



Morrinsville College



26 OCTOBER 2022 – No. 14

A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL MR JOHN INGER



I apologise that this newsletter is very late arriving this term. Unfortunately, I have had a Covid infection which saw me isolating all of last week, and since then I have experienced a resurgence, which I believe is rare, and so at the time of writing this newsletter I am still in isolation and working remotely. I must be symptom-free for 24 hours before I return to work.

We are now very much at the business end of the year with our senior students in particular, **who will depart for study leave and NCEA external exams next Wednesday 2 November**. While the NCEA external exam commitment is different for every student, in general all of our senior students should be heavily involved in a programme of study at home, every day for at least one-and-a-half to two hours. **They should have cut back on any work commitments that they have outside of school until after the exam period is over**. I hope that our parents are ensuring these things so that our students have the best possible chance of success in their external exams.

Some of our teachers have been making themselves available for revision and dealing with students' understanding of problems at lunchtimes and after school for some time now. It has been pleasing to see that at least some students have been taking advantage of this opportunity for individual and small group tuition. For other students, teachers have been working very hard to help them to get literacy, numeracy and other credits which are necessary to gain NCEA Level 1.

From Thursday 3 November when our senior study leave begins, teachers will be available here at school for those

students who want to come in to have one-on-one or small group tuition in their normal scheduled period times. We are however suggesting that students need to make an appointment with their teacher in advance, so that they can be sure that the teachers will be available, because our teachers will continue to have commitments, including teaching their junior classes, preparing for next year and supervising **junior assessments for junior core classes, which begin on Monday 14 and run through to Friday 18 November**. These will be different for each class and will most often occur within their normal classroom periods.

Some senior students may be required to return to school during senior study time, especially if they have very few NCEA external exams and if they are close to gaining their Level certificate and need some further chances to gain credits, either with re-assessment opportunities or another short unit of work to gain a few more credits. Thank you to our teachers for providing these opportunities.

Staff Changes

At the end of Term 3 we farewelled Ms Charlotte Osborne and Ms Jasmine Birch as they headed off on maternity leave. Ms Osborne is expected to return in Term 3 next year and Ms Birch is expected to return in Term 2. This term their classes will be covered by Mrs Joeline McMillan, with Mrs Kylie Kemp's support until the seniors leave for their NCEA external examinations next week.

We were very pleased to hear today that Ms Birch gave birth to a daughter, Mina, on Monday this week. Mina is, according to Ms Birch, "absolutely perfect and doing very well."

Dr Theo van der Nest left us at the end of Week 9 last term to take up a position in the church in Australia. For Term 4, his Mathematics classes will be covered by Mrs Sandra Ginever.

Sarah Watene Shakespeare Success

We are very proud to announce that Sarah Watene has been chosen to join the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand Young Shakespeare Company 2023 group who will travel to England late next June to be professionally directed and perform at the home of Shakespeare, The Globe Theatre in London. Sarah was first spotted during the SGCNZ Regional Festival where she performed for our school in an excerpt from Henry V1 Part 2, after which Sarah was asked to join the New Zealand Schools' Shakespeare production in Dunedin during the recent holidays. Forty-eight students were chosen from across the country to attend these national workshops and to perform. The assessors then chose just 24 students to travel to London to perform at The Globe. Sarah will also have the opportunity to travel to Stratford-Upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare, to attend workshops and to watch live Shakespearean productions. This is an amazing opportunity for Sarah, which is likely to be life-changing.

Sarah was also recently shortlisted for the Michael King Writing Award and, as a result, we have heard that she is going to have her piece of writing printed in the Signals Journal. We are very proud of Sarah and her achievements.

Indoor Cricket Success

Earlier this year we were very proud when we heard that **Aria Mischewski** was selected for the New Zealand Women's Indoor Cricket team to compete at the World Cup in Melbourne, Australia. The tournament was held from the 8th to the 15th of October in Melbourne. During the tournament Aria played eight games, taking nine wickets at an average of 1.13 runs per wicket, and scoring 119 runs at an average of 14.88 runs per innings. For indoor cricket, these are really impressive results and saw Aria ranked in the top 10 players at the tournament, and ranked second best of the New Zealand team in terms of her games' statistics. Aria was named player of the match for two of her games, including in the preliminary final against South Africa where she helped New Zealand secure a big win to get through to the final against Australia. Despite a fantastic effort, our New Zealand team ended up losing by six runs and so were runners-up. Aria played the tournament with a maturity which belied the fact that she was the youngest player in our New Zealand team. This was an outstanding achievement for Aria and we are very proud of her.



