MĀNGERE COLLEGE NEWS

October 2026 | Term 4

Principals Message

Welcome to Term 4. As we enter the final term of the year, there is much to celebrate across our school community.

This edition of Māngere College News reflects the talent, resilience, creativity and commitment of our rangatahi, both inside and beyond the classroom.

Art by Ansha chand | Year 13

It has been wonderful to see our students embrace opportunities that prepare them for life beyond school. From industry training, construction and retail experience to driver licensing, leadership development and exploring careers in law and technology, our students continue to build the skills and confidence needed for their future pathways. We are grateful to our industry, education and community partners for helping make these opportunities possible.

We have also seen our students demonstrate leadership through service, culture and connection. Spirit Week brought our school together in a vibrant celebration of student voice and creativity, while initiatives such as The Lumana'i Project show how culture, learning and meaningful relationships can create spaces for our students to thrive. I am equally proud of our rangatahi representing Māngere College through music, the arts and positive contributions to the wider community.

As our senior students approach their final assessments, prizegiving and graduation, I encourage them to remain focused, make the most of every opportunity and take pride in how far they have come. To our junior students, there is still much to learn, achieve and contribute before we close the year.

Thank you to our staff for their dedication, to our whānau for your continued support, and to our students for the energy and spirit they bring to Māngere College every day. Our strength lies in the relationships we build and the collective belief we have in the potential of every young person.

Let us finish the year with purpose, pride and a commitment to supporting one another.

Ngā manaakitanga, Geraint Tagaloa
Principal – Māngere College

More Than Just a Dress-Up Week- How Spirit Week brought colour, creativity and connection to Māngere College by Alisha Sharma

For one week in May, Māngere College was definitely not its usual self.

The corridors were filled with outfits from different decades, students were carrying everything except an actual school bag, and people showed up dressed as memes. The gym became one of the main places to be at lunchtime, with students watching runway shows, showing off their outfits and supporting their friends. Even some staff got involved, making the week feel like something the whole school could enjoy. From 18–22 May, Spirit Week brought a different kind of energy to MC. Held during Youth Week, the week was planned and led by students, with support from staff, MC Whānau, the Careers Department, CLM, TTT, Ara Taiohi and other community partners.

But Spirit Week wasn't originally just about dressing up. The idea came from an MC Active meeting, where students carried out a SWOT analysis of Māngere College's school culture. They identified some issues they wanted to see change, including fighting, low attendance, poor communication and limited participation from both students and staff. At the same time, students recognised what already made MC special: its cultural diversity, strong community connections, and the number of students involved in various activities.
So, instead of just talking about what could be better, students came up with an idea that could bring people together: Spirit Week.

The goal was to encourage whanaungatanga, strengthen mana, give students more of a voice and create a stronger sense of belonging around the school. This also connected with the Youth Week 2026 theme, “Our voices matter! We deserve to be heard.” And the students definitely made the most of that opportunity.
The five days each had their own theme: Decade Day, Dress as a Meme, Anything But a Bag, Multi-Cultural Day and Career Day. There were also lunchtime activities and Awhina competitions, giving students plenty of different ways to get involved.

For some, the dress-up days were the highlight. One student said Meme Day was their favourite, especially because of how creative everyone became.“A lot of students got very creative with their outfits, crafted their own costumes from cardboard, and just put pieces together to make like the best outfit.”
And it wasn't just about having the funniest or best costume. For them, Spirit Week gave students a chance to be themselves and show off their creativity. “I really wanted to express the creativity of every student,” they said. “I wanted it to be a positive and safe and comfortable space for students to express themselves and their styles and have fun mainly.”

Another student enjoyed Decade Day and Multi-Cultural Day the most. Decade Day gave them the difficult task of choosing between several outfits they already had at home. “I actually had fun trying to dress up. I had several different outfits at home, but I only had to choose one, sadly.” Multi-Cultural Day was different. It gave them the chance to represent their country and celebrate their culture alongside everyone else. For other students, getting involved was a little harder.

