IMPORTANT DATES:

Itji-Marru Local AECG meeting - Tuesday 26th February
Next P&C Meeting - Tuesday 12th March 2013 - 7pm Admin Office.
Parent/Teacher interviews, yrs 7, 11 and 12 - Wednesday 6th March
Trial NAPLAN - English - Wednesday 13th March
- Maths - Friday 15th March
School Photos - Thursday 21st March (catch up day 26th March)
Merit Assembly - Friday 22nd March
Vaccinations - Monday 25th March
Term 2 - 2 Staff Development day - Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th April

Junior Support Class
Excursion to Newcastle and the ferry to Stockton
**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Welcome back to Morisset High School for 2013. I sincerely hope that everyone has had a great Christmas and is ready for the school year. An extra special welcome for our new families both year seven and other years. I hope that your time at Morisset High School is successful.

I sincerely appreciate our community’s support in having our students return to school this year in uniform. The majority of students are wearing their uniform and they make the school look fantastic. We have had very positive comments about the improvement in uniform in 2012 and I am hoping to continue with this in 2013.

Hopefully parents would have noticed that we have had a lot of work done in the school during the school holidays. The façade of the school has been totally repainted and a new sign will be coming shortly. This has complimented the work completed in the foyer last year and again the feedback we have received has been very positive. We have had the Maths corridor completely repainted along with a number of rooms and the staff common room, freshening up this part of the school. We have had a projector mounted in our school hall as well as connecting this space and the Drama Room up to WI-FI. By having the projector mounted in the hall with internet access our presentations and delivery of information in the hall is now state of the art. I have also just recently spent time with the departments asset management unit who will be focussing on upgrading our stage and hall within the coming months. Finally our new salon is nearly completed with the tiler beginning on the 11th of February and all fittings should be completed by the end of this month.

As I mentioned last year we are beginning to deliver TAFE courses at Morisset High School in 2013. Both courses are underway and students are enjoying this new and relevant course structure. I am looking forward to working closely with our Hairdressing teacher from TAFE Sheree Creagh as a new addition to the staff of our school.

Morisset High School had its Swimming Carnival Tuesday of this week at Wyong Pool and it was very successful. Students participated in events and everyone had a great day. It was great to see parents present and have a chat with them beside the pool. I look forward to the further sporting carnivals later in the year. Once again, welcome back to Morisset High School for 2013, I look forward to working further with our community and making our school the best it can possibly be.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Snedden

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**BILL’S BALLROOM**

Junior Latin & Ballroom Dance Class
Commencing February 4th, 2013
Suitable for Boys and Girls (6 - 16 years)
Mondays at Morisset at 4pm
Jive, Cha Cha, Samba, Waltz etc
Enquiries Sue or Bill on 4975 4583 or 0409 506 225
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT (Snr)

It has been a busy start to the school year. The students are to be congratulated on the ease and speed with which they have settled into the school routine.

Year 12

Unlike previous years, all of Year 12 is now required to be at roll call assembly every day regardless of whether or not they have a timetabled lesson period 1. Students who have free periods in the afternoon are able to apply for permission to leave after their final lesson for the day. **No student is to leave the school during the day unless they have finished for the day.**

Students who have free periods during the day must assemble in the Library, Quad 1 or the Careers Room. Students have received a copy of “Rules and Procedures for the HSC”. The Board of Studies assumes all students have read and understood this document. Please take time to read the booklet and if you have any questions contact me at school.

When planning holidays, etc please avoid times when assessments are scheduled.

Year 11.

The majority of Year 11 leaves early on Tuesdays and Fridays. If a student has a free period at the end of the day other than Tuesday or Friday they are invited to seek permission to leave early on that day. **No student is to leave the school during the day unless they have finished for the day.**

Students who have free periods during the day must assemble in the Library, Quad 1 or the Careers Room.

When planning holidays, etc please avoid times when assessments are scheduled.

Year 10

A small number of Year 10 students are seeking to change their elective subjects. This is only possible if there is room in the class and if the reason for change is acceptable. In general, Morisset High enters students for 200hours (2 years) for each of their electives for the RoSA so we avoid changing students where ever possible.

Students this year have three additional subjects/programs they can access. A number of students will be studying Hairdressing (delivered by a TAFE teacher) in our new salon. Mr Bettison will be delivering Manufacturing at a TAFE level. Some students have applied for a school based apprenticeship/traineeship. All these programs are designed to meet the needs of our students.

Remember that there is not external state wide Year 10 test any more. The record of School Achievement (RoSA) is all school based assessment. When planning holidays, etc please avoid times when assessments are scheduled.

