



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

Morrinsville College



8 July 2021

PRINCIPAL

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



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are coming to the end of what is always the most difficult term of the year, when the days are short, the weather is often cold and unpredictable and when illnesses are inevitable. I thank parents very much for heeding my advice and keeping your sons and daughters at home when they have been unwell recently, particularly in what is an ongoing COVID environment. Who knows when this will end, but I personally feel very privileged to be a New Zealander and to be living in a country where to date few people have lost their lives to this virus. We will all look forward to having the opportunity to be vaccinated in the coming months to protect ourselves from the terrible sickness, and worse, that can come with catching COVID.

Staff Changes

Tomorrow two long-serving staff members will be leaving us and another will be going on maternity leave. **Ms Sharnay Moxey**, who has been with us for over twelve years and for many years has been Assistant Learning Area Leader of Mathematics, was our Year 10 Dean for a long period of time and she has also been in charge of the growing sport of lacrosse in our school, will be taking up a position at Hamilton Boys' High School. Ms Moxey is looking for a change and has found a school which is close to where she lives. We wish her all the best in this new school.

Mr Murray Hollard, who has been our Special Education Needs Coordinator for the past eleven-and-a-half years is retiring after a long career in education, including five years as Deputy Principal at Morrinsville Intermediate School, 10 years as Principal of Whitikahu Primary School and 10 years as Principal of Manawaru Primary School. He can be very proud of this distinguished career. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Mrs Samantha Farook is taking maternity leave for the remainder of the current year. She is expecting to give birth to her second child very soon. We wish her all the very best over the coming months and look forward to seeing her back here in 2022.

The Board is pleased to have appointed very good teachers to take over from these departing staff. **Ms Sam Walker** is coming to us from St Peter's Cambridge to replace Ms Moxey and **Mr Nick Smith** has been internally promoted to the role to Assistant Learning Area Leader of Mathematics. Mr Smith filled this same role in his previous school.

Ms Carmen Pene-Hopa, who has been sharing the SENCO role with Mr Hollard for the last several years, will fully take over this role. She is very able in this space.

Ms Michelle Altena will take up a long-term relieving position until the end of this year to replace Mrs Farook. Ms Altena, who is returning to New Zealand from teaching in a United World College in the Netherlands, has previously been a Learning Area Leader of Biology at Botany Downs Secondary College, so she will bring much experience to this role. However, on her return to New Zealand Ms Altena will need to go into quarantine for a period of time so she will not begin until Week 4 of next term and so one of our most experienced Science relievers, **Mr Brian Killen**, will teach Mrs Farook's classes for the first three weeks.

School Security Cameras

Earlier this week I attended a principals' conference on legal issues and one of the things that came out of this for me was that the new Privacy Act that came into effect late last year now requires schools advise parents and students that we have security cameras in place around our school. We currently have 30 cameras which the Board has put in place over the years, 26 of which are in our public spaces outside the buildings and in some of our corridors, in both cases so that we can follow-up on any incidents of vandalism (particularly as sometimes happens in the evenings, weekends and holiday periods), and also to ensure the health and safety of our students so that, if we need to, we can take a look at footage of serious incidents involving our students (and staff) in school time, which can sometimes clarify situations and lead to discipline consequences, and, in serious incidents, we very occasionally share this footage with local Police so that they can also take appropriate legal action if it is deemed that this is required. The other four

cameras are positioned in our Library, our new Performing Arts Centre, the gymnasium and in the Japanese classroom which used to be our video-conference room, in all cases to ensure that there is no unpermitted access or, for instance, theft taking place. There are no cameras in any other classrooms and, of course, there are none in any toilets or offices. The security camera footage is only able to be viewed by two of our deputy principals and they do not ever spend time viewing our school in action – they only look at this footage if they need to check on an incident. The data is kept on hard-drive for 10 days and then it deletes itself. If parents have any concerns or queries about our use of these security cameras, please write to the Board and me about your concerns, which we will then consider.

FROM THE CAREERS ADVISER MRS JANE THOMAS



Career Pathways Expo

I remind parents that we have a Careers Pathway Expo **this afternoon from 4pm to 8pm**. It will be held in our Performing Arts Centre. It is FREE entry for ALL students and families/whaanau. This is an opportunity for our students, particularly our senior students, to talk to the professionals about their future Career pathway. I really do encourage our students and their parents to

come along to this important event.

RECENT STUDENT SUCCESSES



Congratulations to **Lydia Hayden** of Year 12 who is a member of a 40-women NZBlax Women's Lacrosse training squad from which our New Zealand team will be selected later in the year to attend an International Women's Championship to be held in Maryland USA in July next year. For Lydia to be good enough at this sport to be selected to be part of this training squad is in itself an outstanding achievement. We wish her well.



