Brand new musical instruments have arrived

It was just like Christmas at McDowall State School last week when a truck full of brand new wind ensemble and string ensemble instruments arrived at the school. It was very exciting to see so many beautiful instruments emerge from their plastic wrapping and cardboard cartons. Mrs Gyte, Mrs Payne and Ms Spiller will be very busy this week setting the instruments up ready for use.

Instrumental music students will soon receive invoices outlining the ‘balance of payment’ due for participation in the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme.

Students in Year 3 and students in Years 4, 5, 6 using a school instrument, will also receive an instrument hire form. Please ensure all payments are made and forms are returned to School Administration from 13th but by 20th February so that instruments can be allocated to students and lessons can begin.

Payments may be made at School Administration (cash or EFTPOS) on Wednesday and Friday mornings until 11am, or by internet banking.

We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year of music. Let the fun begin!!!!!

Music News

Welcome to all new and continuing instrumental music students. Students will begin small group tutorials with Mrs Payne, Ms Spiller and Mrs Gyte from next week. Wind and String Ensembles will also begin.

Provided all fees have been paid and forms returned, instruments will have been distributed to students by the end of next week. Parents providing instruments for their child will need to have these available for student use from next week.

Information regarding Honours Choir auditions for 2015 has already been issued to interested students. There will also be a Senior Choir (Students drawn from Years 5-6) and a Junior Choir (Students drawn from Years 3-4). Choir rehearsals will commence next week. Rehearsal times will be posted on the Music Noticeboard.

CONTACT: Ms Woodruff – Music Teacher
Principal’s Post

Day 8 Teacher Confirmation

McDowall State School enrolment is 924 students across P-6, a fall from 957 students in 2014 due to the relocation of Year 7 students within secondary education. Day 8 Returns have confirmed the retention of 37 class teachers for 2015. Due to enrolment variance, teacher-aide and support staff allocations and timetables will now be reviewed to align with Day 8 allocated salary confirmations.

The Student Enrolment Waiting List 2016 is now open.

Great Results Guarantee 2015

Last year, School Council endorsed the appointment of a Speech Language Pathologist and three 30hr/wk teacher-aides to work across P-2.

We successfully delivered a multi-disciplined professional Year Level team focus across these Year Levels in (a) Knowing students (b) Identifying barriers to learning (c) Educational programme development (d) Capability extension / small group intervention; and (e) Specialist training support for teachers and teacher-aides. We delivered a strong focus on: phonological awareness, vocabulary acquisition, decoding skills, robust language instruction and communication skills of: listening, speaking, reading and writing. We were thrilled with the results that this programme delivered. A report can be perused by parents from the school website homepage www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au.

We expect that Day 8 enrolments will confirm an increase of Great Results Guarantee funding into 2015. Building on the P-2 programme, we plan to engage an additional 30hr/wk teacher-aide to work with Year 3 students in 2015.

Parent Information Evenings

Class teachers will provide parents with an introduction to their class programme during Parent Information Evenings next week. P-2 classes are scheduled on Monday 9th February and Yrs 3-6 classes are scheduled on Wednesday 11th February, 2015. Sessions are a maximum 55mins with 5mins afforded parents needing to relocate classrooms. Parents are requested to attend each teacher’s classroom at the scheduled time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mon 9th Feb</th>
<th>Wed 11th Feb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.30pm-5.25pm</td>
<td>PC1</td>
<td>1G4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30pm-6.25pm</td>
<td>Preparatory Year</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.30pm-7.25pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30pm-8.30pm</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Leadership 2015

Student Meetings will be held on 13th February for the election of Sports House, Sports and Cultural Captains. Years 3-6 classes will elect Student Councillors by this same date. Nominees for Captain positions must have earned their Senior Badge. Nominees for Student Councillor positions must have earned their Junior Badge for Years 3-5 and their Senior Badge for Year 6.

A Student Leadership Badge Presentations Assembly will be held on Monday 23rd February, 2015.

Principal’s Gallery

Upcoming classes to be featured in the ‘Principal’s Gallery’ located in the foyer of the School Administration (Office) building:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9th Feb</th>
<th>16th Feb</th>
<th>4E2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd Feb</td>
<td>1G4</td>
<td>2nd Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Date Claimers 2015

A McDowall State School Date Claimers 2015 document is provided to parents as an anticipated overview of school excursions, events and activities. Our school programme is dynamic and subject to change. Many external providers will not confirm dates nor costs until closer the date. Fortnightly updates are provided within the ‘Tartan Times’ newsletter. For excursions and significant events, teachers will issue notices to parents before the anticipated date. This document provides each family with a Date Claimer overview to support family planning and budgeting.

