



Morrinsville College



4 February 2022 NEWSLETTER 1

A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL
J.M. INGER, M.ED. ADMIN [HONS] B.A., DIP. TCHG

FROM BOARD CHAIR MRS NGAIRE TE AHU



Covid Case and Mask Wearing

The Board is very grateful that on Friday Mr Inger, Mr Jenkins, Mrs Martin and two teachers reacted so swiftly to the news they received late in the day that we had our first confirmed case of a student infected with Covid. Supported by an adviser at the Ministry of Education, they were quickly able to advise and update all parents of the situation that developed late in the day, identify a small number of close contacts, send these students home, contact their parents by telephone and then email, advise their parents what to do in another email, complete a complex and very difficult spreadsheet of information for the Ministry of Health and then write another email to parents with an update. The MoH has advised the Principal that they have added our list of close contacts to their contact tracing database and that they will be providing advice to the affected families. We are not expecting these students back at school until later this week, after isolating, nasal testing, negative results and remaining symptom-free. The MoH will advise these students and their families when it is safe for them to return to school.

The Board's policy that all of our staff and students must wear masks at school when they are indoors, or outdoors in close contact situations, was extremely helpful in lessening the number of close contacts in the case of infection last week. The wearing of masks is currently considered to be a legal requirement at school for all college-aged students, except where they have a valid exemption provided by a registered medical practitioner or acceptable health provider. This also concurs with the Board's policy for Morrinsville College, so that we can do as much as possible to ensure everyone's safety, as is our responsibility. Where acceptable, quality masks are worn, and most of our students are wearing such masks we are pleased to say, and staff must wear approved surgical or N95 masks, there is ample scientific evidence that the transmission of Covid is much decreased. We currently have very few students or staff who are exempted from wearing a mask, and where this is the case the Board is insisting that we have received and approved an exemption

card or a letter from a registered medical practitioner or acceptable health provider to confirm an exemption. Sadly and disappointingly, throughout the country a few families have been abusing the exemption card process when they do not want their child to wear a mask at school and some mask exemptions distributed by unauthorised organisations have been found to be not genuine. We are therefore asking members of our Senior Leadership Team to check the legitimacy of our current exemptions. If parents are unable to provide legitimate exemptions then their sons and daughters are not permitted to come to school without a mask, in the interests of everyone's safety. Thank you very much to the great majority of our parents for your support with masks.

We are grateful to DP Mr Jenkins who has designed a flowchart to help parents to understand our current COVID processes. T

Ngaire Te Ahu

FROM THE PRINCIPAL MR JOHN INGER



Year 9 Parent Welcome Evening

This is to remind all of our Year 9 parents that given the current threat of the Covid Omicron virus spreading, we have decided not to hold our planned on-site Year 9 Welcome Evening at our school tomorrow evening, Wednesday 16 February. Instead, we invite you to join an online Zoom meeting at 7pm, during which I as Principal, Miss Megan Chambers the Year 9 Dean and DP Mr Bruce Forsyth will make brief presentations. Miss Chambers and I will welcome you to our school and tell you a few things about how we work here and Mr Forsyth will make a presentation on how to interpret your son's/daughter's e-asTTle results, before talking about our KAMAR portal and the Skool Loop. We have sent home each student's e-asTTle results with them today, so that you can be looking at these while Mr Forsyth explains how to interpret them. Here is the Zoom link for this Welcome Evening online meeting tomorrow.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81545880360> (Ctrl + click to follow the link).

Our Learning Coaches should have made contact with you by telephone by today to introduce themselves to you as a very important academic/pastoral link between the school and your son/daughter for the duration of their schooling at Morrinsville College, to check how your son/daughter has settled in at College and to answer any other early questions that you might have. They will also have encouraged you to attend tomorrow evening's Zoom meeting. This Learning Coach will be a very important first contact for you if there are any issues with your son/daughter here at this school, or in answering any questions you may have and you will be very welcome to email them at any stage of the year. If an issue arises which is more serious, then you should contact the Kaitiaki or, for very serious issues, the DP in charge of your son's/daughter's House through the school Office. I hope to see our Year 9 parents online tomorrow evening at 7pm.

