

Dear Maranatha Christian School Community,  
Tena koutou katoa! Malo e le lei! Bula! Talofa!  
A big welcome to Maranatha Christian School for the new 2012 school year.

We have had a great start to the year so far, thanks to great students, great staff, great trustees, great families and our great God!

We have had a few staff role changes and movements:  
We welcome Preetha Oomen as Room 7 Maths teacher and Wilma Reinders as Office Assistant (maternity leave). We congratulate Craig McDonald as he acts in the role of Deputy Principal and senior syndicate leader, and Liz Horn as she acts as Assistant Principal and junior syndicate leader. We pray that God will guide them as they step into these roles.

We have recently farewelled the de Ruiter family who have moved to Christchurch. Mrs. Gillespie has indicated her intention to resign from teaching at the end of term 1. We will really miss these wonderful people as they have played such a big part in the school community for many years.

We also welcome John Lewis as our new School Chaplain. Pastor John has had a long association with our school. He was a student here for his primary and secondary schooling. His eldest three children came here and his youngest daughter is currently a student here. Pastor Seth will still visit from time to time.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Friday evening for the Meet the Teacher and Family Picnic evening.

May God bless you and your family over the coming year,  
Debbie Middleton



MARANATHA  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

connecting

### AMENDED VISION:

“By God’s Holy Spirit we do our best for His Kingdom”

### Mark your calendar:

10 February	Family Picnic/Meet the teacher evening 5 p.m.—7 p.m.
20 February	BOT Meeting 7 p.m. (note change from 13th)
15 February	Vision/Hearing Screening programme for N/E & Y7
16 February	Community Prayer meeting in staffroom 9 a.m.
17 February	Mufti Day (gold coin donation)
20 February	Jules Riding Concert 11 a.m.
23 February	Community Prayer meeting in staffroom 9 a.m.
23 February	Touch Rugby 3.45 p.m.—5.45 p.m.



### Term dates for 2012

Term 1: 2 February to 5 April

Term 2: 23 April to 29 June

Term 3: 16 July to 28 September

Term 4: 15 October to 20 December

### Reminder: Meet the Teacher/Family Evening at Maranatha

10 February 2012 - Family Picnic/Meet the teacher evening. Come and meet with your child's new teacher and socialise with other members of the Maranatha School Community. BYO picnic dinner or buy a sausage here. Teachers will be available in their classrooms from 5.00 - 5.30 p.m, followed by a formal gathering in the hall from 5.30 - 6.00 p.m. to welcome parents to the new school year. Finally, we will say grace for dinner at approximately 6 p.m. and enjoy a pleasant time of socialising as a school community. The PTA will provide hot tea and coffee for attending adults.



### Uniform Shop:

The online ordering system from the new website is working well. Thank you very much to Nadine Kilmister and Michael Smith who assisted with this process. The shop will **not be open for the next 6 weeks on Wednesdays, and will only open again on Wednesday 28 March** as Alana will be away. Lynn will, however, open the shop on **Friday mornings from 8.45 to 9.15 a.m.**

## School Camp 2012



### Family Night at Camp

On the Thursday evening of camp all families are invited to come out and join us for a family evening at camp. We will be running a family *Amazing Race* event, sharing a meal together and generally having a good time. Please add this to your social calendar for

Thursday March 15. See you there!

### Helpers for Camp

Thank you to those parents that have volunteered to help with camp - it is much appreciated. If you are unable to come for the entire time, but are able to come out for a day or two, please let the office know and advise them of the days and times that you are available. Also if there are any parents who are medically trained and are available to help at camp, please let us know. Thanks!

### Permission Forms for Camp

Permission forms for camp will be done online this year. By filling out the form you are giving permission for your child to attend camp. Please fill out the online form as soon as possible, so that we can make arrangements for any food or medical needs that your child(ren) might have. Camp is part of the school curriculum and it is expected that your child(ren) will attend. If you are not planning to send your child(ren) to camp, please see Debbie Middleton to discuss your reasons for this decision. Please click on the link to access the online form <http://fizurl.com/campform>

## We welcome the following students to Maranatha:

Nathan Hamilton Room 1  
Aryav Bhawan Room 1  
Martin Lazenby Room 3  
Abel Nyoni Room 5  
Munashe Zitye Room 6



## **Sports Notices:**

### **Touch Rugby:**

If your child is interested in Touch Rugby this season please email [sport@maranatha.school.nz](mailto:sport@maranatha.school.nz) with your child's name and room number. Please let us know if you are interested in coaching/managing the team.

Games will be on Thursdays anywhere from 3.45-5.45 p.m. First game - 23rd February. Cost will be \$10—20 (depending on how many children play).

### **Winter Sports:**

We will be offering Junior Hockey and Junior & Senior Netball for Terms 2 & 3. More information will be given in the next newsletter.

### **Resurfacing Roadworks on Hill Road:**

Roadworks will start in the next few days. Please expect some delays travelling to and from school. Please also warn your child about the dangers posed by roadworks.

### **Mufti Day:**

Friday 17 February will be a mufti day. Bring a gold coin donation which will go towards the following Monday's concert by Jules Riding.

### **ASB School Banking:**

Registration forms are available from the office. Once you have received a bank account number from ASB, you are ready to use school banking. The procedures are as follows:

- Collect a deposit envelope from the school foyer.
- Ask a parent to help you fill it out.
- Place your savings for the week in the envelope, seal the envelope and retain the receipt.
- Bring your savings to school on Friday and put the envelope in the ASB deposit box in the school foyer on Friday mornings. Banking will be done each Friday at 3pm.

