Proud Problem-Solvers

Some of our highest achieving Year 5 and 6 students represented McDowall State School at last week’s Problem Solving Challenge Day at Wavell State High School. All students enjoyed the day and competed well in challenges across Maths, Science and Technology.

A special mention goes to one of our Year 5 teams for placing second in the Year 5 Division. Owen I, Aohang D, Dennis S and Isaac H were just ‘pipped to the post’ with only one point separating first and second place. If you get the chance, pop into School Administration and take a peek at their prizes.

Thanks to Mr Pedwell DP for supervising students and to parents for driving students to and from the venue. Well done Wavell SHS for another fantastic event.

CONTACT: Mrs Anderson Support Teacher Literacy & Numeracy

WHAT’S HAPPENING

Fri 20 Mar Mon 23 Mar Tue 24 Mar Wed 25 Mar Thu 26 Mar

- P-1 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Yr4-6 Inter-House Swim Carnival
- Honours Choral Programme (until 26th March)
- P&C Meeting 7pm
- 3N1-2 Bunyaville Excursion
- 5D1-2 St Helena Island Excursion
- 5G1-3 St Helena Island Excursion

Fri 27 Mar Mon 30 Mar Tue 31 Mar Wed 01 Apr Thu 02 Apr

- Student Leadership Day
- P&C Disco P-2/3-6
- Easter Hat Parade – Prep, Hall 9am
- Student Casual Dress Day $1
- Red Food Day
- TERM 1 CONCLUDES

Mon 20 Apr Mon 21 Apr Tue 22 Apr Wed 23 Apr Thu 24 Apr

- SCHOOL STARTS
- Anzac Day Observance Assemblies P-2/3-6
- Tartan Tuckerbox (Tuckshop)
- Monday - No Flexischools orders - counter sales only
- Rest of the week – Flexischools orders and counter sales

Uniform Shop
- Open Monday & Thursday 8.15am to 9.30am

Standard Uniform (Mon – Thu)
- Tartan or red polo shirt
- Bottle green pants shorts / skorts
- Bottle green socks & black leather shoes
- Red bucket hat (for Prep) or bottle green reversible broad-brimmed hat
- Winter: bottle green jacket or jumper and track pants

Sports Uniform (Friday)
- House shirt or red polo shirt if playing Inter-School sports
- Bottle green pants shorts / skorts
- White socks (with red and bottle green stripes) and sports joggers
- School hat
**Principal’s Post**

**Student Leaders Day 27th March**

Annually, the Deputy Principals of Albany Creek SS, Albany Hills SS, Eatons Hill SS and McDowall SS deliver a “LEAP Day” – “Leaping into Leadership” event held at each school in rotation. The programme assists Captains from each school to: (a) Further understand the concept of leadership (b) Interact with Captains from other schools (c) Build self-confidence; and (d) Explore ideas about what Captains might achieve throughout the year. Guest speakers including High School student leaders along with rotational activities provide a very informative and thought provoking programme.

**Introducing Your P & C Association 2015**

The McDowall State School Parents’ and Citizens’ Association is the “parent forum” and “business arm” of the McDowall State School. The Association exists to promote the interests of, and facilitate development and further improvement of the school. This is done by delivering services, funds and resources into the school, over and above ‘core’ government level provision. Recently, the P&C Association Executive issued a brief introduction to themselves by way of a photo directory providing electronic contact addresses. A brief overview of P&C Association investment within school services was provided, along with an Application for Membership Form 2015.

McDowall SS parents maintain high aspirations for their children and seek quality in experience. Teachers and staff too, want to do everything possible to make this aspiration a reality. The issue here is that too often what parents consider or believe to be ‘core’ government level provision is very different to what is actually provided to the school. Governments provide a range of specific purpose or targeted grants to schools.

In summary, ‘core’ government provision or ‘free’ education relates to (a) instruction meaning the class teacher and essential support staff (b) administration and essential aspects of school operations; and (c) facilities meaning classroom, toilets, grounds, etc. Essential or core is therefore best defined as the Principal using this government provision to deliver curriculum (as approved by the Minister) eg. Australian Curriculum; and ensuring that school management complies with legislation, departmental policy and procedures and industrial requirements.

