

Morawa District High School

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 February 2015 EVENTS COMING UP

Scitech Incursion Thur 26 February

Long Weekend 28 Feb-2 March

Interhouse Swimming Carnival Fri 13 March

Fotoworks School Photos Thu 19 March

Primary Assembly Fri 20 March

Interschool Swimming Carnival Fri 27 Mar @ Carnamah

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Tonia Carslake

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2015 academic year at Morawa DHS. We have had a fabulous start to the year welcoming around 50 new students, including our new Kindy and Year 7 and 8 intakes.

SCHOOL PRIORITIES FOR 2015

The following priorities have been set for 2015 which are consistent with our strategic plan and our ongoing commitment to the DOE Classroom First Strategy, to make every student a successful student, every teacher an effective teacher and every school a good school.

- Improving literacy and numeracy standards
- Improving health and wellbeing outcomes
- Student Attendance

TERM DATES AND PUPIL FREE DAYS

Please find below the pupil free Professional Development days [PD Days] together with the term dates for this year. These days are selected by the school in consultation with the School Board.

Professional Development Days (Pupil Free)

29 and 30 January
To Be Confirmed Term 2
20 July, Day 1, Term 3
12 October, Day 1, Term 4
18 December, last day of Term 4

Term Dates 2015

Term 1 Monday 2 February—Thursday 2 April

Term 2 Monday 20 April—Friday 3 July Term 3 Monday 20 July—Friday 25 September

Term 4 Monday 12 October—Thursday 17 December

STAFF NEWS

We welcome the following teaching staff who are new to our school this year:

Ms Narelle Atkinson - PP/Year 1 Miss Renae Guelfi - Year 1/2 Mrs Tammy Solomon - Year 7 Mr Kevin Crowley - Year 8 Form teacher, Maths and D & T Mr Alistair Duncanson - Year 11 Form teacher, PE and Science Mr Jim O'Connor - Secondary Maths

Mrs Kirsten Haeusler Music-Term 1. The remainder of the year is TBC.

We look forward to working with you and all staff this year.

Congratulations also to the following staff on their appointments as Year Coordinators: Miss Jessica Jongen, Primary Year Coordinator and Mrs Tammy Solomon and Ms Lee Jones, Secondary Year Coordinators.

YEAR 12 ACADEMIC RESULTS 2014

The results achieved by last year's Year 12s were very pleasing. They achieved a 100% Graduation rate and 87% attainment through a 55+ ATAR

result or the completion of a Certificate II. Students who applied for university entrance were offered a range of courses. Students are congratulated for their efforts and achievements and for making the most of their study opportunities in Morawa. We wish them all the very best for their future.

INTERHOUSE/INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVALS

The Interhouse swimming carnival has been scheduled for Week 6, Friday 13 March at the Morawa Town Pool. I look forward to your support of this event. The Interschool Carnival will be held at Carnamah on Friday 27 March.

INTERM SWIMMING WEEKS 2/3

The 2015 In-term Swimming program has been running over the last two weeks. A huge thank you to Alison Holmes, Ellen Tapscott and Jude Beattie for providing this essential educational life skill in such a fabulous program. Thank you also to the Shire of Morawa and in particular Sandy Reardon, for providing the fabulous swimming pool and facilities for our students to use.

SCHOOL BALL

The Annual MDHS and WACOAM School Ball will be held early in Term 2 on the 9 May. More information will be distributed closer to the date. I look forward to another productive and rewarding term with our students.

Kind regards Mrs Tonia Carslake



The following pages have reminders of school procedures. Please take the time to read through some of the expectations with your children. Class teachers will also cover expectations for students and help them to understand the rules and show respect to others at all times and behave in a safe and responsible manner. Younger children are given many reminders to help them understand the expected behaviours and routines.

MORAWA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACHIEVEMENT

School Code of Behaviour

All students and staff are guided by our school Charter which states:

- All students have the right to learn and all teachers have the right to teach free from disruption.
- All students and staff have the right to be treated courteously and with respect.
- All students and staff have the right to work in a clean and safe environment.
- All students and staff have the right to have their property cared for and respected.
- All students and staff have the right to expect all members of the school community to abide by the Department of Education regulations.

In Classrooms

Responsible and respectful behaviour is expected.

Language used at school must be socially acceptable.

