DATE CLAIMERS

MAY 2014

01  Parliament House – Year 6
02  North District Gala Day No. 1 Years 5-7
05  National Heart Week
06  Tartan Network 8.30am School Hall
07  Reading Flying Gang Meeting 1.45pm K Block
09  P&C Association Mothers’ Day Stall
12  OSH Sub-Committee Meeting
13  NAPLAN – Language Conventions & Writing
14  NAPLAN – Reading
15  NAPLAN – Numeracy
16  NAPLAN – Catch Up*
18  Education Week
19  North District Gala Day No. 2 Years 5-7*
23  National Walk Safely To School Day
26  School Lock-down Drill
27  Regional Cross Country – St Pauls
28  Albany Creek SHS Open Day – Year 6 4pm-6pm
29  Albany Creek SHS Open Day – Year 7 4pm-6pm
30  North District Gala Day No. 3 Yrs 5-7

* Should Years 3, 5, 7 catch up student NAPLAN Testing be required due to student absence during 14-16 May, this may affect school ability to participate in North District Gala Day No 2.

SCHOOL UNIFORM DAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Uniform</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Tartan Uniform or Red Polo Shirt Uniform</td>
<td>At school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tartan</td>
<td>Tartan Uniform only</td>
<td>Specified day or excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>House Shirt Uniform</td>
<td>(Preferred) At school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Red Polo Shirt Uniform</td>
<td>(Required) Interschool team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>As formally advised</td>
<td>Specific sports, activities, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Black leather or jogger shoes are school uniform wear.
- Bottle green socks are worn with the Tartan Uniform and Preparatory Year variation.
- White (red/bottle green bands) socks are worn with the Sports (polo shirt) Uniform specific purpose variation.
- Bottle green jacket or jumper is to be worn. Tracksuit available.
- Please mark all items with the child's name.

TARTAN TUCKERBOX ROSTER

Cannot help on your rostered day? PLEASE call Anelle on 3872 5304

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

YEARS 3-7: Monday 8.55am – 9.30am. Parents welcome.
PREP-YR 2: Wednesday 9.00am-9.30am. Parents welcome.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

Email: admin@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au

OPENING HOURS: Monday & Thursday between 8.15am & 9.30am.
From the Principal

WELCOME – NEW STAFF

Mrs Danielle Jonssen has been appointed to School Office Staff. She is assuming responsibility for the “Tartan Times” newsletter. Please ensure that all newsletter articles and photographs proposed for publishing within the Tartan Times are forwarded through: newsletter@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au.

Ms Gemma Goicoechea has been appointed as 2Q1 class teacher. She is well informed regarding class curriculum progress and is well supported by the Year 2 professional team.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (LITERACY AND NUMERACY)

The National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual formal assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. On Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th May, McDowall State School students will sit for the 2014 NAPLAN Tests.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. Increasingly, NAPLAN Tests will be based on the Australian Curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in literacy and numeracy skills against national standards for all Australian students. Included questions range in complexity from easy to very difficult. Generally, students are not expected to be able to accurately complete all questions. This data is used both to profile students, their class group, year level, school, state, nation, etc. This data may be used by schools to better target effort and support to assist all students improve and acquire the skills necessary for further achievement. All students are generally expected to participate in the tests.

Exempt Students: Students may be exempted from one or more of the tests if they arrived from overseas less than a year before the test and have a language background other than English or if they have significant intellectual or complex disabilities.

Withdrawn Students: Parents may choose to withdraw their child/ren on the grounds of religious or philosophical objections to the testing. Request must be in writing.

Adjustments for Students with Disability: Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom.

For information about NAPLAN, parents can go to: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill.

The best way that parents can assist their child/ren to prepare for NAPLAN is to:

- Let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school programme.
- Urge them to focus and do their very best on the days.
- Get a good night’s sleep.
- Eat a good healthy and filling breakfast.