Should any parent expect more than this, it is the P&C Association that delivers the services, funds and resources over and above ‘core’ government level provision. The P&C Association is only as strong and effective as its involved, productive membership base. Let’s be honest. Talk is cheap! Criticism is unhelpful! Gossip is divisive! Expectation is fanciful unless the person concerned is prepared to ‘get involved’ and actively engage within the P&C Association. We have a proud history of achievement but active membership is declining. A small team needs your involvement!

A large P&C Association active membership means that skilled people, best suited to a task may be involved. A large P&C Association active membership means that many different activities and events may be held annually by different volunteers. A large P&C Association active membership means that annual fundraising keeps school fees and voluntary contributions low while enabling the P&C Association to continue delivering activities, events, facilities and services that are enjoyed by our students and families of today. When a P&C Association struggles to operate, it must reduce its activities and responsibilities to a level commensurate with its active volunteer membership.

The McDowall SS P&C Association is an association of volunteer parents who aspire to deliver the best possible educational experience for all enrolled students, over and above government provision. There are many different ways that parents can support their P&C Association. To be blunt, making excuses for non-involvement is not one of them. Thinking someone else will contribute and I will simply enjoy the benefits of their voluntary labour is poor form and should be frowned upon by all. To access and use the facility, resource or service means that you have a responsibility to positively assist in some way towards its retention or further development.

Our Great State School is a community that focuses on the education of our children. We all have a role to play! If you don’t see it that way, then there is every likelihood that some facilities, resources and services may not continue into the foreseeable future unless costs to parents increase. We acknowledge that parents should always access the ‘most appropriate school programme’ at which-ever school location for the specific learning needs of their child. The McDowall SS will always continue to deliver a professional, quality ‘core’ educational experience realizing best possible student outcomes as determined by the resource base that our teachers access at the time.
In the past 10 years, your P&C Association has: (a) Built K Block – OSH (b) Built L Block – Activity Building (c) Refurbished the Tartan Tuckerbox (d) Doubled the School Hall floor area (e) Established an eLearning Centre for classes (f) Constructed the large covered area outside PA Block (g) Contributed toward the construction of the Metro Street car park (h) Paid annually for an additional 10hrs of teacher-aide time for P-6 students (i) Established an electronic sign facing Rode Road (j) Liaised with Brisbane City Council over Kiss-and-Ride Facility reconstruction, surrounding road safety infrastructure and the Active school Travel initiative (k) Operated the Tartan Tuckerbox (l) Operated the Uniform Shop (m) Operated the Out of School Hours Care OSH (n) Processed Student Banking (o) Processed Book Club (p) Held Mothers’ & Fathers’ Day Stalls, New Parent Morning Teas, Raffles, Parent Information Sessions, Grandparent Morning Teas, Sports BBQs, Open Morning Stalls (q) Processed and delivered on Book Pack Orders, working with a local supplier to get the best value for money on behalf of parents (r) Held Parent Working Bees when necessary (s) Purchased library books, kits and materials for the School Library (t) Purchased teaching aids, reading books for students, maths materials for the Curriculum Centre (u) Resurfaced and refurbished the school tennis courts (v) Annually sponsored McDowall SS students whose sports achievement progressed to State and National levels (w) Sought to award and acknowledge long term parent volunteers through the annual Stalwart Supporter Award and Community Award (x) Considered school requests for additional funds for specific purposes. Eg. Shade tents, bus subsidization. There would be many, more achievements. Volunteer time = Student Investment.

By 2017, your P&C Association seeks to: (a) Build a $1.5million Sports Centre – indoor basketball court (b) Replace, upgrade and provide new play equipment – under shade (c) Significantly increase P&C Association active membership (d) Engage parents in better supporting and assisting the class teacher to deliver the best possible learning outcomes for all students; and (d) Improve directional signage around the school. This will not just happen. These projects need your active support and involvement. So you believe that there are other items that should be included within the P&C Association agenda? Then apply for membership and actively, productively, constructively become involved in YOUR P&C Association.

