



COMING EVENTS

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

Monday 18 May	Board Meeting 6pm
Tuesday 19 May	RSST Meeting 6pm
Friday 22 May	Whitsun Festival
Friday 22 May	Class 4 Lunch Bar
Saturday 23 May	Garden Working Bee 12-4pm
Sunday 24 May	Kindy Working Bee 9am-12pm
Tuesday 26 May	Sports & Team Photos
Friday 29 May	Class 2 Lunch Bar

bedding in good condition, we would be very grateful to receive these. We will pass any donations on to the truancy team who will ensure they reach families and young people in need.

Thank you, as always, for the many ways you support the life of our school. The strength of Michael Park lies not only in what happens in the classroom, but in the modelling of care, generosity and connection to wider community that our students see and experience.

Ngā mihi nui,

Andrew Johnstone

Deputy Principal

Kia ora Michael Park whānau,

As we move further into the autumn season, there is a lot to acknowledge and celebrate across our School.



This week we are pleased to share that Jonathan Gabriel has taken on the role of Social Media Manager for Michael Park School. Jonathan will be working behind the scenes to help communicate and celebrate the many wonderful learning experiences and events happening across the school. You may have already noticed a beautiful post earlier in the week reflecting the colours and feeling of the autumnal season. We are excited to see this area of our school communication continue to grow.

Winter sport is also now well underway throughout Michael Park with many of our students choosing to participate in a range of sports including basketball, badminton, netball, rock climbing and football throughout Auckland. We would like to warmly acknowledge the coaches, managers, staff and whānau who give their time and energy behind the scenes to make these opportunities possible. We wish all of our players and teams a successful and enjoyable season ahead.

Last week, we also met with our local truancy service, who shared some of the challenges being experienced by families and schools in our wider area. One issue that particularly struck a chord was the number of students whose attendance and wellbeing are being affected by not having enough warm bedding at home during the colder months.

With this in mind, we would like to invite our community to support where they can. If you are reorganising your linen cupboard, replacing duvets or blankets or have spare warm

KINDERGARTEN EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Dear whānau,

This is a warm reminder for whānau with younger tamariki that the kindergarten now has limited space for children born in 2022 and 2023. If you have not completed an expression of interest for your child, please do so as soon as possible using the following link.

<https://michaelpark.school.nz/kindergarten-enrolment-expression-of-interest/>

If we are not aware that you would like your tamariki to be enrolled, we may not have a place for them next year.

Ngā mihi nui, the kindergarten.



TE AO MĀORI

Kupu whakarite o te wiki

Me te pīngao i te tuauru e rere ana i te one

(Like the pīngao grass on the western coast driven by the wind).

Refers to a group of people moving together.





AUCKLAND WRITER'S FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, Class 9 went to the Auckland Writer's Festival. The day began with Gilbert Enoka, a mental performance coach for the All Blacks, speaking about his life and sharing strategies for dealing with pressure and anxiety. Everyone in the audience could relate to what he said and appreciated his step-by-step approach to managing stress.

Next, Nikita Gill read from her novel Hekate, a reimagining of the much-maligned Greek goddess. During question time with students, she explored her love of mythology and discussed the process of writing in verse.

Actor, mental health nurse, and author Josh Silver spoke about the importance of discovering what really matters to you. He explained that he left a successful acting career because it caused him great anxiety, and that he now finds satisfaction in helping others. His interest in the "what-ifs" of AI led him to write the dystopian thriller HappyHead, which follows teenagers involved in a high-stakes project aimed at curing unhappiness.

Spoken word poets Matariki Bennett and Mania Tuwhare-Hoani ended the day with powerful performances exploring the impacts of colonisation.

All in all, this year's visit to the Auckland Writer's Festival was relevant to teens, thought-provoking, and thoroughly enjoyable.



