



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

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

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR – Mrs Ngaire Te Ahu



Parent Satisfaction Survey 2019

The Board is very grateful to those families/whanau who responded to our triennial Parent Satisfaction Survey issued late in Term 2. While it was disappointing that we received only 85 responses from our 482 families who had students enrolled at the College when the survey took place, a response rate of 17.6%, we nevertheless received some good feedback to consider as we continue to monitor and plan the strategic direction of our school. Of the respondents, a high portion (41.2%) were parents of Year 9 students, which meant that these parents had not had extensive experience of our school, so we believe that a number of them provided neutral answers to some questions for this reason.

Overall, the response was considered by the Board, Senior Leadership Team and Staff to be very positive, which the Board was pleased about. You as parents will be able to access the report on this survey to take a close look at it by the middle of next week when it will be available on our school's website. However, I offer some comments about its findings and some of the limitations that parents need to be aware of in terms of the Board's ability to respond to some things that you would like to see.

- The great majority of our parent respondents believe that Morrinsville College provides a quality education for our children, which is very pleasing for the Board, as is the fact that the overwhelming majority of respondents have signalled that they recommend our school to other parents in our community. We were also pleased to read comments that indicated that a number of parents are very pleased with their decision to send their child to Morrinsville College, this when we know that for most people there is a choice
- The great majority of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of leadership displayed by the Senior Leadership Team. This concurs with the Board's view
- The great majority of respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the general professional conduct and quality of curriculum delivery provided by our teachers, although it is clear that a small number may have had a negative experience with one of their child's teachers which has coloured their thinking. This has been discussed by the Senior Leadership Team with Staff and it is something that they will continue to work on and monitor
- Most were also satisfied with the communication that you receive from the College about your child's learning and progress, although we are keen to find out more about how we can further improve in this respect
- While in general respondents are satisfied with the range of courses and subject choices offered by the College, there are some people who would like to see more life-skills and trades-based courses offered. The problem with this is that successive governments have required schools to provide additional curricula, like the new Digital Technologies curriculum for instance, and this has resulted in a 'crowded curriculum' which is not matched by the provision of Staffing Entitlement or additional Operations Grant to fund additional teachers. As it is currently, the Board each year over-staffs from its inadequate Operations Grant to ensure reasonable sizes in the junior core classes and a good range of options in the senior school, to do our best to provide the subjects which our students would like to study. We have the problem that if we are to offer any new courses, one of our current courses would have to be dropped and current demands from students simply do not allow this to happen. The Board regrets that it cannot therefore easily widen the curriculum that we offer. Nevertheless, we will keep this in mind moving forward

- While there is general satisfaction with the provision of advice to students from our Learning Coaches, Kaitiaki, Academic Deans, Careers Adviser and Guidance Counsellors, there are some respondents who think that we could offer more and a better service in this respect. As parents, you need to be aware that there is currently poor Government funding for pastoral, counselling and advisory services in our schools and that our Base Guidance Funding has not been increased for a very long time, this despite the growing need for counselling services, careers' advice and pastoral care. Mr Inger has informed us that his records going back to 2007 show no increase at all in this funding during this time and he does not believe that this has happened at all in his 23 years as Principal. This is simply not acceptable and Mr Inger has recently been lobbying the current Government and National Party education representatives for greater resource provision for guidance, particularly for guidance counsellors because he has gathered evidence that there is currently a crisis in our country where seriously at-risk students are having to wait for long periods in order to be seen by a school guidance counsellor, thereby placing some lives at risk. This is a general problem across our country, not just at our school
- While there is considerable support for the restorative discipline processes that are operating within our school, there are some respondents who would like to see a tougher stance taken by the College with a few students who behave poorly. The Board believes that our current processes are generally in line with what is expected of schools these days by the Ministry of Education. We do all that we can to retain students in mainstream schooling, because the impact of boards excluding students has been strongly shown to negatively affect our communities. While clear lines are drawn by our Board in terms of acceptable behaviours, our Senior Leadership Team and Board work very hard to retain these students as much as we can without compromising the safety of other students, and by doing so we are effectively saving many young lives
- There is a concern from some respondents, and from the Board and our teachers too, about the academic achievement of some of our students. The Board remains proud of the hard work that our teachers put in to educating the young people of our community, even when some have a poor work ethic, and we are proud of the fact that our results clearly show that we shift the achievement of most students who are entering our school by the time that they leave us. Our NCEA results continue to be very positive and we believe that we produce some excellent, socially well-adjusted, sensitive and caring young people who most often go on to do very well in their lives. Having said this, our teachers are continuing to strive to improve their teaching practice in order to continue to improve student learning outcomes
- The Board has agreed to take a look at the food and drinks that we sell at our canteen and to attempt to offer some healthier options.

