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- a gift of a weta-house from Predator Free Wellington.

## Newsletter No 18

### Monday 7 December 2020

Character, Excellence, Community

**Term 4 Theme:** God is Pure and Holy  
**Values:** Security, Respect, Care  
**Threads:** Celebrating Life,  
Expressing Ourselves in Words,  
Taking Responsibility  
**Key Competencies:** Managing Self, Using Language

#### Our Mission Statement:

**For each learner the school community will provide quality learning opportunities that encourage Christian perspectives and affirm Biblical principles.**

#### Memory Verses for 2020

"Set your heart on God and reach out to Him".

(Job 11v13)

"... 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself'."

(Luke 10v27)

#### Principal's Pen

Kia ora Koutou,  
We are now in the season of Advent. Advent means 'waiting'. It is a time to reflect on our God coming to dwell among us/people. For advent, all classes are meeting each day to do recall of significant people in the bible (most of whom are the ancestors of Jesus) and place a picture of each on our Jesse Tree. We are learning Christmas carols that reflect our faith. May God grant you times of reflection and rest during this advent season.

There is a lot in this newsletter, and we invite you to read it carefully. As you look down the page you will see, we have had many events and still have some to come. Our graduating students have painted their silhouettes on the fence and had their graduation dinner, the robotics competition has been held; prizegiving, our volunteers morning tea and a beach trip are coming up and we are continuing to work on exciting preparations for next year. It is good to be able to challenge and honour our students. Please join us for as many events as you can.

#### Blessings

Over the last two weeks we were blessed with: -

- delivery of 4 cubic metres of mulch (to go under our playground) from a tree felling company
- a gift of \$500 from the Thomas George McCarthy Trust
- a gift of refreshed compost for our gardens organised by the Behring family



We were also blessed by you, our parent group and Karl Anderson, who responded to our call for help at a working bee to move the mulch and help with putting up the weta-house.

Thank you to all those who came. This was an amazing turnout for an event with such short notice. Students and helpers worked hard and got the pile of mulch moved onto the area under our playground. Your work is very appreciated.



#### Graduation Dinner

We have had a wonderful time at our Year 8's Graduation Dinner, celebrating Elena-Jin, Adalayd, Josiah and Justine's time at Miramar Christian School. Don't they look stunning!



#### Robotics Competition

This term students have been working on robotics. The results of this will be announced at the prizegiving on Wednesday.

#### Missing Robot

Unfortunately we have had one robot go missing. If you hear anything about it, please let us know. We would love to have it back. Kia ora.

#### Christmas Concert & Volunteers Thank you Morning Tea – 10:00 am Tomorrow Tuesday 8 December 2020

We have had an amazing number of people helping this year. As a way of thanking you we are putting on a "Volunteers Morning Tea". This event will start with a concert in the hall at 10am followed by morning tea at 10:30am. If you have helped us this year, please consider yourself invited and come as we would love to be able to thank you.

#### Prizegiving – 6pm Wednesday 9 December 2020

This is an exciting time of year where we get to acknowledge the learning and growth of all students. Every student receives a certificate, so attendance is

compulsory. **Please drop your child at the Gateway Baptist Church after 8.30am on Wednesday 9 December 2020** for a prizegiving practice. We will walk back to school when we are finished the practice. In the evening we are asking everyone to **arrive in formal school uniform by 5.50pm for a 6pm start at Gateway Baptist Church**. Please bring a plate of finger food for a shared supper after this event. We look forward to seeing you all there.

#### School Reading and Library Books Due Back Now

All class reading books and library books are due back now. Please look down behind beds, in bookshelves and all those odd places where things get lost. Each small reading book costs between \$8 and \$12 each and library books cost more. Returning these valuable resources means they are here to support another child's learning. Thank you for your help in finding and returning these 😊.

#### School Reports

Student reports will be coming home this Friday 11 December 2020. The stationery list for 2021 will be included in the same envelop. Please look for this in your child's bag on Friday.

#### Stationery 2021

Teachers will be sending home all student exercise books at the end of the year. A few students may have some books that have not been used or are only used on a few pages. If the books your child brings home are like this **and are on their next years' stationery list**, we encourage you to **reuse them** in 2021.

