



# Morrinsville College



6 May 2022 NEWSLETTER 6

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



### ANZAC Day

As they do each year by invitation, on ANZAC Day our Head Girl and Head Boy, this year Lydia Hayden and Marcus Taupo, represented the youth of our Morrinsville district by delivering addresses to the community. Because a decision was reached not to hold the mid-morning civic ceremony, our students were invited to speak at the dawn service which was held at the Morrinsville RSA clubrooms. Deputy Principal Mr Jenkins attended, as did the Deputy Head Students Seren Stevens and Ashton Rogers. Lydia's and Marcus's speeches were once again outstanding, and they were extremely well-presented. Afterwards many people came up to them and to Mr Jenkins and congratulated them, and I have since received several emails relaying the fact that these two young leaders did an excellent job. We can all feel very proud of the contribution that our students made to this very important annual commemoration.

On Tuesday this week we held our annual ANZAC Day ceremony here at school and it also went off extremely well. Unfortunately, due to the current Covid restrictions in terms of physical space between students, we had only our Years 12 and 13 students in the Performing Arts Centre, while the Years 9-11 classes were connected via Zoom. While Zoom is helpful, it is not the same as actually being present to actually witness the speeches first-hand. After I talked briefly about the landing at Anzac Cove and the bloody and harrowing campaign at Gallipoli which was probably New Zealand's most significant military battle and our country's first full engagement in World War I, I then introduced Lydia and Marcus to deliver their speeches, which were very well-received by our students and staff. Seren and Ashton then read the Roll of Honour, a list of 28 ex-students of this school who died in World War II, before we had a minute's silence to remember their sacrifice to ensure the wonderful life that we have in New Zealand today. I was very proud of all of the students in the PAC on an occasion which was extremely solemn. They all showed great respect for our New

Zealanders who have lost their lives in various wars and conflicts. I expressed my hope that our young men and women, including our students, are not called upon to defend our country in the years to come.

### Covid Update

Our students have returned to school and most have been very good at continuing to wear masks indoors, as is required currently by the Board of Trustees to ensure that there is not widespread Covid transmission in the school and to ensure the health and safety of all of our students and staff. As expected, there were more positive Covid cases over the holiday break and there are some staff and students who are away currently because they have Covid themselves or someone in their household has Covid. The numbers are not as high as they were late last term currently and we are hopeful that the predicted resurgence in case numbers in our country does not eventuate, particularly as new variants of the virus spread. It has been disconcerting to read in the news each day that we are typically losing 15-20 New Zealanders with the virus, including on Wednesday when another child under 10 years' old passed away.

As requested by the Board, the staff have already been surveyed, and I am expecting that separate surveys will be sent out to students and parents next week, so that we can gather information for the Board on the community's attitudes to mask-wearing in particular, to be considered by the Board at their next monthly meeting to be held on Wednesday 18 May. I then expect to convey the Board's thoughts and decisions to our parent and student community by Friday 20 May.

**I remind parents who phone the Office to advise of a student absence that if your son/daughter is away with Covid we would really appreciate it if you could tell us which day is officially Day Zero of the eight-day isolation period, so that we can record this on our school attendance roll and we do not then have to contact parents again to ask about a student's non-attendance.**

**Teacher-Only Day**

With the approval of the Board of Trustees, I am here notifying parents that our school will be closed on **Friday 20 May** to enable a Ministry-approved Accord teacher-only day to go ahead to allow our teachers time to work on things like the new Literacy and Numeracy NCEA standards, implementing Te Maatauranga and also localised curriculum, including the New Zealand Histories Curriculum which will come into force from next year. This day is a national entitlement for teachers and not discretionary. Parents will need to make alternative arrangements for the care and supervision of their students on this day.

**Mates and Dates**

As part of our Year 10 Health programme, we will once again have Child Abuse Prevention Society (CAPS) Hauraki Inc delivering the “Mates and Dates” programme to each of our Year 10 classes over a period of five weeks, with a session each week for one period, starting in Week 6. This programme, which CAPS have successfully delivered to our Year 10s each year, is funded by ACC. The topics covered are: healthy relationships; skills and consent; identity, gender and sexuality; when things go wrong; and keeping safe together.

**Amokura Student Leaders 2022**

Late last term we undertook a nomination and then interview process to appoint our Amokura student leaders for 2022. There is no doubt that our school is doing an excellent job in developing young leaders at all levels, including in Te Puaawaitanga. Our Amokura leaders are Marcus Taupo, Aroha Parata, Demi Jones, Bronsyn Cross and Pieta Wikaira. We congratulate them.



Aroha Parata, Pieta Wikaira, Marcus Taupo and Bronsyn Cross  
Absent: Demi Jones

**SPORTS RESULTS****Athletics Finals Championship**

Late last term we successfully completed our Athletics Finals Championship. The results were as follows:

Junior Girls

1st Kayley McMillan, 2nd = Sabrina Chong and Cassidy Wilson

Intermediate Girls

1st Teeka Randell, 2nd Charlotte Ushaw Whittaker, 3rd Kaelyn Gibberd

Senior Girls

1st Olivia Day, 2nd Jameelah Warner-Morris, 3rd Ryleigh McAra

Junior Boys

1st Kyle Pratt, 2nd Jono Waetford, 3rd Brendan Unka

Intermediate Boys

1st Nathan McQuoid, 2nd Kaleb Cook, 3rd Alex Harris

Senior Boys

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Daldy, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Jay-r Abais, Alex Martin and Cole Wessels.

