



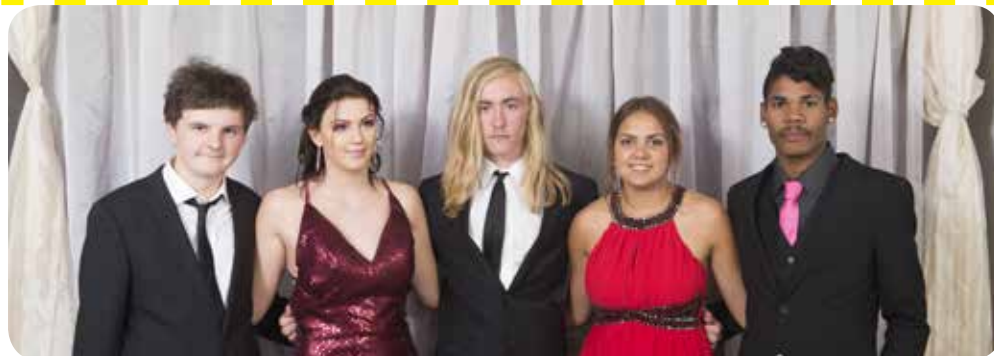
*An Independent Public School*

Morawa District High School

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, May 2018

## Glamour, Glitz and Gatsby at 2018 Ball



District High Year 12 students at the Gatsby Ball: Shaun-Michael Harwood, Grace Moulden, Matthew Vanderschuit, Jerri-lee Clayton and Henry Little

A long walk down a red carpet sectioned off by silky red ropes on golden bollards awaited nearly 120 students when they entered the Morawa Town Hall on Saturday night, to attend The Great Gatsby Ball 2018.

Parents, relatives, younger brothers and sisters and friends crowded around the hall doors to catch sight of the ball-goers in all the fine suits and glamorous dresses that had been bought, borrowed or found at the Red Cross Op Shop to reflect the style of the wealthy classes in America in the "Roaring Twenties" featured in F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous novel.

The young men looked suddenly mature in their suits and ties while the young ladies were confident, elegant and sophisticated in the dresses, makeup, and shoes that were obviously the results of months of planning and shopping.

After being cheered into the entrance and then greeted by Mrs and Mr Carslake, the Principals of Morawa District High and the WA College of Agriculture Morawa, the students were ushered into the hall which had been lavishly decorated with fixtures, decorations, tables and chairs that had been trimmed in black, white and gold.

While long trails of tiny fairy lights and flickering table candles helped create a magic, 1920s cabaret atmosphere, the whole scene was capped off by a huge golden chandelier hanging over the seating area.

When not lining up for formal photographs or posing in zany items at the automatic photo booth, the students were either on the dance floor, talking of "serious issues" at their tables or using their mobile phones to record memories of the night.

Morawa District High's Belle and Beau of the ball were Jerri-Lee Clayton and Matthew Vanderschuit. Grace Moulden and Peter Criddle and Hayley Clayton and Henry Little were the school's "best couples" while Megan Letton and Wrey Haimona were "best dancers".

### Now we're getting really serious...!



Two giant boxes delivered to the school this week promise even more healthy mental competition for the school's chess enthusiasts.

The boxes contained giant chessmen (and women!) who were quickly liberated and conscripted into battle on the school's giant undercover chess board. We are looking forward to interesting tournaments with our new chess pieces.

### On the Sidelines ...





Tonia Carslake

## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school for Term 2. It is wonderful to be back at working with such fabulous students and staff. We have had a fabulous start. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mrs Tracy Tapscott for her fantastic work as principal over the last 12 months. Tracy has achieved so much with students and staff at Morawa District High School and with the School Board, P & C and the wider community, both strategically and operationally. I am very grateful for her support and the work she have done. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Wendy Glassford-Hill for her fabulous work as Primary Deputy during this time, and to Mrs Linda Jenkins, Mr Mike McGann and all staff for their great work during my absence. I consider myself very lucky to work with such a collection of brilliant, professional and compassionate staff and school community. Thank you, it is greatly appreciated.

Mr Greg Thorne, Regional Executive Director (RED) for the Midwest Education Region, visited Morawa District High School for his annual visit on Tuesday 8 May 2018. Mr Thorne Greg met with various staff and students as he toured the school. Mr Thorne congratulated us on creating a wonderful culture clearly evident in all classrooms. I am currently working one day per week on a project for Mr Greg Thorne. Mrs Tracy Tapscott will be Principal on these days and Mrs Wendy Glassford-Hill will be Deputy Principal. Many thanks to Tracy and Wendy for your support of this initiative.