#### Annual Beach Afternoon 14 December

Monday 14 December 2020 is our Annual Beach Afternoon. We plan to leave school at 12pm to walk over the hill to Scorching Bay. Students will need a **named towel, togs and sunhat, lunch and water bottle**. They can wear **mufti**. Students will need to be **picked up from Scorching Bay by 3pm**. We would love you to **come and join us** for this event (please note, due to this picnic, there is no assembly on Monday 15 December).

#### Winning House Prize 15 December

The winning house will be announced at prizegiving on Wednesday. On Tuesday 15 December this house will have a pizza and movies session. If your child's house is chosen you will receive a note about this.

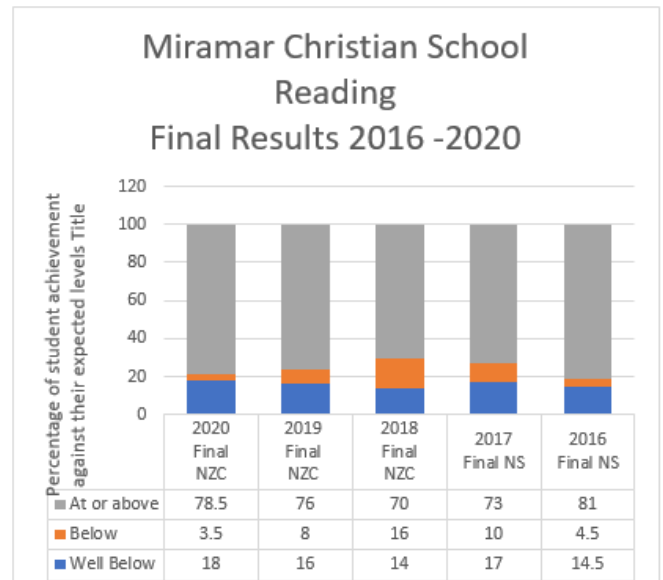
#### Swimming: The Aquatic Centre 2021

We had 9 responses to our survey and there has been an overwhelming support (8/9) for going back to the Aquatic Centre and one response which said other with no explanation. So, I have rebooked the pool for Term 4, 2021!

#### Student Learning

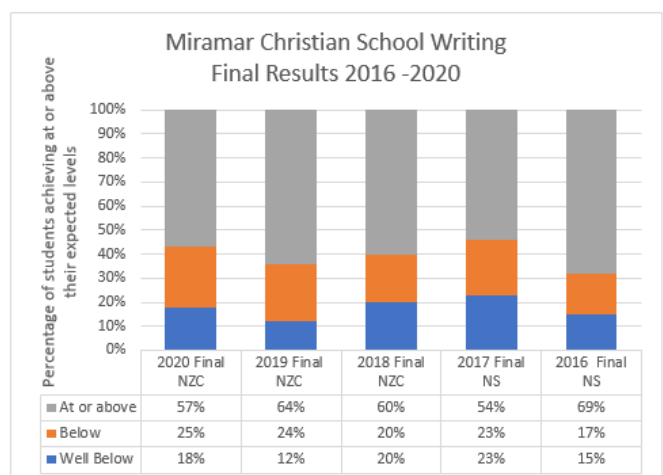
This year has been a very different year as the emergence of Covid-19 in the world and the resulting lockdown affecting us all. The lockdown which was followed by a focus on wellbeing over academics also effected results. As things eased teachers have refocused on moving student learning.

It is exciting to see our reading results, despite Covid-19 are slightly higher than to those in 2019. This is due to continuing interventions introduced in 2019 and the Reading Together Programme which resulted in 3 students moving from below their expected level to at or above their expected level. Reading was the easiest curriculum area to support while students were in lockdown.