An individual student NAPLAN Report will be received by the school and issued later this year. Parents must know that NAPLAN is but a ‘snapshot’ view of how their child achieved on one test, on one day. By the time that parents receive this Report, some 6 months of further learning and achievement will have been achieved. The class teacher will retain a wealth of quality information about a child’s academic progress and achievement. NAPLAN is but one indicator of achievement within a much larger context that can be discussed during parent / teacher interview. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au

READING FLYING GANG AFTERNOON TEA

When: Wednesday 7th May, 2014. Time: 1.45pm-2.30pm. Where: K Block (OSH)
Who: All parent volunteers available to hearing student reading.
School Administration

PRINCIPAL’S GALLERY

Every day, in every classroom, McDowall State School teachers and students achieve high standards. Learning is about the journey travelled with the culmination resulting in excellent samples of student work. Each week, classes are provided the opportunity to showcase some of this work in the “Principal’s Gallery” located within the School Administration Foyer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning:</th>
<th>28 April</th>
<th>4N1</th>
<th>Week Beginning:</th>
<th>5 May</th>
<th>2J8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>2J8</td>
<td>Week Beginning:</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>2Q1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 May</td>
<td>6C2</td>
<td>Week Beginning:</td>
<td>2 June</td>
<td>3F3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 June</td>
<td>1J6</td>
<td>Week Beginning:</td>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>PB1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 June</td>
<td>PB2</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

QSchools App

Easier access to school information

The QSchools smartphone app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information and makes staying in touch and up to date a little easier for your family. The QSchools app is integrated with the McDowall State School website and allows users to receive real-time notifications about schools events. Simply download from iTunes, Google Play or Window’s store.

Important alerts

Receive real-time notifications about state school closures and natural disasters.

News, events and newsletters

Access the latest information from McDowall State School. Eg. Excursion/Sport updates and cancellations.

School details

View school details including contact numbers, web address and other related information.

Visit the department’s apps page for more information and all the features: [http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/](http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/)

McDowall State School held an Anzac Day Commemoration Assembly on Wednesday 23rd April, 2014. Led by our School Cultural Captains, supported by Mr Ted Chitham (RAR Association) and the Hon Tim Mander (Member for Everton), the Anzac Story was shared with P-7 students. Mr David Nelson played the ‘Last Post’ and students were piped into the School Hall by a serving piper from Gallipoli Barracks.
ANZAC Commemoration 2014

This year, as a school, we gathered to remember and commemorate ANZAC Day. The morning rang out, with students entering the hall to the sounds of a lone piper. Our Cultural Captains delivered their ANZAC speeches with pride and sincerity. We heard of the sacrifices made by our young Australian men and women during the bloody battle at Gallipoli. Our school paid tribute to the fallen of battles past, and remembered those who are still serving our nation today in various peacekeeping, policing and military roles.

We were fortunate to be joined by Mr Ted Chittham from the RAR Association. He spoke of our Flag and its significance to our Diggers; young and old. He also shared the story of the Poppy with our students.

The Last Post was sounded by Mr Nelson, as parents, staff and students stood respectfully, offering one minute’s silence. Our State Member, the Hon Mr Tim Mander joined our Cultural Captains in the laying of wreaths at our School Memorial Stone. McDowall State School takes great pride in our ANZAC history. The future is in great hands, as our children continue to remember the fallen each year – Lest We Forget.

Our ceremony begins ...

Guest and student speakers honour the fallen

A lone piper plays outside the hall.

Top right: Mr Ted Chittham addressing the assembly. Mid right: Cultural Captains sharing the Anzac Story. Bottom right: P-7 reflecting on our heritage. Left: The stirring Last Post played by Mr David Nelson.
**Library News**

**Book Club**

Book Club catalogues will be issued on Friday 2nd May, 2014. All Book Club orders are due back at school by **Friday 16th May**. Orders are to be placed in the box located at the School Library or Preparatory Year. Thank you for your support of our Book Club.

**Parent Library**

Don’t forget about our new Parent Collection in the School Library. Our current featured book is ‘The Seven Habits of Happy Kids’ written by Sean Covey, son of Steven Covey (author of ‘The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People). The book has a series of stories to read to children, each story is followed by helpful information for parents and discussion tips.

Books can be borrowed from the School Library under your child’s name for a two week borrowing period.

**CONTACT:** Mrs Jan Saunders - Teacher Librarian

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**Music**

Term 2 is a busy time for Instrumental Music at McDowall State School as we have a number of key events and preparations happening, including:

**Qld Youth Music Awards**

By the time you receive this newsletter our Wind Ensemble will have already performed at the Qld Youth Music Awards. Our String ensemble is performing on 2nd May, 2014. Good Luck!!

**Junior Music Camp**

Information will be sent home regarding Junior Music Camp very soon. (Band students in their first year of tuition and string students in their 2nd year of tuition are eligible). Please be sure to read the information carefully and return the medical and consent forms promptly. Also, please be sure to read the venue information for your child and the details regarding the final performance. If you are unsure about any of this information please ask Mrs Gyte, Mrs Payne or Miss Pomroy for clarification.

