

Morrinsville Intermediate

Newsletter: Term Four Week Five

Kia Ora koutou, my warmest welcome to you all in Week 5.

The weeks are flying by as we head into the second half of the term, tackling the myriad of learning opportunities and preparations for 2021.

Due to inclement weather over the past week or so, unfortunately our Athletics Day competition was disrupted. However, we were able to proceed again on Monday; completing the track and field events prior to the sprints finals scheduled to be held next Monday 16th starting at 9.30 a.m. Please feel welcome to pop down and join us.

Staffing News:

We are well underway with preparation for 2021, finalising staffing and organising class placements.

Last Friday we temporarily farewelled Mrs Baylee Baxter, who is taking maternity leave for six months. We look forward to meeting the latest addition to the Baxter household in the middle of December.

Welcome back Mr James Higgins, who has just returned from study leave; James is teaching in Room 10 for the remainder of this term.

Mr Doug Ashley-Miller, who has been on a fixed term contract with us for 2019-2020 will not be returning in 2021, deciding to pursue mathematics teaching in secondary schools. We thank Doug for his contributions to MIS and the Tainui Team.

Mr Stuart King, our Hard Materials teacher, has announced he will be retiring at the end of Term One next year. Stuart has been teaching with us for 45 years. Congratulations Stuart, what an achievement!

Congratulations to Ms Amanda Mawhinney who has recently announced she is expecting a baby next year. Amanda will teach up until the end of Term One with Baylee Baxter returning to teach full time.

2021 New Staffing:

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following two new staff members:

Larissa Schumacher:

Kia ora koutou. After six years teaching at Cambridge High School, I am very excited to be moving back home and returning to Morrinsville Intermediate, a school I attended as a child, but this time as a teacher! I am looking forward to sharing my passion for learning with my students and helping them to grow as awesome young adolescents.

Music is the major love of my life. I play the clarinet, saxophone, euphonium and percussion, as well as conducting too. If I'm not at school, I'm probably at a band rehearsal! I also love to dance, read, garden, or try something entirely new! I believe that we feel the most joy when we succeed at challenges that we have set ourselves, and that is a motto that I strive to live by every day. I look forward to meeting you all in 2021!

Tiana Wheat:

Kia Ora, I am incredibly honoured and excited to be starting my teaching career at Morrinsville Intermediate in 2021. I have almost completed a Bachelor of Teaching at The University of Waikato.

I have grown up in the Morrinsville area on a dairy farm and have just purchased a house in Morrinsville with my fiancé, soon to be husband as of December 2020. My interests include the outdoors, physical education and wellbeing, and quality time with family.

I am very passionate about teaching and inspiring young adolescents to achieve to the best of their abilities. I look forward to meeting you all and connecting with the Morrinsville Intermediate community.

Roll Growth:

Due to an influx of enrolments for 2021, the Board have decided to employ an additional classroom teacher. This will also mean a slight reduction in class sizes across the school; I am currently in the process of making an appointment for the 11th teacher.

All eleven classrooms are compiled according to the same criteria: a balance of academic learning abilities, gender, ethnicity, leadership capabilities, Key Competencies etc. We believe balanced classrooms are beneficial for all. Current Year 7 students have been invited to submit a proposal to Mrs Devane requesting a change of class to join the 11th class (as all of our classes are composite Year 7 and Year 8). This will impact on approximately 15 students.

Each year, we also review Year 7 class placements across the school. Sometimes we feel a child would benefit from a move to a different class/peer group; typically, this involves approximately five students. We will be in touch with any parents of students moving classes in the next two to three weeks, prior to Orientation Day on Thursday 3rd December.

Transitions into, within, and out of MIS are very important to us just as they are important to you and our students. We work closely with our contributing primary schools, and the College, to ensure our students' needs are met, and that they are set up for success moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns regarding transitions please contact us.

Property Upgrade Progress:

Our upgrade projects are progressing well with the Science Room and new toilets (x5) nearing completion, with the refurbished changing rooms ready to be opened shortly.

The addition of heat pumps across the school has been welcomed with the onset of the warmer temperatures; learning is more conducive when classrooms are kept cool. Rooms 7-10 have also had their north-facing windows tinted to reduce glare and better insulate the rooms. Room 3 and 4's upgrade is progressing as planned, due for completion in December.

