The Poppy Project

As a School Community, we have begun to create our Wall of Poppies to commemorate 100 years of ANZAC.

A big thank you to those classes, staff and community members who have contributed to the project so far.

The wall hanging will be placed outside the School Library each day by Year 5 students. This will be a year-long project and will become a wonderful keepsake for future ANZAC commemorations within our school. Should you wish to pay tribute to a veteran, please contact me at cjone404@eq.edu.au.
NAPLAN TESTING 2015

The National Assessment Programme (Literacy and Numeracy) is an annual formal assessment for students in Years 3 & 5. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. NALAN tests will be held over the three days: Tuesday 13th May for Language Conventions (40mins) and Writing (40mins), Wednesday 14th May for Reading (50mins) and Thursday 15th May for Numeracy (50mins).

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN Tests are based on the Australian Curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in literacy and numeracy skills against national standards for all Australian students. Included questions range in complexity from easy to very difficult. This data is used both to profile students, their class group, year level, school, state, nation, etc. This data can be used by schools and governments to better target effort and support to assist all students improve and acquire the skills necessary to build successful and happy lives. All students are generally expected to participate in the tests.

Exempt Students: Students may be exempted from one or more of the tests if they arrived from overseas less than a year before the test and have a language background other than English or if they have significant intellectual or complex disabilities.

Withdrawn Students: Parents may choose to withdraw their child/ren on the grounds of religious or philosophical objections to the testing. Request must be in writing.

Adjustments for Students with Disability: Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom.

For information about NAPLAN, parents can go to: www.nap.edu.au or www.acara.edu.au. NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill.

The best way that parents can assist their child/ren to prepare for NAPLAN is to:

- Maintain normal family routine with the student punctually arriving at school during test week.
- Let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school programme.
- Urge them to focus and do their very best on the days.
- Get a good night’s sleep.
- Eat a good healthy and filling breakfast.
- Pack a substantial and healthy lunch.

An individual student NAPLAN Report will be received by the school and issued later this year. Parents must know that NAPLAN is but a 'snapshot' view of how their child achieved on one test, on one day. By the time that parents receive this Report, some 6 months of further learning and achievement will have been achieved. The class teacher will retain a wealth of quality information about a child’s academic progress and achievement. NAPLAN is but one indicator of achievement within a much larger context that can be discussed during parent / teacher interview.

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>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From 4th May</td>
<td>6C1</td>
<td>Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured this fortnight from classes: 3F1 and 3N1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 11th May</td>
<td>3F4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 18th May</td>
<td>2O1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 25th May</td>
<td>3F3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANZAC Day 2015

This year, we were fortunate enough to have Brigadier Neil Weekes AM MC (retired) attend our ANZAC Day Commemoration Ceremonies held on Wednesday 22nd April 2015.

Awarded a Military Cross for his leadership and bravery during the Vietnam War, Mr Weekes delivered a stirring and thought provoking speech to our students.

The McDowall SS would like to sincerely thank Mr Weekes, Piper Kenneth Horton and Mr David Nelson for being part of our ANZAC Day Ceremonies. We would also like to acknowledge the Hon. Tim Mander MP, for joining us on the day.

The Great Year 3 ANZAC Biscuit Bake-off

Last week, Year 3 students were invited to participate in the inaugural Great Year 3 ANZAC Biscuit Bake-Off. Students were asked to bake a batch of ANZAC biscuits and to enter them into one of two categories – ‘Traditional ANZAC biscuit’ or ‘ANZAC biscuit with a twist’. In all, 38 entries were received for judging.

Mrs Smethurst, Miss Crowhurst, Mrs Spackman and Mrs Mogridge were asked to judge the entries. The judging was done anonymously – in other words - the judges did not know who had baked the biscuits.

While judging was most enjoyable and rewarding, it was also challenging, as many entries displayed promising culinary ability, individuality and creativity.

Parents attended a morning tea to taste the many and varied array of ANZAC biscuits and to watch the presentation of certificates and prizes.

