

An Independent Public School

Morawa District High School

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, March 2020



Tonia Carslake

## From the Principal

### Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you and your families well in the extraordinary and challenging times we are living in. Before COVID-19, Staff and students have had a very positive start to 2020 at Morawa District High School as outlined in this newsletter.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

From **Monday 30 March**, school will remain open, **however families are now encouraged to keep their children at home** if you have the capacity to do so.

Keeping children at home, except in emergency situations, will keep them safer and will keep school staff safer.

From **Friday 3 April**, formal classes will officially end. The following week will be pupil free (6 to 9 April). Teachers, together with Education Assistants and other school staff, will prepare online teaching programs for Term 2 and beyond.

The Department's '**Learning from Home**' online resources are already available to students and families, as well as **Connect** online learning. Teachers will continue to add student work and programs to Connect.

### Connect trouble shooting –

- Connect Now App - You can only access notifications via the Connect Now app. You need to make sure you have the latest version of the app downloaded. This will give you regular updates from your classroom teacher as they post them.
- To access Submissions, Content, Discussions and the library in your children's classes, you will need to log into Connect through the browser e.g. chrome or internet explorer. The address you need to go to is <https://connect.def.wa.edu.au/>

- This will take you to the Department of Education sign in page. In here you need to enter your p number and password. If you haven't logged in before you can create your own password. There's also a Forgot password button if you do not remember your password and you can re-set your password.

**Students must continue to practise social distancing and be hyper vigilant with hygiene and hand washing. Parents are expected to have students remain at home and avoid public places, crowds and the risk of exposure to the COVID-19.**

The Department of Education released a new website, *Learning at home*, with resources for parents, caregivers and students. The website is now available and resources will continue to be added over the coming weeks. These resources, activities and information is provided to help children and young people continue to learn while at home during this challenging time.

**Learning at home – website** <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home>

Your children, especially younger children, may be scared of things they have seen or heard, or maybe simply feeling more vulnerable than usual in these extraordinary times we are living in. Unfortunately, it looks like the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better. My advice to parents wanting to home-school in this time, is to make students feel safe and secure at home. Take turns in reading, good books, read your favourite novel to them, do a puzzle, play a board game, build a fort, bake, garden, paint, craft, sew, crochet, knit, get out the Lego and build together, set up a tent in the living room or on the back lawn and camp together, look at old photos together. Don't stress. Your children will remember this time always.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact myself or teachers via email or Connect, or through the front office on 99712 500, or [morawa.dhs@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:morawa.dhs@education.wa.edu.au).

We will keep you updated of any further developments.. Thank you for your understanding and support in this challenging time.

## Student enrolments

As of Census, held Friday 14 February our unaudited student enrolments showed we had 176 students enrolled (although we have had some additional enrolments since this time making our current numbers 178). We have welcomed nineteen students from Morawa and surrounding towns into our Year 7 classroom which is very exciting.

## School Development Days

For the first two school development days at the start of the year, school staff reviewed our commitment to the school's priorities and undertook operational planning for 2020 and strategic planning for the 2020-2021 Business Plan's strategic direction. This included the identification of focus areas based on our school performance data and strategic documents provided by the Director General for this year. Staff were engaged in Professional Learning with Jane Barbour from DOE State Wide Services, with regards to Learning Disabilities.

### Our focus areas for 2020 include:

Success for all students – Attendance; writing; digital technologies

High quality teaching – Explicit teaching; evidence based feedback; professional learning

Effective Leadership – Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework; positive health and wellbeing for staff and students

Strong governance and support – school review process

## Student Assessment

Students across the school have been involved in a **number of assessments** since the beginning of the year and these will provide the basis for measuring our school performance this year. On entry assessments (Pre-primary to Year 2); PIPS (Pre-primary), OLNA (Year 10 – 12) and SOCS (Kindergarten) have been completed. Course and assessment outlines have been shared with students and parents. Progress reports for secondary students will be available at the end of term. NAPLAN has been cancelled for 2020.

## School Chaplain

We are very pleased to welcome Miss Dominique Webb to our school as our School Chaplain, working across both our school and the WACOAM, together with therapy dog, Dusty. Dominique is working at Morawa District High School during the following times, but will be flexible if the need arises.

Monday 8.30-11.30am

Thursday 8.30-11.30am

Friday 8.30-3.30pm

This is a confidential, nondenominational free service for all students, and families. If you have any concerns for your child or feel they would benefit from seeing Dominique, you can email her at [Dominique.Webb@youthcare.org.au](mailto:Dominique.Webb@youthcare.org.au) or contact the front office for her number. Dominique also teaches Equine for Year 9-12 students at Morawa District High School and the WACOAM and is a VOC trainer with the WACOAM.