School Fees & Contributions 2015

In November, 2014, a report was included within the ‘Tartan Times’ newsletter on how parent financial contributions where expended by Year Level teachers. Few changes have been made to School Fees and Contributions for 2015, other than including the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme and adjustments to Work Book costs. Parents are requested to read the School Fees and Contributions 2015 document and make payment through School Administration by Friday 27th February, 2015. Teachers will outline how they use these additional funds to expand their programme, during the Parent Information Evenings. Further information is available by contacting School Administration.
Preparatory Year Eligibility Age

The Preparatory Year is the first year of school and provides the foundation for a child’s formal education. It is a full time programme. Children are expected to attend Monday–Friday, generally 8.20am–2.30pm at McDowall SS. Children must be 5 years of age by 30th June in the year that they enrol.

Children who are younger than the prescribed age for the Preparatory Year may be enrolled if they:

- Turn 5 year by 31st July in the year of proposed attendance; and
- The Principal is satisfied that the child is ready for education in the Preparatory Year, having regard to the child’s attributes (including ability, aptitude, social and emotional competence, physical development; and level of knowledge and understanding).

The Principal may also enrol a child who is younger than the prescribed age into the Preparatory Year if the child:

- Has previously started education that is equivalent to Prep in another state or country; and
- Is considered ready for education in the Preparatory Year in regard to their attributes (including ability, aptitude, social and emotional competence, physical development; and level of knowledge and understanding).
- A programme is considered to be equivalent to the Preparatory Year if it is full time, school based; and has a defined curriculum delivered in the year prior to Year 1.

There are no exceptions to these requirements. The parent is expected to provide satisfactory evidence and appropriate documentation that the child is entitled to apply for enrolment.

Queensland kindergarten and Preparatory Year eligibility requirements now align with New South Wales. These cut-off ages are the youngest starting ages in Australia so parents (and Principals) need to seriously consider the readiness of a child to engage within formal education. Kindergarten is an important preparation for the Preparatory Year. Developmental play in kindergarten is critical in terms of ensuring child readiness for primary school.

It is not compulsory for a child to attend the Preparatory Year as soon as they are old enough. Eg. 5 years by 30th June in the year they enrol. Parents may delay their entry by one year if they feel that their child is not ready for formal education. The child will start school in the Preparatory Year.

Aptitude and Ability Examples

- Confidently makes choices/decisions and follows through.
- Makes several attempts to complete a new or challenging experience before seeking help.
- Talks confidently, including expressing feelings and ideas, to familiar and unfamiliar people.
- Attempts to resolve conflict by suggesting modelled strategies.
- Actively participates in familiar and new group learning experiences.
- Recognises a problem and ways to solve it.
- Actively seeks and accepts help from familiar and unfamiliar adults.
- Is willing to contribute thoughts, ideas and solutions.
- Has awareness of and attention to routines, roles and responsibilities.
- Responds to ideas using imagination and in a range of ways.
- Recalls past experiences, events, or discussions.

Social and Emotional Competence Examples

- Applies awareness of their own and others’ rights in familiar situations.
- Observes, asks questions and explains simple changes to their environment over time.
- Engages positively with familiar and new experiences, and manages unexpected situations and changes.
- Eagerly contributes to new and challenging experiences.
- Engages positively with familiar and new experiences, and manages unexpected situations and changes.
- Eagerly contributes to new and challenging experiences.
- Talks confidently, including expressing feelings and ideas, to familiar and unfamiliar people.
- Co-operates with others in a range of social and learning situations. Eg. The child can play and show self-control.
- Shows respect for others.
- Demonstrates coping skills and resilience when things don’t go to plan.
- Interacts appropriately with other children and adults.
- Self-manages own belongings and activities with increased independence.
- Shows responsibility such as helping to tidy up after activities.
- Uses language to communicate ideas, knowledge and feelings (oral language, augmentative language). The child can express their own needs.
- Behaves appropriately in situations. Eg. Rarely or never shows aggressive behaviours, is able to demonstrate helping behaviours.
- Copes well with separation from parent/s for the duration of the school day.
Physical Development Examples

- Confidently uses fine and gross motor skills to complete tasks.
- Sustains active involvement in challenging experiences.
- Monitors and manages own physical needs. Eg. Toileting.
- Sustains energy and displays endurance across the learning and routine expectations of a school day.

