Proud ‘Preppies’ on Parade

Cartons of cotton wool balls, gallons of glitter, and days of dedicated construction went into last week’s Prep Easter Hat Parade. Students, parents and teachers alike put in time to rehearse the parade, and most importantly- the words and moves to the *Chicken Dance*. Please see page two for more fabulous photos.
Anzac Day Observances

McDowall State School will pause to reflect on the Anzac Story on Wednesday 22nd April, 2015. P-2 will attend the School Hall from 8.30am. Years 3-6 will attend from 9.15am. School Captains will lead both these observances. Brigadier Neil Weekes AM MC (Retired), President of the RAR Association, will be in attendance. Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend the Anzac Day Observances in the School Hall. Class activities and learning opportunities will continue through the remainder of the week.

Students (and their families) are invited to share with all those in attendance at McDowall State School Anzac Day Observances about family members who have represented Australia in past and present, theatres of war and conflict. To do this, a well presented and prepared photograph and short narrative about where and how service occurred is to be outlined on a maximum A3 sheet size for display on a School Hall pin board. Modern Australia is one of very few countries in this world created by a vote (Federation in 1901) as opposed to war. Australians have served in so many places, not only to protect our way of life, our values of parliamentary democracy, rule of law and freedom of speech but also to uphold human rights. This often places our Defence Services personnel in real danger. When tragedy strikes, our Defence Services are also often there providing a welcome and much needed helping hand. Please ensure that your family details are clearly displayed on the A3 sheet before delivering it to School Administration on Tuesday 21st April, 2015.

Do you have any photographs, memorabilia, flowers or items that you would like to display in front of the School Hall stage during the Anzac Day Observances? Please feel free to bring these to the School Hall before 8.15am on Wednesday 22nd April, 2015.

Families are welcome to place flowers or a wreath beside the Remembrance Stone located at the base of the Australian Flag Pole in front of the School Library.

Flying Gang

The phrase, “Flying Gang” refers to all adult volunteers who assist teachers in delivering quality educational programmes and experiences to our students. We seek to have as many volunteers as possible attending classes at designated times. The class teacher will tell you what they would like you to do, and provide guidance (as required). Both parents and grandparents may be involved. A Blue Card (free) may be required. Children delight in sharing their learning achievement. Children look forward to your next attendance. Teachers welcome your productive support and assistance.

When you conclude your voluntary session at the classroom, the teacher will issue you with an orange Flying Gang Card. The teacher will also advise you of the location of the Flying Gang Box for that Year Level. The issue of a Flying Gang Card to the volunteer is a way for teachers to effectively acknowledge parents and grandparents who volunteer in support of the teacher determined class educational programme.

Gratefully accepting the Flying Gang Card, simply fill in the details and place it into the Flying Gang Box for that particular Year Level.

Each Friday, three cards will be drawn for a certificate to be issued to the adult volunteer via a student in attendance at formal assembly. A count is also held of the cards within the Flying Gang Box to identify the adult volunteer having placed the highest number of cards into the box. Having the most Flying Gang Cards (minimum of two and ties are broken by a lucky draw) within the box, an adult volunteer will be declared the weekly prize winner. At the Principal’s discretion, the weekly prize winner will be issued 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 item of equivalent value).

Only one Flying Gang Prize Winner will be determined weekly per year level.
Music Block & Teaching Block Refurbishment

During the Easter Weekend and extending through school vacation period, there will be numerous contractors working within the school site.

Unless authorised, you are not permitted on school grounds. Work will commence on Music Block refurbishment. F Block building will be significantly remodelled with all four classes being temporarily relocated within to other areas the school (see below). Minor works and repainting will be conducted on the School Library, C and G Blocks, and some toilet areas.

Access to the Out-of-School Hours Care programme is only via Metro Street. Please do not use other gates, even if contractors leave them open. Further information may be available from OSH Administration.

F block classes will be re-located as follows:
- F1 to H block
- F2 to D3
- F3 to D4
- F4 to C4

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 www.mcdowellss.eq.edu.au.

Easter Red Food Day

As Easter approaches, many students look forward to bringing special confectionery 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. Should parents permit students to do so, it is requested that students bring confectionery to school for distribution on this date. It is also requested that parents maintain an awareness of the amount of confectionery not only being brought to school but also consumed by their child. Teachers will also seek to actively regulate confectionery consumption.

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 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 on 13 17 88.

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.

P&C Association Constitution

A P&C Association Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th April, 2015 from 7pm in K Block (OSH Building). The only item of business will be to adopt a revised P&C Association Constitution. Members are invited to peruse this Model Constitution, as issued by Education Queensland, by accessing the school website: www.mcdowellss.eq.edu.au before this meeting is held. A P&C Association General Meeting will follow from 7.15pm.
Continued from front page ....

