



# 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 5 Newsletter 2024

Kia ora e te whānau and welcome to Week Five.

Since our last newsletter we have had a very busy and exciting two weeks. I'd like to congratulate the vast majority of our students who are working hard to demonstrate 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. This includes making conscious decisions about their learning, relationships and behaviour. Our students are wearing their uniform with pride and we all really appreciate that.

For those of you who are new to the school, our four values are:

- Rangatiratanga - doing the best for yourself (this aligns with the Key Competency of 'Managing-Self')
- Manaakitanga - doing the best for others (this aligns with the Key Competency of 'Relating to Others')
- Kaitiakitanga - doing the best for the environment (this aligns with the Key Competency of 'Participating and Contributing')
- Whakawhanaungatanga - doing the best for the community (this aligns with the Key Competency of 'Participating and Contributing')

Last year we worked to develop our Learner Profile (which is a synthesis, or summary of the Key Competencies; the dispositions for learning, and life). After extensive consultation (with students, community and staff) we can confirm EMPOWERED is what we have launched. The acronym aligns cohesively with our vision, and the letters represent:

We demonstrate:

*Excellence*

*Mana*

*Perseverance*

*Opportunities*

*Wonder*

*Engagement*

*Resilience*

*Empathy*

*Determination*

Classes will be 'unpacking' what each of these words mean, and what they look like in various contexts. Our next step is to design new school graphics that depict our vision, motto, values and learner profile. Watch this space.

We have been putting a lot of energy into ensuring the safety of our students who are walking, cycling or scootering to school. Thank you to parents/whānau who are not parking on the yellow lines at the top gate to ensure our road patrol monitors have clear visibility. Students crossing the road into/by Willow Grove have been showing good judgement by ensuring they are crossing safely (from 'the feijoa tree'); Coronation Road is extremely busy straight after school and I urge parents to remind students they need to be patient when crossing the road, and to remain on the footpath until the road is clear. I met with members from the Council last week to discuss road safety measures; currently, the council is investigating the reduction of speed zones around our schools. I have requested speed signage (but this was not promised) and an additional crossing. I will keep you informed of any updates.

One of our 2024-2025 Strategic Goals is: Mataiahika - Connecting and Collaborating. We are passionate about developing effective partnerships with our community, to best support our ākong (learners). We encourage all parents and whānau to get actively involved in your child's two years at MIS as we work together to create a culture that promotes wellbeing and engagement for improved learning. Every second Friday we have face-to-face assemblies, and I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend whenever you can. Assemblies are a great way to share key messages as well as celebrate student success. Our next assembly is tomorrow, Friday 1st March, starting at 9.40 a.m. in our school hall.

Last Friday our new Student Executives were announced (see below). Congratulations to all candidates who put their hand up to 'make the most of opportunities'. We look forward to working with the executive team throughout the year as they support their peers, and our school, in various ways.

Finally, just a friendly reminder that **Monday 4th March is Teacher Only Day is POSTPONED** due to unforeseen circumstances for our professional learning providers. Our Kahui Ako (Community of Learning) are hoping to reschedule this in either Term 2 or Term 3 and will inform you of the new date once it is confirmed; we will give you lots of advance warning.

Ngā mihi

**Jenny Clark  
(Principal)**

Featuring in today's newsletter:

Rangatiratanga Award (doing the best for yourself)

Gold For Glory

Student Executives for 2024

EPRO8

Swimming Sports Festival

Maths Whizz

Supporting learning at home

Term Dates

Term 1 Calendar (link)

**Rangatiratanga Award (doing the best for yourself):**

During Friday Assembly one student per class is acknowledged for demonstrating Rangatiratanga, specifically one of Key Competency indicators. The focus was Responsibility in Week 2.

Congratulations to the following students from Week 2: Anthony Rm 1, Jackson Rm 2, Ethan Rm 3, Stephanie Rm 4, Kellah Rm 5, Sophia Rm 6, Jackson Rm 7, Vihan Rm 8, Loui Rm 9, Olivia Rm 10, Jade Rm 11.