Lacrosse Success

In my last newsletter I announced the names of seven people who had been selected for the Matamata-Piako District Under 15 Lacrosse team. I have since learnt that **Olivia Harris** has also been selected for this team. Congratulations Olivia.

Congratulations to **Olivia Matthews** of Year 12 who entered the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Photography Competition, which this year had the theme of 'unity'. Olivia entered the Still Life category where she won first place for her photograph entitled "Delicate Unity" and third place for her photograph entitled "Through the Eye of the Needle". For the first of these photographs her caption read:

I feel that this photo fits the theme of 'unity', as it shows the coming together of each of the delicate petals of the rose to meet gently at



the centre. I was first drawn to this flower by its sweet fragrance, and the smooth ways that its petals all nestled against each other in unity. The tenderness and fragile unity that this rose displayed inspired me to take this photo, in order to be able to capture its vulnerability forever. Olivia's winning photograph is shown on the masthead of this newsletter.

For the second of these photographs Olivia's caption read: *This photo fits the theme of 'unity', as each thread comes together to travel in unity through the eye of the needle and continues in unity out the other side. My inspiration for this photo came from the first Maaori King, Kingi Potatau, who in 1858 stated "There is but one eye of the needle, through which white, black and red cotton are threaded" which symbolises the coming together in unity of all people in our country. I have created this photo as a visual representation of Kingi Potatau's words and the precious unity between all people in New Zealand.*



Outward Bound Experience



Kasey Jackson of Year 12 attended the very testing Outward Bound experience earlier this month, sponsored by Outward Bound and subsidised by our school's Gateway funding. Kasey has written the following report, which I would like to share:

June 6th 2021, I was getting ready for my flight down south to start my Outward Bound course. This was an exciting time for me as I

was going to be in a new place, with new people and new opportunities. Outward Bound was described to me as a fun-filled experience that would be life changing. OB had so many fun and new adventures for me to experience. I got to go whitewater kayaking down some really awesome rapids. Our group went sailing in the Sounds, all the way past the Tory Channel and into the Endeavour Inlet where James Cook settled because he thought it was the place most protected from all wind.

We had a rough couple of days, sailing with 50 knots at one point. This is unsafe to sail in so we had to be towed into an inlet and walk the Queen Charlotte track back to Anakiwa, which was 41kms.

This walk was very motivational for everyone in our group who was fit to finish. We all had something wrong with us, whether it was blisters, sore muscles or just being cold and tired. So on this walk, seven out of 14 people in our group achieved. Some had to get taken back during this journey. Every morning we had to do a 3km run at 7am and then go for a swim in the polar, yet refreshing ocean.

At the end of this experience we had to do a half marathon of 21km - this run was very worth it! Being 20 days in and achieving this run with all of the things that we had learnt, was finding out 'There is always more in you'.

I think that this experience made us all believe that there is so much more in us and that there is always a will to stop, but all you have to do is keep moving forward. I learnt to 'live in the moment' while I was at OB, live with the people who are around you and live with your best self being put forward. I want to thank all of the people who made this experience possible for me to be able to go on this journey.

Tough Girl Tough Guy Challenge

A group of our students competed in the Tough Girl Tough Guy challenge event held recently and our students did really well. Top 10 finishes included **Alicia Craig** who was 4th and **Holly Aitchison** 9th in the girls' event which included 293 runners, and **Grant Vollebregt** was 5th in the boys' event which included 244 runners. Our girls finished 2nd in the teams competition and the boys 5th. These were great results.



RECENT SPORTS RESULTS

Netball

Open A lost 19-30 against University Waikato A
Senior A lost 15-23 against HGHS
Junior Premier won 29-21 against Te Awamutu College
Junior Development won 22-15 against HGHS
Junior Blue won 32-10 against Hamilton Junior HS.

Basketball

Senior Boys won 61-54 against Fraser HS
Senior Girls won 61-47 against Sacred Heart GC
Junior Boys lost 22-64 against HBHS
Junior Girls lost against Tokoroa HS.

Football

1st XI Boys lost 1-3 against Tai Wananga
1st XI Girls lost 1-4 against Cambridge HS
Junior Girls drew 1-1 against Te Awamutu College.

Hockey

1st XI Boys won 8-0 against South Waikato
1st XI Girls won 6-0 against Rototuna SHS.