ALSO:

If you have changed any personal details – phone number, address – please inform the school as soon as possible.

As always, if you have any concerns or wish to discuss any matter please contact the school to arrange an interview.

Colin Pierpoint
Deputy Principal
Yrs 10, 11 & 12

FAMILY LAW NETWORK AUSTRALIA

We have recently launched the website Family Law Network Australia. The website is a free information resource and referral service for family law matters. The information provided on our website could be very useful and of great benefit to families who attend your school.

We invite you to visit Family Law Network Australia  www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au

You will find information on separation and divorce, parenting arrangements, property settlement and child support.
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT (Jnr)

Welcome to the start of the 2013 school year. I hope the Christmas break was relaxing and enjoyable for students and their families, and that students have returned refreshed for a challenging and rewarding year. A particular welcome to parents and students new to Morisset High School, especially our new Year 7 parents and their families. Often settling in to a new school can bring with it challenges of its own, so please don’t hesitate to contact the school if issues do arise so that we can assist in making the transition as smooth as possible.

Year 7 have completed the hurdle of their first two of weeks and are to be congratulated on how maturely and patiently they conducted themselves during the first few days settling in, and the exceptional standard of their uniforms for which I sincerely thank parents. Many parents in making the transition to high school wrongly believe that as their children are older that they should not have regular communication with the school - and this is often ‘promoted’ by students as they seek independence. I would encourage you to contact the school should you have any concerns.

Information regarding the Year 7 camp Week 11 this term was sent home with students following the Orientation Day last year and I urge all students to attend for the valuable experiences with their new peers. Please direct any further enquiries to the Year 7 Advisor, Ms Starkey.

Year 8 are settling well in their new core classes and can look forward to studying their newly elected Mandatory Technology subjects each semester and Music as part of Stage 4 Creative and Performing Arts.

Year 9 move into Stage 5 and have been placed in placed in graded classes in some core areas and have commenced their two elective classes on the timetable. Students were given the first two weeks to change these subjects (if possible) however, please note no changes can be made now. Year 9 is an important year for students as they move into Stage 5 and the courses studied begin meeting requirements for the Record of School Achievement (or ROSA) which replaced the School Certificate with students moving through Year 10 to 12. Further details can be found on the NSW Board of Studies website. (www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au).

Year 7-10 Assessment - Teachers will have provided course details and assessment requirements in each subject area. Please note that an Assessment Calender for Semester 1 outlining tasks and their timing for each year group from Year 7-10 is available via PDF links to our website for you to print and assist your student to prepare and plan over the next two terms.

As with the start of any school year the student body is undergoing a ‘settling in’ period in which they adjust to changes in their friends and year group, staff alterations, changes in their ‘status’ within the school (entering high school for the first time, becoming a senior student, etc), and increasing expectations in both behaviour and application to their studies as each cohort progresses through their time at high school. The majority of students are to be congratulated on the positive and responsible manner in which they have approached this time of the year. However, a minority of students have needed to be reminded that unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated at Morisset High School, and will be dealt with firmly. Students must remember that they have a responsibility to ensure that their own behaviour does not adversely affect the learning opportunities of others. Some students also need to be reminded that bullying and harassment of any kind will not be tolerated under any circumstances at Morisset High School. Any student subject to bullying is encouraged to report it to a member of staff, or to their parents so they may notify the school. The school policy is to follow-up all incidents of bullying, however, we need to be informed if appropriate action is to be taken.

Thank you for your continued support in these matters.

I look forward to the year ahead.

Gary Bennett
Deputy Principal
Year 7, 8 and 9.
We have had a great start to the year in the Junior Support Class! We have welcomed six new Year 7 students and they are all settling in very quickly and enjoying their adventure into high school.

The programs we follow in Support are based around Literacy, Numeracy, HSIE and Life Skills and we have lots of great things planned for the year.

One of our programs is called Community Access and it is based around getting to know how to travel safely, make good choices with healthy eating, learn how to socialise in the community and discover interesting places in our area.

Our first adventure was to Newcastle and involved a trip on the Stockton ferry. We travelled from Morisset by train and then walked to the ferry terminal where we had a round trip to Stockton and back. The harbour was beautiful. The sun was shining on the water and glistening from the buildings. When we were crossing back to Newcastle, a large cargo ship passed in front of us. It was cool.

