

LYNFIELD
COLLEGE



Innovative Learning Programme

Year 9 | March 2022



Learning to Live

Innovative Learning Programme

March 2022 Newsletter

Kia ora koutou katoa. The Year 9 Innovative Learning (IL) Programme programme is now in its second year here at Lynfield College. The IL Programme contains a broad curriculum of learning and personal development. It combines English, Science, Technology, Social Studies, Maths, Mātauranga Māori, Health and Physical Education. Students have chosen Arts and Languages options. The programme is run as a large class of 37 students with two teachers at any one time. The class uses flexible learning spaces including for group and independent learning.

Staff and students have been working enthusiastically to build a class culture that incorporates our school values of **Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga Tika, Hinengaro Wawata and Wairua Kaha**. The 9IL teachers for 2022 include, Mrs Shahsavar (Science), Whaea Leauga (Mātauranga Māori), Ms Bell (Mātauranga Māori), Mr Walters (Social Studies), Mr Lai (English), Mr Smith (Health and Physical Education), Mr Joseph (Mathematics), and Mr Yearbury (Technology). Our staff are pleased to report that students are developing a strong sense of learner agency and engagement. Diversity has been the main theme for Term One.

Our Innovative Learning students will develop qualities such as:

- *Responsibility for themselves and others.*
- *Responsiveness to new ideas.*
- *Compassion and engagement with the wider community.*
- *Independent work ethic and time-management skills.*
- *Flexibility and adaptiveness.*
- *Resilience and perseverance.*
- *Confidence to be more creative.*



Term One began with the 9IL class coming together as a group over the first few weeks to build a unique, collaborative class culture. To achieve this goal, 9IL students participated in a variety of Adventure Based Learning (ABL) activities to develop and gain confidence in working with their peers to achieve successful outcomes. One activity of note had all the students working together to keep a rope tight enough for one of their colleagues to walk all the way around the circle, while standing on the rope. The co-operation, trust, and willingness to take risks in this ABL activity, has enhanced their learning capabilities both inside and outside the classroom.

Early Days: Coming together as a class



The focus on teamwork, participation and problem solving has been of clear benefit to the classroom environment in 9IL. Students raise their hands with regularity, and they are speaking with more confidence when asked questions. Discussions are thoughtful and appropriate.

9IL students have shown that they are willing to participate more to enhance their learning. The development of a culture of high expectations that is grounded in our school values is the result of the collaborative professionalism of our staff. To quote John Hattie, “when teaching and learning are visible, there is a greater likelihood of students reaching higher levels of achievement”.



The Innovative Learning Programme includes:

- *Project-based activities where students follow the design process and see an idea through to completion*
- *Collaborative learning and action, guiding students to work together effectively*
- *Critical thinking and problem-solving*
- *Learning content and skills in a different way to other Year 9 classes, as they apply to the integrated topics.*
- *Social action to raise awareness about current issues affecting our local, national and global communities.*
- *Opportunities for Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC).*
- *Guest speakers and facilitators to enhance and build on classroom learning.*

Term One topic: Meeting of Cultures

In Social Studies, English, Physical Education and Health, 9IL have been learning about multiple aspects of ancient and modern cultures. These have ranged from cultural mythologies and creation myths, all the way to the voyages of Kupe and the early Polynesian settlement of Aotearoa. Finally, in recent weeks students have begun an in depth exploration of Te Tiriti O Waitangi - Treaty of Waitangi. They have been learning about the historical causes and consequences of the signing of Te Tiriti - the Treaty.

The integration of Technology, Mathematics and Science has seen a lot of linkage occurring, as 9IL students have been learning about the cultural factors that influence the design of pendants and other adornments. They have been working to develop their own designs that are inspired by a range of cultural influences. In doing so they are also learning about the geometry of shapes, in particular the properties and composition of shapes in 2D and 3D. From this, they are making connections to the different parts of plants, their function, and importance. They have been using a range of scientific instruments and equipment to investigate this further. One learning aim here, is to distinguish between plants and animals' cells and be able to draw correct biological diagrams. This is where students can make links to the content covered in Mathematics, especially to the work on 2D-3D shapes and measuring areas and volume.

In Maturanga Māori, 9IL have been learning about their pepeha and its significance and importance in Tikanga Māori, especially in the context of understanding whakapapa and genealogy. They have learnt the school haka and waiata. Students are also practising sentence structures and developing their kupu - understanding of words in Te Reo Māori. The students of the 9IL class of 2022 are making encouraging progress in developing a range of transferable skills and knowledge across the curriculum. They can be proud of the great work they have been doing in all their classes. Our Year 9 Hui Mai teachers are looking forward to the upcoming Parent - Student - Teacher conferences that will take place on the 30th and 31st March.

