SPOTLIGHT ON STARSTRUCK 2018

15th and 16th of June
Matinee and Evening shows
Newcastle Entertainment Centre

Tickets at Ticketek
This year Morisset has a whopping sixty-seven students participating in Star Struck Dance and Drama. Our students are extremely lucky this year as we are performing in a total of five pieces plus the finale, so show week is going to be very busy!

Our Year 7-8 Dance group is performing an amazing number from High School Musical called ‘Stick to the Status Quo’. It is a fantastic re-make of the film and represents a variety of school social clicks such as surfers, footy jocks, cheerleaders, and gothic music fans.

Our Year 9-10 dance group were given two items this year ‘Story of my life’ by One Direction and ‘Rhythm Nation’ by Janet Jackson. All three dances are extremely rigorous but it isn’t anything our wonderful students can’t handle!

The Drama ensemble was selected for Kate Miller-Heidke’s ‘Caught in a Crowd’ a piece entailing a narrative about high school friendship and the obstacles students face. Their other piece is Goyte’s ‘Thanks for your time’ which is extremely quirky with robotics, colour, creativity and masks.
Star Struck is an amazing opportunity for our students to express themselves and show off their talents to the Hunter region. Please support our school and the students participating in Star Struck 2018.

**Performance Dates:**
Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} and Saturday 16\textsuperscript{th} of June
Matinee and Evening shows
Newcastle Entertainment Centre

Tickets can be purchased on the Ticketek website.

After our audition tapes were sent in to Star Struck
Drama Update!

Year 10 Drama and Year 12 English Extension students were lucky enough to be given free tickets to a professional performance at Belvoir St Theatre. As a group we travelled down to Sydney to watch a five star show titled “Single Asian Female” which was full of laughter, tears, and musical numbers of topical issues in today’s society.

In Term Three our 7-10 students have been welcomed back to see “Calamity Jane”, and in late October we are heading to Darling Harbour to see the famous “Julius Caesar”!

A reminder to pay $30 at the front office and let either Mrs Gordon or Mrs Mitchell know you will be attending.
Drama Transition

Term Two kicked off with a bang! During weeks 1-3 we have hosted Year 6 Transition Taster lessons specifically for primary students interested in the performing arts.

The year five and six students from Bonnells Bay, Morisset, Dora Creek, Cooranbong and Wyee have come to Morisset High School and have participated in a range of playbuilding exercises.

These early transition workshops focus on building friendships, familiarising students with specific teachers, peer relationships, and the layout of our school.

We Have a Collaborative Space!

The wall between English rooms seven and eight has finally come down! Week one saw our English students surprised as they entered the open plan collaborative space designed to facilitate group work and independent learning. The two rooms have been combined into one spacious educating area furnished with university style lecture chairs, round tables, and group work booths.

Currently, Mrs Miller's and Mrs Parrott's Year 8 classes are working on Project-Based Learning around the topic of the Life and Times of Shakespeare. Mrs Mitchell’s and Ms Valencic’s year 7 English classes will also be learning collaboratively about their topic of Adventure.

Project-Based Learning allows the students to be fully engaged and in charge of their own learning, this offers students an opportunity to build confidence, solve problems, work in teams, communicate ideas, and manage themselves more effectively.

We will take photos of the final products for the next Morissetian so stay tuned!
CONGRATULATIONS

To the team who arranged the Reconciliation Day activities. The theme of “Learn, Share and Grow” was very relevant to us as a school community as we Learn the facts in history, Share between groups and generations the way in which the policies and action of the past affected the many different people and still have emotional and social repercussions today for many. Finally, and most importantly, the focus is on how we can then Grow as a community to make a promise it will never happen again to any group who live as part of the Morisset community.

The message we give is that racism only grows through silence. All workplaces have processes to deal with racism and discrimination, but the first step is always to report as soon as it occurs. We refer parents to the processes we have to make sure students report when they believe incidents have occurred. It is also important that everyone takes responsibility for what they say and do. If racist comments are made both ways in a dispute… then both sides need to be brought to account. No individual (or group) has the right to “take action” outside of the published processes.

