



An Independent Public School

## Morawa District High School

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 6, September 2017

### EVENTS COMING UP

10 October  
Students start term 3

24 October  
Graduation Dinner

25 October  
Graduation Assembly

28 October  
Band Spectacular

10 November  
Primary Assembly

Like us on Facebook  
Morawa District High School

Our school community was saddened by the passing of school gardener Henri Van Der Berg (Harry) after a short illness. Harry recently retired from our school and we would like to extend our sincerest condolences to his family. We believe he was the oldest school gardener in public school education at the grand old age of 92 years. It proves you are never too old, as long as you have the passion and drive to make a contribution. Our thoughts are with his family during this time.



## Morawa Students Catapult into STEM

The school's Old Library became a firing range last week when an Aspire UWA team arrived to encourage our students to consider university as part of their future.

In a STEM activity (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) called "Angry Parabolas", the team instructed Year 7 to 10 students on how to use catapults to explore quadratic equations.

The students used different sorts of projectiles and varied launch points to observe and measure trajectories. Once they had measured and recorded their results, they used a video physics app to track the path of the projectile and then draw up a sketch of its flight path.

The catapult experiments were among a range of activities offered to students from Year 2 to Year 12. Upper School students in both ATAR and non-ATAR students had the opportunity to connect their career goals with tertiary courses and Year 10s discussed the importance of subject selection.

Some of our younger students took part in an interactive, fun board game in which they had to make decisions as they encountered events on their journey towards the future.



Watched by Aspire UWA Coordinator Sasha Peppinck, Bailey Campbell prepares to fire his Catapult...

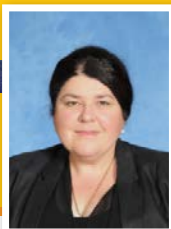
Others worked on jigsaw puzzle cartoon maps of the university campus, searched for interesting details and drew ideas about what they wanted to do in the future.

Aspire UWA has been one of our educational partners for several years now and gives our Year 9 and Year 11 students the opportunity to stay in Perth and spend time on the campus. The organisation also hosts visits and meals for Morawa District High School student groups when they are in Perth for events such as the District High Country Week sports competitions.



Year 7 to 10 Students busy measuring catapult trajectories...

*Endeavour & Achieve*



Tonia Carslake

## From the Principal

### Success for all students:

#### Academic Achievement

The 2017 NAPLAN data has now been made available to our school and a preliminary analysis suggests we have many reasons to celebrate. Once we have assessed the data we will begin the process of reviewing our targets to plan for future school improvement and develop plans of action for 2018. Part of this process will require teaching staff to identify improvement targets and develop case management plans for individual students during whole school planning sessions.

**OLNA testing** for students in Years 10-12 will be completed by the end of term; and **On-entry assessments** and **PIPS** testing will begin early next term. Staff will begin reviewing the results and collected data to determine whether we have met our targets, and to put in place personalised learning plans to meet the individual needs of students. **Senior school students** are now preparing for their final exams and we would like to wish them every success.

### Success for all students:

#### Non-academic Achievement

We aim to get all students at school to attend for 90% (or better) of the time. This is what is classified as **‘regular’ attendance**. Attendance goals have been challenged this term as a result of illnesses, and, as a result, there have been many “unexplained absences”. Please contact the school to update your child’s attendance records if you have not done so already.

At the beginning of this term we introduced a **new student behaviour tracking system** as part of our Positive Behaviour in Schools initiative. This new system closely tracks student behaviour between classes for “Level 2 behaviours” across the school. We are able to track specific behaviours more closely and put in place intervention strategies in a timely manner. This initiative aligns with the information sent home to parents in Term 2 and has already shown signs of success.

As part of our **2018 Year 7 Transition** program, we have extended invitations to all students in Year 6 - including those from surrounding towns such as Perenjori, Three Springs and Yalgoo (there are no Year 6 students at Mingenew) - to experience a day in the life of a high school student on Wednesday 20 September. The students will also have the opportunity to enjoy a further two days at school on 26 and 27 October (including a sleepover). We are looking forward to seeing all Year 6 students, both current and new, in our secondary school setting.

We welcomed the school community into our school recently to celebrate **Open Night** which highlighted the many wonderful opportunities offered to our students.

