

Morrinsville Intermediate Newsletter: Term One, Week Eleven

Kia ora e te whanau. Welcome to Week 11's newsletter and the last one for this term. I wish you all the very best for a safe and enjoyable school holiday. We look forward to everyone returning on Monday 3rd May for an exciting Term 2.

Staff Professional Development:

On Thursday 1st April our staff took part in a Teacher Only Day growing their understanding and skills in Digital Technology fluency. They were lucky to be supported by Clement Lind from 'Using Technology Better'.



Responsible Use of the Internet:

We are currently engaging with Linewize, a company who supports schools to "meet the challenges of today's connected learning environments. From content filtering and cyber-safety alerts, to teacher/student screen sharing, to ongoing education for your entire school community. The Linewize ecosystem is the modern way to manage your tech & keep students safe with a school filter".

All our students have a school Google account. We expect that students use this for educational purposes, and in a responsible manner at all times. An audit was conducted over ten days by Linewize to determine what students were accessing. In response to that, we have blocked certain sites to support ensuring our students are accessing appropriate material to enhance their learning. If/when students attempt to search inappropriate material, an alert is sent to us through a daily report which we then follow up.

As parents/caregivers I encourage you to monitor what your child is accessing, and when. I discovered that some students were on devices at midnight (even during the week) which impacts hugely on both their learning and behaviour. Thank you for your support with this.

Tips for Cyber-Safety:

- No devices in bedrooms & turn off WiFi overnight.
- Add a Youth Helpline number to your child's contacts in their phone so they have an alternative 'safe space' if needed.
- Download apps that your kids have and use them in the mindset of a child their age.
- Set parental controls/know the commended age for apps (we recommend adding a few years!).
- For teens, help them navigate the current landscape.
- For younger children, put off sole device ownership as long as possible.
- Work with your school, they should not have to carry the burden of the fall-out from personal device use.

Term 2 Staffing:

Farewell to Mr Stuart King who has been teaching at MIS for 45+ years. What a magnificent achievement. Mr King was acknowledged at a special assembly this afternoon.

Stuart, we wish you all the very best for your next chapter and thank you for your outstanding commitment to our students and MIS. We will miss you!

Mrs Amanda Montero (nee Mawhinney) will be on maternity leave for the remainder of 2021. Amanda, we wish you and Maurice all the very best for the safe arrival of your precious daughter and look forward to having you back in 2022. Mrs Baylee Baxter will be returning from maternity leave to Room 10 after the birth of her second son, Noah.

Mr Mark Ord will be joining us for Term 2 as part of a special project to support our learners. Welcome Mark.

Mrs Andrea Devane will be Acting Principal for Term 2 in my absence, while I am on sabbatical leave. I was awarded leave in 2019 for 2020, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic this was deferred to 2021. I am very grateful for the opportunity to complete some study, as well as take time to rejuvenate. I appreciate the support from the Board of Trustees and staff, and know the school will be in very capable hands during my absence. Thanks also to Mrs Sally Armstrong who will be Acting Deputy Principal for Term 2.

50th Jubilee Celebrations:

Last Friday we enjoyed a special 50th Jubilee Assembly, morning tea and school tour for our guests. We connected with ex students, staff, principals and Board members who joined us to celebrate the school's milestone. A 50th Jubilee booklet has been compiled to commemorate the journey of MIS since 1970 and this is available from the office for \$20.

A BIG shout out to those who contributed baking for the special morning tea and also to Mr Robbie Cookson for his very generous donations towards the morning tea. It was all very much appreciated and our guests felt very spoilt.



Above: Kapa Haka performance.

Left: official cake cutting with Mrs Gadsby who was a teacher at MIS in 1970 and Cameron Jeffrey, our youngest student.



Question and answer session with Mr Brookes who was the Woodwork Teacher at MIS in 1970 and Mr Leith who was the Principal during 2014 and 2015.



Group photo of our guests at the Jubilee Open Day.

Recent Student Success:

We have very talented students at MIS who are involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities both inside and outside of school. We would like to congratulate the following students and teams on their recent achievements:

Kayley McMillan recently competed in the North Island Schools Mountain Biking Championship and finished in 1st place in the both the Cross Country event and the Enduro. She also competed in the Te Miro Twister 21km event and placed 1st for the under 13's as well as 1st female overall.



Sabrina Chong is a Step 7 (Senior Level) gymnast and trains at Hamilton City Gymnastics. Sabrina has recently competed in Rotorua. On Day 1 she came 1st overall and her team came 2nd. On Day 2 Sabrina came 3rd on vault, 3rd on bar, 3rd one floor and 2nd on beam. All the best for the selections for the Nationals held in July.



Representative Basketball:

Congratulations to Harlo Lawson, Ethan Spraggon, Shayd Lawson, Delana Kidd, Georgia Mills and Kayley McMillan who were selected for the Waikato Country Basketball Team. The girls team placed 2nd and the boys placed 3rd overall at a recent tournament.

Touch Rugby:

Well done to our three school teams who have competed in the Waikato touch rugby module in Hamilton on Monday afternoons. Thanks very much for the parent support with coaching, managing, and transport. Special congratulations to Team Tahī who finished in 2nd place overall.

Inter-Intermediate Cricket:

Congratulations to our Inter-Intermediate Cricket boys who played in Hamilton on Tuesday. They had an awesome day, winning two of their three games against Fairfield and Rototuna, and just lost to Berkley by 8 runs.

MIS placed 3rd overall which was fantastic, and thoroughly deserved! All the students were a credit to our school.



Winter Uniform:

During Terms Two and Three students are required to wear winter uniform. This requires a softshell jacket and / or a regulation polar fleece and regulation black school shoes (no high tops).

We recommend leather school shoes as they are more weather tight and longer-lasting than canvas shoes. Boys are required to wear plain grey, knee high school socks and girls are required to wear either knee high navy socks or black stockings.

Easter Raffle:

A BIG thank you to our students and to everyone who supported our Easter fundraising raffle, generating \$7,232.00! This was an amazing effort and the funding has enabled the purchase of a second trampoline, new basketball and netball hoops, and some new sound systems for classrooms.

Congratulations to the following students who did an amazing job selling raffle tickets:

1. Jessica Cross
2. Olivia Vickery
3. Charlotte Chapman

Upcoming dates:

Fri 16th April Last day of Term One
Mon 3rd May Start of Term Two

Remember to Like our school page on Facebook, visit our website www.mi.school.nz and download our free Skool Loop App to keep up-to-date.