. Pou reo ā-ākonga: Empowering expression through student voice and agency
6. Pou tikanga ako: Strengthening writing through leadership, purpose and supportive structures

MPSSA (Manurewa Primary School Sports Association) Years 4-6

What an outstanding year of sport it has been for our tamariki. Our students have represented MCS with pride, teamwork, and sportsmanship across all MPSSA events. A special celebration goes to our exceptional swimming team, who powered their way to **first place** this year.

Street Racket - Facilitated by Brian Burnett Manurewa Squash Club Years 1-5

Our students have so enjoyed their coaching sessions with Brian. Many have demonstrated excellent racket skills and we are excited to continue working with the Manurewa Squash club next year.

Fundamental Movement - Gymnastics - Bruce Pulman Arena - Facilitated by Bruce Pulman Centre sponsored by Counties Manukau Years 1-3

Our JS students have thoroughly enjoyed this programme and faced challenges with excitement and determination in 'giving it a go!' It has been great to see so many of our children try and succeed in these activities and develop new skills. We look forward to participating in this programme again next year.

We hope to welcome you to our end of year prizegiving assemblies to celebrate the end of a wonderful year of learning at MCS.

Ngā manaakitanga

Sandy Griffin
Acting Principal

Friday 5 December 2025

These students have been

recognised by their class teachers for displaying our school value



Excellence is not being the best; it is doing your best!

Tōtara	Kōwhai	Ti Kōuka	Nikau
Kami	Vihaan	Dilshaan	Isaac
Steffarn	Matilda	Enoch	Rhea
		Tegbir	Yashmitha
Kartik			Raymlyh
Pūriri	Tītiki	Rimu	Kauri
Dolray	Cairo	Nina	Charanni
Agamdeep	Ahmed	Mani	Kaley
	Sina	Bradley	Dhwani

Summary of our Attendance Management Plan



Tōtara & Pūriri

Our children are very excited to be finishing the year. We've been learning about the different seasons and we know that summer is hot! Please remember that children should have shorts on and short-sleeved t-shirts under their jumpers so they don't overheat at playtimes! Ask us what our favourite season of the year is - do we love spring because the flowers bloom and baby animals are born? Or do we love snuggling up under a blanket by the fire or heater in winter?

Tītiki

Our tamariki have had a fantastic year of learning, growing and showing resilience. They've worked incredibly hard and deserve the holiday break ahead. Portfolios will be coming home soon and we encourage you to sit together, talk about their learning and celebrate the progress they've made. They are very proud of their achievement and can't wait to share these with you. We look forward to seeing you all at prizegiving next week to enjoy their performances. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season with whanau and look forward to seeing you all in 2026, arohanui, Tītiki!

Kōwhai

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of Term 4 - where has this year gone?! The children have been reflecting on their learning and celebrating how much they've grown and as teachers we are proud of them all! We have felt the beginnings of the summer weather in the past few days and have been anticipating holiday fun by writing summer poems. We hope you get to enjoy some of these things as a family over the summer holidays.



Summer looks like beautiful golden sandcastles getting washed out to sea.

Summer smells like steak burning on a steamy barbecue.

Summer feels like the tide pulling my feet out towards the deep blue sea.

Summer sounds like crabs clicking their claws along the beach.

Summer tastes like juicy delicious watermelon - perfect for a hot day.

Ti Kōuka

Ti Kouka is showing excellent focus and effort, continuing to learn and complete high-quality work right up to the end of the year. Our students are working incredibly hard learning and polishing the songs and dance for our end-of-year show. They are eagerly awaiting the chance to share this with you all on the 9th December. We've had fun mastering money concepts, becoming more familiar with our currency, counting, and making change. In literacy last week, we loved writing about the amazing, toxic Pufferfish! What a fascinating and dangerous creature!

Rimu

With the warmer weather Rimu is enjoying their time in the pool and working to build stamina in their swimming ability to begin to swim lengths. We have enjoyed playing cricket with Northern District Cricket and learning how to bat and field. We have some great throwing arms developing in Rimu! We have been working on information speeches and moving into persuasive writing which some children are finding challenging - but having a go anyway. We have started learning our songs for Prizegiving, and can't wait to show you all our groovy moves.

Nikau

Nikau has had a productive few weeks. We have continued learning more about animal food webs and looking into overfishing and animal sanctuaries. The Beautification Trust made a visit to Nikau to teach us how to make pest tracking tunnels which we put around the school to record what type of pests live at our school. We have had some amazing weather, so the children have enjoyed their swimming sessions.

Kauri

Kauri Ngahere has been very busy. The Year 6s are all very excited to be moving on to Intermediate School. They've shared how much they'll miss Manurewa Central School, but they're ready for a new challenge and feel it's time to branch out. Students have enjoyed writing their valedictions and recording special memories from their time at Manurewa Central School. We also have some students presenting their valedictions at our end-of-year celebrations. We are really looking forward to these celebrations so we can reflect on our year and celebrate everything our students have achieved during the 2025 school year. Earlier in the year, some of our students took part in CAM testing through Canterbury University. Zoravar, Abel, Chelsea, Italah, Anmol, Keshav, Sione, Sienna and Charanni participated in one or more of the English, Maths and Science tests. All students received a participation certificate. We were thrilled to see Zoravar and Charanni achieve in Science, and Italah and Abel receive a Merit. In the Maths testing, Charanni, Abel, Anmol and Zoravar received an Achieved. Finally, in the English test, Zoravar also received an Achieved. Well done to all these students – ka rawe!

Important Dates and INFORMATION

Junior School Prizegiving

Tuesday 9 December

(Tōtara, Pūriri & Ti Kōuka)

Junior School Prizegiving

Wednesday 10 December

(Tītiki & Kōwhai)

Year 6 Graduation

Wednesday 10 December

Senior School Prizegiving

Monday 15 December

End of Term 4

Tuesday 16 December