The evening was very successful and we ask for your feedback to make improvements for next year. Parents are now invited to contact teachers to discuss their child’s progress if they were unable to attend the evening.

### High Quality Teaching:

During this term we have welcomed **CQ University** (Geraldton Universities Centre) Early Childhood Education pre-service teacher Miss Makeeli Watt into the Pre-primary – Year 1 classroom. We also provided two **University of Western Australia** pre-service teachers, Miss Katherine Hobbs and Miss Alexandra Desebrock, with the opportunity to complete their Interventions for Learning with students in Years 4-6. It was wonderful to host them and we hope that they enjoyed their time at our school.

### Effective Leadership:

During Terms 2 and 3, school leaders participated in the **‘Leading School Improvement: the unrelenting focus on learning’** professional learning program. The program involved attending four modules in Geraldton, designed to drive school improvement. It proved to be a most valuable experience and we have already implemented a number of plans to improve outcomes for students as a result of our participation. At present we are in the process of developing a school improvement plan for monitoring and reporting against key strategies as outlined in the Business Plan. **Our School Development Day** next term will focus on data analysis, as well as an alignment of school operational plans to the Business Plan.

The **National School Opinion Survey** for parents, students and staff has been launched and will close on Friday 13 October, 2017. All parents have been notified by email. Please contact the school office if you do not have electronic access to the survey.

We have also sought **feedback** from our school community in regards to the following:

- Athletics carnivals
- Electronic communication
- End of year awards
- Open Night

Please contact our school office or provide your email contact details if you have not yet received a copy of these surveys.



Mrs Debra Letton with her daughter Megan at our 2017 Open Night



## From the Principal cont.

### Strong Governance and Support:

Parents have been advised of the reduced operating hours of the P&C managed **school canteen**. The canteen now opens on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, starting from Monday 11 September. This has been deemed necessary for financial reasons.

We are eager to hear from parents to ensure school information is being received now that we have made the move to **electronic communication**.

Recently, we have been developing new partnerships with the following organisations in an effort to improve student achievement:

The **North Midlands Project** which is developing a Learning Hub for schools in the Mid West.

The **Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre Midwest** which is currently working in partnership with the school to provide career guidance and information to our Year 10, 11 and 12 students.

We would like to thank **Ngala** for presenting two very helpful workshops to parents of students aged between 4 - 8 years and 10 - 15 years at our school library on September 7. We hope the organisation is able to present further sessions to interested parents soon.

There have been many school highlights through the term and we hope this newsletter gives everyone a chance to reflect on some of them. Please take a look at our Facebook page for more up-to-date information in relation to school events and initiatives. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to welcoming students into the school on **Tuesday 10 October** and staff on the Monday.

Kind regards,  
Tracy Tapscott



Class act ...



Future students...



Proud as ...



Head student Kyrilee Whitmore prepares for the ping pong competition .

## On the blackboard

Child not at school?

Send text message to 0409 084 813  
or phone 9971 0900

An explanation is required for EVERY day  
your child is absent.

### PICKING YOUR CHILD UP EARLY

If you are picking your child up early, you must collect them from the front office and sign them out. It is not permitted for students to meet their parents in the car park and leave the school grounds.

### Attendance Winners!

Term 3

\$20 Vouchers

Kelsey Fraser

Megan Letton

Nellie Humphreys

Alexandra Whitehurst

Tarl Parker

Dustin Yewers

Carly Ballantyne

Jaxon Carpenter

Isabella Tomlinson

Keagan Burnett

## P&C News

**CANTEEN** - As of 11 September the Canteen will have new hours.

MON	-	CLOSED
TUES	-	8.30AM - 1.00PM
WED	-	CLOSED
THURS	-	8.30AM - 1.00PM
FRI	-	8.30AM - 1.00PM

A new menu will be available soon!

## A Primary Focus

### So what has been happening in Weeks 5 -10?

In Week 6 we celebrated Book Week and Literacy & Numeracy Week. In Numeracy, classes were given daily maths problems to solve. The winner for the Year 4s to 6s, with the most points accumulated over the week, was Isabella Tomlinson. There was no overall winner for Pre-primary to Year 3 but a special mention was made of all the students in the Year 2/3 class and the P/1 class, for their enthusiasm in solving the problems.