### School Development Day and Professional Learning

The staff of Morawa District High School and the WA College of Agriculture Morawa together with members from the school boards, had a very positive and productive PD day at the start of Term 2, we reviewed our current Business Plans and started planning our next Business Planning cycle for 2019-2021. This day was facilitated by Mr Geoff Metcalf from Metcalf consulting.

Morawa District High School are striving to fulfil the vision set out in our Business Plan (2016-2018) which states:

Morawa District High School is held in high esteem and considered as the region's high school of choice providing a strong, sustainable education and future for the students, families and communities in the district. Our Business Plan identifies four school priorities:

Success for all Students, High Quality Teaching, Effective Leadership, and Strong Governance and Support. These are the key areas of the Department's strategic endeavours and will be also reflected in our Business Plan going forward.

During early close staff are engaged in a variety of Professional Learning, with Quality Teaching and Explicit Teaching remaining a focus in 2018. Staff have also attended whole school professional development on spelling, differentiated learning, Professional Learning Teams as well as a Graduate Teacher sessions on professional portfolio's.

### Success for all Students

Term 2 is a term punctuated with class assessments, NAPLAN testing and examinations. Whilst these events play a role, we need to understand that examinations and assessments are only one measure of our children. Students persistently need to strive to achieve their own individual level of brilliance and celebrate themselves as individuals. This includes caring for others, being compassionate at times of need, and find the necessary voice when others stay silent, being inclusive of all, celebrating difference, and remain cognisant that it is the quality of their character and the choices that they make that will define their talent and success.

### Morawa District High Schools Positive Behaviour Support Behaviour Expectations are Respect, Responsibility and Achievement.

I reminded students at the start of term about the importance of using good manners and how to succeed with the magic words 'please and thank you'. Please support me in reminding students about the importance of good manners. They are something used every day to show respect, make a good impression on others and to make you feel good about yourself. No matter where you are - at work, home, school, or with friends practicing good manners is important. Good manners is using words such as please and thank you, opening doors and writing thank you notes, it's about being polite, respectful and courteous and considering how others are feeling.

### ANZAC Assembly

Our annual combined Morawa DHS and WACOAM ANZAC assembly was held at the start of Term 2. This was a very moving ceremony that was well attended by many community members and organisations and MLA Shane Love, Sargent Paul Featherstone and First Class Constable Stu Wain, who delivered a moving address. Thank you to those who supported our assembly.

### School Ball – 'The Gatsby'

The annual Morawa DHS and WACOAM School Ball was held on Saturday the 26 of May in the Morawa Town Hall. It was a huge success with the hall being transformed into a 1920's "Speak Easy". Students looked fabulous in their finery and enjoyed dancing to the DJ's music, as well as a lovely supper provided by the WACOAM. Thank you to Ms Jones, Mrs Solomon and WACOAM staff for their organisation of this event.

We have a busy second half of the term with some very special events including the Public Speaking Competition for Primary students on the 18 June and Secondary students on the 19 June. This will be followed by the Interhouse Cross Country event on the 20 June. I'm looking forward to seeing you at these special events.

Kind regards

Mrs Tonia Carslake





## Primary Focus

Staff and students have been busy preparing for NAPLAN since the beginning of term and students should be congratulated on their efforts. Results will be shared with parents and students in Term 3.

Students from Years 3-6 were involved in tennis coaching at the beginning of term as part of the Sporting Schools Program. We would like to thank our coach Nick for travelling from Geraldton to work with students at our school and teaching us the skills to play tennis.

We are looking forward to the next primary assembly which will be held by students in Year 3/4. Parents are welcome to attend on Friday 8 June at 9:00am.

Primary students in Years 3-6 will also be given the opportunity to nominate for the Winter Sports Carnival at Carnamah in the final week of term in either netball or football. Further information regarding this will be forwarded to eligible students closer to the date.

Yours sincerely,  
Tracy Tapscott  
Deputy Principal

### Mathematics Focus - Primary

Morawa District High School has a whole school approach to teaching mathematics. This enables students to develop an increasingly sophisticated and refined mathematical understanding, fluency, logical reasoning, analytical thought and problem solving. These capabilities enable students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations by employing mathematical strategies to make informed decisions and solve problems efficiently.

Throughout the year, we will be sharing with parents some information about the mathematical strategies we explicitly teach students and how parents can help at home. Different strategies are taught at different stages of learning across the school which include:

- Counting strategies
- Addition and subtraction strategies
- Multiplication and division strategies
- Problem solving strategies

We use the Department of Education's First Steps in Mathematics as well as Paul Swan resources to teach mathematics at our school. Dr Paul Swan has a fantastic web page located at the following link:  
<http://www.drpaulswan.com.au>.

