



MORRINSVILLE

Intermediate School

Kia U Ki Te Pai Whatever You Do, Let It Be Your Best



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Empowering Learners to Succeed
*Hei whakamana nga ākonga
i te whai ao*

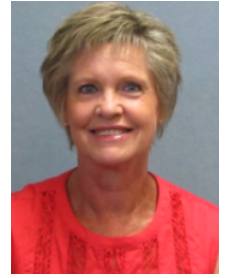
Newsletter

Term 1 Week 1 Newsletter 2024

Kia ora e te whānau and welcome to our first, very informative, newsletter for 2024.

I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas/New Year and time to rest and recharge with your friends and family.

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all new Year 7 (and some Year 8) students, and your families, along with our returning Year 8 students. Our opening roll is 336.



It's my pleasure to welcome new staff to MIS: Mrs Anita Muter as classroom teacher in Room 9, Mrs Anita Semmens in a new position as science specialist as well as Mrs Belinda Duncan who is our new class music/performing arts teacher (Wednesdays). We are very excited to have these ladies joining our dedicated teaching team this year. All our staff look forward to working with you in partnership to ensure your child/ren have an enjoyable and rich learning experience whilst at Morrinsville Intermediate School.

At MIS our aim is to ensure all students reach their personal potential through being provided with an extensive range of rich and relevant learning opportunities that best meet the needs of emerging adolescents. Our **vision**: Hei whakamana nga ākonga i te whai ao - Empowering learners to succeed, and our **motto**: "Kia U Ki Te Pai – Whatever you do, let it be your best" underpin our school culture and we will endeavour to support your child to demonstrate the skills and dispositions associated with these. However, we can't do this alone; we need engagement by your child/ren and your support as parents/caregivers/whānau. The most powerful learning happens when we are committed to working in partnership. It has been great to meet many of you already at our open afternoon last week, and I'd like to extend a personal invitation to you all to join us for our **Whānau Picnic Evening** next Wednesday 7th February from 5.30 p.m. onwards. Please see more details below.

Intermediate Schools are unique in that they promote **learning opportunities** specifically designed for Year 7 and 8 students. This is to ensure students' social, emotional, academic and physical needs are met. However, this will only happen if students are prepared to get involved in the opportunities made available to them. So my challenge to all students is to settle in quickly, learn the routines of the school, join the many different sports teams, groups, clubs or competitions on offer as you never know what doors these may open. By giving something new a go, you may be inspired and challenged to take your new learning further.

As principal, this is my ninth year here and I continue to be passionate about, and very proud, of our school and the journey we are on. We have a wonderful staff who are committed to developing positive learning partnerships with students; I strongly believe that the **partnership** is strengthened when students, parents and teachers work together. One of our strategic goals this year is to enhance whānau connections and collaboration to improve outcomes for our ākonga (learners).

A large part of this includes ensuring positive relationships are forged as well as engagement in learning. Supporting your child in his/her learning not only shows your child you care, it also gives them confidence in knowing that they are on the learning journey together. Ensuring your child **attends school daily** is critical. 'Every day counts and every minute matters' is one of my mantras. Our target is for all students to attend school daily; if your child is sick, needing to attend medical appointments, or for bereavement purposes, please phone/contact our school to let us know. Please avoid taking your child out of school for long weekends, birthdays, shopping, visiting family etc. as these 'unjustified' absences negatively impact the continuity of their learning.

Communication between school and home is critical. We work extremely hard to keep you abreast of what is going on and how your child is progressing. To best support your child and their time at our school please take the time to read our **fortnightly newsletter** (available via email, our website, Facebook page and our Skool Loop App or in hard copy from the office) as this will keep you in the loop about what is going on at school.

Talk to your child about what their learning focus has been at school and support them with their home learning (homework); your child's teacher will be communicating with you fortnightly to let you know what the current learning foci are and how you can best support them at home.

Please visit our school website: www.mi.school.nz as this will also help keep you informed of upcoming events, key dates and other important information about our school. Also 'Like' our school Facebook page to see what we get up to and download the free Skool Loop App.

In summary, the teaching staff and I look forward to working closely with you throughout the year to ensure your child is happy and well supported to reach their personal potential. If you ever have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to make contact with us.