A student admitted that they only participated in Meme Day because “it's hard to put yourself out there.” Even so, they still decided to take the opportunity when it came along. “There’s not a lot of chances that you can take up an opportunity like that,” they said. “It was really fun to just be in the moment with my friends, with people I don’t know.” That was one of the things that made Spirit Week work.

Students didn't have to participate in exactly the same way. Some went all out with their costumes, some joined the activities, some watched from the sidelines with their friends, and others simply enjoyed seeing what everyone else had come up with. The gym was one of the busiest places throughout the week. Students gathered there to watch the different activities and see what their classmates had brought for Anything But a Bag Day. Students even took part in one of the runway shows. “It was very fun, very fun experience,” they said. “I hope we can experience it again next year.”

Staff participation also made a difference. Teachers and other staff members joined in with the themed days and activities, which helped make the week feel less like something organised for students and more like something the whole MC community was doing together. That was important because Spirit Week was always supposed to be about MC Whānau. Māngere College already has events where school spirit is obvious, such as athletics and Polyfest.

Spirit Week gave the school another chance to come together, but in a much more relaxed way. Students from different year levels could interact, staff could join in, and people could see a side of each other that doesn't always come out in a normal school day. There was also a bigger purpose behind the week. Around 75 MC Active students helped plan and deliver Spirit Week. They weren't simply waiting for someone else to organise an event for them. They were involved in identifying problems within their school, coming up with an idea and then actually making it happen.

The Samoan proverb “O le ala i le pule o le tautua”, the pathway to leadership is through service, was put into action through the students' work.

Spirit Week also gave students something to look forward to during the term. With fewer whole-school events later in the term, it was an opportunity to bring some excitement back into the school week and encourage students to get involved. Career Day added another side to the week, with the Careers Department helping students think about their futures through a Careers Expo. This meant that the week wasn't only about having fun, it also connected students with opportunities beyond school.

Looking back, the outfits and activities might be what people remember first. The cardboard costumes, the decade outfits, the cultural clothing, the creative bags and the staff costumes all became part of the memories.
But Spirit Week was also about something much simpler: giving people a reason to participate.
For five days, students had a chance to laugh with their friends, meet people they might not normally talk to, show their creativity and represent their cultures. Staff had a chance to join in too.

It wasn't perfect, and it didn't need to be.
It was loud, colourful, sometimes a little chaotic, and very MC.
And maybe that's what made it feel like Spirit Week.

Digital Skill for Life Graduation

Thanks to Mr Sanjay Prasad’s patience and dedication, learners recently completed a digital skills course that gave them practical, hands-on experience with technology.

The course covered laptop set-up, email, Google apps, creating documents and presentations, downloading files, and digital safety. Learners also explored how to use AI tools to find information.

For just $60, participants received in-class learning, a comprehensive workbook and a Chromebook to keep upon completion of the course.

Another course will be offered in term four, providing a great opportunity for students’ families to build their digital skills and confidence.

Sounds Of Polynesia (SOP) Brings the Energy to the Stage!

Our SOP group did Māngere College proud with their outstanding energy, enthusiasm and stage presence at the New Found Sound comp finals at The Tuning Fork ! They were undoubtedly a standout group, bringing an incredible vibe to the event and entertaining the crowd with their confidence, humour and natural onstage banter.

Our boys were fantastic at getting the audience going, while our Year 13 girls overcame their nerves to perform confidently and blend seamlessly with the group. Together, they struck the perfect balance, showcasing the talent, personality and spirit of our students.

Although the band narrowly missed out on a prize, the judges later revealed that SOP had come within just one point of winning the band category! With only three prize categories available, it was a very close result.
Regardless of the outcome, our students represented Māngere College with pride and showed everyone what makes our school community special. We are incredibly proud of them for bringing their talent, energy and authentic selves to the stage!

The Lumana'i Project: A Taste of Pasifika Culture and Connection

Every Friday for the past two months, Māngere College's Achievement Centre has transformed into a Pasifika Culinary Arts hub through The Lumana'i Project (Lumana'i means future in Samoan).

