



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

Kia ora e te whānau, nau mai haere mai ki te pānui Wiki Toru - welcome to Term 4, Week 3.

As you will be aware our **school will be closed tomorrow, Thursday 23rd October**, to all students due to the super strike by school staff, including:

- Support staff
- Teachers
- Principals

Congratulations to our Mathsmatters teams who competed in the problem solving competition last Thursday night. You all represented our school with pride and demonstrated excellence by achieving some outstanding results (see below for further details). Thank you to Ms Cheryl Murphy who has been coaching the teams this year, and to our two parents, Rico Ellingford and Angela Parry, who accompanied the teams to Taupo.

A group of eleven students, seven boys and four girls, are posing for a group photo. They are all wearing matching blue tracksuits with yellow accents and a school crest. They are arranged in two rows, with some standing and some kneeling in the front. Behind them is a large white banner for Morrinsville Intermediate School. The banner includes the school's name, a quote from a student: "Our school makes me strong! I feel safe, I feel happy, I feel loved. I feel like I can do anything I want to do.", and the word "EMPOWERED" in large, bold letters. The background is a plain wall, and the floor is paved.

At this time of the year we see an upswing of students having merit points signed off, particularly after Term 4 assessments where progress and achievement is timely. All merit points will be released by the end of Week 4.

It was awesome to see Friday's attendance improving last week with 91% of students at school ... it is a goal for this term to have at least 90% students attending every Friday as there has been a trend this year for students to be absent on Fridays, taking long weekends unnecessarily. Please support us in getting your child to school regularly. Congratulations to the 55 students who achieved 100% attendance in Term 3 (which is a tricky term with many bugs / viruses lurking).

THANK
YOU
teachers

**Attending
school
regularly helps
our tamariki
to connect,
thrive and
develop**

**Together we're
making sure
they get there**

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Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Department of Education

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Featuring in today's newsletter:

Rangatiratanga Award
Gold for Glory
Attendance Award
Staffing Update
Taupo Mathsmatters Achievement
Craft and Livestock Day results
Special Person's Day
Gumboot Friday
Term Four Calendar
Term Dates

End of year prizegiving cups and trophies are now due to be returned to school. Thanks.



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 1 and Collaboration in Week 2:

Congratulations to the following students from Week 1: Quinn P1, Eva P2, Ashley P3, Willow P4, Arjun P5, Precious T1, Heath T2, Layla T3, Libby T4, Harvey W1, Brodie W2, Baran W3, Georgia W4.

Congratulations to the following students from Week 2: Lakaia P1, Layla P2, Axle P3, Kyte P4, Elijah P5, William T1, Laura T2, Thomas T3, Divan T4, Erion W1, Jedd W2, Ryan W3, Mackenzie W4, Science: Humeira T1, Food Tech: Anna W1, Hard Materials: Elijah P5, Performing Arts: Alana W4, Art: Joss W2

Gold For Glory: At each assembly students are recognised by the principal for showing initiative, or going the extra mile by demonstrating our school vision, motto and values. The recipients in Week 1 were Henry, Sam, Caitlin, Taylor, Ethan and Zoey, and William and Kayden in Week 2. Well done!

The Week 2 recipients were Kaden and William for doing a superb job helping to set up our Top Team equipment.

Attendance Award: Congratulations to Levi W4 who was the recipient of the \$10 attendance voucher. All students who were present for all of Week One were in the draw.

Please remember it is important for students to have days off only for justified reasons (illnesses, bereavements; not shopping, haircuts, long weekends, birthdays etc please). Thanks for your support.

Staffing Update for 2026:

As is normal in all schools, we have some changes of staffing at MIS for this term, and for 2026:

1. Mrs Sally Armstrong, Assistant Principal / SENCo, who has been working at MIS for close to 30 years has resigned from this position but will continue in 2026 for one day per week. This is a huge accomplishment and outstanding commitment from Sally, and we truly appreciate all she has done for our tamariki, kura and wider community. We will recognise Sally's contributions at an appropriate time, once she decides to leave us permanently.
2. Welcome back to Mrs Natalia King-Taylor who has been appointed Assistant Principal / SENCo, commencing 2026. Natalia was previously employed for eight years at MIS as a teacher and then team leader before leaving for a stint in the South Waikato, and then returning to us in an RTLb capacity earlier this year. We look forward to having Natalia join our leadership team.
3. Ms Bailee Foulds, team leader of the technology / specialist team is now on maternity leave (congratulations to her and Liam on the arrival of their beautiful daughter, Morgan who was born on Monday morning... mum and baby doing well). Bailee intends to return to MIS in Term 2, 2026.
4. Mrs Robyn Wilson is acting team leader of the technology / specialist department for Term 4, 2025 and Term 1, 2026. We thank her for stepping into this role in Bailee's absence.
5. Mrs Mary Righton is teaching Music on Fridays in a fixed term capacity until the end of this year; we thank Mary for her contributions to the music department.
6. Welcome to Mrs Sacha Reichardt who is taking performing arts two days a week with us in Term 4, and continuing in this capacity next year plus teaching Music on Fridays.
7. Mr Val Venimore has resigned from his Friday Art position, after working at MIS for nine years as a specialist Music / Art teacher. Val will continue to work part time in Huntly; he is aiming to teach for 60 years which is an outstanding contribution to education. All the best Val.