Level of Knowledge and Understanding Examples

- Listens, observes and communicates with others in a range of learning contexts.
- Applies knowledge from past learning to a new learning situation.
- Applies some modelled or familiar thinking routines to help solve problems.
- Independently maintains focus when engaging in a range of familiar experiences.
- Willingly engages in creating and using different types of texts.
- Experiments with copying and forming letters and assigns a meaning to their writing, uses letter names, if in a familiar context.
- Uses a variety of vocabulary when classifying, sorting, sequencing and comparing everyday materials and objects.
- Uses language associated with and shows understanding of spatial positions and directions.
- Is familiar with printed material. Eg. Can handle a book and can recognise some letters, numbers and symbols.

School Administration

Cleaning staff noticed that the external C Block wall had been forcibly holed this week by what appears to be a metal rod. This area was professionally inspected (same day) by BAS and remains fenced off until testing and repairs have been completed. Notice people around school buildings out of hours? Note any suspicious activity within the school grounds? Phone 13 1788. Deliberate damage and vandalism to school facilities is paid for from the school budget. These funds are therefore not available to better support the education of your children.
Welcome Back!
Welcome back to a new school year in our School Library. Students have enthusiastically come in from the heat and humidity to engage in recess activities. They have also been keenly borrowing books. The borrowing guidelines for each Year Level are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Non-Fiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep, Years 1-2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 - 4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 -6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The borrowing period is for two weeks but students may exchange their books each week if they elect to do so. Each class has a weekly borrowing lesson with their class teacher. Any student with an overdue book will not be permitted to borrow until their overdue books are returned.

The School Library is open before school from 8:00am and after school until 3:30pm. Please feel welcome to call in.

It is expected that Preparatory and Year 1 students bring a borrowing bag. It is also preferred that Years 2-3 also use a borrowing bag.

We take this opportunity to urge parents to establish good routines regarding the borrowed books that come home from school. One suggestion is that the books stay in school bags or in a special place within bedrooms while at home. The child should be expected to ensure that their books be placed within bags for borrowing day.

Our books are valuable resources and we would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that they stay in good condition and that they are returned punctually when due. This ensures that everyone may enjoy them. Thank you.

Library Borrowing Incentive Programmes
We have two programmes designed to encourage students to borrow books from the School Library.

Library Frequent Flyers!
Every book Year 1-3 students borrow, takes them on a new journey. These students have been issued with a 'Read Around The World' borrowing passport during their first class borrowing session. Each child receives a stamp or sticker in their passport on every occasion they borrow. Earning 16 stamps, they pass through Passport Control and receive a special certificate. Upon completing the whole passport, a very special presentation on Assembly is made!

Sports House Competition
Years 4-6 students assist their Sports House to win points in the School Library each time they borrow a book. The Sports House with the highest number of borrowing points has the Inter-House Reader’s Cup trophy displayed with their colours in the library for that week.

Library Monitors
Library Monitors are drawn from Years 5-6. Involvement as a Library Monitor provides students with opportunities to work in a team, develop leadership skills and practise personal skills such as confidence, initiative, organisation and responsibility. These qualities support McDowall’s YOU CAN DO IT Programme.

Book Fair Coming Soon!
We have our first big event of the year coming soon. Our Book Fairs are always a huge hit within our school community and we appreciate the enthusiastic support we receive. Funds from our two Book Fairs each year enable us to purchase an enormous number of books. This year our focus is to continue to purchase the books that are required to support our National Curriculum!

BOOK FAIR
- Starts on Friday 20th February and will be open all day for parents to visit.
- Ends on Thursday 26th February at 8.45am.
- From 8.00am - for students from P-2.
- From 8:30am – for students from Years 3-6.
- Will remain open until 3.30pm from Friday 20th to Wednesday 25th February.

Library News
We’re extremely proud of our wonderful team of Library Monitors and welcome any new students who want to join the team.

PARENT LIBRARY

We have a small number of parent help books ranging from assisting your primary child to surviving your teenagers that will be available for parents to borrow. These will be taken out in your child’s name. We hope to build the collection further if it is well used. The parent library collection is stored in the reference section of the school library. Please come and have a look!