Our policy is to REPORT don’t RETALIATE...

Our role as a school is to educate and provide strategies for students to take into their working lives to deal with any such incident. At work, and in the adult world the strategy is report… and retaliation does not work. We aim to teach our students resilience and how to use processes.

We thank the parents who assist their children to report incidents, and understand that retaliation (physical or verbal) is not the answer!

Our Anti-racism officer is Ms Joyanne Richards, her role of the ARCO does not investigate complaints of racism. The ARCO has a mediation, procedural, educational and monitoring role.
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION SNAPSHOT

On the 19th and 20th of June we have a team in the school to do a snapshot of our Aboriginal Education programs. The aim of this is to gather some baseline data for the new school plan. The external consultants speak to parents, students and staff. They examine records and data and provide the school with some recommendations to improve our effectiveness to improve student outcomes.

We’d like to invite parents, both Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal to have their say about the programs we run and the effect we have upon student learning outcomes. The team will value all input and include them into a report presented to the school. If you feel you have a contribution or feel strongly and would like to be heard please ring the front office and leave your name. We shall then pass it onto the AEyg and the P&C presidents.

Thursday 19 June 1.30pm
Aboriginal community representatives

Thursday 20 June 2:30pm
Members of the P&C or parents of the school

Your time would greatly benefit the school. All views are welcome as an honest appraisal is being sought.

Students will also be asked to volunteer to be part of this process as members of the Young AEyg, SRC and leadership team. Any student who feels they really want to be included should also see their Deputy Principal.

SPORT and ATTENDANCE

Once again I’d like to emphasise to parents that Sport on Tuesdays is an essential part of the curriculum and it is now compulsory for all students to undertake 120 minutes minimum a week in physical activity.

Sports choices are due soon and all students are expected to be at school and participate to a reasonable level in the sport they choose.

ATTENDANCE

Please remember to explain any absences your child may have within seven days. After this, we are not legally able to mark it as an explained absence.

Research confirms a strong link between attendance and student outcomes. While some student absences are unavoidable and understandable due to illness and the like, or enforced through school disciplinary absences, many are not. These could be unexplained or unauthorised absences.

Poor school attendance can be linked to a number of related short and long-term adverse outcomes for students including lower academic outcomes, early school leaving, substance use, poverty, unemployment and negative health outcomes. However these factors may be interrelated in complex ways and factors that lead to low levels of attendance may also independently lead to some of these adverse outcomes.

UNIFORM

There has been some discussion about amendments to the uniform so in conjunction with Daylight Uniforms we have arranged for a display of potential jackets, tops and shirts with different materials. Parents and students will be asked to come through, have a look and vote for items they think we could include in our uniform to make it more relevant to our students today. Daylight have agreed to do this early next term

THANK YOU

Our English team who ran the NAPLAN online tests. Our school managed to run these with minimal trouble and our students were well behaved and engaged in the tests. We hope to have results soon to share.

ARE YOU A YOUNG LEADER?

Our local rotary club is supporting the school by offering to help a group of enthusiastic young leaders to run a community project. They will support this group and help develop true leadership skills in mentoring young project leaders in the school, and community. As the INTERACT club develops, the SRC and Yung AEyg will also benefit from sessions run.
DO YOU PLAY GOLF?

Rotary are also running a charity gold day on August 31st at the Country Club in town. Supported by Dave Stretton, the golf pro a dedicated team are arranging sponsorships and support from local businesses. All funds raised will go toward supporting student mental health across the WSLA schools. Please help out by playing on the day, sponsoring a hole, donating a prize, coming to the auction or just helping us to address students who need additional support! Our thanks to the club for their support.

COMPLAINTS PROCESSES

I would like to bring to your attention the process and policy the Department have for lodging a complaint or discussion about issues you are unhappy with at the school. At all times you are invited to ring myself and the Deputies to discuss issues, and then we may redirect the query to the best person to deal with it.


Cheri McDonald
Morisset High School Principal