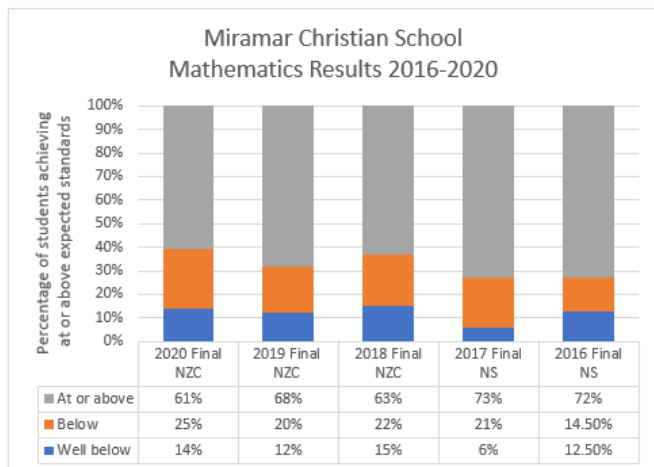


Our writing results are down from 2019. There has been a dramatic dip in of 19% in boys' results (boys writing percentage of students at or above in 2018 were 38%), in 2019 were 54%, and in 2020 is 35%.

Writing is very difficult to teach via distance and teachers reported that written activity was the least completed activity during lockdown, especially among boys. Mid-year data reflected this as it dipped. Since then teachers have been focused on improving writing and introduced interventions to make gains. There has been greater movement between 2020 mid and end writing results; than mid and end 2019 writing results. This shows the increased focus has produced some results.



Our mathematics results are slightly down. This too is reflective of our Covid-19 year. We are looking forward to a full year of teaching in 2021.



If you are interested in seeing the rest of our data, please email me for a copy.

### Staffing 2021

We are excited about our staff for 2021.



Mr Reid is passionate about education and the Christian faith. He has a heart for children, quickly builds rapport with students and gains pleasure from seeing them learn and grow. Fraser brings strengths in science, technology, maths and the arts; as well as physical education. He has a wealth of

experience in officiating, and coaching sports such as rugby and basketball. Fraser will be teaching in Year 4-8.

We look forward to having Fraser Reid on our team in 2021.



Mrs Anderson has been teaching Years 3-5 at Miramar Christian School for 10 years. This year she really enjoyed teaching Years 1-3 in Kowhai Class each Friday. She is looking forward to teaching Y1-4 next year. Mrs. Anderson has a lot of experience teaching multi-levelled classes and wants you to know

that your child will be well catered for in her class. She loves to challenge and extend the learners in her class and cares deeply for her students.

If you haven't had a chance to thank Miss Musuva and Ms Copley, we invite you to do so before the end of the term.

### Prayer Requests

#### Praise

- For the growth we have seen in the students in 2020.
- For the God honouring speeches made by many students in our recent Speech Competition and at the Graduation Dinner.
- For the ongoing enquiries at Miramar Christian School.
- For the new enrolments starting in 2021.

#### Prayer

- For restful holidays for students, whanau and staff.
- For the graduating students - that their transition to college is smooth.
- For whanau excitement about 2021 changes.

- That current and future enquiries would turn into enrolments.
- Those who wish to come to Miramar Christian School would find suitable accommodation within proximity of the school.
- That even as school is closed over the holidays, we would be a blessing to others within and beyond the school community.

#### Prayer Students

- For our prayer students and their families: -  
**Week 9:** Rebecca, Hugo, Adalayd  
**Week 10:** Hazel, Judah, Elena-Jin

I thank you for your on-going support. If you have any questions I can help with, please contact me (Mrs Kaye Gillies) on 021 293 5390.

