



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 3 Newsletter 2025

Kia ora e te whānau, nau mai haere mai ki te panui wiki tuatoru

We are now nearly three weeks into the term and we have enjoyed spending time connecting and reconnecting with our community - getting to know our ākonga (learners) and whānau. A big thank you to those of you who were able to come along to our Whānau Picnic Evening last Wednesday night to mix and mingle with our school community, to meet our staff, learn about how classrooms and programmes operate, and attend the various information sessions. We value establishing positive relationships and connections with you all as we look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.



Our learning concept for this year is: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - Inanahi, Tēnei Rā, Āpōpō ... seeing how the past shapes the future (a lens on history), cause and effect, and future proofing (thinking ahead to career pathways).

Well done to all our students who got involved in our swimming sports, and festival, on Monday. Despite the slightly gloomy weather, the positive we can take out of that was that no one got sunburnt! A BIG thank you to all our parents/whānau who supported the event, through starting, timekeeping etc. We appreciate your help.

Next week our Beach Safety programme begins ... this is a critical part of our health and physical education programme. With New Zealand surrounded by water, and rivers and lakes on our doorstep, it is critical all our tamariki are aware of the dangers, and are confident and competent to swim in a range of contexts. Thank you to all the parents/caregivers who have offered assistance for these excursions.

We look forward to electing our Student Executives tomorrow. The finalists have been named and they will be presenting their speeches to the school tomorrow. All students and staff will have an opportunity to vote for the six students they feel will best represent our school throughout 2025. I wish all finalists the best and welcome whānau to attend the assembly from 10.20 a.m.... we will endeavour to announce the successful candidates by the end of tomorrow.

Thank you for taking the time to engage with our school, and keep informed by reading our fortnightly newsletter. Please find further helpful information below. Happy reading.

Kind regards

Jenny Clark (Principal)

Featuring in today's newsletter:

- Attendance Matters
- Curriculum
- Immunisations
- Road Safety
- Assemblies
- Vaping and smoking
- School Fees and Donations
- Garden volunteers wanted
- Student Learning Conversations
- Term dates
- Term One calendar
- Teacher Only Days



Photos from swimming sports

Attendance - Every day counts and every minute matters:

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensure your child has continuity in their learning and relationships with their peers. We monitor attendance closely at MIS as we strongly encourage every student to be at school at least 90% of the time. We have achieved 94% in the first two weeks of school... the challenge will now be to sustain, or even strengthen this.

There is a trend for some students, with parent permission, to take Fridays and/or Mondays off. Please avoid this as it has a negative impact on both your child's learning, and their relationships with their peers. Regular attendance is critical to supporting our young people to be well set up for college and their working lives beyond that.

Please find below important information below from the Ministry of Education:

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school. As we enter 2025, every day of school matters.

You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent for a day or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure. Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.

If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us! Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school and building a culture that fosters excellent attendance by having:

School staff who have strong relationships with students and whānau.

A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who they are, where they come from and who they want to be.

A school community that does everything to make sure students are at school, and they are participating, and progressing in their education.

Parents and caregivers can find more information here

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/preview/e26ab86c463bb7e5/015413d2f9bfa99a>

WHAT IS YOUR CHILD MISSING OUT ON?

JUST A LITTLE BIT LATE FOR SCHOOL DOESN'T SEEM MUCH BUT

If your child is missing	That equals	Which is	And over 13 years....
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Almost 1.5 weeks of the school year	Almost half a school year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 minutes per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Almost 1 school year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per school week	4 weeks per school year	Almost 1.5 school years
1 hour per day	1 day per school week	8 weeks per school year	Over 2.5 school years

DOES ATTENDANCE REALLY MATTER?

