Emerald High School Band Visits McDowall State School

McDowall SS students were thoroughly entertained by the Emerald High School High School Symphonic Band and Jazz Band on Tuesday morning 13th October. This was the Band’s sixth visit to our school and once again they shared a wonderful morning of music with us.

The concert band performed a number of rousing pieces including, 'Smoke on the Water', 'Game of Thrones', the Lady GaGa hit 'Bad Romance' as well as their competition pieces 'Oregon Trail' and 'Unleashed'.

The Emerald High Jazz Band performed next. This group had everyone tapping their toes and clapping along. They performed a number of jazz and swing standards that lifted the roof off the School Hall.

Emerald SHS students then joined with McDowall SS Wind Ensemble members for a one hour workshop. It was wonderful to see these teenage students mentoring McDowall SS students.

A big thank you is expressed to Mrs Dana Jones and the very talented students from Emerald State High for visiting our school, working with our students and providing such entertainment.

CONTACT: Ms Crowhurst Head of Curriculum
Principal’s Post

thefatheringproject.org

If it is the only thing that you do after receiving this ‘Tartan Times’, please visit this website.

I met an amazing, ‘down to earth’ man during my recent attendance at the National ACEL Conference in Sydney. Professor Bruce Robinson is a leading respiratory specialist from Perth. He is a doctor, scientist, teacher and father. Tragically, he is often the medical specialist who must inform many male patients that lung cancer will soon claim their life. He recounts how almost without exception, husbands and fathers verbalise the same regret. “If only I had spent more time with my family and my children!”

Professor Robinson established “The Fathering Project” through the University of WA. He, himself felt unprepared and ill-informed as a father so he began reviewing research and seeking out information. Consequently, he has authored six books on fathering and has addressed in excess of 16,000 dads across six countries. He has published over 200 papers. He invests all received proceeds into “The Fathering Project” to better inform and assist dads.

“The male role model is critical in a child’s upbringing. Mothers generally take the dominant role of the upbringing of a child, often whilst working themselves. However, fathers and father figures are the most powerful force in Australia today for shaping a child’s life.” The Fathering Project seeks to inspire and equip fathers to be engaged with their kids.

“It is estimated that if all Australian fathers spent an extra 5 mins each day with each of their children, $5 billion per year would be saved in the areas of law (less juvenile crime), health (less drug taking), education (more engaged students) and industry (productivity).”

Professor Robinson knows that the best way to do this is by getting groups of men together. No pressure. No obligation. No expectation. There is a wealth of information readily provided on the website. (a) Tips (b) Articles (c) Research (d) Videos (e) Books (f) Audio (g) A Word For Mothers; and (h) Schools Project.

As Principal, I offer my keen support, should a group of dads wish to begin a ‘Fathering Project School Group’. All you need is a key group of dads to make it all happen. This group is not run by the school. It is not about volunteering within the school, fundraising, etc. It is all about meeting with other dads, having fun and spending quality time with your kids. Together, they get to know each other, socialise and do what they may to be better fathers.

A core group of “Champion Dads” or father figures, run the activities. They are not Champion Dads because they are perfect dads but because they are committed to championing the need for being better dads for the sake of their kids. The only requirement is that the P&C Association formally acknowledge the group.

The impact of an effective father is profound

Evidence indicates that fathers’ enhanced knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviour and presence are related to childhood outcomes including:

Enhanced child development
improved academic progress
Reduced school adjustment problems
Enhanced occupational achievement in adulthood
Reduced alcohol, tobacco and drug use
Decreased rates of teen pregnancy
Increased psychosocial adjustment
Reduced rates of depression, bipolar, anxiety disorders and probias in adulthood
Increased physical activity
Increased social responsibility, social maturity and life skills
More positive father child/adolescent relationships

Enrolment Interviews

Applications for Enrolment at McDowall SS for 2016 are due at School Administration. All parents / students are required to attend an Enrolment Interview with a Deputy Principal. These are well underway. Interviews are designed to inform school staff of a child’s readiness for school, learning, health and welfare needs. Parent attendance at further school events designed to inform preparations for a child’s successful enrolment at the school will also be discussed. Eg. Tartan TAPS & Tartan Tadpoles, School Open Morning, Parent Information Evening, Years 3-6 student involvement within Instrumental Music Programming, School Choirs and/or Years 5-6 student involvement within the eLearning Programme. The Deputy Principal will advise of Student Enrolment status.

Haven’t lodged an Application for Enrolment for 2016?

