Celebrating Talent

Congratulations to all the students who performed at the Performing Arts Celebration Concert last Thursday night, 20th November 2014.

It was a fantastic night showcasing the student talent we have at McDowall State School. Of course big concerts like this do not just happen, so a big thank you to all parents and staff who helped with concert preparation, supervision and back stage organising.

Year 5 Living History

Friday 7th of November, Living History Australia visited our School and helped our Year 5 students to consolidate their work this term in History on Australian Colonies.

Students were given the opportunity to interact with the past through dramatic recreations presented by Living History Australia. Some of our students were lucky enough to be chosen to dress up and help act out the role of convicts, soldiers, miners and free settlers from Australia’s past.

The students in costume couldn’t believe how uncomfortable and hot they were, even with the benefit of being under the fans in the hall! They all agreed it must have been very difficult for early settlers to wear these clothes day-in-day-out. It was a wonderful morning and students enjoyed it so much they asked when Living History could come again.

CONTACT: Mr McDonald – Year 5 Teacher
Principal’s Post

The McDowall State School Community is an extraordinary team of people who rally together in delivering excellence in educational services to our students. The School Creed begins, “This is our school.” and concludes, “Let us remember that as many hands make a house, so many hearts make a school.” Great schools are all about effective and productive partnerships. This passion, these relationships drive student achievement and standards, deliver a happy, secure school environment, build student confidence and provide a collective identity for our school community. In assuming parental responsibilities and the professional responsibilities of staff, we unite to provide our students the best possible learning experience and environment. We are McDowall State School and are proud of it!

Once again in 2014, student literacy and numeracy achievement across Years 3, 5 and 7 placed McDowall State School among the top performing primary schools in both Queensland and Nationally. NAPLAN is but a snapshot in time measuring select aspects of literacy and numeracy. McDowall State School educational programmes extend to provide our students both breadth and depth in multiple learning opportunities. For example: Public speaking, art, citizenship, a range of sports, choral work, both general and instrumental music, leadership, literacy / maths extension competitions, etc. A review of Tartan Times editions across 2014, highlights the many, many McDowall State School student achievements across a range of endeavour. We are so proud of our students!

We continue to invest within school infrastructure to better meet the environmental needs of students. We have continued to expand our eLearning networks, build on teaching resource availability, widened our large covered areas providing raised garden bed legacies for Years 6 & 7, constructed a large all weather shelter for Kiss-and-Ride students; and finalised our School Hall refurbishment. The P&C Association funded 15 additional teacher-aide hours during 2014. We look to the foreseeable future to construct a Sports Centre, provide new play equipment for our students and continue with classroom refurbishments.

The suburb of McDowall was named after the McDowall State School. Our school continues ‘in pride of place’ within our suburb. What is it that sets this school apart from many others? It is the honorary, voluntary goodwill, passion and commitment of our teachers, staff, parents, students and general community. Thank you. We cherish what we value. Your priorities align with what you value. We all want the very best educational experience for all our students.

May everyone enjoy a merry and holy Christmas season and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year. We all can look forward to an even bigger and better school year in 2015.

CONTACT: Mr Bruce Fogarty – Principal.
School Administration

School Enrolment Applications for 2015
All parents seeking to enrol their children at McDowall State School for 2015 need to complete and lodge an Enrolment Application Form with School Administration as soon as possible. This includes families with elder siblings already enrolled within the school.

Limited student enrolment vacancies remain for Preparatory, Year 2 and 4.

Student Enrolment Forms and information about the McDowall State School are located on the school website at: www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au.