GARDEN WORKING BEE

Organised by the Helping Hands Parent Group

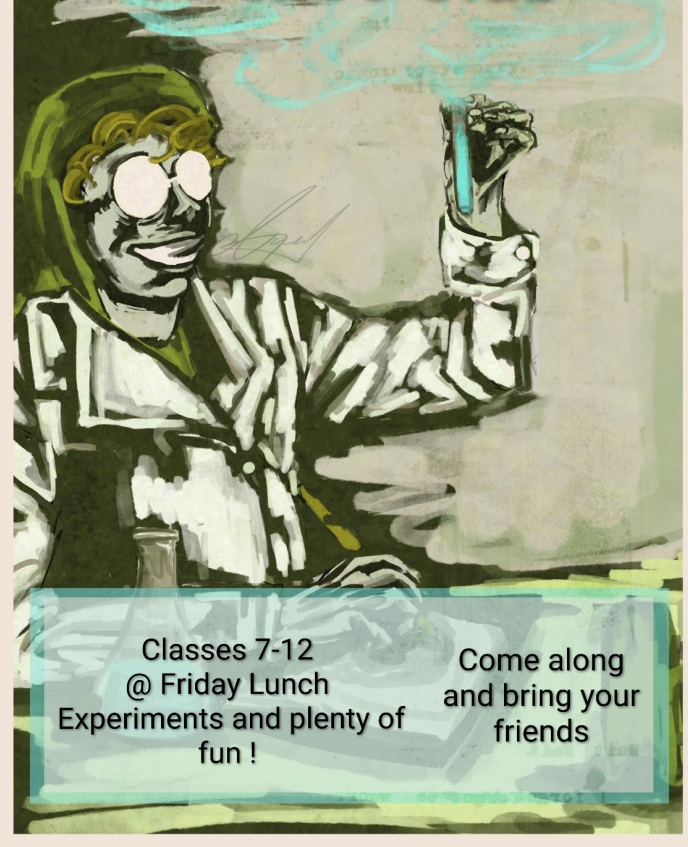
All welcome for a general tidy up before our next open day.

If you would like to lend a hand, come for as little or as long as you're able... many hands make light work! Please bring gloves, spades, brooms, rakes.

Saturday 23rd of May
(weather permitting)
12pm-4pm
Drop in any time!

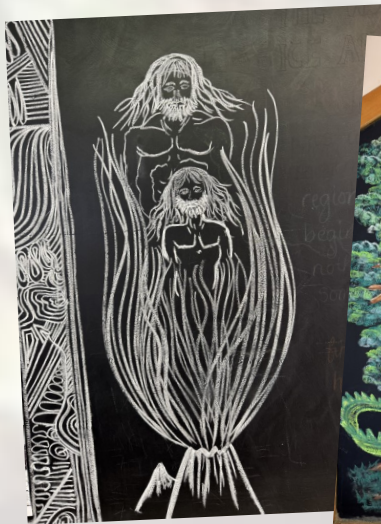


Science Club



Classes 7-12
@ Friday Lunch
Experiments and plenty of
fun!

Come along
and bring your
friends

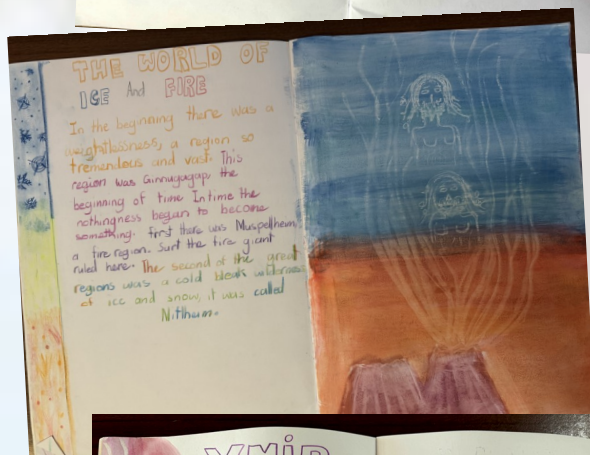
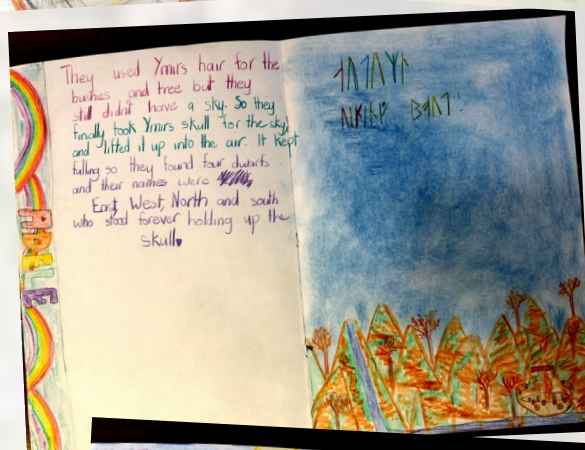