**Flying Gang**

Class teachers are currently being asked to identify when they are seeking parent volunteer assistance to hear students read. This information will be issued to parents next week. Tartan Network reps will be asked to promote these times and actively heighten parent volunteer involvement across P-6. The priority focus of the Flying Gang initiative is for parent volunteers to regularly and routinely hear students read though Flying Gang Cards will be issued to all parent volunteers engaged in class programme support. Class teachers may seek parent volunteers during other times for a range of purposes.

Issued Flying Gang Cards are to be completed by the parent volunteer and placed into the Flying Gang Year Level Box. Each Friday, a public draw for three Flying Gang Cards is conducted. A certificate will be presented the following week to the parent volunteer through their child at School Assembly. A count of the Flying Gang Cards is also conducted. A parent volunteer with at least two cards, having the most Flying Gang Cards within the Year Level Box will be determined to be the weekly ‘Flying Gang Winner’ for that Year Level. Either a Metro Street car park access code (for use during the school day for approx. one month) or a ‘Tartan Tuckerbox Voucher’ for a free drink (or equivalent value) will be issued, at the discretion of the Principal. A tie is determined through lucky draw. Metro Street car park access codes change every month.

Issued Flying Gang Cards are also made available to P&C Association members and parent volunteers who are regularly, actively involved in delivering services such as Tartan Tuckerbox, Uniform Shop, Executive, Student Banking, Book Club, special projects, etc. Given the small number of car park spaces available, access code issue is restricted.

**Music Block & Teaching Block Refurbishment**

In 2014, the McDowall SS determined to refurbish the Music Block so that facilities better support and complement the Years 3-6 Instrumental Music Immersion Programme 2015. This work is scheduled to commence during the Easter School Vacation.
Education Queensland Facilities has scheduled the structural refurbishment of F Block and a minor refurbishment of both C & G Blocks with work to be completed by 30th June, 2015. Due to the extensive nature of the F Block refurbishment, work will commence on Easter Saturday and will continue for some weeks before work progresses on to the other blocks. As asbestos removal is a part of the issued tenders, classes will be temporarily relocated within the school and asbestos associated works will be completed out-of-school hours and out-of-OSH hours. Details are not available until tenders are finalised. It is anticipated that displaced classes will be relocated into C4, D3-4 and H1. Instrumental ensemble work and tutorials will be conducted from the School Hall stage area.

**Student Casual Dress Day**
The McDowall State School Student Council will hold a Student Casual Dress Day on Thursday 2nd April, 2015. Student Council will collect a $Gold Coin donation from each student wearing casual dress. These funds are used by the Student Council to fund its activities, initiatives and (as decided by student councillors) donations made to child-centred charities. Please note that ‘casual’ does not mean ‘freestyle’ and anything goes. All students are still required to dress to a like standard in design, practicality and suitability to that of the approved school uniform. Dress is to be socially modest. Quality enclosed, secured footwear is to be worn. A wide 7-8cm brimmed hat is to be worn in sunlight. Caps are not appropriate dress. The Student Dress Code may be found on the school website.

**Easter Red Food Day**
As Easter approaches, many students look forward to bringing special confectionary treats to school to share with their friends. For some of our students, this may prove problematic as they experience a severe allergy to some food ingredients. For this reason, a RED Food Day has been declared for Thursday 2nd April, 2015. The Tartan Tuckerbox will also offer a Meal Deal on this date. It is requested that students bring confectionary to school for distribution on this date only. It is also requested that parents maintain an awareness of the amount of confectionary not only being brought to school but also, consumed by their child. Teachers will also seek to actively regulate confectionary consumption. Confectionary should not be brought to school on other school days.

**SCHOOL WATCH**

We need your eyes and ears! Not everyone values nor appreciates our school.

It is not expected that anyone will be found loitering or wandering among our buildings during week-ends or out-of-school hours. Gates are 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 found school damage and vandalism.

**Active School Travel**
- There is limited parking available on streets surrounding the McDowall State School.
- Parent parking is not available within the school grounds, unless you are awarded a Flying Gang (parent volunteer) parking code for access into the Metro Street Car Park.
- Police and Council Parking Officers are actively enforcing traffic laws and parking restrictions around the school. This includes: (a) Stopping within a regulated intersection (b) Stopping on a traffic light crossing (c) Parking on a continuous line (d) Blocking a driveway or school access point.
- Supervision is provided for children waiting at the Kiss-and-Ride Facility from 2.30pm-2.55pm and 3.00pm-3.20pm.
- It is best to stagger vehicle arrival at the Kiss-and-Ride Facility within these times. Recently, children have been waiting at Kiss-and-Ride at 3.15pm without a vehicle queue! Children are safely supervised.
- Children accessing Translink Bus Services are supervised from 3pm until bus departure.
If a family resides locally, it is expected that on most occasions, they will walk or ride a bike to school.

