



Newsletter

Term 1 Week 8, 2025

27 March 2025

Manukau Christian School

Dear Parents and Friends of Manukau Christian School,

As our first term draws to a close, it's pleasing to reflect on the progress our students have made. From establishing routines and schedules in the lower primary classes to completing standardised testing for baseline progress and setting goals for the year ahead, it has been a busy and productive term. Our students have embraced their learning with enthusiasm, and we are grateful for the dedication of our families and teachers in guiding them along the way.

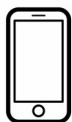
Progress on the senior building project has been highly encouraging. I am deeply grateful for the generosity of families who have supported the school through their donations, helping to ensure the continued provision of quality Christian education for future generations. Thank you.

In my daily Bible readings with my family, we've been working through Genesis, and a theme that has really stood out to me is the difference between grabbing and receiving glory. Adam and Eve were made in the image of God, with great dignity and worth. Adam was destined to exercise dominion over the earth, to rule over every creature, and to fill and subdue the world as a great king under God. To do this faithfully, he would need the knowledge of good and evil. But this knowledge was not something to be seized. It was to be gained through obedience—through a slow, faithful growth in understanding God's will and learning what it would mean to rule God's world under His authority. But Adam and Eve didn't wait. They grasped for God-like status on their own terms. They wanted glory without obedience, exaltation without submission—but the result wasn't a rise. It was a terrible fall.



Humility is
the fear of the LORD;
its wages are riches
and honor and life.
Proverbs 22:4

A similar pattern emerges in the story of the Tower of Babel. Once again, humanity reaches for glory. We're told that they came together to build a tower that would reach into the heavens—grasping



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at deity, attempting to ascend to a station that wasn't theirs to claim. Their desire is made explicit in their words: "Let us make a name for ourselves." They weren't content to receive glory; they wanted to seize it. But God's response is swift. He scatters them across the earth and confuses their language.

And right on the heels of this story, we're introduced to Abraham—a man of faith who doesn't grab, but receives. God promises him, "I will make your name great." Abraham's greatness is not achieved through self-exaltation, but as a gift from God. He receives glory, not by striving for it, but by walking in humble trust.

This tension—between humility and pride, between receiving and grabbing—runs through all of Scripture. In Daniel 4, we see Nebuchadnezzar exalt himself. He walks on the roof of his palace and boasts in his power and majesty. But God humbles him—drastically. He loses his reason, eats grass like an ox, and lives like a beast. When we try to become like gods, we actually become *less than human*. Pride doesn't elevate; it degrades. It lowers us to become more like brute beasts.

Romans 1 paints the same picture. People suppress the truth of God, claiming to be wise—but become fools. They exchange the glory of God for images of animals, and ultimately, their thinking becomes futile. This is the spiritual law at work in the world: when we refuse to receive from God and instead grasp at power, identity, or meaning on our own terms, we lose not only our relationship with Him—we lose *ourselves*.

And yet, the path of humility is radically different. "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10). We are *meant* for glory. Psalm 8 says that God crowned us with glory and honour, making us just a little lower than the angels. But that glory is always *received*, never seized.

One of our core school virtues is *humility*. At Manukau Christian School, we want our students to grow into something very different from the pattern we see in a man in rebellion against God. The rebellious heart refuses to acknowledge anyone higher than himself. This is one of the great failings of our age—whether in politics, leadership, or culture—where so many refuse to recognise a higher authority, living as though they are the final standard. But we want our students to be marked by humility. No matter how gifted

they may be, those gifts are given by God. And no matter how capable they become, they remain frail, fallible human beings. When they acknowledge their need for God, when they grasp His greatness and their own smallness, they are in exactly the right posture for true glory—not a self-made one, but the kind God gives.

We see this most clearly in Christ. Though He was in very nature God, He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking on the form of a servant. And *therefore*, God exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name. This is the pattern we want our students to follow: not grasping for greatness, but walking in faith and humility, trusting that God lifts up those who bow before Him.