Follow the instructions of all staff. Students are permitted in rooms only when a staff member is present. Students are expected to follow the class code of conduct.

After entering the classroom in the morning, students must not leave without permission from their teacher. Students are expected to meet the school dress code and wear broad brimmed hat where available. Sun Smart and Dress policies are available online at our website http://morawadistricthighschool.com/

- · Play in designated areas.
- Use all playground and sporting equipment appropriately.
- Play non contact games (no tackling etc in football, this is explained to children) for safety reasons
- Walk on verandas, Undercover areas and other paved or concrete surfaces.
- Students riding bikes, scooters etc. to school must wear helmets. It is recommended that all students under ten do not ride bicycles unsupervised. Please ensure bicycles and scooters are walked around the school grounds. A bike shed is provided for bikes and a scooter rack for scooters—no responsibility will be taken for bicycles or scooters left behind after school. Locking chains

are recommended.

- Treat all school property with care.
- Any items of personal property brought to school are at students' own risk. Items taken from student bags are not covered by insurance. Valuables should be left at home.

FOOD AND CANTEEN

- At the canteen orderly queuing is required.
- Lunches are to be ordered between 8:30 and 8:40am.
- Eat only in designated area.
- · Remain seated until dismissed.
- Place rubbish in bins after being dismissed.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

A Behaviour Management Policy operates in this school and is available on our website. Our aim is to have a positive approach to behaviour management by encouraging and praising good behaviour and work. The basis of the policy is that all students will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Parents will be advised if there are serious breaches of the School Code of Behaviour.

ANTI- BULLYING

Morawa District High School seeks to affirm each child's worth and dignity. Bullying strikes at the core of those values and prevents students developing their full potential. Bullying can take a number of forms - physical, verbal, social and psychological. The school strongly opposes bullying in all its forms. Please inform teachers and/or administration if your child is experiencing bullying so measures can be put in place to stop or prevent it from occurring. Students will be taught explicit social skills to do with resiliency and anti-bullying during health and pastoral care lessons.

ATTENDANCE, ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We hope to see continued positive attendance in 2015. Students who are regular attenders with over 90% will be placed in a raffle draw each term to win vouchers and receive passport points. Going to school every day does really matter. Teachers plan programs in a sequence so children can build on skills and activities from one day to the next. Attendance is compulsory for all students from Pre-Primary to Year 12. It is a legal

requirement that all absences are explained. Once absentees have been completed by class teachers, parents will receive an SMS message from the school informing them that a child is absent without reason. If your child is absent, please inform the school office of the reason in person, by telephone, in writing or by text. If your child is late, please ask your child to get a late note from the school office.

Students are expected to arrive at school between 8:30 and 8:40am. If students arrive before 8:30am they must immediately sit in the administration quadrangle and wait quietly until dismissed at 8:30am. Students are not to take their bags to class or order their lunch during this time. Students who arrive late (after 8.40am) must go to the office for a 'late note' before going to class. All lateness of any time is recorded in the record keeping and continued lateness will be discussed with parents. Students may only leave the school grounds during the day if they have been collected by a parent/guardian who has signed them out at the front office prior to collecting them from class. Teachers will not let children go without a sign out slip from the office. Teachers open classrooms at 8:30am to enable students to prepare for the day. School finishes at 3.10pm except Wednesday (2:30pm).

PARKING

Parents are asked to exercise particular care when leaving or collecting students. Parking is provided for parents on surrounding street frontages. Parents are also able to park behind the fence at the back of the school, accessed by Prater Street. Parents are discouraged from parking outside the Performing Arts building, particularly if leaving when students are walking to get on buses – this is a potential hazard due to reversing cars. All cars using this area must reverse park.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are available from the Uniform Shop on Wed afternoons from 2.15-3.00pm. Please provide a hat for your child. Pre-Primary is the first year of compulsory uniform.

LOST PROPERTY

Please write your child's name clearly on all clothing and belongings so that they may be returned as quickly as possible. The "Lost Property" bin is located outside Room 11. Uniform items not claimed after a reasonable time will be washed and sold through the Uniform Shop or forwarded to charity.

HEAD LICE

Head lice is a frequently occurring problem in schools. It is recommended that parents check their children's hair every Friday evening so that any problems can be treated over the weekend. Health Department fact sheets are available from the school office to assist with treatment.