This micro-learning programme gives students who experience anxiety in busy environments a welcoming space to explore cooking techniques learned at home while developing professional culinary skills and confidence.
From fa'apapa and paifala to panipopo, sapasui and chicken long rice, students are encouraged to experiment with traditional recipes, innovate and share their cultural knowledge.

At the heart of each session is talanoa, meaningful conversations about life, dreams, education and aspirations, shared around the table. Students also practise Pasifika values of respect and hospitality by serving elders and guests first.

The Lumana'i Project is a wonderful celebration of culture, connection and creativity, helping our rangatahi build skills for the future, one delicious dish at a time!

Students Experience Shakespeare at the ASB Waterfront Theatre

Our senior fashion students and selected senior drama students had the opportunity to witness Auckland Theatre Companies version of Shakespeare's MACBETH at the ASB Waterfront theatre during Term 3.

We are very grateful to Auckland Theater Company who provided tickets and funded a bus for us to get to the venue. Our students were blown away by the actors' high intensity stage presence, the set design and costume design, lighting and music all moulding as one incredible performance.

We were given prime position seating, and our amazing students performed a waiata tautoko "Eiki Koe 'ofa 'a'au'" to the cast in response led by Primrose Havea at the Q&A session with the cast.

A huge mihi to our tumuaki Geraint for his continued support in the arts and creative industries, and to our supervising staff who accompanied our students for the trip. We look forward to the 2027 season and inspiring our students to seek the hights beyond MC.

Māngere College Students Featured on RNZ News

Two students, Jackson Davida and Tevita Alofaki, featured in an RNZ News article on 1st September, highlighting the important work of the local Enviro Hub and its contribution to the Māngere community.

Both students have been involved in establishing and maintaining the hub, helping clean up local streets, reduce litter and learn about growing their own food.

Their involvement is a wonderful example of rangatahi taking pride in their community and making a meaningful difference.

Read the full story on RNZ: Kāinga Ora shuts down South Auckland community hub to use space for housing.

Year 13 P-TECH Whānau Evening Connects Students

Māngere College's Year 13 P-TECH Whānau Evening was a success, bringing together students, whānau, teachers and industry education providers to explore future opportunities in IT and creative technology. Representatives from Techtorium, The Cause Collective – South Auckland Creative and Tech Hub, Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT), Mission Ready, ARA P-TECH and KiwiHacks shared information about the programmes, training and career pathways available to students in 2027.

The evening also highlighted exciting opportunities for our P-TECH students, with information about paid internships expected to be shared next term. Year 13 P-TECH students will have the opportunity to apply for these internships, which have been extended from five to eight weeks and are scheduled to begin in January 2027.

Māngere College was also recognised as the pilot school for the Grassroots programme, involving our Year 11 students and highlighting the school's ongoing commitment to developing technology skills and future career pathways.

It was a valuable evening for students and their whānau, who left with greater insight into the opportunities available beyond school, along with a shared meal and a clearer understanding of the next steps towards their future careers. A big thank you to all the providers, staff, students and whānau who contributed to making the evening a success!

Cancer Fundraising Cake Sale

Well done to our librarians for fundraising during the PST Conferences by selling cancer awareness ribbons and a yummy cake sale.

Together, they raised $384.30 in support of this important cause. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ribbon and contributed to the fundraiser.

We are proud of our librarians for showing such initiative, compassion and community spirit!

Ka pai, team!

Leadership in Action: Holiday Programmes and Mentoring

Our Māngere College students have been making the most of their school holidays, taking part in leadership development programmes that build confidence, resilience and valuable life skills.

Year 11 Students Take on the Connection Club Challenge

During the first week of the holidays, eight Year 11 students were selected to participate in the Connection Club programme, run by Fit60 and the Mealamu brothers. Throughout the programme, students were challenged both physically and mentally, while gaining valuable insights from leaders across different industries. Sessions covered goal setting, financial capability, overcoming fears and navigating the barriers that can stand in the way of becoming future leaders.

