

Tena koutou katoa,

As we reach the end of Term 2, I would like to thank our community; students, staff and parents for your resilience during what has been a challenging term. The significantly wet weather has meant adapted learning programmes, closed fields, postponed events, inside lunches, bouts of illness, teacher strikes, wet clothes, cyclone red tape and clean up and on some days just a touch of cabin fever. Our students and staff have continued to carry on with focused teaching and learning programmes, extra curricular programmes, travelling teams, house competitions and EOTC wherever possible. Thank you.

Introducing Our Student Leaders:

We have a fabulous group of Kaiarahi this year. They are active and engaged in all areas of their learning and are working hard on their areas of Service. They would like to introduce themselves to you, [please click on the link to their Ko Wai Au here](#)

Parent Interviews

Thank you to those parents who attended our Korero Ako- Parent Interviews. We appreciate that it is a brief amount of time, and you may want to follow up on some of the discussions you had with your child's kaiako. Please contact them directly to make a time for further discussion if necessary.

A number of parents requested further information regarding how to support their young person on Math Buddy:

Maths Buddy is an independent learning tool that we utilise at Ilminster. It is available 24/7 and caters to all learning needs and levels. Students can choose the level they feel comfortable with and what they wish to work on.

Here are the steps to get your child onto Maths Buddy at home.

<https://mathsbuddy.co.nz>

- click on the link to get to the Maths Buddy website.
- click on "Student Login"
- add your child's username and password (if they have forgotten their login details, Matauranga teachers can send them to you).





<https://sites.google.com/ilminster.school.nz/numeracy/maths-buddy?authuser=0>

Here is the link to the Maths Buddy Ako Puarere site with more information if needed.

Students with High Attendance:

There are a number of students who have consistently shown up to school, rain or shine, with attendance records in the 92% and above. Congratulations on your remarkable attendance! Attendance rewards will be next Friday!

Extracurricular Activities:

I do want to acknowledge all of the students who enthusiastically engaged in various extracurricular activities throughout the term, such as sports, coding, science, arts, chess, bowls, netball, hockey, music, Rockquest, drama, food, kapa haka, instrumental lessons and community service. Despite the challenges posed by the weather and illnesses, our students have demonstrated determination in pursuing their passions beyond their classroom programmes. This is evident from the high numbers of students trialing for hip hop, futsal and netball teams for the AIMS game

Whilst we know that education extends beyond the four walls of the classroom, and that active participation in extracurricular activities plays an important role in overall development. Our students do juggle balancing participating in ECAs with their Centre classes. It can be challenging for Centre teachers when students are out of class 3 out of 5 afternoons at ECAs. What are your thoughts about this? Does it concern you if your child is involved in ECAs and misses time in their Centre? Do you believe we should limit the number of activities each student should do or encourage them to make the most of the opportunities available whilst at Ilminster? Flick me an email with your thoughts - I would love to hear from you. megan.rangiua@ilminster.school.nz

EOTC

We have had a lot of interest in the three EOTC opportunities. We are currently notifying those who are confirmed with places.

The Playground Committee -Kaiarahi (Student Leaders)

The Kaiarahi Playground Committee has been formed at the request of the Board of Trustees, to explore the possibilities of a new playground. Led by 2023 Student Leaders - Dylan Ng, Ella Wilson, Reave Nepia-Anderson, Klara Pauwels and Eilidh Green, they are investigating developing a submission on a vibrant and inclusive space that fosters creativity, physical fitness, and social interaction among our students.

A request for parent feedback on playground submission

Dear Parents

We would like to request input from you to our possible new playground. You are all very valuable to us and we want to make sure that our playground reflects all of the people in our kura. Do you have thoughts on the playground's layout, safety measures, inclusion features, or any other aspect you think is important? [Please fill in this form here.](#) We are eager to hear from you. Please provide feedback on the playground project. Your feedback may influence the final design and features of this (hopefully) upcoming addition to our school.