HEALTH CARE

The spread of infections of viral infections such as a cold or flu can be minimised if students stay home in the early stages of illness when they are most likely to spread the virus through coughing and sneezing.

Health care forms are available on our website if changes need to be made or contact the front office for a new form. Medication: Most prescribed medication can be administered at home. There are times however when medication needs to be administered at school. Before doing so, parents must complete a Health Care Form.

HOMEWORK

Homework may be set for students and can take the form of home reading, concepts to learn, practice examples, or assignments requiring the student to undertake some research. Please refer to our Homework policy on our website.

LIBRARY

Students are able to borrow books from the library once per week.
Students will need a preferably waterproof book bag to borrow books.
Lost or damaged books will incur a cost.

MOBILES PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are not to have mobile phones, ipods or iPads with them during the school day and they are discouraged from bringing them to school at all. If it is necessary for your child to bring electronics to school, they are to be switched off and taken to the front office before 8-40am where they are labelled and stored, or stored in their schoolbag at their own risk. Students may collect items after the final siren. Students in possession of, or using these items during school hours, will have them confiscated. The

item will need to be collected by the student's parent/guardian from the office at the end of the school day. If this is a reoccurring issue, parents will be contacted.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Each year the school program is greatly enriched by many volunteers, parents and family members helping out with reading groups, excursions, library work or other school functions. At the beginning of each year it is a mandatory requirement for the safety of children that all parents of children at Morawa DHS sign a confidential declaration and all non parent volunteers require a Working with Children Check. Teachers will seek your cooperation in meeting our requirements to ensure children's safety.

Visitors to the School: For security reasons, all visitors to the school must sign the Visitors Register and obtain a badge at the school office. On completion of your visit please return the badge and sign out. This is due to emergency evacuation procedures. All Departmental employees, volunteers, visitors and external providers in childrelated work must hold a Working with Children Check in accordance with Departmental regulations. Parents volunteering for school activities where they have a child enrolled at the school are exempt from having a Working with Children Check.

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.

WEBSITE

The Morawa District High School website has an events and calendar page, and on parent information pages has policies, book lists and calendars that can be downloaded. http://morawadistricthighschool.com/.

FACEBOOK

We aim to reduce the printed newsletters in 2015 to twice a term. Small items of news and updates for parents will be available on the school Facebook page at "Morawa District High School'. Please join the site if you have not already.

SCHOOL FEES 2015

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest - Benjamin Franklin

The school relies on and appreciates the contributions and charges paid by parents to assist in supplying your children with the best possible materials and resources. Student statements for Kindergarten to Year 8 will be mailed out to parent/guardians this week.

Statements for students in Year 9-12 will follow once the timetable is finalised and all students have settled into their elective subjects.

We appreciate the statements can be difficult to read so have included an explanation which we hope will assist.

HOW TO READ YOUR STATEMENT OPENING BALANCE

An amount showing here indicates either:

• An outstanding amount from a previous year. This figure will be represented as a \$0.00 amount and correspond to the amount showing in the Summary of Outstanding Amounts table at the bottom of the statement;

OR

• As a credit carried over from previous years. This figure will be represented as a - \$0.00 amount. This may be from incursion /excursion funds that were not fully expended.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

This is the amount the school, in accordance DOE policy, and with approval from the School Board and Finance Committee, asks from parents/guardians to assist with the cost of providing materials, services and facilities used by the students. These include:

- Printed and electronic materials.
- Photocopying.
- Art and craft materials.
- Design & Technology materials.
- Cooking consumables.
- Transport to and from sporting events and excursions.
- Entry to and use of premises such as the swimming pool, town oval and sporting complex.

Morawa DHS asks \$60.00 for students in K- Year 6 for the school year.

Morawa DHS asks \$235.00 for students in Year 7-10 for the school year.

CHARGES

Charges are costs that are expected to be met by parent/guardians and include:

CHARGES EXTRA COST OTIONAL COMPONENTS

These apply to Year 9 & 10 elective units such as Wood and Metal work, Ceramics and Jewellery which carry a high cost of materials, services and facility costs.

YEAR 11 & 12 COURSES

The School Education Act 1999 states that charges apply to all Year 11& 12 courses. Morawa DHS makes every endeavour to keep course costs to a minimum to ensure maximum participation.