Principal’s Gallery

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th Apr – 24th Apr</td>
<td>1J5</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th Apr – 1st May</td>
<td>1J3</td>
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<td>4th May – 8th May</td>
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<td>11th May – 15th May</td>
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This fortnight we featured work from students in: 1J1 and 1J6
**Special Music News**

**Regional Honours Choral Music Camp a Huge Hit**

Last week, four of our very talented Honours Choir members attended the Regional Honours Choral Camp held at Bardon, and the Old Queensland Museum at Bowen Hills. I had the pleasure of attending the last day of the camp, and was thoroughly impressed with the high standard of choral music achieved by the students.

Three days of intensive choral singing culminated in a wonderful concert held at the Old Museum Concert Hall. The 100 very, talented singers from across the region, sang in a massed choir, and then broke into two smaller choirs for the performance. The students sang a variety of songs, all in two and three parts – an amazing achievement given they only had three days to prepare.

A huge thank you to the very talented choir directors, Jenny Moon and Tim Serlock; accompanists Justine Favell and Brendan Murtagh; and Tracey Young and the team at the Metropolitan Region Music Centre for organising such a wonderful event.

Congratulations to McDowall’s very talented singers who attended the camp - you represented your school with pride. Well done!

Students have learned to:
- Assemble and put away their instruments into the case (for some students, their instruments have up to four parts to assemble).
- Care for their instrument with particular focus on cleaning their instrument.
- Sit/stand correctly (posture) and hold their instrument correctly.
- Play in a group.
- Read music including notes, rests, rhythms, time signatures and key signatures.
- Strings students have also learnt to:
  - Identify the four strings on their instrument
  - How to place their fingers correctly on the finger board.
  - Pluck strings to play simple songs.
- Band students have learnt to:
  - Produce a sound on their instrument with particular focus on breathing and tonguing.
  - Play the first five notes.

Come to the School Hall and listen to our beginner students as they present their very first public performance. Concert dates are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group/Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23/04</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>3F4, 3N2 and Beginner String students in Years 4, 5 and 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/04</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Year 5 and 6 Beginner Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>Year 4 Beginner Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/04</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>3F1, 3F3 and 3N2 Beginner Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>3F2 Beginner Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students</td>
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**Beginner Blitz Concerts ...**

**Are You Ready to Be Blown Away??!!**

Our Beginner Instrumental Music students will be presenting a series of concerts early next term to show off their new skills. First term has been ‘full on’ with lots of strange sounds coming from the Music block and D block. Rest assured this is all part of ‘learning an instrument’, and slowly but surely these strange sounds are beginning to sound much more musical.
**Library News**

**Library Borrowing**
Due to the library being painted over the April school holidays, borrowing will resume in week 2 of term 2. Any books borrowed in term 1 will be due back during this week as well.

We apologise for any inconvenience. We are very confident that by the second week of term 2, the library will be again running smoothly. Make sure you pop in to have a look at McDowall’s new bright and colourful library space!

**Holiday Reading**
Many students have borrowed books from our school library to read over the holidays. Don’t forget your local public library as well! Visit their website or call in and see them to find out about their holiday program—and grab a book or two while you are there!

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

**Sports News**

**Swimming Carnival**
The school held its annual Inter-house Swimming Carnival on Friday 20th March at Wavell State High School. It was an incredibly hot day so everyone was pleased to be getting in the water. There was lots of team spirit and the war cries could be heard all over the suburb.

The students swam individual and relay events. Throughout the day, the points tally was very close between Banksia (last year’s winner) and Grevillea, with only a few points separating them.

The final points for 2015 are:
- Grevillea 78 points
- Banksia 75 points
- Acacia 57 points
- Melaleuca 50 points.

A big thank you goes out to Wavell State High for allowing us to use their pool and providing some senior students to help with the carnival. Well done to students, teachers and parents for making it such a successful day.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

**North District Teams**
Congratulations to the following students who have made a North District Sporting Team:

**Netball:** Molly B, Shanaya J, Ella FW and Kelsey P.
**Hockey:** Cooper P, Zac L, Seth S and Isaac H.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

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**Music News**

**Rehearsals**
It’s been a very successful start to the year. Students from Year 4 have already started their weekly band rehearsals and Year 5 will commence theirs in week 2, term 2 on Monday morning at 7:50am in D Block. These students are also preparing for Junior Music Camp later in term 2.

**Upcoming Performances**
Our instrumental students will be performing early in term 2, so keep your eyes on the newsletter for further details.

