Have You Seen This Bear?

The Very Hungry Bear made a couple of guest appearances last week during our Book Fair. Seen below at a Year 1 debriefing, the Very Hungry Bear encouraged students to visit the School Library regularly and to keep doing a fantastic job with their reading!

See ‘Library News’ on page 4 for a full wrap-up of Book Fair
Japanese Students Visit
Between Monday 9th and Thursday 12th March, 20 x Shimonoseki Secondary School students from Japan will attend McDowall State School. Aged 14-15 years, these students are accompanied by teachers from their school and engage in formal English instruction. Outside these lesson times, Japanese students interact with McDowall SS students through a planned programme. This provides a rich intercultural experience for all our students and enables them to apply their language skills.

New P&C Association Executive
Our P&C Association is both the ‘business arm’ and the ‘parent forum’ of the McDowall SS. The P&C Association operates to a formal constitution, is made up of parent volunteer members; and it oversees many business enterprises and school activities which provide financially competitive and convenient services to families. Additionally, P&C Association fundraising spent on behalf of all students, keeps costs to parents low. The P&C Association delivers funds, resources, facilities and services into our school, well over and above the base provision made by government. Should this investment ever not exist and this investment was to be sustained, user pays costs would need to be fully passed onto families. Every family with a student enrolled at McDowall SS needs to support their P&C Association.

McDowall State School Parents and Citizens Association
The things YOU do make a real difference

The McDowall SS P&C Association held its AGM on 24th February, 2015. May I sincerely thank members retiring from the Executive for 2015: Mrs Debbi Robertson-Stainsy, Mr Ian McCaskill, Mr Svend Villsen and Mrs Kathy Wright. They provided stable, guiding management of P&C Association enterprises. For 2015, we welcome the following P&C Association members to the Executive:

- Mrs Soraya Bews – President.
- Mrs Jodie Muller – Secretary.
- Mrs Amanda Ferguson – Secretary.
- Mrs Carolyn Jarman – Treasurer.
- Mr Jarrod Dudley – Vice President.
- Mrs Amra Alibegovic-Memisevic – Vice President.

The next P&C Association General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24th March, 2015 from 7pm in K Block.

P-1 Parent / Teacher Interviews
Earlier this term, all parents were invited to attend a Parent / Teacher Information Evening. This was followed two weeks later by Parent / Teacher Interviews for Yrs 2-6. Now that teachers know our younger students a little better, parents are invited to attend Parent / Teacher Interviews for P-1 from Monday 16th March, 2015. Teachers seek to “know your child” and then plan a quality teaching programme resulting in best possible learning outcomes. In partnership, both teacher and parent support each other with clear intent to make this happen. Class teachers will issue notices for Parent / Teacher Interviews.

Dental Van
Qld Health will operate a Dental Van Service at McDowall SS from Monday 9th March, 2015. The van will be located behind the School Administration Building.

Principal’s Gallery
Each week, classes showcase excellent pieces of students’ work in the “Principal’s Gallery”. This is located in the foyer of the School Administration building.

| 2nd – 6th March | 1J4 |
| 9th – 13th March | 3F1 |
| 16th – 20th March | 3N1 |
| 23rd – 27th March | 1J1 |
| 30th Mar – 2nd Apr | 1J6 |

This fortnight we featured work from students in: 1G4 and 1J4
Student Leaders

There is a strong focus on student leadership at McDowall State School. We embed opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills within the curriculum and throughout a range of extra-curricula activities.

On Monday 23rd February, 2015, Student Leaders were formally announced and presented with their leadership badges by Cr Norm Wyndham and our School Captains from 2014. Our thanks are extended to Cr Wyndham and our leaders from 2014 for taking part in the Presentation Assembly.

2015 School Captains

- **Vice Captains** - Kelsey P & Lachlan C (left)
- **Captains** - Oliver C and Hannah G (right)

2015 Cultural, House and Sports Captains

- **Cultural Captains** - Armaan J & Emily B
- **Sports Captains** - Abbey W & Mason N (Front L-R)
- **Acacia Captains** - Ben S & Stella F (absent)
- **Banksia Captains** - Lani R & Joshua M (Middle L-R)
- **Grevillea Captains** - Jake W & Molly B
- **Melaleuca Captains** - Estella A & Tory B (Back L-R)

Academic Challenges

More than 20 of our highest achieving students will represent McDowall State School at an upcoming Problem Solving Challenge Day.

The event will be held at Wavell State High School on 9th March, between 8.45 am and 1.00pm.

