IMPORTANT DATES:

Next P&C Meeting - Tuesday 9th April 2013 - 7pm Admin Office.
Year 12 Half Yearly Exams - 2nd to 12th April.
Year 7 Camp - Monday 8th to Wednesday 10th April
School Holidays - 13th to 28th April (then two Staff Development days)

**Term 2 - 2 Staff Development days - Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th April**

Trial NAPLAN - Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd May.
Merit Assembly - Friday 10th May
NAPLAN - Tuesday 14th May to Friday 17th May

Jayden White relaxing at Dora Creek while on excursion with the Junior Support Class
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Hello everyone, I hope that this edition of the Morissetian finds you well and ready for your Easter break. A lot has been going on at Morisset High School this term and I am very proud of the efforts of both students and staff this year already.

Our stage 5 (year 10) alternate programs have been working really well this term. Mr Bettison’s Manufacturing class is well established and I am very happy with the way things are progressing in this area. Our new TAFE teacher Ms Creagh has settled in really well and the girls are enjoying the hairdressing course. Ms Creagh has established herself within the school and has built an excellent rapport with her students. The school salon is nearing completion and the official opening of this facility will take place early next term. It is very exciting to know that we are the only public school in the Hunter/Central Coast who has such a teaching place. Finally, Careers Links have begun to work with our students on obtaining traineeships with local businesses. The boys have met with their mentors on two occasions and will start working in industry very shortly.

A number of new Aboriginal Education Programs and Initiatives have been introduced this term. A number of staff took part in a Dare to Lead Aboriginal Education workshop day and Ms Piefke presented our HSIE Cultural Unit to teachers who were present. A number of our students are taking part in a Learning Circles Program at Wyong TAFE. This program is led by a TAFE teacher and cultural leader who will facilitate the building of a learning circle in the TAFE grounds and imparting cultural knowledge as the landscaping is complete. Students, as a result of completing this course, will obtain a certificate in Landscape Gardening as well as insights into cultural perspectives along the way. Our Aboriginal Education Officer Mrs Archibald has been invited to attend the Aboriginal Education “Stronger Smarter” Conference later this term ad I am looking forward to hearing about the different concepts explored during the event.

Our Student Representative Council has been elected for 2013 and begun work around our school under Miss Harding. The SRC is an amazing bunch of students who are not only proactive in supporting organisations within our community but trying to make our school the best place it can possibly be. It was a difficult process this year with so many amazing students nominated for the roles. I am looking forward to seeing the efforts of this group again in 2013

Earlier this term our Local Management Group P&C met at Bonnells Bay Primary School, and a big thank you must go out to Mr Stiller and Kirsten Gomez for hosting the meeting. This group is made up of representatives across all of our partner primary schools and the high school. It is so positive to have all of our different schools represented in the one forum. This was the second time that we have met and parents were engaged in not only what is happening in our schools but looking at what we can do as a collective to make our schools even better. I am looking forward to our next meeting, next term, at Morisset Primary School.

Lastly our year twelve students begin their half yearly examinations later this term. It is amazing to think that this group is actually half way through their HSC year, it goes very quick. I am sure that students are preparing for the exams and utilising their mentor support that was initiated earlier in the term.

I wish everyone a happy Easter Break and all the best for the coming holidays.

Yours Sincerely,
Mark Snedden

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Autumn is here and with it cooler mornings. I have full stock of hooded jumpers ($37.00) , microfibre jackets ($65.00) and knitted jumpers ( $68.50).

After buying any of these don't forget to put your students name clearly on the garment because as the day warms up they are often taken off and forgotten.

Also don't forget that if parents / caregivers can not get into the shop the students can come in and buy their own uniform, if you don't want to send money in with them we can call you to pay by card over the phone.

For all uniform information go to school web site and then to uniform info .

Roz Burchell.
EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE IN 2013 AND IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME

In June-July students from over 20 countries around the world will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill.

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia, Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Tyler Walkey year 9 who won the Pirtek Fishing Challenge over the Easter break. The Pirtek Fishing Challenge is an annual event held Australia wide to raise funds and awareness of prostate cancer. Tyler caught an 87cm flathead and won a $400 voucher at the BCF.

SENIOR DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Year 12
Half Yearly exams commence Tuesday 2nd April. The usual Illness / Misadventure conditions apply so if a student is absent they will be required to submit the appropriate documentation eg doctor’s certificate or statutory declaration. For those who plan ahead, the Trial HSC occurs in weeks 4 and 5 of Term 3.