Student Transfers 2014-2015
Should a parent know that their child will be transferring to another primary school for 2015, please advise School Administration at your earliest convenience. To assist you, a form that you can use and forward to School Administration is located on the school website home page www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au

Student Progress Reports
Student Progress Reports for Semester 2, 2014 will be issued to P-7 students on Monday 8th December, 2014. Parents seeking to discuss student progress with their child’s class teacher during this week may arrange an appointment for a mutual time, through School Administration on 07 3872 5333. If your child will be absent from school during the last week of term and you seek to have your child’s report posted, please supply School Administration with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Student Progress Reports Red Folder
Has your child returned the Red Report Folder to the class teacher? The Red Report Folder is used to ensure that the Student Progress Report arrives home in good condition.

Class Lists 2015
McDowall State School Administration relies on parents providing early and timely advice regarding their intent to enrol their child at the school for the New Year and/or to transfer their child to another school from the end of 2014. Based on the information that we have at hand, Class Lists are drafted for 2015. Should school enrolment numbers change during the school vacation, there is a very high probability that class lists and teacher deployments will change before the start of school in 2015.

If you, or someone you know, still plan to enrol a child into P-6 at McDowall State School in 2015, and have not yet done so, please contact School Administration as a matter of urgency. Should your circumstances change during the vacation and your child not be continuing their enrolment at McDowall State School for 2015, please advise School Administration as soon as possible on 07 3872 5333 (or if circumstances change during the vacation period, from 19th January, 2015).

Based on Principal best estimates, Class Lists will be configured (in draft) by 12th December, 2014. Class List information will not be made available until they are reviewed and redrafted again prior to the commencement of the new school year. This prevents unnecessary anxiety when / if class list amendments and teacher redeployments are made due to late enrolments and student transfers. Final Day 1 Class Lists will be posted on pin boards outside Year Level classrooms early on Tuesday, 27th January, 2015.

Teacher Leave / Release (Known at publishing)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Staff changes</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Deputy Principal Prep–Yr 2 | 01 Dec 2014 – 12 Dec 2014 | Dr Mary Cavanagh is being replaced by Mrs Naomi Thistlethwaite.
| PA1 | 01 Dec 2014 – 03 Dec 2014 | Mrs Brega Sullivan at Tartan TADPOLES is being replaced by Mrs Tanya Williamson.
| PB1 | 01 Dec 2014 – 12 Dec 2014 | Mrs Naomi Thistlethwaite (PB1) being replaced by Mrs Chris Irving.
| PB2 | 01 Dec 2014 – 05 Dec 2014 | Mrs Michelle Holland at Tartan TADPOLES being replaced by Mrs Bianca May.
| PC1 | 04 Dec 2014 – 05 Dec 2014 | Ms Deborah Grimshaw at Tartan TADPOLES is being replaced by Mrs Tanya Williamson.
| 1J3 | 24 Nov 2014 – 12 Dec 2014 | Mrs Paula Jaques being replaced by Mrs Jenny Doyle-Brown.
| 4E3 | 17 Nov 2014 – 12 Dec 2014 | Mrs Gaynor Kyle is being replaced by Mrs Pam Lohmann.
| 7D4 | 20 Jan 2015 – 26 Jun 2015 | Mrs Jan Meikle is being replaced by Mrs Tanya Williamson.

Teacher Leave / Release (Published)

Class Dates Staff changes

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7D4 20 Jan 2015 – 26 Jun 2015 Mrs Jan Meikle is being replaced by Mrs Tanya Williamson.
**Teacher Transfers / Departure**

*(Known at publishing)*

The following staff are leaving McDowall State School. We thank them for their commitment to our school and wish them well into 2015.

- Ms Zoe Taylor (3F4) – Amberley State School.
- Ms Amber Pomroy (Music) – New South Wales.
- Mrs Kerry Kosiek – Extended Leave.
- Mrs Karen Howie – Extended Leave.
- Mrs Jennifer Ryan (PA2)
- Ms Larissa Vogt (PG4) – Gladstone State School.
- Mrs Dana Hanfling.
- Ms Gemma Goicoechea.
- Ms Pui Ki Lau (Japanese).
- Mrs Phyllis Broughton (Speech Pathology) being replaced by Mrs Maureen Liddy.

