

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers

Wow, Week 7 already! A HUGE amount of learning and activities is happening. As a snapshot, on Wednesday we had students involved in the EPro8 Regional Finals (being hosted at NIS), Auckland FC players running a coaching clinic at NIS, students out at College on transition programmes, ASB finance coaches working in classes on financial literacy, and many other things, all on top of our core curriculum. Here are some updates for you:



## 2026 - 2028 NIS Strategic Plan

For a few months now we have been working away behind the scenes to draft the 2026 - 2028 NIS Strategic Plan and have gathered and included input from the community, students, staff, the previous school board, and our current school board. Our latest draft is included in this newsletter for your information. We believe it covers a broad range of important areas that we should be focusing on to ensure our students are prepared to be successful, healthy and proud. Once this is finalised, we will follow this up with an annual action plan, which is already in draft form, that will give effect to the strategic plan and enable us to stay focused and use our resources wisely.

## Proposed Removal of the Statutory Requirement to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Having been through a robust process in designing our next Strategic Plan, Northcote Intermediate School confirms our ongoing willingness to continue to honour our commitment to Te Tiriti. Our strategic plan clearly states, as our previous plan also stated, that we will 'Honour our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi', and that we will 'strive to ensure Te Ao Māori is thriving, Māori students are succeeding and that we foster kaitiakitanga for our school and whenua'. We are confident that continuing to lock this in to our school's guiding document is the right thing to do for our school and for the community. Our commitment extends to all whānau in our diverse community. NIS proudly serves a community enriched by diverse cultures, perspectives and experiences. This diversity is central to our vision - 'to empower, learn and grow together' and our core values of whakaute - respect for yourself, others and our environment. Ultimately, we will be letting our actions do our speaking.

## Curriculum Update

There have been numerous updates and changes in the curriculum space over the last 2 years, and implementing these continues to provide challenges for schools across the country. While we are well-placed to proactively manage these, our dedicated and passionate teachers and curriculum leaders are feeling the pressure of the speed and quantity of changes. We are also awaiting the release of information on the new assessment tools and reporting guidance, and will appraise these as soon as we can. We have set aside time for our teachers to engage in further professional development before school starts in 2026. Ultimately, we commit to doing our best to put our students at the centre of what we do as we navigate this changing landscape.

## UPCOMING KEY DATES

20 Nov - EPro 8 Interschools

20 Nov - 2026 Overseas Trips  
Parent Meeting

21 Nov - Onepoto Festival

24 Nov - NIS School Board  
Meeting

26 Nov - Whanau Connect  
Evening 5 - 8 pm

27 Nov - Pasifika Showcase

2 Dec - Colour Run

3 Dec - Music Showcase  
Matinee 12:30pm - gold coin entry  
Evening 6:30pm - Tickets on  
Kindo

9 Dec - Prizegiving

15 Dec - Year 8 Graduation

17 Dec - Last Day Of Term

OUR FULL LIVE CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE  
THROUGH OUR WEBSITE LINK ON THE  
HOMEPAGE  
[HTTPS://NORTHCOTEINT.SCHOOL.NZ/](https://northcoteint.school.nz/)

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

### **Students going to Countdown next door before school**

The staff at Countdown are starting to become very frustrated with a large number of our students who are going in before school, doing dumb things, and so are we - many are loading up with piles of lollies, sugary drinks and general junk food. We are a water-only school and do our best to ensure students are eating healthy food. We offer a breakfast club at school and any student who is unable to bring their own food can make lunch here. If you are giving your child money to go to the supermarket to buy their lunch we suggest you change strategies - send them to the nearby bakery or set your own expectations around this in line with ours. We risk a complete ban for our students from Countdown if this continues.

### **Students in Online Chat Groups**

We are seeing another surge of students involved in groups on platforms such as Snapchat, Whatsapp, Messenger. The standard minimum age for these accounts is 13. There is also a ban on student mobile devices used at school. These groups happen after hours but issues can very easily come into the school and cause problems. Please check with your child what they have access to - as parents/caregivers you are their legal guardians and as such, responsible for what they have access to outside of school hours.

### **Changes to Straight Year Levels in 2026**

After trialling both composite and straight year-level classes and teams, we have decided that the best format for NIS moving ahead is to move to straight year levels. There will be some of this year's Year 7's affected by this, and we will communicate changes to classes and teachers when we have confirmed details. What we can confirm is that from the start of 2026 on, Kawau will all be Year 7 classes, Rangitoto will all be Year 8 classes, Motutapu will be Year 7, Tiriti Matangi will be Year 7, Aotea and Rakino will be Year 8 classes. As such, there will be some Year 7 students who will need to be shifted. We will confirm this as soon as possible.

### **Pasifika Connect Evening**

Our Pasifika Connect group of Y7/Y8 students have been diligently preparing to showcase their cultures on the evening of Thursday 27 November. Under the guidance of Cathy Lio and Rachelle Payne, Pasifika Connect have been performing throughout the year at our assemblies. They will also be performing at the Onepoto festival this Friday.

