



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

Morrinsville College



14 May 2021

PRINCIPAL

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to Term 2, which, following this month, will have fewer interruptions for field trips and camps than in Term 1. This is when our senior students need to see significant progress in accumulating credits at their NCEA level. It is very important for them to meet all assessment

deadlines and this means that they must be very organised in their lives, particularly for those students who are heavily involved in winter sports which are just beginning, and in cultural events like our school drama and music performances. It is very important for parents to keep an eye on their sons and daughters to ensure that they are working hard and meeting their assessment deadlines, while supporting them to be good all-round students. You also need to look out for anxiety and stress where students are struggling to fit everything in, including work commitments that they may have out of school hours. If necessary, these work commitments need to be pruned back because the qualifications our students will gain are very important in determining their future.

Te Puaawaitanga Reunion

The Te Puaawaitanga 20th anniversary reunion was held very successfully on Saturday 17 April. In the morning there was a powhiri for all those previous and current students of Te Puaawaitanga and their whaanau. After morning tea some games were played. Then late in the day a kai hakari was shared in the Performing Arts Centre, followed by speeches from me as Principal and also former leaders of the initiative. This was all accompanied by some amazing waiata from our excellent kapa haka roopu and some individuals, before presentations of taonga were made to Matua Ngahu Potaka, Whaea Carmen Pene-Hopa and Mr Brian Hampton. We were honoured to have the Ngati Haua Tumuaiki Anaru Thompson and his wife Hine present for the occasion, and they absolutely loved the celebration. Te Puaawaitanga is unique to our school. It

was initially based on an initiative at Motueka High School, which is no longer running, and it evolved into our own model based on our strong cultural values of Manaakitanga and Whanaungatanga. Due to some outstanding leadership of all of the kaiako in Te Puaawaitanga, including Whaea Aroha Bradley, Matua Phillip Smiler and Matua Ngahu Potaka, Te Puaawaitanga has thrived. We are the envy of many other schools and many of these schools have been to see what we are doing so successfully, but no other school that we know of has been able to put something similar in place.

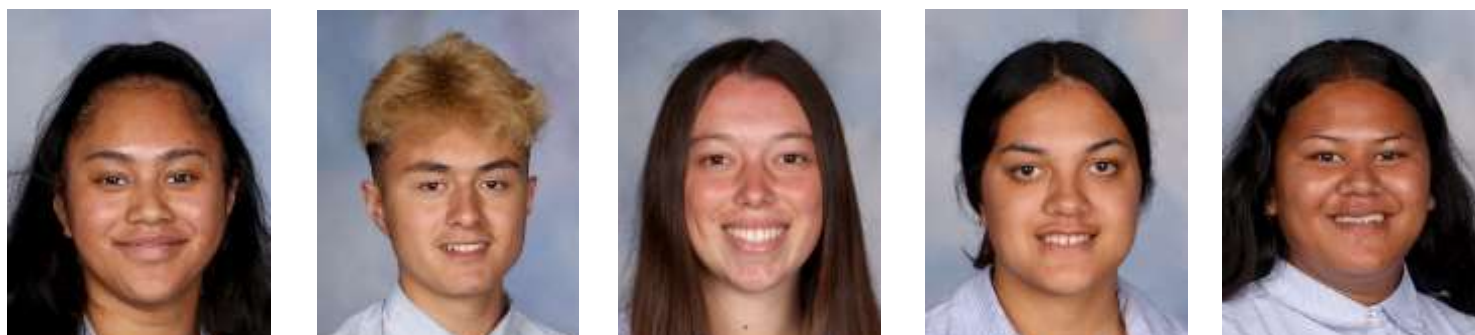
We can be very proud of Te Puaawaitanga. In 2018, Matua Potaka wrote "Kei te tika te whakaaro, maa te huruhuru ka rere te manu. 'Only with feathers can a bird fly'. One could also say only with the love and support of a whaanau can a student truly have the confidence to thrive and fulfil their potential. As parents we have a great responsibility to ensure that we provide a safe and loving environment so that our children can thrive. As kaiako we have the same responsibility to create the same environment in Te Puaawaitanga. I want to acknowledge our kaiako, our Maaori Board reps, our Maaori support staff and our nans and koros who continue to support their mokopuna. Without your manaakitanga and commitment to the kaupapa we would not have a whaanau form class."



I personally especially want to also acknowledge our kuia, Te Ao Marama Maaka, who served on the Board for 14 years from 1987 to 2001, but who has remained our adviser and strong supporter in all things Maaori for 35 years now. Without her guidance and leadership much of what we have achieved would certainly not have been achieved. Her support of me and the initiatives that we have together implemented with other Board members and staff over a long period of time has led to our producing a cultural environment where our tamariki can be proud of being Maaori, learn as Maaori and succeed as Maaori.

Amokura Student Leaders 2021

Congratulations to five of our senior students from Te Puaawaitanga who have been named as members of our Amokura team for 2021. All five acquitted themselves extremely well in the interviews that were conducted, following their being nominated by their peers and kaiako. Our Amokura are pictured below:



Our Amokura are Jewels Wilson, Shaydan Sayer, Kayla Vette, Christana Barrett and Tyga Tihema-Wilson

ANZAC Day Commemorations

As they do each year by invitation, on ANZAC Day our Head Girl and Head Boy, this year Holly Aitchison and Shaydan Sayer, represented the youth of our Morrinsville district by delivering addresses to the community at the Howie Park cenotaph. Deputy Principal Mr Jenkins and I attended, as did our Deputy Head Students Jewels Wilson and Grant Vollebregt. Holly's and Shaydan's speeches were excellent and they were very well presented. Afterwards several people came up to them and to me and congratulated them. Jewels and Grant had the job of carrying our Morrinsville College wreath, with Holly and Shaydan at their side, and placing it on the cenotaph steps, which they did very well. It was also pleasing to see a number of our students at the ceremony, particularly members of the Air Training Corps who played a key role at the cenotaph. We can all feel very proud of the contribution that our students made to this very important annual commemoration.



