Dear families and friends of Morisset PS

**IMPORTANT!!!**
Due to reports of children being approached by strangers at local schools it is important that parents have the discussion with their children about STRANGER DANGER. Today at school each teacher spoke to their class, at the appropriate level, about stranger danger. Our children are precious and it is up to everyone to keep them safe.

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**Lakes Mail**
Did you see our leaders in the Lakes Mail? See the article further on in the Newsletter.

**Staff Car parks**
The 2 car parks are designated for staff. With parent traffic in and out it becomes a concern for the safety of our students. Parents dropping off their children, please use the street parking. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

**School Contribution Fees**
School contribution fees are voluntary and are used to support the learning of students in our school. This includes everyday items such as pencils, glue, paints, books etc. Student programs such as Multilit, technology-Mathletics as well as equipment and resources needed for specialised groups ie. environmental, cooking, music groups-choir, guitar, drumming and learning using technology such as virtual excursions are just a few examples of how school contribution fees are spent to meet the needs of all students. Suggested family contributions are:

1 student - $35  
2 students- $40  
and 3 or more students- $45

All families that pay the voluntary contribution fees before the end of term will go into a draw for a $50 Coles Voucher. Raffle will be drawn on the 10th April.

**Gym School Program**
A green note went out last week about the gym school program starting on Wednesday 13th February. Some students may be thinking that they don’t have to do this activity, however it is in fact a component of our Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Curriculum. As it is a specialised activity, only qualified coaches can teach gymnastics. Each student will be working at their own level. Please come and see me if your child is hesitant about this program. A note went out yesterday allocating times to classes and requesting students wear sports uniform and joggers on the day they participate in the gymnastics program.
**Current contact details**
It is important that whenever you change any contact details that you must inform the school office. I rang a few parents the other evening and found many to have changed their phone details. This is not just to keep our records up to date but to have a contact for communication in case of an emergency with your child. On the Friday 22nd February any child who has returned their completed contact detail form to the office will go into the draw to win a canteen lunch for all school students in their family, as well as having the family’s 2013 school contribution fees paid by the school.

**Thank you**
The office has noticed a reduction in the number of notes needing to be photocopied due to students leaving them at home or losing them which demonstrates improved use of our orange key - organisation!

**Our Rose Garden needs your help!!**
I was really pleased to find a parent – who is passionate and knowledgeable about roses. Melanie Barnett will be meeting with Mark Agar (GA) this Friday. Anyone interested in helping out, we would love to see you. Margaret Reynolds will also be here on Friday afternoon to begin our Gardening Club, which is one of the environmental community projects we will be running. Again any parent or grandparent, relative who would like to be involved please let me know.

**BFF at Morisset**
A date to put in your diary is the **Tuesday 12th March between 9-10am.** Parents and relatives are invited into the classrooms to share Book Fair Fun (BFF) with their child. This is a chance to be a part of your child’s learning environment and to support the message that parents/students and school work together for student achievement.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the classrooms. More information will be given closer to the time.

**3 Way Conferences**
Starting in week 8 all parents will be invited to take part in a 3 way conference with their child and classroom teacher. This is a time where together you will work out goals for school that your child would like to achieve over a period of time. This is also a time where your child will demonstrate taking ownership and responsibility for their own learning. Notes and date will be sent out soon so that you will be able to book a time to share this rich and valuable experience.

**School Canteen**
Included in this newsletter is a slip to be returned this week that will help us in making the decision about the hours the canteen is open for students to purchase food and drinks. If we get enough response and new people we will organise a canteen workshop for those who have never been in a canteen before. It is very easy and Lisa Roberts, the canteen manager, has put in place simple systems to make your time in the canteen stress free. Students love to see their parents or grandparents working in the canteen, so come along and be a part of our school team.