Board members, including myself, are more than happy to receive other feedback from parents at any time. Parent representatives on the Board include: Mr Matthew Judge, Mrs Catherine Young, Mrs Tia Wikaira-Wilson, Mr Chris Wright, Mrs Margaret Wilton, Mrs Kirsty Gilroy and Mr Kelly Gray. My own email address is ngaite.teahu@gmail.com and you can ask for other contacts for Board members whom you might know through the Board's Secretary, Mrs Grace Martin.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Heathcote Appliances PTA Fun Run/Walk

The PTA's Heathcote Appliances fun run/walk was held on Sunday 20 October and it was a very successful day. Large numbers turned



out, probably aided by the very good weather that we had, with there being 444 entries. **As a result of their extraordinary efforts once again this year with both the fun run and catering for the School Ball, the PTA has donated \$9,000 towards the purchase of sound and lighting equipment for Stage 1 of our upgrading our school Hall into a Performing Arts Centre, a project for which tenders close next Monday. It is not therefore certain yet when this project will begin, but it will be next year if it is not before Christmas this year.** We are very grateful to our strong group of parents on the PTA who have supported

our school wonderfully throughout the year, including by providing supper at various school functions. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Sue Brownlie and her fun run team who put in long hours to ensure that everything went off brilliantly for all of the competitors at the event. I want to publicly thank Mrs Brownlie for the last five years in which she has been the chief organiser for the fun run, a job which she is stepping down from this year. She has been a great leader. We are grateful that she is happy to give advice to whoever takes up the reins next year.

Thank you very much firstly to Heathcote Appliances who have sponsored this event for many years now. I do hope that our parents will support the local Heathcotes store when they are purchasing electrical goods. I also hope that you will use the services of our other major sponsors: CooperAitken, Harry's Menswear & Surf, Morrinsville Sportsworld, Diversy, *Piako Post*, *Your Morrinsville News*, FlexFitness, Pop n Good Popcorn, Gull NZ, Tordoff Auto Services, Piako Mitsubishi, Safe Road Services Ltd, Piako Tractors, Brian Tunncliffe Motors, Real Health NZ and *The Friday Edition*. I also want to pass on my very grateful thanks to Te Ahurei a Rangatahi, a local youth health and development organisation which our Board Chair Mrs Ngaire Te Ahu is a project co-ordinator for. This organisation gave us a very generous \$2,000 donation which enabled all of our College students to enter for free and this year there were 118 student entries, which is much better than we have had in recent years. Our other minor sponsors are listed at the end of this newsletter. Please look through this list and consider using their services too.

Some of the major Heathcotes-sponsored prizes went to Gwen Bonnar, Ang Martin, Nerida Turner and Tegan Broomfield.

International Homestays Wanted for 2020

- Do you want to earn generous money TAX FREE?
- Do you want to be in a raffle to earn a \$100 food or petrol voucher?
- Do you have a spare room and are you willing to share it with a Morrinsville College international student and allow them to join you for family meals and to take part in your normal daily routines?

