

FERGUSSON Intermediate School

Newsletter - 31 October 2017



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www.fergusson.school.nz

Kia ora koutou / A warm hello to you all

I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know the Fergusson Intermediate community and I am learning so much everyday in my new role. Thank you to everyone who has introduced themselves or popped in to see me over the past two weeks, it has been such a wonderful welcome and I am loving all the new learning. At assembly last week I spoke about the importance of resilience and adaptability and how everyone here at Fergusson Intermediate has experienced a great deal of change in 2017. The school has lost key figures, including it's Deputy Principal and Principal, and for many here this has meant a feeling of uncertainty. Having spent time talking with staff, students and whānau over the past two weeks I have been impressed with how positive and enthusiastic everyone is about our school and about each other. I want to acknowledge all the staff at Fergusson Intermediate. They have managed this change incredibly well and worked so hard to ensure the changes didn't impact negatively on the learning or the learners. The leaders at Fergusson have stepped up in so many ways over the past two terms and it is due to their collective commitment, vision, dedication and sheer hard work that the school is humming along so well after such a large amount of change.

As you are probably aware our Upper Hutt Cluster of schools are all working together on developing and promoting student engagement and agency. At the heart of this project are the Key Competencies, in particular, managing self, thinking, participating and contributing and relating to others. It is very clear that in order to succeed in an ever changing world our kids will need the ability to deal with change, use initiative and adapt to new situations. It is fantastic to see these attributes and competencies being used in a real context as the staff and students at FIS work together to focus on the learning opportunities and demonstrate flexibility and resilience with the changes happening around them. As I told them at assembly they should be very proud of the way they have managed this and also managed to keep so positive and focused in a time of uncertainty.

I have really enjoyed getting into classes, hearing the bands practice, seeing the excited kids heading off to the dance / music fest, hearing about our Tournament of the Minds trip to Australia, taking on the kids at a skip off, meeting with the students council, hearing about the great social difference projects going on in Room 13 and so much more. It has been an amazing, relentless, full on few weeks and I am absolutely loving it. FIS is a great place to teach and learn and I am incredibly proud and humbled to be beginning my journey as a member of this fantastic team.

He waka eke noa

A canoe which we are all in with no exception

Ngā mihi / Warm regards

Simon Kenny

Principal

Dates to Remember....

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| 1 November | Inter-Int Basketball |
| 2 November | Year 8 Testing at Upper Hutt College 11.30-1.30 |
| 1 November | Monster Raffle tickets issued |
| 8 November | Year 8 Girls Self Defence |
| 21 November | Orientation Morning 9-10.30am |
| 22 November | Inter-Int Softball Tournament |
| 18 December | School year concludes 12.30pm |
| 1 February | 2018 school year commences |

Intermediate Rocks Band/Dance Festival



Last Friday 27 October members of our Rock Bands, 'Fergy at the Disco' and 'Fergy Phoenix', as well as the 'Fergy Glee Club', travelled to Brandon Intermediate to take part in the Intermediate Rocks Band/Dance Festival.

With seventeen bands and six dance groups performing it was a great opportunity for the students to see what other schools are doing (and check out the competition for Battle of the Bands!) Both bands performed their songs fantastically and had the audience engaged from start to finish. The Glee club members also did extremely well, both singing and dancing whilst dressed as Zombies. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and we are looking forward to taking part again next year!

Tournament of Minds



On Thursday 26 October an excited group of students met at Wellington airport for their trip to Adelaide for the Tournament of Minds International Tournament. Sam Woolcott, Kaito Maud, Malachi Gainsford, Tori Illes-Hall, Nathan Lucock, Stephanie Portugal, Mayden Rose Yuile Vandenbeld had won the Science Technology division at the Wellington Regional Tournament, then they won the same division at the National Tournament so they were off to the International Tournament in Adelaide.

Liz Gainsford travelled with the team and stayed with them in Adelaide, and she made certain they had a fantastic time. On the Friday, the teams all met at the Adelaide Oval for the Opening Ceremony. There were 72 teams from around the world all ready to compete together. Then on Saturday the teams went to Flinders University for the competition. They were given a challenge and had three hours to develop a response. The Fergusson team were given a challenge which looked at the development of the telescope, the design process and refinements and how it works.

The TOM team from Fergusson was fantastic and we can be proud of how well they represented our school and New Zealand. They were not placed but presented an excellent solution and they received so much positive feedback for their attitude, enthusiasm and the way they embraced the whole experience. Well done and thank you so much to the parents, supporters, the team and Liz Gainsford for her tireless support.

Absence Line

528 7024