



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

Morrinsville College



23 September 2021

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



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have welcomed back to school the great majority of our students under the Alert Level 2 Delta guidelines. We have had about 90% attendance, with a few students being kept at home by their parents due to some students' health being compromised, or someone in their household having compromised health.

It is really important that all of our students return soon unless there are special health and well-being reasons why they cannot attend, in the interests of their education, because there is no doubt that face-to-face learning is the best for most students and nor are we any longer providing online learning for those who have not returned.

As in May last year, our students who have returned to school are almost all very pleased to be back and seeing their friends and connecting with their teachers. We believe that many of our students had a sound experience with the online learning which our teachers provided during the lockdown period. We were well-placed to once again deliver this online learning.

Here at school our students have for the main part been respectful of their peers and their teachers, as we have focused on rebuilding relationships, trying to find out if any of our students have experienced difficult times, anxiety or mental health issues while in lockdown, and worked hard to find out where students are at with their learning in order to help many to 'catch up'. Our students have generally willingly been part of ensuring good hygiene practices. As with last year however, social distancing with young people is very difficult to enforce, despite our teachers' best efforts to encourage them to maintain good social distancing so that they do not touch each other or come within each other's breathing space.

From this point of view, it is just as well that there is currently no apparent community transmission of the Delta virus occurring in our community. Let's hope that this will remain the case, but this virus is very infectious and it will only take one irresponsible Aucklanders 'escaping' their region to quickly create a major problem.

Staff News

Unfortunately, our Guidance Counsellor, **Ms Jodie Morris**, has had to take extended leave for medical reasons. We wish her well with her special treatment and look forward to her return next year. We have been fortunate to secure the part-time services of **Mrs Suzanne O'Shaughnessy**, to cover Ms Morris's leave. Mrs O'Shaughnessy is an experienced counsellor, both in private practice and in schools.

Ms Sam Walker has commenced her work in the Mathematics Learning Area. It is always difficult for a teacher to change schools later in the year, but she is making good headway.

The Board recently received the resignation of **Mrs Gemma Bowman** from her role as LAL Art. Mrs Bowman has been on maternity leave for the last two years and decided that she does not wish to return at this stage. **Miss Jasmine Birch** has been doing a great job as LAL Art in Mrs Bowman's absence and the Board has therefore seen fit to appoint her permanently to this role.

Today we farewelled **Mr Don Stevenson** from his role of a relieving teacher, particularly in the Technology Learning Area, for the last 12 years. Mr Stevenson has been a highly-valued reliever who has loved coming to our school because he has been made to feel so welcome by our staff and students.

Senior Exams

Our postponed senior internal practice exams will be held throughout next week. These exams will once again take on increased importance this year as teachers collect evidence as a back-stop in case New Zealand is unable to hold NCEA external exams in late November and early December. Results from these exams will help teachers to look at evidence and recommend derived grades should these be necessary.

Our exam timetable was sent out two weeks' ago to our students' school email addresses. The exams are compulsory for all senior students (unless they and their teacher have agreed that they do not need to sit their internal exam) and any student not coming in to school to sit their exam will need to do so at a later date.

All senior students will be on study leave next week and they only need to come into school to attend their exams. When they do not have exams they are expected to be studying at home. If they are a bus student then we can provide rooms for them to study in when they are not actually sitting exams. **The morning exam will run from 9am to 12pm, with the afternoon exam running from 1pm until 4pm. Some bus students may need to arrange alternative transport to get home if they have an afternoon exam.**

Some rules:

- Students must wear correct uniform in the exams
- They must gather under the Canteen canopy 15 minutes before each of their exams, to be brought into the PAC
- No cellphones are allowed to be brought into the exam room. They must be in the student's school bag at the back of the PAC in silent mode
- All pens, pencils and calculators can only be brought into the exam room in a clear, see-through snap-lock-type plastic bag
- Drink bottles may be brought into the exam, but they must be clear plastic with no writing on them
- Those students requiring reader/writers will be collected at the PAC before the exam begins
- Students having an exam clash must see Mrs Keightley at the Office tomorrow to arrange another exam session in which to sit one of their exams.