**Class ‘Celebration’ Day**

Thursday 11th December, 2014 will be Class ‘Celebration’ Day. Each class will advise of food arrangements and activities for this day. Normal recess periods will not apply. Parents need to note that this is a RED FOOD Day and food will come from various family homes. Should your child have an ‘allergy’ or ‘like’ health condition, you may need to make special arrangements for your child. Students may wear ‘Casual Dress’ (no charge) of a standard, modesty and design that is suitable for wearing to school. Wearing of a hat and shoes is still required. Please, no offensive words, statements or pictures on clothing.

**School Pack Up Day**

Friday 12th December, 2014 will be School Pack Up Day. It is a school day. Teacher supervision will be provided. Classrooms will need to be packed up, equipment and materials hygienically stored; and where necessary, relocated into a classroom for use in 2015. Any parents able to assist in relocating furniture on this day, please contact Ms Rebecca Fleming BSM at School Administration.

**Child Supervision Before / After School**

Student supervision is not provided by the school before or after school hours. School hours are: P-2 … 8.15am-2.30pm and Yrs 3-7 … 8.45am-3pm. School hours are signified by the school beeper system. Parents make the most appropriate and safe arrangements for their child to travel to/from school. Many students independently make their way to/from school daily. The P&C Association provides before/after school care through OSH.

Should a parent accompany their child before/after school (within the school grounds), the parent assumes supervisory responsibility for their child/ren and is expected to comply with school policies and procedures. E.g. Seating location, conduct, noise levels, close supervision of children.

**Planned Student Absence**

Class teachers are required to complete class rolls, stating reasons for student absence, right through until the final school day of the school year. If your family is planning to leave early for holidays or your child is likely to be absent from school during the final school days, please write a note addressed to the class teacher advising them of the anticipated absence and reason for absence.

**Performing Arts Vests, School Equipment & Property Return**

Should any students be yet to return Performing Arts vests, school library books and materials from 2014, please do so as soon as possible. Inter-School Sport concludes on Friday 28th November, 2014. Students with sporting equipment, sporting uniforms or other materials provided by the school, must return these to their Sports Coaches urgently.

**First Day of School 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part of school</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Administration</td>
<td>8.00am – 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory Year - Year 2</td>
<td>8.15am Beeper sounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.20am – 2.30pm Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 – 6</td>
<td>8.45am Beeper sounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.50am – 3.00pm Classes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preparatory Year**

All Preparatory Year to Year 6, McDowall State School students attend school for Day 1, 2015 on Tuesday 27th January, 2015. Teachers and staff will be attending training and preparing for the Day 1 arrival of McDowall State School students during the preceding Pupil-Free Days. Temporary signage will be placed around the school to direct parents and students to Year Level classrooms.
Classes are named after the Year Level, the Block and Room in which they are located. E.g. 3F2 means Year 3, F Block and Room 2.

Preparatory Year and Years 1-6 Class Lists will only be made available on the first day of the new school year. Your understanding and support with these matters will be greatly appreciated.

To avoid congestion, Preparatory Year Class Lists will be placed on six separate painting easels along the spacious concrete covered areas/pathway near Preparatory Year Teaching Blocks. A Class List will also be displayed outside each Preparatory Year classroom. On Day 1, parents and their children are requested to arrive around 8.15am and wait under their Preparatory Year Covered Area. The School Tuckshop will be closed for Preparatory Year student access for Term 1 only.

Years 1-2

On Day 1, Years 1-2 students are requested to arrive around 8.15am. The school beeper will sound at 8.15am. School Maps indicating the location of Years 1-2 classes will be placed around the McDowall State School. Class Lists will be displayed on pin boards outside or in windows of classrooms. On Day 1 only, all Year 1 students located in J Block are to assemble in the Undercroft (Ground Floor) where Class Lists will also be displayed. All Year 2 students will assemble under the large Covered Area at the western end of the Curriculum Centre. From Day 2, at 8.15am, all Years 1 & 2 classes will assemble under the large Covered Area at the western end of the Curriculum Centre. The first full School Tuckshop Day will be Friday 30th January, 2015.