We held our annual Dress Up day at the end of Book Week, where students and staff came dressed as a book character. It was fantastic to see so many more in costume this year and the judges had a difficult time choosing the best dressed and most original costumes. A big thank you to the parents for their wonderful support of this event.

E-mentoring has begun this term, with a select number of students from Yr 5 – Yr 7 participating in a mentoring session once a week with students from UWA. This is held in the library for an hour every Tuesday for 7 weeks. This will continue up to and including Week 3 next term.

Our students enjoyed two incursions in Week 8. We were thoroughly entertained by 'Dinosaur Science' where we learnt about different species of dinosaur and where students were actively involved in assembling the bones of two huge pre-historic creatures. Musica Viva was another entertaining event thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Thursday 7th September the Year 5/6 class were lucky enough to be involved in a Health Department initiative about eating healthy fruit and vegetables. They even made a smoothie by using a bike-powered blender.

Of course, Open Night was a highlight of this term. Students were given the opportunity to share the work they have been doing over the term. I hope many parents got the chance to visit the classrooms and view their children's work.

Term 4 will surely be another very busy term. Please ensure your children are prepared and have all the necessary stationery to begin.

Head lice continues to be a problem, so over the break would all parents please check your children's hair for lice and treat accordingly. A reminder that it takes more than one treatment to get rid of head lice. Hair has to be combed daily with a nit comb to get rid of the eggs and break the cycle. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

I wish everyone a wonderful break and look forward to working with everyone again in Term 4.  
Mrs W.Glassford-Hill  
Primary Deputy

## Secondary Matters



**Navigating the Future** A group of Year 10, 11 and 12 students travelled to Geraldton last week to engage in an Aboriginal Youth Transitions Program designed to help young people make a successful transition from school to work or further study. The students were hosted by the Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre and visited the Batavia Coast Maritime Institute, the Geraldton Universities Centre and Central Regional TAFE where they took part in NAIDOC Week celebrations. Highlights of the excursion included hearing from the 2016 Central Regional TAFE Aboriginal Student of the Year, Heidi Rosenthal, and enjoying traditional bush tucker. Student Services Officer Miss Lee Jones, who accompanied the students on the trip along with Aboriginal Education Assistant Marrikka Hill, said she hoped that the students would realise the great opportunities they had to navigate their way into the future. "It would also be great if parents could become more aware about opportunities for their children," she said.

**OLNA** (Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessments) Year 10, 11 and 12 students who need to meet the WA Certificate of Education graduation requirements through OLNA activities completed the September round of testing activities this week. Students are to be commended for their efforts and we are looking forward to getting pleasing results next month. Year 10 and 11 students who do not pass the tests will be able to demonstrate the required reading, writing and numeracy standards in 2018.

**Tug-of-war** Congratulations to all students and staff members who took part in the staff-student tug-of-war. The student team was invited to morning tea in the staff room to celebrate the event and had to clean up at the end because they had "let the staff win"!

**From the Past** Former MDHS Visual Arts ATAR student Charlotte Dohnt contacted Mrs Inbaseelan this week to let her know that she is now in her second year of training at a Brisbane university as, wait for it, Visual Arts teacher!

**To the Future** Year 12 student Molly Traylen-Witt, who is completing a Certificate II in Business Studies as part of her School Based Traineeship with Imerys Talc Australia Pty Ltd in Three Springs has been offered an on-going position in the company when she finishes school. Congratulations, Molly!

Sarah Baden-Powell and Mike McGann,  
Secondary Deputies



## 2017 INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS - JURIE

### Record Breakers

High Jump Open Boys - Henry Little 1.72.5m

100m Boys Open - Henry Little 12.04sec

Discus Open Girls - Taylor King 23.84m

Discus Yr 7 Girls - Adriana Clayton 18.06m

### Champions

Yr 3 Girls - Sophie Collins

Yr 7 Girls - Adriana Clayton

Yr 9 Girls - Hayley Clayton

Open Boys - Henry Little

### Runner ups

Yr 8 Boys - Matthew Bickford

Congratulations to all students who participated on the day, it was a wonderful effort by everyone!