Tyler Trust Award

I am very pleased to announce that **Angela Rai**, who was named Dux at our Senior Prizegiving Ceremony late last year, has won the Tyler Trust Award for 2021. This award recognises the top achiever in NCEA Level 3 once all of the external results are confirmed. Angela did extremely well with NCEA Level 3 last year, gaining 96 Excellence credits and 12 Merit credits, with eight at an Achieved level and no Not-Achieved, so the high standard of her work is really remarkable. Angela is heading to Otago University this year to study Health Science and hoping to go on to pursue a career in a medical laboratory. Sadly, interest rates have been very low over the past 12 months, but Angela was pleased to receive a payment of \$680 and she was honoured to receive the award. This amount of money represents the interest earned in 2021 from the Tyler Trust account, following a bequest many years ago to the school by the late Nerissa Minnie Tyler, an ex-staff member.

I also want to recognise the excellent NCEA results at Level 3 of **Leia Powell** and **Ellie Wright**. I am confident that all of these students will go on to be very successful.



Scholarship Success

Congratulations to **Merrill Abapo** who gained a prestigious Scholarship award in Drama in the external examinations last year. This placed Merrill amongst the top 2% of students in our country. Congratulations to Merrill and also to her excellent teacher, Ms Louise Keenan. We are very proud of her achievement.



Swimming Heats

Our House competition begins tomorrow when we will be holding our swimming heats, ahead of the swimming finals which are scheduled to take place on Friday afternoon. This year, in an attempt to get more of our students to participate in the swimming heats, we will be taking the students to our school pool in their Houses, rather than in their Junior, Intermediate and Senior sections which are determined by their date of birth. We will also be providing a walking race in the pool for those students who struggle to swim a length, and students who participate in this will earn House points. Our students have been asked to wear their House colours tomorrow, which are: Alexandra – Red, Campbell – Yellow, Lincoln – Green and Studholme – Blue. I ask parents to ensure that

your son/daughter brings their swimming gear to school tomorrow, and that their mufti does not include offensive graphics or messages. No bandanas are allowed.

Touch Rugby Success

Congratulations to **Nathan McQuoid** who, as a member of the Waikato U16 Boys' Elite Touch Rugby team, travelled to Palmerston North this last weekend to attend the Manawatu Grassroots Central Junior Touch Series and whose Waikato team won the event. This tournament was a no-spectator event due to the Red Traffic Light Covid restrictions. The boys worked really hard during the summer season to prepare for this tournament and we have been reliably informed that Nathan played exceptionally well. His team was undefeated and won the final in a thrilling extra, extra time drop off.



Athletics Success



Congratulations to **Teeka Randall** who has just had an incredible weekend at the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Athletics Championships, coming away with five gold medals in all five events which she competed in. Teeka also gained new personal bests for her 100m, 200m and 400m sprints. The other two medals which she won were in her relay events. Teeka has been asked to compete at the National Championships in Hastings which will be held on 3 and 4 March.



Cattle Showing Profile

I was very pleased this week to be shown an article in the NZ Holstein Magazine about Year 12 student **Jacoba Gread** who has a passion for showing, judging, caring for and farming Holstein Friesian cattle. It is clear that Jacoba is doing very well in showing cattle at large shows, including the Easter Show, Waikato A & P Show, Stratford Show and NZ Dairy event, while also attending a few smaller local shows. She also attends National All Dairy Breeds Youth Camp where she learns a lot about animal behaviour and care and where she has established some really good connections to people in the cattle-showing world and also found an outstanding mentor.

