



COMING EVENTS

[Click here to view the full calendar online](#)

Friday 6 February	Waitangi Day
Tuesday 10 February	Class 3 Parent Meeting 7pm
Tuesday 10 February	Class 5 Parent Meeting 7pm
Wednesday 18 February	Open Day
Wednesday 18 February	Helping Hands Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 25 February	ID Photos

Tēnā koutou katoa whānau,

Me ngā mihi ki a koutou kua mahi i te ahiahi whatiwhati kāheru ki te hikitia i te kaupapa kura o Waiatarua.



We are thrilled to welcome you back to school for another exciting year! It is wonderful to see the familiar faces of our returning students and staff, and we are equally excited to greet our new whānau, teachers and students who have joined our community. A special mention to our new tamariki of Class 1.

Our school is buzzing with energy, and we can already feel the positive atmosphere as we dive into a new chapter of learning and growth. We look forward to building new connections and continuing to foster a caring and supportive environment for all our students, staff, and whānau.

Whether you are returning or just starting your journey with us, we can't wait to get to know each and every one of you better and work together to make our school year one to remember.

Here's to a fantastic term ahead! Welcome back, and welcome to all our new families. Together, we will make this an amazing year!

Have a wonderful long weekend.

Nga mihi māhana,
Desmond Pemerika
Tumuaki | Principal

ROOM AND LUNCH BAR BOOKINGS



Dana in the school office is now looking after all room bookings during and after school hours, including lunch bar bookings. Please contact danam@michaelpark.school.nz with any requests.



WELCOMING OUR NEW STAFF

- **Kerstin Anderson – Lower School Outdoor Classroom Teacher**

We were incredibly fortunate to have Kerstin with us last term, and we are absolutely delighted that she is joining us permanently in this role. Kerstin brings warmth, creativity, and a deep understanding of outdoor and experiential learning. She has already built wonderful relationships with students, and there is a real sense of excitement — from both staff and students — about having her in the school. We are very lucky to have you, Kerstin.



- **Jonathan Gabriel – Teacher in Charge of High School Media Studies**

Jonathan is currently the interim Acting Head of Department for Media Studies at Dilworth School and has previously taught at Manurewa High School and Mount Roskill Grammar School. He also brings English teaching expertise to our high school. As many of you know, Jonathan's wife, Miss Reid, is our HOD of Drama, and their daughter Luna has recently started in the kindergarten — so they are well and truly part of our community already. We are very pleased to welcome Jonathan to the team.



- **Thomas Huskinson – Class 6 Kaiako**

Tom brings over a decade of teaching and leadership experience across both New Zealand and international schools, including his current role as Year 5 Team Leader at Wakaaranga Primary School. He has strong experience in curriculum planning, student leadership, wellbeing initiatives, creative enrichment programmes, literacy leadership, and environmental education. Tom also has a long-standing interest in Steiner pedagogy and a genuine commitment to holistic, student-centred learning. We are very excited to have him working with our Class 6 students.



- **Mike Pavarno – HOD Technology (Hard Materials)**

Mike brings a strong trade-based background alongside extensive teaching experience. He spent over ten years as the Hard Materials



teacher at Glendowie College and is currently lecturing in Building and Construction at MIT, supporting learners working towards their Level 4 Carpentry qualification. His expertise spans carpentry, furniture making, engineering principles, workshop health and safety, and both unit and achievement standards. Mike's experience across secondary, tertiary, and industry contexts positions him extremely well to lead our High School Hard Materials programme.

- **Sue Lyons – School Counsellor**

(Lower School and High School, 2 days per week) Sue brings over 20 years of experience in education and is a highly skilled,

compassionate school counsellor.

She works using person-centred and integrative approaches and is deeply committed to culturally responsive practice. Sue has extensive experience supporting students, whānau, and wider communities and is strongly committed to partnership under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. She also brings a deep understanding of, and connection to, Steiner pedagogy. We are very grateful to have Sue joining our wellbeing team.



- **Zane Lee – Groundsperson**

We are delighted to welcome Zane, who joined our school community in Term 4 last year as our new Landscape and Grounds Specialist. Zane brings a wealth of hands-on experience from the construction and building industry, including expertise in waterproofing, electrical work, and general building projects. He is a reliable, hardworking, and outgoing professional who values teamwork and is always eager to learn new skills. Zane will be working closely with Mr Farley to maintain and enhance our school grounds, and we are excited to have him join our team.