Do you have any special skills that we could use as part of our submission to the Board - are you a secret playground designer? Let us know.

Thank you

Dylan, Ella, Klara, Reave, Ella and Eilidh

Being Inclusive and Accepting

At the last Board of Trustees hui, the Board agreed that at Ilminster Intermediate as per our policy on Inclusive Education we will ensure that our school enrolment form includes a question that asks students which pronouns they would like to be used to during their journey at Ilminster. This is the relevant excerpt from the policy.

Learners at the Centre:

We work with our students and their families/whānau to ensure our school environment and programmes reflect their identities and keep students engaged in school. This includes:

Preferred Names

• *A student may have a preferred name that is not their legal name, and may ask to be referred to by particular pronouns (i.e. he/she/they). We use the preferred names of students in day-to-day use and also make every effort to pronounce the names of our students correctly.*

• *Subject to any formal name change, a student name on official documents will remain their legal name.*

• The policy can be found on our School Docs website. Username: ilminster Password: simplythebest


Matariki

Next week we are working in Centre's as we celebrate Matariki. I extend our best wishes to you at this meaningful time of the year. Matariki is a time of reflection, celebration, and connection. This is when we honor our ancestors, embrace new beginnings, and appreciate the beauty of our shared heritage. I invite you to join us at school in the mornings to participate in your child's class. Please sign in at the office first. To all of our community I hope that you can spend Matariki gathering with loved ones, nurturing relationships, and expressing gratitude for the blessings in your lives. Kia ora!

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable break.

Ngā mihi nui

Megan Rangiua
Tumuaki/Principal



Next term we'll be teaching the personal safety programme Keeping Ourselves Safe.

Keeping Ourselves Safe has been designed to give students the skills to cope in situations involving abuse. It has three overall aims:

- to develop and strengthen children's skills to keep themselves safe with other people, both online and face to face
- to support and encourage abused children to get help from caring adults
- to make teachers and parents and caregivers more aware of the need to keep children safe from abuse by adults or other children.

Keeping Ourselves Safe will be taught by Rachel Harvey as part of the PE/Health programme , with support from the local Police School Community Officer Dana Andrews as required.

To be successful, Keeping Ourselves Safe needs your help and support. Your child may have home activities to work on with you. It is important that you participate as much as possible and talk to your child about what they have been learning. This will reinforce the messages the school is giving and help your child to use his or her new skills with confidence.

A parent and caregiver meeting will be held as follows:

- Date: Wednesday 19th July
- Time: 5 pm
- Venue: School Library

Please contact the school if you would like any more information about the programme or about child abuse. All information regarding Keeping Ourselves Safe can be found at the following link. [Keeping Ourselves Safe](#)



Wellbeing/PB4L

Shane Hooks

A few weeks ago, we were lucky enough to attend the annual AIMS conference in Auckland. This is a national conference for all Intermediate and Middle schools across New Zealand. The main kaupapa for 2023 was culturally responsive curriculum development and mental and emotional wellbeing. These two areas are becoming increasingly important within education, particularly regarding student engagement and readiness to learn.

A culturally responsive curriculum

Dr Melanie Riwai Couch and Dr Melinda Webber both spoke about the importance of ensuring curriculum development, school practice and teaching and learning is culturally responsive. Overwhelming evidence points to the fact that student achievement - especially within Maori and Pasifika youth - is closely linked to students feeling connected, and seeing their culture meaningfully reflected within their kura. This builds a strong sense of identity, increases engagement, enhances the student's approach towards learning and builds mana. If culture is valued and celebrated, students are proud of who they are and view their culture as an asset.

At Ilminster we are doing a lot of work in this area and look forward to continuing to work with Mana Whenua, Iwi and Whanau as our journey continues.

Mental and emotional wellbeing

Dr Michael Carr Gregg and Nathan Wallis focused on how mental and emotional wellbeing is linked to educational success.

