



Principal's Newsletter Week 4, Term One, 2020

He mihi mahana kia koutou – A warm greeting to you all!

We're very pleased with how 2020 has started out. There is so much already happening or on the cusp of starting up. It's very exciting times. Thank you to the parents who have been taking time to be involved and help make things happen so far this year. It's also great seeing parents before and after school, touching base to find out how things are going and gathering feedback.

As part of our teaching and learning development, we are working with a team from Massey University on a programme called DMIC (Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities). This is a whole staff initiative which provides great mentoring and advice for our staff to develop their ability to teach numeracy better. The lead facilitator, who has been observing many classes across our school came to me to let me know that he's seen "an unusual level of student positivity and engagement" in our classrooms, and went on to tell me how much he's loving working with our community. It's great to hear this from someone who has been into schools across the country.

Our staff recently had Mr Karl Vasau present to them. Karl is principal at Rowandale School in Manurewa – and he talked about the importance of building strong relationships with our learners and community. We have also had Mr Mark Osborne from Leading Learning working with our emerging and existing leaders developing their mindsets and skills in leadership. We will be having other leaders from across our Community of Learning joining us in future sessions.

On Monday 24th we held our annual whole school swimming sports at Northcote College and it was pleasing to see more participants being involved in more events than previously. Following on from a self-review in 2019 our Health curriculum sees a more organised and planned approach. I have added an overview of our curriculum and programme at the end of this letter.

Our recent parent information evening was well attended, where we introduced our staff and some board members, and talked about what we do and how we do things at NIS. Lots of positive conversations at the end, and a great presentation from our sports facilitators – Conor McHoull and Claire McCurran.

Our next community events are our Hui 12th March and Fono 19th March. All welcome. Our next parent/caregiver/whanau event are our Parent student conferences on 1st April – more information to follow.

We were also asked by Mike King, New Zealander of the Year 2019, for us to provide the students for this year's video for I am Hope Foundation's Gumboot Friday. This was a massive afternoon for

those involved, who learned much about what it takes to make a music video happen. Keep your eyes open for more on this project.

Our three new classrooms (Rooms 16, 17 and 18) are fully functioning and we are looking to add some seating and shelter around this new area.

On Monday 24th February we held our first Board meeting for the year, which saw a very full agenda with a broad range of issues. There will be much happening this year – including projects around property, teaching and learning and pastoral care. Our Board are a passionate group of parents and staff and are committed to constant improvement. We appointed a Board chair for 2020 – Mrs Kate Punturiero, who was also our Board Chair in 2019. We also received the resignation from one of our long serving trustees - Dr Matt Shepherd. Matt has been on our Board of Trustees for many years and has served as Board Chair. Matt is heavily involved in a new work role, as well as the Kaipatiki Trust as chair, and his children have all moved on from Northcote Intermediate. We thank Matt for his long, passionate service and wish him the very best for his next adventures. We have placed an advert in the local paper for a casual vacancy for a Board of Trustees member. Please contact botchair@ni.school.nz if interested in learning about how you may fit into our board.

We also have some staffing announcements. Valerie Porter, one of our Teacher Aides who works with our Kawau team, has left to live in Australia to be with and support her family. Valerie thoroughly enjoyed her time with us and leaves on a positive note. Among Valerie's achievements has been to ensure our library has been set up and run well. She is extremely well loved by her students and staff. We wish her the very best. Valerie's replacement is Lisa MacRitchie, who starts with us on Monday 2nd March.

We have also been going through an administration team review. As our school has grown, our administration team's structure has not. Sally Penman, who has been our office administrator moves into a newly created role, that of Student Services Assistant. Our long serving Office Manager, Mrs Debbie Doubleday, has decided that it is time for a change and will be leaving us in Term 2. Debbie has been with us for 8 years and has been through our huge growth. She has been an amazing asset and leaves on a really positive note to make a change to her lifestyle. We wish Debbie the very best. We will be recruiting for a new Administration Team Leader/Executive Officer. Please put your thinking caps on should you know anyone who may be passionate and suitable. Email principal@ni.school.nz. We will be advertising externally for this very special and important role.

There are a number of documents that have been added to our website including our 2019 Analysis of variance, updated charter for 2020 – 2022 and our 2020 annual school plan and Maori and Pasifika vision. You can also find our complaints policy on our website. Listed at the end of this newsletter is information around viewing access and giving feedback on our school policies.

Just a reminder, particularly to new parents of what our process is at school with students who bring mobile phones to school. When they come into class at the start of the day the teacher collects all phones into a class box. This box is then stored in our administration area until the end of the day, when phones are returned to students. We have found this to be an excellent way for

students to socialise and be active during break times and help us avoid some of the issues that can arise from social media.

Any cell phones seen in use during the day are to be confiscated and sent to the office. The cell phone will only be returned if a parent/caregiver comes to pick it up- it will not be given back to the student. This applies to students using other students' phones. Students can still contact parents and vice versa through our main office. Please help us to support this process.

February has been Bike Month – an Auckland Transport initiative. We have an active Travelwise group who have worked with AT to implement a bike month breakfast on 28th Feb. Students who have been riding their bikes or scooters to school regularly – and safely – will be recognised. This also promotes an active lifestyle. We are seeing an increase in the numbers of students who travel to school by bike, scooter and by foot.

March is World Hearing month – where we will be doing our best to raise the profile of sign language, one of New Zealand's official languages and bring attention to how we can support those who have hearing conditions. It is also Walking Month – so looking forward to seeing many students, parents and teachers embrace this.

As I write this I can hear students singing their hearts out in preparation for our school chant competition – which is next Wednesday. A big part of what we do is develop our school culture – one of compassion, positivity and high expectations. Looking forward to Wednesday afternoon.

Best regards

Phil Muir

Proud Principal of Northcote Intermediate School

Policies for Review

Each Term we review a small number of our school policies. We welcome any feedback. This term we are reviewing:

- Recognition of cultural diversity
- Staff leave
- Separated parents, day to day care, guardianship

If you would like to read the full policies go to:

<https://www.schooldocs.co.nz/>

Search for our school, then log in using our community login:

Username: northcoteint

Password: Respect

Look at Policy Reviews, under review. Should you wish to give feedback, click the Red review icon, where you can submit feedback. Please submit feedback on the currently reviewed policies before the end of Term.

Physical Education and Health Curriculum Statement

Our overarching philosophy is to provide all students with an appropriate programme to develop their Physical Education and Health skills and knowledge, and to encourage good habits and attitudes for life. This also includes careers advice which will be incorporated in a number of ways, including: guest speakers, visits, inclusion in curriculum (STEAM, relevant topics, The Real Game, CareersNZ material).

General Overview (some elements may change depending on availability)

Term One – Reaching Out: FIRST Learners, NIS Values, NIS Learning Skills. Key Competencies: Managing Change, Relationships, Class Bonding, Team games, Mindfulness, Netsafe. Small ball skills, general fitness, Swimming Sports. Speed and agility

Term Two – Keeping Active/Puberty: Healthy eating, Social messages, Confident me, hygiene, bodywise, positive puberty, be healthy/be active programme. Large Ball Skills, Dance, Cross Country. Strength and conditioning

Term Three – Life Education: Making Choices (Year 7), From the Shadows (Year 8). Athletics/Indoor Sports, CrossFit

Term Four – Keeping Ourselves Safe: KOS programme (Police Community Constable). Athletics/Indoor Sports, Strategy