- **Alongside welcoming new colleagues, I also want to warmly welcome back Mary Chun from**

maternity leave. It is so wonderful to have you back with us. I was lucky enough to see photos of your beautiful daughter - she is absolutely adorable - and we're so pleased to have you back in our community.



A creative play day with Susannah

A creative play day with Susannah took place in the kindergarten in January with some incredibly happy tamariki. The amazing Ares – a highly creative senior student in Michael Park School – came to play too.

Singing, dancing, storytelling, making cats and jellyfish. Dressing up as mermaids and soldiers, and treasure hunting in the garden gave everyone a good time.

At Easter we're going to do it again!

Email Susannah at: susannahm@michaelpark.school.nz



CLIMBING THE WALL OF SUCCESS!

Fantastic results from the Auckland Regional Climbing Competition this weekend!

Three of our students climbed to the top of their age categories and took out **first place** in the Auckland Regional Climbing Competition.

Aleksei Dergilev (Class 3) took first place in the **Under 11** category

Mikhail Dergilev (Class 6) won the **Under 15** category

Benito Maher-Hampson (Class 11) secured the win in the **Under 19** category

The boys did extremely well in their performance, but also demonstrated the very best of what climbing has to offer – a genuine camaraderie. Throughout the competition they cheered each other on and shared in the joy of their favourite sport.

Congratulations to Aleksei, Mikhail and Benito on these outstanding results — a fantastic achievement!



Helping Hands of Michael Park

**Next meeting - Wednesday 18 February
6.30pm in the staffroom**

Our purpose is to assist, uplift, and nurture our school and its students, fostering a strong and connected community. We continue the legacy of the dedicated parents who helped build our kura and remain focused on action, solutions, and making a lasting impact.

Being part of Helping Hands doesn't mean committing countless hours - whether you can assist once or twice, or take on a larger role, every contribution makes a difference. We are a fun, energetic team of parents, grandparents, staff, and alumni who support the school through fundraising, community-building, and events.

We welcome all who want to get involved - whether in big or small ways. If you're ready to lend a hand, we'd love to have you!

If this sparks something for you, please contact Leah Corbett, leahd83@gmail.com

Kahore taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini

We cannot succeed without the support of those around us.

The Dhal Wala

The Dhal Wala needs you! Desperately needing food containers. If they're lying in the back of a cupboard, or marinading in the back of your car, the Dhal Wala needs your support. Please drop them in at the kitchen. Thanks in advance!



The Dhal Wala serves delicious homemade lunches for \$5 a bowl. Curries, hakka noodles, nachos, chai, juices and snacks.



Offering vegan, gluten & dairy free, & 100% fabulously made!

For a bowl of yummy every day, please [visit the Dhal Wala website](#)

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- Two happy MPS High School teens are wanting to live closer to the school and their friends, so our whanau is **seeking a 2-3 bedroom home available for rent**, ideally within walking distance. We currently travel from Hunua daily and it is just not sustainable. We are open to options, including furnished or unfurnished or even 3-4 nights mid week, if anyone has an AirBnB style property, as we plan to go home on the weekends. Please contact Natasha on natasha.sabatier@hotmail.com or 021 400 497.
- Cleaner available:** Our lovely MPS cleaning team, Richard and Sunita, are available for your cleaning requirements! Commercial cleaning, carpets, windows and general cleaning. Contact Richard on 021 578 271.
- Graphic calculator for sale** by MPS graduate. Casio fx-9750GII, comes with user guide - \$80. Great condition, only used for Year 12/13. Aria Berghan 022 382 1644
- MPS parent **searching for a desk to work at during school hours** (just while my daughter is at school, not weekends, evenings or holidays). Ideally within walking distance of school. I only need a small table and chair with internet access! Happy to koha \$ as suits you. If you have a small space available, please contact: shaylaunder@gmail.com

Join our Chess coaching classes here at our school!



- ✓ Improve concentration and focus
- ✓ Develop problem solving skills
- ✓ Develop strategic thinking
- ✓ Improve decision making
- ✓ Develop independent thought

0800 4-CHESS www.chesspower.co.nz



Visit the Parents Centre on www.chesspower.co.nz to learn more

Friday 13th February

Start date

Friday 27th March

End date

Library 1.30 - 2.30pm

Room

\$ 173

Term Fee

Register online today at www.chesspower.co.nz/class-registration

Contact the editor, Dana Marcroft at fridayflyer@michaelpark.school.nz
Guideline 250 characters maximum please. Deadline midday Thursday.