Hard Materials: Akeelah Rm 1, Art: Ava Rm 1, Ethan Rm 3.

**Gold For Glory:**

At each assembly students are recognised by the principal for showing initiative, or going the extra mile that demonstrates our school vision, motto and values.

The recipients in Week 3 were: Anthony Rm 1 for showing manaakitanga and Mersadiez and Cahleisha Rm 5. Well done!

**Student Executives for 2024:**

We are delighted to introduce our six newly elected Student Executives:

**Olivia Ruston, Sam Gaddes, Caitlin Mills, Lucy Soffe, Charlie Goile, Cahleisha Pakau.**

As our student leaders, their role is to represent our school, support the running of assemblies, gather and enact 'student voice', support enrolment and induction processes, welcome new students to MIS and enhance our school as role models.

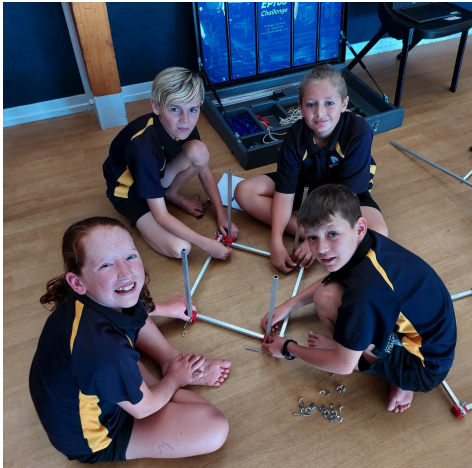
Well done to all students who put themselves forward as candidates.



## EPRO8:

During this week we have held two Epro8 heats and a school final. Our students who were involved had so much fun problem-solving together to engineer different projects.

Congratulations to our eight students who are now going through to our Regional Event which is held at our school on the 3rd of April. You all displayed amazing teamwork and critical thinking skills!



## Swimming Sports Festival:

Well done to all swimmers who participated in our swimming sports festival last Friday; we saw some great competitive races in the morning followed by lots of fun class/team relays in the afternoon. It was awesome to see everyone enjoying themselves and getting into the spirit of swimming.

A big thank you to all parents who helped out on the day, MIS staff, and to Team Piako for their organisation.



***NB: it was disappointing to note that we had 53 students away on swimming sports day (some of which were for genuine reasons obviously), but this was double what we typically have. As principal, I ask that all children are encouraged to attend school on sports days even if they are not participating ... If you enable them to stay home without good reason, you are sending them a message that regular attendance is not important. Sports, and other education outside the classroom opportunities are an important facet of education, as they contribute to building resilience as well as team work (as is evident in the photos above).***

## Maths Whizz:

Over the last couple of years Maths-Whizz has been engaging our students and helping them to achieve their goals. The data our teachers receive assists with development of an effective learning environment. Students like the personalisation of the programme and meeting class challenges, such as getting into the 'Hall of Fame' each week. Please check out the Maths-Whizz [Parent Guide Link](#) to help support your child at home.

## Supporting Learning from Home:

In our last newsletter I shared information regarding the new Government policy about one hour reading, writing and maths. Teachers are working really hard across the school to ensure learning time is maximised. To support your child, as part of the learning partnership, here are some ways you can help:

- Encouraging your child to read daily and share with you what they're reading about (some children may still like to read out loud but most children at this age prefer to read silently)
- Encourage your child to talk to you about what they think about a movie, or video game (oral language building)
- Letting your child see you enjoying reading books, audio books, podcasts, games or movies
- Encouraging your child to write
- Showing your child that you write for a variety of reasons e.g. shopping lists, emails, filling out forms, invitations
- Involving your child in activities where you use maths (playing games with cards or dice, grocery shopping, cooking, DIY activities)
- Involving your child constructing flatpacks (reading and following instructions and thinking critically)
- Praising your child's effort in completing any home learning activities


## 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.](#)

## 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).

Please visit our school website [www.mi.school.nz](http://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.

