



Principals Message

Kia ora e te whānau,

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our first Māngere College newsletter of 2025. This year has begun with incredible momentum, and already our students and staff have set a strong tone, one of purpose, pride, and possibility. From our Year 13s leading at dawn blessings and community events, to the powerful performances and achievements at Polyfest, and the many learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, our students continue to embody the values of our kura.

This first half of the year has also brought significant moments of reflection. We were honoured to celebrate the life and legacy of our beloved Deputy Principal Melegalenuu Toalepaialii Ah Sam, whose influence continues to be felt deeply across our school. Her commitment to cultural identity, student voice, and excellence in education will forever be part of who we are.

We also welcomed several new staff to our Māngere College whānau. They have already begun making meaningful contributions, and I know their presence will help further strengthen our teaching and learning journey.

Our winter sports seasons are well underway, and I would like to thank all of our coaches, managers, staff and parent helpers who support our co-curricular programmes. Your ongoing support for our students is greatly appreciated.

We are currently reviewing our school curriculum, and we encourage you to engage with us as we look to the future curriculum of MC. Your feedback is important to us, so please share your feedback and aspirations for your children through the various platforms that will be provided.



As we look ahead to next term, I want to remind our students, whānau, and wider school community of the key learning and behaviour expectations that support a successful and respectful learning environment at our college. Upholding our school values of Respect and Responsibility means wearing the correct uniform with pride, attending school every day, and being on time to school and all classes. It also includes being well-prepared for learning, bringing the right equipment, completing homework, and engaging fully in class.

These expectations help create a positive and focused atmosphere where every student can thrive. We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing these important standards at home.

I want to acknowledge the hard work that goes on behind the scenes every day, teachers, support staff, whānau, and students who give their all to make Māngere College a place of belonging and aspiration. Your commitment allows our students not only to succeed, but to lead, to challenge, and to grow.

Thank you for walking alongside us. I look forward to all we will continue to achieve together in 2025.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Geraint Tagaloa
Principal – Māngere College

Haere Mai to Our New Staff For 2025



Elmerie Lafaele
Deputy Principal



Hannah Woods
Technology Teacher



Tania Mulipola
Attendance Officer



Shabnam Jedari Eyvazi
Teacher Aid



Salvation Maumea
Career Administrator



Reuben Fruean
Support Staff



Sanjay Prasad
HOD English



Antonia Fraser
Receptionist



Ana Mailata
Counsellor



Mehnaz Ali
Commerce Teacher



Malama Masoe
Support Staff



Mandra Maswaya
Math Teacher



Li Chunling
Language Teacher



Jasine Leo'o Olo
Learning Support



Lafulafu Lakopo Roebeck
Support Staff



Ray Sa'u
Language Teacher



Jade Kerr
PE Teacher



Ellen Doughty
Social Science Teacher



Benjamin Rastrick
Social Science Teacher



Fala Anamani
Social Science Teacher

Student Leaders Update

From 5am wake ups to unveil new monuments in the community to staying back late nights to help out with PSTs, it is safe to say this year has been a pretty full on one for our student leaders here at Mangere College. Coming into the new year,



our student leaders were met with the responsibility of taking care of newly arriving year 9 students and their awhina classes, being present in their assemblies and PSTs and guiding them throughout their high school journey.

Additionally, they have been in charge of leading school events such as athletics day and the up and coming Haka Waiata competition.

This year, our student leaders have shown strong presence in our school through their leadership and have led with the intent of making school enjoyable for all students. At Mangere College, our student leaders are not only doing the work of today but are paving the way for the future of tomorrow.

Manuia Fox-Romia

Mangere College Students Step into New Pathways

Mangere College students have been actively exploring future pathways through a series of leadership and vocational development programmes this term. Year 13 Pasifika students took part in two powerful leadership events—the Hokule'a Leadership Programme hosted by Victoria University of Wellington, and the Pacific Island Leaders of Tomorrow (P.I.L.O.T.) programme. These initiatives offered students the chance to connect with peers, explore cultural identity, and gain confidence in their next steps beyond high school. The P.I.L.O.T. programme's theme, "Our ancestors were pilots of the ocean," served as an inspiring reminder of the leadership and resilience inherited by our students.