Select Year 5 and 6 students will compete in problem solving challenges across maths, science and technology. They will compete in Year Level teams against students from other State Primary and High Schools in the local area.

The morning promises to be exciting and rewarding for students seeking additional academic challenges. This is an excellent opportunity for students to see what learning lies ahead of them in the high school years and a chance for students to showcase their skills. We thank Wavell State High School for organising the event and their commitment to excellence in education.

Good luck to all students participating in this event.

CONTACT:
Mrs Anderson
Specialist Teacher Literacy and Numeracy

School Photo Day

School Photos - Thursday 12th March, 2015

Silver Rose Photography will again this year be taking school photos. To ensure everything runs as smoothly as possible, Silver Rose have asked that we pass on the following important information:

- Your child must return their envelope on Photo Day.
- If your child does not hand an envelope to the photographer, they may not be photographed for individual portraits.
- You can place a late order with Silver Rose but usually only for group photos.
- Make your payment by cash, credit card (Visa or Mastercard), cheque or money order.
- If you have any questions about Photo Day, please call Silver Rose on 3262 5788.
- You can order special groups and sports photos through their website – Go to the schools section and then co-curricular ordering.

www.silverrose.com.au

Right: Cr Wyndham presents Estella A with her Leadership Badge
Above: 2014 School Captains (L-R): Cooper B, Tahlia K, Lily D & Oliver A.
Library News

Book Fair
Thank you for your wonderful support of our recent Book Fair. It was a busy week despite some very rainy days. We sold $8,453.53 worth of products! Commission from these sales was $1,690.70, which will be used to buy more library books and other school resources. Our next Book Fair will be in Term 4.

Book Club
Our first Book Club catalogue for the year will be coming home this week, along with a flyer outlining changes to Book Club ordering.

This includes the new LOOP platform and app (iPhone / iPad only). LOOP lets you order and pay online. Books are delivered to the school and sent home with your child/ren.

If you don’t use LOOP, you can place your order form in the Book Club boxes at the School Library or Prep Centre. Orders must be submitted with payment by 9.00am on the Friday after you receive your catalogue. Payment may be made by cash, credit card, cheque or credit vouchers.

If you have any questions about Book Club or would like to join our friendly team of volunteers, please email bookclub@mcdowallss.com.

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

Music News

Choirs
We have three Choirs at McDowall State School and so far, we’re off to a great start for 2015. The auditioned Honours Choir is now full with 40 members. Junior Choir and Senior Choir are non-auditioned choirs and there is still room for more singers (especially from Years 5 and 6).

If you are interested in joining, you haven’t missed out, just come to one of our rehearsals this week. Senior choir rehearses during first break on Tuesdays and Junior choir rehearses during first break on Thursdays.

Identify Your Instrument
Instrument cases all look alike, often resulting in student confusion. Parents are asked to consider temporarily attaching a bag tag, a ribbon or some other identifier well known to the child, for ease of instrument case identification. Neither case nor instrument is to be permanently marked.

Email Addresses
Once again, I’d ask parents to email the school if you are not receiving emails from our instrumental music teachers. There are still some addresses that are bouncing back and this means that you are missing out on important information about the programme.

CONTACT: Ms Woodruff – Music Teacher

Sports News

Inter-house Swimming Carnival
- For students in Years 4 to 6.
- Friday 20th March.
- Wavell State High School pool.
- Transport is by bus.
- Spectators welcome, but space is limited.
Regional Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students for representing our School at the Regional Swimming Carnival last week: (left to right) Armaan J, Hayley F, Luke M and Jack L.

Gala Day Sports

Throughout Term 2, Years 4-6 students will have the opportunity to attend three sporting Gala Days. Students can choose which sport they would like to play, including: Soccer, AFL, Hockey, Basketball (Year 5 and 6 only) and Netball. The majority of students will get their first preference. Students not attending Gala Days will participate in Multi-Sports here at McDowall SS.

Upcoming North District Trials

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>10th Mar</td>
<td>Hockey – boys and girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Mar</td>
<td>Netball – Under 11s – Aspley SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Mar</td>
<td>Soccer – girls – Albany Creek SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Mar</td>
<td>Soccer – boys and girls</td>
<td>Albany Creek SS – all day</td>
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<td>20th Mar</td>
<td>Gala Day Sports – 1st training afternoon</td>
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<td>24th Mar</td>
<td>Tennis – boys and girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th Mar</td>
<td>Rugby League – Under 11s</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th Mar</td>
<td>Rugby League – Under 12s – all day</td>
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Please note: All students who attend a trial need to collect paperwork from me first. Also, some trials require a trial fee and registration.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

Defence Family News

Did you know that the ADF provides a range of financial support to eligible families in an effort to help reduce disruptions to schooling caused by postings?