A reminder that senior students are required to be in attendance from 9.00am every day regardless of whether or not they have a lesson period 1. Students may leave early if they have submitted the relevant paperwork to me.

Students should be accessing regularly the Board of Studies web site www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ to keep up to date with any notices about the HSC and to use the resources available for study purposes.

Year 11
A reminder that senior students are required to be in attendance from 9.00am every morning regardless of whether or not they have a lesson period 1. Students may leave early if they have submitted the relevant paperwork to me.

Year 11 students have received their Preliminary HSC Assessment booklet. This sets out when all assessment tasks occur as well as the type of assessment and which particular outcomes are being assessed.

Year 10
A number of our students have commenced a program with Career Links. The aim is for each of the participants to secure a school based traineeship.

Some students have received letters regarding “N” determination for the Record of School Achievement. Please ensure your child rectifies any such warning so they will remain eligible for the awarding of the RoSA. Major assessment events are on the school calendar accessible from the Morisset high School web page.

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

Colin Pierpoint
Deputy Principal

Congratulations to Tyler Walkey year 9 who won the Pirtek Fishing Challenge over the Easter break. The Pirtek Fishing Challenge is an annual event held Australia wide to raise funds and awareness of prostate cancer. Tyler caught an 87cm flathead and won a $400 voucher at the BCF.
JUNIOR DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

It was great to meet so many of our Year 7 parents and carers at our first Parent Teacher Night on the 6th of March. Please note that a Parent Teacher Night for Yr 8, 9 and 10 Parents will be held next term on Wednesday 12th June.

NAPLAN testing is held each Year for Year 7 and 9 students and I urge you to discuss these upcoming tests with your child and give encouragement to do their best. Practice NAPLAN tests will be held in Week 1 next term – Wednesday 1st May to Friday 3rd May. Students and teachers will receive general feedback from these tests designed to assist when approaching the NAPLAN tests held Australia-wide from Tuesday 14th May to 17th May (Term 2 Week 3). A more detailed information note will be sent home so please look out for it. Please ensure your child has the correct gear on these days including lead pencils, eraser and sharpener, and their calculator for the relevant section of the Numeracy paper.

Term 2 is shaping up as a busy time with Semester 1 Examinations being held for Year 7 to 10 students. Year 8 and 10 students will complete their exams in Week 4 (starting 20th May) and Year 7 and 9 will follow in Week 5 (from 27th May). Class teachers will advise on the nature of these assessments, but is never too early to talk to your child about preparing summary notes and practicing questions to prepare.

Year 9 appear to be enjoying the commencement of their X and Y elective courses this year and are actively engaged and well into the hours required by the Board of Studies. Consequently please note that it is now no longer possible to change electives this far into the year and course.

As a reminder, Morisset High School maintains a clear policy on the use of mobile phones by students, particularly regarding the misuse of mobiles and electronic devices in class time. Mobile phones should only be brought to school by students where there is a need to do so. In fact all Electronic devices (mobile phones, MP3 Players, ipods etc) are to be turned off and stored in school bags before entering classrooms then bags placed in bag zones in each classroom. Any student who does bring a mobile phone to school is to have it switched off and away during class time or other periods of instruction (eg. assemblies, roll call, etc). Classes are not the appropriate time nor place to be contacting friends, family, etc, either by social networking, phoning or SMS messaging, nor is it appropriate to be playing games on a phone in this time. Any student doing so is certainly not engaged in meaningful set learning experiences at this time. Using mobile phones in a classroom – either sending or receiving - disrupts the class, makes teaching difficult adding undue and unfair pressure on the teacher, and disrupts the learning of others – all clearly unacceptable consequences. Furthermore, some mobile phones now have a camera facility built in, which in a school setting raises concerns of privacy that must be carefully monitored. Any student who uses a mobile phone during class time is in breach of the school’s mobile phone policy, and may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including:

- Confiscation of the phone until the end of the day;
- Head Teacher Referral;
- Detention/s.

Thank you.
Gary Bennett
Deputy Principal Yr 7, 8 and 9.

SOUTHERN CROSS EXCHANGE

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER!
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2013 for their 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria Japan, the U.S.A and Canada will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Call your local coordinator, Dianne on: 0429 406 126 for more information.
For parents and guardians of Year 7 girls

The first years of high school can be just as traumatic for a young girl as the first years of primary school, and as the parent or guardian of a Year 7 girl, we know the fears you are facing: Will she be bullied? Will she do her study? Will she fall in with the wrong crowd?