**P&C**
We had a fantastic turn out at the P&C meeting yesterday. Parents were impressed with Principal, Mark Sneddon’s update of what is happening at Morisset High School and the new opportunities the students will be given in 2013. I’d like to thank the parents who bought concerns and ideas to the meeting. This is what P&C is all about- working together for the students. If you cannot attend the meetings we would love to have your support by being a part of events such as putting together the Easter prize baskets and stapling raffle ticket books or in Term 2 helping wrap Mother’s Day presents. All help no matter how large or small supports the students at our school. Thank you to the parents who have helped with the organisation and distribution of the school uniforms for the new students.

**Teacher’s Corner**
In our newsletters we will again include articles, information or suggestions about topics that are relevant to our student learning supplied by Morisset staff. If you would like to suggest a topic please come and see me. This week Sarah Baldwin’s topic is on Routines. Thank you Sarah!
Quality Work
Included in this week’s newsletter is a speech that was presented to the class and myself, by Finn Boyd. I am considering his proposal as he put forward an entertaining and convincing exposition. In our school foyer we also have a display from KB which also shows the work Kindergarten have done in their first week of school. Wonderful work students and staff!

Song Room
We are very excited to announce that all our students from Year 2 and above will be participating each Friday in a sponsored drumming program for the first 2 terms. There is no cost to the students and we hope to eventually raise enough money to buy a class set of drums. Kindergarten and Year 1 will not be missing out as we have plans to start a drumming peer tutoring program. For more information visit the Song Room Website. I also need to sign a Photographic release form granting permission for Morisset PS students taking part in the Song room programs/events to be photographed and/or filmed for the Song Room Marketing, publicity or research purposes.

If you do not want your child photographed or filmed during this program you will need to see me this week as the program commences on Friday.

Thought of the week.
“A good groove releases adrenaline in your body. You feel uplifted, you feel centred, you feel calm, you feel powerful. You feel that energy. That’s what good drumming is all about.”

– Mickey Hart

(Mickey Hart is an American percussionist and musicologist. He is best known as one of the two drummers of the rock band the Grateful Dead.)

Make the most of the awesome moments!

Kathryn Duncan
Principal

EXPOSITION - WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE A GOLDFISH

Good morning class, Mr. K and Mrs. Duncan. I have received this message and would like to read it out loud.

Dear Mrs Duncan,

My name is Edgar J. Clownfish, legal representative of goldfish everywhere. I am writing to you in support of 5/6K’s application to provide a stable home environment for one of my cousins. The classes plan to offer a home to one of the millions of homeless goldfish is sound and much appreciated.

They offer one of my cousins the chance to live in luxurious living quarters, experience a full to potentially bursting tummy, and provide endless hours of entertainment and education as they stumble around the classroom on two legs.

Although 5/6K are severely disadvantaged by their lack of fins, I feel we would have much in common and they would become a goldfish’s favourite pet.

In return for free room and board, my cousin is happy to become a class monitor, as soon as the class learns to speak fish. In the mean time, my cousin will swim in circles all day long, eat whatever good or bad food is provided and ensure midnight security measures against intruders are in place.

I trust you will see the sense of their proposal and give them your full support.

Yours swimmingly,

Edgar J Clownfish, esquire
Dugong, Turtle and Clownfish Legal

As you can see, the goldfish are keen on our proposal and all we need is Mrs. Duncan’s approval. Thank you very much.