1 OR 2 DAYS A WEEK DOESN'T SEEM MUCH BUT...

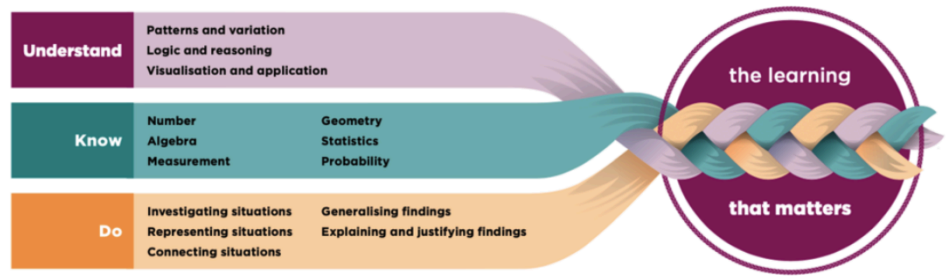
If your child is missing	That equals	Which is	And over 13 years....
Half a day per week	20 days per year	1 month per school year	Almost 1.5 school years
1 day per week	40 days per year	2 months per school year	Almost 2.5 school years
2 days per week	80 days per year	4 months per school year	Almost 5 school years
3 days per week	120 days per school year	Over half a school year	Almost 8 school years

(acknowledgement of the tables above, retrieved from: Helen Jolly, Fendalton Open-Air School)

'EVERY DAY COUNTS AND EVERY MINUTE MATTERS' ... please support your child to be at school every day, and on time.

Curriculum:

As you will be aware, the New Zealand Curriculum has been undergoing a 'refresh'. Mathematics and Statistics is one of the first learning areas to change. As a school we have well and truly begun the journey into implementing the refreshed curriculum. Outlined below are some of the key aspects of our structured approach to Mathematics:



- One hour average of Maths instruction per day (technology classes are intentionally planning and teaching maths-related concepts in their learning programmes also to ensure coherence)
- A school-wide maintenance programme (to assist students to retain previously taught skills and concepts)
- Explicit teaching (can be whole class, or in groups)
- Use of Maths Whizz; this is a board funded online tool that assesses your child's current knowledge and adjusts instruction according to their needs. At school, students will engage in Maths Whizz daily for approx. 20 minutes. It is recommended that students utilise the programme from between one and two hours per week to maximise its potential. Therefore, we suggest your child uses Maths Whizz at home for approximately one hour whenever possible. Here is a [link to parents frequently asked Q n A](#)
- PR1ME Maths (Scholastic, Government funded resource); our school has opted to use this resource to support daily instruction; it provides a research-based scope and sequence to ensure both students and teachers cover all critical elements in the phases of learning. We are in the process of administering a 'placement assessment' which will inform us about which book the students will be working at. For more information please visit this [PR1ME Maths site](#)

It is important that knowledge learnt in maths is applied to a problem solving context based on real life situations; this will be part of our daily learning programmes.

While we have always had a structured approach to maths, we have reviewed and tweaked our practices to ensure our programme is both challenging, yet achievable; we are excited about the implementation of the refreshed curriculum and look forward to seeing the positive impact it has on student learning and achievement.

Extension opportunities in Maths will include: [Otago Problem Solving](#) and MIS Maths Extension (students are encouraged to keep an eye on the daily notices for these programmes which will commence later this term).

It takes a village to support your child on their learning journey. We encourage you to explore our resources so you can help your child practise and build on their knowledge and skills outside the classroom. [Supporting learning at home \(education.govt.nz, February 2025\)](#)

Year 7 and 8 Immunisations:

The Year 7 immunisation for Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough and Year 8 Immunisation for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) will be undertaken during 2025 for all students whose parents have given consent.

Consent forms have been sent home with all Year 7 and 8 Students.

Please complete these and return to school ASAP.

There is provision within the form for consent and non-consent.

As part of the programme, information has been given to each Year 7 and Year 8 Student.