Congratulations to the following students:

- Monique H (3F4) – Overall winner – Traditional ANZAC Biscuit.
- Ania M (3F4) – Overall winner – ANZAC biscuit with a twist.
- Klaudia E (3F2) – Tastiest ANZAC biscuit.
- Madison C (3N1) – Most appealing ANZAC biscuit.
- Sam P (3N2) – Chewiest ANZAC biscuit.
- Gianluca B (3F2) – Crunchiest ANZAC biscuit.
- Archie S (3F4) – Most moreish ANZAC biscuit.
- Luke W (3F4) – Most original ANZAC biscuit.

After the presentations, Year 3 students were invited to taste the many delicious entries. Parents and students all agreed that there are certainly some budding ‘Master Chefs’ here at McDowall State School.

A big thank you to Mrs Frederick for co-ordinating the event. Also thank you to the judges, teachers and parents who helped with organising the entries, judging the many delicious biscuits and setting up for the morning tea. Lastly, well done to the many Year 3 students who entered their biscuits into the competition. They were delicious!!!

(Above) Mr Weekes and Mr Fogarty with students having placed a wreath at the Remembrance Stone. (Left) Mr Weekes with Oliver CB and Abbey W following his speech.
**Library News**

**Library Renovations**
Over the recent school vacation, painters have been very busy in our School Library. We spent last week getting the library back in order and now it’s looking great! Fresh modern colours rejuvenate and refresh our library space. Please come and have a look. We are thrilled with the result!

**Library Borrowing**
Borrowing resumed this past Monday 27th April.

**Book Club**
Book Club catalogues will be going home with students on Friday 1st May. All orders are due back at school by 9:00am on Friday 8th May and can be placed in boxes either at the Preparatory Year or at the School Library. You can also order online through LOOP on the Scholastic website [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com). If you have any questions please ask at the library or contact Belinda or Christine at bookclub@mcdowallss.com.

**Music News**

**Music Room Refurbishment**
The internal refurbishment of the Music Building is now nearly complete and things are starting to get back to normal. The rooms look fantastic! Due to other construction happening within the school, whole class lessons and band rehearsals will be continuing within the School Hall - So please remember to take your instruments there on those days.

**Beginner Blitz Concerts**
This term saw the start of our Beginner Blitz Concerts. Last Wednesday, our very excited beginning strings students got to perform to parents and friends in the School Hall and this week, the wind, brass & percussion students had their turn. It can be incredibly nerve wracking to perform in front of people for the first time so a big thanks to all those who came and supported our new instrumental students.

**Practice Rewards**
The first practice reward for the year will be happening this week. Students who have earned enough "music money/raffle tickets" through their Practice Sheets will be able to cash them in for a movie. The instrumental teachers will have more information about this during lessons. If you haven't earned enough yet, try to practise more so that you don't miss out!

CONTACT: Ms Woodruff – Music Teacher
**Sports News**

**North District Cross Country Championships**

On Monday 27th April, our Cross Country runners competed in the North District Cross Country Championships at Pine Rivers Park, Bald Hills. Our team of 36 students braved a brisk 13° morning to compete against 15 other schools.

After a walk-through of the course, the day began with the 10 year old girls and boys running 2 km. They were followed by the 11 and 12 year olds who ran 3 km. Our talented athletes did our school very proud, with McDowall State School coming second in overall points.

Additionally, seven of our runners have earned a place within the North District Team. Congratulations to all students for participating in the championships! You put in the effort in training and performed well. Thank you to Mr Henderson for organising the carnival and training the students each morning! A special thank you to the parents who brought their children to school each training morning and for supporting the School Team!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Team member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>Ethan R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 years</td>
<td>Sasha T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Niamh B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abbey W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Oliver C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ben S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lani R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Running Club**

› Running Club will continue on Friday mornings at 8.00am until the end of the term. Our focus now switches to shorter events in preparation for the athletics season.

**Athletics**

› Our School Inter-House Athletics (Prep - Year 6) and Field (Years 4-6) Days will be held in the last week of this term.

**Gala Day Sports**

› The first Gala Day is this Friday, 8th May. Please ensure permission notes have been returned and payment has been made.

› Students board the buses at 9.00am sharp and will return to School at approximately 2.50pm.