Vocational workshops also equipped students with practical qualifications. Over three days, students earned forklift licenses and 7 Level 3 credits through the Forklift Training Workshop, preparing them for opportunities in trades and industry. Meanwhile, the Drivers Licence Workshop, running in Weeks 6 and 7, supports students working towards their learner's license—an essential step toward independence and employment. Each of these opportunities reflects Mangere College's commitment to empowering students with the tools, confidence, and experience needed to thrive beyond the classroom.



2025 World Vision Youth Conference - Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders

On May 2nd, six seniors and Mr. Shah attended the 2025 World Vision Youth Conference, a leadership event that didn't just speak about making change but instead made the audience feel it. Hundreds of students from the corners of New Zealand entered a hall and left with a heart filled with conviction and a passion to make a difference. We were able to experience a heartfelt and motivational storytelling by Brad Smeele, a former professional kiwi wakeboarder, who, while performing a trick at a wakeboarding competition in Florida, crashed and 'shattered' his vertebrae leaving him unable to move from the neck down for the rest of his life.

He invited questions from the audience and left us with a powerful message: it's not what happens to you that defines you but how you choose to react. Another crucial aspect of the conference was the 40-Hour Challenge, a campaign that asks students to give something up for 40 hours, whether its water, food, or screen time, in order to raise money for a cause. This year the cause was the Solomon Islands, the accomplished 19-year old Roy Wasi from the Malaita Province in Solomon Islands talked about the struggles communities face every day from rising sea levels to food shortages, but what really pulled us and all the other young leaders wasn't the stats or numbers but instead the real faces, voices and stories shown, which stayed with us.

His message that 'the youth can lead too' was clearly displayed through his words and actions, from his powerful advocacy to speaking on global stages such as the United Nations. This experience was empowering and inspiring. We walked away with new knowledge, empathy, gratitude for what we have and a passion to be part of the solution - **Safa Mustafa**



Humans of Mangere College: Deputy Principal Elmerie Lafaele



- If you were not in your current job, where would you be?
The education field in the tertiary sector.
- What is an experience that shaped who you are today?
- I really enjoyed the high school I went to in Manurewa which shaped a lot of my decisions and influenced my pathways to this role.
- If you could talk to your past self, what advice would you offer yourself?
Probably to try new things, I only started doing that much later. It would have been good to get out of my shell and try new things at a younger age.
- What's the nicest thing someone has said to you? My children say I'm strong and it's nice to see them follow my footsteps and play the same sports that I do.
- What's is your favorite snack? Musashi protein bars, white chocolate flavor.
- What's your favorite activity to do in your free time? Cross fit after work.
- What is your dream travel destination? Italy.
- What was your favorite subject in high school? I really loved biology.
- What is your favorite movie? Bend it like Beckham.
- What is your favorite color? Black

Bay of Islands, Level 3 History

In May our Level 3 History students embarked on an enriching field trip to the Bay of Islands. The journey began in Kororāreka (Russell), the first capital of Aotearoa New Zealand. Students hiked up Maiki Hill to see the historic flagstaff that Hone Heke famously cut down four times in protest, symbolising early resistance to British colonial authority. They also explored the beautifully preserved Pompallier Mission House, where the first Bible was printed in te reo Māori.

A highlight of the trip was visiting the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, where students toured the museum collections and attended a cultural performance that brought the history of the Treaty to life in a powerful and engaging way. The trip concluded with a visit to Ruapekapeka Pā, the site of the final battle in the Northern Wars, providing a sobering and meaningful end to their journey through New Zealand's colonial past.

Throughout the trip, our students represented Mangere College with pride. They were consistently respectful, engaged, and demonstrated maturity beyond their years. Staff at the Bay of Islands Holiday Park even described our group as "the best school they've hosted in a very long time." A huge thank you to Mr. Moore, Ms. Tualaulelei, and Ms. Pasese for their guidance, energy, and support throughout the camp. We look forward to continuing this tradition of hands-on learning next year!



Recycle a Device Workshop



Mangere College was proud to host the Recycle a Device Workshop giving students an exciting opportunity to explore the inner workings of computers and learn hands-on repair skills. The workshop aimed to build digital literacy and confidence while also promoting sustainability through device refurbishment. Eighteen students walked away with new knowledge and refurbished touchscreen laptops that they had helped bring back to life. As they dismantled, diagnosed, and rebuilt the devices, students developed valuable problem-solving and collaboration skills.

