



Principal's News

Friday 13 March 2026

Kia ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Ni Hao, Namaste, Bula Vinaka, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Kia orana, Mauri, Greetings.

Kia ora koutou,

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of Week 6. The first part of the year has absolutely flown by and it has been great to see our students settled, busy learning, and enjoying being back at school.

Welcome to our new students and families who have joined our school community this term. We're really pleased to have you with us and hope you are feeling happy and enjoying being part of our school.

Our focus value this term is **Respect**, and it has been great seeing so many students showing this in the way they speak to others, look after our school spaces, and support their classmates. We regularly celebrate these moments at school, and it's something we're very proud of.

Swimming has been a highlight over the past few weeks. The students are making good progress and enjoying their time in the pool. It is wonderful to see their confidence growing in the water. Another highlight at school at the moment is **Hungerball** at lunchtime outside Kauri pod. The arena is full of energy and plenty of friendly competition.

This term we have had senior school students representing our school at several interschool events, including swimming and softball. We are very proud of the effort, teamwork and sportsmanship our students showed. We are proud to say our teams won both events. Our students represented our school extremely well. We are looking forward to cricket on Monday and rippa rugby before the end of the term.

Thank you to the many parents and caregivers who attended our **parent-teacher interviews this week**. It was great to see such a strong turnout and to have the chance to talk together about learning goals and how we can support each child's progress this year.

All school whānau will receive a **Whānau Snapshot Survey** over the next couple of weeks. This is a really important way for us to hear your ideas and perspectives as we consider strategic planning for the year ahead. We'd really appreciate you taking a few minutes to share your thoughts and ideas. You can see our MCS Strategic Plan on our school website. Completed surveys may be returned to your child's whānau teacher or to Kristal at the office. The survey will be shared online over the next few days. Thank you for your efforts to complete this survey.

Next week our **Year 6 students head off to camp**, which is always a highlight of the year. There is a lot of excitement already! A big thank you to the staff and parents who are supporting this experience. Camps like this simply wouldn't happen without you.

Regular attendance and punctuality remain a key priority for MCS. Being at school every day, and arriving before 9:00am, helps our students settle into their learning, connect with their classmates and make the most of the opportunities each day provides.

We ask our parents and caregivers to please continue prioritising daily attendance, ensuring students arrive on time to start the day, and avoiding early pickups where possible. Even small amounts of missed learning time can add up and impact progress.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students develop strong habits that support their learning and success.

Finally, thank you to all our families for the support you show our school every day. It makes a positive difference. It's been a great start to the year and it's lovely to see our students working hard, looking after one another, and making the most of the opportunities around them.

Ngā mihi nui,
Sandy Griffin
Acting Principal

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Pita Pit Thursdays

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Pūriri

In Pūriri we're excited to have started writing in our writing books. We are using our word cards to help us find the words we want to write. We're also very good at reciting the poems we've learnt - Miss Sampson has been so impressed to hear us using expression in our voices when we're reciting the poems!

Tītoki

In Tītoki, children are settling well into their routines and growing in confidence each day. It's lovely to see them making new friends, working together and feeling happy in their learning environment. In maths, the children have been learning about statistics. They have been collecting and sorting data. Creating pictographs and bar graphs to display their information. Tītoki are also carrying out simple investigations using the statistical enquiry cycle. They are comparing sets of data using more or less and discussing what their data shows. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity as they explore, ask questions and share their findings with others.

These students have been recognised by their class teachers for displaying our school value



<u>Totara</u>	<u>Kowhai</u>	<u>Ti Kouka</u>	<u>Nikau</u>
Aveleen	Aston	Honor	Raymond
Riley	Indie	Gurveer	Deejahzan
Inaya	Shanaya	Zhane	Arneet
<u>Puriri</u>	<u>Titoki</u>	<u>Rimu</u>	<u>Kauri</u>
Hannah	Suryansh	Anantveer	Elyssa
Alec	Taajpreet	Mantej	Jay
	Vihaan	Ryan	Rona

Tōtara

We have had a great first half of our very first term at school. We have been working very hard to learn the words on our pink word card. In Reading, we are learning to point our finger under each word as we read so we can focus on each word. In Writing, we are learning to say the words we want to write out loud and find the sounds on the sound card to work out what sounds to write. We are learning to say our sentence out loud to check if it makes sense and to plan for our writing by drawing a picture that matches the story we are wanting to write. In Maths we have been practising counting forwards and backwards, ordering numbers, counting out collections and matching the number to a group of objects. The highlight of our week is our swimming days. We love getting into the pool in the afternoon, especially when it is a very sunny day. We are developing our confidence and learning how to be safe in the water. Over the past few weeks, we have also welcomed new friends and their families as more children have turned five. What a great start to big school and a warm welcome to our new children and their families!

Nikau

Nikau has been busy with getting into curriculum routines and their learning in Reading, Writing, Spelling (The Code) and Maths. We would like to encourage all children to be learning their times tables - multiplication and division please. For topic, we have all worked on a visual Pepeha and have been practising saying our Pepeha to others. It has been pleasing to have most of our children bringing their togs for swimming. As the weather gets cooler we will monitor this - however remember that the pool is solar heated, so should be good for swimming for the next few weeks.

It was great to see a big turn out for parent interviews for Mrs Ashby and Miss Hopkinson. Mr Chin will be having interviews next Thursday 19th March.

Rimu

Rimu Pod has had a very busy few weeks. We have had a member of staff from Bunnings come in and work with our children on our school gardens. We have also been cooking using our broccoli and basil. We have continued with The Code, swimming, cricket and our library visits. The children will also use the hungerball equipment.

Ti Kouka

Firstly, we would like to thank all of those parents who were available to support our students during gymnastics at Bruce Pullman Park. We couldn't have done this without your help. It was fantastic to see so many parents and caregivers at parent interviews on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. We appreciate how invested you are in your child's learning and we know that working together we can achieve much more. Please continue to send togs along for swimming, however with the cooler weather we may not swim every day. Thank you for your continued support!

Important Dates

Year 6 Camp
Monday 16 March - Wednesday 18 March

House Colour Day
Thursday 2 April

Last Day of Term 1
Thursday 2 April



Kōwhai

Have you had a visit from the tooth fairy? In class we have been learning about our teeth and why it is important to look after them. We talked about the best way to brush our teeth and practised the steps that help keep our smiles clean and healthy. We have had lots of fun soaking in the summer sun, learning skills such as floating using flutterboards/noodles and building confidence to put our heads under the water. In maths you'll hear us talking about place value and how numbers are made. We have been practising counting forwards and backwards - we're hoping to be counting champions real soon!!

Kauri

Kauri Ngahere has been a hive of activity over the last few weeks. The Year 6 students, teachers, and teacher aides are really looking forward to camp and have started thinking about packing. We are all hoping for good weather so we can take part in all of the fun activities on offer. Teachers will be sharing photos from camp on our Kauri Class Dojo throughout our time away, so please keep an eye out for these. It is important that parents refer to the notices on Class Dojo, as well as those sent home with students, to ensure all requirements are met before we head off. We are really lucky to have Hungerball back on the rainbow turf for the rest of the term. We love Hungerball! Students have the opportunity to play at break times, as well as during booked class sessions. Some students have stepped up as leaders for the games - well done to these students.