› Please ensure your children have:
  - a hat
  - food
  - water
  - equipment

› Many students will be given a School sports uniform / jersey. This is to be looked after and returned to their Coach when Gala Days are finished.

› All students are to wear the red Sports Uniform to School (with jersey underneath). DO NOT wear the House Uniform on a Gala Day.

**AFL Queensland**

Marcus from AFLQ visited our School to run an Auskick promotion with the Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. Auskick starts on Friday May 1st at 3.30pm on the big oval and runs for seven weeks. For more information and bookings, head to [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au).

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher
**Defence Family News**

**ANZAC Day**

ANZAC Day has been and gone for another year. Hopefully you were able to enjoy this day with your family and friends. For those with loved ones deployed or absent, our thoughts are with you. Children will be making a small gift for their serving parent to show them their support. Keep your eyes peeled for their special gift!

**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 (15th – 21st May).

The flags will be displayed at Mitchelton and North Lakes Libraries between the 11th and 14th of May.

**For Partners of Deployed Members**

Are you likely to experience deployment or extended absence of your partner this year? Are you interested in meeting with other partners of ADF members who are in the same situation?

**Date:** Thursday 7th May, 2015.

**Time:** 12pm – 2pm or 6.30pm – 8.30pm

**Venue:** Gallipoli Barracks Community Centre

Rattey St, Gallipoli Barracks.

To RSVP please contact Kim or Bec at DCO Brisbane on 3354 0500.

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 – DSTA

---

**P&C Association**

**P&C Association Executive Summary**

Welcome back to another school term. Hopefully the transition back to school routine has been a smooth one for you all. The P&C Association Executive Team remained active over the school holidays by preparing for and undertaking audits of P&C Association financial and subcommittee processes and practices. The audits are an opportunity for the new executive to orientate ourselves to the business as well as review our compliance with state legislation impacting on us as a P&C. The outcomes of the audit will inform an education, support and resource plan to help us achieve compliance, if need be. This is work the P&C Association Executive Team will progress this year.

On a different note, every day I am at school I see so many examples of ordinary people (paid staff and volunteers) contributing in extraordinary ways. From our OSH Management Team (who are passionate about and fiercely loyal to this service), Tuckshop staff (who are highly competent, committed and hard working), fundraising volunteers (who are giving of themselves and prioritising toward the school) and Spring Fair Organisers (who are dedicated to creating a fun community event) – we are so lucky to have people in our community making time to benefit the greater good. On behalf of every child, parent and teacher in this school, thank you.

**What’s On in Term 2**

We are looking forward to a fun and busy term including:

- Fundraisers – Mothers’ Day Stall, Sports Day Cake Stall, BBQ and Raffle, School Banking.
- Ongoing services - Book Club (twice), OSH, Tuckshop and Uniform Shop.
- Spring Fair planning.


**New Tuckshop Menu for Term 2**

The P&C Tartan Tuckerbox has a new menu in Term 2. Go to [http://www.mcdowallss.com/tuckshop-term-2-menu/](http://www.mcdowallss.com/tuckshop-term-2-menu/) and download the new menu. If you haven’t tried the chicken and salad wraps, you have to try them. They are amazing! Freshest shredded breast chicken. Mmmm.

If you can help out on any of the days listed below, please go to [http://vols.pt/ju7d2T](http://vols.pt/ju7d2T) and sign up. Remember, volunteers help keep costs and prices down and keep our paid staff well supported.
7, 8, 14, 15, 22, 28, 29 May: Seeking one volunteer on each of these days.

5, 11, 12, 25, 26 June: Seeking one volunteer on each of these days.

**P&C Association Meetings**

- Do you have ideas on how we can foster interest amongst the parent body in educational matters?
- Do you have ideas on how traffic and safety management can be improved?
- Do you have any ideas on how we can fundraise more effectively to reduce the burden on families?
- Do you have ideas that will make 'Our Great State School' even better?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please come to the next P&C Association General Meeting on Tuesday 26th May in K Block (OSH) from 7-9pm and share your thoughts with us while you network with others parents from school. You will also receive a news update from Mr Fogarty himself; as well as a possible visit from our local Councillor, Norm Wyndham and State MP for Everton, Mr Tim Mander (they pop in when their schedules allow it).