8. Mrs Baylee Baxter will teach Art on Fridays and Mrs Belinda Duncan will teach in W1 on Fridays.
9. Ms Ali Butcher has been teaching with us for two terms in a fixed term capacity until the end of the year; we thank Ali for making herself available and doing a great job in T4.
10. Mrs Gemma Horne (an ex-student of MIS) will be joining us in 2026 - she is currently teaching at Maeroa Intermediate School. We look forward to getting to know Gemma and welcome her to MIS.
11. Mrs Tammy Morris has been working in the Food Technology classroom on Fridays since the beginning of Term 3. We thank her for her service and look forward to having her back in a relief capacity.
12. Miss Lyndsay Oldham (who is currently on maternity leave) will be resuming the Friday Food Technology position at the beginning of 2026.

We feel very fortunate to have an outstanding staff who work very hard for our tamariki and kura. In light of the current teaching shortage we are lucky to be fully staffed for 2026 and look forward to another great year of collaboration.

Taupō Mathsmatters Achievement:

On Thursday 16 October, 12 of our students travelled to Taupō for the Mathsmatters competition. First they completed an individual round of questions, then teamed up in groups of three for more problem solving. Congratulations to the following medal winners:

- Team 7A, comprised of Rebecca Herd, Natalie Keen, and Patrick Briscoe, who won the bronze medal for Year 7 teams.
- Patrick Briscoe, who won the silver medal for individual Year 7s.
- Team 8A, comprised of Tyler Ellingford, Kyle Bussey, and Cai Hughes, who won the gold medal for Year 8 teams.

Congratulations to all 12 students on your selection to the Taupō Mathsmatters team.

Craft and Livestock Day:

During Week One our students took part in Craft Day, Livestock Day and the Top Team Competition. This is always a fun couple of days and an opportunity for students to show-case their skills outside of the classroom. The standard of entries on Craft Day as well as the animals on Livestock Day was a real credit to the students, there is a lot of effort and commitment and this was evident on the day. Good luck to all our students competing at Morrinsville Group Day today.

A special thank you to our judges and stewards for volunteering their time and expertise and congratulations to the following award recipients.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Reserve Champion</u>
Livestock Day:		
CALVES - LEADING	Blyth Ryan	Abigail Giddy
CALVES - REARING	Cienna Ball	Charlie Moore
DAIRY TYPE	Henry Scherer	Cienna Ball
BEEF TYPE	Lydia McGrath	Fletcher de Nicolo
BEEF REARING	Lydia McGrath	Tegan Conn
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS	Cienna Ball	Lydia McGrath
LAMBS:	Archie Buttimore	Hayley Vickery
KIDS:	Clay Mules	Ethan Burt
DOGS: Most obvious pet	Lyvia Bracey	
Overall Champion	Lyvia Bracey	Isla Jones
SMALL PETS:	Eva Munn	Londyn Gatman / Bella Rose
Craft Day:		
DECORATED CAKE:	Maddie Hedley	Rachel Goile
FLOWERS:	Grace Clark	Mia Clark
LEISURE ACTIVITIES	Aarushi Aryal	Embree Guiuntab
FARMLANDS SCULPTURE	Jake Tasker	William Graham
COOKING CUP:	Rylee Murdock	Grace Clark
CRAFT DAY - CHAMPION	Grace Clark	Maddie Hedley

Special Person's Day:

Our school's annual 'Special Person's Day' is being held on Wednesday 12th November starting at 11am. Students will invite someone special in their lives to join them on this day to enjoy cultural performances by various groups within our school, a career themed activity in class with them, a shared kai and the opportunity to stay on and play games with them at lunchtime in the playground.

More information will come closer to the time but for now we would love it if you could talk with your child about who they would like to invite and perhaps get them to pop the date on their calendar.



Gumboot Friday (koha required):

On Friday 7th November we are supporting Gumboot Friday with a non-uniform AND gumboot day. Dust off your gumboots and bring a koha in support of getting free counselling in schools. Students may wear non-uniform but MUST also be wearing gumboots. Alternatively, students are to wear full school uniform.

MIS Calendar: FB/Newsletter Click the link on the left to access our school calendar.

Term Four Calendar events:

Thursday 23rd October	STRIKE Day - school closed for all students
Friday 24th October	Teacher Only Day - school closed for all students
Monday 27th October	Labour Day - Public Holiday
Wednesday 29th October	Teacher Appreciation Day
Wednesday 29th October	School Athletics Day - all day rotation event, parents welcome
Friday 31st October	School sprint finals - after lunch, parents welcome
Thursday 30th October	II Music
Tuesday 4th November	II Softball
Thursday 6th November	II Kapa Haka
Friday 7th November	Gumboot Friday
Monday 10th November	Japan Meeting for 2026
Wednesday 12th November	Special Person's Day
Thursday 13th November	Photolife (sports, cultural, civic photos)
Tuesday 18th Tuesday	II Lacrosse and II Ultimate Frisbee
Friday 21st November	X-Factor finals
Friday 21st November	Last day for Honours applications
Tuesday 25th November	II Athletics
Wednesday 26th November	Board Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 3rd December	Year 6 and Year 8 Orientation visits for 2026
Monday 8th December	School Fun Day
Wednesday 10th December	Year 8 Formal Social 7.00pm to 9.30pm
Thursday 11th December	End of Year Reports go home
Monday 15th December	Prizegiving 11am to 1.30pm
Tuesday 16th December	Last day of school 12.30pm finish

2025 Teacher Only Curriculum Days:

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

2025 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)

2026 School Term Dates:

Term One:	Monday 2nd February to Thursday 2nd April
Term Two:	Monday 20th April to Friday 3rd July
Term Three:	Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September
Term Four:	Monday 12th October to Monday 14th December (12.30pm finish)

2026 Teacher Only Curriculum Days

1. Tuesday 28th April (day after Mondayised ANZAC Day)
2. Tuesday 27th October (day after Labour Day)