The Department of Education provides a number of booklets and factsheets for parents in regards to activities that stimulate children's curiosity about mathematics (for students in Kindergarten to Year 2). The link for this website is as follows:

[Resources for Parents](#)

We recently completed the NAPLAN assessments and examples of Year 3 and Year 5 questions have been included in this newsletter. ACARA provides sample NAPLAN tests and answers if you are interested in the types of questions in the tests and the link is provided here.

[http://www.nap.edu.au/\\_resources/Example\\_Test\\_Numeracy\\_Y3.pdf](http://www.nap.edu.au/_resources/Example_Test_Numeracy_Y3.pdf)  
[http://www.nap.edu.au/\\_resources/Example\\_Test\\_Numeracy\\_Y5.pdf](http://www.nap.edu.au/_resources/Example_Test_Numeracy_Y5.pdf)

Part of our strategy to support mathematics in the school is inviting Teach Learn Grow, a group of university tutors who volunteer to work for a week one-to-one with students in Years 1-7. It is highly anticipated and we are extremely grateful for the fabulous experiences this gives our students. Teach Learn Grow will be visiting in the final week of this term. Morawa District High has also been involved in the e-Mentoring program which provides online interactive mentoring over 7 weeks for students in Years 5-7. Our Semester 1 program will conclude soon and recommence in Semester 2.


For any further information in regards to the progress of your child in any learning area, please arrange to meet with their teacher by contacting the school office.

### Year 3 NAPLAN examples

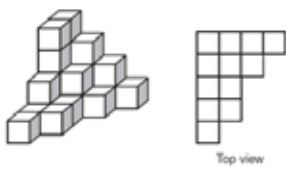
21 These biscuits are sold in packets of 10. Shelley wants to give one biscuit to each of her 27 classmates. What is the **least** number of packets that Shelley needs?

1      2      3      4

☐      ☐      ☐      ☐



33 Greg made this solid object by stacking cubes.



Top view

How many cubes are in Greg's object altogether?

### Year 5 NAPLAN examples

8 Which one of these has the same value as  $12 \times 3$ ?

$10 + 3 + 2$        $10 \times 3 + 2$        $10 \times 3 + 3$        $10 \times 3 + 6$

☐      ☐      ☐      ☐

38 The sum of the opposite faces of a standard six-sided dice is always 7. Hannah rolls three dice. The sum of the top faces is 11. What is the sum of the three opposite faces?

## Secondary Matters

Testing, Testing ...

Year 12 students completed Secondary Curriculum Standards Authority tests in all of their WACE subjects recently and are eagerly waiting their final results. The tests were marked by their teachers before being sent off to the authority to a marking team in Perth who mark papers from throughout the State. The team's results will be sent back to schools early in Term 3 to help ensure that marking standards are comparable.

### Semester 1 Examinations

Students in Year 7 to 10 will sit their First Semester exams in English, Mathematics, Humanities and Social Sciences and Science over the next week. Parents can help their students prepare for the exams by making sure they have taken time to review their notes and practice their problem-solving skills. Year 11 students enrolled through SIDE in ATAR subjects have been sitting their exams this week. Other ATAR exams will be held from Tuesday.

### Public Speaking Competition

All high school students will have the opportunity to complete in this year's public speaking competition. The students will have a practice speech in class before being selected for the finals to be held on June 19 between 10.30 and 12 noon. Trophies, medallions and certificates of commendation will be issued at the final!

### Upper School Work Packages

Teachers are providing special work packages to Upper School students who have been falling behind in their work. Parents are encouraged to ensure their students complete the packages to ensure their success this semester. The packages are particularly important for Year 12 students who need to meet graduation requirements.

### Chess

The school has taken delivery of a giant-sized chess set to be used in the undercover areas near the administration building. The slabs in the area were set up to cater for chess players but it had never been used. The new chess set was purchased after secondary students enthusiastically joined up to the school chess club which is run at lunchtime on Tuesday and Thursday. We look forward to spirited competition from our budding chess champions!

T. Michael McGann, Secondary Deputy



Thomas Appleton and Andy Mubi enjoy a lunchtime chess game.

## Working Mathematically

Secondary students have been out in the school yard recently, using their mathematic skills to measure, plot, time and estimate such things as the height of trees and flagpoles, the speed of toy cars down mini ramps, the area of quadrangles and sporting facilities and the weight and volume of equipment, tanks and containers. They have constructed their own measuring devices and used a range of alternate methods to make their calculations.