On Wednesday 5 May we held our annual ANZAC Day ceremony here at school and it also went off extremely well. After I had read a very poignant poem written by a nurse who served in Vietnam,



Holly and Shaydan delivered their speeches, which were very well received by our students and staff. Jewels and Grant 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 our students.

Waikato Secondary Schools' NCEA Teacher-Only Day

I advise parents that there will be a Ministry-sanctioned Waikato-wide Teacher-Only Day **next Wednesday 19 May**. Our school, and other secondary schools in our region, will be closed on this day and parents will need to make other arrangements for their sons and daughters. This TOD has been set aside to enable staff to be informed about the upcoming changes to NCEA, particularly the review of all of the Achievement Standards and the changes that are being made to Literacy and Numeracy requirements.

CoL Teacher-Only Day

I also advise parents that there will be another Teacher-Only Day held on **Friday 4 June**, which is the same weekend as Queen's Birthday and so this is an opportunity for families who wish to do so to have an extended weekend breakaway. On this TOD all of the teachers in our local Kaahui Ako cluster of schools will be getting together to further explore the theme: Developing Cultural Understanding – Enhancing Cultural Responsiveness. The school will be closed on this day too.

Bus Routes

After a recent 10-year review of our school bus routes by the Ministry's Transport Division, a number of changes were made. While some of these have been relatively straight-forward for parents to cope with, there have been some real frustrations around the selection of safe pick-up and drop-off (PUDO) sites for students who were previously catching their buses from the Waitoa Store and Diagonal Road. I have written many letters to the Ministry's Transport Division officials, Minister Chris Hipkins and MP Tim van der Molen, as have some parents of students affected, endeavouring to ensure that the new designated PUDOs

are safe. While I had a significant win at Diagonal Road, the Waitoa PUDO has proven to be much harder in changing the mind of the Ministry officials. I am pleased that we are no longer using a PUDO on the very busy and dangerous SH26, and there is no doubt that the No. 1 Road PUDO is much better, but it is still not as safe as the original PUDO in Waitoa. It seems that there is very little chance of returning to this PUDO because it is officially in the Te Aroha Transport Eligibility Zone by about 500 metres and the Te Aroha College Board of Trustees has specifically forbidden us to travel into their zone, even though the safety of our students is at risk.

North Island SS Athletics

Congratulations to Teeka Randell of Year 10 who competed at the North Island Secondary Schools' Athletics Champs late last term and finished a very creditable 10th in the Intermediate Girls' 200m event. This is an excellent result at this very high level of competition.



Senior Drama Production, *Antigone*

Our senior Drama students will be staging the play *Antigone* in our Performing Arts Centre on Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 May, with performances starting at 7pm. There will be door sales only, at \$10 per person.

The play is a modernised version of Sophocles' story of *Antigone* (pronounced An-tig-o-nee) and her struggle to stand up for what she believed was right against Creon, the leader of Thebes. It is a classic Greek tragedy, but all in easy English! We hope that parents and students will come along to support their peers in what is guaranteed to be a great show.



Change to Monthly Board Meetings' Timing

I advise parents that Board members have made the decision to shift their usual Board meetings which have been held on the second Thursday of each month to the third Tuesday of each month, because this suits more members in terms of their availability.

South Island Rugby Tour

In my last newsletter I reported on progress with our rugby development team's South Island tour. The remainder of the tour went extremely well and overall it was a huge success. Our boys were outstandingly behaved throughout and all made lifelong memories. While we lost all of our games against some quality teams with more experienced players, the experience gained by our boys was hugely valuable. Thank you to those parents who accompanied our students on the tour and special thanks to those who helped out with the fundraising over the previous two years.



Mates & Dates Programme

I am pleased to advise parents that as part of their health education programme, our Year 10 students will have a Mates & Dates programme which focuses on healthy relationships, delivered to them once a week for five weeks in Weeks 6-10 of this term by Child Abuse Prevention Society (CAPS) Hauraki presenters. This programme is sponsored by ACC.

This is not a sex education programme. It aims to reduce sexual and dating violence through teaching young people the knowledge and skills to engage in safe, healthy and respectful relationships. The sessions explore human sexuality and relationships, gender, and identity. They also discuss consent, healthy relationships and behaviours, and provide critical engagement with stereotypes and media. The Mates & Dates programme is a small step toward countering New Zealand's sexual violence problem, but it's not a silver bullet.

COMING EVENTS

Fri 14 to Sat 15 May	Duke of Edinburgh trip
Tue 18 to Fri 21 May	Waikato Taniwharau Trip
Tue 18 May	BOT Meeting, 7pm
Wed 19 May	Waikato NCEA Teacher-Only Day
Wed 26 – Thur 27 May	<i>Antigone</i> Drama Production
Thu 27 May	WSS Swimming Championships
Tue 1 June	School Cross Country
Fri 4 June	CoL Teacher-Only Day
Mon 7 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Wed 9 June	Waikato/BOP Cross Country
Tue 15 June	BOT Meeting, 7pm
Fri 25 June	Tough Guy and Gal Challenge
Fri 2 July	PTA Quiz Night
Wed 7 July	Mid-Year Parent Interviews
Fri 9 July	Term 2 Ends
Mon 26 July	Term 3 Begins



The full South Island rugby tour group

Year 13 History and Te Ao Maori classes at Ruapekapeka



Waiata at Te Puaawaitanga 20th Reunion