

*Mahana koutou ma*

*Tenei te mihi, nga whanau o mosston kura, haria mai i tenei po*

*Nga mihi nunui, o tamariki rangatira apopo*

*Ka Huri ahau, i roto, I te reo tuatahi*

2017 has been another fantastic year for Mosston School and tonight is an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements and successes of our school and our students both in and out of the classroom of which we are very proud,

The whole school marae visit to Putiki Marae will be remembered as a highlight of the year and was enjoyed by all staff, the students and many families. We have also celebrated and participated in many other events - Maori Language Week, Chinese Day, Mosston's Got Talent, Grandparents' Day, Puanga, Clubs, the arrival of our leaf cutter bees, a new cycle track, speech competitions, amazing ICAS academic results, Ka Pai Kids celebrations, Choir Festival and who can forget our fantastic Mathex placing just to name a few! Facebook has continued to be a wonderful way to share these events with you on a regular basis.

2017 has been a very successful year academically with many children achieving highly. and everyone making progress. This is a credit to the teaching and support staff who work together to provide the best outcomes for all our students. We ensure our programmes provide both a challenge for our very able learners and support for those requiring a little extra help.

This may be the last time we report to you on National Standards. In 2018 we will continue to use the standards as a guide to ensure our children are all achieving to their potential. We do look forward to not having to use the language of below and well below when reporting to you on your children. We have 86% of children reading at or above National Standard at the end of 2017. In writing we have 80% of children at or above National standard and in Maths we have 83% of our students children achieving at or above the standard. This is due to the extensive numeracy school wide PLD we have been involved in as well as the Accelerated Learning in Numeracy Programme.

We are continuing to move forward and make changes to our school environment and in April next year the two senior classrooms will be redesigned as a collaborative innovative senior teaching space. Next year will also see the introduction of play based learning in the Junior Hub - who doesn't want to learn while they play and we look forward to inviting you in to see this in progress later in the first term. Next year also sees the continuation of seesaw throughout the school as we have realised that our families love these instant snapshots of their child's learning.

We continue to encourage our students to become self managing learners and we are giving them more choice in their learning and how they learn.. This year we have so many more children in the moana having travelled down the awa. The students have shown growth in this area and tell us they love the increased responsibility and ownership of their learning

CARES continues to be at the heart of the school and reflected in school life everyday. We are fortunate to have a group of students who each day aspire to be the very best they can and succeed in doing so. Seeing our learners progress over time is extremely rewarding for the whole school community. It has been great to recognise our children through the Ka Pai Kids Club that rewards our children who consistently demonstrate the CARES values. This year 96.5% of our children have taken part in these celebrations.

Being a health promoting school we have a focus on providing a variety of sporting events. We also opened our new bike track this year and were fortunate to have Whanganui Multisport come in and develop cycle skills with our children. Other highlights included the triathlon, swimming sports, athletics, football and hockey tournaments, rippa rugby, cross country, Tough Kids and gymnastics.

The Board of Trustees and Parents' Group have continued to support us and we are very grateful for their help as this ensures our students have many and varied opportunities throughout the year. I would like to thank Donna Strachan for all her work as a trustee and the support she has given to Mosston School.

Our enthusiastic teaching and support staff that we have at Mosston makes us one of the luckiest schools in Whanganui. We have a fantastic teaching team that is well supported by teacher aides and office staff. There were a few changes this year. Mrs Wightman went off on maternity leave and we welcomed Mrs Benefield to the team and when Jo went overseas we had Mrs Dunford teaching in the Whare iti. I would like to thank the staff for their continued hard work and acknowledge their dedication. I thank Diane Alexander and Jo Chamberlain for their work and support as part of our leadership team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Julie our wonderful teacher aide who is leaving Mosston School at the end of the year. Julie has been with us for the past 5 years and has made a huge difference for many of our learners throughout the school and has been a much valued staff member.

Finally I would like to announce the winner of our Year book competition- Monique Smith. This is also the time to thank Aimee Loveridge for putting this years publication together - it is a huge task and we are very grateful for all the time and creativity that went into this year's yearbook. I would also like to acknowledge those families who sponsored the Year book along with The Year That Was feature in the Whanganui Chronicle today.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2018!

Tena koutou tena koutou tena koutou katoa.

Michelle Watson