The Year 11 ATAR class—which includes students from the WA College of Agriculture Morawa—completed their rigorous study program this week and were given the rare opportunity to use their Mathematics knowledge to solve a series of complex, hands-on puzzles as a reward for their hard work.

All Upper School students have been putting in special efforts to improve their mathematics grades recently and we are looking forward to the results of their approaching examinations.



Maths in the corridor—Henry Little, Jerri-Lee Clayton and Samantha Websdale prepare to calculate the angle of slope and the distance covered by a toy car.



Year 11 ATAR Mathematics students Hannah, Sarah, Darcie and Danielle enjoy their break from exam study.



# Jerri-Lee on a Life-Changing University Camp

Year 12 student Jerri-Lee Clayton was flown to Perth recently, after being selected to take part in a Leadership Seminar through the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia.

"My week in Perth was amazing. You had all the information about courses and careers in one place and a team to help you with your future.

"I also really enjoyed meeting other students from all over the state. Learning about what they plan to do in the future made me think about my own plans. I realised that if I wanted to go to university I could.

"During my time at the university I was involved in many activities including a Bindi Bindi Dreaming Culture workshop, a visit to the old fashioned St Thomas More College, a quiz night at University Hall and a cultural dance workshop.

"We also visited the West Coast Eagles headquarters at the Domain Stadium, had dinner on a river cruise and found out about the different study areas at UWA.

"I think I learnt a lot about possible future pathways during my time in Perth and am now really looking forward to my future and what it brings.

"I hope to complete a university bridging course so that I can study Sports Science at UWA after I graduate from school this year.

"I would suggest to other students that if they have the chance to go to Perth on a trip like mine they should grab it with both hands.

"It could change their lives!"

Jerri-Lee



Jerri-lee (right) with the Principal, Mrs Tonia Carslake and Year 11 Student Councillors Danielle Letton and Darcie Parker.

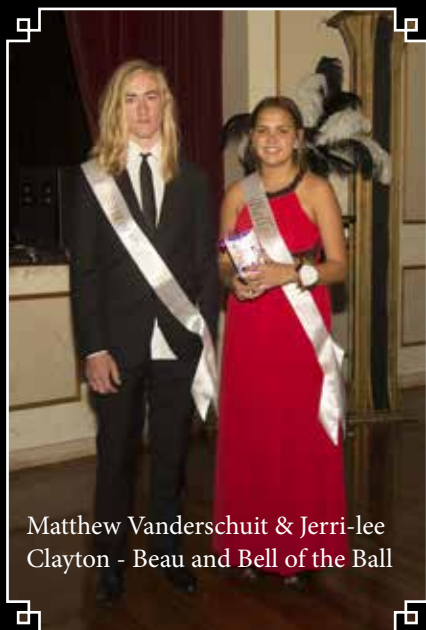
## Eagle Cup 2018

Students from years 7-10 took part in the Eagles Football Cup and Inter school Netball Cup against Carnamah and Dongara on May 23/5/2018. All students displayed great sportsmanship and teamwork on the day. Stand out players for the football were Matthew Bickford and Jacob Traylen-Witt. For the netball, the umpires choice award went to Megan Letton. Both Morawa DHS came away with two wins and the highest point totals. Congratulations to all who took part and thank you to Matthew Vanderschuit, Henry Little and Jerri-lee Clayton for umpiring.





# GATSBY



Matthew Vanderschuit & Jerri-lee Clayton - Beau and Bell of the Ball



Cody Wright & Samantha Websdale



Hayley Clayton & Henry Little



Grace Moulden & Peter Criddle



Darcie Parker & Caleb Oughton



Bailey Campbell & Ellie Vanderschuit



Tealisha Taylor, Adrianna Clayton, Hayley Clayton, Shabby Taylor & Latoya Sampi



Kaiden Smith, Keiran Egan, Corin Campbell & Darcy Tynan



# The Great Gatsby Ball 2018

Students (and some teachers!) “dressed up to the nines” on Saturday night to attend Morawa’s annual ball. This year the ball theme was inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel, *The Great Gatsby*, and celebrated the Roaring Twenties, a time of busy nightclubs, sounds of jazz music in the speakeasies and on the radio and a massive increase in the numbers of new automobiles in the crowded city streets. The town hall was magnificently decorated to suit the theme by Miss Jones and her valiant band of helpers from the District High and the WA College of Agriculture Morawa. While many of the male revellers wore clothes of the time including well-tailored pinstriped suits, silk shirts and handkerchiefs and trilby hats some of the young ladies matched the era by wearing fringed beaded flapper dresses with pleats and short skirts with a hemline above the knee – imagine that! They also wore feather boas, long strands of pearls and wore their hair cut short in a bob. The evening was a stunning success and ended when the photographer complimented the students on their behaviour throughout the night!