Sophie Collins



Samantha Councillor



Samantha Councillor, Taylor King, Jerri-Lee Clayton & Hayley Clayton



Carly Ballantyne



Hayley Clayton



**October 2nd– October 3rd 2017**

*Morawa Youth Centre School Holiday Program*

Rose Fox Studios will be presenting a three day workshop on Film Making! Come along and learn the basics, creating a film and have

**FUN!**



Contact Shire: Marie or Ellie for more information or to register your interest on 0457 040 867 or 9971 1204



## OPEN NIGHT 2017

### Another successful Open Night!

Prizes won by:

Door Prize the Extreme X Camera was won by Mr Brad Porter

PBS Bee Treasure Hunt was won by Tegan Coyne

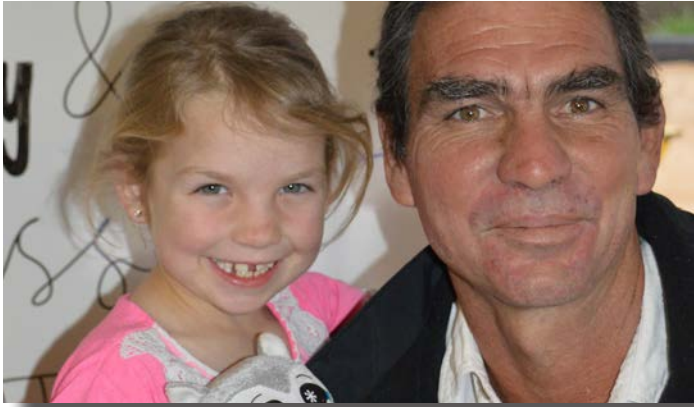
Guess the number of Jelly Beans was won by Mr Alex Haeusler

SDERA \$30 vouchers were won by

Mac Ballantyne, Cooper Baden-Powell

and Evie Chappel

SDERA \$100 voucher was won by Mrs Haylie Cosgrove





## PBS Newsletter Update Term 3

The PBS team, in collaboration with the entire MDHS staff, has been working hard this term to implement new behaviour tracking sheets. These behaviour sheets follow each cohort of students throughout the school day as they attend every class. This is to ensure consistent, fair and timely behaviour management. So far these have been well received and we look forward to seeing further improvements in student behaviour.

A big thank you to the MDHS P&C Committee for the approval of funds to have a PBS themed bookmark created and printed for distribution at the Mingnew Expo. Our bee-utiful bookmarks feature our three behaviour expectations of Respect, Responsibility and Achievement, as well as the MDHS logo and contact information. We also have a black and white colour in edition of our PBS bookmark, which we hope will be distributed amongst MDHS students.

And remember to:

Be respectful, be responsible and always aim to achieve!

## Healthy Eating in Year 5/6!

By Darcy Tynan

On Thursday, September 7 the Year 5/6 class had a visit from Tina and Liz, who work with the WA Health Department. We learnt all about what foods are good for you to stay healthy and which foods to eat in moderation. After that we went outside to do a fun activity. We had a triangle with green for good, a yellow triangle for kind of good and a red triangle for bad foods. We had magnets with pictures of food on them. We had to run up and put the food on the triangle depending on how good (or bad) the food was. After recess, we saw how much sugar was in everyday drinks. Then we made some vegetable pikelets and used a bike powered blender to mix up some banana and yoghurt milkshakes. Thank you to everyone who was involved in bringing this workshop to us!



### **BRING FRENCH, ITALIAN OR SPANISH CULTURE TO LIFE !**

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France, Italy or Spain next year? We have a small group of delightful students coming to Australia for 11 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. All the international students are around 15 or 16 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term cultural immersion stay. It's fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you'd like know more, please email your interest to ICM on [info@icm-education.com.au](mailto:info@icm-education.com.au) or call Georgie and Anja on 1800 500501, or visit our website [www.icm-education.com](http://www.icm-education.com)



An Independent Public School

RESPECT  
RESPONSIBILITY  
ACHIEVEMENT



## Musica Viva!

On Wednesday September 6 our P-8 students were treated to an engaging performance by Entourage – A Mini Australian Opera, as part of the Musica Viva in Schools program. Musica

Viva has been bringing premium quality live music to Australian schools for over 35 years.

They specialise in presenting the best small ensembles Australia has to offer – dynamic, accessible and culturally diverse groups that perform in a wide variety of music styles.

