



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

# Morrinsville College



12 February 2024 Issue No. 2

PRINCIPAL  
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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SCOTT JENKINS



our NCEA achievement results from 2023.

Last week's newsletter was intended to welcome our new students, staff and families and to provide introductory information around uniform and key contact people from within our staff. Usually, our newsletters come out every fortnight, however we thought it might be useful today to provide some information around our attendance processes and to highlight

### NCEA Results

Our 2023 academic NCEA results were outstanding! Our Year 11 cohort (who are now Year 12) produced our strongest NCEA Level 1 results for well over six years. It has been widely published in the media that the New Zealand overall results dropped at each level. This was expected. Our own Level 1 results actually increased while the national result dropped 4%.

The Morrinsville College Level 1 result currently sits at 75% in comparison with the national result of 60%. Within this result, our Numeracy and Literacy pass rates were also the highest we have seen and were at 5% above national levels, which is very significant. At Level 2, we once again saw our Year 12 students increase their result while the national data dropped overall which placed our students 5% above the national average. At Level 3, it was a far more mixed result as we dropped against our own previous Level 3 and UE results, and this was also reflected when compared with national results. This was no surprise and followed the data we had been tracking throughout the year, with a number of students leaving during the year for courses and jobs but were still counted in our results. Interestingly, our Year 13 students achieved the same as their national counterparts and well above those in our School Equity Index Band when looking at Excellence endorsements. Our male students increased their results at all four levels, which was very pleasing to see. Our Maaori students were 12% above the Level 1 national average but dropped at Level 2, and

then were again comparable to national averages at Level 3 and UE level.

These results will shift slightly in the coming weeks as students have requests for re-marking looked at by NZQA. The final results will come out in early April. Mr Nilesh Prasad, our Deputy Principal in charge of NZQA and senior assessment, will publish a more detailed report in the coming weeks which will be sent out to all parents and students.

### Year 9 Parent Welcome Event

Parents and Year 9 students are invited to attend our Year 9 Parent Welcome Event which is to be a BBQ 'meet the teachers' event. This will be held on **Wednesday 21 February at 5pm in the A Block Quad area**. Sausages and refreshments will be provided. This is a great opportunity for our families to connect with the teachers of their Year 9 students.

### Year 9 Camps

It was great to see off the first group of Year 9s heading to camp at Pauanui this morning. The number of students attending this year's Year 9 camps is the highest number we have seen with only a small handful unable to attend. I want to congratulate our families and parents for sending along their students, even though some may be nervous in a camp setting. Large numbers of parents have set up their *School Bridge* accounts and I want to thank them for assisting us with this. I spoke to the Year 9 students on Friday around the reason why we have shifted this camp to the start of the year in order that they make new connections and friends amongst a whole new group of people. It will get their year off to a great start and allow them to immerse themselves in our school culture.

### Attendance

Attendance has been in the media quite prominently over the last 12 months. I have been publicly critical of the way the media and politicians have portrayed national attendance data as a political football. However, I do agree with their key theme that students must be in school as often as possible if they are to succeed academically.

There are a number of key ways that parents can help with the attendance process.

- Each day our office staff take note of those students who are absent during hub time and Period 1. They endeavour to text out to whaanau if your student is absent. It would be very helpful if when responding that you are able to give a clear reason why your student is absent. If a student is absent for medical or dentist appointment, this will be recorded as a 'justified' absence if it is clear to the office staff. All other appointments will be recorded as 'unjustified'.
- The Ministry of Education strongly discourages students to have holidays or family trips during term time. Parents are required to ask the school for approval for students to go on holiday during term time. However, we believe this does not work very well in a rural setting where a number of jobs don't fit into term times very well. As long as parents send a letter into the office, we will accommodate their request. There are a couple of things to be aware of with this:
  1. If students have assessments or tests scheduled during the period they are away on holiday, it may not be possible for this to be re-taken, this is particularly so with the new Level 1 external assessments, many of which are sat during the year at a time chosen by NZQA. Students should communicate with their teachers well before the time away from school, as often some accommodation can be made with plenty of notice.
  2. When a student is on holiday the Ministry of Education records this as a 'G' code which is essentially recorded as an 'unjustified' absence. They set these codes and we have no say in this matter.
  3. Staff should not be asked to provide work while a student is away on holiday during term time.
    - The Senior school ball is the one event where attendance can impact students being allowed to attend. We set a strict 80% attendance rate and this has been communicated to both our Years 12 and 13 students already this year. Medical absences do not impact on the 80% mark which makes it important that parents do ring in when their students are sick. **It is important that students and parents are aware that hub period is counted in our attendance data.** Our hub teachers and senior deans will communicate with our senior students as the year progresses around the attendance levels.
    - Students are (except for Year 13 students) not allowed to leave school grounds at interval and lunchtime. They are not permitted to go into town to get their lunch or for any other reason. Students are able to leave for medical or dentist appointments with a note from their parents and after signing out at the school office. Parents can collect their student to take them into town themselves. They will need to sign them out at the office. Students may apply for a lunch pass to go home for lunch and this can be done through the office.