Years 3-6

School Maps indicating the location of Years 3-6 classes will be placed around the McDowall State School.

Class Lists will be displayed on pin boards outside or in windows of classrooms. Years 3-6 (+ Year 2 sibling) class teachers will open classrooms from 8.30am. All Years 3-6 (+ Year 2 sibling) students are to wait patiently under the large covered area, at the southern end of the Uniform Shop, under Teacher-Aide supervision until 8.30am. From this time, they prepare for the school day. The school beeper sounds at 8.45am. Class instruction begins at 8.50am. The first full School Tuckshop Day will be Friday 30th January, 2015.

From 2.30pm (P-2)

OSH will collect students from their class. J Block students will be dismissed from the J Block Undercroft. Other P-2 students will be dismissed from their classroom. P-2 Kiss & Ride Facility students will be accompanied by their class teacher to the large Covered Area at the western end of the Curriculum Centre for pick up by the Kiss & Ride Facility Teacher-Aide. P-2 students will be encouraged to walk independently to the nearest gate to depart the school site.

From 3.00pm (3-6)

Years 3-6 students (+ Year 2 sibling) classes will be dismissed from class. Students will progress to OSH, independently to the Kiss & Ride Facility, independently to the Bus Waiting Area or to locate their sibling/s and progress directly home.

Parking

Please expect to park a number of residential blocks away and walk the distance between your car and the school. (Park and stride) Parking is extremely restricted and regulated around the school. Please take time before school begins to familiarise yourself with traffic and parking signage. Fines will be issued by traffic enforcement officers. School staff do not regulate nor direct traffic. Parent parking is not available within the school grounds. If available, a small car park is available on Rode Road near Pleshette Place. Parents are asked to consider the lifestyle and be courteous to local residents by not blocking driveways or parking on private property.

Morning Tea

The P&C Association will provide a “Welcome Morning Tea” for parents on Day 1, from 8.30am in K Block. Both parent volunteers and parents generally are invited to attend. Parents are encouraged to settle their child into class then progress to K Block.

Uniform Shop

The P&C Association operates the School Uniform Shop, relying on the support of parent volunteers.
Book Packs

The P&C Association has contracted the supply and distribution of P-6 Student Book Packs to Zillmere News / MK Educational Supplies (18 Handford Rd, Zillmere.) Various delivery arrangements exist as outlined on the Year Level Book Lists 2015.

Tartan Times

The “Tartan Times” school newsletter is published each fortnight and is the main vehicle of communication between the McDowall State School and families. Information is regularly updated and school procedures are explained. Most families receive an email advice when the latest “Tartan Times” has been posted on the school website. Should any family not have on-line access, arrangements can be made through School Administration for a hard copy to be provided.

Child Care

Child care is provided through McDowall SS P&C Association Out-of-School Hours Care located in K Block. Tel: 07 3353 5755. Email: admin@mcdowallosh.org.au should child care be required for 2015, it is recommended that contact be made as soon as possible. Child care and out of school hours child supervision is not provided by the school. Alternately, a private child care provider should be contacted.

Should your contact details or circumstances affecting this planned student enrolment, change before the start of the 2015 school year, please ensure that you advise McDowall State School Administration asap from 19th January, 2015.

Lost Property

The school will donate all “Lost Property” to charity by Friday 12th December, 2014. Lost property is available from outside the School Uniform Shop, for perusal until this time.

School Watch

LOOK ..... LISTEN ..... REPORT

We need your help! Not everyone values nor appreciates our school.

It is not expected that anyone will be found loitering or wandering among our buildings during the school vacation. Gates will be locked. Police will challenge your presence. Contractors and OSH staff are instructed to take digital photographs and refer such people to the police. If you see or hear anything out of the expected at our school, please ...... Phone 13 1788.