Lacrosse

Girls' Premier lost 9-15 against Sacred Heart GC
Girls' Development lost 4-18 against Paeroa College
Boys won 23-1 against Rototuna SHS.

Rugby

1st XV lost 7-35 against Rototuna SHS.

FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MRS GOVENDER

PTA Quiz night



Thank you to all those members of the Parent Teacher Association and community who supported our PTA Quiz Evening which was held last Friday night. The support from many people in our business community was very heartening, with donations of all sorts of goods being made to be auctioned and as prizes. It is not yet clear how much money we have made to go towards covering the cost of new sports uniforms, but it is substantial. You will be advised of this in a newsletter early next term. We will also acknowledge all of our sponsors in the next newsletter.

Changes to School Uniform

While this information has yet to be collated into the Board's statement on school uniform, the following are recent changes approved by the Board's Uniform Committee:

Trousers: Previously, only Year 13 boys were allowed to wear long trousers, apart from when students asked for special permission.

Now, all students can wear black regulation long trousers. There must be NO trackpants and NO casual trousers like jeans and Chinos. We recommend that these long trousers are bought from Harry's Surf & Street in Morrinsville, who are the Board's supplier of school uniform. Please note that Harry's currently have limited stock, but more will be arriving in approximately three weeks' time. Harry's are also currently working with their suppliers to ensure that we get the best trousers to suit our female students.

Socks: Previously, plain black knee-high socks (boys and girls) or black opaque tights (girls) were specified.

Now, plain black socks with no logos, advertising, or other markings are permitted.

Facial Hair (Boys): Previously, boys had to be clean-shaven.

Now, boys must be clean-shaven, however cultural and religious consideration will be given to individuals who write to the Board, explaining their unique circumstances.

Jewellery: Previously, students could wear three plain stud or sleeper earrings in each ear, and nothing has changed in this respect. Nor has anything changed in terms of piercings, except that septum piercings are specifically NOT allowed. Previously, students were able to wear one necklace which had to be hidden under clothing

Now, one necklace can be worn discretely (including visibly) if it is of religious or cultural significance. NO rings are allowed on either fingers or toes.

Hair: Previously, the Board's regulations stated, "Hair must be in a simple style, and clean and tidy in an appropriate style. A single, natural colour with limited tinting is allowed. There must be no large colour streaks or patches, no mohawks or shaved designs.

Now, the Board's regulations state "Hair is to be clean and tidy, in a simple style, in natural, muted colours. NO stark, bright, contrasting colours are allowed, including no large colour streaks or patches, no mohawks or shaved designs".

Formal Occasions: Previously, boys were expected to wear formal black trousers and girls formal navy-blue skirts. All students were expected to wear a light blue dress shirt with the regulation school tie.

Now, all students can wear regulation black formal trousers and girls may wear formal navy-blue skirts if they choose. On these

formal occasions it is expected that all students will wear the Year 13 school uniform shirt with the regulation school tie. (As with our regulation formal school blazer, a small stock of Year 13 shirts, blazer and ties will be made available here at school for those students who are not in Year 13 and who may represent our school).

Makeup: Previously, coloured nail polish was not permitted and no makeup was allowed.

Now, nail polish is permitted on short and trimmed nails, but no long (natural or artificial) and/or polished nails are allowed. NO heavy makeup is allowed.

Sports Jackets and Hoodies: NO sports jackets or hoodies are to be worn at school. Students must only wear the official school plain navy blue hoody which must be purchased and worn for all sports and other cultural activities, but not to school as part of our everyday uniform. This is only available from Harry’s Surf & Street.

Thermals: Students may wear long or short-sleeved black thermals under their school polo shirt during winter months.

FROM DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MR FORSYTH



Parent Teacher Interviews

Our mid-year parent teacher interviews were held in our PAC from 1pm to 7pm yesterday. While the numbers of parents coming along in the early afternoon were not high, this nevertheless presented an opportunity for our farming parents to come in around their milking time and calving commitments to talk to staff members, which we believe is appreciated.

The attendance of parents from about 5pm through until 6.45pm was very heartening. If you have any feedback about how we can improve this opportunity for parents to meet with your son’s and daughter’s teachers please email me.

COMING EVENTS

Thu 8 July	Career Pathways Expo in the PAC
Fri 9 July	Term 2 Ends
Mon 26 July	Term 3 Begins
Tue 27 July	BOT Meeting
Thu 12 August	Waikato NCEA Teacher-Only Day
Sat 25 September	Senior School Ball
Fri 1 October	Term 3 Ends
Mon 18 October	Term 4 Begins



TOUGH GAL AND GUY CHALLENGE

