MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers

Here are some updates to keep you informed:

Artificial Intelligence
We're seeing the rise in the use of AI all around us. We know we need to be making our students aware of the power, opportunities and potential pitfalls of AI and are taking an approach that combines caution with not falling behind and ignoring it. Unlike secondary school we are not concerned about students using AI incorrectly in assessments. Our board has been discussing this topic, and at our next meeting we will be presenting what we are currently using in this space with a view to firming up a sound policy.

Last year on our Silicon Valley trip our students used AI at Microsoft and this year we are hoping to visit Open AI, among other organisations to help us understand the world of AI. In the tech world AI is seen as the new 'El Dorado' - with huge opportunities. In China we met and shared much about AI including how AI is being used to enhance cognition, experiences and creativity - as well as refining productivity. We have seen Google's latest tools including Gemini, Notebook LM, Google Vids, Ask Youtube, Google Labs and our students use it connected to Canva. It's rapid development is unprecedented. We will be having staff and student reference groups as part of our discussion of the different tools, uses, ethics and opportunities AI provides. BTW this newsletter was **not** written by AI. Future ones may be though :)

Social Media - Timely Reminder
Just a reminder that parents need to be vigilant with their child's access and use of social media. During the day, students do not have access to their phones at school. They are not to be used when they come on school grounds and are collected upon entering class and stored safely during the day. However, we have had a number of students being part of chat groups that have had inappropriate conversations outside of school hours. Check in on your child should they be a device user. We are finding more parents who are saying no to their child even having a mobile phone - there is a strong correlation between the uptake of mobile device usage and social and mental health issues.

Upcoming Teacher Only Day
Our Teacher Only day on 30th May will be focussing on the new Maths curriculum and it is one of the days the Ministry of Education granted to schools to utilise for that purpose. We apologise for any inconvenience however it is an excellent opportunity for our staff to upskill in this area. The onsite after school care, Micasa, is operating on the day, information below if you require their services.

Budget Day and Collective Agreements
We wait with anticipation to see what the Budget Day announcements will bring, with the hope there will be money allocated to education. We have also recently received notice from the Teachers and Principals Union, NZEI, that they have begun their bargaining for the new collective agreements. We have no information at this stage around how this may pan out and hope agreements can be made with no or minimal disruption to learning.

UPCOMING KEY DATES

30 May - Teacher Only Day (Maths Curriculum Focus)

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2 June - King's Birthday Public Holiday

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3 - 6 June - NZ Samoan Language Week & NZ Schools' Pride Week (Diversity + Inclusion)

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17 June - Matariki Breakfast @ NIS, 6.30 - 8am

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20 June - Matariki Public Holiday

OUR FULL LIVE CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE LINK ON THE HOMEPAGE
HTTPS://NORTHCOTEINT.SCHOOL.NZ/

FOR UP-TO-DATE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR SCHOOL, CHECK OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES.

Sports Highlights and AIMS Games

We are now into our busiest sports season and we have hundreds of students involved in many sports. Last week our Year 8 Boys Football Team won the North Shore Championship - which is an outstanding result! They now compete at the Auckland Champs in Week 7.

At the end of last year and the start of this year our 2025 Sports Handbook was sent out to all enrolled students and was also posted on the school website. On page 4 of the handbook you can find an explanation of our AIMS Games policy for the selecting teams as well as the expectations for parents/caregivers looking after individual athletes.

Entries for individual sports close on Wed 21 May and the registration form has been in the daily notices. This information should be common knowledge as it has been communicated through Sports Emails as early as term 1.

We consider AIMS Games as an unofficial national championship for each sport and choose our team sports accordingly. Our Sports Handbook clearly explains that we will take a Netball team and Basketball team (this could be Boys, or Girls, or 3v3) each year as well as additional teams based on how competitive we feel they will be at AIMS. To date Football Boys have confirmed their place as one of these additional teams after winning the North Harbour Year 8 Boys Football Zone Day. The final decision about other teams attending will be made on Tue 27 May following the Year 8 Girls Football Zone Day. Schools must enter all team entries by Wed 28 May. Sports being considered for the remaining team positions are: Futsal Girls, Football Boys, Hockey Mixed, Rippa Rugby, and Waterpolo. In making a decision on which team sport is likely to be most competitive, we consider a range of factors including zone day and season results, which sports students selected for multiple sports will choose, student behavior, and accommodation compacity.

Fuse Cup E-Sports

NIS recently hosted 2 days of events for the national Fuse Cup e-sport tournaments. The tournaments are extremely well managed and there is a big focus on how the players look after themselves. This is now a viable career path! There are four key areas they focus on: 1) Integrity - how students carry themselves, represent their school and their attitude and behaviour 2) Strength - emotional control, resilience, and accountability 3) Inclusion - everyone treated equally, anyone can play, sportsmanship 4) Teamwork - supporting your school/team mates, encourage each other, communication - so it's just like any other sport :) All involved had a great time and we're proud of our teams. Thank you to Mrs Boles-Kent, Mrs Lyle, and Mr Cooper.