It appears there has been some speculation circulating about Rooms 1-4 going to be fully opened to create one huge space, this is inaccurate. We understand modern learning environments are not suited to all learners, and the BOT has been very mindful of creating a flexible learning space that enables both collaboration as well as a single-cell structure.



The cloak bay between the rooms has been removed to make provision for a 'break out' space, and a wet area. The classrooms have sliding doors that can be open or closed off depending on the needs of the students and the structure of the learning programme. This is an amazing space and will be conducive to enhancing student-led learning and cross grouping opportunities as desired.

Inter-Intermediate Speeches:

Congratulations to Rhys Gibberd who represented MIS at the II Speech competition last Thursday, placing third. The judges commented and concurred that the standard of speaking was exceptionally high.



Each candidate achieved well across the content and delivery and it was noted that they were representing the best of over 6,000 students across the Waikato.

Inter-Intermediate Softball:

Our Inter-Intermediate boys and girls softball teams enjoyed a day at Resthill Park in Hamilton last week. Congratulations to the girls who finished in 2nd place overall; a great accomplishment. Both teams enjoyed the experience and learned a lot throughout the day.

Thanks to the parents for their support with transport on the day and special thanks to Vicky Broomfield and Tracy Johnson for your expertise and time given coaching again this year.



Aranui Camp:

Our first Team camp is due home tomorrow afternoon from Lakewood Lodge. Although the weather was a bit of a mixed-bag earlier in the week, our students and teachers are enjoying an awesome camp experience which gives students an opportunity to experience skills such as managing safety in outdoor activities, showing courage to try new things plus develop team building and leadership skills. See our Facebook page for photos of our campers in action!

We would like to say a massive thank you to our camp parents who took time out of their busy lives to accompany our teachers and students to camp. This is a huge commitment and without their support, we would not be able to provide these opportunities to our students.

Rangatiratanga Award (doing the best for yourself):

Each Friday during assembly one student per class is acknowledged for demonstrating Rangatiratanga, specifically one of the Key Competency indicators. The Week 3 foci was resilience.

Congratulations to the following students from Week 3: Morgan Room 1, Miah Room 2, Brooke Room 3, Tami Room 4, Joel Room 5, Hinewai Room 6, Brock Room 7, Reese Room 8, Jade Room 9, Richard Room 10.

End of year Excellence Prizegiving:

Our school prizegiving will be held on Monday 14th December from 11.00am to approx. 1.00pm. All parents and whanau are invited to attend.

Every effort will be made to contact parents by phone or email closer to the time if your child is receiving an award on the day. Students may go home following prize giving but only with their parents / caregivers. See you there as we celebrate our learners success.

Upcoming Dates:

10 th – 13 th November	Aranui Team Camp
17 th – 20 th November	Aotea Team Camp
24 th – 27 th November	Tainui Team Camp
Tuesday 1 st December	Inter-Intermediate Athletics
Wednesday 2 nd Dec	BOT Meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 3 rd December	Year 6 Orientation 11.00am
Wednesday 9 th Dec	Year 8 Formal Social 7pm – 9.30pm
Friday 11 th December	End of Year Reports go home
Monday 14 th Dec	School Prizegiving 11am – 1.00pm
Tuesday 15 th Dec	Last day - school finishes at 12.30pm

2021 Term Dates:

Term One:	Tuesday 2 nd Feb to Friday 16 th April
Term Two:	Monday 3 rd May to Friday 9 th July
Term Three:	Monday 26 th July to Friday 1 st Oct
Term Four:	Monday 18 th Oct to Tues 14 th Dec

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook to see what we get up to at school, visit our website www.mi.school.nz for general school information and download the free Skool Loop App.

MI Mates Fundraiser:

Our school MI Mates Committee will be running a stall selling cold drinks, ice blocks, savouries and cakes / baked goods during the Lockerbie Estate Digger Day being held on 14th November from 10.00am to 2.00pm. If you would like to help out in any way please contact our MI Mates Staff Rep. Kylie Wells on k.wells@mi.school.nz for more information.