**Fanfare**

Our String Ensemble and Wind Ensemble are competing in the state-wide Fanfare competition on 23rd May at Craigslea SHS. Students will be bussed from McDowall to Craigslea during school time and a nominal fee for bus travel will be requested from each student (approx. $4 at this stage). Parent entry is free at this event and we strongly encourage you to come and support your children.

**Celebration Concert**

Members of the Wind Ensemble and String Ensemble should now have full band uniform. Students in the Concert Band and Adagio Strings (NOT Junior Strings) will need to have full band uniform for our Celebration Concert in June. Please hire your vest directly from the Uniform Shop.

**Rehearsals**

Apart from our very Beginner Strings, all instrumental students are now rehearsing weekly in various ensembles. Please ensure your child arrives promptly each week. In most cases rehearsals are on every week including the first and last week of terms.

**CONTACT:** Ms Amber Pomroy – Music Teacher.
**Inter-House Swimming Carnival**

On the last day of Term 1, we held our annual Inter-House Swimming Carnival for Years 4-7 at Wavell State High School.

It was a beautiful sunny day for our competitors who were cheered on by many supportive parents and friends. It was an enjoyable day filled with competitive spirit from all the Houses. A big "congratulations" goes to Banksia for taking out first place in this year’s carnival. The final scorecard was **Acacia 64pts, Grevillea 69pts, Melaleuca 79pts** and **BANKSIA 101pts**.

Many thanks go to Wavell State High School for hosting the event and providing Year 12 students to help us out on the day.

Congratulations Banksia!!!
**Gala Days**

Parents and friends are welcome to come and join us for the first Gala Day on Friday 2nd May, 2014. Please note that canteens will be operating at all venues.

Some gentle reminders for all Gala participants and parents:

- Payment forms are now overdue.
- Some students will be provided with a school jersey. (Please ensure these are returned in good condition to the coach when the Gala Days are concluded.)
- Let's all do McDowall SS proud by showing great sportsmanship (all games, all players) and behaving well at all times.

**District Cross-Country**

We are proud to announce that the school's cross-country team has now been finalised and students notified. Our team will compete in the district cross-country on Monday 5th May at Pine Rivers Park. The event will be managed by Mrs Deb Bowen (Year 6) and students will travel to the venue by bus.

**CONTACT:** Mr Paul Henderson – PE Teacher
P & C Association

SCHOOL BANKING

The Commonwealth Bank is running a fantastic promotion in Term 2. The Dollarmites have found sunken treasure from the Lost City of Savings and they want to share it with your kids! There are a number of prizes up for grabs including:

Major Student Prize

One student will win an underwater family adventure holiday including:

- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sea World Resort and Water Park on the Gold Coast
- VIP passes (2 adults + 3 kids) to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World, and Wet’n’Wild Gold Coast
  - A Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure
  - A $3,000 travel voucher to get them there

Runner-up Prize

130 Toys”R”Us Gift Cards to the value of $250 each

Sunken treasure for schools and you.

There will be a separate draw of $1,000 cash for a school in each State/Territory of Australia

Here’s how to win….

All students need to do is make three or more deposits through School Banking during Term 2 and they’re automatically entered into the competition!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

We are currently running an Entertainment Book fundraiser with a percentage of the sale of books returning to the P&C Association to raise important funds for our students. Entertainment Books are great as they contain hundreds of 50% or 2-for-1 offers to the best local restaurants, cafes, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!


If you order your books with the “Pick Up” option, the book will be delivered directly to your child’s classroom.

CONTACT: Mrs Sybil Bentley - Parent Volunteer
Thank you
Welcome back for Term 2 and we hope all McDowall families enjoyed the Easter Break. We can’t start Term 2 without saying a huge THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers who assisted us in the last week of Term 1 to deliver an amazing Easter Meal Deal.

We had over 806 orders to be delivered on time, so luckily we had an overwhelming response by parents offering to help. Thank you so much to our 21 helpers on the day, who made everything run smoothly and to plan. Some volunteers even stayed on afterwards to assist with the packing and distribution of Book Club.

We also had three new volunteers sign up to help in tuckshop regularly. They said that it was “fun to help out and they enjoyed the good company of other volunteers”!

Prep Ordering
Prep students are now able to order tuckshop food from the Tartan Tuckerbox. Preparatory Year students are usually very keen to participate and we look forward to helping them experience tuckshop and sharing in their excitement!

There are some differences between the Prep menu and the rest of the school as some items are too difficult for Prep children to manage or simply can’t be delivered (for example, hot soup).