CLASS 4 NORSE MYTHOLOGY

This term class 4 have been delving into the realm of Norse Mythology. Through storytelling, children are invited to wander beyond the edges of their own lives and into other worlds and cultures. One of the quiet joys in this, is noticing not only how different these stories can be, but also how deeply alike they are. There is a richness, too, in cultural literacy—so many familiar words, phrases, and characters in modern life have their beginnings in myth. This is especially true of Norse mythology, shaped by the travels of the Vikings.

We stepped into the Norse Creation Story, unfolding it slowly as a tale in several parts. In the beginning were Muspelheim and Niflheim, and between them, Ginnungagap—the great, silent gap of nothingness. And yet, from this stillness, life stirred. Ymir, the rather ill-tempered frost giant, and the first humans who appeared (quite amusingly) from his armpits, bring a lightness to these otherwise weighty beginnings. Then there is the great cow, with her streams of nourishing milk, who gently licks into being the giants who will one day give rise to the mighty three—Odin, Loki, and Thor. Together, they bring an end to Ymir and shape his body into Midgard—our Earth. It is a striking image: a world formed from what once was, carrying both mystery and meaning.

Stories offer children a glimpse into how people once understood their world. At this age, there is often a quiet search for courage and heroism. Through these tales, children meet figures who are strong yet flawed, brave yet sometimes mischievous, who feel both extraordinary and strangely familiar. The Norse gods, in all their complexity, mirror something true to this stage of childhood. The image of nine worlds held within the branches of the great Yggdrasil Tree speaks of an internal longing to step beyond the known and into something wider and more wondrous. Within these stories, each child may find a place—to be a hero, a trickster, or simply someone who keeps trying, returning again and again with quiet determination.





CLASS 8 RAKU

Class 8 completed their ceramic cycle today with a raku firing. We have gone through various ceramic techniques of creating. The favourite must be throwing on the wheel. This group has taken on every making challenge and turned their work into very diverse and distinctive pieces with so much great character (just like the makers). Ending this cycle with raku brought all their learning into one intense, focused experience.

Raku is a Japanese firing style. It's popular because it is very immediate and unpredictable! We use a gas flame thrower to take the kiln quickly up to 1000 degrees, then we take the red-hot pieces and put them in containers with sawdust and an airtight lid. This is called reduction (the heat and glaze reaction happens 'starved of oxygen', creating a different gas environment that changes the colours of glazes). It's fast, fun, and unpredictable art and science. You can run a fast firing and see the results more immediately, rather than waiting 24 hours to see the works when we use the electric kiln.

This group were very fun and lovely to work with through these last months, and especially focused and collaborative today.

Johnathon has more photos and their work is in the staff room.

Big thanks to Robbie (Sammie and Rowan's mum) for volunteering two morning to help set up and run this firing. She was invaluable.

Ngā mihi nui

Kirsten



CLASS 6 METALWORK

With Mr Pavarno, Class 6 students have been reawakening the metalwork space through the making of hand-beaten copper spoons.

The metalworking process requires patience, precision, and creativity. From repurposed copper, ngā ākonga learned how to flatten and shape the metal through repeated hammering into wooden dollies (thanks Mr Pavarno), annealing and refining their forms into functional beautiful spoons.

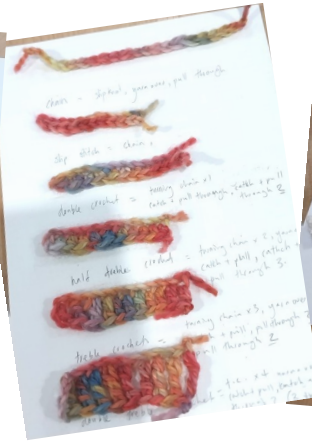
It's nice to see a feel this space alive again.