Student activities included developing rhythmic and vocal skills through group clapping and singing. They improved their knowledge of dynamics (loud, soft, crescendo and decrescendo) and practiced these while conducting their peers and the Entourage ensemble. One of the many highlights of the afternoon was the formation of a Morawa DHS percussion orchestra of about 30 students.

These students performed an improvised sound scape using percussion instruments and dynamics to create an Australian thunderstorm.

## New Uniforms for Country Week 2017

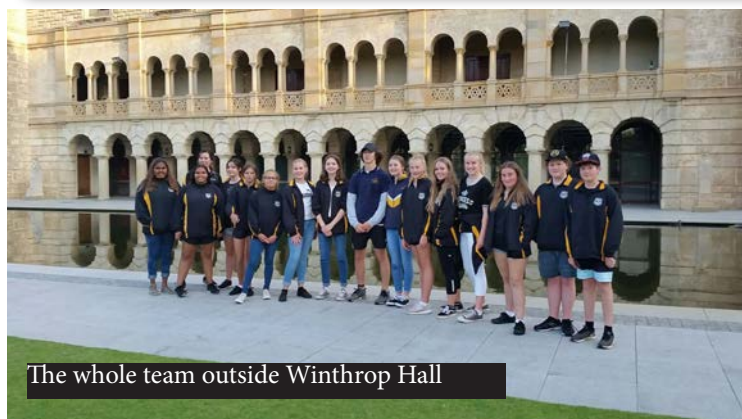
Thanks to our P&C



The girls in our awesome new netball uniforms



The hockey team in their new uniforms



The whole team outside Winthrop Hall



Destiny going for the goal!



Teagan getting ready to play!



## The day the dinosaurs came to school ...

The school's Performing Arts Centre was turned into giant jigsaw puzzle recently when primary students were asked to help piece together a replica dinosaur skeleton...



Mr Dinosaur



No bones about it...



Undivided attention...



Pre-primary/Year 1



Walking the dinosaur...  
Bella & Mrs Glassford-Hill



Caladyn Milloy &  
Rosetta Green

## Practice Makes Perfect...

Members of our Interschool Athletics Competition team were lucky enough this term to undergo a training session with Jacko Whitby, a member of the Australian Track and Field Coach Association based in Geraldton. Jacko and his assistant had the undivided attention of all students at they gave guidance and demonstrated some of the finer techniques for success in a wide range of events.



Sand landings....



Up, up & away...



Phew! Made it



Stepping up!



Levitation



In mid-air





## Staying relevant in a Digital World

by Martine Oglethorpe

*As technology continues to advance and our lives become more immersed in everything digital, the challenges faced by parents can often feel overwhelming.*

We know that the technology is here to stay and we also know the many benefits that we can reap from the digital world. There are amazing ways we can connect and collaborate, raise awareness, create, learn and share. We are also frequently made well aware of the dangers and pitfalls of this connected world. We hear often about the predators, the pornography, the paedophiles, the gaming obsessions, the screen-time addictions and the cyberbullying.

So how do we ensure that our kids are getting the very best that the technology has to offer whilst avoiding those negative elements?

One of the best ways we can do this as parents is to remain relevant. But how do we stay relevant in a world that seems to move so fast? In a world where our kids already seem to know so much?

It starts by taking the time to get to know the world your children are growing up in and work to understand the challenges they face. Because kids do face challenges and they will make mistakes. We need to ensure that those mistakes are ones they can learn from and aren't life changing.

### **Be the Wise ones**

Well they may well have a lot of knowledge when it comes to all things technical. But they are not necessarily wise like us. Now I use the word 'us' very loosely here in referring to the adult population, because anyone who has spent any time online knows there are many adults who are not wise. But generally speaking, adults have a lot more understanding of the intricacies of interactions, relationships and the complexities of human behaviours than kids do. Our kids are interacting and connecting with others in a world that is often beyond what they are developmentally and emotionally ready for. We need to help them with that.

### **Play and interact**

Sure we all love the lure of an iPad to ensure we can finish our coffee whilst its hot or get the dinner cooked uninterrupted. But if we also take the time to play and interact with our kids and their devices, we get a different perspective about what they enjoy. We get the bonus of the interactive element as well as time to bond and enjoy something together. We also put ourselves in a much better position to set relevant boundaries and help them understand those boundaries.