We made our way back to the Newcastle Mall and had some lunch with many of us buying a yummy Subway meal. After lunch we walked to Customs House and had some fun in the park challenging each other to races and other activities. We travelled back to Morisset on the train, pretty exhausted after such a great day. We have started a picture journal for these activities and by the end of the year we are sure to have a fantastic album of memories.
LAKE MACQUARIE DOCKERS
AFL CLUB

Tulkaba Oval, York St Teralba

2013 Registration Dates at Tulkaba Oval

Sunday 10\textsuperscript{th} February 10.00pm - 1.00pm
Sunday 24\textsuperscript{th} February 10.00am - 1.00pm

NAB Auskick - 4 Years to 8 Years

$55 (includes 2013 Auskick Pack)

Juniors - 8 Years to 17 Years

$90 (no weekly fees)

First 2 family members pay full price. Third family member registers for free.

For further information please contact Terri Kozlik on 0409 458 725

SCHOOL LIBRARY

Open Times
8.35am every day every recess every day except Friday and lunchtime and sport afternoon.
Senior students are encouraged to take advantage of the library open times as well as their free period time to come and read, study or do research with the aid of the qualified librarians who are keen to assist them to attain their academic goals.
Welcome back to 2013 at Morisset High. We are looking forward to the year. We finished last year on a high by taking the whole Staff (teaching and non-teaching) on a Cultural Immersion of Local Awabakal Culture, History and Lore. We toured Mt Sugarloaf, Blackalls Park and Myuna Bay. At the sites the Staff were divided into male and female groups and learnt about the significance of the areas and the roles of the genders in traditional life. Mt Sugarloaf gave us an idea of the size of the Awabakal Nation and its significance to men and to women; Blackalls Park is the site of the Petrified Forest, which can be seen at low tide. Myuna Bay showed staff the significance and importance of Middens. The feedback from staff was very positive. The day was run by the Indigenous Learning company and we were delighted to be able to have the president of our Local AECG, Kath Butler, there as well as members of our community, (Liz Deaves, Shannon Archibald, Anne Andrews). Thankyou very much your time and presence and yarns were invaluable to us.

This year we are planning for Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week celebrations. We invite you in to assist us with this and will give more details in next newsletter and on our weblink. Some faculties in the school need to implement the new National Curriculum next year. This means they will be planning this year and we would like to invite you to come to the school to assist us with this. We are also looking into the possibility of a few excursions as well as the Indigenous Career’s Market and Wollatuka Information Days at Newcastle Uni. We are currently in the process of working our way through a number of scholarship applications that we have received this year.

Our Aboriginal Education Action Team meets every second Thursday from 1.35pm to 2.05pm (our lunch time) in the Staff Common Room, we would love you to come along and be a part of this group. Just ring the school and ask for Selena.

This year we are starting the BroSpeak program, a self esteem group for Boys to keep them learning. We will continue the SistaSpeak program and Our Didje group, both of which are highly successful program in educating the students about themselves and how they can be successful in the classroom and after school.

For any information or any enquiry please contact the school and ask for Selena or Sue.
SRE Coordinators LUNCH
Morpeth Anglican Church, cnr Tank and High Sts
Monday March 4th
11am - 2.30pm

An opportunity for fellowship, discussion, eating good food, drinking good coffee and hearing about what’s new in SRE for 2013

- The NEW Working With Children Check
- How to promote SRE in your church
- Ethics Amendment Report and its effect on SRE
- New Basic SRE Training

RSVP 1st March
Jenny Harris 49791328
jenny.harris@mn.catholic.org.au

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Breakaway Dancers
* NO costume sewing!
* NO exams! NO uniforms!
* YES all classes ONCE A WEEK!
* YES our classes are AFFORDABLE!
* YES our teachers are PROFESSIONAL!
* YES our classes are FUN and FRIENDLY!

STREET STYLEZ
AGES 7 — 12YRS
* Hip Hop * Funky Jazz * Street Tap
ALL 3 classes for $16.00 TOTAL!
Be FUNKY. Be COOL. Be a DANCE STAR! Learn the coolest dance moves to the latest dance grooves!

ENROL NOW!
PH: 4959 5754
www.breakawaydancers.com.au

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Baby Ballerinas
AGES 3 — 6YRS
* Baby Ballerinas® * Jumpin Jazz * Tiny Tappers
ALL 3 classes for $33.00 TOTAL!
Fun, creative and energetic classes that are perfect for your little princess!

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Successful Learning - Responsible Living
Agriculture and Science Report

Welcome back to everyone for 2013. I would like to introduce you to Ms Gretta Hayward and Ms Renae Lewis as our two new Science teachers. We would like to heartily thank Mr Adam Ross and Mr Matthew Scott for their time here at MHS and recognise, with pride, all their efforts at Morisset High School, for our Science faculty as well as programs across the whole school, in particular in Welfare, GATS, school sign, sports and competitions. We wish them well in their new schools.