In a world of grasping, let's raise young men and women who humble themselves before the Lord—and trust that He will lift them up

Entrance into Year 9 at MCS – Important Information for Parents

Entrance into Year 9 at MCS is not automatic. Even current MCS students must reapply if they wish to continue into our high school program. This process is in place for several key reasons:

- It encourages families to take a step back and consider whether MCS continues to be the best educational fit for their child as they enter high school.
- It allows the school to assess whether our program and approach are suitable for each student moving forward.

Our **Year 9 cohort is limited to 24 places**, so we strongly encourage parents to attend our **Year 9 Information Evening next term** to gain a clear understanding of what high school at MCS (Years 9–13) involves.



Key Points for Parents:

- Enrolment in Year 9 requires submitting a new application for Year 9.
- All Year 8 students applying for Year 9 will sit an entrance test.
- Entry decisions are based on a range of criteria, including but not limited to:

- o The length of time a student has been at MCS.
- o Academic suitability for the structured, high-expectation learning environment at MCS.
- o Attendance and behaviour
- o Alignment with our Christian worldview and values.

This process ensures fairness and maintains the strong academic and cultural expectations that define MCS high school education. If you have any questions, we encourage you to attend the Year 9 Information Evening or contact the school office. Further details will be sent out early next term.

Scott Kennedy, Principal

Parent Teacher Meetings

These are scheduled for **Thursday 3rd April 2025. School will finish at 12.30pm** on this day. Parents, please do not be late to collect your children. High school meetings will be with **homeroom teachers only**. A notice with a booking link has been circulated. Please ring the office if you need assistance.



Our teachers have spent nearly a term getting to know their students, and they are now well-equipped to provide valuable and meaningful feedback. We encourage you to invest in your child's learning journey by attending these meetings. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain insights into their progress and use the conversation as a starting point for setting goals together for the rest of the year. Please be mindful that if you require more than 10 minutes, that you will need to make an appointment for another day to speak with your child's teacher.

Can you help please?



Parking Duty: We would love some parental assistance to help monitor the junior carpark on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 2.40pm to 3.05pm. You would be checking for parking tokens as parents drive into the carpark—and the added bonus of wearing a hi-viz vest! Please see Geraldine Oosterbeek if you can help.

Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24	25	26	27	28 Assembly 8:40am Years 1-7
31	1 April	2 St John First Aid Year 7, 1:15pm	3 Parent Teacher Interviews <u>Classes finish 12:30pm</u>	4 Letterland Day Year 1
7	8	9	10 Assembly 8:40am Assembly 9:20am	11 <u>School closes 12:30pm</u>
<u>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</u>				
28 APRIL Term 2 starts	29	30	1	2

Yearbook 2024

We hope you've enjoyed looking through the yearbook and reminiscing about the wonderful moments from 2024. It's a special keepsake, and we're so grateful for your generous donations that help make it possible. Thank you.

Last stock

We have limited stock of school clothing that is available at excellent prices. Quantities available and prices are noted below.

	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	L	Price
Polar fleece jumper			6	2			1	1	\$40
Pants	1	1	1						\$20
Shorts					1	1			\$20
Skort			1						\$20

Withdrawals

Parents, please remember that you must give one term's notice (or 10 weeks) of your intention to withdraw your child from school. If you decide to withdraw your child without giving a term's notice, you are **still liable** for the next term's fees. If you think you may be relocating, please give Mrs Oosterbeek a call as soon as possible.



Watersports Day



Watersports were spectacular, filled with entertainment. The water balloon on a spoon was our first game. Everyone on my team was encouraging, and it was amazing when I managed to get the balloon in the bucket. My personal favourite game was the one where you had to pass water over your head to the person behind you. The trickle of water pouring down your head; however, was not the most pleasant. The best part was hearing the laughter and elated cheers from every year group.

- *Guinevere Maney, Year 7*

Watersports, the BEST day of the year!!

This year we played games like drenched sponge dodge ball, sponge battleship and many more. I enjoyed running through the sprinklers and getting sprayed by the teachers and the high schoolers.

Watersports: wet, whimsical and wonderful, when will it come again?