**PTA's Chocolate Fundraiser:**  
Exciting news!!  
Please see details on the attached flyer.



### **Reading Mileage:**

Reading Mileage has been running at the school for a number of years. It is a programme that allows students to have one-on-one reading time with an adult when they are fresh and alert first thing in the morning. This programme is run through parents volunteering their time, enthusiasm and knowledge. Without this, we are unable to offer this valuable opportunity to our children, who really appreciate the effort that the tutor puts in to listening to them read and talk about a book. Previous experience in being a tutor is not necessary, as a manual, "Pause, Prompt and Praise," is provided. If you are in a position to help with Reading Mileage, please contact the school office and inform them of the days between 9 and 9.30am that you are available, Monday to Wednesday and Friday. (Note change due to scheduled prayer meeting every Thursday).

### **Vision & Hearing:**

Regional Public Health provides a free vision & hearing screening programme. Year 7 Vision screening and New Entrant Vision & Hearing screening will take place on Wednesday 15 February. Please notify the school office if you DO NOT agree to your child being screened.



### **Administration:**

#### **Parent/Guardian contact list:**

Please let the school office know if you do not want your name to appear on the parent community contact list.

#### **Cellphone Permission slip:**

Cellphones are only allowed on the school premises under certain conditions. Please request a permission letter from the school office.

## **Important reminder for all parents/caregivers Student Safety**

Please take the time to read through this information. If you need any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

### **Advance Leave:**

If you know in advance of your child's absence, please write to the principal requesting leave. Written acknowledgement will be given. This acknowledgement is a record of that absence. Signing out a child for leave during the day (e.g. an appointment, funeral, family commitment etc.) must be done by a parent/caregiver or the nominated adult listed on file at the school office.

### **Absence from school:**

If your child is unable to attend school, for instance if (s)he is sick, parents/caregivers need to phone the school in the morning and let us know. If we do not receive a notice and cannot reach you by telephone, your child will be marked as truant.

### **Lateness:**

If your child is going to be late to school, parents/caregivers should phone and leave a message advising the school. Once the rolls are taken at 9 a.m. the office matches the absences with the telephone messages. If your child is marked absent, and you have not contacted us, we will contact you. The bell rings at 8.55 a.m.; students should be in their classroom by that time.

### **Parking:**

To ensure the safety of our students, please do not drop off/pick up your child by driving down to the school buildings. Your co-operation with this is appreciated as the safety of your children is paramount to us.

Car parks on the lower court are for the staff. If there are no available parking spaces on the top car park, you will have to park outside the school grounds, further down Hill Road.

### **Before and after school:**

We remind all parents to pick their children up promptly at the end of the day. Students need to remain seated in the quad until they are ready to leave the school grounds.

### **Bus Parking:**

The bus has 'right of way'. Please do not park on the bus parking space at any time.

### **Bus Students:**

If your child is travelling on the bus and you have not yet received, or submitted, a contract for 2012, please let the school office know urgently. Please be at the bus stop on time to collect your child. The bus driver cannot wait until parents arrive. We strongly suggest you get to know the other parents at your bus stop. If anything unforeseen happens, you will find it useful to have the mobile phone numbers of the other parents at your stop.

## Public Notices:

**Learn brass in 2012.** Did you know that this year is the year of the French horn? For too many years, children who want to learn the French horn have been deterred by the size, price, and availability of the instrument. This year, we have French horns available for hire, including in smaller sizes! And of course, trumpets. Enrol now at [www.raroamusic.org.nz](http://www.raroamusic.org.nz) if your child is interested in learning with Kirsten Sharman in small groups. Orchestra vacancies are still available for all instruments.

## Helen O'Grady Drama Academy

For over 30 years, our acclaimed, self development drama programme has been helping children (5-18 years) to act confidently and speak clearly. Enthusiastic, qualified teachers and a dynamic learning environment **motivate students to participate willingly and achieve their personal best, at all levels of development.** For more info, contact them on: (04) 3889710 [www.helenogrady.co.nz](http://www.helenogrady.co.nz)



## Ministry of Social Development

**The Green Paper for Vulnerable Children: Norm Hewitt asks us to “Say something and change children’s lives.”**

Like me, as parents I’m sure you feel angry and sad every time another child is deliberately hurt – or worse – by their caregiver. Each year, around 10 of our children – our own tamariki – are killed by the very people they are supposed to rely on for protection, while at least 160,000 children are living in conditions that mean they are unlikely to reach their potential. We know the factors that make these children vulnerable – the big question is how can we fix them? What needs to change to make New Zealand a great, safe place to bring up kids?

These are the types of questions the Government’s Green Paper for Vulnerable Children asks. Released in July last year, this discussion document is asking what *we* think should be changed to ensure all children reach their full potential. We need as many New Zealanders as possible to answer – it doesn't matter what you say; you just need to *say something*. We aren’t powerless to stop child abuse – this is something we can all do to help.

Please take the time to go to [www.saysomething.org.nz](http://www.saysomething.org.nz) and have your say. You can also mail in a submission, or post comments on Facebook or Twitter. After the submissions are read, a Children’s Action Plan will be developed and released during 2012. As parents, you know what it’s like to raise a child in New Zealand; you are the experts. So, please, do your part to become part of this critical conversation. **Submissions close on February 28.**

Norm Hewitt

Champion. Green Paper for Vulnerable Children

Child, Family and Community Policy

Ministry of Social Development - Te Manatu Whakahiato Ora