## School Nurse

We are pleased to have appointed to Morawa District High School a School Nurse, Kathryn Anthony. Kathryn has been holding fortnightly clinics every second Tuesday at 8.30 am recess and lunch, as well as immunisation clinics. Kathryn's visits have been postponed until further notice due to the CONVID-19. On her return, students and parents can book through the front office or can wait outside the School Nurse/Chaplains room or referrals can be made through the front office.

## Swimming

Students were involved in a number of swimming activities this term including preparation for the Swimming Carnivals and Interm Swimming for students in Years P-7 from the 3-13 March. Thank you to Jane Pearson, Tom Zwaan, P&C President Haylie Cosgrove, class teachers, Sandy Reardon, Shire of Morawa Pool, and the Interm Swimming Teachers for providing this opportunity to the students. Following advice and warnings to schools to be vigilant, some school events were postponed or cancelled to eliminate any risk due to the COVID-19, including the Interhouse and Interschool Swimming Carnival, camps, and assemblies.

Please stay safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Kind regards

Mrs Tonia Carslake

Principal

26 March 2020

## SECONDARY MATTERS

**OLNA** Our students in Years 10, 11 and 12 have completed OLNA activities in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. The assessments are designed to enable students to successfully meet the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) requirement of demonstrating the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy. Students who missed the tests or did not meet the expected standards in the assessments will have another opportunity to complete the requirements in September.

**Progress Reports** Progress Reports for all high school students will be available before the end of the term. These reports are designed to give parents and guardians an indication of their student's progress so far this year. Please contact me or your student's teachers if you wish to discuss matters raised by the report.

**Diaries and Presentation Guides** New diaries are now available for all high school students from the Secondary Deputy's office. Parents and guardians can help make sure that students are keeping up with their learning by checking the diaries. They can also make notes to teachers in the diaries if they wish to do so.

**Work Packages in time of the Virus** Secondary staff have uploaded work packages on Connect and posted them out to students where necessary, to make sure they have maximum opportunity to meet the requirements of their courses. Parents, guardians and students can also contact me at the school or by sending emails, if further work packages, support or guidance is needed. My address is **terrence.mcgann@education.wa.edu.au**. Side students need to continue their work online as normal.

**Deadlines** Despite the strange times we are in, there are still some deadlines we need to meet. Year 12 students have until April 1 to make any changes to their enrolments in ATAR, General, Foundation and VET industry specific courses. After this date, no further changes, except withdrawals, will be accepted by the WA Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority.

**Stay safe and well in this uncertain time, and follow all of the precautions outlined by medical authorities.**

T. Michael McGann, Secondary Deputy

*Mr Zwaan works with Tayissah, Edith, Ben and Michaela, during the Aspire UWA visit to our school.*



## SPELLING BEE 2020

Due to the circumstances at present the Spelling Bee process changed and those classes with sufficient numbers were able to run just the Written and Oral Bee. We congratulate the following students who won in each year level and also those who made it to the Oral Bee. Well done to all.

### Winners:

Year 1 Violet Andrews

Year 2 Milly Collins

Year 3 Harvey Andrews

Year 4 Billy Coaker

## WEAR RED DAY

*Ms Jones and Year 9 students*





# ASPIRING TO THE FUTURE.....

The MDHS campus was buzzing with additional learning excitement recently, during a visit by Aspire UWA and team members from SciTech and the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research.

The visit was part of an Aspire program designed to promote a desire for learning and to encourage students to explore opportunities to study at university.

Students from Year 3 to Year 12 were involved in such activities as using their knowledge about ratio, scale and proportion to measure the ancient shark Megalodon, playing a board game about their journey into the future, learning to weigh a galaxy and completing a jigsaw puzzle cartoon map of the UWA campus.

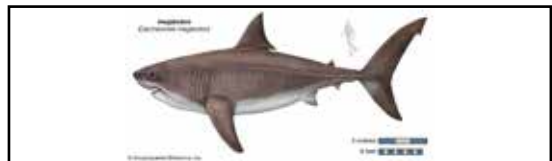
Aspire UWA has worked with our school for many years to raise aspirations for tertiary education among our students.



**MR ZWAAN HELPS YEAR 8 STUDENTS MEASURE THE MEGALODON ...**



**CIRCLING THE SHARK ...**



**AN INTENSE MOMENT!**



**AN INTENSE BONIITA GETS HELP WITH HER JIGSAW ...**



**HANNAH SHOWS HER ENTHUSIASM ABOUT PLANNING HER FUTURE ...**

# 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Students from Kindergarten – Year 8 will have received student statements outlining contributions and charge requests for this year.

Thank you for your patience while options and subject selections were finalised for the middle and upper school students, statements will be mailed home this week and the **early payment discount will be extended until the end of first term.**

Thank you for payments received to date, your support is appreciated as the school relies on the collection of contributions and charges to assist in supplying your children with the best possible materials and resources.

## **Voluntary Contributions**

In Western Australia the cost of schooling a student in a public school has not increased since 2003.