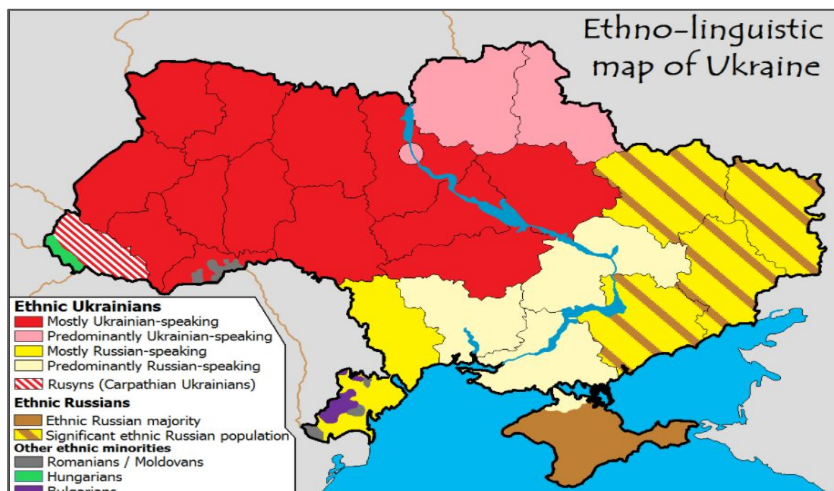
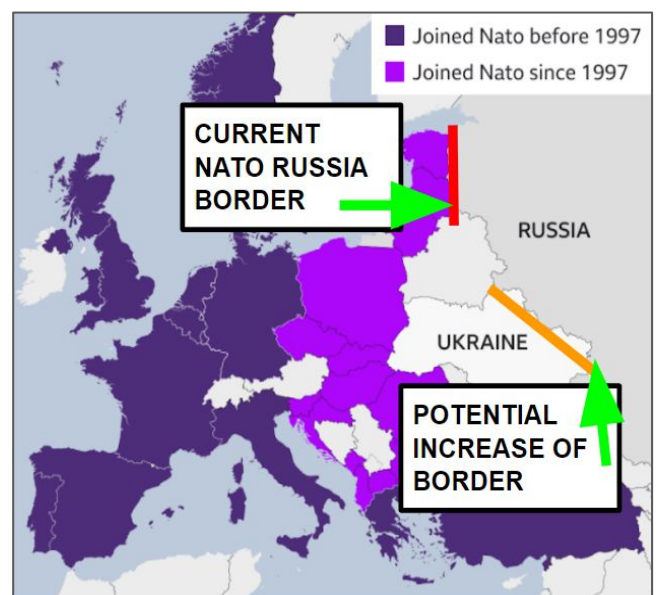


9IL Takes Control: The War in Ukraine

In the first lesson after the outbreak of war in Ukraine, Mr Lai and Mr Walters were focused on delivering a lesson about cultural interactions and how peoples have shared their culture over time. However, 9IL came in intrigued and concerned about the news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and what it could mean for the world. This resulted in a week long student-led enrichment of the curriculum in Social Studies, English, and Physical Education and Health.

To see our 9IL students taking control of their learning at this age was powerful to see, and necessitated a responsive lesson to dispel some of the misinformation they had heard. Fears of an imminent outbreak of nuclear war were eased, and some understanding of geopolitics arose.

The class impressed us all with their keen interest in this issue and rapidly gained insight as they progressed through the week. Students engaged with Russo-Ukrainian relations since 1930 including the Ukrainian famine, the 2014 revolution, Russia's desire to counter NATO, and finally the outbreak of war in February. Mr Smith then had the class participate in the game of Bandy, popular in Ukraine and Russia. Finally the learning culminated in students taking social action by writing letters addressed to the Russian Embassy in Wellington. This is a good example of how students and teachers in the 2022 9IL programme are able to adapt and respond to current events but also take meaningful social action to address a significant global issue that has far reaching implications.



191 White Swan Road
Mt Roskill 1041
Auckland
New Zealand

3rd March, 2022

Embassy of Russia
57 Messines Road
Karori
Wellington 6012

Dear Ambassador Zuev,

My name is Nabeeha. I am part Russian, Turkish, Arabian, and Pakistani. I am a NZ high school student, and am writing this letter to you because of my concerns for Ukrainian citizens. Citizens are completely innocent and the Russian government is terrorising them. Whenever I tell someone that I'm part Russian nowadays, they say, oh wow she's going to be so biased and aggressive. Why are you giving the country and culture a bad name? The people of Russia don't want this war, listen to the voice of the world and back down. Now.

On Thursday 24th February, Russia started the invasion of Ukraine, claiming it to be a 'special military operation'. Hundreds and Thousands of innocent civilians in Ukraine are getting injured, killed or taken captive. Why is this happening in the 21st century? Be civilised, decent and proper humans and issue an immediate retreat.

As for what actions I want taken, I wish for Putin and the Russian forces to immediately back off and leave Ukraine alone. To pay reparations, for Putin to step down as President, and to make memorials for the innocent citizens and brave young men he has murdered. Russia is already the biggest country, stop being greedy and just order an immediate ceasefire. You will never be the Soviet Union again, so stop trying. Have decency and stop trying to be Hitler, look at where he ended up. Hitler put Germany in such an economic crisis that they are still paying for it. Learn a lesson from the past and move forward not backwards.

Your 'special military operation', as you call it, is illegal worldwide. Those rules apply to Putin and Russian Forces as well. Thousands are getting hurt, not just physically but emotionally as well. Russia will face the karmic slap of justice and its economy will fall, as it is starting to. Look at what happened to Germany after WW2 and don't make the same mistake, and please, issue an immediate halt to all hostilities.

Sincerely,
Nabeeha K