Your young girl knows the difference between right and wrong, what's best for her and what's not, but if her self esteem is even slightly fragile, these are the years when outside influences will test her the most. 

*The High School Survival Guide* was written to help young Australian girls build on their existing self esteem, develop skills and strength to resist peer pressure, and remind them that they are unique young people who need to appreciate their strengths and work on their weaknesses to survive and flourish in this world.

As publishers of *The High School Survival Guide*, we would like to invite you to download a free sample of this book at [www.themosishop.com.au](http://www.themosishop.com.au) or purchase the paperback at the heavily discounted price of $24.95 (regular price $34.95). The current stock won't be replaced as the book is now available on Amazon, so this offer will last only as long as we have books left to ship.

So many mothers have said to us 'I wish I'd had this book when I was at high school' that we are certain it will be of value to you and your girl. And not just mothers – we have also received very positive feedback from a variety of parents, young girls, teachers, a school counsellor, and a mental health nurse.

For further information, please visit [www.thehighschoolsurvivalguide.com.au](http://www.thehighschoolsurvivalguide.com.au) or feel free to contact us directly via the contact details above.

**Junior Landcare**

The Junior Landcare Project Planning training workshops for supporters of Lake Macquarie School projects have been a great success.

The training is for grandparents, parents and friends, as well as for teaching and support staff.

The workshops are built around planning and seeking funding for a Landcare project in your school. It includes habitat and catchment assessments, gaining the permission of the land manager, and how to implement your agreed plan.

So far places have mostly been filled by teaching staff. What we need now is people who already volunteer some of their time to support Junior Landcare projects in schools, and people who would like to.

This might include helping to look after native gardens to attract native birds or vegetable gardens to help teach the kids where food comes from. More information is available on our website.

The next workshop is at 4pm on Wednesday 9th April at the Landcare Resource Centre. We would love to see you there.

Please contact the Landcare Resource Centre to book your place.

**John Hughson** | Landcare Projects Officer

**Lake Macquarie City Council**

126-138 Main Road Speers Point NSW 2284 | Box 1906

HRMC NSW 2310

P: 02 4921 0087 | M: 0478 214 498 | F: 02 4921 0351

jhughson@lakemac.nsw.gov.au | www.lakemac.com.au

www.lakemacquarielandcare.org
SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Loft Youth Arts & Cultural Centre April School Holiday Program, 15-26 April.
The full program is available online at www.theloft.org.au
A variety of arts, cultural and recreation activities for young people aged 12-25 will be on offer including:

- Comic Jam - Create Your own full colour comic with The Roost Creative Design Team;
- Hip Hop Music Producer Workshops; Jamaican Dance Hall Dance Classes with Pivot Studios;
- SBA Streetwise Skate Clinics;
- Indoor Rock Climbing; Public Art Sculpture design workshops;
- Indoor games day & Instagram Team scavenger hunt;
- Superstrike Ten Pin Bowling; Extreme Go-Kart racing;
- Laser Tag; Beach Photography & Breakdance Classes.

Workshops are free for Loft Members & $10 per activity for non members.

Bookings will start on Tuesday 2nd April.
Printed programs will be distributed to all area high schools, libraries & youth services between 20th March & 2nd April.

For more information please call The Loft on 02 49 742092 between 9-5pm Monday to Friday.
Experiencing Work

Working Together for a Successful Work Experience
For our
Life Skill & Special Education Students

Our students in Year 10 Life Skills and our Special Educational Senior Class (Year 10-12) have started their Work Experience placement with a ‘bang’! Most students have been out since week three, and are really enjoying their placements. All our students are currently out on a Wednesday and some are asking to go out two days a week!

It is very exciting to see our students at Work Experience, developing their self confidence and skills. Some of our students have been offered part time work with their employers, while one of our students in year 11 is doing a school based traineeship as a chef.

It is very special to see them leave the comfort zone of school and move out into the work place, which, at times can be quite daunting. For some students there are early starts as they are with builders or need to travel to their work placement. Others are riding their bikes to and from work, while others catch the school bus as they have no other way of reaching work.