SCHOOL OF ISOLATED & DISTANCE EDUCATION (SIDE)

Morawa DHS offers students the option to study courses that the school is unable to offer. The school is billed directly by SIDE for these courses. Parents are required to pay when enrolling students. The school charges a SIDE amenity fee of \$10.00 per subject to cover the cost to provide stationery, photocopying and equipment.

VOLUNTARY APPROVED REQUESTS

This amount includes

- P&C fees (payable per family)
- Library Contributions

OTHER OPTIONAL COSTS

These costs may include;

Camps

Incursions/Excursions

Yearbook

Graduation

OTHER ITEMS

These could include payments collected on behalf of other entities including:

P&C Uniform payments

Scholastic Book Club

Band fees

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF) PASSPORT PROGRAM

The school has been fortunate to be sponsored through the CDF Passport Program again this year. Parents/guardians are reminded that student & parent points earned can be used to pay school fees. NB: As directed by CDF at the conclusion of the school year any unredeemed points will automatically default to a students outstanding school fees.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The 10% discount offered to parents/guardians has been

extended to 27 March 2015. Please note the discount only applies to school fees not money collected for P&C membership, Library contributions or school camps etc.

Fees may be paid by the following methods:

- cheque or cash
- credit card with MasterCard or Visa
- direct deposit to the Morawa District High School Headmasters Trust Account

Bankwest

BSB: 306-024 Account Number

Cheques should be made payable to Morawa District

High School

If you would like to discuss a payment plan please call in to the school or phone the front office on 99 710 900.



In-term Swimming



Sophie Collins



Paxton and Ezra



Learning water safety



Ellen and Celyne

Our Pre-Primary to Year 7 students have been doing swimming lessons from the 11-20 Feb. which has been a great respite in this warm weather. A big thank you to our lovely pool manager, Ms Sandy Reardon and our swimming teachers, Mrs Alison Holmes, Miss Ellen Tapscott and Mrs Jude Beattie.



MRS TAMMY SOLOMON

Where did you come from?

Perenjori Primary

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Read, watch movies on Foxtel and spend time with my husband and boys.

Something people do not know about you?

I was born and raised in Fremantle and am a huge Dockers supporter.

What's your favourite dinner?

Creamy garlic prawns or anything I don't have to cook.

What do you think of Morawa so far?

Amazing facilities, great supportive staff and admin, awesome science lab.



MRS NARELLE
ATKINSON

Where did you come from?

I came from Perth.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy reading, singing and cooking.

Something people do not know about you?

I used to paint and make porcelain dolls and have won many awards for my work.

What's your favourite dinner?

Chicken Curry

What do you think of Morawa so far?

My family and I love Morawa. We feel so welcome and have met so many lovely people already.



MR KEVIN

CROWLEY

Where did you come from?

Rockhampton, Central Queensland. My wife and I are semi-retired and are Grey Nomads travelling around Australia. We have been on the road since December 2013.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Our time is spent exploring this lovely country. I like filming and editing.

Something people do not know about you?

My wife and I have 8 grandchildren with two more due in August.

What's your favourite dinner? To be safe anything that my wife cooks – but to narrow it down I love a thick juicy steak with pepper sauce and a dollop of mustard.

What do you think of Morawa so far? A very friendly town – even though we are from Central Queensland we are finding it a bit hot at the moment.



MR ALISTAIR
DUNCANSON
Where did you come
from?

Perth

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Play sports and go the beach.

Something people do not know about you?

I was born in Scotland.

What's your favourite dinner?

Spaghetti bolognese

What do you think of Morawa so far?

So far so good.



Mr James O'Connor

Where did you come from?

I came from
Melbourne where I
worked as a maths
teacher at the
Distance Education
Centre of Victoria.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I like to read, play chess and travel.

Something people do not know about you?

I am interested in using computers to make schools and teachers more effective.

What's your favourite dinner?

My favourite dinner is spaghetti.

What do you think of Morawa so far?

Morawa is a great place to live and raise a family.



MISS RENAE GUELFI

Where did you come from?

Newdegate

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Read, bake and spend time with friends.

Something people do not know about you?

I have three brothers.

What's your favourite dinner?

Mum's spaghetti bolognaise.