Our annual Cultural Awards' Evening will be held tonight in the Performing Arts Centre starting at 7pm. This is always an outstanding evening for our school, with a number of our top Arts students performing. It is an opportunity to recognise those people who have excelled this year in the Arts, and there have been many such people, as the Arts are very strong at Morrinsville College. Our guest speaker and presenter will be local businesswoman Ms Annah Stretton. There is no charge for attending and we encourage parents and students to come along if they are available. Prize-winners have been advised.

Sports Prizegiving

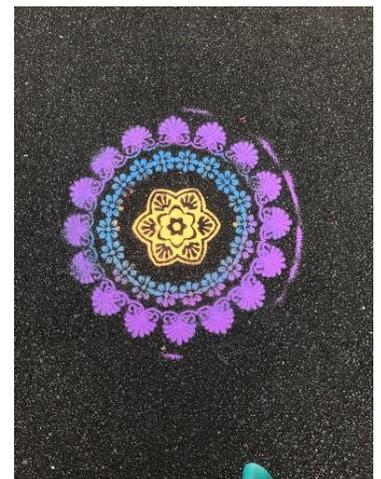
This is a reminder to parents that **our annual Sports Prizegiving will be held next Tuesday 1 November**, starting at 7pm. It will be held in the Performing Arts Centre. Prize-winners have been advised.

Teacher-Only Days

We are required to hold two more Accord Teacher-Only Days before the end of the school year so that our teachers can spend time coming to terms with delivering the new Literacy and Numeracy NCEA standards which have been developed and will be implemented from 2024. The first TOD is on **Friday 11 November** and the second will be held on the last scheduled day of the school year, **Thursday 8 December**, so that in effect the last day for our junior students will be **Wednesday 7 December**, as we do not have to make up these days. School will be closed to students on both days, so parents will need to make other arrangements for their children.

Diwali Celebration

As part of our school's continued efforts to recognise the range of ethnicities and cultures which our students come from, today we held a school Diwali celebration. Our students and staff were encouraged to come to school, dressed to suit their cultural background, and there were some fantastic and colourful costumes on display. Some of our students then got involved in producing rangoli art, which used stencils and chalk to produce traditional design. In Period 4 there was also some traditional Indian dancing, led by Dr Govender and Mrs Sharma and some of our students, with a number of other ethnicities joining in the fun. Our staff also enjoyed some traditional Indian food. There are some photos of this occasion throughout this newsletter.



Cultural Awards' Evening

Year 9 Pauanui Camps

Our annual Year 9 camps held in Pauanui, in association with the Perry Outdoor Education Trust (POET), will be held from Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 November for the first camp and the second will be from Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 November. This is a fantastic camp which provides a wide range of outdoor education activities which will be exciting for our students. The cost for our students, subsidised by POET and our school, will be \$80, so parents should be endeavouring to set aside this money, which will be collected soon. A letter will be sent out shortly to all Year 9 parents by our teacher-in-charge of EOTC, Mr Vance Symon, which will provide a lot more information about these camps.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR – MRS NGAIRE TE AHU

Cyber-Bullying

At our recent Board meeting, we heard from our departing Student Representative, Lisa Bhandari, and from our staff, about the ongoing issue of cyber-bullying which has a big impact on a number of our students at school from time to time.