Unless you have written authorization from the Principal, adults and children found within the school grounds are trespassing and can be charged by the police. Please keep clear of the Out-of-School Hours Care Programme, unless you are a parent dropping off or collecting your child. OSH access is only via Metro Street gate. The Principal expects that when charges are made by police, that cost recovery be pursued through the courts for rectification costs associated with any school damage and vandalism.

Tartan TADPOLES (Teachers and Dedicated Parents Organising Little Early 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 2015. 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 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 the play setting.

Tartan TADPOLES provides the teacher/s 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 from Monday 1st December through until Friday 5th December, 2014. 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 must be made in advance through School Administration.

**P&C Association AGM 2015**

The McDowall State School Parents’ and Citizens’ Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24th February, 2015 from 7pm in K Block. All Committee and Sub-Committee endorsed/audited Reports are due at School Administration by Thursday 19th February for compilation and publishing. Annual Reports and audited financial statements will be presented during the AGM. Following the endorsement of reports, all P&C Association Executive positions are declared vacant and nominations are called for 2015.

An earnest and sincere thank you is expressed to the McDowall State School P&C Association Executive and membership for a very productive and successful partnership in furthering the development of our Great State School. To parents considering an active role within the P&C Association in 2015, please refer to the information on the P&C Qld website. www.qcpca.org.au Please discuss your interest with a standing P&C Association member or attend School Administration. We’ll pass your contact details on.

All P&C Association memberships lapse at the AGM. Parents need to annually re-apply for membership.

**P&C’s New Digital School Sign**

The P&C Association is in the process of purchasing and installing a new full colour digital sign to be located on Rode Road at the entrance to the staff car park. The sign will broadcast road safety messages to motorists and promote upcoming School events and activities. To help the P&C with the costs of this sign, we’re now seeking interested businesses to partner with us as sponsors. In return, the name and logo of sponsors will be displayed on the sign on a rotational basis. For more information about this proposal, please contact Matthew Hanlon from the P&C on 0412 422 482.

**Restricted Access To Goldwin, Mayer And Metro Streets**

There will be limited access to these streets due to an upgrade of underground electrical power.

Access will be limited on:

- Thursday 27th November *and*
- Thursday 4th December.

The work is being undertaken by J & P Richardson Industries Pty Ltd (on behalf of Energex).

Please be aware that there will be machinery and trucks in the area. Traffic controllers will be on site. Students and parents are asked to take care during the affected days and to allow extra time and patience during this time.
School Contributions 2014 – Parent Report

Prep Year
Learning Area: Early Years
- Numeracy – 3D shape set, tangram kits, 10 frames cards, unifix cubes, patterning blocks and maths games.
- Literacy – reading materials – guided reading sets of levelled readers for Prep reading centre, sound games and sight word games.

Year 1
Learning Area: Science and Art & Craft
- Construction material and consumables for science unit, which included making a musical instrument as well as floating and sinking activities.
- Construction material for fine motor activities and craft supplies for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and Christmas.

Year 2
Learning Area: Science and Art & Craft
- Construction material for ‘Push and Pull’ unit – make a push or pull toy. Examples of push and pull toys also purchased. Materials for ‘Mix, Make and Use’ unit.
- Water colour pencils, black display frames for art work, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Christmas and Easter activities.

Year 3
Learning Area: Science and Art & Craft
- Seed propagation equipment, consumables like chocolate and honey for science investigations and resources to produce a water bottle cooler.
- Class sets of knitting needles and wool, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day art pieces, sewing equipment, clay, photo frames and gift boxes, material for card making, Christmas craft supplies.