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

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

How do I join the P&C?

Simply complete the annual P&C Association Membership Form (available online at www.mcdowallss.com or hard copy from School Administration). It is advisable to join as a member before the AGM as you can submit an application without being present at this meeting. If you wish to join after the AGM you must be present at the meeting at which the application is considered.

CONSIDER JOINING THE P & C

WHAT YOU DO – MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The McDowall State School P&C Association is an important part of the school community. The members work very closely with the school to help build a strong community and to provide resources that enhance the students’ learning experience.

Actions speak louder than words when it comes to valuing your child’s learning. Joining the P&C is one of the best ways to show your children how much you value their education. Being a member, allows you to provide input on school issues, budgets and policies. Whilst anyone can attend meetings, only members of the P&C Association gain voting rights.

In addition to the many volunteers required for the various events throughout the year, there are a number of roles / positions within the P&C Association that need to be filled each year at the Annual General Meeting (scheduled for Tuesday 24th February, 2015 from 7pm in K Block). These include:

- **President** - Incumbent stepping down in 2015. Will provide hands-on advice and handover
- **Vice President (1)**
- **Vice President (2)**
- **Secretary – Current incumbent stepping down in 2015. Will provide hands-on advice and handover**
- **Treasurer – Current incumbent stepping down in 2015**
- **Communications**
- **Grants Co-ordinator – Assistance required in 2015**
- **Traffic and Safe School Travel Co-ordinator**
- **Fundraising – Assistance required in 2015**
- **Tartan Network Co-ordinator** - **Current incumbent stepping down in 2015**
- **OSH Sub-Committee**
- **Shops Sub-Committee – Assistance required in 2015**
- **Health and Safety Representative – Position vacant in 2015**
- **P&C Qld Representative – Position vacant in 2015**

The problem that the McDowall P&C Association has encountered in the past is that parents think that someone else will do the work, however, when too many people think this way, the P&C Association roles are left to just a few people.

These dedicated people have to fill many roles to ensure that the P&C Association can function. It is unreasonable to let this occur. Without you, and your contribution, the P&C Association will not exist and that would be a huge loss for the students.

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 find a brief overview of the Executive Committee roles below.

Alternatively please discuss your interest with a standing P&C Association member or attend School Administration. We’ll pass your contact details on.

CONTACT: Mrs Debbi Robertson-Stainsby
P&C Association President
(president@mcdowallss.com)
P&C Association Executive Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Joining the P&C Association is a great way to keep informed, to contribute to the quality education of your children and to make new friends. Your contribution can be as large or small as you can manage, but your ongoing support of the P&C Association is invaluable.

Not only will you be supporting the school community but you will be supported by the school community.

You can learn new skills, and gain a clear understanding of how the school operates. This is a great opportunity to share in the school's decision-making process and shape the future.

President

The Constitution provides that the president

- Shall hold office in an honorary capacity
- Shall preside at every meeting of the Association in which she/he is present
- As chairperson, shall have a deliberate vote and a casting vote
- CANNOT hold the office of treasurer
- Shall be a signatory on P&C accounts.

The president should

- Provide leadership
- Act as a representative of the P&C
- Ensure time is used effectively
- Ensure decisions are made and followed up
- Oversees accountability of the Association
- Ensure everyone has a say
- Manage dominant personalities
- Foster good communication between the P&C, school and community
- Encourage participation
- Conduct meetings in an efficient and timely manner so that all members feel valued
- Be familiar with the rules, operations and meeting procedures of the P&C.

It is the president’s responsibility

- To provide explanations to those in doubt about procedure or the subject matter under discussion.
- To introduce guest speakers and to arrange for movers of votes of thanks.
- To ensure that priority items on the agenda are dealt with accordingly.
- To establish the next meeting date and time and to close the meeting.