A big thank you to Kiri and Julz for supporting our students throughout the week, particularly as they joined participants from six other schools. We also acknowledge Neville, Head of Department, and our principal, Geraint, for attending the students' graduation and learning more about this valuable initiative.
This is a fantastic opportunity, and we look forward to seeing more of our rangatahi participate in future school holiday programmes.

Celebrating Our Sisters United Mentors

Last Friday evening, we also celebrated our Sisters United mentors, who completed their training and went on to lead the Young Queens programme for our junior students throughout the term. It was wonderful to see these young women demonstrating confidence, leadership and a commitment to supporting others. A special congratulations to Ava, Eseta and Ane Kofe, who were assessed as part of the programme and achieved 10 credits towards Youth Work.

We are incredibly proud of these students for stepping up as role models and helping empower the next generation of young women at Māngere College. Ka pai to all our rangatahi for embracing these opportunities and demonstrating the leadership potential within our school community!

Careers Update

Māngere College students have been exploring a range of career pathways and gaining valuable workplace skills this term. Seventeen students completed a three-day security course with Solomon Group and Tree House, while 21 Year 13 students successfully completed a Gateway programme with The Warehouse, gaining practical retail experience.

Students also took part in driver licence workshops supported by Auckland Transport and forklift licence training, developing skills that can open doors to future employment. Our Year 13 students attended MIT's Elevate Leadership Programme, strengthening their confidence, teamwork and leadership skills.

Meanwhile, our MCPA Construction students continued gaining hands-on experience through the Roscommon Project and celebrated graduating from ARA Education after 35 weeks of hard work and dedication.

Students also visited Manukau District Court Community Day, where they learned about careers in the legal sector and heard from lawyers and judges.
We are proud of our students for embracing these opportunities and thank our education and industry partners for helping prepare our rangatahi for their futures.

SchoolBridge

Our School App provides a one-stop-shop for parents and caregivers to communicate directly with school. We strongly recommend you download the app as it is the only portal to report absences and receive direct messages on your mobile, specific to your children.

The app can be downloaded free on your mobile device or desktop.
Download it using the App Store or Google Play by clicking the following links:
SchoolBridge on the App Store (apple.com) or Get it via Google Play (Android)

Step 1: Download the App
Step 2: Once downloaded, you will be prompted to login. Click Login.
Step 3: Choose either Microsoft or Google login options and register with an existing account. NB: You MUST use the same email you have registered with the school.
Step 4: If you DO NOT have a Microsoft or Google account, register your email address under 'Or request a Magic Sign in code'. NB: You MUST use the same email you have registered with the school. If you have registered this way, you will receive an email link to continue your registration.
Step 5: Your App is downloaded.

On the App you can:

- Find all school contact details
- view daily notices and newsletters
- report a student absentee (with one click) and late arrivals
- request a leave of absence or an exit pass
- access KAMAR (our Student Management System)
- track your child's academic results and see relevant, NCEA progress
- receive notifications directly to your phone, relating to your child
- approve/decline trips, relating to your child – simply click on 'Permission Slips & Forms'
- add multiple children – simply click on 'Switch Siblings'
- gain up to date financial information regarding your child's subject and activity charges

DID YOU KNOW?

We have an upgraded school gate

We've upgraded the pedestrian access at the school's back entrance (Caravelle Close) to make drop-offs and pick-ups safer and smoother for everyone.

This isn't a new entrance, just a better one! The area now features a fully concreted footpath, improved access, and more efficient parking flow to help ease congestion during busy times.

Let's work together to improve traffic flow and keep our tamariki safe.

Key Dates 2026

- Senior Prizegiving - 5 & 6 November
- Teacher Only Day - 30 November
- Wider Living Week - 7-11 December
- Junior Prizegiving - 10 December
- Year 13 Graduation - 4 December
- Seniors Ball - 5 December
- Last Day of Term 4 - 11 December