Road Safety:

Student, and public safety is of paramount importance. As parents / caregivers / whānau can you please ensure:

1. Drop off / pick ups use the 'top gate' on Elizabeth Avenue before / after school
2. Cyclists wear helmets that are fitted and fastened
3. You avoid parking on the yellow lines (it restricts visibility)
4. Avoid parking over neighbours' driveways
5. Students use the patrolled crossing
6. Parents do not park opposite the intersection of Elizabeth Ave / Coronation Road and ask your child to cross to you
7. Students crossing into Willow Grove side of Coronation Road, cross up by the 'feijoa tree' - this takes them away from the busyness of the Elizabeth Ave / Coronation Road corner
8. You talk to your child about road safety and not running across roads in front of cars; waiting a minute or so can prevent lives!



Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Assemblies:

On every 'odd' numbered week, we have our face to face assemblies, from 10.20 a.m. This is a time where we celebrate student success and share key messages. Parents/whānau are always welcome to attend.

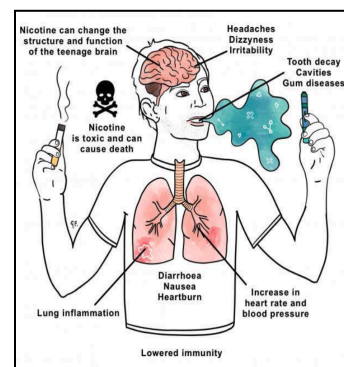
Tomorrow is our Student Executive speech finals ... all students who are vying to be elected as our Student Executives for 2025 will be presenting their speeches to the school, followed by our online voting (students and staff). We will be live streaming this event but anyone wishing to join us, please feel welcome to pop along and support our finalists.

Vaping and smoking:

Vaping and smoking is illegal for children under the age of 18, in NZ. It is harmful to developing brains and for other health related reasons.

At Morrinsville Intermediate School there is zero tolerance to students choosing to bring, or use, vapes (or cigarettes) onto our site.

Everyone deserves to feel safe at school - we take all health and safety matters seriously and there will be consequences for anyone choosing not to follow the NO VAPE OR SMOKING rules. We would appreciate it if you could discuss this with your child.



School Fees and Donations:

Our School Board has opted into the School Donations Scheme for 2025 which is available to schools in Decile 1-7 to help cover costs historically incurred by families. The School Board does not require families to pay fees towards day-to-day operations. However, we do ask that a fee of \$50 is payable to cover the cost of the take home component for Hard Materials and Art. Despite the increasing cost of materials to the school the Board is mindful of ensuring we keep the fees as low as possible.

Hat fee: a fee of \$10 is also charged to all school families for the use of the school hat (worn in Terms 1/4). The fee covers some of the purchase cost and also the laundering costs.

Families are welcome to pay the \$60.00 fees from now on. Our school bank account number is: 06-0369-0928976-00. Please include your child's name and 'school fees' as a reference. **All families who pay the \$60 fees by the end of Term One, will go in the draw to win a \$100 grocery voucher.** Alternatively, families are welcome to set up an automatic payment to pay the fees off.

There are some things that will still require payment by parents e.g. sports team fees, trips and overnight camps (which are all voluntary extra-curricular activities).

Garden volunteers wanted:

Morrinsville Intermediate would like to start up a community garden, in our existing gardens and hothouse. We would love some keen adult volunteers to come in three days a week, plus some after school hours, some weekends and time over the school holidays. You would be liaising with our Food Technology teacher, who is in charge of the vegetable gardens, and working with our students at lunchtimes from 1pm to 1.30 to assist with teaching about month to month planting, weeding, composting, worm farms, crop rotation and harvesting and distribution. We have an aim to provide for the community through the Ezekiel Trust and some for our own school students through our Food Technology programme. We would also like to start up a Maori food garden, with kumara and potatoes.



If you are keen to offer your time, expertise, and/or physical labour, it would be much appreciated. Any time that you could offer would be wonderful. Please contact the school office or email Whaea Trish, our Food Technology teacher, at t.thurston@mi.school.nz and we will arrange a meeting and talk about how you could help.