The pressures on young people today are huge, and much greater than previous generations. Pressures identified through numerous studies include technology, screen time, bullying and harassment, economic climate, social media, global uncertainty, academic pressure, and identity / diversity / acceptance. Processing these pressures can have a significant impact on a child's wellbeing and consequently their learning.

How can we prepare our students / children to navigate today's world and maintain positive mental and emotional wellbeing?

Dr Michael Carr Gregg presented findings from studies focused upon how we can increase long term happiness within children and youth. Some key takeaways - Happiness is increased through:

- Nurturing and maintaining positive and healthy relationships / friendships.
- Trying new and interesting experiences and savouring these experiences.
- Helping others, serving the community and contributing (a sense of importance).
- Practising gratitude.

Nathan Wallis made explicit the importance of the following to student / child mental and emotional wellbeing:

- Learning, practising and developing the habit of everyday Mindfulness.
- Building a positive self narrative. This narrative (how children see themselves) often comes from how they are treated, spoken to, made to feel and valued by their significant adults. A child's own self narrative often becomes their reality. Point out what your children are good at, why you are proud of them, and explain to them why they are special - everyday!

The links below provide some information regarding mindfulness and how you could develop the practice at home with your tamariki!

Curriculum

Mona Ferris

Parent interview times, when I'm not interviewing and able to flit around, purposefully I hope, is a time worth being part of.

Last night was one of many nights in my teaching career where I have been part of parent interviews and I have always walked away at the end having learned many things about the capability of our students - those student leaders in an active role as runners, serving fresh buns and hot soup and those students on the hot seat alongside their parents or whanau and the willingness, welcoming nature and passion of our staff. Staff who were present and active in the interviews and those who had worked in the background during the day and the day after and for some, many days and phone calls before.

I need a whole new paragraph for you - our parents, caregivers, nanny's and papa's as well as our students and their siblings - braving the wet weather to walk into our foyer and library and then patiently wait for your turn whether it was - before time, on time, a little behind time or a long time.

As said by Leonardo Da Vinci, "Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears and never regrets." And in terms of 'waiting' for a parent interview - I was putting all my faith on the last two words of Da Vinci's quote. Your patience and willingness to a little bit of flexibility kept us smiling. Thank you. You will be pleased to know that staff were buzzing about their korero with you and what they too gained as a result.

Da Vinci as an artist, regrettably, had no impact on my artistic skills but some of his thoughts and views on learning stuck with me as a high school student in Fiji, and subsequently as a teacher and a parent. Da Vinci was known for his great thinking and believed in participation - and last night was a great example of our whanau and our staff coming together to have a korero about what matters - our young people. Let's keep that talanoa going.

In our roles as parents and teachers here are a few words of wisdom from Da Vinci

Support and promote curiosity

- Do things that are meaningful
- Cultivate and encourage a strong work/learning ethic
- Be curious - ask questions and seek answers
- Realise that everything connects to everything else

Leonardo Da Vinci also saw life as "a great canvas upon which one could paint their dreams and aspirations, and he believed that each individual had the power to shape their own destiny through their own actions."

I believe that if Leonardo Da Vinci was alive today - he would have loved a bird's eye view of our interviews and like me, would have enjoyed watching the speaker Mr. Lapointe refers to - Cam Calkoen - who lives for AWESOME and who with the support of his parents painted his dreams and aspirations and then had the power to shape his own destiny, and still does.

Let's learn together as whanau and staff to support our young people to paint their dreams and aspirations and have the power to shape their own destiny through their own actions. Let's be AWESOME - together!

Senco Update – Live for Awesome

Travis Lapointe

As with Shane, I also came away inspired by our recent “Leaders of Learning Support” conference. We took in a wealth of information, and it would be a shame not to pass on what we can.

Like most of us, Pio Terei, the MC for the event, wears multiple hats. It was my first time to see him in person, but he is probably familiar to many for his work as an actor, comedian, musician and radio and television host. He is a talented presenter, but what really stuck with me was when he let his guard down a bit and shared another passion, which is supporting families. He has developed a series of videos that are both very entertaining and really helpful to listen to as a parent. They cover a range of challenges we face as parents, such ‘Time and Attention’, ‘The Teenage Brain’, ‘Staying Safe Online’... I’m sure there is one there that echoes challenges going on at home and provides some thoughtful (and funny) advice. Check them out at <https://www.whanau matters.co.nz/>.