Kind regards,
Jenny Clark
(Principal)

Featuring in today's newsletter:

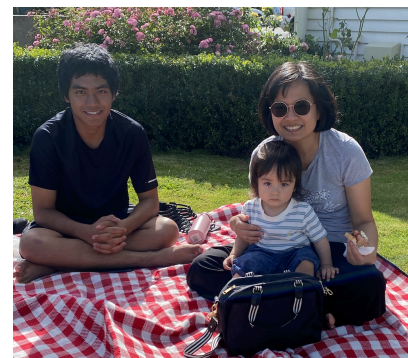
Whānau Picnic and Information Evening (see photos below from last year)

Out and About photos

Japanese host families wanted

General School Information:

- *Contacting teachers*
- *PE / School uniform*
- *Sunsmart policy*
- *BYOD*
- *Mobile phones in school*
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- *School Newsletter*
- *Absentees*
- *School Fees / Donations*
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- *MI Mates Fundraising Committee*
- *Teacher Only Days*
- *School buses / road safety*
- *Pedestrians and drop offs/pickups*
- *Term dates*
- *Link to Term One calendar*
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Whānau Picnic and Information Evening: Wednesday 7th February 5.30 pm onwards

We would like to invite you all to join us next Wednesday evening to 'connect and reconnect' with our staff and members of the school community. It will be an opportunity for you to bring a picnic, fish n chips, pizza, or enjoy a sausage sizzle (\$2 each), chill out on our field and maybe join in a game or two; time to relax and have some fun. During the evening the staff will be mixing and mingling so you can get to know them and ask any questions you may have.

We have also organised the following meetings for you to attend throughout the evening:

- 5.30 p.m. International Travel (Library); for any students applying to travel to Vanuatu in August, or Japan in September
- 6.15 p.m. 'Meet the Teacher' (in your child's classroom); an opportunity to visit classrooms and to hear key messages and to ask/clarify any matters

- 7.00 p.m. MI Mates meeting (R. 4); do you want to make a difference for your child and our school? We would love your support as part of our fundraising committee. Come along and see what it is all about
- 7.00 p.m. Music Information (Hall); if your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument after school, come along and meet our fabulous music tutors and see what is available

Out and About - Day 1 photos:



Students enjoying catching up during break times and our first full school assembly for 2024

Can you help? - Japanese Host Families Urgently Wanted:

We are asking families to consider hosting a Japanese student as part of an annual exchange. For over 25 years Morrinsville Intermediate School has been part of a language and cultural exchange with Shibuya Makuhari Junior High School (MJHS) in Japan alongside ten other intermediates.

It is an amazing opportunity for families to host a Japanese student in March for just under two weeks; firm friendships are made and lots of reciprocal learning about each other's culture occurs. Students arrive on Thursday 7th March and depart Tuesday 19th March. Both Year 7 and Year 8 students are eligible to host a student. It is expected that if your child would like to be considered for the Japanese exchange in September to travel to Japan, that your family will host a student.

This is an excellent opportunity to take part in a cultural exchange and for your child to make friends with a student from a very different culture from our own. The costs of hosting a student are reimbursed through a hosting grant of approx. \$450 (including \$15 for lunch on a school excursion visit). There should be no significant cost to any family taking up the opportunity to host a student. If you would like a copy of the Homestay Application Form / info sheet please email m.cook@mi.school.nz asap.

General School Information:

Parent / Caregiver Contact details: A reminder of the importance of keeping our office informed of any changes to your contact information including parent / caregiver email addresses, contact phone numbers and addresses. Bulk email is the quickest and easiest way for us to communicate with families. Please email office@mi.school.nz if you need to update your records, you can also advise us of any changes via our quick links tab on our school website www.mi.school.nz or give us a call on 07 889 6629.

Contacting teachers: If parents have any matters to discuss, your first point of contact is with the classroom teacher. Please email the teacher directly or send a brief written note with your child. Staff emails can be found on our website www.mi.school.nz. The teacher can then make contact with you.

P.E. Uniform: All students are required to bring their P.E. gear daily. If your child is unable to participate in P.E. for any medical reason, parents need to send a signed note or email of explanation to the classroom teacher. Please encourage full participation whenever possible.

Important aspects of our school uniform:

At MIS we have a saying: 'Sharp, not shabby!' - it is important that students adhere to the correct school uniform as this shows a sense of pride and responsibility. Please support your child to enable this through the following:

- Clear naming of all uniform items is required.
- Sandals: black Roman
- Shoes: plain black (no coloured soles or logos)
- Socks: plain black ankle
- PE Shorts: plain black (no large stripes/colours/logos)
- Sun hats are compulsory in Term 1 and 4. These are provided by the school for a \$10 fee (hats must remain at school)
- Hair: extreme colouring or unnatural streaks are not permitted. Shoulder length or longer hair is to be tied back with a dark or neutral coloured hair tie.
- Jewellery: wrist watches and small studs in pierced ears are permitted (no more than two studs in each ear). One necklace of religious or cultural significance can be worn discreetly.
- Makeup is not permitted.

Sun-Smart Policy: All students will be issued with a school sun hat during Terms 1 and 4. These hats are school property and are to remain at school at all times. Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen at home and reapply this as needed. A \$10 Hat Fee is included with the school fees which will be invoiced early in Term One.