If a family resides some distance from the school, it is expected that they will car pool (if possible), use scheduled bus services (if possible) but most likely, park away from the immediate school area and walk to and from their vehicle. This requires pre-planning.

All drivers of vehicles are expected to comply with traffic rules, signage and laws. It is also expected that drivers of vehicles demonstrate courtesy and consideration of other road users, pedestrians and local residents.

**Principal’s Gallery**

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>16th – 20th March</td>
<td>3N1</td>
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<td>23rd – 27th March</td>
<td>1J1</td>
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<td>30th Mar – 2nd Apr</td>
<td>1J6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>20th – 24th Apr</td>
<td>1J5</td>
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This fortnight we featured work from students in: **3F1 and 3N1**

**Konnichiwa**

**Japanese students visit McDowall State School**

McDowall State School recently hosted a group of students from Shimonoseki High School (Japan).

During their four days at McDowall SS, these Japanese students attended English (ESL) classes as well as participating in many school activities. They spent time in various year levels as part of integration sessions organised by the school.

Visiting Japanese students thoroughly enjoyed:-

- Teaching origami to our students.
- Reading with Year 1 students.
- Teaching Year 3 students to write their names using Japanese script.
- Teaching their buddies calligraphy.
- Playing Aussie sports on the oval.
- Attending Japanese, Music and PE lessons with Year 3, 4, and 5 classes.
- Playing and learning with Prep students.

A big thank you must go out to our school buddies for their assistance during the exchange and helping the Japanese students to feel at home at McDowall SS. Everyone really enjoyed the farewell party where lots of Aussie food favourites were tasted.

Thank you also to teachers and students at McDowall SS having welcomed the visiting Japanese students into their classrooms during the integration sessions.

To host families who have opened their homes, another big thank you. Visiting Japanese students have thoroughly enjoyed their time here at McDowall and I’m sure they will go home with many fond memories.

CONTACT: Ms Crowhurst – Head of Curriculum
Library News

Library Borrowing
Most classes visit the School Library each week to borrow books, which we lend out for two weeks. While the majority of students return their borrowed books by the due date, some do not. This is a reminder for parents and students of the process for overdue library books:

1. **Verbal reminder** - when books are not returned two weeks from the borrowing date.
2. **First letter to take home** – when books are four weeks overdue.
3. **Second letter to take home** - when books are six weeks overdue.

If books are not found and returned, parents will be invoiced for payment toward book replacement. Payments are made through School Administration.

Thank you for your support in looking after our wonderful collection of books for all McDowall SS students to borrow and enjoy.

Book Club
Thank you for making McDowall SS’s first Book Club for the year a resounding success. All orders have been processed and books should be at school soon.

Remember, if you would like to join the volunteers on McDowall SS’s wonderful Book Club team or if you have any questions about Book Club please email Christine Burrows and Belinda Isaacs at bookclub@mcdowallss.com.

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

Sports News

Thanks to the NRL
Thank you to NRL for coming to McDowall State School over a three week period to provide free rugby league coaching to our students during their PE lessons.

Sarah (NRL) teaching 1J3 & 1J4 rugby league basics

Upcoming District Trials

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th Mar</td>
<td>Gala Day Sports – 1st training afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Mar</td>
<td>Tennis</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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This is a reminder that District Trial forms must first be signed by parents before asking Mr Pedwell (Deputy Principal) to sign them. Once signed, remember to take these forms to the trials.

Running Club
Training is well underway for the selection of the McDowall SS Cross Country Team to compete at the North District Cross Country on Monday 27th April.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

Defence Family News

Defence Family Hotline
Some families will be preparing for extended absences from their loved ones. During this time it is important to remember a key phone number. The Defence Family Helpline is your first port of call to access services offered by the Defence Community Organisation (DCO). It is a 24 hour, 7 days a week service. Please call 1800 624 608 should you need to talk with a qualified human services professional.
Little Heroes
‘Little Heroes’ has been very busy with some children already receiving attendance prizes! Children have been working on a collage in preparation for ANZAC Week in Term 2. There is also some paper craft, parachute games and Easter craft to look forward to over the next few weeks.