A special shoutout goes to four outstanding young women, Sikara, Rachel, Unique, and Shya who emerged as natural leaders during the workshop. After being guided through the technical steps, they took on mentoring roles, assisting their peers with installing Windows and running diagnostics. Our sincere thanks to Matua Dan, whose 2024 workshop planted the seeds for this one; Nailini and Elmerie, for their unwavering encouragement; and Ivan, for generously making D7 available for the day so the students could learn in a fully equipped environment.

Workshops like these are a testament to the power of hands-on learning, community support, and student leadership. We look forward to more opportunities that prepare our learners for a digital future.

Local Soccer Leadership

Recently our Level 2 PE students stepped up to support the Southern Auckland Intermediate Schools Soccer Competition, an event that brought together approximately 20 teams each day from primary and intermediate schools. Students have been developing their skills in refereeing, assisting as linesmen, and learning how to organise sports draws and fixtures. This event provided the perfect opportunity for them to put their learning into action.

Over the two days, our students demonstrated excellent leadership, confidently officiating all the games and ensuring the competition ran smoothly. Their professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment to fair play made a strong impression on both players and staff. Well done to all our students for representing Mangere College with pride and for contributing to the success of a fantastic community event.



Chinese Bridge Competition 2025 - Our Students Shine on the Regional Stage

On 24th May, four talented Year 10 students, Chevron, Grace, Cassandra, and Liza proudly represented Mangere College at the prestigious 2025 Chinese Bridge Competition, held at the University of Auckland Business School. This international event promotes Chinese language learning and cultural exchange, bringing together over 150 contestants from across the region.

Our students impressed judges and spectators alike with their Mandarin speeches, demonstrating both linguistic skill and cultural insight. They also took part in the cultural performance segment, showcasing traditional Chinese dance, reciting poetry, and presenting on ethnic costumes—all confidently delivered in Mandarin.

Their outstanding efforts are a testament to the strength of our Chinese language program and the commitment of both students and staff. Congratulations, you've made Mangere College incredibly proud!



Orienteering and Ecological Discovery at Māngere Mountain

This term in May, a group of our ESOL ākonga successfully completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Practice Journey, taking part in three days of outdoor learning, exploration, and challenge. Held across Māngere Mountain, Ambury Farm, and the Manukau Harbour, the journey was a chance for students to build resilience, confidence, and teamwork through hands-on experiences.

From orienteering and ecological exploration to kayaking along the coastline, our ākonga showed determination, leadership, and strong collaboration throughout the programme. It was more than just an outdoor trip — it was a journey of personal growth, connection, and stepping outside comfort zones. We're incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to their next steps in the award programme.



Te Punga Dawn Blessing - Māngere College Students Represent with Pride



On 27 March 2025, our student leaders took part in the dawn blessing and unveiling of Te Punga (The Anchor) — a basalt sculpture created by artist Pāora Puru and sculptor Chris van Doren, using rock from Watercare's Central Interceptor tunnel. The sculpture, located near Māngere Lagoon, holds deep cultural meaning for the Waiohū iwi, symbolising the significance of Te Maanukānuka o Hōturoa (the Manukau Harbour).

Head Girl Manuia Fox-Romia and Head Boy Liu Tupou spoke at the event, reflecting on the spiritual and historical importance of the site. Despite the early start, our students arrived at 6am, proudly representing the school with a te reo waiata and powerful messages of hope. Their presence left a strong impression, with community members praising their leadership and respect. The morning closed with shared kai and a strong sense of unity. Special thanks to Watercare, our staff, and the student leaders for making this such a memorable event.

“The spiritual world is far greater beyond the physical world. This monument stands here not only as a representation of the present, but of all the decisions of our ancestors and the land it stands on. Thank you for preserving our history, our present — and hopefully, we [students] will do a good job at preserving our future.”

Year 13 Commerce Trip to Wellington

Our Year 13 Commerce trip to Wellington was an unforgettable experience for the students studying Accounting, Economics, and Business Studies. The first stop on our itinerary was the Wētā Cave, where students got a behind-the-scenes look at filmmaking, including costume and mask design. It was a completely new experience for many, and they thoroughly enjoyed exploring the creative process behind iconic films such as *The Lord of the Rings*, *Narnia*, *Avatar*, and more.