Covered Outdoor Learning Area

The drainage has been completed and all the components have now arrived and the installation will begin for our new COLA. The goal is to have it completed in time for our Matariki event in mid-June. This will give us significant shelter and year-round capacity for outdoor activities.

School Board Survey

Our board are finalising their annual survey and expect to send this out next week. Please take a few minutes to complete this when it comes through - it gives us valuable feedback on how we can continue to improve.

Matariki @ NIS

This year we will be hosting a morning event, which will include performances and kai, on Tuesday 17th June from 6.30am until 8am. Parents & whānau are welcome, you do not need to book. Those attending are encouraged to donate a gold coin to help cover costs. We will have student performances as part of the event. Students will be actively involved in making the event happen. If you have any connections to grocery stores/farms/food sources who may be able to donate or sponsor us, please let me know!

New Zealand Schools' Pride Week - 2-6 June

As we do each year, we will provide optional activities for students to engage in during NZ Schools' Pride Week. Our focus is on diversity and inclusion - as with our Pink Shirt Day celebrations, we want our school to be a safe place where all our students can thrive.

High School/College Enrolments
For those of you with a child in Year 8 – the High School/College enrolment season starts soon. If you have not already decided, please take it upon yourselves to make an informed decision around which school you will enrol your child at. Make the time to attend open days/evenings, and ask reliable people questions that are important for you to find the best school for your child. If applying out-of-zone for a school, ensure you have your application in before the due date.

Schools will post information around enrolment processes, zones and dates on their websites. Currently our nearest schools are displaying this information:

Northcote College: https://www.northcote.school.nz/enrolments/enrolment-application-process
An Open Day will be held on Saturday 19 July

Westlake Girls: https://www.westlakegirls.school.nz/domestic-enrolments/
An Open Night will be held on: 15 July, 4 + 6pm

Westlake Boys: https://www.westlake.school.nz/enrolment/important-dates-enrolment
An Information Evening will be held on 24 July
Details can change so please check yourself!!

As always, if there is anything we can do better, or if you have any compliments, feel free to contact me directly at principal@ni.school.nz

Ngā mihi
Phil Muir, Proud Principal of Northcote Intermediate School

FIRST CERTIFICATE AWARD WINNERS

- Wanyi Cheng, Carter Graham - 1
- Baxter Willis, Evie Mulholland - 2
- Jayden Murphy, Surin Soltani - 3
- Finn Davison, Tavita Manley - 4
- Maddisyn Blackburn, Bowie Hurley-Smith, Darya Rogers - 5
- Ginny Withers, James Campbell-Bowie - 6
- Noah Panter, Brooklyn Rankin - 7
- Feifan Li, Aidan Rogers - 8
- Bryn Allison, Aiden Thai - 9
- Richie Makoare-Fowler, Betty Liu - 10
- Lola Holdaway, Axel Barnett - 11
- Nuala Dallas, Hamish Courtier - 12
- Arie Lee, Ian Chou - 13
- Casey Maltby, Maya Marcinkowski - 14
- Eve Allison, Olivia Smith - 15
- Sam Allan, Emme Lewis - 16
- Kayden Powell, Ellie Geary - 17
- Sophia Baatjes-Walker, Toby Marshall - 18
- Nathan Kleynhans, Peter Xin - 19
- Belle Martin, Isaac Greenwood - 20
- Ali Heidarlou, Bella Kim - 21
- Kate Herring, Georgia Lay - 22
- Riley Bold, Sikimeti Palu - 23
- Flynn Roberston, Arthur Ottaway - 24

Congratulations to all of this month's recipients

COMMUNITY NOTICES

MI CASA
AFTER SCHOOL CARE & HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

TEACHERS ONLY DAY
FRIDAY 30th MAY

Choose 1 or 2 sessions:
8:30AM TO 3PM SESSION:$35 (Per child/session)
or 3PM TO 6PM SESSION:$30 (Per child/session)

SIBLING DISCOUNT: SECOND & CONSECUTIVE SIBLING RECEIVE 50% OFF

DROP OFF TO: NORTHCOTE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (FOOD TECH ROOMS) - 145 LAKE ROAD, NORTHCOTE

BOOKINGS: mi-casa.aimyplus.com
WEB: www.micasaasc.co.nz
EMAIL: micasaasc@gmail.com
MOB/WHATSAPP: 022 084 1801

YEAR 7 MATHS GROUP LESSONS

Reviews:

"Thank you so much for your help with M's math. It's definitely making a huge difference!"

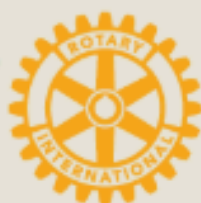"we have gone from a kid with no confidence to now loving maths"

For enquiries & enrolment, pls contact Yvonne:
yvonnethetutor@gmail.com

Location: Birkdale

All proceeds will be used for Rotary Kaipatiki and
MS Auckland charitable purposes

Rotary
Kaipātiki

ms
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
AUCKLAND

CHARITY BOOK FAIR | 3-5 July 2025

Northcote College Hall
1 Kauri Glen Road, Northcote

We need books

Please, no textbooks, ex-library books,
encyclopedias, magazines, Readers Digest,
or damaged books.