Sorry, we no longer publish graphic advertisements, except for Michael Park School activities, class fundraisers and Steiner-related events.



Behind Their Screens

A talk by Dr Samantha Marsh

Saturday 14 February
10-11.30am

\$15

Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School Hall

Tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/events/landing/18247>

This presentation explores:

- How social media and smartphone tech are designed to capture attention
- Why these designs often clash with how children and teens develop
- The impact of digital use on young people's wellbeing
- Practical strategies to help families navigate the digital world with confidence.



Dr Samantha Marsh is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Auckland's School of Population Health. Her work focuses on child and adolescent wellbeing, particularly the impact of screen use and social media.

Her research has explored parent and teen experiences around social media use and what support families need in New Zealand. She is particularly interested in how digital technologies affect wellbeing, parent-child relationships, and healthy development.



Spot prize donated by
Little Reef and Friends!

March 6-8 2026

Tauranga

New Ground

Youth Festival

Exploring Being Human



With Richard Drexel & Helen Proctor

Camping - Anthroposophy - Workshops - Connection
Community - Saunas - Discussions - Learning



\$150 includes food and camping for 2 nights

tickets and info - www.nzyouthsection.co.nz



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL

We warmly invite you to join us for our
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUNDAYS

10.00am THE ACT OF CONSECRATION OF THE HUMAN BEING
*If you need childcare so that you can attend the service
please contact Chery/(cheryln.p@gmail.com)*

11.30am FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TIME
with singing, story, creative activity and
THE SUNDAY SERVICE FOR CHILDREN

Followed by shared lunch. Please bring food to share.

Family Sundays in 2026:
February 8th (with Confirmation Class)
March 1st
April 5th (Easter Festival)
May 3rd
June 7th
July 5th (Festival of St John with Spiral)
August 2nd
September 6th
October 4th (Michaelmas Festival)
November 1st
November 29th (Advent Festival)
December 27th (Christmas festival)

Your donations support our continuing work throughout New Zealand.

Thank you for your support.

Christian Community Inc 03-0259-0112730-04 (Auckland)

10 RAWHITI ROAD ONE TREE HILL 09 525 2305
Hartmut Borries 021 259 8555 hartmutborries@gmail.com
Cheryl Prigg 021 023 20932 cheryln.p@gmail.com

 THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
MOVEMENT FOR RELIGIOUS RENEWAL

Love and its Meaning in the World

Conference Programme
February 20th-22nd

Friday February 20, 2026

6.00pm Dinner
7.00pm Introducing Our Theme - Three Short Talks
"Community as a Schooling of Love" by Lesley Waite
"Trauma and Courage at the Threshold of Revelation" by Lisa Devine
"And the Darkness Has Not Comprehended It" by Cheryl Prigg
8.15pm Close of Day Service

Saturday February 21, 2026

10.00am The Act of Consecration of the Human Being
(Sermon: "No human being can have greater love than this: that he offers up his life for his friends.")
11.30am Talk: "Harnessing the power of love - when love enters the will" by Darryl Coonan
1.00pm Lunch
2.15pm Workshops (see below)
3.30pm Afternoon tea
4.00pm Workshops continued
5.30pm Dinner and Community Time
7.00pm Stories and Sharing about Love
8.00pm Close of Day Service

Sunday February 22, 2026

10.00am The Act of Consecration of the Human Being
(Sermon: "That which isn't good for the hive, isn't good for the bee.")
11.30am Talk: "A rose, by any other name" - by Cheryl Nekvapil
12.30pm Closing circle

REGISTRATION

Attendance is by registration and donation
The suggested donation for the whole conference
weekend including all meals and refreshments
is between \$100 and \$250

Please let us know if you have specific dietary
requirements, or if you will need accommodation

Further information or to register
Hartmut: hartmutborries@gmail.com 021 259 8555
or Cheryl: cheryln.p@gmail.com 021 023 20932

WORKSHOPS

There are two workshops to choose from;

"Destiny as an expression of divine love"
Liza Lilliecrapp

"The Language of Love"
Ioanna Panagiotopoulos

In this workshop we will experience, through
speech and movement, poetry that
expresses the unfathomable well of love
within the human being.

Your donations support our continuing work throughout New Zealand.
Thank you for your support.

Christian Community Inc 03-0259-0112730-04 (Auckland)