### School Bridge

This year, to make communication a more seamless process for our families, we have introduced *School Bridge*. This will allow all communications, trip permission forms, absences and attendance, academic information, including reports and in-school alerts to go through one site. This will also allow payments to be done electronically. This will also replace Skool Loop and many of the

functions of Kamar. Importantly, we deliberately selected an App that parents were able to use through their phones. A significant number of people have already set *School Bridge* up on their devices.

### To Set Up School Bridge

Go to <https://morrillcoll.bridge.school.nz/>. Use your own e-mail username and password to log in. Get Our App, easy access from your phone. This can be done once logged in, or the QR Code for an easy download.

### Morrinsville Kaahui Ako Teacher-Only Day

On Monday 4 March, all of the schools in the Morrinsville Kaahui Ako will be collaborating on a Teacher-Only Day. All of the staff from our schools will be heading to Turangawaewae Marae and looking at the Tainui Education Plan. **The school will be closed for students on this day and we ask that whaanau make alternative arrangements for their students.**

### Mobile Dental Unit

Our mobile dental unit will be taking appointments for students from Tuesday this week and will be on-site all of Term 1. This is a great facility for our students to get their dental hygiene taken care of on-site and we encourage students to make an appointment with the qualified dental staff. A permission slip is attached to this newsletter for new students to enrol in this service. Existing enrolled students are encouraged to make an appointment for their annual dental check.

### NCEA Workshop

This year, significant changes have been introduced to NCEA, including updated Level 1 standards and revised requirements for Literacy and Numeracy, impacting schools nationwide. At Morrinsville College, we recognize the importance of keeping caregivers and parents well-informed about these changes and their implications for their children. We therefore are hosting an informative session designed to provide insights into NCEA, the recent changes, and valuable tips and strategies from an expert at NZQA on supporting your child's academic success. This workshop promises to be an enriching opportunity for you to gain a deeper understanding of NCEA and how best to navigate it alongside your tamaiti. The workshop will be an hour long and will provide opportunities to ask questions.



### COMING EVENTS

Mon 12 – Fri 16 February	POET Year 9 Camps
Tuesday 13 February	Mobile Dental Unit on site for Term 1
Wed 14 February	Year 9 only NO SCHOOL
Wed 14 February	BOT Meeting, Agri-Centre, 7pm
Wednesday 21 February	Swimming Heats
Wednesday 21 February	Year 9 Welcome BBQ, 5pm
Friday 23 February	Swimming Finals
Tuesday 27 February	Year 12 Bio Trip
Wednesday 28 February	Class Photos
Thursday 29 February	Octathlon
Monday 4 March	Kaahui Ako Teacher-Only Day
Wednesday 6 March	Athletics Finals
Wednesday 13 March	Year 13 Geo/Bio Trip
Tues 19 to Sat 23 March	Year 10 Camp 1
Sat 23 to Wed 27 March	Year 10 Camp 2

## 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 23 years experience in the dental profession, with 16 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.

The mobile dental service is aimed at those students who aren't accessing yearly dental care - however, we believe all students should be receiving quality preventative dental care. We welcome transfers of enrolments to our dental service.

**If you enrol with us, this will be your child's free dental checkup for the year.**

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:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| - Dental Examination                     | - Teeth Cleaning & Polish          |
| - X-rays                                 | - Fluoride Treatment (When needed) |
| - Oral Pathology & Oral Cancer screening | - 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](mailto:toothfairy_cherie@yahoo.co.nz) or return it to us at the dental van or the school office.

**Cherie Baker**

**THE TOOTH  
STYLISTS**