

A New School

By Tasmin van Riel, Hawea Flat School

“Mum, the bus is here. See you after school.”

When Mia first stepped onto the bus, she looked around at all the new faces staring at her. As she walked down the corridor, a boy stuck his foot out and gave Mia a cheek full of stood-on, cold autumn leaves. When the bus stopped at school, all the intense laughter died down. Watching everyone on the bus run off to spread the delicate popularity rumour, Mia sat alone in the back seat staring out the window.

“Okay class settle down,” Miss Johnston hushed. Mia slowly walked to the back of the class and took a seat. Thoughts were rolling through her head about how this morning she was so excited and how now she wouldn’t give eye contact to anyone.

“Okay class, today we have a new student joining us,” said Miss Johnston. Mia couldn’t believe it. She was going to be embarrassed for the second time that day.

“Mia would you like to stand up and say something about yourself? It’s okay, no one will judge you.”

“Uhh okay,” Mia nervously replied.

“Uh, hi my name is, Mia and uhh..., and well I’m an only child, and uhh...” Mia felt so apprehensive that the next thing she said was “can I please be excused to the bathroom?”

Without giving Miss Johnston the opportunity to decline her request, Mia bolted out of the class, which left the other kids laughing. Mia sprinted past the other classes, around the back and sat on a bench alone.

Ding, ding, ding. Hundreds of kids scrambled out of their classes and chased each other to witness who was in for tag. Meanwhile Mia sat alone on the bench, feeling all locked up inside herself.

A few minutes later, some kids walked up to her and showed her their phone... Oh, no! There was a photo of her with her face heartlessly photoshopped out and replaced with a brutal puke face; then she saw the caption “This is the faulty excuse for a person that walked in this morning.” As Mia walked towards the staff room she felt tears roll down her cheek.

Five minutes later Mia’s mum turned up. The only thing that Mia couldn’t believe was that everyone believed the old feeling-sick trick. Just when Mia thought she got away with it, Miss Johnston jogged over to her car with Courtney White by her side.

“Hey Mia, before you go I think Courtney has something to say.”

“Mia I’m sorry for giving you a hard time, especially because it’s your first day.”

At first Mia didn’t believe her, but then Courtney continued “Wanna go out for ice-cream after school?”

Mia’s mum nodded at her and that night Mia and Courtney straightened things out between each other. Maybe the new school would be ok after all?