## Listen to others and listen to your child

If your friend's child is playing a game, has an account on social media or enjoys certain websites, then there is a good chance your child does too. Just as we would play at the park or hang out at the milk bar where our friends were when we were young, so too our kids will hang out where their mates are playing. So listen to those parents in the playground. Listen in to which popular apps and games are spoken about in the media. Listen to your child. Ask them what they like to do. Ask them about their concerns or their challenges. You may never keep up with every single app or site that your child visits, but if you have a good understanding of the ways kids are using technology and the sorts of things the technology is capable of, then you are in a much better position to help them use it safely and smartly.



## Be open and honest about what is out there

Whilst there are times we certainly lament the passing of the good old days where screens, and social media were not such an integral part of our lives, we cannot afford to be in denial about the role technology is and will continue to play in the lives of our children. So rather than shut it down and try to avoid it, we need to be ready to have conversations that we may prefer not to have. We need to know that the average age a child first sees pornography is about 11, so we should understand that this is a very real possibility for our children. So how are we going to prepare them for that?

What conversations would we need to have if we suspect this has happened? Because we do want to make sure that the education they are getting comes from us and not from the online world itself.

So seek out knowledge, interact, talk to your kids and put yourself in the best position to remain relevant to your child's world. Be the one they come to should things go wrong. Be the one they come to to share the positive experiences they have online.

Our role as parents is not to shut down the accounts and take away the screens, but rather to ensure we are giving them the skills, the understanding and the thinking to make the very best decisions every time they go online.



### Martine Oglethorpe

*Martine Oglethorpe is a speaker, counsellor and educator with a passion for building resilient kids in a digital world. Martine is available for student workshops focused on positive online behaviours, for teacher professional development on how the digital world affects what happens in the classroom and for corporate and parent information sessions.*

*For more information head to her website [themodernparent.net](http://themodernparent.net). Contact details:*

*[info@martineoglethorpe.com.au](mailto:info@martineoglethorpe.com.au)*

*[themodernparent.net](http://themodernparent.net) [facebook.com/themodernparent](https://www.facebook.com/themodernparent)*





# BENEFITS OF LEARNING A LANGUAGE



**Learning a new language is fun and exciting. It also has wonderful benefits for children at school and in life. According to research, the best time to start is early in life so, from 2018, it will be compulsory for all schools to teach a language to Year 3 students. By 2023, all students from Years 3 to 8 will learn a language.**

## **Enhances literacy skills**

Children develop a better understanding of English when they study a new language. They become more aware of grammar, conjugation and sentence structures. This helps them understand how English works, enhances their comprehension and accelerates their ability to read and write.

## **Improves memory and brain function**

Learning a language strengthens the area of the brain which is responsible for memory, speech and sensory perception. Bilingual people are better at retaining lists, sequences, names and directions. They are also more creative, perceptive and can concentrate for longer.

## **Helps develop critical thinking and problem solving skills**

Learning a language enables children to analyse information and solve problems better as they can select relevant information and ignore irrelevant or misleading information. They become more rational and objective decision makers.

## **Fosters respect and understanding of other cultures**

Learning a new language nurtures curiosity and openness in children. They become aware of new cultures, and develop a greater understanding and appreciation of other people and customs that are different to their own. As they develop their language fluency, they increase their ability to communicate across cultures and interact positively with people from other countries.

## **Improves overall performance at school**

Studies show that bilingual and multilingual children outperform other children who speak only one language. Academic results indicate this is especially true in reading, vocabulary and maths.

## **Creates employment and career opportunities**

More and more companies are seeking staff who can speak more than one language. Bilingual staff are valued for their ability to communicate in the languages of their business partners and to cross important cultural barriers.

## **Enhances travel experiences**

A person who is able to speak the language of the country they are visiting has more opportunities to enjoy the local culture. They are able to interact more with locals, interpret written information and travel with ease.

### **WHY START LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL?**

- Brain development is accelerated.
- Oral skills are developed easily.
- Sounds and rhythms of the new language are easier to pick up.
- Younger children won't speak the new language with an English accent.
- Younger children have the confidence to practise the language with other people.
- Children have more time to become proficient in the new language.