Term Dates 2022

TERM 1

Tuesday 1 February to Thursday 14 April

Friday 28 January	School TOD
Monday 31 January	Auckland Anniversary holiday
Tuesday 1 February	Day 1 - Year 9
Wednesday 2 February	All students and powhiri
Monday 7 February	Waitangi Day Holiday
Thursday 14 April	Cluster TOD
Friday 15 April	Good Friday

TERM 2

Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July

Monday 6 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Friday 24 June	Matariki Holiday

TERM 3

Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September

TERM 4

Monday 17 October to Friday 9 December

Monday 24 October	Labour Day Holiday
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Speech Finals

Our College Speech Finals were held last week on Thursday evening in the Library and zoomed out to parents and family members. All 17 speeches were of an extremely high standard. The judges were former LAL English Mrs Jacqui Fitzgerald, former DP Mr Murray Feast and his fellow Rotarian Mr Richard Hunt. The Morrinsville Rotary Club has sponsored our Speech Finals for more than 40 years and we are very grateful for this sponsorship. The judges had a really tough decision to make before declaring the following winners:

- Year 9 – Holly Keogh
- Year 10 – Charlotte Whittaker
- Year 11 – Prashema Sharma

Senior winner – Tineke Buser, Senior runner-up – Samantha Reyes.

These winners, apart from Samantha who was playing the hockey final, presented their speeches on Monday evening at the Morrinsville Rotary Club. The members were amazed by the quality of the speeches and their presentation and I felt very proud to be present, as did LAL English Mrs Helen Hyde-Hills. I commend all teachers in our English Learning Area for fostering this very important public-speaking skill. It was this sort of opportunity to develop talent which resulted in the articulate speaking skills of our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern when she was at this school.



Drama Production

The Year 11 Drama production *Eating the Wolf* has run very successfully over the last two evenings and the final show will be held tonight in the PAC at 7pm. With the change announced by the Government to now enable 100 people at such events, there remain plenty of tickets available for tonight. The cost is \$15 per person, but you will need to pay cash at the door if you are able to attend.

College Cuisine

Our 2021 College Cuisine Restaurants had to be postponed until next term with the Covid restrictions that were in place. The Year 13 College Cuisine will be starting on Monday 18 and running through until Friday 22 October. Year 12 College Cuisine is scheduled from Tuesday 26 to Friday 29 October. Students involved will be able to advise you of the new date for their own personal restaurant and we hope that you will be able to attend. These restaurants will run from 6:30pm until 9:00pm and cost \$40 per head for adults and \$20 for children for a three-course meal and drinks. Please feel free to make a booking through the school Office by Monday 18 October. Due to the Covid restrictions we will kindly ask that you make use of our QR code or the sign-in sheet when you enter the restaurant.

RECENT SPORTS RESULTS

Hockey

Congratulations to our girls' hockey team who won their final game on Monday night against Hamilton Girls' High School by 4-2 to win the Waikato Division 3 title. Our girls played 13 games this season and were undefeated, a notable achievement. A photo of the team appears on the masthead of this newsletter.

Lacrosse

We are proud that our junior boys' lacrosse team won the Waikato Junior Boys' competition. It was disappointing that they did not get to play the final game due to Covid restrictions, however they were undefeated going into the final and certainly deserved to win the title.

Both the girls' teams have gone from strength to strength during their season. Our premier team ended up at the bottom of the Premier grade, but in each game there was clear improvement in the skills, teamwork and strategic play, and our girls certainly gave Hillcrest HS a scare in their final game.

Our development team continued to improve their skills each week and ended up 5th (out of 9) in their competition, so this was a good solid effort.