We are very grateful that our businesses are supportive of this very valuable and successful program. Some of the businesses who are supporting us and have done for many years are:

- Gates of Eden Nature Centre
- Morisset Computer Connections
- Avondale College Cafeteria
- At Call Hire
- Morisset Auto Dismantlers
- Coles of Bonnells Bay
- Southlakes Anglican Parish
- Budgewoi Smash Repairs
- Havachat Café
- Event Cinemas Tuggerah

Some of the new businesses who have come on board this year:

- Hunter Office Supplies
- Seascape Landscapes
- Area Timber & Fencing
- Soul Pattinson Chemist Morisset

We are looking forward to the rest of 2013 as the students continue to enjoy their new and different work experiences.
Italian Maestro Chef
Adding culture and academic value to our curriculum

As part of our Italian Language Program our Year 8 Italian students participated this term in a hands-on cooking experience whereby each student was involved in creating and eating an authentic Italian dish.

Students were engaged in language lessons leading up to the visit. We studied the recipe, both in English and Italian, learned the names of ingredients in Italian using our new Smartboard technology for our activities and games. These allowed the students to become familiar with the ingredients and method of cooking and understand more about the Italian culture.

The cooking activity was presented in the Italian language by a professional Italian language and cooking teacher who worked with our students in an engaging, entertaining and educational way. Our students embraced this challenge with a very positive attitude and enthusiasm.
HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
YEAR 12 ART STUDENT ‘MAKES FIRST CUT’

The Visual Arts department is pleased to announce that 2012 H.S.C. student, Nadia Abdul Latif, has been selected to exhibit her Body of Work in the First Class student exhibition at the Lake Macquarie Gallery. These works are selected from the Hunter region and were awarded a Band 6 in the 2012 H.S.C. examination.
Nadia’s work was marked in the Documented Form category and based on relationships.
We congratulate Nadia and invite you all to view this exhibition at the gallery between the 10th of May and 17th of June.

MUSIC REPORT

Last week on Friday the 23 March the Merit Assemblies were held for Years 7-12.
Thank you goes to Mr Leyshon for the assemblies running smoothly and providing opportunities for the wonderfully talented Music students to perform.

I was able to provide a variety of quality performances on Guitar, Piano and Vocals.
The following students in years 10 and 11 did an excellent job on the day:-

Amira Abdul Latif
I’a Paipa
David Tangulu
Wilbert Matai
Joseph Ay-You
Jackson Matthews
Junior Mohr
Daniel Tangulu
Ignatius Ay-You
Paige Anton

Thank you to all these students and a special thank you must go to the boys vocal group with their new and very unique performance of the National Anthem.

Mrs Allison Watson
MHS Music Department

Jams and Preserves for Sale
For all inquires regarding jams, relishes, chutneys, pickles and more, please come to 278-280 Main Road, Fennell Bay on Wednesday or Friday during 12-5pm, call 0414 216 030 or email mumsiana@gmail.com. Products do not contain artificial food colourings. Proceeds help support the Southlakes Refuge.
Help our Koalas

Bricks @ the Bay
The 3rd Annual Tomaree Brick Display
It’s on again!!

Saturday, 13th April & Sunday 14th April * 10am - 4pm
Special Evening session Saturday 13th * 7pm - 8pm
Visitors & Locals All Welcome * $10 per family
At Tomaree Education Centre MPC
Salamander Way, Salamander Bay

All profits go to Hunter Koala Preservation Society

Lots of displays for boys & girls  Matchbox Collection
Free Play Area  Lego for Sale
Lions Club BBQ  Action Club Refreshment

www.baybrick.com.au for more info
JUNIOR SUPPORT CLASS

We have had a fantastic term in Junior Support. We welcomed new student Tristan in Year 8 recently and we have all settled into a good routine. Our theme of study at the moment is “Water” and we are focusing on the Water Cycle conducting experiments and having field trips to widen our appreciation of this precious commodity. This year is the United Nations Year of Water Cooperation and we feel that anything we can do to raise awareness and support of the 780 million people who lack access to clean drinking water and the 3.4 million who die each year due to water disease, is very worthwhile.

We had a day exploring Dora Creek and have visited the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery to immerse ourselves in the Bungaree First Australian and Water Stories project. Mr Grace, Mrs Archibald and Aboriginal students from Year 7 and 9 came with us on the day and we had a fantastic day together. To add a practical element to our studies we have also decided to raise money through our fortnightly Q6 Café towards Life Straw Australia. We combined with the SRC to hold a bake day sale to add to these funds. With the help of the SRC bakers and our class efforts we were able to raise $355 on the day. We are very grateful to all the students and staff who supported us on the day. By the end of the term we hope to be able to top the $400 mark.