All classes have settled and we are well underway with our first topics. If you look in the front of their Science Book each student has a detailed list of all their assessment tasks and the approximate due dates as well, so if you will be away for any of these please let us know beforehand and we can make other arrangements. By the time you receive this newsletter, Ag/Science students in Years 7-10 will have received their first assessment task for the year. These all count towards their Half Yearly Report. For Year 10 their results this year go towards their Recognition of School Achievement, (RoSA) so it is vital that all tasks are given a serious attempt and that they are all handed in on time. Late assignments cannot be given marks and if they are not handed in then the course is not completed. Year 10 and Year 8 students need to keep their Science Books from last year, as their final assessment at for this year will be on the work they have done in both years. Year 8 will be doing the ESSA test, which is a state-wide assessment, in November and more information on this will come later in the Year. Please note that due to the placement of Easter in this first term that Year 10 will be doing their second Assessment task just before they have to hand in their first task , a research assignment.

We would like to thank all Parents/Carers for their support with uniform thus far this year, it has been great. We cannot allow any student to complete practical work if they do not have enclosed leather footwear, due to Workplace Safety rules. This results in the student not completing a necessary part of the course and having to complete practical work in their own time and missing out on the learning experience with their friends in class doing experiments. It is also timely to remind students to bring in their book and pens in a proper bag each lesson as well as their DER laptop, for those who have been issued with one.

Our Ag Faculty won some major awards last year at shows and in academic competitions, so we hope to keep this up this year. The work of Mr Victor and Mr Cartwright on our school farm is outstanding and thanks to the Parents/Carers who come along to assist with the Shows. We currently have displayed in the Staffroom entry, the Senior Students’ entry in a Research Project Competition, which our Primary Industries students won.

This year we will continue to offer Experiment Fest, Science and Engineering Challenge, Science Competitions (like Rio Tinto) and the Wetlands excursion. We encourage you to look at your child/children’s books in Science frequently and ask them questions about what they are doing in class. We are hoping to hear more, this year, about up-grading some of our Laboratories, which is very exciting news for us. We continue to support whole school programs in our school such as Let’s Write, Attendance and Environment to name a few.

Looking forward to a quality partnership with you this year,

Sue McDonald, HT Science

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Thank you to all parents for being patient over a busy few days in the uniform shop. Also a big thank you to the parents that came in to help make things run smoother and easier for new families at the school.

The year 7 students all look lovely in their uniforms, as does the whole school.

If you still require uniforms and can't get in, just get your son/daughter to come in and try things on and we can contact you to pay over the phone if this is an option.

My hours have gone back to normal now: Tuesday 8.00am- 12.00
Thursday 12.00 - 4.00pm

If you have any out grown uniforms in good condition we always have a need for them in the welfare department.

Roz Burchell
Student Exchange – Memories and Skills for a Lifetime!

Give your child the opportunity to gain international experiences and language skills to kick-start a future career. Along with distinct language benefits, exchange students mature, gain confidence and develop a much more worldly approach upon their return to Australia.

World Education Program Australia (WEP), a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments, is now accepting applications for students to live overseas in 2013/14 as exchange students for a summer, semester or year.

WEP is offering two $3000 scholarships towards semester-long student exchange programs to Argentina and China commencing in 2014.

Find out more!
- Visit www.wep.org.au
- Attend one of WEP’s information evenings and open days
- Call 1300 884 733

Sydney
13 Feb, 13 Mar, 14 May 2013
7:30-9pm
Bowler’s Club of NSW
Level 2 / 95-99 York Street
Sydney

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.
February 2013 - Edition No 1

Successful Learning - Responsible Living

**BMX Australia National Sign On Day**

**Come and Try the Thrill and Excitement of BMX Racing for Free**

**Your Local Club is at:**
Lake Macquarie BMX
Mary St
Argenton

Date to come and try:
23 February
10.00 - 2.30

Contact:
Trish Anderson
0409 452 342

Free showbag* for participants with a hat, handlebar grips, DVD and more

while stocks last at participating tracks

Caroline Buchanan

Supporting Partners

BMX Australia
bmxaustralia.com.au

Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Brian Kirkham
Welcome back for another year. Once again I am looking forward to working with students to develop their Career Pathways.

My job relies on good communication between students, parents and myself.

**There are a number of methods available to find out information**

- **Email** students regularly with information so all Year 10, 11 and 12 students MUST regularly check their DET emails or they could miss valuable opportunities.  
  **If any student cannot access their DET email see me ASAP.**
  Parents can receive these emails if requested ph 4973 4958

- **School website- Careers section**  
  Students & parents should check the Morisset High School webpage for career information, both the ‘School Calendar’ & ‘Career’s sections’. I have uploaded information with relevant website links ie information about post school options, resume & covering letter templates, tertiary courses available, information about Apprenticeships & Traineeships (both while at school & after school), school work experience & TVET (TAFE) information etc. There is also a separate section outlining useful websites, with links, for further reference. Take a look and some of your many questions will be answered.