Casey Desmond & Stephanie Wadley



Isabella Tomlinson, Tahlia Richardson & Ariel Sauvarin



Kayla Campbell & Danielle Letton



Megan Letton & Claire Tynan



Dion Jefferies-Paterson, Wrey Haimona & Joshua Vanderschuit



Emily Beauchamp, Matthew Bickford & Delta Hawkins



Kayla Campbell, Ellie Vanderschuit, Eve Zenni, Bailey Campbell & Nellie Humphreys



## ANZAC DAY 2018

In a combined service on Friday 4 May Morawa D.H.S and W.A.C.O.A.M students and staff remembered those who had served in wars for Australia.

As Jerri-Lee, in her opening address said, "We are here today to honour all Australians who have served our country in times of war and conflict, especially the original Anzacs who landed on the shores of Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. A day to honour and remember those who have served in all wars". The day also honours those who act as peace keepers and medicos, as well and troops, in zones of conflict and distress.

Many thanks to all who made the ceremony a really special event; to Sarah Connolly for playing the last post, Jack Champromarat for attending to the flag, to Mackenzie Matthews, Shannah Kanny, Jerri-Lee Clayton in their roles as MCs; to Sophie McCaugh and Darcie Parker for their readings and finally, to First Class Constable Stuart Wain for his address.



MacKenzie Matthews, Jerri-Lee Clayton, Darcie Parker & Mr Shane Love



## Public Speaking Competition

We are once again holding our Public Speaking Competition. Students from Years 1 to 12 will participate and it is a wonderful way for them to develop confidence in speaking before an audience.

We will hold separate Primary and Secondary Finals this year and these will be held at different times, as indicated below.

(Please note: Change of date for the Primary Final. This will now be Monday 18 June instead of Wednesday 13 June as stated in the letter to parents on 24 May)

Primary Final (Years 1-6) – Week 8 Monday 18 June, 10.30-12.00 (Performing Arts Rm)

Secondary Final (Years 7-12) – Week 8 Tuesday 19 June, 10.30-12.00 (Performing Arts Rm)

The class competitions will be held before the end of Week 7. This is where all students present their speeches in their year levels. The top three speeches in each year level will go into the Final the following week. There will be a trophy for each winner and medallions for the other finalists.

There is a slightly different slant on what we expect for speeches this year. Students will not be giving a report and showing pictures/powerpoints etc, they will just be using their voices to persuade/express opinions and/or ideas.

In the past, we have heard some excellent speeches from our students and we encourage and welcome all parents to the Finals.





## Tennis Coaching 2018

Students were abuzz when Years 3 to 6 had the opportunity to take part in two tennis coaching sessions with coach Nick from Batavia Tennis Coaching this term. In Week 1 and 2 students enjoyed an hour each week by practising their hand-eye coordination, fitness games and learning how to hit correctly. Please refer to the pamphlets sent home with students regarding information about receiving their Hotshots T-shirt.



## School Veggie Garden

The Year 5/6 class have been planting and transplanting the school's herb and veggie gardens these last few weeks. Under the tutelage of the highly knowledgeable Mrs Bond, they have planted peas, shallots and lettuce, and learnt about how things grow. They look forward to seeing how their plants fare as we move into winter. Thank you to Mrs Bond for all the time you have spent towards this project.



## Contribution & Charges

Student statements outlining any outstanding contribution and charge requests will be posted home with reports at the end of this term. Our thanks to parents and caregivers who have already settled student accounts, your support is appreciated and the funds collected do make a difference in the classrooms.

Please be reminded that charges are compulsory for all Year 11 & 12 courses and payment is expected. If you would like to organise a payment plan, please contact the Manager of Corporate Services Linda Jenkins, on 99710900.

### Capital Works and Programs

#### School Device Program

In 2019 NAPLAN testing will be conducted online in all schools. To assist schools to transition, the School Device Program is targeting funds to schools based on enrolment data. Morawa DHS will receive a total of \$10, 173.00. The funds will be used to purchase: 10 Notebook computers and a carrier 10 charging station.

#### Universal Access toilet

To complete the school upgrade to provide access to all students a new universal access toilet/bathroom was delivered and installed during the school holidays.

#### Ceilings

A routine maintenance inspection by the Department of Education identified that the ceilings in Rooms 19 & 20 needed to be replaced. Geraldton Building Services and Carpentry are on schedule to complete the work early next week.