Finn Boyd
**TERM 1**  
**WEEK 2**

**KB Student of the Week:**  
- Lucan Murray  
  **Merit Award**  
- Ella Waters  
- Isla Davis  

**KG Student of the Week:**  
- Ashton Wenning  
  **Merit Award**  
- Hayley Ostergaard  
- Megan Waters  

**1K Student of the Week:**  
- Callum Churchill  
  **Merit Award**  
- Eliza Hungerford  
- Ky Whitmore  

**1/2J Student of the Week:**  
- Samantha Wright  
  **Merit Award**  
- Luke Ostergaard  
- Tamika Nicholson  

**2B Student of the Week:**  
- Molly Robertson  
  **Merit Award**  
- Sharntelle Small  
- Emily Scott  

**2/3N Student of the Week:**  
- Rebecca McBride  
  **Merit Award**  
- Chase Hovenden  
- Natasha Homer  

**3/4W Student of the Week:**  
- Hayden Roberts  
  **Merit Award**  
- Sienna Turner  
- Ayden Hill  

**4/5L Student of the Week:**  
- Lane McGrath  
  **Merit Award**  
- Cerys Hardy  
- Olivia Lienau  

**5/6G Student of the Week:**  
- Hanna Craven  
  **Merit Award**  
- Abbey Bennett  
- Callum Montgomery  

**5/6K Student of the Week:**  
- Finn Boyd  
  **Merit Award**  
- Nicolas Peake-Hill  
- Kyesha Williams  

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**BOOK CLUB NEWS**

Welcome back to Book Club 2013, there will be one Book Club order per term. This term orders are due back to the School Office by **Friday 15th February**.

**Organisation:** Coby Sharp, Brad Wrench

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**P&C NEWS**

We had a great turn out at the P&C Meeting yesterday. Thank you to everyone who took time out to attend. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 12th March**, hope to see you all there.

The **Easter Raffle** will be drawn on **Wednesday 27th March**, a Mufti day for the students to bring in donations for the raffle will be held on **Friday 8th March**. Donations can be made at anytime, by having the Mufti day it gets the students involved.

The **Uniform Room** will be open on Fridays from **8.30-9.30am**. Leanne will be there to help you with your uniform enquires. Jacket order forms will be sent out today with the newsletter. There is a sample of the jacket in the foyer of the office.

Also, a big Thank You to the parents who have left their details with Lisa to volunteer their time in the canteen.

Have a great week

Rebecca Harridge  
P & C President
Canteen News
Canteen will be open for Breakfast and Lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays. Open for recess on Fridays only and recess needs to be ordered for Fridays on Mondays or Wednesdays. Thankyou. Lisa

School Banking
School Banking is up and running, students wishing to deposit their hard earned savings please drop off your bank book to the school office. Students who do not have a bank book you may drop into the Commonwealth Bank with your birth certificate and set up an account.

Regards Donna Coulter

Community News

Lakers Baseball Club (Lake Macquarie area) - Registration Days Friday 15th Feb 4.30-6pm and Sunday 24th Feb 10am-2pm (BBQ and drinks after) Pendlebury Oval, Bolton Point. Girls, boys, men, women ages 5 and up. More info Ph: Chris 0408 015 897 email: info@lakersbaseballclub.com or www.lakersbaseballclub.com

Bay Tennis Academy Bonnells Bay - Group tennis lessons at Bay Hotel courts Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings by qualified coach Bill Griffiths. All standards catered for. Beginners welcome. Junior competition Tuesday afternoons and 'hot shots' half hour lesson for 4-6 year olds. Info and bookings Ph: Bill 0402 274 646.

Southern Lakes United Football Club - Register online - www.myfootballclub.com.au and finalise at: Douglas St Oval Feb 16th 9am-12pm, Feb 14th 5.30pm-7pm. Fees and details at www.southernlakesunitedfc.org.au

Understanding Autism Spectrum Condition - One day seminar - Autism Spectrum Condition - A different way of thinking. Learning and managing emotions. Friday 8th March Asquith Leagues Club Waitara 9am-4pm. Presented by Dr. Tony Attwood and Dr Michelle Garnett. Dr Attwood is well known for is extensive knowledge of Asperger Syndrome. To Register www.suelarkey.com.au.

2012 School Musical
“The Awesome 80’s” DVD’s
Now available for purchase from the school office.

$12 each
ROUTINES

At this time of the year setting routines are extremely useful for a smooth running of a classroom and a household. Routines are a way that families get things done as well as spend time together. For example, your family may have a set bedtime routine, weekend cleaning routine or a routine when spending time together as a family or extended family.

Family life can be chaotic at times yet having a routine in place is a way of calming down family life, ensuring that what needs to get done, gets done. Routines also let your children know what is important to the family as a whole.