Secretary

The secretary should

- Maintain attendance records and a register of members including ex-officio and life members
- Identify any business that needs to be addressed at the meetings
- Assist the president in preparing an agenda for each meeting
- Collate agenda papers for each meeting (including subcommittee reports)
- Provide copies of the agenda to the meeting
- Check the mailbox regularly
- Have a summary correspondence list for the meeting
- Identify items that require action from the correspondence list
- Record and deal with correspondence in/out as directed by the P&C
- Record discussion briefly if no decision was made
- Record who moved and who seconded the motion and the outcome of the motion
- Prepare and present minutes of P&C and officers’ meetings at each general meeting
- Generally organise, record and maintain information pertaining to the activities of the P&C
- Maintain an up-to-date copy of the Constitution
- Maintain up-to-date membership records
- Keep a record of continuing motions that affect the way the P&C does business
- Other files e.g. fete, list of materials needed for functions
- Have custody of P&C Association documents

Vice-President

The vice-president should

- Consider this position as the president’s understudy
- Provide support and assistance to the president
- Become familiar with P&C operations, rules and meeting procedures

The role of the vice-president is to provide essential support for the president and possibly other members of the team, i.e. assisting the secretary or the treasurer in some of their tasks.
The vice-president will chair those meetings from which the president is absent and carry out any duties that have been delegated by the president. The vice-president can also act as chair for any subcommittees established by the Association.

A vice-president can look on the role as a means of gaining an understanding of the various executive roles. A vice-president should become familiar with the operation of the Association. This position might also provide an opportunity for a particular job that can vary between school communities, e.g. publicity officer, education officer etc. This role, although not always seen as so, is one of the most important roles in the executive. It is essential to look beyond the role and try to ensure you are able to help the executive take the P&C Association into the community and promote the successes of the school.

**Treasurer**

The treasurer has the overall responsibility for the financial management of the P&C, **including** all subcommittee accounts.

The treasurers must
- Liaise with the book-keeper to ensure that all financial data is available in a timely manner
- Comply with the *Accounting Manual for P&C Associations*
- Prepare an annual budget for the P&C
- Supply a financial statement at each meeting
- Make all cheque books, deposit books and receipt books together with books of account available to the auditor
- Prepare annual statements, which must be audited and a copy forwarded to your EQ Regional Office.

It is the treasurer’s responsibility to ensure the book-keeper keeps accurate accounts of receipts and expenditure.

The treasurer should
- Be involved in the preparation of the school budget
- Ensure all monies received are promptly banked in the appropriate account
- Ensure the book-keeper keeps the cashbook up-to-date
- Ensure all accounts are paid promptly when authorised by a meeting
- Issue receipts for all monies received if not done by the book-keeper
- Make sure all cheques are correctly filled out and signed by the appropriate people
- Make sure that the secretary is given a copy of the signed statements prepared for each meeting, to be inserted in the minutes book
- Give a copy of the audited financial statements to the secretary after the AGM and a second copy to the principal
- Keep an accountable forms register
- Ensure any excess funds in a subcommittee account are transferred to the P&C General Account.
- Ensure accounting is open and transparent. Welcome questions.
- monitor Wages
- Discuss and address any issues raised by the auditor
- Ensure reports are countersigned
- Ensure all accounts are current and reconciled.

**Election Day Stalls**

Thanks to the parents who volunteered their time at the P&C’s BBQ & Cake Stalls at the recent State Election, raising over $2,700. Special thanks to Anelle Moller and Shirley Eickenoff for their help of the day!

**School Banking**

School Banking commenced on Wednesday 4th February and runs each **Wednesday** of the school year except the first and last weeks. All students are welcome to participate.

This year the Dollarmites are heading into Outer Space and they have some fantastic rewards they would like to share with you. The Library will display the rewards for the first few weeks of Term 1. Great competitions this year too, for example, deposit 25 times over the course of the year and you’ll automatically go in the running to win a trip to Disneyland! More information will come home in your yellow Dollarmite banking wallets.

**School Banking Account Opening Day**

18th February from 7:45am.
Located outside the Tartan Tuckerbox.
Metro, Goldwyn & Mayer Street Circuit

To improve the flow of traffic in Metro, Goldwyn Mayer Streets at McDowall State School start and finish times a series of parking measures apply. Parking measures include:

- ‘No Stopping’ zones on the inside of each corner.
- A ‘No Stopping’ zone adjacent to McDowall State School Metro Street gate.
- ‘No Parking (between 7-9am & 2-4pm)’ zones on the inside of the Metro, Goldwyn, Mayer Streets circuit.

It is also recommended that traffic flows in a clockwise direction (as indicated by the arrows on the image to the below).

Should all vehicles using this circuit during busy student set-down and pick-up times, operate in this way, there should be benefits including:

- Reduction of traffic congestion during peak times.
- Reduction in time expended when setting down and collecting children.
- Heightening school access point safety for both parents and children.