### **Whanau Connect Evening**

Next Wednesday 26th November 5-8pm, Pasifika parents are invited to an informal evening to connect with other caregivers. There will be an opportunity to play sports and chat on the sidelines.

### **Recent Fundraising Efforts**

We are really fortunate to have such a culture of caring in our community and a willingness to dig deep to help others. Recent events have raised over \$3000 to go towards Mental Health and the Special Children's Christmas Party. We are now collecting items for the Blues Fill the Bus drive, which supports four separate charities:

<https://www.blues.rugby/fill-the-bus>

### **Student Leaders for 2026**

Next week the Principal Team starts interviewing prospective 2026 Student Leaders. It is an exciting time as we get to hear our tamariki tell us what leadership means to them and what attributes they might bring to our leadership programme. Not everyone who has trialled for Student Leadership will be successful, and this can lead to some big feelings of disappointment. This is an authentic opportunity to promote resilience in our students and support them to consider other ways they can show and grow their leadership. You might like to start having some of these conversations with your child in preparation.

## **School Production 2026**

We are excited to announce that our school is in the early stages of planning a production of High School Musical for 2026! The show will be directed and choreographed by Jennifer Allen and Sophie Day-Jones. While details are still being finalised, we can't wait to bring this beloved story to life on our stage.

All updates about auditions, rehearsals, and production opportunities will be shared as soon as they are available through our usual communication channels – including daily notices, the school website, and our Facebook page.

## **North Shore Athletics Champs**

Here are our official results from the Zone Day - unlike the qualifications for the Zone Day, the qualifications for the Auckland Champs are the top 3 athletes.

Year 7 Girls: Zoe Anderson - 3rd 400m, Bella Malu - 2nd Discus

Year 7 Boys: Oscar Badham - 3rd Discus, Ayden Black - 2nd Shotput

Year 8 Girls: Liyana Abdullah - 1st 100m, 3rd 400m, Azlyn Sulusi - 1st High Jump

Year 8 Boys: Vikena Folau- 1st Shotput, 1st Discus

## **Basketball**

This week was finals week and we had 10 teams competing, with 4 teams in their grand final leagues - a fantastic achievement! Teams playing were: Sharks, Tuataras, Huskies, Jets, Giants, Saints, Stars, Spirit, Vanguarders and the Bulls. Congratulations to all players this season for getting involved and playing with pride and special congratulations to The Saints, The Giants and The Tuataras for winning their leagues.

## **Homestays**

We are looking for caring and welcoming families to provide homestay accommodation for two intermediate-aged boys from a private school in Korea. This is a chance to open your home, share your culture, and create lasting memories for both your family and the visiting students.

Duration: Sunday, 8th February 2026, to Friday, 20th February 2026 (12 nights).

Remuneration: Families will receive \$420 per student per week (a total of \$840 per week if hosting both boys).

Hosting these students requires providing a safe, supportive, and engaging home environment, including all meals and transport assistance to and from school.

If you are interested in becoming a homestay family and would like to find out more, please click on the link to complete the Google form and receive further information:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSduPXoZhMfsBakGZQ7TPgGy\\_Zdqe7shX5AMzcFr-egBX5KBg/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSduPXoZhMfsBakGZQ7TPgGy_Zdqe7shX5AMzcFr-egBX5KBg/viewform?usp=publish-editor)

## **Uniform expectations**

Being sun smart and wearing a hat is a big thing in Term 4. Please ensure your child comes to school each day with either a uniform hat or a plain blue or black hat.

Just a general uniform note: please support us by ensuring your child has the correct uniform items at all times. High expectations around uniforms continue into high school, so we do our students a disservice if we let things slide.

Uniform items can be purchased from: <https://northcoteint.nzuniforms.com/>

If you need any help with uniforms due to financial hardship, please reach out and talk with us.

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](mailto:principal@ni.school.nz)



Ngā mihi

Phil Muir, Proud Principal of Northcote Intermediate School

# FIRST CERTIFICATE AWARD WINNERS

In our formal school assemblies, we present stand-out students with FIRST certificates.  
Congratulations all!

- Josh McClintock, Rylee Menzies - 1
- Cole Tomovski - 2
- Olive Furjes, Evie Togia-Dove - 3
- Ari Emmerton, Rez Voges - 4
- Brianna McLean, Maddisyn Blackburn - 5
- Lucas Daffern, Saya Hewaiz - 6
- Dev Solanki, Nate Jackson - 7
- Aidan Rogers, Elliot Farquhar - 8
- Jackson Chen, Jake Christie, Dalia Rizk, Izzy Inwards - 9
- Lily Savill, Lennan Sinclair - 10
- Lucas Wallace, Cameron Snelgar - 11
- Nuala Dallas, Gracie Metahysa - 12
- Mali Hurndell, Ayla Moore, Nate Donnell, Blake Smith - 13
- Arabella Newport, Finlay Roberts, Georgia Wellbrock, Gov Robinson - 14
- Meena Zhao, Shannon Vickery, Adele Northin, Vincent Banks - 15
- Emme Lewis, Jai Nelesoni, Reanne Poutama, Tanu Vimalraj - 16
- Mary Palu, Kiadee Anderson-Forbes, Ellie Geary, Shivam Raval - 17
- Brynn Brown, Mason Collins, Zara Kneijber - 18
- India Allely - 19
- Annabel Macfarlane - 20
- Darin Abdullah - 21
- Liam Brand - 22
- Ayla Tusini, Rosa Wiblin - 23
- Jack Benseman Burak Serif - 24