The Benefits

Routines:
- are a way of teaching young children healthy habits such as washing their hands after they have been to the toilet, cleaning their teeth or participating in exercise.
- are predictable. Knowing what is coming up or what they need to do next helps children feel safe and secure.
- are a way of spending quality time with each other. Having a bedtime routine such as snuggling up in bed to Mum or Dad listening to a story becomes a special time in a child’s life. Bedtime routines also let your child know when its time to sleep.
- help develop a sense of responsibility. Giving your child a job to do makes them part of the family unit.
- help develop time management skills. Knowing there is a set homework routine of an afternoon means not only that homework will get done but that it will get done in less time.
- for children with disabilities can be a big help as sometimes children with disabilities may find it hard to cope or understand change.
- help you feel more organised and therefore reduces stress.
- reduce the amount of time spent on nagging children to do things.

School-age children will benefit from routines when going to bed at night, getting ready in the morning, caring for pets, helping with the washing, chores like setting the table or unpacking the dishwasher, brushing teeth and washing hands as well as tidying up their room and looking after their toys.

The start of the year is always a brilliant time to start new routines. Have fun setting new routines or refining your existing ones! Or if you are interested in more information visit the 'raising children network' website (http://raisingchildren.net.au).

By Sarah Baldwin
Swimming Carnival

On Monday students from Year 2 (8 years old) to Year 6 participated in the Swimming Carnival. Again I was very proud of our students who participated and cheered on their team mates. It was wonderful to see so many parents and relatives also there to support our students. Fortunately the weather held off until the end of the carnival. Thank you to Morisset pool for supporting our event and to staff and Mr Kyrwood whose organisation made the event even more successful. Congratulations to all students and parents who had their notes in on time. It made such a difference to the office staff and teachers for organisation and administration.

Ribbons will be handed out and zone qualifiers announced at assembly this Friday.
Week 3 Term 1 2013

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2013 school year for your respective school. Like last year all of the Primary School Principals have agreed to allow me to put an article in to each weekly newsletter and this is my first entry for the year. Our new Year 7 cohort is settling in well and it has been great to speak with them both in the class room and the playground as I make my way around the school. Over the holidays we have had a number of maintenance projects running around the school including upgrading the front of the school, repainting the Mathematics corridor and a number of rooms, a data projector mounted within our School Hall linked to the internet and Wi-fi Cabling installed in further learning spaces. We have also made progress on the Salon that we are installing in the school with the tiling being completed this week. As mentioned last year we are now delivering TAFE courses on site and Hairdressing is one of the courses on offer beginning in year 10. We have had a number of new staff members join our school this year Mrs Elise Vickers in English, Ms Gretta Hayward and Ms Renae Lewis in Science and Ms Gail Cheetham and Ms Jane Sylvester as LASTs. It is always refreshing to have new staff at a school and fresh eyes to look over school systems and support our students learning. This morning I was fortunate enough to attend Morisset Public Schools P&C and I am looking forward to visiting all of the partner primary school P&Cs in the coming weeks. We had our Swimming Carnival on Tuesday of last week and it was great to see students participating and parents at the pool. It is a huge task to organise a Swimming Carnival for such a big school and so a big thank you must go out to my PE Staff for their organisation. Finally this week we have conducted Mentoring Interviews for all of our Year 12 students. This is a new initiative where Executive Staff will Mentor specific students and support them in developing study plans and balancing school and out of school activities.

Take care and have a great week!

Mark Snedden
Principal Morisset High School

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HELPING IN THE CANTEEN AVAILABILITY

Please complete the form below and return it to the school office if you are available to help in the canteen. The more volunteers we get the greater the possibility of the canteen being open more days. Thank you

Name: .................................................................................................................................
Childs Name: ....................................................................................................................
Phone Number: ................................................................................................................
Day/s Available for Canteen Duty: ....................................................................................

☐ Tick if Interested in Canteen Workshop
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