PARENT HANDWORK WORKSHOP

Some photos from last Saturday's crochet and needle felting workshop with Michelle Mullany. "I was so grateful to Michelle and the school for the opportunity to learn felting and improve crochet techniques this past weekend". -Workshop participant

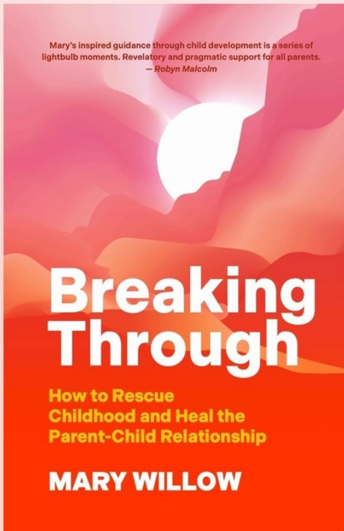


Mary Willow

Parent talk at Michael Park School
Friday 5th June at 7pm, MPS Auditorium

Mary's book **'Breaking Through: How to Rescue Childhood and Heal the Parent-Child Relationship'** will be released to all bookstores in Aotearoa NZ on June 1st.

Please see her website PlumParenting.com for details.



Mary will have copies of her new book available for \$45.00. Purchase at the event online via QR code, or bring exact cash.

Mary will be there from 6pm for purchases and book signings.

"It is not the child's flowering intellect that is at the forefront of brain development. In fact it is the child's ancient survival brain that wants to run the show."

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

- **Conscious Parenting:** Next date - Wednesday 20 May 7pm. A warm welcome to come along to this relaxed fortnightly evening chat that's a supportive space to connect, reflect & explore the transformative Conscious Parenting approach. One Tree Hill area. Facilitated by fellow MPS parent & certified CP coach Donna. raisingparents.nz. Email Donna for details raisingparetnsnz@gmail.com

- **Seeking a new home for our beloved cat Stella**, as we're relocating overseas. 8 year old ragdoll/Norwegian forest mix. Sweet and friendly disposition, hasn't lived with other pets. 95% recovered from a recent injury. Independent and easy to care for. Welcome to come and meet her. Contact Grace 0210 278 6369.

Looking to support trades and services within our school community? [Click here for the Community Skill Share list.](#)

COMMUNITY CHOIR

A joyful rhythm to your week!

Mondays | 7:00-8:00pm

School Auditorium | Term Time

Come sing with Ms. Abi!

A joyful, uplifting space to breathe, connect, and sing together!

Open to parents, staff, alumni, and our wider community!

The more the merrier!

No singing experience needed — just bring your voice!!

Music with Abi Ortiz

Waldorf-Inspired Music Education

Singing • Choir • Basic Piano • Teacher Mentoring • Workshops

AbiAwuwu@yahoo.com • +64 21 2945 913

**TRY SOMETHING NEW
IN TERM 2**

PARENT-LED CRAFT GROUPS

WOODWORK

CONTACT JAMES FOR DAY AND TIME

jameslwalden@gmail.com

DOLL&CRAFT

FRIDAY MORNINGS 9-11:30AM

MICHAEL PARK SCHOOL HANDWORK ROOM

Contact : robbie.gaskin@gmail.com

CERAMICS

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS 2-PM - 4PM

CHILDREN WELCOME WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR ADULT

OCCASSIONAL SATURDAY AFTERNOONS -

Contact : robbie.gaskin@gmail.com

**CREATIIVITY ISN'T A GIFT YOU WAIT FOR -
ITS A SPARK YOU LIGHT**



Michael Park School

**Michael Park Hoodies, Beanies & Hat
Online Ordering System**

<https://funto.co.nz/shop> → Scroll down and click on MPS Logo

FUNTO



**Hoodies Adult - \$69
Hoodies Kids - \$67.50**



**WOLL Wolly knit Beanie
\$31**



**Bondi bucket hat
\$18.50
Sizes Available
Small Med Large**



**CH1462 - Kids School Wide Brim Hat NAVY
\$23
Sizes Available
Med XL**

All orders will be delivered to Michael Park School

For order assistance: Call: 027 5265321 email: sup@funto.co.nz

All prices are inclusive of GST.