## NIS 2026 - 2028 Strategic Plan Working Draft with feedback from students, staff, community, and previous NIS Board

*Vision: to empower, learn and grow together*

*Mission: by equipping ākonga with meaningful knowledge, FIRST skills and values*

Charter Goal	Foster high-performing professional teaching and leadership practice (who)	Deliver a relevant and engaging schoolwide curriculum (what)	Provide effective, innovative, inclusive, and culturally responsive ways of teaching (how)	Honour our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
We Will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Undertake a deliberate staff professional development programme to meet the needs of our people and our school</li> <li>- Continue to create a school culture that we can all be proud of and that is flourishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase students' learning opportunities within the NZC through modern and progressive teaching strategies and activities.</li> <li>- Provide world-class learning opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support all of our learners to achieve or exceed their individual educational potential across all curriculum areas</li> <li>- Ensure all cultures are reflected in our learning and are visible at our school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strive to ensure Te Ao Māori is thriving, and Māori students are succeeding</li> <li>- Foster kaitiakitanga for our school and whenua</li> </ul>
We Will Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relevant professional development programmes to support learning initiatives</li> <li>- Wellness strategies to support positive schoolwide culture</li> <li>- Leadership and professional growth opportunities in middle and senior leadership</li> <li>- High expectations of ourselves and our colleagues</li> <li>- Clear communication with all stakeholders</li> <li>- Teachers collaborating to enhance collective learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Co-constructed, shared, schoolwide curriculum planning and overviews</li> <li>- Onboard refreshed/new curriculum, with constant review and improvement</li> <li>- Effective leadership of curriculum areas</li> <li>- Keep up to date with AI + Technology's role and use in our education</li> <li>- Support all our people with effective wellness strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equitable outcomes for all learners</li> <li>- Quality, explicit teaching practices</li> <li>- Embed structured literacy approaches</li> <li>- Staying connected with other schools in our community</li> <li>- Implementation of new curriculum and learning initiatives</li> <li>- Being responsive to diverse learner needs and providing strong learning support</li> <li>- Review school facilities to ensure they provide the best learning environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster existing and establish new relationships with whānau, iwi, and organisations to support success for Māori</li> <li>- Ensuring the schoolwide curriculum provides quality learning opportunities to reflect the world of Te Ao Māori</li> <li>- Māori students achieving success in their learning</li> </ul>
Success Looks Like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consistent planning and delivery across the school, growth in staff leadership, staff professional development, staff continuity, excellent engagement and feedback from students, whānau and wider school partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All of our learners are engaged in all areas of the NZC, with positive student and community consultation and feedback</li> <li>- Create learners and citizens who are future-ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All students achieve or exceed their full educational potential in all curriculum areas over their 2 years at Intermediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Te Ao Māori is visible and respected. Māori students are proud, thriving and achieving in the school environment to become the best they can be</li> </ul>



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



**Basketball**

**Football**

**Netball**

**Rugby**

**Water polo**

**Volleyball**



BIRKENHEAD  
COLLEGE

## SPORTS ACADEMY

**'RESPECT, WHANAU, PRIDE,  
on and off the field'**

AVAILABLE FOR YEARS 9 & 10

YEAR ROUND SKILL  
DEVELOPMENT

EXPERIENCED COACHES

TRAIN IN SCHOOL HOURS

**Register Today!**

**SCAN THE QR CODE AND FILL OUT  
THE ONLINE FORM TO REGISTER  
YOUR INTEREST FOR 2026**



For more information please  
email Mr Tom Allan at  
[al@birkenhead.school.nz](mailto:al@birkenhead.school.nz)

**OSCAR PROGRAMME  
MSD & WINZ  
APPROVED.**



**AFTER SCHOOL CARE  
& HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**

**CRAFTING EPIC MEMORIES  
IN A WARM & WELCOMING  
ENVIRONMENT**



Pancakes,  
fruits and  
veggies  
everyday

Afternoon tea  
provided in all sessions.



**Second and consecutive  
sibling receive  
50%  
OFF**



**NORTHCOTE**  
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

We collect from Willow Park,  
Northcote Primary, Onepoto Primary & St  
Mary's Primary school.  
Children from NIS can walk to Food-tech  
rooms

Limited places, book now!  
Bookings: [mi-casa.aimyplus.com](http://mi-casa.aimyplus.com)

[www.micasaasc.nz.co](http://www.micasaasc.nz.co)



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