



# Principal's News

Friday 9 May 2025

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

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to launch the new parent portal released by the Ministry of Education this term. This online resource is designed to help you understand what your child is learning at school, how they are progressing against the curriculum, and what you can do to support them at home.

Ngā mihi,  
Michelle Dibben  
Principal

## Introducing 'Ted'

Our new resident at MCS.

A sculpture by local Clevedon artist, James Wright, has kindly been gifted to the children of Manurewa Central School by Dr Laurie Thew, School Principal 1983 to 2018.



## Ti Kōuka

To start the term, we've been delving into ANZAC stories to gain a deeper understanding of this important part of our history. Some of our whānau groups have been especially captivated by the tale of Torty the Tortoise, our oldest veteran. We've been reading various articles about Torty and tortoises, which has been a great way to practise our report writing skills. But that's not all! We're thrilled to introduce our new school pet, Contented, or "Ted" for short. This sculpture has quickly become a beloved member of our school community, and he's been receiving lots of pats and attention in the playground. Ted is bringing smiles to everyone's faces!

## Pūriri

"Pūriri are having a lot of fun learning about plants. We've looked at some different seeds and we have planted them. So far, we have a few little seedlings that are growing in the school greenhouse so we're hoping they'll keep growing! We're looking forward to our trip to the Botanic Gardens on May 21st where we'll learn even more from the experts!

These students have been

recognised by their class teachers for displaying our school value

<u>Totara</u>	<u>Kowhai</u>	<u>Ti kouka</u>	<u>Nikau</u>
Viraj	Honor	Arya	Shylon
Mahalia	Valentina	Harry	Evelina
Charandev	Zakiyus	Kali	Aliyah
<u>Puriri</u>	<u>Titoki</u>	<u>Rimu</u>	<u>Kauri</u>
Seneti	Mantej	Deijahzan	Eden
	Imyra	Indie-Rae	Onicah
	Ruby	Genevieve	Armeen



## Kōwhai

Welcome back to another term in Kōwhai! A maths challenge has been set for our pod which is learning our bonds to 10. Everyday we have been revisiting this to remember and retain! On Tuesday we had a wonderful day at the Botanic Gardens. Kowhai's little gardeners had a fantastic day learning about gardening and the life cycle of a flower. Each student had the opportunity to observe squiggly, wriggly worms by picking them up with a popsicle stick, or for the brave ones, their hands. We planted our own pea seeds and learnt what plants need to grow. We also replanted a seedling from its pot to a soil bed. Kowhai took their first step to creating their own garden. We can't wait to see how our pea seeds grow.

## Tōtara

We had a fantastic trip on Tuesday to the Botanic Gardens! We had wonderful weather and lots of fun digging and planting seeds. We dug soil, looked at wiggly wriggly worms - some of us were even brave enough to hold them! We learnt about what seeds and plants need to grow and planted our own seeds. We can't wait to see our seeds start growing.



## Rimu

Last week we started our first swimming lesson at the pools on Sykes Road. The children were respectful on the bus and at the pools, and we were very proud of them. Swimming lessons will continue for the next 6 weeks! To start the term we are learning about well known New Zealand people and we will be writing a Biography about one of our own choosing. In Maths we are learning how to tell the time - with analogue and digital clocks. We are learning our times tables and some of us are now learning the matching division equations.

As the weather gets cooler we are also reminding children to dress in layers so that they are warm in the morning but also able to remove a layer when they are playing outside during lunchtime.

## Nikau

The students in Nikau have wasted no time in getting back into their learning. We've started experimenting with sound and measurement. Everyone is enjoying our new fitness rotation which helps warm us up on these chilly mornings. We look forward to digging deeper into Aotearoa history and how people like Dame Whina Cooper brought people together and made change.

## Important Dates

### Pink Shirt Day

Friday, 16 May

### King's Birthday

Monday 2 June - No School

### Matariki

Friday, 20 June - No School

### End of Term 2

Friday, 27 June

### Term 3

### Teacher only day

Monday, 14 July – No School

### Return to School

Tuesday, 15 July



## Titoki

Titoki have been learning about Anzac Day over the last two weeks during our writing times. We have had a particular focus on rhyming words. Here is the poem that Miss Lamb's whānau group came up with, isn't it fantastic!

### ANZAC Day Poem

We wake up early at the dawn,  
To see the light as day is born.  
The rising sun begins to shine,  
And people gather in a line.

We watch the ANZAC Day parade,  
With soldiers marching unafraid.  
They wear their medals proud and neat,  
As clapping echoes down the street

We wear a poppy red and, bright,  
To remember those who went to fight.  
Each soldier fought to keep us free,  
Their courage means a lot to me.

We stand in silence, still and true,  
To show respect in all we do.  
We hope all battles now will cease,  
And live our days in love and. peace.

## Kauri

Kauri Ngahere has had a fantastic start to Term Two, and we are thoroughly enjoying getting back into our learning. Our new inquiry topic, based around conflict and resolution, has been particularly engaging. In Maths, we are focusing on Statistics and Measurement while also practising a lot of number work. We have also started singing lessons on Wednesdays and are enjoying learning fun new songs. Last week, we had a great first session at the pools at the Manurewa Rec Centre, and we are eagerly looking forward to our upcoming lessons over the next five weeks.