**Tartan Tuckerbox Menu Price Increase?**

I am sure, like me, you wouldn't want to see Tuckerbox menu prices increase. But the P&C Association cares about the following:

- Providing you with a low cost high value easy fall back plan when you are too tired to prepare school lunches.
- Providing low cost nutritious meal options for children and their families at our school.
- The health and welfare of our paid employees. We want to protect them from burnout and from impossible expectations. We value them too highly to lose them.

Without adequate numbers of volunteers everyday, to assist our paid employees, we will be forced to recruit more paid staff and increase prices to keep Tartan Tuckerbox operations viable.

The good news? The vast majority of volunteer spots are already filled. Mondays to Wednesdays are fully covered by volunteers. Well done and thank you to those who are pitching in and helping out.

The other good news? By volunteering in the Tartan Tuckerbox, you receive the following:

- Free main menu item for lunch.
- Access to the Metro St carpark for the day (contact Anelle for the code). [When it is available]

To fill one the very few spots left at the Tartan Tuckerbox, please head to [http://vols.pt/ju7d2T](http://vols.pt/ju7d2T) if you fit the following description:

- You don't work on a Thursday or Friday.
- You don't have younger children in tow on those days.
- You aren't already busily helping out elsewhere within the school. Already contributing? Thank you. Take a breather. Put your feet up.

**Only 16 spots across 600 families shouldn't be hard to fill – should it?** I would like to encourage all parents not involved in our school (in some way and if realistically able to do so) to get on board and lend a hand to their school community. Your P&C Association expects every family to contribute toward at least one activity per term to enable your child and those of your school peers to achieve the best educational outcomes possible. Profits made from the Tartan Tuckerbox are directly injected back into your child’s education. Help us make a difference and please MAKE some time to support our school.

**CONTACT:** Mrs Soraya Bews P&C Association President

**Volunteer Profile**

**Name:** Alisa Jones

**What is your connection to McDowall SS?** I have twin girls in PB2

**What have you volunteered for this term?** Classroom reading for 15 minutes on a Wednesday after drop off and the disco so far.

**What did you get out of it?** Seeing the children in their new environment as well as learning to recognise their new friends and other parents. Building a relationship with their teacher is also very important.

**Do you work?** (if so how many days?) Yes - 6 days.

**What is at the top of your bucket list?** Going to Egypt.

**What do you hear yourself saying over and over to your kids?** 'Hurry up'.
**Date Claimer - Sunday 13th September**
If you would like to help plan and prepare for the Spring Fair please contact Amra A Memesivic at: vicepres@mcdowallss.com.

**School Administration**

**High School Open Days**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State High School</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany Creek SHS</td>
<td>28 May 2015</td>
<td>3.30pm - 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferny Grove SHS</td>
<td>20 May 2015</td>
<td>3.30pm - 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kedron SHS</td>
<td>21 May 2015</td>
<td>3.30pm - 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wavell SHS</td>
<td>17 May 2015</td>
<td>2.00pm - 4.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Changes to bus routes**

Minor changes commenced on Monday 20th April 2015 to the 969 and 973 district route, including:

- **Route 969** will now depart or pass the outbound “Trouts Rd” stop 7 on Trouts Rd at 7.53am, “Flockton St” stop 43 on Trouts Rd at 7.55am, “McDowall” express stop (opposite McDowall State School) at 8.05am and terminate at “Wavell High district stop” in White St at 8.30am.

- Route 973 will now depart “Pfingst Rd” stop 46 at 3.17pm, still arriving Wavell State High School district stop in White St at 3.22pm and will now terminate at “Trouts Rd” at 3.58pm.


**Items Left on Brisbane City Council Buses**

Brisbane City Council is endeavouring to return any non-claimed lost property items to McDowall State School. Once we receive these items and if they are labelled, we will pass them on to their rightful owners.

**F Block Refurbishment**

As you’re no doubt aware, a large scale refurbishment started at the school during the April school vacation. The scope of works includes a complete refurbishment of F Block and Music Block (storage areas). To illustrate the size of works being undertaken, we’ve take a few shots of remaining F Block frames.