You are urgently requested to do so. McDowall SS has limited enrolment vacancies for 2016 and these are filling quickly. Late in-catchment applications may not be considered favourably regarding class placement and/or programme access for 2016.

Know that your family will be relocating for 2016?

Please, urgently advise Mrs Sandra Christopher at School Administration on 07 3872 5333 or via email on admin@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au. A delighted family may then be accepted from our School Waiting List 2016. This also means that staff may work in partnership with parents (and if necessary, the child) to ensure a smooth, emotionally supported transition in to their new school.
Years 5-6 eLearning Programme 2016
Parents of students progressing into Years 5-6 are invited to attend an Information Evening about the McDowall SS eLearning Programme (Bring Your Own Device) for 2016. This session will be held in the School Library on Wednesday 21st October, 2015 from 5.30pm-6.30pm.

Celebration Of Childhood – School Open Morning 2015
Parents and their children are invited to attend the McDowall State School Celebration of Childhood – School Open Morning to be held on Friday 23rd October, 2015 from 8.30am-10.30am. Visiting children are to remain under the close supervision of their parents while within the school site. This is a great visiting opportunity for families enrolling their child at McDowall State School from 2016.

- Pre-Prep children and their parents can visit the Preparatory Year Precinct. (8.30am-9.15am)
- School Tour for all new families, particularly Preparatory Year 2016 families.
- Parent information presentations, stalls, static displays and hand-out materials.
- Arts Link Qld Show: The crazy antics of “The Park Cleaners”. ($9 entry).
- School Band and Choir performances.
- A range of early learning experiences provided for children (while supervised by their parents).
- Food and drink stalls.

The School Uniform Shop will be open for sales. Book Pack information will be available. Parents can elect to make an advance School Fees and/or Voluntary Contributions payment for 2016.

Not able to attend? A second School Tour (intended only for new families to McDowall SS in 2016 who were not able to attend the Celebration of Childhood – School Open Morning), will be held on Wednesday 4th November, 2015 from 9.30am-9.45am. Attending children must remain under the direct care and supervision of their parent. The tour will be conducted by a member of School Administration. This tour will not conclude in the Preparatory Year or involve classroom visits. It will be a brief overview of school layout only.

New Parent Information Evening
New parents to “Our Great State School” are invited to attend a School Information Evening on Wednesday 28th October, 2015 from 6.30pm-7.30pm in the School Hall. Speakers will include: Principal, Deputy Principals, Teacher representatives and the P & C Association President. School Information Packs will be available. A Slide Show will be screened of school activities. Static displays will be available for reference. The School Uniform Shop will open from 5pm-6.30pm for school uniform sales. Book Pack information will be available.

Tartan TAPS (Teachers and Parents Seminars)
Today, teachers rely on parents having taught basic behaviours, skills and having well prepared their children for school. The Australian Curriculum expects that teachers can immediately build on parent taught learning foundations. These seminars provide parents with an overview of Year Level procedures, curriculum work units, teacher expectations, anticipated student issues that will need to be jointly managed; and outline how parents may best prepare and support their child toward school success.

Parents are invited to attend a ‘Tartan TAPS’ parent information seminar conducted by class teachers to literally “tap into” as much information as possible about their child’s schooling experience. Bookings are available through School Administration from 9th October, 2015.

P-1 parents are invited to attend one seminar. On average, 25 parents may book to attend each seminar. P-1 Tartan TAPS will be held in the School Hall. For daytime seminars only, a light sandwich luncheon will be provided.

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<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep – Yr 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th Oct</td>
<td>10am-2pm</td>
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<td>School Hall</td>
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<td>27th Oct</td>
<td>10am-2pm</td>
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<td>30th Oct</td>
<td>4pm-7pm</td>
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<td>Years 3-4</td>
<td>3rd Nov</td>
<td>5pm-7.30pm</td>
<td>School Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 5-6</td>
<td>17th Nov</td>
<td>5pm-7.30pm</td>
<td>School Library</td>
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Tartan TADPOLES
(Teachers and Dedicated Parents Organising Little Scholars)
All parents are keen for their enthusiastic child to experience a successful start to their Preparatory Year. Class teachers are keen to get to know children enrolled into the Preparatory Year for 2016.
The more that a class teacher knows about enrolled children, the better teachers can prepare relevant learning experiences in support of heightened student learning outcomes.