As approved by the School Board, Morawa DHS asks \$60.00 for students in Kindergarten to Year 6 and \$235.00 for students in Year 7 to 10 for the school year.

## **Senior School Courses**

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

## **Certificate Courses Studied at WA College of Agriculture – Morawa (WACoAM)**

It is wonderful that the school can offer our students a range of work ready Certificate courses that count towards WACE attainment for our students to study through the school campus and offsite at the College of Agriculture- Morawa.

These courses are high cost electives and parents need to be aware **that payment is required**, where students have elected to study Certificate courses through WACoAM. Morawa DHS is billed by the college for these courses and the school needs to recoup these costs from parents.

## **School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE)**

Course fees collected by the school for students enrolled in SIDE subjects are paid directly to SIDE and early payment is appreciated. The school charges an amenities fee to cover the cost of stationery, photocopying, postage and the provision of technology.

## **Where do contributions and charges go?**

The contributions and charges paid by parents and caregivers are budgeted to purchase consumable items used directly by the students.

Some examples include: ingredients in home economics, printed and electronic materials, photocopying, art materials, timber, metals and consumable tools, consumable sporting equipment and text books.

## **Who should pay?**

Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected

fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges. Parents of students who choose the more expensive option subjects need to consider the costs during the subject selection process.

## **Payment Options**

The school understands that the payment of school contributions and charges can be a burden for families. Part payments, early payment discount, deferred payments and credit card debits are all available to support parents experiencing difficulties.

## **Collecting Contributions & Charges**

The school will take a positive approach to collecting contributions from parents and caregivers of students in Kindergarten to Year 10. In particular, the school will highlight the benefits to students if all parents meet their contributions. **With respect to charges for Years 7 to 12, the school will actively seek full payment of charges where appropriate.**

If you would like to organise a payment plan, please contact the Manager of Corporate Services, Linda Jenkins to arrange.

## **Payment of Accounts**

Fees may be paid by the following methods:

**Cheque, cash, credit card or direct deposit to**

**Morawa District High School Headmasters Trust Account**



**Dustin and Dusty**



**Equine at WACOAM**



# KABOOM PERCUSSION INCURSION

On Thursday 12 of March all primary students attended a fantastic incursion by Kaboom Percussion in the Performing Arts Room. Kaboom percussionists Catherine Betts and Joshua Webster focus on creating music with simple, everyday instruments and objects, including bucket drums, plastic drinking bottles, pots and pans, a hairbrush and a knitting needle!!

Kaboom's school shows and workshops are designed to inspire and amaze, showing the exciting possibilities of music through the fascinating world of percussion. Students and teachers alike were captivated by their unique brand of music, combined with elements of magic, juggling, and comedy to create an unforgettable experience that students have been raving about!





## BAND NEWS

The Australian National Band Championships were to have been held in Perth at Easter and our Senior Band students had been rehearsing hard in preparation. Unfortunately we were notified on the 12th March that the event has been cancelled, amidst the concerns over Covid-19. It will not be re-scheduled this year.

The Band Committee held a Cake Stall & raffle on the 14th March, raising \$1100 for our Band, an absolutely amazing effort. Thank you to everyone who supported the stall by making and/or purchasing the goodies.

Save the date of Saturday 24th October for the Geraldton Bands Spectacular and stay tuned for details later in the year.

Mrs Walter



## A NOTE FROM THE COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE

Welcome to the 2020 school year. My name is Kathryn Anthony. I am the Community Health Nurse who visits your school.

Community Health Nurses work in schools to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. A major part of our work is focused on early intervention and the School Entry Health Assessment program.

Community Health Nurses serve as a health contact point for children and their families, providing information, assessment, health counselling and referral. The services provided are free and confidential.



If you have a concern about your child's health or development, please contact me on **9927 0200** or via email on **[kathryn.anthony@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:kathryn.anthony@health.wa.gov.au)**

## TERM 1 SWIMMING LESSONS ...



No 2020 Swimming Carnival, but the lessons were fun anyhow!

## BRIGHTENING UP THE SCHOOL DAY ...



The school was brightened up with colour this term when eight inspiring mural panels were set up on walls around the school. The murals were based on images drawn by students and then composed by Artist-in Residence, Paula Hart. Paula then worked with Mrs Inbaseelan and students to complete the final designs. The murals were based on themes related to the school's behaviour expectations and were commissioned to boost student and staff feelings of well being.

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 2019-21

### Vision

*Growing good people*

### Positive Behaviour Support Expectations:

**Respect** - We treat others with consideration and respect.

**Responsibility** - We are accountable for our own actions, resolving differences in constructive, peaceful ways; we contribute to society and we take care of the environment.

**Achievement** - We have high expectations of students and staff and endeavour to achieve our best.

### School Priorities

**PRIORITY 1:** Success for all students **PRIORITY 2:** High quality teaching **PRIORITY 3:** Effective leadership

**PRIORITY 4:** Strong governance and support