#### TCCCP Phone System

The Department of Education has begun a roll out of a new wireless based phone system to all schools in Western Australia. Our school was migrated to the new system during the week. When we are advised that the new system is fully functional, the old phone lines and numbers will be phased out. The school will send out information to all parents and guardians with updated phone numbers

#### School Funded Classroom refurbishments

The Finance Committee in conjuncture with the Buildings and Grounds Committee have approved the strategic use of school reserve funds to carry out a number of classroom and grounds upgrades across the school. These include:

##### Roller Blinds & Carpet Tiles

All Décor will be in the school following the long weekend to install roller blinds and carpet tiles. Roller blinds will be installed in computer rooms 5, 6 and the English room. Carpet tiles will be laid in the performing Arts room and rooms 2 and 3.

##### Around the Grounds

There a number of projects underway including; the revegetation of all garden beds, the upgrade of the reticulation system, and the roll out of new turf at the front of the school. We look forward to keeping you updated through Facebook and future newsletters as the works progress.



## MATHS



Students in Year 3/4 have been tantalising their tastebuds sorting cookies into the equivalent fraction jars. Students used this activity to activate their prior knowledge of equivalent fractions before leaping into locating fractions on number lines.



Rotational Symmetry by Jamarah Walley

"The symmetry game was fun. One person picked a shape and put it down in the hula hoop. What the rest of us had to do was copy the way they placed their shape so that it rotated. This was a good way to learn about rotational symmetry. We found out later that we made the shape of a girl by accident!"



The Year 1/2 class are learning about how to tell the time to the quarter hour. We have been playing a fun game called roll and read the time. Students roll a dice and find the number down the side of the page. They then have to say what the time is on the clock. If they get it right, they put a counter on the clock.



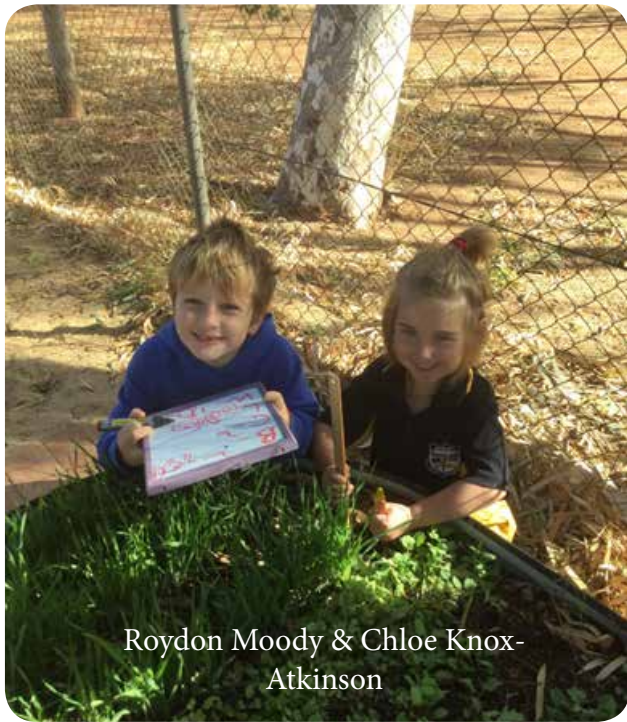
We are growing our own wheat, barley, canola and lupin crops in K-PP. They were planted on the 2nd May, and had sprouted within 2 days.

In measurement and geometry, we have been using formal and informal measurements to measure the length of each plant.

As of week 5, barley is the tallest!

We just need to make sure Slinky (our pet lamb) doesn't eat our crop!

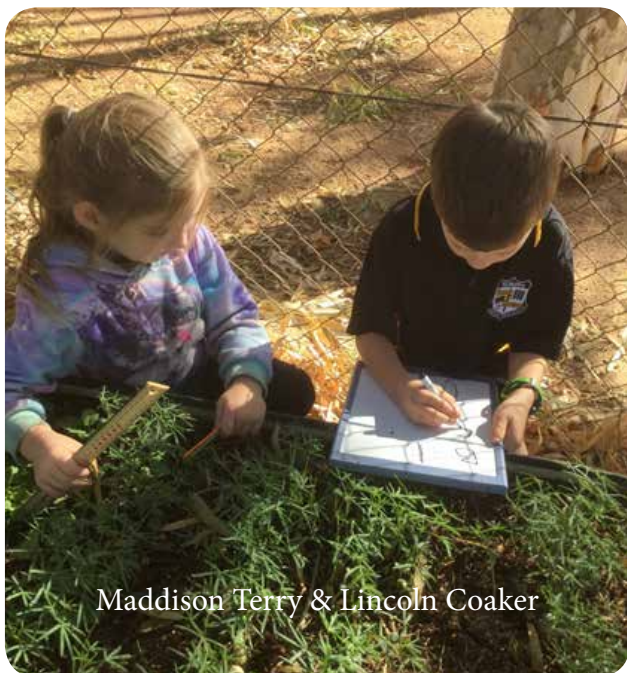




Roydon Moody & Chloe Knox-Atkinson



Roseanne Williams & Anlaby Milloy



Maddison Terry & Lincoln Coaker

## On the blackboard

### ATTENDANCE REWARD TERM 1 PRIMARY

100% attendance Term 1 - \$ 20

Newsagent vouchers went to:

Paxton Denham Yr 4

Anlaby Milloy PP

Jamie Cosgrove Yr 5

Harvey Andrews Yr 1

Mikylah Hughes PP

## From the P & C

### Morawa DHS Band Committee Cake Stall

Thanks to everyone who supported our Mother's Day cake stall fundraiser for the school band on Saturday 12th May. We raised a whopping \$ 984.00. Our raffle winners were Mrs Gronow, Narelle Knox-Atkinson, Kateland Jury, Jenny Whitmore, Kevin Beattie & Ellie Cuthbert. An awesome effort!

Thankyou

## A little bit of history...

Excerpt from History of the Morawa Schools 1923-1984

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### THE HISTORY OF MUSIC AT MORAWA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Some early records of the development of music in Morawa concern the purchase of a piano in 1938 for £50 from Thomsons Ltd. A list of names attached to a loan account probably enabled the purchase to take place.

In August of 1941 a five valve dual wave mantle model wireless was purchased. The School Band began when Mr. Dick Sasse the bandmaster of the Morawa Town Band and Mr. Sam Maher met in July 1962. To supply new recruits for the Town Band, Sam Maher suggested that Dick Sasse form a school band.

Mr. Ross Latham the headmaster was enthusiastic. Ross Latham contacted Mr. Edgar Nottage the Schools Superintendent of Music to get departmental approval.

Soon after that, Mr. Nottages deputy Miss Frankel visited Morawa and discussed ways and means with Dick Sasse and Ross Latham. As a result of this meeting, Ken Davis, a trumpet player and teacher within the school was asked to organise the school band. He used eight very old brass instruments belonging to the Town Band. These were found lying idle in the Masonic Hall which was his classroom. Being an ex-Salvation Army player he commenced to teach a few children but was transferred the following year to be a bandmaster in Denmark.

Miss Frankel during this early time undertook to make Mr. Sam Mahers services available. He was at the time State School Brass Supervisor and great improvements occurred under his guidance. He was a very able player and an excellent teacher and a splendid bandmaster. It was regretful when through lack of teacher training his services were no longer required by the Education Department.

Miss Frankel tried to keep a flow of teachers who could teach brass coming to Morawa. Mr. Davis was replaced by Mr. Maughan who continued to persevere with old instruments. Also Dick Sasse assisted in the loan of instruments, music and music stands.

In about September 1962 the school band got going. Some of the early players were Bingo Osborne, Richard Sasse, Brenda Barnes, Les Young, Kevin Franklin, Graham Paech and others.

In 1963 quite a few more came into the band. Mr. Sasse recalls some of these students as being Rodney Madden, Kingsley Barnes, Michael Sasse, Michael Glendinning.

By 1964 the headmasters journal reported that the bands standard now enabled them perform at assemblies and sports days. The journal went on "I consider that the excellent tone now detectable in this school since June has resulted very largely from the influence of the school band."

It became evident that the instruments weren't adequate and at the beginning of 1965 a P.&C. committee was formed to raise money and decide what instruments to buy.

The first band committee consisted of Dick Sasse (Chairman), Mr. Ward of the National Bank as Secretary, Mr. Reg Tubby and Mr. Bill North (Town Band) with Mr. Stan Glassford and Mr. John Broad of the P.&C.

About £1000.00 was raised and the balance of £1500 came through a loan from The Morawa Shire Council. Twenty four instruments were purchased from Bossey and Hawkes in England. This was only about half the retail price in Australia. The instruments arrived in



Spring of 1965 and the original band committee having served its major purpose lapsed.

Mr. Maughan left and Mr. Pollard arrived to begin work in 1966. He writes that he had come at the request of the Education Department's superintendent of music Mr. E. Nottage. Bandmasters were difficult to find. "This was evident from the fact that I had never had a music lesson and although I had learnt to play a piano and guitar by ear I could not read music. Thus began my four years as bandmaster at this school."

Mr. Pollard mentions the band progressed quite well during the first two years and a large set of percussion instruments were purchased as well as more brass instruments.

