



Morrinsville College



1 May 2023 NEWSLETTER No. 5

A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL – MR S JENKINS
B.A. (HONS), PGDIPEDLD, DIP.TCHG

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – MR SCOTT JENKINS



It has been nice to see our students return to school well-refreshed after the holidays. Term 2 is always a time for our senior students to focus in on the academic requirements of NCEA and this is where most of our students' Excellence and Merit grades are earned. It is also a time of changing weather and this week will be no exception as the current weather cell moves across the country. We would encourage all of our students to consider their uniform over this period and to make sure that they

come to school with the correct uniform and making sure that they stay warm and dry.

CHANGES TO STAFF

This term we welcome in Mr Ravinesh Kumar and Mrs Kylie Gread who will be teaching in the Science Learning Area.

ANZAC DAY

As they do each year, our Head Students represented the College with distinction on ANZAC Day. This year Head Boy Alex Khanal and Head Girl Prasheema Sharma spoke on behalf of the youth of Morrinsville at the Civic ceremony held at Howie Park. Alex spoke about the connection between the soldiers of Nepal where his family comes from, and his perceptions of ANZAC Day as a young person in our district. Prasheema made thoughtful comments about the values of New Zealand servicepeople and how they might translate to young people across New Zealand today. Their speeches were well-received and I have had a number of positive comments from members of the public about how well they spoke. They laid a wreath at the cenotaph with the assistance of Ella Chambers, Paul Williamson and Olivia Harris. These students were also involved at our school's ANZAC service the



following day as we returned back to school. Our students were very well behaved in what is a solemn occasion as they are slowly getting used to having assemblies again after having almost none during the Covid period.

NEW CLASSROOMS

On Monday 24 April we officially opened our two new roll-growth classrooms in a very early morning ceremony. We were led by our kuias Te Ao Marama Maaka and Carol Hauraki and our kaumatuas Ken Hauraki and Tawhe Mark. It was really pleasing to be



able to invite John Inger to return to cut the ribbon opening the classrooms. These classrooms will be used by our Food Technology staff as a break-out room with their ever-expanding numbers of students wishing to take Food Technology. They will also be used by our PE and Health staff during the winter to facilitate the growing need for health and wellbeing education for our younger students. It is anticipated that our roll will continue to climb over the next few years and we have already put in place the planning for two further classrooms to join these new classrooms as a block.

LIONS' DONATION

I was honoured to accept an invitation from the Combined Lions' Clubs of Morrinsville, Morrinsville Pakeke and Tahuna and Districts Lions Clubs to attend their dinner on Wednesday 19 April. At this event they presented donations to a number of schools in our region. These were derived from the proceeds from the collection of casualty calves donated by farmers during the calving season of 2022. This is the last year that this will happen and I wish to acknowledge almost 30 years of donations from the Lions and all of the hard work from their members for this to occur over such a long period of time.



FROM THE BOARD'S PRESIDING MEMBER – MRS NGAIRE TE AHU

PPTA STRIKE ACTION

Last Thursday, Mr Jenkins emailed parents alerting them to the dates proposed by the PPTA industrial action for this term. Some of this information will be repeated and I apologise for this. However, it is important that people have these dates on their calendar as it currently looks as if this industrial

action will continue across most of this term. Currently the PPTA and the Ministry of Education are about to engage in a facilitated process with independent mediators to bring them closer together, however industrial action is scheduled for at least the next six weeks. It is important to note at this point that while each of these dates are proposed ahead of time, they are only confirmed by official notification a few days before each strike action. We will notify you if there are any changes to the dates below.

Current industrial action includes a ban on union members using their planning and marking non-contact periods to relieve for their colleagues who might be ill, on leave or on a field trip. This has caused some schools around the country to roster home whole year groups last term. We have managed not to get to this point, however it has been a particularly tough situation in the current employment environment with fewer and fewer relievers available. For this term the PPTA has also introduced a “work-to-rule” ban on all meetings and events outside of the 8.30am to 4.30pm workday.

Strike action (affecting the whole school) has been signalled for the Waikato region on **Thursday 11 May** (each region will have a different day across the country). This will follow the same process as the previous strike days last term. On this day our school will be closed for instruction and all students will be required to remain at home.

Rostering home has also been signalled throughout the term. This is where union members will not teach students of a specific year level on these targeted days. This action will mean that we cannot staff the school for that year level and only those students will be asked to remain at home.

- These are currently scheduled across all of NZ for:
- Week 2 Thursday 4 May - Year 11
- Week 3 Tuesday 9 May - Year 12 and Thursday 11 May - Year 13 (this is the same day as the Waikato region full strike)
- Week 4 Tuesday 16 May - Year 9 and Wednesday 17 May - Year 10
- Week 5 Thursday 25 May - Year 11
- Week 6 Tuesday 30 May - Year 13 and Thursday 1 June - Year 12
- Week 7 Tuesday 6 June - Year 10 and Thursday 8 June - Year 9.

There is no doubt that the industrial action this term will cause significant disruption and frustration for schools, students and parents. We will keep you informed as we receive more information from both the Ministry and PPTA.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ZONE CONSULTATION

The Ministry of Education has been communicating with our school and a number of other schools in our area about introducing an enrolment zone plan for 2024. There is a public consultation meeting scheduled for **6pm on Wednesday 17 May in our Performing Arts Centre**. We encourage parents of prospective and current students to come along and hear the Ministry’s proposal and voice their opinions. It is important to note that all current students (and their younger siblings) will be allowed to continue their enrolment with us even if they are outside the proposed enrolment zone.

The Ministry is proposing an enrolment zone as they are forecasting significant student growth for our school and for the Morrinsville township. It will be a contentious meeting as a number of their proposed boundary lines could be seen as arbitrary by many people. To provide some context, we currently have 100 students who attend our kura from outside of our area and this has increased noticeably this year.

COMING EVENTS

Tues 2 – Thurs 4 May	Year 12 College Cuisine
Thursday 4 May	Year 11 Rostered Home - PPTA
Friday 5 May	Years 11/12 Geography Trip
Sun 7 – Tues 9 May	Duke of Edinburgh trip
Tuesday 9 May	Year 12 Rostering Home – PPTA
Wed 10 – Fri 13 May	Year 12 College Cuisine
Wednesday 10 May	Board of Trustees’ meeting, 7pm
Thursday 11 May	PPTA Strike Action Day – school closed
Tuesday 16 May	Year 9 Rostering Home - PPTA
Wednesday 17 May	Year 10 Rostering Home - PPTA
Wednesday 17 May	School Zoning Public Meeting, PAC, 6pm
Thursday 18 May	School Cross Country
Tuesday 23 May	Thames Valley Cross Country
Thursday 25 May	Year 11 Rostering Home - PPTA
Thursday 25 May	Waikato SS Swimming Champs
Friday 26 May	Year 13 – Waikato Uni Open Day
Tuesday 30 May	Year 13 Rostering Home - PPTA
Thursday 1 June	Year 12 Rostering Home - PPTA
Monday 5 June	King’s Birthday Holiday
Tuesday 6 June	Year 10 Rostering Home - PPTA
Thursday 8 June	Year 9 Rostering Home - PPTA
Thursday 8 June	Waikato SS Cross Country

Morrinsville College

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