Jacoba saw several successes at the 2021 Holstein Friesian New Zealand Awards, including winning the 2021 Frank Pfister Award. This award is presented to the highest-scoring youth member at an official Holstein Friesian NZ Judging School. Jacoba hopes to go on to study veterinary science at university.

Mobile Dental Clinic

The Board is pleased to advise parents that we once again have a mobile dental clinic caravan on-site in Term 1 this year, from which 'The Tooth Fairy' Ms Cherie Baker and her assistant Ms Jo Sinclair will provide a free service to those of our students from Year 9 until they

are 18 years' old whose parents agree to their receiving dental treatment from Cherie, a trained and experienced therapist.

This is an excellent opportunity for our students to get regular dental care, which we know does not occur for a good number of our students. I attach a form for you to complete and sign if you would like to take up this offer. Please return the signed form to the school Office or through your son/daughter directly to the clinic.

As an added incentive, every student who visits the dental caravan will go into a draw at the end of the term for one of three \$100 Visa Prezzy Cards.

John Inger

FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MR SCOTT JENKINS



Car Safety and Student Licences

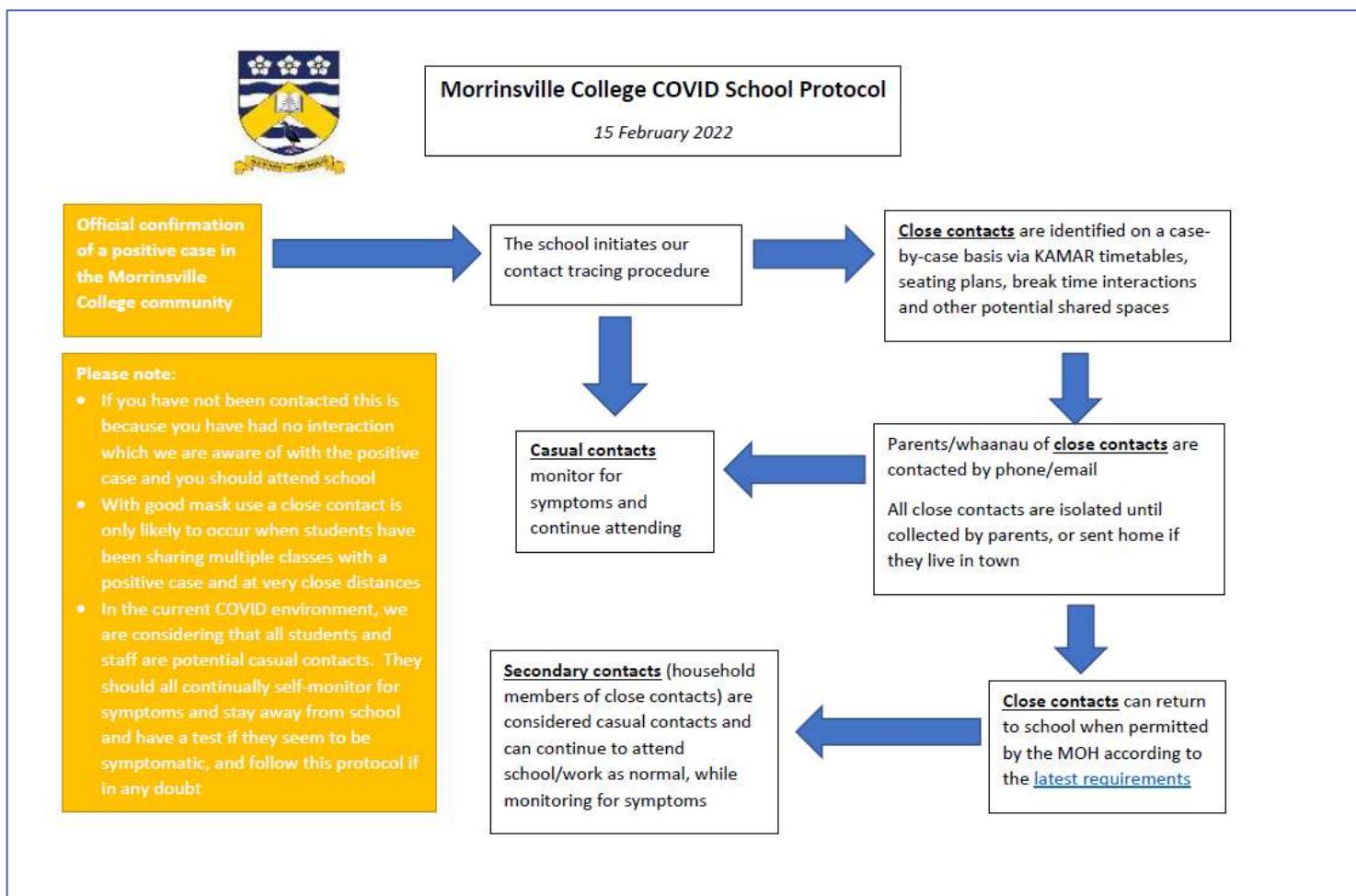
A big thank you to all of those parents and senior students who have been bringing in permission forms to bring cars to school. It is very important that those students who bring cars to school behave responsibly at all times, including driving safely. **They must not take other students in their cars unless they have specific permission to do so and a full licence.**