Next, we visited Te Papa Museum. Students were captivated by the vast and diverse exhibits, learning about New Zealand's unique flora and fauna, as well as our rich history, including wartime events and cultural heritage. On the second day, we attended a well-organized presentation at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ), where students gained insights into the Official Cash Rate (OCR) and how it impacts the national economy. This was followed by a visit to Parliament, another highlight of the trip. Students learned about social justice, how petitions are made, and took part in an engaging role-play activity — with one student acting as Prime Minister, another as the Minister of Finance, and the rest as journalists during a press conference.

We also had the opportunity to observe a live parliamentary debate between government and opposition members during a question-and-answer session — an experience none of the students had encountered before.

On our final day, we visited the National Library, where students attended an informative session on the Treaty of Waitangi.

They had the rare opportunity to view the original signatories of the Treaty document, deepening their understanding of its historical and cultural significance. Overall, it was a highly successful trip, and students returned with enriched knowledge and a broader perspective on commerce, governance, and New Zealand's heritage.



Tea, Trains and Turning Points

Before visiting China, my world felt familiar. I thought I understood how things worked, what mattered, what didn't. But sometimes, life turns the page for you, and suddenly, everything looks different. This year, I received an amazing opportunity to travel to Guangzhou, Shantou, and Beijing through the Jay Action Kiwi Dragon Cultural Exchange Scholarship, a journey that redefined my perspective of how I see the world and myself. Guangzhou is a city in motion, Skyscrapers running into the city, trains blurring across the horizon, with everything being fast paced but the people stayed rooted in with who they were. It made me realize that growth and heritage don't have to compete, they can coexist, yet in fact they should.

Experiencing the rich Chaoshan culture in Shantou which was not only displayed for tourists, but lived, shared and passed down like a family story. Being welcomed into homes treated like relatives where I first realised just how different, yet deeply human, life can be on the other side of the world. It wasn't the size of the city that struck me, but the warmth of the people. Walking through local street vendors, hearing Cantonese buzz through the air, and sitting at dinner tables with a group of new people I had just met, it felt like stepping into someone else's story and being welcomed as part of it. We shared meals, laughter, and culture without needing perfect language. I learned that hospitality isn't about formality, it's about heart. One evening, after a long day of exploring, an elder poured me tea and simply said, "You are home now." That moment rooted something deep in me. In Shantou, I wasn't just a visitor. I belonged.

Then came Beijing, the capital, where every corner echoed with history and transformation. I explored palaces that once housed emperors, walked through streets where dynasties ruled and revolutions rose, and stood in places where decisions were made that shaped the future of a billion people. I visited the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City, and Tiananmen Square, each more powerful than the last. And of course, the Great Wall which is not just a monument, but a message: "With enough purpose, you can build the impossible." Beijing wasn't just a city. It was a living archive and walking through it made me feel like I was a part of something far greater than myself.

I came back different than how I had left. Not just with new memories, a heart filled with nostalgia and a bag full of laundry yet to be washed, but with a vision. With a new belief that global experiences aren't just for a chosen few but they're possible for any student willing to say yes. You don't have to be perfect. You just have to be willing. Willing to try. Willing to represent. Willing to grow. If you're reading this and thinking, "I'd never get picked for something like that," I want you to know that I thought the same. But the truth is, you don't have to wait to be great to go places. You just have to take the first step – **Alisha Sharma**



*This trip taught me that sometimes, the best way to find your place in the world is to leave it, even briefly.
Because when you return, you bring back more than souvenirs. You come back bolder. Braver.
Ready to rewrite your own story with a new chapter.*

Term Dates 2025

Term 1: 30 January 2025 – 11 April 2025
Term 2: 28 April 2025 – 27 June 2025
Term 3: 14 July 2025 – 19 September 2025
Term 4: 6 October 2025 – 19 December 2025

Upcoming Events

Whanua Evening – Tuesday 17th June, 6PM
Matariki – Friday 20th June
Last Day of Term 2 – Friday 27th June
First Day of Term 3 – Monday 14th July

Mangere College Celebrates 50 Years of ASB Polyfest

2025 marked the 50th anniversary of Polyfest. For Mangere College, this year's celebration was particularly special. As one of the pioneer schools of the competition back in 1976, and the inaugural champions, our kura proudly stood at the heart of this year's historic celebration. Also winning the ASB POLYFEST 50TH Celebration award – 'Best of the Best'

Mangere College has long been recognised as a cornerstone of cultural excellence and identity in South Auckland. This year, we not only celebrated five decades of Polyfest but also paid tribute to the incredible legacy of the late Melegalenuu Toalepaialii Ah Sam. A fierce champion for Samoan language and culture, Mama Ah Sam was the driving force behind the Samoan stage for many years. In her honour, many of our cultural groups performed dedicated tributes, acknowledging her unwavering service and the powerful legacy she leaves behind.