# NAIDOC WEEK 2017

In Week 10 of Term 2, our students participated in several NAIDOC Week activities. From painting the rocks in our quadrangle to immersive literacy and numeracy activities, students had many opportunities to explore Aboriginal language and culture. The theme of NAIDOC Week 2017 was 'Our Languages Matter', which shone through as our focus in all of our activities.

Our NAIDOC Week celebrations kick started with a whole school NAIDOC Assembly on the Monday of Week 10. The Welcome to Country was performed by Samantha Councillor and a very informative and moving presentation was given by Alex Whitehurst about NAIDOC week and the 2017 theme 'Our Languages Matter'.

Throughout the week our students participated in several NAIDOC themed activities. Every form class completed a daily quiz, answering questions about NAIDOC history and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, famous people and important events. The Year 7 class were our overall winners, congratulations to Mrs Solomon and her Year 7 class!

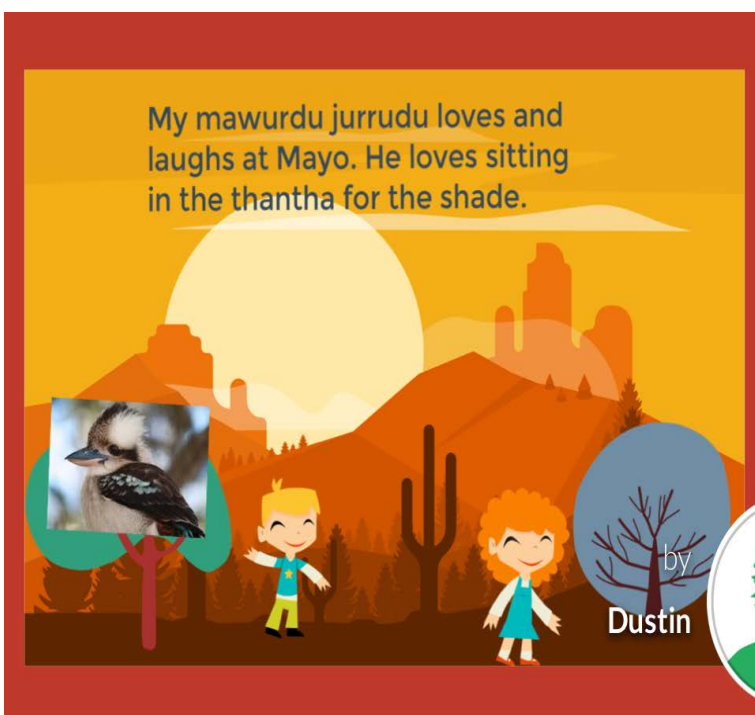
On the Tuesday of NAIDOC Week a community breakfast was held outside of the home economics room. Our community came together to enjoy a delicious bacon and egg roll for breakfast, thank you to all students, parents and community members who attended. A very big thank you to Mrs Baden-Powell for organising the NAIDOC breakfast, as well as all staff members and Teach Learn Grow tutors who helped cook our delicious food.

During the week Mrs Inbaseelan ran two different NAIDOC inspired art projects with our students. The Kindy to Year 4/5 students painted the rocks in the quadrangle with hand prints, dot paintings and Wajarri words. The Year 5/6 to Year 12 students tried their hand at basket weaving in the art room.

Thank you to Mrs Inbaseelan for organising these activities, and to Mrs Simpson and Miss Hill for assisting. In primary classrooms our focus was on Wajarri language, and students explored the local language through literacy and numeracy activities. They learnt an abundance of Wajarri words by creating a Wajarri Word Wall in the classrooms. These words were then used in literacy and numeracy activities. Some students worked on solving math problems written in Wajarri words, and others created stories using Wajarri language using classroom iPads and the My Story app.

The Kindy students were visited by some special high school students who helped them read Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories, as well as complete many NAIDOC inspired art activities. Together they produced some amazing pieces of art and all had fun sharing stories together.

Finally our NAIDOC Week celebrations concluded with a Bush Tucker Lunch on Friday. We were fortunate to have Dianne Flanigan and Pamela Brockman cook a few delicious Kangaroo dishes for us all to share. Miss Jones also cooked a yummy batch of damper to enjoy with our stew. Thank you very much for your contributions to our celebrations.