- *Harry Smilde, Year 7*

Eye on Nature—Year 6

I found it interesting when the guide said it takes more than 4 million flowers to make 1kg of honey. *- Soham*

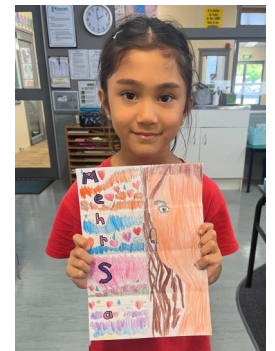
The thing I enjoyed most was at the end of the day when we saw a real beehive. Another thing I learnt was that the bees feed the daughters royal jelly when the queen stops laying eggs. *- Claire*

I found it interesting when we stood still and closed our eyes in the forest and listened to the sounds of nature. Everything was so calm and peaceful! *- Akshaya*



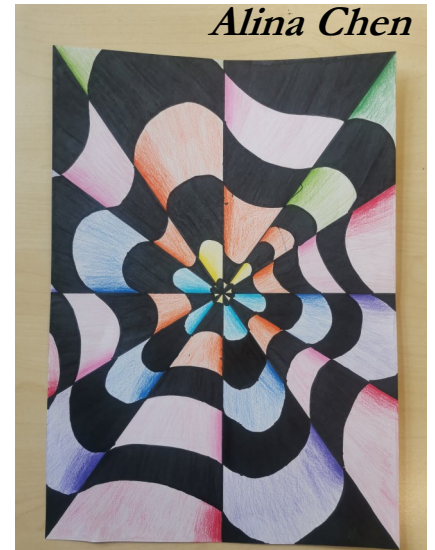
Self-Portraits—Year 2

The Year 2s spent several weeks working on interesting self-portraits that show only half the face. First, they folded the paper into eight parts, then they spent time designing their name with patterns around it and lastly the face was created on the opposite side. It was a lot of fun!



Art—Year 7

Year 7 students have created very interesting Op Art, short for optical art. This style of abstract art uses geometric shapes, lines, and colors to create optical illusions and the illusion of movement, often resulting in sensations of swelling, warping, or flashing. The style is often in black and white, with a stark contrast between background and foreground. Can you see the movement in Alina Chen's picture?



Seedlings—Year 3

Our Year 3 students have been learning about the wonders of plant growth by growing their own seedlings! With careful watering and plenty of sunshine, they've been observing how tiny seeds transform into budding plants. They have plotted and graphed growth each day. It's been an exciting hands-on experience, teaching patience, responsibility, and the beauty of God's creation.



Yummy Fruits—Thank you



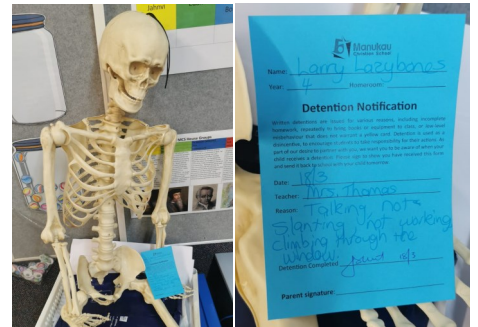
A huge thank you to all the families that collected the Yummy Fruit Stickers last year. We were able to get more PE equipment as a result. Could you please keep collecting stickers

this year so we can earn more sports equipment for the students to enjoy in PE classes and during lunchtime play. Here is the link to follow for more information and sticker sheets <https://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/schools/>

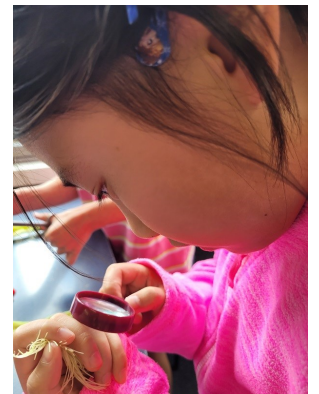
Bones of the Body —Year 4

Year 4 had a fascinating time exploring bone measurements, especially with the help of their special guest, “Larry Lazybones”! As they examined the tibia, fibula, femur, radius, ulna, and humerus, students worked quickly and accurately to record their findings, making learning both engaging and memorable.

Larry hasn’t always been well behaved though—one of his infractions was climbing through the window!