CONTACT: Ms Alaine Woodruff – Music Teacher

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Remember to take your instruments home over the holidays to practise. There will be no storage available at school due to the refurbishment taking place.
Defence Family News

So much is happening as we head toward the 100 year commemoration of the landing at Gallipoli. As a school, we will be stopping to remember the fallen during Week 1, Term 2.

Our Heroes, Our Families, Our Stories

Defence children have been asked to participate in the Hero Flag project organised by the Defence Community Organisation (DCO). I will be assisting each defence child in creating a piece of bunting. The flags will all be joined together to create a symbolic Hero Flag. The unveiling will be held during National Families Week (15 – 21 May). The flags will be displayed at Mitchelton and North Lakes Libraries between the 11th and 14th of May.

The Poppy Project

Some may have heard of the success of the 5000 Poppies Project. As a school community, it would be wonderful to see students, parents and grandparents come together to create a Wall of Poppies to commemorate 100 years of ANZAC. This will be a year-long project, beginning in week 1, term 2.

To see some of the patterns or to learn more about 5000 Poppies, take a look at http://5000poppies.wordpress.com. Should you have a small photo and the name of a veteran whom you would like to honour, please contact me at cjone404@eq.edu.au.

Please continue to keep myself and your class teacher informed of any long absences that you are expecting. The DSTA is here to provide support to defence children during times of transition and parental absence.

CONTACT: Mrs Jones – Defence School Transition Aide

P&C Association

From the Executive...

The P&C AGM was held on the 24th February 2015 with five out of the six executive team members handing over the baton to new members, myself included! Firstly, on behalf of the new executive, I would like to acknowledge and thank the work of the executives who have come before us. They have each left a legacy in their own right at McDowall State School. The new executive has spent the last month orientating themselves to their new roles and setting some objectives for 2015 – the main one being to improve parent and community engagement at McDowall State School. We will be working hard this year to set about on a journey of cultural change at McDowall State School where historically the job of many has been done by a select few. We don’t believe that this is a sustainable model, and want it to change this year. Watch this space....

Soraya Bews
P&C Association President

OSH News

The OSH crew will be like kids all over again themselves. On the way are some new beaut walkie talkies for all educators to carry at all times during OSH hours. Unfortunately, they won’t be using them to plan imaginary skirmishes in the jungle…they will be used to manage safety issues quickly, and locate children at pick-up times.

Fundraising News – School Disco

The P&C ‘Come as a Star Disco’ was held on Friday 27th March 2015. It was a hugely successful fundraiser with energy, joy and excitement felt by all. There was dancing, music, glow sticks, flashing lights, crazy hair styling, temporary tattoos, and food/drink galore. At least 46 parents volunteered their time during the evening to support the event. This support was very much appreciated. Special mention must go to those parents who supervised the children of those volunteering. They had the hardest job on the night with some looking after four children at once! Well done team.

Amount raised: $4,000
No. of volunteers: 46
Volunteerspots filled: 88%
Promotions Officer
Are you an effective communicator? Are you a positive and enthusiastic person? Do you have good organisational skills? Are you creative? What about some experience with marketing and promotions? If this describes you, the P&C could do with your skills and energy to coordinate promotions for the P&C. Please contact Soraya Bews on 0431 773 467 or at president@mcdowallss.com.

Volunteer Profile - Kathy Wright
What is your connection to McDowall State School?
Parent of Pippi (Year 5) and two past students Nicholas & Tim (now in Year 11 and 8 respectively)

What have you volunteered for this term?
School Banking Coordinator each Wednesday with Julie Forster (the other Coordinator); School Banking Account Opening Days and assembly visit with Pat the Dog; organised the Active School Travel National Bike Week campaign and bike games on the oval; Disco (coming up);

What did you get out of it?
Feeling like I am helping children learn some life skills (money management, physical activity). Seeing the children happy (visits from Pat the Dog at assembly), and supporting other P&C members in their endeavours.

Do you work? (if so how many days?)
3-4 days per week.

What is at the top of your bucket list?
Revisiting Canada - a bit of a pipedream - so for now - to enjoy relaxing family time at Bribie these Easter Holidays.

What do you hear yourself saying over and over to your kids?
Sad but true - at the end of the day it's a "Can you put your uniforms in the wash please"?. Either that or "Have a good day!"

HELP NEEDED
Tuckshop http://vols.pt/ju7d2T
Library http://vols.pt/vPqUWd
Uniform Shop Call Di on 3872 5304

From all the staff at McDowall State School,
- we wish you -
A Happy, Safe Easter!

Have fun over the school holidays and we’ll see you in term 2!