Shalom and Ngā Mihi  
**Kaye Gillies**  
Principal

### 2021 Term Dates

Term 1: Tues 2 Feb – Thurs 16 Apr

Term 2: Tues 3 May – Fri 9 Jul

Term 3: Mon 26 July – Fri 1 Oct

Term 4: Mon 18 Oct – Wed 14 Dec

*Please note the following dates where school will be closed in 2021:*

*Mon 1 Feb: Teacher Only Day*

*Mon 8 Feb: Waitangi Day (observed)*

*Fri 2 Apr: Easter Good Friday*

*Mon 5 Apr: Easter Monday*

*Tues 6 Apr: Easter Tuesday*

*Sat 17 Apr – Sun 2 May: Term 1 Holidays*

*Mon 7 Jun: Queens Birthday*

*Sat 10 Jul – Sun 25 July: Term 2 Holidays*

*Sat 2 Oct – Sun 17 October: Term 3 Holidays*

*Mon 25 Oct: Labour Day*

## SCHOOL DIARY

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Every Mon</b>      | <b>Assembly</b>                            |
| <b>Every Wed</b>      | <b>Subway ordered lunch (optional)</b>     |
| <b>Every Thur/Fri</b> | <b>Wheels Day / Wear PE Uniform</b>        |
| <b>Every Thurs</b>    | <b>Technicraft (Yrs 7-8)</b>               |
| <b>Every Fri</b>      | <b>Music Lessons, 8:30am-10:45am</b>       |
| <b>Every Sun</b>      | <b>10am Gateway Baptist – all welcome</b>  |
| <b>DEC</b>            |  |
| Mon 7 Dec             | Bot Mtg, 5:30pm, Room 4                    |
| Tues 8 Dec            | MCS Volunteers Morning Tea                 |
| Wed 9 Dec             | Prizegiving Practice 9am @ Gateway Baptist |
| Wed 9 Dec             | Prizegiving, 6pm @ Gateway Baptist         |
| Fri 11 Dec            | Reports sent home                          |
| Mon 14 Dec            | MCS Beach Trip 12pm (no Assembly)          |
| Wed 16 Dec            | Last day of Term 4 – finish at 12pm        |



**Fridays 3-5pm**  
(come straight from school)

23 October  
30 October  
6 November  
13 November  
20 November  
27 November  
4 December

Hey parents, we're keen for you to stay and join in the Fun! Tea & coffee available!

This FREE programme is run by **Ben Edwards**  
Children, Youth & Families Pastor  
Gateway Baptist Church  
with the assistance of church volunteers

Any questions? Ring Ben on 022 401 5720

Gateway Baptist Church, 33 Park Rd, Miramar | gatewaybaptist.org.nz | families@gatewaybaptist.org.nz | ph 022 401 5720

food & drink videos puzzles lego basketball

**Power House kids club**

For kids 4-12 years old

**Fridays 3-5pm**

food & drink videos puzzles lego basketball

Gateway Baptist Church, 33 Park Rd, Miramar | gatewaybaptist.org.nz | families@gatewaybaptist.org.nz | ph 022 401 5720

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

| The Street East  | Salvation Army                       | Gateway Baptist                       | St Aidans                                |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 13 Dec, 10am<br>Christmas Production                                   | 24 Dec, 6pm<br>Christmas Eve Service | 20 Dec, 10am<br>Christmas Service     | 5 Dec, 1-4pm<br>Christmas Crafts         |
| 20 Dec, 10am<br>Christmas service with Christmas morning tea to follow |                                      | 25 Dec, 10am<br>Christmas Day Service | 24 Dec, 6pm<br>Children's Carols & Story |
|  |                                      |                                       | 24 Dec, 11pm<br>Candlelight Service      |
|  |                                      |                                       | 25 Dec, 8am<br>Prayer Book Service       |
|  |                                      |                                       | 25 Dec, 10am<br>Family Christmas Service |

EVERYONE is welcome to join in any of these services & events.

**combined Summer Church services**

During the Summer Holiday period, four local churches in the Eastern Suburbs will be joining together for combined worship services. Please join us each Sunday at 10am as we worship God together.

27 December  
St Aidans  
89 Miramar Ave, Miramar  
Rev Chris Dadds, 388 8640

3 January  
Gateway Baptist  
33 Park Rd, Miramar  
Senior Pastor Phil Coates, 388 6535

10 January  
The Salvation Army  
63 Miramar Ave, Miramar  
Leader Sarah Green, 388 8284

17 January  
The Street East  
@ Miramar Central School  
Morning tea 9:45 pre-service  
38 Park Rd, Miramar  
Pastors Simon & Jenny Gill, 385 7315

**Heart Foundation**

**Spring lunchbox**

**Egg frittata:**  
Courgette and mushroom

+ Choose one or more from each group to have on the side:

Celery and/or tinned corn  
Orange and/or strawberries  
Cheese and/or yoghurt  
Nuts and/or grainy crackers

For more information visit [heartfoundation.org.nz](http://heartfoundation.org.nz)

**Spring into Spring & stay in the loop with our school app**

SKOOL LOOP

✓ Events ✓ Cancellations ✓ Notices  
✓ Newsletters ✓ Permission Slips  
✓ Instant notifications ✓ Absentees

