



# 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 THE PRINCIPAL MR JOHN INGER



Welcome back to school life to all students, especially those who have newly arrived at Morrinsville College, and welcome too to you, their parents or caregivers.

For our Year 9 students, many of whom will remain with us for the next five years, settling into College life can be very easy for most, but a bit traumatic for others. We

will certainly be doing our best to make all of these people feel very welcome and to ensure that they are happy here, despite the fact that these are very uncertain times with COVID Omicron threatening.

On Tuesday this week we had an excellent pōwhiri welcome for our new Year 9 students and new staff members. We held this outdoors under the trees between our upper and lower fields as a precaution against spreading the virus if anyone happened to be infected. This was the first time that we have held a pōwhiri up on the fields and it proved to be a lovely area to do so. We may well therefore do something similar again in the future. We were pleased to be able to hold this important ceremony at this time because it is very likely that there will be few such occasions over the remainder of this term at least. It was, however, sad that we could not welcome parents/whānau to attend.

We have been very fortunate so far that we have not had any notified cases of COVID-19 in our school. We hope that this is an indication that most of our students are at least double vaccinated. All of our staff are at least double vaccinated and many have now had their booster shots. If/when we get our first confirmed positive COVID case, I will notify you of this as soon as possible after we receive this news, after which we will work with the Ministries of Health and Education to decide a course of action. We will also give you some guidance as to what you should do with your sons and daughters at the same time, while we are endeavouring to establish who the close contacts of the infected student or staff member may be.

New teachers welcomed to our school for the first time at our pōwhiri were:

- **Mr Richard Tasker** who will teach Mathematics for us for at least Term 1 until Mr Theo van der Nest is able to return from Queensland.
- **Mrs Rebecca McArdle** who will teach English for us for at least six weeks until Mrs Theresa van der Westhuizen is able to return from Australia. Mrs van der Westhuizen has accepted a position at our school following the late resignation of Ms Savannah Patterson, who has left us to take up a position at St Paul's Collegiate.
- **Ms Mel Flynn** who is joining Ms Sharee Macnee as a part-time Guidance Counsellor while Mrs Jodie Morris is on extended sick leave.
- **Mr William Van Zyl** who is joining us to teach Electronics and some Hard Materials Technology while Mr Hein van der Westhuizen is on extended sick leave in 2022.
- **Mr Brian Killen** who is once again teaching here in a long-term relieving position for Term 1 while we find a replacement for our LAL Science, Mrs Fiona Wolff, who resigned late in the year to take up a new job at Rototuna Senior High School. Mr Killen will remain with us in Term 2 when Mr Vance Symon will be on sabbatical leave.
- **Mr Tipene Frearson-Kirkwood** has been appointed in a long-term relieving role commencing in early March to cover the study leave of Mr Ngahu Potaka for most of the remainder of 2022. Mr Frearson is a very experienced teacher of Te Reo and Te Ao Māori who has been leading the Māori Learning Area at Pukekohe High School for many years.
- **Mr Richard Collette** has been appointed to cover the maternity leave of Ms Nikki Paton from early March. Mr Collette has had considerable experience as LAL Social Sciences at Fairfield College.

### Year 9 Parent Welcome Evening

Parents of our new Year 9 students are invited to attend our Year 9 Parent Welcome Evening which will be held on **Wednesday 16 February**, providing that there is no explosion of COVID in our

community by that time. I expect that further information will come out to our Year 9 parents later next week.

### NCEA Results

Our interim NCEA results for 2021 are very positive once again, despite the disruptions caused once again last year by the COVID lockdowns. It looks like our pass-rates at each of NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3 will be at or above the national mean, with a particularly excellent result for our Year 12s with Level 2. A full report on our interim NCEA results will be issued very soon by Deputy Principal Mr Scott Jenkins, and a report update later in the month when all of the reconsiderations are completed and data is finalised by NZQA.



### FROM BOARD CHAIR MRS NGAIRE TE AHU

On behalf of the Board I would like to welcome back all staff, students and parents/caregivers and also a big welcome to all new staff and families of our school.

I would like to introduce our current Board of Trustees: Deputy Chairs – Mrs Tia Wikaira-Wilson, Mr Matthew Judge and Mrs Catherine

Young, and other Board members Mrs Margaret Wilton, Mr Chris Wright and Mr Kelly Gray. The Staff rep is Mr Kevin Rae and the student rep is Lisa Bhandari.