# PRIMARY STEM UPDATE

## Tornadoes in a bottle...!

On Thursday September 14 the Year 2/3, Year 4/5 and Year 5/6 students participated in a morning STEM session organised by Mr Hodgson. The students were split into their houses and completed three different activities during the session. With Miss McLay they made tornados from bottles, water and food colouring, with Mr Hodgson they made towers out of straws and sticky tape, and with Miss Smith they made parachutes from plastic bags. All students involved had a blast as they were challenged to think critically and creatively about the projects in front of them. Here is what some of the Year 4/5 students had to say about the activities:

"I think STEM is good because we learn to work as a team better and we get to make fun things. I also think STEM is good because we don't always do the same thing all the time. I think working in our house is good so we can work better in carnivals." *Liam Appleton*

"I think STEM is good because you get to make things and experiment. I like learning about how things form and building things. I think STEM is fun because the teachers teach us how to do things." *Cameron Tomlinson*

"To make the tornadoes in a bottle we needed a tornado connector, two bottles, food dye, water and some glitter. We had to poor 5 drops of food colouring into the water and then fill a bottle three quarters with the water. Next we placed the tornado connector on the bottle, connected the other bottle and then spin it over and watched what happened." *Max Knox-Atkinson*



Caladyn Milloy



Edward Quartermaine



Janetria Martin



Mac & Carly Ballantyne



Samantha Tomlinson & Jaxon Carpenter



**STEM** Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Mathematics



## News Roundup ...

*From the beginning of 2018, all Year 3 students in Western Australia will be learning a language; and by 2023, all students from Years 3-8 will also be learning a language. The Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has syllabuses available for six languages: Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian and Japanese. Our school will need to make a decision about which language we want to introduce next year. We have already established a working committee to guide the process of establishing a languages program in our school and currently have representatives from the School Board, teaching staff and parents. If you would like to be a part of this working committee, please contact the school office. Some of the many benefits of learning a language has been included elsewhere in this newsletter.*

The school is looking forward to being a part of a ACARA Digital Technologies in Focus project designed to Support implementation of Digital Technologies (2017-2018). The project is being funded through the Australian Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA). Recently, members of the school staff took part in an ACARA Digital Technologies learning webinar for schools in our hub for this project which was designed to help us -

- understand the structure of the Digital Technologies in focus (DTiF) project.
- understand the intent of the Australian Curriculum: Technologies.
- distinguish the difference between ICT Capability and the Digital Technologies curriculum.
  - identify what we want to improve in our school through the DTiF project.
- shape a project proposal for our school which reflects the curriculum implementation initiatives of our state/territory/jurisdiction; and
- enable us to feel confident about engaging staff in our school with this project.

We believe the project will provide valuable support for our digital technologies program.



Taking the strain at the end of Term 3

## Final Term 3 Assembly



Harry gets a real buzz...



Maths wizards Isabella & Cameron



And the attendance awards winners are...



"Getting house point certificates is fun..."



Aspire Uwa certificate with Mackenzie, Grace, Jerri-Lee and Miss Jones



Art Prize winners...

Photographs by Taylor King



WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT/SUN
<b>I</b>	Oct 09 Staff P.D Day	10 Students first day back	11	12	13	14/15
<b>2</b>	16	17	18	19	20	21/22
<b>3</b>	23	24 Yr 12 Graduation Dinner	25 ASPIRE School visit Graduation Assembly	26 Australian Playhouse incursion	27	28/29 Band Spectacular
<b>4</b>	30	31	Nov 01	02	03	04/05
<b>5</b>	06	07	08 Year 8 Immunisations	09	10	11/12

Grounds and Security: Parents are asked to remind students that the school grounds are out of bounds out of school hours. In the event of vandalism, please report to School Watch on 1800 177 777 or the local Police on 99 601 666.

## MORAWA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL BUSINESS PLAN 2016-18

### Vision

Morawa District High School is held in high esteem and considered as the region's high school of choice, providing a strong and sustainable education for the students, families and communities in the district.

### Mission

Morawa District High School is an Independent Public School which shares a commitment with parents and the community to provide a safe, stimulating and differentiated learning environment, encouraging all students to be fully engaged and motivated to excel.