I also wanted to introduce you to Cam Calkoen, who captured the attention of a whole room of educators from all over the country. He is an inspiring motivational speaker whose example holds great relevance for parents of intermediate school children. Cam is a remarkable individual who has overcome incredible odds, demonstrating the power of determination and resilience. Born with cerebral palsy, he has faced numerous challenges throughout his life. However, through his unwavering spirit and positive mindset,

Cam has triumphed over adversity and achieved extraordinary success. His story serves as a powerful reminder to parents that every child possesses immense potential, regardless of their circumstances. By sharing his experiences and insights, Cam empowers parents to instill self-belief, resilience, and a growth mindset within their children. His message is particularly timely for whānau of intermediate school children, who are navigating a crucial stage of development and facing their own unique challenges. I really encourage you to check out Cam’s Ted talk, [Cam Calkoen TEDx - Live for awesome-](#), it is well worth a watch or listen.

*Whānau
Matters*



Matters around whānau because whānau matters

House Competition

Miss Williams

This term we have had a wide range of House competitions. Our first competition was Touch run by Matua Rikki. Tawhirimatea had bragging rights by taking out 1st place.

We followed this up with a Kahoot competition run by Matua Tom focusing on a wide range of general knowledge questions. Always a popular competition for our tamariki. This time Tangaroa were crowned the champions. Matua Nik then introduced a new House competition - Futsal. A fast moving, inside version of football. Hugely entertaining for our students and the spectators! Tangaroa once again took out this competition.

Our last activity-based competition is on right now with students using their knowledge and strategies to compete across a range of indoor games. At the moment Ruaumoko has the nod although there is still one round to go.

Our other 2 non-activity-based competitions, which are worth double points, are our return of Immunisation forms (Year 7s this term) and term attendance! These always have a big impact on the overall House points.

Acknowledgement must be given to all of the teachers and students who have given up their time to run and compete in these competitions which add to the culture of our kura. You all rock!



Calendar of Events for Term 2, 2023

Week 1: 26 April – 28 April	Week 2: 1 May – 5 May	Week 3: 8 May – 12 May	Week 4: 15 May – 19 May
Thur 26 April * Teacher Only Day	Fri 5 May * BOP U48kg Rugby		Mon 15 May • Gymnastics/ Rhythmical Practice run Wed 17 May • Gymnastics/ Rhythmical Festival Fri 19 May • Pink Shirt Day
Week 5: 22 May – 26 May	Week 6: 29 May – 2 June	Week 7: 5 June – 9 June	Week 8: 12 June – 16 June
Thur 25 May – Fri 26 May • BOP Futsal – Tauranga	Mon 31 June • Paid Union Meeting • School closes from 1pm	Mon 5 June • Kings Birthday (No school) Friday 9 June * BOP Ultimate Frisbee	Wed 14 June
Week 9: 19 June – 23 June	Week 10: 26 – 30 June		
Wed 21 June *Parent Interviews Thur 22 June – Fri 23 June BOP Indoor Bowls (Cancelled)	Mon 26 June – Fri 30 June Matariki Celebration Week Fri 30 June Term 2 ENDS		

Calendar of Events for Term 3, 2023

Week 1: 17 July – 21 July	Week 2: 24 July – 28 July	Week 3: 31 July – 4 Aug	Week 4: 7 Aug – 11 Aug
Mon 17 July • Term 3 BEGINS Thur 20-21 July * BOP Basketball - Rotorua	Thur 27 – 28 July * BOP Winter Tournament - Tauranga	Thur 3 Aug – Fri 4 Aug * BOP Cross-country - Tauranga	Thur 10 Aug – Fri 11 Aug • Taradale Exchange