BYOD: Students are encouraged to bring their own learning device to school BYOD (excluding phones & i-pods) if they have signed the Cyber Safety and Responsible Use of ICT Devices Agreement. This needs to be read thoroughly and signed by parents / caregivers as well. When student's devices are not being used they are kept in a locked cupboard in the classroom.

Mobile phones in school: Phones at school are discouraged. However, if parents would like their child to bring a cell phone to school the 'policy for use of mobile phones in school' must be read, signed and returned to school acknowledging you understand, and will comply with, the policy for mobile phones at school. All phones must be handed in to the classroom teacher on arrival to school in the morning. They are then sent over to the office for safe-keeping during the day. Any phones brought to school without consent will be confiscated and returned to parents.

Smart Watches: last year we saw a number of students wearing smart watches. Please discuss appropriate use of these at school with your child. We discourage any messaging with home/friends outside of school to avoid distractions. We have a phone at school students can access if it is urgent for them to contact home. If students are found to be misusing smart watches they will be asked to refrain from wearing them.

Skool Loop App: We have a 'Skool Loop' App which parents can download from the App Store, select our school to receive notices, view the school calendar etc. Skool Loop can also be used to advise us of a student absence.

School Newsletter: An electronic newsletter will be distributed online via email, Facebook, Skool Loop and on our school website every second Thursday (starting in Week 3). This will contain school news, upcoming events and information. If you would prefer a hard copy of the newsletter, students can collect one from the office foyer.

Absentees & Office Info: The school office is open each day from 8.00am to 4.00pm. If your child is going to be late or absent, please phone the office before 8.50am, advise us via our website link or via Skool Loop. It is important for students to arrive at school on time to ensure they are ready for learning prior to the bell.

Students who need to leave school for any reason during the day eg: for a dentist appointment must be collected from school and signed out. We are asking parents to contact the office in advance and we will arrange for your child to meet you in the admin block foyer.

School Canteen: The canteen is open for students at morning tea and lunchtime. The price list will be displayed in each class and on the Student Notice Board. We discourage students bringing large quantities of money to school to spend in the canteen or to 'share' their food/money with their friends.

MI Mates Fundraising Committee: Parents / caregivers are invited to come along to our MI Mates meetings which are held at a time to be determined at the first meeting next Wednesday (as part of Whānau Picnic Evening). Meeting dates will be advertised online, please keep an eye on our Facebook page. Many hands make light work - thanks in advance for your support!

School Buses & Road Safety:

All students who travel by bus have had a bus meeting at school today to be allocated their bus number and roll for pick-up from school in the afternoons. Bus students must adhere to the 'Code of Conduct' they've been provided; please discuss this with your child and have it signed and returned to the office by Friday.

If you have any queries regarding bus times please contact the bus company; either Greenline Motors on 889 7758 or Taverner Buses on 09 235 1007.

Caregivers are responsible for getting their children to school, which may involve getting the children to and from their nearest bus pick-up and drop-off location. Please either stay with your children while they are waiting for their school transport in the morning or keep in contact with them to make sure that they are picked up safely. It is recommended students and caregivers be at the bus pick-up/drop-off locations five to 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.

NO vaping / consuming of food etc is permitted on the bus.

Pedestrians & Drop offs/pick ups:

Student safety is paramount. The designated place for children crossing the road is the crossing on Elizabeth Ave. Parents are to drop their children off and pick them up from the Elizabeth Ave entrance (known as the 'Top Gate'). Please avoid parking on the yellow lines (this impedes visibility at the crossing), pulling into the driveway.

The staff car park off Coronation Road is for drop offs and pickups during the day only, not to be used daily or when wet. Please avoid pulling into the bus bay. Thanks for your support.

School Term Dates:

Term One: Wednesday 31st January to Friday 12th April

Term Two: Monday 29th April to Friday 5th July

Term Three: Monday 22nd July to Friday 27th September

Term Four: Monday 14th October to Tuesday 17th December

 **MIS Term One Calendar** Click the link on the left to access the Term One calendar. Hard copy sent home today.

2024 Teacher Only Days:

The following MOE dates have now been approved by the Board as Teacher Only Days for work on Te Mātaiaho / NZC Refresh:

1. Tuesday 4th June (Week 6 after King's Birthday).
2. Friday 25th October (end Week 2 before Labour Day).

In addition, there will be a Kahui Ako Teacher Only Day held on Monday 4th March.

School Bell Times:

Block One 8.50am to 10.40am

Block Two 11.00am to 12.30pm

Block Three 1.30pm to 3.00pm

Please visit our school website www.mi.school.nz Like us on facebook and download our free Skool Loop App to keep up-to-date with school activities and events.