If they do so, they will lose their permission to bring a car to school.

If we hear of this sort of thing happening, we will not hesitate to contact the Police. We sometimes encourage a Police car to sit outside the school to catch those of our students who might break the law. There can be serious consequences for such students, including a heavy fine. We do this of course in the best interests of the safety of our students and community members. While we can never remove all of the risks of driving on our roads, if all of the adults in our community are collectively vigilant we decrease the odds of our younger drivers becoming a statistic.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 15 February	BOT Zoom Meeting, 7pm
Wednesday 16 February	Swimming Heats
Wednesday 16 February	Year 9 Online Welcome Evening
Friday 18 February	Swimming Finals
Mon 21 to Fri 25 February	Waikato Taniwharau Trip
Tuesday 22 February	Octathlon
Wed 23 to Sat 26 February	Mana Wahine Trip
Sun 27 Feb to Thu 3 March	Year 13 Geo/Bio field trip
Friday 4 March	Athletics Finals
Wed 9 to Thu 10 March	Year 13 Mountain Biking trip
Tue 15 to Sat 19 March	Year 10 Camp 1
Sat 19 to Wed 23 March	Year 10 Camp 2
Mon 28 to Wed 30 March	Year 13 History Trip



CONSENT FORM FOR FREE DENTAL TREATMENT AT MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

All students, Year 9 till their 18th birthday, are eligible for FREE dental care on board our mobile dental clinic. Students will be seen during school hours.

Cherie (Owner/Clinician) has 20 years experience in the dental profession, with 13 of those being an oral health therapist treating adolescents.

We aim to inspire young adults to improve their oral health and to help them keep their teeth for life.

Every student who completes their dental treatment is given a dental goodie pack and enters the draw to win one of three \$100 Visa Prezzy Cards.

This is consent for an initial consultation. For any further treatment required, we will be in contact with you for permission and to discuss options. Please leave your best contact number below in case we need to get in touch with you.

An initial consultation includes:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dental Examination - X-rays - Oral Pathology & Oral Cancer screening | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teeth Cleaning & Polish - Fluoride Treatment (When needed) - Oral Hygiene instructions & tips |
|--|---|

Please let us know if there is anything on the above list that you do not consent to.

I _____ give consent for _____ to
(Student's full name)

be seen by The Tooth Stylists at Morrinsville College during Term 1.

Signed:

Phone:

Email:

Student's Birthdate:

Please return this form back to us once completed via
toothfairy_cherie@yahoo.co.nz or return it to us at the dental van or the school office.

Cherie Baker

**THE TOOTH
STYLISTS**