Waitangi Day at NZIS

February 6th is New Zealand’s Day to celebrate its bicultural strength through its relationship between Maori and Pakeha and the value each culture brings to create New Zealand’s cultural identity.

At NZIS, we live in a multicultural climate, where having respect for everyone’s religion, culture and nationality are fundamental to us operating as a respectful and nurturing community. Today was a day of celebration of this, and could be observed in our Primary and Early Years assembly and activities.

The staff had arranged an exciting rotation of activities, which including such kiwi classics as gumboot throwing and a Kiwi Quiz. As a finale, the students enjoyed a shared “kiwi kai” morning tea.

The Secondary students had their own Celebrations where they sang Maori waiata (songs), and the boys performed the haka, a Maori tradition which many recognize from its use by the All Blacks before rugby games. They also enjoyed another New Zealand favourite, a sausage sizzle.

Thanks to all staff and students for sharing their enthusiasm and respect for a significant day in New Zealand History.

Thanks also to the parents who came along to support our Celebration.

Have a wonderful long weekend everyone.

Gong Xi Fat Chai.
Our congratulations to Ms. Ayu who is getting married on the Saturday. Ms. Ayu is a valuable administrative assistant in making sure that our school runs efficiently.

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Parent Information Evening & Barbeque

Thank-you to those parents who attended the Parent Information Evening and Barbeque last week.

Our staff were pleased to meet some of their parents, especially those new to NZIS, and spend some time outlining the way their classroom is organized. The intention is for all parent questions to be answered at once and to set the year up well for home-school communication.

The classroom information session was followed by a very pleasant barbeque get-together.

Class Parent Rep (CPR) Programme

Following on from the success of the CPR Programme last year, recognizing the importance of community involvement and parent communication, we would like to continue having CPRs again this year.

The CPR works as a liaison between the school, through the classroom teacher, and the community, through contact with all class parents willing to participate.

This has been found to be a great way of welcoming new families, supporting school events, forming social networks and supporting families in times of need.

If you are interested in being the CPR for your child’s class then please approach your child’s classroom teacher for more information.
During Science Mana Is Learning About States Of Matter

We decided that all materials can be grouped as solids, liquids or gases (called states of matter).

It is easy to decide whether something is a gas or liquid or solid, isn’t it?

Some are difficult, e.g. is sand/flour/salt a solid or a liquid?

We touched and looked at sand/flour/salt. Although they can be poured, they can also all be piled into a heap, which you can’t do with a liquid (form a pool).

We made a list of their properties on paper and used a check list for each state. We discovered that they although they had some properties of a liquid they were still solids but very small solid pieces.
The Treaty of Waitangi February 6th 1840
Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tatou katoa

NZIS celebrated Waitangi day with an assembly, where we learnt about the Treaty of Waitangi and its significance to all New Zealanders.

Miss Susan talked about how the Maori people first arrived in Aotearoa travelling by waka, around 1,000 years ago. They settled and spread across New Zealand living a mostly hunter – gatherer lifestyle.

Around 200 years ago ‘Western’ whalers, traders and settlers began to colonize Aotearoa and both Maori and English people asked Queen Victoria to help establish law and order amongst the newcomers in New Zealand.

As a result in 1840 New Zealand’s founding document, The Treaty of Waitangi was signed.

With the signing of the Treaty in 1840, Māori and Pākehā began the long journey, towards creating a nation together.

Throughout this time, the Treaty has never lost its importance. And today, perhaps more than ever, it is helping to forge productive working relationships between Māori and other New Zealanders.

The journey continues – and it involves everyone living in Aotearoa.

This week, the students have been learning about Maori culture and the importance of the Treaty. They would like to share with you what they have learnt.

Year 1 Tuatara sang Uma Rapiti

Year 2 Whanake learnt about Maui, a man popular in traditional Maori folklore. They found out how he stole his Grandmother’s magic jawbone for his own use. They decided to illustrate the story with pastel art work.

Year 3 Tane Mahuta made pois and demonstrated poi.

Year 4 Mana and Year 5 Unenku have been working on their Rakau which is a traditional stick game which Maori children would learn from the age of three. It helped the children to learn patterns and trained them to be coordinated and ready for more formal learning.

We demonstrated our rakau skills with a song by the New Zealand group The Swingers called, Counting the Beat.

Then Year 6 Rangatiria lead the school in singing Jakrta e.

Then we tried out six different activities: A Waitangi day quiz, three legged race, balloon volley, ball, gumboot throw, musical chairs, and hoop throwing. Then we went back to class to enjoy a New Zealand themed shared snack.

It was an educational and fun Waitangi celebration.
This week the students have all been very busy preparing for our special Waitangi Day Celebration. Each class has spent time reading a Maori legend, creating artwork, learning waiata (songs), poi dances or rakau (stick games). These were shared at our Waitangi Day assembly and thoroughly enjoyed by all the students and visiting family members.

The assembly was opened with a karanga (welcome call) from Ms Nellie and included an explanation about the Treaty of Waitangi, a special agreement signed between the peoples of New Zealand on 6th February, 1840. Each class then presented an item they had prepared for the Waitangi Day celebration.
Following our assembly the students participated in a range of fun activities in house teams. These were led by our New Zealand teachers.

The kiwi style shared morning snack was another way of exploring and sharing the New Zealand culture together.
SECONDARY STANDARDS!

Scrabble Competition
Students from Year 8 are busy thinking and learning vocabulary by having scrabble competition.
Here are few pictures of my after school activity....

Started Badminton and was surprised to see that many students joined and they love to play badminton, every Wednesday 3 to 4pm.