Tartan TADPOLES is a play group where both parent and child attend for two sessions. Younger siblings are welcome. Pre-Prep children are provided an opportunity to meet some of their new school-mates, become familiar with the McDowall State School setting; and to engage in activities designed to develop ‘executive functioning’ and ‘social’ skills. Attending parents will be actively involved in activities while also being afforded an opportunity to meet other new parents. Tartan TADPOLES enables the class teacher/s to observe the child in a play setting. Tartan TADPOLES provides the teacher/s with an opportunity to demonstrate strategies with the parent that parents may beneficially use to better prepare their child for the Preparatory Year.

Ten daytime play group sessions are available. Each session is either from 9am to 11am or 12noon to 2pm. A parent is invited to attend any two play group sessions. A maximum of 30 Pre-Prep children may be booked to attend each session. Bookings may be made through School Administration from 9th October, 2015. Tartan TADPOLES will be held in K Block (Out-of-School Hours Care Building).

Ten daytime play group sessions are available. Each session is either from 9am to 11am or 12noon to 2pm. A parent is invited to attend any two play group sessions. A maximum of 30 Pre-Prep children may be booked to attend each session. Bookings may be made through School Administration from 9th October, 2015. Tartan TADPOLES will be held in K Block (Out-of-School Hours Care Building).

Regulated School Car Park Access
From Tuesday 20th October, 2015 an electronic boom gate will operate to ensure “Staff Only” vehicle access to the School Staff Car Park. This boom gate will remain operational 24hrs/day. School Hall hirers may only use the bitumen car park located beside the School Hall closest the front school fence, and only when a parking space is available in this area.

During the school day, the Metro Street Car Park will generally continue to be made available to parent volunteers who regularly assist and support school programmes and operations. Eg. Tartan Tuckerbox, Uniform Shop, Flying Gang Winners, Key P&C Association roles. An allocated code is required for car park access and departure.

Principal’s Gallery
Each week, classes are provided the opportunity to showcase some of their excellent student work in the “Principal’s Gallery” located within the School Administration foyer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19th October 2015</td>
<td>2Q1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th October 2015</td>
<td>3N2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd November 2015</td>
<td>5D2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th November 2015</td>
<td>5D1</td>
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</tbody>
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Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured this fortnight from 2J7

School Library News

Library Borrowing
Here are the key dates for borrowing books during Term 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Last week of borrowing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd – 6th Nov</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>All borrowed books to be returned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20th Nov</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>All borrowed books to be returned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We cease lending books in Week 5 to allow us enough time to locate and organise all of the School Library resources before the end of the school year. We are also planning to complete a stocktake of our fiction resources. We thank you in advance for your support.

To maintain your child’s reading routine after Week 5, we encourage you to take advantage of public library services. These libraries offer a wide range of books and other resources, certainly enough to keep them reading until school starts back in 2016. There are plenty of books for parents too!

Book Fair
We will be holding our last Book Fair for this year from Friday 20th November until Thursday 26th November. The Book Fair will be open from 8.00am each morning and close at 3.30pm each afternoon, except for the last day when it will close at 9.00am in the morning. Our Book Fairs are always successful because of your wonderful support, so come and have a look. You might also find some great Christmas gift ideas!

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian
Music News

Even though we are drawing closer to the end of the school year, there is still much happening in the McDowall SS Music Department.

Brisbane Schools Band Festival
The Wind Ensemble, String Ensemble and Adagio Strings are all competing in the Brisbane Schools Band Festival at Centenary State High School, Jindalee on 24th October. This is a great opportunity for our ensembles to not only perform but to also listen to other ensembles of a similar age level.

Celebration Concerts
Due to the increased size of the McDowall SS Performing Arts Programme in 2015, there will be a Celebration Concert Matinee and a Celebration Concert Evening. Our beginning and junior students will perform during the Celebration Concert Matinee, while our senior students will perform in the more formally formatted Celebration Concert Evening. Both performances will be held on Wednesday 25th November, 2015. More detailed information will follow closer to the date.

Honours Music Camp
From 8th to 11th September, 14 of our students attended the Honours Music Camp at Craigslea State High School. During the camp, children played in a large concert band, string ensemble, symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, stage band and a massed choir of 180 voices. All this culminated in a fantastic concert to conclude the camp. All attending McDowall SS students had a very enjoyable and rewarding time.

SPORTS OFFERS

Year 3 students are learning the rules and skills for Baseball, T-Ball and Newcombe. Students in Years 4-6 are currently participating in orienteering and will later practise their golf and table tennis skills.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

P&C Association News

www.mcdowallss.com Click here to like us on

Update from the Executive

Welcome back to all of you! We hope you had a good break away from the usual routine associated with the school term.