**Simple free download:**  
In Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.

Available on the App Store | Get it on Google play

**musical stars**  
Giving children the stage

stag act

**Enroll now**

**ISLAND BAY - KARORI - LOWER HUTT**

[musicalstars.co.nz](http://musicalstars.co.nz) - 021-410015 - [info@musicalstars.co.nz](mailto:info@musicalstars.co.nz)





## music holiday programme

THE ROCK ACADEMY.CO.NZ

### Music School Holiday Programmes

Fun and educational for musical kids. Located in Kilbirnie and suitable for ages 5 to 15. Great for singers, guitarists and keyboardists. Song writing, busking trip's, learning modern pop/rock songs and lots more.

**December dates 2020:** Monday 21 to Wednesday 23.

**January dates 2021:** Tuesday 19 to Friday 22.

### Summer Holiday Computer Classes.



Grand Training runs educational and fun computer classes in the summer holidays at Wellington Girls College and The Johnsonville Club, ages 5 to 15.

- NEW Roblox and Maya
- NEW Minecraft Modpacks and Setup a Server
- Learn to Code; Scratch, Python or Java
- Learn to Code & Create 3D Games.
- Minecraft
- Web Design, HTML and CSS
- Build a PC
- Film and Video Editing
- Discovery Course in Computing



Information & bookings:  
[grandtraining.co.nz](http://grandtraining.co.nz) or call 499-2211

## STEM Holiday Programme

Fun and interactive workshops designed to get kids moving and learning!

6th - 29th of January 2021  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
10 am - 2 pm

**\$50 per day**

Visit us on  
[www.qismatech.com](http://www.qismatech.com)

Or email at  
[qismatech@gmail.com](mailto:qismatech@gmail.com)

Hut building - Foraging - Games - Campfires - Fun

# WILDERKIDS

An Outdoor Adventure Every School Holiday

**WHERE** Innermost Gardens, 31 Lawson Place, Mt Victoria  
**WHEN** Every school holidays  
**WHO** Kids aged 5 - 12  
**COST** \$58 a day (8.30-3.15pm)  
10% discount for a full week

FreePhone 0508 78 78 24 | [www.sustaintrust.org.nz](http://www.sustaintrust.org.nz) | f t i

SUSTAINABILITY TRUST

### Wilderkids \$10 Places

Sustainability Trust are putting aside one \$10 place a day for a child whose family has a Community Services Card. If you apply, Sustainability Trust will let you know if your child has been selected by 23 December 2020. No-one will know you got a \$10 place - it'll be drawn by someone at Sustainability Trust, but the educators and other parents and children won't know who was allocated the place. To register, go to [https://sustaintrust.org.nz/wilderkids-csc?goal=0\\_cf5960b14f-489be8e01e-57942513&mc\\_cid=489be8e01e&mc\\_eid=5f83dde082](https://sustaintrust.org.nz/wilderkids-csc?goal=0_cf5960b14f-489be8e01e-57942513&mc_cid=489be8e01e&mc_eid=5f83dde082)

**ATAREIRA**  
Mental Health & Addiction Support for  
Family Whānau,  
Transitional Housing

**Children Understanding Mental Health Programme**

Is a free education/activity based programme for children aged 8 to 12 who have a member of their family or whānau experiencing mental health and or addictions concerns

**When:** Saturday mornings  
13, 20, 27 March 2021

**Where:** Porirua

**Email:** [anne@atareria.org.nz](mailto:anne@atareria.org.nz)

## **CODECAMP HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**

Is your 7-12 year old into gaming, coding or robotics?  
CodeCamp are offering our popular Summer  
Programme over 3 weeks of the January holidays.  
Come and join our fun & engaging coding + STEM  
lessons!

- 11 - 15th Jan // 18th - 22nd Jan // 26th - 28th Jan  
2021

- 9am to 3pm, late pickup available

- Hobson Room, Queen Margaret College

Discount codes:

SIB for 6% off Siblings

Enrol or see more here:

<https://codecamp.co.nz/thorndon-holiday/>

For any questions, you can reach out  
to [admin@codecamp.co.nz](mailto:admin@codecamp.co.nz)