### Ngaire Te Ahu

### Contact Between Home and School

As a contact guide, the following may be helpful:

The best person for you to get in touch with in the first instance is almost certainly your son's/daughter's Learning Coach. Each Learning Coach takes on responsibility for the academic and pastoral needs of each of the 17 or 18 students in their Learning Hub. They help our students to set goals for themselves each year and monitor progress towards these and they track each student's learning and mentor their students in their Hub. They maintain contact with you as parents, especially if there are any issues with your son/daughter.

Each House also has a Kaitiaki leader who plays a very important role as guardian of our school culture, dealing particularly with the pastoral needs and guidance of our students. They are also responsible for leading our staff and students with our Contribute, Listen, Engage, Achieve and Respect (CLEAR) values which we teach to our students to endeavour to produce good learners and citizens. Our Kaitiaki can be contacted by you when there are ongoing issues at school, particularly if there are more serious issues which need to be addressed.

The Kaitiaki for 2022 are:

- Alexandra – Ms Charlotte Osborne
- Campbell – Mr Callum Flynn
- Lincoln – Mr Patrick O'Shaughnessy
- Studholme – Ms Nikki Paton/Ms Kimberley Snowden

Each of these Kaitiaki will be supported when necessary by a Manukura. These people are our Deputy Principals or the Senior Leader as follows:

- Alexandra – Mr Bruce Forsyth
- Campbell – Mrs Thilo Govender
- Lincoln – Mr Nilesh Prasad
- Studholme – Mr Scott Jenkins

Our Deans are in charge of any learning/academic concerns and ensuring that students are placed in the right classes. In 2021 these people are:

- Year 9 – Miss Megan Chambers
- Year 10 – Mrs Vicky Marshall

- Year 11 – Mr Daniel McNamara
- Years 12/13 – Mrs Kobie Joubert and Ms Louise Keenan

Our Guidance Counsellors are Ms Sharee Macnee and Ms Mel Flynn. These people are specialist trained counsellors and are available to any students, who can self-refer or be referred by others, including parents.

Our Careers Adviser and Gateway Co-ordinator is Mrs Jane Thomas. She is very willing to talk with students and their parents about careers, further education and training, and our Gateway Workplace Co-ordinator is Mrs Anna Pitkethley.

In the Administration area Mrs Grace Martin is the Principal's Personal Assistant, Mrs Glenis Holten, Mrs Andrea Keightley and Mrs Raelene Duncan are our Office administrators, Mrs Andrea Keightley is also our Attendance Administrator and Mrs Ria Irlé is our Finance Secretary. Our Business Manager is Mr Patrick O'Shaughnessy. Mr Roger Harris is our school Caretaker and Mr Brendan Waters is our Groundsman.

To contact your son's/daughter's Learning Coach, Kaitiaki, Deans, or Guidance Counsellors, please telephone the school Office (8898308) to arrange a suitable time. If there are what you consider to be very serious issues, please make contact with one of the deputy principals. Unlike in smaller primary and intermediate schools, you should not expect that it will be easy to contact me. I have a very big job leading and managing around 700 students and over 70 staff and I do not keep in close touch with the day-to-day running of the school, so I will only be available to deal with your queries if there are very serious issues that my PA believes that I need to know about. Please contact Grace in the first instance.

Always telephone the Office firstly to make an appointment with members of the Senior Leadership Team as we are always very busy and you cannot expect that someone will be available if you turn up without an appointment. We will, however, make every effort to see you the same day if at all possible.

Unless there is an emergency, please do not contact us at home - we appreciate the time that we get with our families.

### School to Home

You will be notified by newsletter (which is directly emailed to parents approximately every two-and-a-half to three weeks) or text message of special evenings, meetings and events during the year. You will also be advised by text message if your son/daughter is not at school and we have not received a message from you to signal why this is the case.

Parents can access each newsletter on the College website, [www.morrcoll.school.nz](http://www.morrcoll.school.nz). The website also contains a wide range of other information that you may well find interesting, so please take a look at it.

We also have a Morrinsville College Facebook page which also contains photos of events during the year and a lot of other information to keep parents informed.

### Stationery Shop Helpers

The Board is very grateful to our parent volunteers, Cherie Aitchison, Trina Aitchison, Julene McQuoid, Wendy Vollebregt and Rebecca Rappe, and two ex-students Holly Aitchison and Alesha McQuoid who are currently giving up their time to prepare stationery orders for our students during this very busy time. This is a really big job and the school could not function effectively without this wonderful support.