It is astounding to think that there are only nine weeks left of the school year for 2015. This term is all about getting ready for next year now. The current set of priorities for the Executive include:

- Budget planning for 2016.
- Educating new families about the P&C Association at Tartan TAPs, the New Parent Information Evening and the School Open Day.
- Implementing policies and procedures to ensure we are meeting legal and regulatory compliance.
- End of Financial Year Audit.

INVITATION

You are ALL invited to join “a conversation” on Tuesday 27th October, 2015 from 7-9pm in K Block (OSHC Building)....

“How may parents and grandparents contribute toward the best possible educational outcomes for all McDowall State School students?”

NB: Apart from Key Executive Decisions, Correspondence in/out and the Treasurer’s report, the P&C Association General October Meeting will be replaced by this “conversation”.

CONTACT: Ms Woodruff – Music Teacher

Sports News

Good luck to the following students who are competing this week in Townsville at the State Athletics Carnival: Levi A, Cooper P, Jorja S and Liulla I.

Good luck!!
It’s Mango Season!!

Mangoes are back at McDowall State School. You can order as many boxes as you like (14-20 mangoes per box depending on the size of the mangoes) for $25 per box. For more information contact Julie Wilson in OSH on 3353 5755.

Annual Parent Survey

The P&C Association is keenly interested in hearing from you to better understand your needs, preferences and capacity. This information will feed directly into key activity and service planning decisions for 2016. Click here now to take this 15 minute survey.

Uniform Shop News

Welcome our new Uniform Shop Convenor

Danel Schoeman has commenced in the role of Uniform Shop Convenor. Danel has children at McDowall SS and brings the skills, experience and characteristics we were seeking. Thank you to Julie F and Jodie C for holding the fort while we were recruiting.

Get Ready Now for 2016

Next year’s book lists, vinyl book cover and name label order forms will be sent out in your child’s homework folder very soon. You can either collect your order from the School Hall on December 1st 2015 or arrange for your order to be home delivered.

Outdoor Play Equipment

Did you know that after the new Sports Centre is built in 2016 – 2017, there will be new, better, more appropriately designed outdoor play equipment installed at our school?

The new Sports Centre is designed for use by all students enrolled at McDowall State School (whilst also providing additional space for children enrolled in OSH). This means that no family should miss out on a place at OSH if they need it.

Resources

Having trouble deciding what high school might be best for you and your child? There is some very informative reading material on this topic available from your local library.

Positions Vacant

Would you like to:

- Better understand how McDowall SS functions?
- Meet new people and learn new skills?
- Contribute within the school that is educating your children?
- Actively make a difference to not only your child’s educational outcomes but also the educational outcomes of all children enrolled at McDowall SS?

If so, consider taking on one of the five roles that will become vacant in the P&C Association in 2016:

Secretary

- Meeting management (agendas, minutes, etc)
- Check for and distribute incoming mail
- Maintain P&C Association membership register
- Approve urgent decisions
- Authorise P&C Association payments

Vice President

- Support the P&C Association President
- Approve urgent decisions
- Authorise P&C Association payments

Promotions Coordinator

- Manage P&C Association input into the Tartan Times
- Promote the P&C Association and events on our website and Facebook
- Develop promotional material for the P&C Association

Web Administrator

- Maintain the P&C Association Facebook page and website
- Manage the P&C Association gmail accounts

Get Ready for Next Year Now Coordinator

- Liaise with School Administration to prepare book lists
- Liaise with suppliers to coordinate orders and delivery
- Recruit and coordinate volunteers to assist with book pack collection day
- Prepare promotional material in conjunction with Promotions Coordinator.

If you have the skills required and are interested please email Soraya Bews, P&C President at president@mcdowallss.com for more information.

Volunteer Profile – Greg Sax

- What is your connection to McDowall SS?
  Two children: Kobi (Yr 5) and Lana (Yr 1).
- What have you volunteered for this year?
  Tuckshop, traffic controller for Kiss & Ride.
- What did you get out of it?
  It is great seeing the smile on my kids’ faces when they come up to collect their order. I also like asking all the kids how much change they should be getting if they don’t have the exact amount.
- Do you work? (if so how many days?)
  We have a small recruitment business. I do the books and IT stuff for it.
- What is at the top of your bucket list?
  A cruise in Alaska and seeing the Aurora Borealis. Well that and a week in an overwater bungalow in Tahiti (without the kids).
- What do you hear yourself saying over and over to your kids? I love you.