Year 4
Learning Area: Science and Art & Craft
- Magnets, iron filings, measuring cups, charts, stop watches. Other supplies were also used for the ‘Egg Drop’ activity.
- Seed propagation materials – potting mix, plastic cups, seeds etc.
- Tubs for biodegradability studies
- Felt, cardboard, hot glue guns and glue sticks, fabric paint and glitter paint, Christmas kits, wreaths, craft decorative pieces/sets, craft supplies.
Year 5
Learning Area: Science and Art & Craft

- Make do Construction Kits’ for construction activities related to Science unit.
- Mother’s Day art pieces: art pastels, laminated on A4 and A3 card. Mosaic pictures of Sunflowers laminated (2 X A3). Cooking of a cupcake/teapot biscuits. Wrapping paper and doilies used as well as curling ribbon. (craft items)
- Father’s Day art pieces: ceramic mugs, ceramic pens to use on mugs, key rings and cooking of rumballs. Wrapping paper doilies and curling ribbon provided.
- Clay for animal creatures, ceramic plates, canvases, felt for gender neutral toys. Laminating pouches for various art pieces displayed and sent home.
- Christmas Art and Craft items: various wooden decorations, cardboard boxes and craft materials

Year 6
Learning Area: Science and Art & Craft

- Electric circuit kits and lanterns, tornado tubes, insect bug viewers
- Coasters, canvases, putty filler, lanterns, gift bags, various craft supplies and consumables

Year 7
Learning Area: Science and Art & Craft

- Consumables for science experiments – micro-organisms unit, changing matter experiments and forces and energy unit
- Stop watches, funnels, measuring cups and spoons, jellybeans for dichotomous keys, modelling clay for food webs.
- Calico bags for screen printing, screen printing paint and foam, wire for sculptures and construction, plaster-of-paris for modelling, masks for Egyptian history unit, clay for modelling, coasters and mosaic tiles, photographic paper, beads, consumables for Christmas craft.
Library News

Inter-school Reader’s Cup

The Stafford District Inter-school Reader’s Cup was held at the McDowall SS Library on Thursday 13th November, 2014. Eight schools were each represented by a team of four students. On McDowall’s team were Jack L. and Hanna G. from Year 5 and Aohong D. and Charlotte G. from Year 4 (pictured right). Unfortunately McDowall SS didn’t win this year, but the team members certainly put in a lot of effort. A big thank you to those students for a job well done!

Library Borrowing

Library borrowing has now finished for the year and students need to have all library books returned by this Friday, 28 November, 2014. We appreciate your assistance by encouraging your child/ren to thoroughly check at home for any library books and returning these to school by the end of this week.

Book Club

Orders for the final 2014 Book Club have now been finalised and orders should arrive back at school soon. Thank you to the wonderful team of ladies who have run the Book Club this year. We truly appreciate the time, effort and energy that goes into making Book Club such an anticipated event in our School Calendar. It is also an important project for building the resource collection at McDowall State School.

Holiday Reading

Don’t forget your local public library is a great place to visit over the holidays to continue your child’s habit of reading. There are usually great holiday activities and events – you may need to book. If you’re going into the City or Southbank, the State Library of Queensland would also be an interesting visit. Check out their website for their calendar of events - www.slq.qld.gov.au.

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

Music News

Wind Ensemble and String Ensemble Tour

On Wednesday 3rd December, Mrs Payne and Mrs Gyte will be taking the String Ensemble and Wind Ensemble on a Day Tour. Permission Notes have been issued to students this week.

Instrument Returns

All school instruments are being collected this week for cleaning and servicing. Please ensure you return your instrument to Mrs Gyte or Mrs Payne. Allowance is made for students involved in the tour.

CONTACT: Ms Pomroy – Music Teacher
Inter-school Sports Wrap Up
For the past seven weeks, our senior students (Year 5, 6 and 7) have competed against other North District primary schools at various locations. They have had the opportunity to try their skills at T-ball, Softball, Baseball, Tipsy-bash Cricket, Futsal, or Touch Football.