Flower Dissections —Year 5



Year 5 students had a hands-on learning experience dissecting flowers to explore how each part plays a role in a plant’s growth and reproduction. They carefully identified sepal, ovary, anthers, stigma, filament, stamen, and petals, deepening their understanding of plant life cycles. Additionally, they investigated seed germination, discovering what it takes for a tiny seed to sprout and grow.

Health and Safety



- We have a number of parents who require mobility parking spaces. Please **do not park** in the mobility parking space unless you have a mobility parking permit. Only parents of **Year 1 to 3** students may park in the upper carpark in the afternoons.
- Please report any hazards in our school grounds to the office.
- A reminder too—no lollies, cakes or chocolates for birthdays please.

Volcanoes—Year 1

Do you know how many volcanoes lie on Auckland's landscape? There's a whopping fifty-three! That's a whole lot of lava!

The Year 1s have been studying Auckland and enjoyed learning about our volcanic field. They created a model of Auckland's largest volcano, Rangitoto, which stands 260 metres above sea level. After erupting 5 times, it is now lying dormant in Room 101.



Above: Kayla - carefully pouring in the Waitematā Harbour.



Left: Holly, Venice, Luke and Jackson - getting close to the volcanic eruption.



Top Right: Jenaya, Hayes and Sophia - building Rangitoto's central volcanic cone.

Right: Karel, Elly, Abby and Elizabeth watching the volcanic eruption up close.



Days of Creation—Year 1



Earlier this term Year 1s were busy studying Genesis chapter 1, the creation account. We learned about the wonderful things God made on Day 3 - the dry land, the seas, and the beautiful vegetation. We harvested potatoes and were blown away by God's amazing design for these fascinating little vegetables. After an exciting day visiting Room 101, the potatoes headed home for dinner.

Community Notices

Covenant Kids Preschool

Enrol Now! Only 1 full time space available, the perfect preparation for your child to succeed at Manukau Christian School. Come visit us now at the senior end of the school site by the Beaumont Way entrance, Christine will be eagerly waiting for you!



PIPS - Parents in Prayer

Parents, please consider joining the weekly prayer team on a Friday morning at the school once you have dropped your children off.

Facebook

Occasionally we have posts on our school community page. Please ask to join this private group to receive updates. There are three simple questions to answer to be part of the group. Search for Manukau Christian School Community.

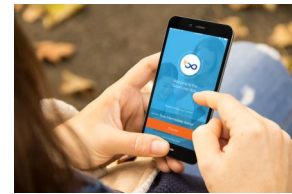


Manukau Christian School Community



Skool Loop

Please download this app to stay in touch. This app provides immediate notification of information and alerts. Simply download the app and search for our school. Absences and early collections may also be notified via Skool Loop. Please make sure you tick the correct classroom for your child and have changed the year level from last year.



Miscellaneous

- ◆ We are still collecting stickers from **Yummy Fruits**.
- ◆ **Lost Property** - all items not claimed will be donated to charity at the end of the term. Please encourage your child to check the basket in the junior foyer.
- ◆ A bin at the south of the property is available for **Bric-a-Brac and Unwanted Clothing**. We receive a donation once this is emptied.

House Competition Points

Totals to date are:

Wilberforce: 124 **Calvin: 116** **Te Wiremu: 111** **Tarore: 109**

PRAYER POINTS



Give thanks:

- for such a supportive and encouraging parent community
- for a safe, successful and fun Year 9 tramp
- for the near completion of our new high school block which will be ready in Term 2
- for committed and dedicated staff
- for the blessing of new life given to each of us through the gift of Jesus Christ's resurrection.



Please pray:

- for wise financial stewardship as we negotiate the financial challenges posed by the over budget building project
- for our Year 11 students as they prepare for their upcoming IGCSE exams in May
- for spiritual protection of our school
- for safety and rest during the holidays.

Scripture

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:10

TERM DATES 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 1 to 7) 1 Oct to 9 Dec (Years 8 to 10) 1 Oct to 21 Nov (Year 11)

Optional: Leaver's Trip: 24-27 November 2025.

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