Menu
The Tartan Tuckerbox has many great menu items ranging from salads, sandwiches, wraps to hot food specials. Snacks are also available. The Tartan Tuckerbox follows the Queensland Government “Smart Choices” guidelines, which is all about offering students healthy food and drink choices. As such, all food and drinks served from the Tartan Tuckerbox must be categorised as ‘Green’ or ‘Amber’ (no ‘Red’ food except on nominated days). ‘Green’ food must form the majority of the menu.

Please be aware that tuckshop food is packed by volunteers and the nature of food preparation areas and equipment means we cannot guarantee that food will be totally free from allergens. If you have concerns or questions, please speak with Mrs Moller at the Tuckerbox.

Ordering
The Tuckerbox is currently open Tuesday through Friday (closed Mondays). 1st break is served at 10.30am and 2nd break at 12.45pm. At 1st break, snacks, sandwiches, wraps and toasties are available and orders can be taken for hot food for 2nd break.

Please ensure your children are aware that you have ordered tuckshop food for them. Your child’s class teacher may not be on duty at lunchtime and with a large number of children to assist at meal times, it is helpful to teachers if children are aware they should be receiving tuckshop food for lunch. As lunches are packed by volunteer parents, errors do sometimes occur. Encourage your child to advise the teacher if they do not receive something or believe something is incorrect.

On-line Ordering – Flexi Schools
Tuckshop can only be ordered online at www.flexischools.com.au or via the Flexi Schools App. Online orders are prepared in the Tuckerbox and then sent to individual classrooms.

Online ordering allows us to easily and quickly offer specials and meal deals, change the menu to take advantage of seasonal produce and reduce paper use as no menus need to be printed.


For any assistance or if you’re genuinely unable to access online ordering, you can contact Mrs Moller to discuss other options.

Ordering through Flexi Schools is quick and easy. Orders can be:

- Placed up to two weeks in advance.
- Placed up to 8.15am on the day of the order.
- Cancelled up until 8.00am on the day of the order*

* (after 8:00am, you can contact the Tuckerbox by phone but a refund may not be possible if food has been prepared)
Birthday’s

If your child is celebrating their birthday, consider saving yourself the effort of baking or shopping for a cake by purchasing their class ice-blocks or cupcakes from the Tartan Tuckerbox. You will find this option on the Flexi Schools menu.

Volunteering for Tuckshop

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer at the Tartan Tuckerbox. If you can spare the whole day or just a few hours please contact Mrs Anelle Moller (Tuckshop Manager) by email, phone or pop by the Tuckerbox.

E-mail: tuckshop@mcdowallss.com  Phone: (07) 3872 5304

Photos from Easter Meal Deal (Term 1)
School Maintenance
Painting of covered walkways and some covered areas is well advanced and should be completed soon. Where work is underway, walkways may be closed. Please use an alternate route, avoiding garden areas.

New School Phone System
Over recent months, work has been steadily completed for the installation of a new school phone system. Both technology age and the demands of the school on that technology has required this major upgrade. Again, where workers have barricaded an area, we thank you for your understanding, please find an alternate route.

Building Inspectors
Professional building inspectors are gradually working their way through the McDowall State School over the next few weeks. Information gleaned from this inspection, will inform the school maintenance and repair schedule for the next three years. They will be entering all building spaces and are likely to also continue to work out-of-school hours. This inspection should pose minimal disruption to school operations.

READING FLYING GANG

Volunteers Sought To Hear Students Read To Them
Reading is a skill. As with all skills, mastery comes with practice. The more frequent opportunities are provided for students to read and discuss what they have read, the more proficient students will become with their reading. The Principal is keen to hear from grandparents and parents who are available to hear students read. Please either complete the form provided below or attend the next Reading Flying Gang Afternoon Tea to be held on Wednesday 7th May from 1.45pm in K Block.

WANT TO JOIN THE “READING FLYING GANG”?
Please complete the information below and deliver this form to School Administration. It is that easy!

YOUR NAME: CONTACT PHONE NO:
ARE YOU AN ENROLLED CHILD’S PARENT? Yes / No GRANDPARENT? Yes / No
ENROLLED CHILD’S NAME:
ENROLLED CHILD’S CLASS: CONTACT EMAIL:
Number of Sessions you are able to attend each week: One or Two? (Please Circle One)
Preferred Week Day/s:
Preferred Session/s: Morning or Middle, Afternoon Session or Any Session? (Please Circle One)

Thank you for completing this form. Please understand that involvement within this programme is at Principal’s discretion. We may not be able to accommodate all preferences. We look forward to meeting you!