Apart from developing and improving their sporting skills, McDowall SS players have also had a lot of practice building sportsmanship and team spirit. Amongst the wins, losses and draws, the most important thing is - we’ve also had loads of fun along the way! A big “thank you” to all the teachers who have coached these teams and to the parents who have come along to support our teams. Well done to all the students who have put in their best efforts in representing our school; you’ve made us proud!

Year 1 and 2 Swimming
Year 1-2 students are enjoying the swimming programme at Sam Riley’s Swim School, Everton Park. All students have been very well behaved and are putting in a great effort. All participants will receive a Certificate at the end of the programme.

Schools Tennis Challenge
Four McDowall SS students recently competed in a tennis competition against other schools. Congratulations to Kai, Marcus, Ali and Krupa on a solid performance. Thank you to Dom from Everton Tennis for organising the team.

Beep Test
Students across Years 4-7 recently completed a Beep Test in their PE lesson. This is a universal test to gauge an individual’s level of fitness. Participants are required to run 20 metre shuttles at increasingly shorter intervals. It will be recorded on the upcoming Student Progress Reports.

Beep Test Champions: Congratulations to Reeve AS who achieved a level 12.1 and was the highest boys’ score. Congratulations to Lani R who achieved a level 10.9 and was the highest girls’ score for the year.

McDowall Homestay Families Needed
McDowall State School will be hosting students from Shimonoseki High School, Japan from 6th – 12th March 2015. AJSP (Australia Japanese Study Program Pty Ltd) is looking for McDowall families to host these students as part of the homestay programme. This is a great opportunity for families to interact with international students and to develop friendships, knowledge and understanding of other cultures and customs.

If you are interested in hosting a Japanese student please complete the AJSP form (distributed with this newsletter) and email to ajspkeiko@gmail.com. Host family application forms are to be submitted by the end of this term (12th December, 2014), so checks and interviews can be arranged prior to the School Group’s scheduled visit in 2015.
Defence Family News

The time has come when we must say goodbye to many of our McDowall Defence families. We trust that your time here at McDowall has been full of laughter and lifelong memories. I have been spending considerable time with our departing children, preparing them for their new and exciting adventures! Please keep an eye out for all of the ‘treasure’ due to be coming home and to help with your upcoming move. Thank you to those families who have sent in their Blue School Posting Passports for stamping.

At Little Heroes, we have embraced the theme of the end of year Prep to Year 2 Disco ... FROZEN!!!

Children have used all of their creativity to help assemble a snowman for the event. It has brought a whole new meaning to “Do you want to build a snowman?”

It was lovely to catch up with some of our Defence parents at our final morning tea for the year and the opportunity to farewell some of our departing families. Look out for more Defence gatherings next year!

Please contact me if you have any issues you’d like to discuss.

CONTACT: Mrs Chris Jones – DSTA cjone404@eq.edu.au

Tartan Tuckerbox

Thank You for Your Support

We had a fantastic year in Tuckshop and I would like to thank all our students and teachers for their support and patience. It makes our job in Tuckshop a fabulous one!

Volunteers are not paid because they are priceless!

I would like to thank our volunteers for the time and effort they put into the Tartan Tuckerbox this year. We simply cannot run the Tuckshop successfully without you and we are grateful to have each and every one of you on our team.

It has a great privilege to work with so many committed parents and grandparents every day. Sharing a working environment with such positive and enthusiastic parents has been has been a very rewarding experience for all of the Tuckshop staff.

We are looking forward to seeing you in 2015 and would love to see some new faces. Please contact me if you are available to help out next year.

Volunteer Morning Tea

As a thank you to all of our Tuckshop volunteers, we’re holding a morning tea on Thursday 11th December at 9:30am in the Tuckshop. Please join us for a cup of tea, some scrummy things to eat and of course; the friendly company of your fellow volunteers.

CONTACT: Mrs Anelle Moller - tuckshop@mcdowallss.com Ph: 3872 5304
P&C Association

FUNDRAISING

Book Covers
Extra book covers have been added to Flexischools, but are only available until **Friday 28th November 2014**.