THEN YOU COULD BE THE HOUSEHOLD WE ARE LOOKING FOR! Sign up today for an international homestay student by contacting Lorraine through the school Office - 07 889 8308 - and she will arrange a visit to meet you. This is a rewarding experience for both the international student and homestay family. Lorraine is looking forward to hearing from you.

Cultural Awards' Evening

On Wednesday 23 October we held our annual Cultural Awards' Evening. It was a very special occasion as we congratulated 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. This year I think that there was probably a record number of students who received prestigious Blues Awards, which are the pinnacle of achievement at any prizegiving. Congratulations to the following people in the following categories:

Art – Elisa Hyde-Hills

Dance – Sage Bidgood

Public Speaking – Sudikshya Parajuli

Kapa Haka – Sasha Hemara and Huirua Tihema-Wilson

Performance Music – Arlo Birss, Leighton Ginever, Brianna Haddock, John Mellar, Jordan Rogers, Ruby Stevens, Ethan O'Sullivan, Damon Taylder and Dunstan Dalin


Notably, Double Cultural Blues were gained by three students as follows:

Rachael Bloemendal in Performance Music and Drama

Naytana Taupo in Performance Music and Kapa Haka

Leviticus Barrett in Performance Music and Kapa Haka

Our guest speaker and presenter at the Cultural Awards' Evening was Ms Abby Dutton, a very accomplished dancer who has worked in different dance genres all around the world. Ms Dutton encouraged our students to continue to explore their creative passions, a message which was well-received.

					
Elisa Hyde-Hills	Sage Bidgood	Sudikshya Parajuli	Sasha Hemara	Huirua Tihema-Wilson	Arlo Birss
					
Leighton Ginever	Brianna Haddock	John Mellar	Jordan Rogers	Ruby Stevens	Ethan O'Sullivan
					
Damon Taylder	Dunstan Dalin	Rachael Bloemendal	Naytana Taupo	Leviticus Barrett	

Sports Awards Evening

Our Sports Awards Evening was held on Wednesday 30 October in our Hall and it was another excellent occasion. There were about 400 people present which was very pleasing. The guest speaker and presenter was Miss Shaunna Polley, who, amongst her other achievements, was a New Zealand representative in beach volleyball in 2018 at the Commonwealth Games held on the Gold Coast in Australia. Shaunna gave an excellent address in which she spoke about her journey in sport, deciding between volleyball and hockey as a pathway, and the highlights that she has so far experienced. She talked about the dedication that is required to reach the top of a sport and injected a lot of good humour into her address, which was much appreciated.

Special awards went to the following people:

Referee/Umpire of the Year – Andie Judge for umpiring at very high levels, including national level, in lacrosse

Student Coach of the Year – Jessica Pavlovich who has coached our premier grade lacrosse team this year

Coach of the Year – Bruce Wilton who has coached our very successful boys' 1st XI cricket team for the last three years and who has also been an assistant coach of the boys' 1st XV rugby team

Team of the Year – Our very successful 1st XI cricket team

The recipients of our five premier sporting trophies were as follows:

- Hudson Family Trophy for All-Round Excellence in Junior Sport – Keira Wilton, who has excelled in six sports
- Team Tracey Trophy for Excellence in Sporting Spirit – Renee Garrett, who has contributed to upholding and enhancing the sporting culture of our school
- Cordes Cup for All-Round Excellence in Sport – Tegan Broomfield, who has excelled in nine sports
- Morrinsville Rotary Club Cup for Excellence in Senior Sport – Katie-lee Roper for athletics, particularly for high jump and triple jump in which she has excelled at New Zealand levels.



Swimming Success



Congratulations to Jordan Rogers who competed at the New Zealand Short Course Swimming Championships held in Auckland and came away with some excellent results. This is the pinnacle swimming event in New Zealand racing in a 25 metre pool. Jordan made two finals, with the highlight being gaining a silver medal in the 16-year girls' 200m freestyle event. She also did extremely well to finish 5th in the 400m freestyle. Jordan is an exception young swimmer whom we are all very proud of.