What do you think of Morawa so far?

Hot! But the people are friendly.

Parenting/0645 INSIGHTS



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a

sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

more on page 2





Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at **parentingideasclub.com.au**. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au





Parenting loe 45

Building parent-school partnerships

... It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school...

It takes strong parenting ...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!" Nice try. But the answer should be "No!".

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.



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Our Pre-Primary, Year 1's & 2's at work and play



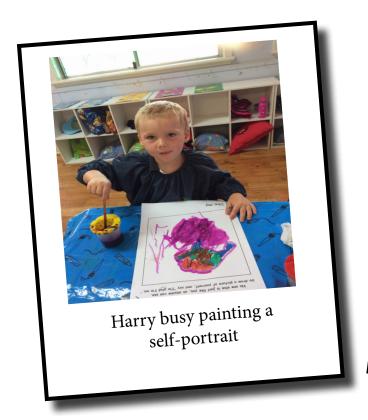




A huge congratulations to Emily Shields, a 2014 MDHS Graduating student, for being awarded a Principal's Scholarship to Curtin University.

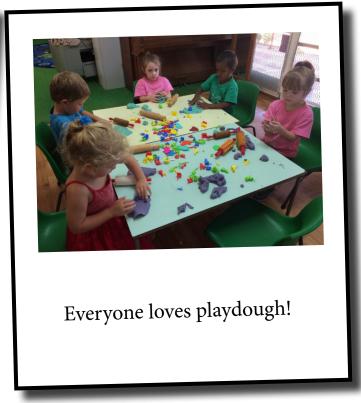
Well done, Emily.

Our New 2015 Kindy Kids









Our new kindergarten children have had a wonderful start to the year engaging in many exciting activities and getting to know their wonderful teacher, Ms Carmen Tulloch.

13/0563641

SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

YEARS 7 TO 12 YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO:

\$350

towards school expenses

DO YOU HOLD A:

- CENTRELINK HEALTH CARE CARD
- (OR) CENTRELINK PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD
- (OR) VETERANS' AFFAIRS PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD

Applications Close
Thursday 2nd April 2015

ASK SCHOOL RECEPTION FOR MORE INFORMATION

Parents/guardians with eligible concession cards with students enrolled in Years **7 to 12** studying a full-time secondary course will be able to apply for the Secondary Assistance Scheme (SAS) in 2015.

The Secondary Assistance Scheme consists of two allowances: \$235 Education Program Allowance (payment made to the school); and

\$115 Clothing Allowance (payment made either to the parent/guardian or the school).

Eligible concession cards include Centrelink Pensioner Health Benefits and Concession Card, Centrelink Family Health Benefits Card or Health Care Card or Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner Health Benefit Card.

Parent/guardians in receipt of the ABSTUDY

School fee Allowance from Centrelink are not eligible for SAS. Alternately, but they may apply for the ABSTUDY Supplement Allowance. For further information please visit the Centrelink website: www.centrelink.gov.

Applications close Thursday 2 April 2015. Please contact the Registrar, Linda Jenkins to complete forms or further information on 99710900.



The Shire of Morawa has received a grant from Keep Australia Beautiful to run a Litter Prevention project in school during Term 1 § 2. This involves students working on litter preventíon slogans & ímages duríng their art classes. Students will then be transferring these images and slogans onto 12 wheelie bins which will be placed around town. The students will be using aerosols for this project. All participants will be supplied with the appropriate protective gear incl. gloves and masks which they will be required to wear throughout the process of spray painting the bins. A huge thank you to Mrs Sally Hoad for securing this grant and Mrs Veni Inbaseelan facilitating and teaching this project. If you have any questions about the activity or are concerned about the use of aerosols please don't hesitate to contact the School Principal, Mrs Tonia Carslake.

WEEK	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
4	Feb 23 JILL GLEESON (CRE)	24	25	26 SCITECH INCURSION	27	28/Mar 1
5	Mar 2 LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND	3	4	5	6	7/8
6	9	10	11	12	13 INTER- HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL	14/15
7	16	17	18	19 SCHOOL PHOTO DAY	20 PRIMARY ASSEMBLY	21/22

Phone: (08)9971 0900 Fax: (08)9971 1358 Email: morawa.DHS@education.wa.edu.au Office hours: 8.30am - 3.30pm