



Principal's Newsletter Term One, Week 2, 2021

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

Welcome to 2021 and a special welcome to our new parents and caregivers. I'm sure you're all refreshed after the long weekend and are looking forward to a successful 2021. Just a reminder that we have our parent information evening tomorrow night at 6pm, starting in our hall. There'll be an opportunity to hear what's happening and how we do things, as well as meet staff, student leaders and Board of Trustee members.

Last Wednesday we held our welcome powhiri which was an event our Year 8 students can be proud of, and our Year 7's will long remember. Joining us was our local Kaumatua, Mr John Marsden, who spoke beautifully and added to the occasion. Our Kaikaranga – Waihuia Thein in Year 8 did an amazing job of calling in our new students, parents and staff. We're still practicing basic hygiene principals, so elbows were nudged instead of hongiharuru – and we'll be continuing to push essential precautions such as washing hands and surfaces regularly.

Maths achievement has also been in the news recently – and this is an area we have been upskilling our staff in as we believe it is extremely important in helping to make our students future ready. We are fortunate enough to be working with the DMIC (Developing Mathematical Inquiry Communities) team lead by Professor Bobby Hunter who heads the Centre for Research in Mathematics Education at Massey University. This project is steeped in academic and action research and has been around for over 15 years – we are confident it will enhance our student outcomes across the curriculum – particularly in maths.

Please ensure the basics of water bottles and school hats (named) over these summer months and letting us know (starting with your child's teacher) if there are any issues. Over summer we have had more water fountains installed around the school to help keep our learners hydrated – and these each have long bottle filler spouts.

Other key dates for your calendar are:

2nd March, Camp Information Evening (Camp is happening in the last week of Term 1, 12 – 16 April).

16th March NEST Parent Evening, which outlines our Positive Puberty Evening

8th April Parent Teacher Interviews

If you haven't already downloaded our app you are encouraged to do so.

This app is for parents & caregivers to stay informed and up to date with everything that is happening around the school. This includes helpful learning links, access to the Daily Notices, teacher emails and contact, tips and tools for mental health and mindfulness. We are continuously building and adding to this App, so keep checking back for more school content. This was designed and built in-house as a student project in our Ctrl programme - we think it looks and functions extremely well and is very comprehensive. It is available on both the Apple and Google app sites.

As a staff we are working on our 5 C's of Consistency, Communication, Clarity, Continuity and Coverage. In a nutshell:

- Consistency of what we offer across the growing school, of leadership, of expectations
- Communication - ensuring we are communicating effectively in all areas
- Clarity – knowing what we're doing, who we are, where we're going – living our vision
- Continuity – maintaining our momentum in operations and learning as we grow
- Coverage – full and effective coverage of curriculum areas

Let's work together to make 2021 a super special year. Looking forward to seeing many of you tomorrow night.

Warmest regards,

Phil

Phil Muir

Proud Principal of Northcote Intermediate School