Mr. Pollard wanted continuity and started a "beginners group". He also realized future progress of the band depended upon more organization and finance. A new P.&C. committee was formed consisting of Ron Olden (President 1968), Pat Milloy (Secretary), Trevor Way (Cropping Programme), Dick Sasse (Town Bandmaster replaced in 1969 by Peter Jenkins), Charlie Ballard (Western Mining) and Max Tilley (President 1969).

Progress was rapid, from 21 students at the beginning of 1966 the members went to 43 in 1968.

Mr. Pollard was bandmaster for four years 1966 - 1969. He was succeeded by Mr. Les Peirce 1970, 71, 72; Mr. Bob Benton 1973, 74, 75; Mr. Roger Hey 1976, 77, 78, 79; Mr. Ric Kelly 1980 - 83 and the present bandmistress is Miss Wendy Green.

During 1971 the Morawa School Band gained first place in the A Section for Junior Bands. As well they made a tour of S.A. during the Christmas holiday period.

Many other awards have been won by the band and Headmasters Journals include letters of congratulations from Sir Charles Court and a visiting Japanese Ambassador.

Other developments in music have included Recorders. Records show 140 instruments were in use in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 1st and 2nd year high school in 1962. The teachers had to learn themselves and then instruct students. Recorder work reached a peak in 1964 with 110 students playing base treble tenor and discant recorders.

Choir work appears to have occurred intermittently with no tradition being established.

The continuing positive influence of the School Band comes through as the school and community appreciate its music.

Acknowledgement to Mr. Dick Sasse for providing much of the above material and helping me to link it together.

Betty HEITMAN.

# insights

## Talking to kids makes them smart

by Michael Grose



The links between school achievement and parents' ability to talk with kids from a young age are now well established.

The language stimulation children receive when they talk with parents is one factor. But engagement in conversation with parents benefits kids in a far broader sense. In many ways it is through conversations that kids get a real sense of us as parents. It is through talking with kids that we impart some of our knowledge, ideas, wisdom and thoughts while also gaining access to a window into their worlds and the way they think.

In the current age of digital distraction, talking with children and young people can be a challenge. Busy schedules, homes designed for individual enjoyment rather than group living, a plethora of screens competing for attention and kids that clam up at the first sign of a chat are some of the conversation blockers parents must overcome.

You need to be cunning, proactive and inventive to get some chat going at home. These are some ideas that will help.

**1. Turn screens off.** Are you competing with televisions, computers and electronic games for your kids' attention? If so, take control of the screens to create some conversational space. Start with a screen-free day each week or screen-free hour each day if you have a home full of young hard-core screen junkies.

**2. Turn screens on.** If you can't beat them, join them. Some television programs provide great conversational fodder, particularly for older children and teens. Topics can range from "Who's going to win *My Kitchen Rules*?" or "What happens to the winners of *My Kitchen Rules*?" to "What is the point of *My Kitchen Rules*?"



**3. Have regular mealtimes.** The family that eats together talks together. Meals are great social occasions – more than just refueling stops. They provide terrific opportunities for families to get together and talk. It's no coincidence that families who enjoy and appreciate food generally enjoy close relationships as well. However, for this to work it's important that meals are screen free, so turn off the television and ban phones at the table.



**4. Move more.** If sitting and chatting is not your child's thing then try to get some action happening. Boys, in particular, tend to talk more when they are playing, walking or involved in activity with an adult.

**5. Talk with kids on their own turf.** Many children will open up in the privacy of their own bedroom where they tend to feel more relaxed and secure. If you have something important to discuss then choose a comfortable place and a time that promotes good conversation.

**6. Try shoulder-to-shoulder parenting.** Travelling together in a car with the radio off, washing the dishes together or playing a game can all provide opportunities for talk. Paradoxically, many teenagers will talk more when they don't have to concentrate or make eye contact with the other person. That's why cars can be great conversation catalysts for parents.

Every family has their own way of getting the talk happening. Figure out what works for you and make sure it happens. The best communication in families happens when no one is working at it, however busy modern families need to work on their communication rather than leave it to chance.



## Michael Grose

*Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.*

WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT/SUN
<b>6</b>	4 WA Day Long Weekend	5 Secondary exams begin	6	7	8	9/10
<b>7</b>	11	12	13	14	15	16/17
<b>8</b>	18 Public speaking competition Primary	19 P&C Meeting 4pm Public speaking competition Secondary	20 Interhouse Cross Country	21	22	23/24
<b>9</b>	25 TLG Week→ Work experience (Yr10) Country Week	26 →	27 →	28 →	29 Whole school assembly End of Term 2	30/1 Jul

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.