Lacrosse Representatives

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for Waikato lacrosse representation:

Waikato Under 15

Kaelyn Gibberd and Ryleigh McAra



Waikato Under 14

Tessa Tuai'i, Pyper Ransom, Paige Nicholls and Jessica Leigh



Football

Last weekend all of the MC football teams had wins. The Boys' 1st XI coached by Stephan Grason (ex-pupil) beat Hauraki Plains College 7-2 in a thrilling match and thoroughly deserved the win away. The Girls' 1st XI coached by Mr Steve Cochran produced a very pleasing 4-0 win away against Hamilton Christian School Girls' 1st XI. Finally, our Junior Girls, coached by Alex Peacocke and Franco Rojas (ex and current pupil, respectively), beat Te Awamutu College 4-2 with an awesome performance.

Volleyball

Congratulations to our Morrinsville College development volleyball team who won their Bronze 3rd Division competition. The team consisted of Emma Dufty, Anica Downing, Carly McCabe, Kali Craig, Annie Hutchings, Polina Mzhachikh and Ashareen Elfa. Thank you to Ms Charlotte Osborne for promoting, fostering and organising volleyball in our school.

Congratulations to **Renee Garrett** who has been selected as a member of the Waikato Harlequins' Under 18 rugby team after a series of trials. Renee's team played their first game last Sunday against Thames Valley, winning comfortably. Renee and her team will attend a tournament to be played in Taupo in the upcoming holiday break against teams from Manawatu, King Country and Hawkes Bay. We wish her well in this competition.



Ex-Student Success

A huge congratulations to **Alesha McQuoid** who was an outstanding sportswoman at our school up until the end of last year and who has been recently selected for the New Zealand Under 20 Women's Touch Rugby Squad. Alesha is the only Waikato representative in the New Zealand squad. Her team was expected to play a Trans-Tasman game against their Australian counterparts next January, but this has now been shifted back until next April in the hope that our borders will be open at that time.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

At our school Zoom assembly earlier this week, I was pleased to announce that **Paul Williamson** has been awarded a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Paul was very pleased and proud to receive his certificate from me.



FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SCOTT JENKINS

Sickness

We are noticing that a lot of students are messaging their parents when they are unwell and then they just go home without coming to the Office to report that they are sick. This is a dangerous practice because if there was an emergency they would not be able to be found and we would be very concerned. **It is not acceptable for parents to just collect**



their child and then advise us that they have been brought home because they are unwell. We also have parents turning up to the Office to say that their child is sick and we have to go and get them. This is also unacceptable. All students who are unwell must report to the Office where the trained Office staff will make a decision about whether they need to go home, in which case you will be contacted and asked to come and collect them as soon as possible. In the current Covid environment, any cold or flu-like symptoms which may possibly therefore be Covid, will result in their being isolated as much as possible until you can collect them.

Revised Term Planner

As a result of the Covid lockdown, as you have previously been advised by me in a recent newsletter, we have had to juggle many of our dates in Term 4. Some of the key changes are:

Mon 27 Sep – Fri 1 Oct	Senior Internal Practice Exams
Fri 1 Oct	Term 3 Ends
Mon 18 Oct	Term 4 Begins
Mon 18 – Fri 22 Oct	Year 13 College Cuisine
Tue 19 – Thu 21 Oct	Music Solo Performances
Thu 21 – Fri 22 Oct	Senior First Aid Courses
Mon 25 Oct	Labour Day Holiday
Tue 26 – Fri 29 Oct	Year 12 College Cuisine
Tue 26 – Thu 28 Oct	Year 12 PE Camp
Tue 26 Oct	Cultural Prizegiving, PAC
Tue 2 Nov	BOT Meeting, 7pm
Wed 3 Nov	Sports Prizegiving, PAC
Fri 5 Nov	PTA Op Shop Ball, PAC
Sat 6 Nov	Senior Ball, PAC
Wed 10 Nov	Senior Academic Prizegiving, PAC
Fri 12 Nov	Last school day for senior students
Mon 15 Nov – Tue 14 Dec	NCEA External and Scholarship Exams
Mon 15 – Fri 19 Nov	Year 9 Camp
Mon 22 – Fri 26 Nov	Junior Assessment Week
Tue 14 Dec	Junior Prizegiving
Tue 14 Dec	End of Term 4



Sports in Action