Do you have books to donate?
Call: 0274 268 093

Thank you for your support

2025 Term 2 Digital Academy Programme:

📍 *Northcote Intermediate School – every Tuesday*

📍 *Huapai District School – every Friday*

💡 **Key Features of This Programme:**

☑ **Standalone Sessions:** No need to attend sequentially. Students can join any session.

☑ **Hands-on Learning:** Every session includes practical projects.

☑ **Real-World Application:** Focused on **useful skills** students can apply in school and future careers.

☑ **Creative & Interactive:** Encourages innovation and problem-solving.

☑ **Adaptable for Ages 8-15:** Sessions are structured so younger students can learn with guidance, while older students can dive deeper into advanced topics.

☑ **Gain certification and experience:** These badges and certifications boost resumes, university applications, and job prospects in an increasingly digital world.

Digital Academy Pricing Structure

We operate **one day a week**, with **two-hour sessions available**. Students can choose to attend for either **one hour** or **two hours**.

Pricing Over 10 Weeks:

Hourly Choice	Cost Per Session	Total for 10 Weeks
1 Hour (3:30 - 4:30 PM)	$40	$400
2 Hours (3:30 - 5:30 PM)	$55	$550

Full-Term Booking Discount (15% Off)

For those booking a full **10-week term** in advance, we offer a **15% discount**.

Hourly Choice	Full Price (10 Weeks)	Discounted Price (15% Off)
1 Hour (3:30 - 4:30 PM)	$400	$340
2 Hours (3:30 - 5:30 PM)	$550	$470

🎁 Special Offer – Get a FREE Learning Lab T-Shirt!

When you book your **first full-term package**, you'll receive a free **personalised Learning Lab T-shirt** to celebrate your journey with us!

Programme Overview:

This programme follows the New Zealand Digital Technologies | Hangarau Matihiko curriculum and is designed to be engaging, hands-on, and flexible. Each session is **standalone**, meaning students can join at any time without needing prior sessions.

The programme includes **website development, coding, robotics, digital problem-solving, and digital project development**, aligning with real-world applications and student interests. Sessions run for **2 hours** and include **both guided and independent learning**.

Term 2: Robotics, Automation & Coding

Focus: Hands-on coding with robotics & automation

Week	Activity	Description	Outcome
Week 1 Tuesday 29th April	**Introduction to Robotics**	Learn about real-world robots and how they work.	Objective: Understand how robots function in real life. Outcome: Learn about sensors, motors, and AI in robotics. Skills: Engineering basics, problem-solving.
Week 2 Tuesday 6th May	**Building & Coding Your First Robot (Part 1)**	Assemble a basic robot using LEGO SPIKE or micro:bit.	Objective: Assemble and understand basic robotics components. Outcome: Construct a working robot using LEGO SPIKE/micro:bit. Skills: Hands-on assembly, circuit building.
Week 3 Tuesday 13th May	**Building & Coding Your First Robot (Part 2)**	Program the robot to complete simple tasks using block coding.	Objective: Program the robot using block-based coding. Outcome: Robot performs a simple automated task. Skills: Logical thinking, coding, problem-solving.
Week 4 Tuesday 20th May	**Obstacle Avoidance Robot Challenge**	Use sensors to make the robot navigate obstacles.	Objective: Use sensors to navigate challenges. Outcome: Robot successfully avoids obstacles. Skills: Sensor programming, automation logic.
Week 5 Tuesday 27th May	**Introduction to Python Coding**	Learn the basics of Python by writing simple scripts.	Objective: Learn Python fundamentals. Outcome: Write a basic Python script. Skills: Coding, syntax understanding.
Week 6 Tuesday 3rd June	**Coding a Chatbot with Python**	Build a simple chatbot using Python.	Objective: Create an interactive chatbot. Outcome: Chatbot that responds to user inputs. Skills: Python coding, AI logic. **Objective: Build an interactive game.**
Week 7 Tuesday 10th June	**Game Development with Scratch**	Create an interactive game using Scratch.	Objective: Build an interactive game. Outcome: Fully functional game with user controls. Skills: Game logic, animation.
Week 8 Tuesday 17th June	**Build a Digital Circuit (Tinkercad & Arduino Intro)**	Simulate and build a basic circuit using digital tools.	Objective: Learn digital electronics. Outcome: Simulated working circuit in Tinkercad. Skills: Circuit design, programming.
Week 9 Tuesday 24th June	**Robotics Challenge Day**	Final robotics project - race, battle, or solve a challenge.	Objective: Apply all learned robotics skills. Outcome: Final robot competition. Skills: Problem-solving, teamwork.

thelearninglab.org.nz