John Inger

**FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MR SCOTT JENKINS****Any Problems with Students' 2021 NCEA Results**

I sent out an email to all students and families on Monday 17 January, a few days before NCEA results were released, so if some of this sounds familiar, it is an important reminder.

NZQA have informed schools that due to last year's unique situation requiring the use of unexpected event grades that they have encountered a number of technical issues at their end. We are reasonably lucky in that we have had very few clear and obvious errors. NZQA have been reasonably quick to fix any errors that have been spotted by our staff or students. However, if your son/daughter finds an error in their achievement record in terms of internal assessment results then they should contact the teacher in question as the first point of contact.

Students are currently able to view their exam scripts digitally by logging into their NZQA account. Those external pieces of work that were physically sent to markers such as Art or Technology portfolios will be available soon.

If your son/daughter thinks that they are unsure around a grade given by the external markers then they should take the script to their class teacher. If their teacher also agrees that there is a clear discrepancy the student can appeal by downloading and completing the Request Review application form which can also be found on their NZQA account. This needs to be sent back to NZQA with the exam script **by Friday 25 February**.

**Students bringing vehicles to school**

VEHICLES SHOULD ONLY BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL WHEN THERE IS A GENUINE NEED.

It is the responsibility of each driver to follow the conditions of their licence, particularly with regard to not carrying passengers. Driving behaviour must be of a high standard and certainly must not be a danger to other students or members of the community. Nor may vehicles be used at lunchtimes without permission. If instances of unsatisfactory behaviour are reported, parents and caregivers will be asked to stop their son or daughter from bringing the vehicle to school.

**Students who wish to bring motor vehicles to school, including Year 13 students, will need to collect an application from the Student Office.** It will need to be signed by both the student and caregiver and returned to the Office. When the car pass is approved and completed it will be issued via your son's/daughter's Learning Coach.

Students must not carry other students as passengers in cars or on motorcycles unless I firstly receive a note from the parents of both the driver and the passenger giving permission for this to occur, and if it is allowed within the rules of the student's licence. We have a strong relationship with our local Police and actively encourage them to also keep a close eye on our student drivers.

**Lunch Passes**

Any student wanting to go home for lunch on a regular basis must complete a lunch pass request form and a permanent lunch pass will be issued. Lunch passes are for going home, not down town or to other students' houses. Nor are they for taking other students home. Passes will be rescinded if the privilege is abused.

**Parents Requiring Students To Get Passes to Leave School**

Parents requiring students to leave school during school hours, for instance to attend a dentist's or doctor's appointment, must contact

or send a note to the school Office BEFORE school so that passes can then be processed and collected by students at interval. We do not give passes for Years 9 to 12 students to go down town to get lunch or a coffee, however this is a privilege allowed for our Year 13 students, as long as they sign out at the Office before they leave and sign back in on their return.

**FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MR BRUCE FORSYTH****Attendance**

The higher the percentage of attendance in class the better the learning that occurs for all students. Students' attainment of academic, cultural and social goals and also their development of sound habits towards future employment are greatly enhanced. Thank you for supporting your child to

attend school regularly and on time, making a huge difference to their education.

**If possible, please let the school know in advance of any absence. Students late to school for any reason should supply a signed note of explanation from you, rather than your phoning and leaving a message. Due to the high number of phone messages that we receive each morning it is difficult to check all messages before students start signing in late. For any absence please text Mrs Andrea Keightley in the Office 027 488 1825 or use the Skool Loop App by 9am with a detailed message including your child's full name and the reason for their absence.**

For any known periods of leave in term time, please obtain permission by prior application in writing to the Principal.

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.50am and all students are expected to be here at that time. We encourage parents to help their children to develop routines to ensure that they are at school on time.

**Term Dates**TERM 1

**Tuesday 1 February – Thursday 14 April**

TERM 2

**Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July**

Monday 6 June Queen's Birthday

Friday 24 June Matariki Holiday

TERM 3

**Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September**

TERM 4

**Monday 17 October to Thursday 8 December**

Monday 24 October Labour Day

**COMING EVENTS**

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mon 7 – Wed 9 February    | Year 13 Leadership Camp      |
| Tuesday 15 February       | BOT Meeting, 7pm             |
| Wednesday 16 February     | Swimming Heats               |
| Wednesday 16 February     | Year 9 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         |