Policy Review:

Policy Review is an important component of our school organisation, and consultation process. We are a SchoolDocs school which means we work with SchoolDocs to provide us with a comprehensive set of policies which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc. Please visit our site at: <http://mi.schooldocs.co.nz/>

Username: mi

Password: mis

Regular review takes place and I alert the community to the review when scheduled. Not all policies are required to be reviewed by the community. The Term One policies that can be reviewed by the community are:

- Worker Engagement, Participation, and Representation.
- Recording and Reporting Accidents, Injuries, and illness.

Student Learning Conversations (SLC):

Student Learning Conversations will take place during Week 9. SLCs are a valuable opportunity to share how your child is progressing in their learning, and at school in general.

S.L.C.s will be held on Wednesday 2nd April from 1.30pm to 7.00pm and Thursday 3rd April from 3.15pm to 6.30pm.

Please note: normal classes will finish at 1.00pm on Wednesday 2nd April and school will be open for an alternative programme for those who remain at school. However, if students do go home we ask that they learn remotely for the afternoon; they can work on their Writers Toolbox and Maths Whizz.

Parents / caregivers are all invited, and encouraged, to book a 15 minute slot to meet with teachers via www.schoolinterviews.co.nz. The event code will be shared via a separate notice closer to time which will include a permission slip regarding finishing school early on 2nd April.

We look forward to partnering with you during SLCs to support your tamariki with goal setting, and reflecting on their current learning and achievement.


School Term Dates:

Term One: Monday 3rd February to Friday 11th April

Term Two: Monday 28th April to Friday 27th June

Term Three: Monday 14th July to Friday 19th September

Term Four: Monday 6th October to Tuesday 16th December (12.30pm finish)

 MIS Calendar: FB/Newsletter [Click the link on the left to access our school calendar.](#)

Term Calendar One events:

Thursday 20th February	Year 7 vision screening
Monday 24th February	Waihi Beach Trip P3 & P4
Tuesday 25th February	Waihi Beach Trip W3 & W4
Tuesday 25th February	Inter-Intermediate Boys Cricket
Thursday 27th February	Waihi Beach Trip W1 & W2
Friday 28th February	Waihi Beach Trip P1, P2 & P5
Saturday 1st March	MI Mates A&P Show catering event
Monday 3rd March	Waihi Beach Trip T1 & T2
Tuesday 4th March	Waihi Beach Trip T3 & T4
Tuesday 4th March	AIMS Games parent meeting in the hall 5.30pm
Tuesday 4th March	Inter-Intermediate volleyball
Friday 7th March	Kapa Haka starts in school
Friday 7th March	Makuhari students arrive (approx 1pm)
Monday 10th March	Makuhari Powhiri 9.30am
Tuesday 11th March	Inter-Intermediate swimming
17th -18th March	Epro8 Event (in-school)
Tuesday 18th March	Inter-Intermediate Touch Rugby
Tuesday 18th March	Makuhari sayonara party (after school)
Wed 19th March	Makuhari students depart
Tuesday 25th March	Inter-Intermediate drama
Wed 26th March	Board Meeting 6.30pm
Wed 2nd April	Year 7 & 8 immunisations
Wed 2nd April	Student Learning Conversations 1.30pm to 7.00pm
Thursday 3rd April	Otago Problem Solving #1
Thursday 3rd April	Student Learning Conversations 3.15pm to 6.30pm
8th - 9th April	Epro8 Event (inter-school)
Thursday 10th April	School disco 7pm to 9pm (school hall)
Friday 11th April	Last day of Term One
Friday 18th April	Good Friday (public holiday)
Monday 21st April	Easter Monday (public holiday)
Friday 25th April	ANZAC Day (public holiday)
Monday 28th April	First day of Term 2

2025 Teacher Only Curriculum Days:

Term Two:	Tuesday 3rd June (after King's Birthday).
Term Four:	Friday 24th October (before Labour weekend).



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Parent Teacher Interviews

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SKOOL LOOP

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www.mi.school.nz

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school activities and events.