Our younger defence students have begun making Treasure Boxes – a safe place where they can keep all their precious creations. Children can then share their treasure boxes with parents who been away on exercises, courses or deployment. I am sure parents will love sitting down with their child to share what’s in their ‘treasure box’.

Could defence parents please drop me a line via email or through School Administration to let me know if your family is due to experience any long, extended absences. This makes it much easier to provide direct support to your child and is helpful information for the class teacher and myself.

Finally, please keep a look out for a note in your child’s school bag regarding the next Defence Parent Gathering. Please keep Friday 27th March from 2pm free!

CONTACT: Mrs Chris Jones – cjone404@eq.edu.au
Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA)

P&C Association

ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL
Bike Week Update
Thank you to the many students and parents who supported last Friday’s “National Ride Your Bike to School Day”. The oval was crowded with many students riding or scooting that day.

Thank you is extended to the parents and Mr Mills (Yr 4) who helped out on the oval with the bike and scooter games.

Congratulations to Oliver H from 2Q2 for winning the Bike Week prize draw which was a water bottle and a $30 voucher to spend at Aspley Bike Hub. Thank you also to Councillor Norm Wyndham who donated the prize and who is always a proud supporter of our Active School Travel activities.

Please Save this Date

“National Walk Safely to School Day” will be on Friday 22nd May and McDowall SS will once again participate in this Active School Travel event. Students and parents walk from three different locations a few blocks from the school prior to enjoying a light breakfast down on the oval. This is followed by giant beach ball games. If there are any parents willing to help out on the day please contact Kathy.

CONTACT: Mrs Kathy Wright - 0412 039 142

SCHOOL DISCO

It’s time for McDowall State School students to get their groove on and dress up as their favourite star at the McDowall SS Disco.

Friday 27th March 2015
Prep - Yr 2:  5.00pm to 6.30pm
Years 3 - 6:  6.30pm to 8pm

You can book your tickets and meal deal on Flexischools until 9am on 25th March.

Tickets are only $8.

Disco entry ($5) can be purchased on the night.
Glow sticks, temporary tattoos, crazy hair and a canteen of treats will be available at the School Hall.

The meal deal can be collected from the Tartan Tuckerbox at any stage of the disco. Older students can eat before their disco starts and younger students can either wait for their disco to end or take some time out to enjoy their sausage on a roll and drink.

For those who have pre-ordered their meal and disco entry, wrist bands will be delivered to class on Friday 27th March for students to wear to the event.

We ask parents to stay during the disco as this is a P&C Association run event. If you would like to help make it a great night, you can sign up as a volunteer here: http://vols.pt/oeJFQt.

Thanks for supporting the school through this fun fundraiser.

CONTACT: Mrs Kylie Andrews - Parent Volunteer

THANK YOU

The P&C Association would like to make a special mention and say a huge thank you to Mrs Kylie Andrews.

Kylie is a very busy woman with four children who is also currently studying a postgraduate qualification by research. Despite this massive workload, she approached Mrs Di O’Rourke at our Uniform Shop and offered to iron over 100 music vests to lend a hand. I don’t know about you but ironing is the last thing I would put my hand up for!! That one goes above and beyond. Thank you Kylie for your dedication and support. We appreciate it very much.

From your very new but very appreciative P&C Association President, Soraya Bews.

hands on Yesteryear

In this interactive workshop students had the opportunity to handle and play with objects and toys from days gone by.

Students had to guess what the objects were used for, discussed how they worked and compared them with their modern day equivalents.

CONTACT: Year 2 Teachers

Year 2 Gets Hands-on

Bugs Ed Interactive Workshop

During last week’s “Insect Lifestyles” workshop, Year 2 students got up close and personal with a range of ‘bugs’.

Students were shown beetle and butterfly larvae, butterfly pupae, egg cases, stick insect nymphs and adults to illustrate some of the amazing transformations insects undergo throughout their lifecycle.