- **Facebook** – I have a Morisset High School Facebook page where I put information- This is mainly for senior students to access important information- Go to Morisset High School Careers and click on ‘Like’ & you will receive automatic updates as they are uploaded.

- **Interviews** – I am happy to arrange interviews with parent /students to discuss career/study pathway options. Career choices are often difficult and it helps to know what options are available and to plan well ahead. There are often ways to obtain alternate entry into courses so you should be aware of these. If you would like to arrange an interview to discuss your child’s career option(s) please do not hesitate to contact me at the school on 4973 4958

- **School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBATs)**  
  We have 3 Yr 11 students & 1 Year 10 student undertaking School Based Apprenticeships & three Yr 11 students doing School Based Traineeships, all commencing this year. These SBATs involve paid work and training while undertaking HSC or RoSA studies. Congratulations to these students for being successful in gaining an SBAT and best wishes for their future success at both school & work.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Defence Forces Talk** – (in May - date to be advised). Representatives from the Australian Defence Forces will again visit the school to talk to interested students. These talks have proved to be extremely beneficial in the past and students who are interested the ADF as a career, should attend.

- **Year 12 University Talk** - Date to notified ( mid March) At this talk students will receive general information about Uni – courses, entry programs, 2012 ATAR ‘cut off’ etc. All Yr 12 students hoping to go to Uni should attend. More information will be emailed to all Year 12 students shortly.
**Year 10 Careers Interviews** - Yr 10 Career Interviews will hopefully commence Week 5 Term 1 and continue until all Year 10 students have been interviewed. If parents would like to attend their child’s interview let me know so arrangements can be made. These interviews enable me to give students information & direction. I also become aware of those without a focus, enabling me to work with these students to try to find some options/ideas. These interviews, plus other information gathered, will also be used to select Year 10 students to participate in the “Plan It Youth” Career Mentoring Program which we run each year with about 20 students.

**WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM - Check the school webpage for information**

While undertaking Work Experience at MHS is optional, I strongly recommend that all students do at least one week of work experience during Years 10, 11 or 12. Work experience is extremely valuable, not only to try various jobs and see what working life is like, but also, to be able to document the experience in resumes thus improving your resume. Students MUST have completed the ‘Work Ready’ course before they can undertake work experience and they MUST complete all missed school work.

We try to be very flexible with students and employers in regard to work experience so students have the greatest possible chance to participate. Placements can be arranged at any time during the school term, avoiding times when assessment tasks, exams etc are planned. The first step in the process, once the Work Ready course has been completed, is to see me. Students in Years 10 to 12 should be aware of what is expected in any work placement, as this was covered in the ‘Work Ready’ course, but if they are unsure or if parents have questions, I welcome all enquiries.

**TVET COURSES**

Many Yr 11 and Yr 12 students have now started TVET (TAFE) as part of their HSC studies. This involves students travelling to TAFE to complete courses thus gaining TAFE qualifications while still at school. We wish all TAFE students well in all their courses this year.

**YEAR 10 CAREERS LESSONS**

Year 10 students have timetabled Careers lessons all year. With all Yr 10 now having laptops, this should prove to be extremely beneficial when accessing the many internet sites available in career planning. Students will use their laptops for most Careers lessons so make sure you have them charged ready for use.

*Careers lessons involve the following*

- Career decision making.
- Senior subject selection.
- Job search, applications, resume writing and interview skills.
- Further education & training.
- Communication and work skills.

Ruth Burton
Careers Adviser
Hello from the Music Department at Morisset High School.
Our Department this year is made up of the following staff members.
Mr Grant Wilcher – Head Teacher Administration and Music
Mrs Allison Watson – Music Teacher
Mr Luke Mitchell – Music Teacher (0.8)

Our FEES for 2013 are as follows:-
Year 8 Non-Elective Music - $15.00
Years 9/10 Elective Music - $20.00
Years 11/12 Senior Music - $25.00

We encourage all our students to pay our fees so that we can continue to provide quality equipment and maintain our resources so that every student gets the opportunity to learn and instrument.

The Music Department also provides half hour lessons for those students who are interested in learning Drums, Guitar, Piano and Vocals. A permission note can be collected from the Music Department at recess, lunch or before school.

Looking forward to another great year with our Music students.

Allison and Luke