Waikato Touch Rugby Representatives

Congratulations to the following three students who have made Waikato representative touch rugby teams:

Under 18 girls – Alesha McQuoid

Under 16 girls – Waiti Kukutai-Maaka

Under 14 boys – Nathan McQuoid





Waikato Sevens Training Squad

Congratulations to Danielle Mellow who has made the Waikato Women's Sevens training squad. Danielle, who has had an excellent year with rugby generally, is hoping to be named to play for Waikato in the weekend tournaments and to attend the national championships.

Condor Sevens

We were pleased to send a girls' rugby team to the Condor Sevens on 22 October. After going down to Waikato Diocesan, our girls did very well in their second game against Cambridge High School, eventually going down 12-20. Alesha McQuoid scored three tries and Tegan Herbert one, with Danielle Mellow converting two of these tries. Well done to the girls.

End-Of-Year Functions

I remind parents of our senior students that our **Senior Academic Prizegiving** will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 4 December. Those students who will receive prizes, trophies and commendations will be advised by email ahead of the event and they will be required to attend a prizegiving rehearsal at 10am that same day in our school Hall. Our students are required to arrive at the prizegiving by 6.40pm and to take their allocated seats. Dress for the occasion for our students receiving prizes will be smart casual. We ask our students to please bring a plate of food for the supper which will follow and to drop it at the Hall kitchen prior to the prizegiving. We also ask that any student who cannot attend for a good reason should contact the school Office on 8898308 and advise us.

Our Junior Academic Prizegiving will be held on the last day of school for our Years 9 and 10 students, Friday 13 December. The prizegiving will begin at 10.30am and conclude at around 12 noon, after which our students will need to be collected or find their own way home, as our staff will be attending an end-of-year function in the afternoon and the school will be closed. For those students who need to get home via the school buses, these will still run at their normal times, but they will need to find somewhere else to go for the afternoon before returning to school to catch their bus.

Our special Graduation Dinner for our departing Year 13 students will be held at Vilagrad's Winery, Ohaupo, on the evening of Monday 2 December. We are expecting most of our students and parents to catch the buses which will leave our College at 6.15pm sharp and return soon after midnight. Year 13 students and their parents/whanau are very welcome to join some of our teachers to celebrate our students moving on from five years of secondary education into the world of further study or work. Payment for this dinner should be made by **Wednesday 20 November** to the school Office.

Year 9 Camp

All parents of our Year 9 students should have been advised in a special newsletter sent out earlier by Mr Vance Symon, our teacher-in-charge of outdoor education, about the upcoming back-to-back three-day camps which are taking place at Pauanui in the week Monday 18 to Friday 22 November. If you have not, please contact the school Office (8898308) and we will ensure that you get a copy of the newsletter so that you are informed. The permission form and payment, or payment details, must be returned to school Office by next **Monday 11 November**.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Friday	8 November	NCEA Exams begin
Monday – Friday	18-22 November	Year 9 Enrichment Camps 1 & 2 at Pauanui
Friday	29 November	Last day for NCEA Exams
Monday	2 December	Vilagrad's Year 13 Graduation Dinner
Wednesday	4 December	Senior Sign Out Day and Prizegiving Rehearsal (10am)
Wednesday	4 December	Senior Prizegiving, school Hall, 7pm
Monday – Wednesday	9 – 11 December	Junior Electives
Wednesday	11 December	Junior reports available online
Friday	13 December	Final day for Juniors and Junior Prizegiving, school Hall, 10.30am

Alexandra Avenue, Morrinsville 3300
Phone 07 8898308
Email: office@morrcoll.school.nz



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[Website](#)

HEATHCOTE APPLIANCES 2019 FUN RUN/WALK MINOR SPONSORS

Please support the following sponsors of our Fun Run if you can. At the least, please give them the opportunity to quote on any jobs you have coming up.

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