House Competition

1st Studholme

2nd Alexandra

3rd Campbell

4th Lincoln.

**Overall House Points for Term 1**

1st Alexandra 210

2nd Studholme 150

3rd Campbell 150

4th Lincoln 130.

**Boys' Volleyball success**

During the holiday break Ms Osborne took our senior girls' and senior boys' volleyball teams to a three-day secondary schools' invitational tournament held in Te Aroha. Our boys were outstanding, narrowly missing out on the final by one set and getting the bronze medal against Cambridge High School in their final tournament match. There were outstanding performances from Max Hazelton and Alex Aitkin.

Despite our having several regular team players impacted by Covid, our girls played very well and, although they only won two games, they showed great determination and never gave up. Ms Osborne was glowing in her praise of the excellent leadership of captain Maddison Fowler.

**OTHER RECENT STUDENT SUCCESSES****Regional Shakespeare Competition**

Under the excellent directorship of one of our Drama teachers, Mrs Julie Radice, a group of our students recently entered the Regional Shakespeare Competition, performing an excerpt from the bard's *Henry VI Part 2*. We were pipped into second place by Taupo-nui-a-Tia College. However, **Sarah Watene** was chosen by the judges to join the national team of 40 chosen students from other regional competitions to attend workshops at the end of Term 2 in Dunedin, from which 24 will be selected to perform at The Globe Theatre in London. This is an amazing opportunity and we wish Sarah all the best.



**Pinnacle Programme Scholarship**

I have been advised that **Tessa Nicholson** of Year 12 has been selected as one of only six students nationwide to receive a full scholarship for the Pinnacle Programme, which includes a voyage on *The Spirit of Adventure*, attendance at Outward Bound in Anakiwa and mentorship by ex-netball great Bernice Mene. This is a wonderful opportunity for Tessa and we wish her well with these exciting activities.



**FROM THE AGRICULTURE LEARNING AREA**

**Bio-Char**

Biochar is a new technology designed to fix carbon in the soil while at the same time fertilising the crop which is growing. It is an exciting development because New Zealand burns a huge amount of wood waste which could be put to better use. Unfortunately, commercial production is currently proving problematic.

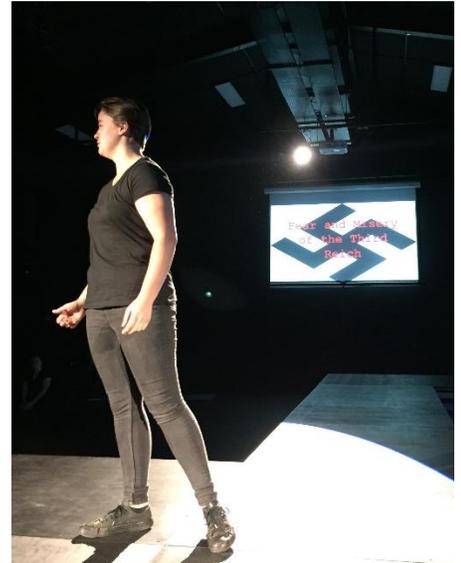


Our Year 12 Agricultural Science class are grateful to local farmer Mr Peter Le Heron and Ardea Farms for allowing them to produce their own Biochar for use on the College farm. The students worked as a team to burn wood in a very hot fire, before quenching and inoculating with an organic fertiliser ie effluent. It is estimated that they produced around 80–90kg of useable product which will be spread on the pasture to aid spring growth.

**FROM THE DRAMA LEARNING AREA**

**Drama Production**

Our Years 11, 12 and 13 Drama classes have been working hard throughout Term 1 on a classic text, *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*, by Bertolt Brecht. This play is a collection of scenes that are representative of various people living in Germany during the 1930s in the lead-up to World War II. It shows how the sentiments in Germany were not all pro-Nazi, and how the average person did not always benefit from Adolph Hitler's 'reforms'. Brecht believed that theatre should not just entertain, but should provoke social change.



This play gives much food for thought to what is happening in today's world.

**The show will be performed on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 May in the Performing Arts Centre. Doors open at 6pm and the show begins at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Masks are mandatory for the audience. John Inger**

**John Inger**

**COMING EVENTS**

Wednesday 18 May	BOT Meeting, 7pm
Friday 20 May	Teacher-Only Day, school closed
Monday 6 June	Queen’s Birthday holiday
Friday 24 June	Matariki holiday
Friday 8 July	Term 2 ends



*Morrinsville College Senior Drama presents*

Bertolt Brecht’s

# Fear and Misery of the Third Reich.

*Directed by Louise Keenan*

*10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May, John Inger Performing Arts Centre.*

*Performance 6:30pm, doors open at 6pm.*

*Tickets \$15 available at the door.*