One of the frustrations for our school leaders, Deans and Kaitiaki who support students around cyber-bullying, is that schools have no legislative jurisdiction for those issues that occur outside of school time. The Police, under the Digital Crimes Act, hold the legislative power to enforce responses with regard to cyber-bullying and we strongly encourage parents and students to contact the Police regarding these incidents if they occur. We also strongly recommend that parents take an active role in monitoring their son's/daughter's online activities. While we know that young people will not tell their parents about all of their online activities, it is really important that you are there to talk about things when it goes wrong online. While groups such as Netsafe work hard to provide advice to people around cyber-bullying, there is no Government agency that has taken ownership of this issue, which is a frustration to those who are seeking answers. From a school stance, we will be doing as we have done over the last few years, our very best to educate students about appropriate online behaviours. Where online conflict spills into school, we can act and will do so strongly following our current school rules. However, it is important that parents understand that there is no magic solution to what has become a New Zealand and worldwide issue, other than for everybody to be aware of the role that they play in ensuring the safety of our young people.

New Board Member

At our October monthly meeting, the Board welcomed Mr Jarrod Hunt to the Board until the next triennial Board election

which will come up in 2025. Mr Hunt has previously worked on our staff as a 24/7 Youth Worker, where he did some excellent work with some of our students who had special issues in their lives and he also actively supported many school activities, both within and outside of school hours. The Board is very pleased to welcome Mr Hunt as a co-opted member.

New Student Representative



Welcome to our new Student Representative, **Olivia Harris**. Olivia has been elected by our students to represent them for the next 12 months. A huge thanks must go to **Lisa Bhandari** as our outgoing Student Representative who has done a great job in representing the students of our school, advocating strongly for our students and keeping the Board informed about student matters. We wish Lisa all the very best for her future.

FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – MR SCOTT JENKINS

NCEA information



Yesterday our senior students received their examination slips and exam instructions in their learning hub class. If your son or daughter was not there to receive these two items, then they can do so from the Student Office. These are important for two reasons: the first is that they will need the examination slip to enter the exam room for every exam. If they lose their slip, they can print it from their own NZQA account and get Mrs Thomas or Mr Jenkins to sign it before their exam, or they can see Mrs Thomas the day before their exam and she will print it for them.

The second important reason for the examination slip is to that they can check the accuracy of the standards that they will be sitting. If a student finds an error they should firstly discuss this with their classroom teacher. The slip also has the times and dates of all of their exams. **It is important to note that students should be outside the Performing Arts Centre at least 20 minutes before their exam.** The final exam slot runs from 2pm to 5pm and so students will need to arrange alternative transport home for afternoon exam sessions.

**FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DIRECTOR
MRS JULIE RADICE**

In Term 3 as the borders reopened, we welcomed back new international students. This has been an exciting time for us because these international students bring a great diversity of cultures to our school, which helps us to better promote inclusion of all ethnicities.

With excellent homestays and a new buddy programme, the students settled very quickly to the life at Morrinsville College, and it was a happy time for them and us. The students attended classes, went on day trips, explored the local community and volunteered at the local museum. They even learned a new skill which was playing croquet. These students came from Cambodia, Thailand and Japan.



A huge thank you must go to our homestays and many student buddies who worked very hard to ensure that these short-term

international students felt welcome, supported and happy to be in Morrinsville.

We are looking forward to welcoming back more international students in the coming year. As our numbers increase we will

be looking for more homestays. Our Uruguayan students in particular are very active and would like to stay with homestays who have Years 11, 12 or 13 students already at our school. **Homestay families are very well remunerated.**

If you can help please let me know by phoning 07 889 8308 and leaving a message or, alternatively, email me, Mrs Julie Radice, at international@morrill.school.nz



COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 26 October	Cultural Prizegiving, 7pm
Tuesday 1 November	Sports Prizegiving, 7pm
Wednesday 2 November	Last day for seniors
Wednesday 2 November	Senior EOY reports available on portal
Mon 7 Nov – Fri 2 Dec	NZQA External Exams
Tue 8 – Wed 9 November	Year 9 cross-curricular Zoo Trip
Mon 21– Fri 25 November	Year 9 Camps at Pauanui
Tuesday 29 November	Year 13 Graduation Dinner at Viligrad’s
Tuesday 6 December	Senior Prizegiving 7pm
Wednesday 7 December	Junior Prizegiving 10.30am
Wednesday 7 December	Junior EOY reports available on portal
Wednesday 7 December	End of school year for students
Thursday 8 December	Touch Rugby Nationals