All book covers will be available for collection on Book Pack Pick Up Day - **Tuesday, 2nd December 2014**. If you miss the Flexischools order deadline, a limited number of book covers will be available for sale at Book Pack Pick Up Day. All orders not collected will be delivered to classrooms, the week ending Friday 5th December, 2014.

Book Packs
Book Pack Pick Up Day is **Tuesday, 2nd December 2014** between the hours of **8.15am-10.15am and 1.00pm -3.30pm** from the School Hall. Any Book Packs not collected by 3.30pm will be held in the OSH Building (K Block) until Friday, 5th December 2014 and must be collected between 9.00am and 2.30pm and will incur a **late fee of $6**.

After this date, any uncollected Book Packs will be returned to the supplier and you will need to contact them directly to make alternative arrangements. You may be charged an additional late fee by the supplier.

Thank you to everyone for your support with this Fundraiser.

CONTACT: Sally Gunn - Parent Volunteer

STUDENT BANKING

Clam of Fortune Competition

For your chance to win one of the following prizes, make sure you enter the Term 4 School Banking Competition:

- 40 x GoPro Hero 3 Cameras
- 150 x Slip 'N Slide Double Wave Riders

Every deposit you make through School Banking will automatically create one competition entry for you (up to a maximum of six entries). Be quick enough, you only have until 30th November to get your deposits in! For more information, visit the **CBA’s School Banking website**.

Student Banking in 2015

The first day of School Banking for 2015 will be **Wednesday 4th February**.

School Banking Volunteers

School Banking volunteers are always welcome. If you are looking after children under school age – they can also come along – but you must supervise them at all times.

CONTACT: Kathy Wright – School Banking Coordinator / Parent Volunteer
What's Happening

DECEMBER 2014

02
- Book Pack Collection from School Hall - 8.30am to 10.30am and 1.00pm to 3.30pm.

03
- McDowall SS Instrumental Goes On Tour
- Student Banking Final for 2014.

04
- Preparatory Year Christmas Concert.

05
- Years 6-7 Table Tennis Tournament.
- School Captains Speeches and Student Ballot in School Hall.

08
- Student Progress Reports issued.
- Tartan Tuckerbox closed.

09
- Year 7 Presentations Assembly – School Hall from 9am.
- Year 6 Presentations Assembly – School Hall from 11.30am.
- Tartan Tuckerbox closed.
- Years 6-7 Twilight Dance – School Hall.

10
- Sports Awards Assembly. Years 5-7.

11

12
- School Pack Up / Clean Up Day.
- P-7 Assembly at 12noon – School Hall.

JANUARY 2015

13–26
- Summer School Vacation

19
- School Administration re-opens for 2015 (8am-4pm)

27
- First School Day for P-6.

FEBRUARY 2015

17
- P&C Association Executive Meeting 6pm-7pm.

17
- School Council Meeting 7pm-8pm.

24
- P&C Association Annual General Meeting 7pm-8pm.

24
- P&C Association General Meeting 8pm-9pm.

School Uniforms

Uniform Shop
Open Monday and Thursday
8:15am – 9:30am

Uniform Code

Daily
- Tartan or red polo shirt uniform (at school)

Tartan Day
- Tartan uniform only (when specified)

Friday
- House shirt uniform (at school)
- Red polo shirt uniform (interschool sport)

Other
- As formally advised (excursions and special events)
- 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 Uniform (polo shirt) 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/12</td>
<td>Michelle B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/12</td>
<td>Sally, G, Kim S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/12</td>
<td>Ashley S, Belinda I, Danel S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/12</td>
<td>Carla T, Sheralee, Anusaya P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/12</td>
<td>Tracey H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Rieko M, Joy M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Suzanne D, Dianne B, Gail A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Enza M, Susan P, Anusaya P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>