

Principal's Address 2020 Prize Giving

Tihei mauri ora, nau mai, haere mai, tena koutou katoa, E nga whanau, e nga kaiako, e nga tamariki...
tena koutou,tena koutou,tena koutou katoa

Tonight I once again feel very privileged as principal to welcome you as we celebrate 2020. I am very thankful for the opportunity to lead Mosston School. It is a privileged position and one that I am proud to devote my enthusiasm and positivity to, along with a drive for continuous improvement and excellence.

2020 has been a year many of us will reflect on and remember in the years to come. It was a year that started like any other but by week 8, COVID 19 had hit New Zealand's shores. We found ourselves going into a nationwide four week Lockdown at very short notice. We were reminded to be kind, stay safe, stay home, stay in our bubble and flatten the curve. We listened to the 1pm daily updates with Ashely and Jacinda, forever hopeful that our Mosston community would remain COVID free.

This pandemic caused significant disruption across the world and as a school we needed to consider a new way of teaching and learning to ensure our students and their learning was not compromised. We did a great job! I am extremely proud of the teaching and support staff who went above and beyond and put in an enormous effort, considering the individual needs of our tamariki and whaanau and supporting you through any challenges that arose.

Video calling, zooming and social distancing became the new norm. We were innovative in our use of digital technologies. We communicated and kept you informed. We had fun zooming and in doing so celebrated lockdown birthdays, dressed up, shared schoolwork and our pets and most importantly stayed connected. We were mindful of student wellbeing.

Decisions were needing to be made and sometimes quite quickly. I am very grateful for the support of Diane and Kate in the leadership team and Kylie and the Board ensuring we made the right decisions at the right time.

I am extremely grateful to you, our whānau community as I know it wasn't easy for you. Your support and involvement in your child's learning while juggling family commitments, multiple school levels, multiple school's expectations, working from home and being locked down together for a month, has meant that our 2020 achievement data is on a par with previous years.

Our students have successfully continued their learning in a COVID 19 world. Many children are still coming into school independently and taking responsibility for preparing for the day . While we hope to remain in the fortunate position we are with COVID, as a school we are prepared to go back through the levels if required...fingers crossed a vaccine will arrive and we will be able to travel, particularly for those who have not seen family for some time.

Sadly COVID impacted on some of the opportunities we were planning in 2020 but highlights of the year have included the continuation of our learning through play journey, winning the Contributing Schools life saving championships, becoming a bronze enviroschool, realy for life, the outdoor movie night, senior school camp, our in school mathex when it was discovered we would be at camp when the Whanganui event was on, Green Day, Mosston's Got Talent, Puanga at the museum, welcoming Whaea

Keitha and the continuation of our Kapa Haka programmes, the science fair, cluster Kapa haka festival and numerous sporting events.

Our students have continued to grow their growth mindset and develop self managing behaviours. The CARES values have been evident in daily school life and Big Ted has once again enjoyed many exciting weekend adventures. We continue to be inclusive and culturally responsive, appreciating the diversity of all our learners.

Next year we look forward to the installation of our new confidence course, our new gate and the arrival of a new group of enthusiastic learners. We look forward to moving to real time reporting as we make our reporting more meaningful and purposeful for you. We will be sharing work from across the curriculum throughout the year and also your child's progress in relation to curriculum levels.

We look forward to the arrival of two new staff joining the team with Christine Stringer retiring and Brianna Hobson taking up a position at Churton School. I thank them both for the contributions they have made to Mosston School and thank Christine for her enthusiasm and drive to Mosston becoming an enviro school. Just last week we received the Pat Kelly trust grant which will mean 100 additional trees being planted at Mosston School in 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fi Campbell for her relentless work and support for Mosston School over the past 14 ½ years as a Mosston parent - Parents group chairperson, Fundraising coordinator, camp parent, sports coach, and organiser of our discos, the family fun nights and christmas hamper raffles, Fi has done it all and we are very lucky to have had her doing so much for our tamariki. I would also like to acknowledge Adrienne Smith who has been a trustee on the Mosston board for the past 5 years and taken an active role in keeping the school finances on track as well as making decisions in the best interest of your children.

To the amazing Mosston staff – I thank you for all your time and dedication. You are so professional and committed to our learning community. This commitment from you is reflected in our school culture and Mosston being a school of choice in the community. I am truly blessed to work alongside you.

To the Mosston Board - thank you for your ongoing support. There have been challenges over the year but knowing you were right behind me has been reassuring. You keep the child at the centre and want only the best for Mosston students.

On behalf of our tamariki I want to thank the staffing team, the leadership team, the Mosston Board and most importantly you, our parent community. We achieve great things together and you and your support is vital. Thank you for helping us improve and thank you for telling us when we get it right!

I look forward to a more settled 2021 and more opportunities to celebrate the great things that happen at Mosston School. Stay safe and 'be kind' over the upcoming holiday break.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Ngā mihi nui

Michelle Watson