Tutoring

Defence Families may be reimbursed fees for tutoring to assist with “filling gaps” caused by changing schools. Students may be entitled to up to 14 weeks of tutoring in any subject that has been identified by the school as representing a gap in learning. Contact DCO for further information.

Students With Special Needs

Assistance may include assessment, therapy, tuition and additional support for students who have received support in a previous location and are now unable to access this support at their new posting locality.

For more information, contact Cathy Dellit - your local Regional Education Liaison Officer (REDLO). Phone 3354 0554 or 0429 385 328 or email cathy.dellit@defence.gov.au.

The Defence Family Helpline

This Helpline is your first point of call for support and is available 24-7. The service is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.

Phone: 1800 624 608 or email: defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au.

Calling Past SASR Auxiliary Members (1965–2015)

The SASR Auxiliary is celebrating its 50th anniversary and they are calling out to all past members to get back in touch.

The Auxiliary asks that you please include the year/s of membership and your surname at the time, so they can verify your details.

To be added to the mailing list for updates please contact: auxiliary50thcommittee@gmail.com. For further updates, visit the Facebook page of SAS Historical Foundation.
For Families New To Defence

FamilySMART – Military Lifestyle is specifically designed for new Defence partners and spouses. Topics covered include:

- Navigating the Defence system.
- Tips in managing a Defence lifestyle.
- Defence Force structure, military concepts, acronyms and language.
- Strategies for thriving in the military lifestyle.

It is also a great chance to meet other partners of Defence members, so register your interest today!

Where | Defence Community Organisation - Brisbane
---|---
71 Osborne Rd, Mitchelton

When | Thursday 12 March 15

Time | 10am - 12pm & 6.30pm – 8.30pm

RSVP | Phone Kim on 3354 0500 or email dco.brisbane@defence.gov.au

CONTACT: Mrs Jones - Defence School Transition Aide

P&C Association

Bike Week 2015

McDowall State School is celebrating Bike Week from 9th to 13th March, 2015. We encourage students and their families to leave the car at home this week and get a taste of the benefits, ease and fun involved in choosing to be active in traveling to school.

Preparations are well under way and we’re encouraging families to ride, walk, skate, or scoot as fun ways to travel to school during this week.

Students who actively travel to school during Bike Week will go into the draw to win a fantastic prize. Simply put your name on a piece of paper and drop it into the box at the Bike Rack Cage each morning. The winner will be drawn on Friday 6th March.

National Ride 2 School Day - Friday 13th March

Come down and join us on the oval from 7.45am to 8:15am for some fun bike games. If you can spare half an hour on Friday morning to help us organise these games, please contact Kathy Wright.

CONTACT: Mrs Kathy Wright
Active School Travel Coordinator
activeschooltravel@mcdowalss.eq.edu.au

Seeking Volunteers for Book Club

The Book Club Committee is looking for two additional people to help bag and distribute Book Club orders on Friday 27th March from 8.45 to 10.30am in the OSH Building.

While we are a big school, we’re often short of help. Come and share a cuppa and a chat while you lend a much needed hand.

We’re using www.volunteerspot.com to manage the sign up process, simply:
1. Click this link - http://vols.pt/1FQp7h
2. Choose the time that suits you.
3. Sign up (no account or password necessary).

You’ll get a confirmation email and a reminder email one day before your chosen timeslot. If you prefer not to use your email address, please call Ms Soraya Bews on 0431 773 467 and I can sign you up manually.

Tartan Tuckerbox

Easter Meal Deal - 2 April 2015

To celebrate the end of Term 1, the Tartan Tuckerbox is offering a Special Easter Meal Deal for all students (Prep – Year 6).

Please note: this is a Red Food Day.

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<th>First Break</th>
<th>Second Break</th>
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<td>$5.50</td>
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- Beef snack pie
- Small chips
- Mini chocolate egg
- Drink
- Hot cross bun (traditional or fruitless)
- Mini chocolate egg
- Drink

- Meal Deals can ONLY be pre-ordered via www.flexischools.com.au
- Order MUST be placed by 9.00am on Monday 30th March 2015.
- A computer is available for use at the Tartan Tuckerbox if you do not have access to one.
- For help using Flexischools visit www.mcdowalss.com
- If you can volunteer on 2nd April, please contact Mrs Moller.

CONTACT: Mrs Anelle Moller – Tuckshop Manager
Ph: 3872 5304 or tuckshop@mcdowalss.com.