This year's participation was one of our strongest yet, showcasing the diversity and unity within Mangere College:

- Kapa Haka proudly represented Te Ao Māori, performing with mana and precision. Their presence reaffirmed our commitment to the tangata whenua of Aotearoa and our deep respect for Māori traditions.
- Our Fijian-Indian group made waves on stage and earned a placing, proudly representing the unique blend of Fijian and Indian heritage that contributes to our school's rich identity.
- For the first time ever, our Afghani boys stepped onto the Polyfest stage, breaking new ground by sharing their vibrant culture and proudly representing their community.
- The Tongan group delivered powerful and energetic performances that earned them a well-deserved 3rd place – a testament to their hard work, pride, and cultural strength.
- Our Samoan group moved the crowd with heartfelt performances, many of which were tributes to Mama Mele. Their performance was not only a cultural expression but a celebration of her life and work.
- The Cook Islands group was a standout highlight, achieving 2nd place overall on their stage. Their performance was filled with passion, precision, and pride – a true representation of Cook Islands excellence.

Thank you to our kaiako, tutors, parents, and wider community who supported our groups. And to our tauira who took the stage with courage and pride, you have made your school and culture proud.





Roselie Shines in Secondary Schools Choir

This term, a few of our Year 13 vocalists had the chance to rehearse as part of the Auckland Secondary Schools Pasifika Choir, which encompasses students from several schools around Tāmaki Makaurau. These students had only a week to rehearse for the Black Ferns vs. USA game held at North Harbour Stadium on Saturday 24th of May, where they would be singing the national anthems of both NZ and USA. The choir rose to the challenge, and so did our Music Leader Roselie Urika Filifilia, who was chosen to sing the female solo part of the NZ national anthem in front of the stadium and national TV! Congratulations and well done Roselie!

New Zealand Music Month

May is Te Marama Puoro o Aotearoa | New Zealand Music Month, and the Performing Arts department celebrated with a Kainga event for our students and staff! We offered two options to participate this year: the Kainga Cover Challenge for those interested in performing, and the Kainga Quiz for those more introverted.

[TBC - waiting for results 30 May]

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Kainga challenges and kia kaha puoro o Aotearoa!

Coming Up

15 June - Stand Up Stand Out registrations close

27 June - House of VA trip for PA Leaders, 2/3DAN, 2/3FAS

16 July - Play It Strange Open Competition closes

(please come talk to Miss Hopman if you're interested in entering any of the competitions above!)



Honouring a Legacy: Mele Commemoration 2025

On Friday, 6 June 2025, Māngere College whānau gathered in the school auditorium to honour the life and legacy of Melegalenu'u To' Alepaiali'i Ah Sam, beloved Deputy Principal, proud Samoan leader, and deeply cherished member of our community. The commemoration opened with a heartfelt Tatālo Amāta (opening prayer) by Revelation Manumaleali'i, followed by a warm welcome from Head of Languages, Fuatino Nu'usavili. These opening moments set a tone of reverence and remembrance, acknowledging Mele's unwavering commitment to the college and its community.

Speeches by alumni principals John Heyes and Tom Webb paid tribute to Mele's leadership and vision, while the audience were treated to powerful performances by the Year 12 and Year 13 Samoan students. Their traditional items served as both a celebration of Mele's heritage and a tribute to her encouragement of cultural pride within the school. Further reflections came from alumni staff and students, including Vivian Maskell, Lemoa Henry Fesuluai, and Salome Wright, each of whom shared personal memories of Mele's mentorship, warmth, and determination to uplift others. A powerful speech by Mele's daughter Joanne Lufi brought together stories of her life beyond the school gates, offering a glimpse into the values that shaped her strength and leadership. Principal Geraint Tagaloa and student Crystalbell Afitu closed the formal programme with reflections on the mark Mele left on Māngere College, not only in her role, but in the hearts of those she inspired. The service concluded with a Tatālo Fa'ai'u (closing prayer), ending a deeply moving gathering with a sense of peace and gratitude. As Māngere College continues to grow, Mele Ah Sam's legacy will remain woven into the very fabric of the school.



Sports



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