Queensland Youth Music Awards

Congratulations to both the String Ensemble and the Wind Ensemble for their performances at the Queensland Youth Music Awards. Both Ensembles earned a Gold Award placed within the top three performances.

The awards not only give students the opportunity to perform in public, but also allow them to see and hear ensembles from other Brisbane area schools made up of similarly aged students.

Thank you to all parents and friends who came along to support our students. I wish to acknowledge the hard work our students put in to prepare for this event.

CONTACT: Ms Woodruff – Music Teacher

WHAT’S HAPPENING

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<tr>
<td>NAPLAN Catch Up (Yrs 3 &amp; 5)</td>
<td>National Disability Data Collection begins</td>
<td>Year 3...Star Lab School Evacuation Drill</td>
<td>Yr 5 Planetarium Yr 4 Art Show Prep Parent Reading Info Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gala Sports Day #2 (Yrs 4-6)</td>
<td>Walk Safely to School Day</td>
<td>Regional Cross Country – St Pauls P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>QYMA Honours Choir – The Gap SHS – 6.30pm</td>
<td>School Health &amp; Safety Meeting 7.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gala Sports Day #3 (Yrs 4-6)</td>
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<td>Junior Music Camp - Strings</td>
<td>Junior Music Camp – Strings Beginner Blitz Day – Band (Wind)</td>
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Contact: Ms Woodruff – Music Teacher
Principal's Post

National Assessment Programme (Literacy & Numeracy)

NAPLAN Testing for Years 3 & 5 students occurred in Language Conventions and Writing on Tuesday, Reading Comprehension on Wednesday and Numeracy on Thursday. Catch-up testing may be held on Friday. NAPLAN Testing occurs in all States and Territories of Australia and is designed to assess the achievement of students against the Australian Curriculum. Although testing is designed as a checkpoint to see if an age appropriate average student has met the National Minimum Standard for that Year Level, (C rating on the Student Progress Report), test questions vary in difficulty and complexity, within a formal time sensitive test environment, to also ascertain the range of student achievement evident within a class, school and State or Territory. McDowall State School retains its target for all students to achieve the National Minimum Standard, unless a student experiences a learning disability or learning difficulty and is working to an individual programme.

In late September, Year 3 & 5 students will receive a formal report indicating their achievement within NAPLAN Tests as an indicator within ‘bands’ or a range of achievement. Each student will be compared with the national achievement average for that NAPLAN Test. McDowall State School staff continue to diligently and passionately heavily invest in educational programmes and initiatives, seeking to ever increase the number of students in the Upper Two Bands of NAPLAN Test results. As a school community, we are thrilled with our school mean scores, but we are never satisfied. McDowall State School retains its target for as many students as possible to achieve indicators within the Upper Two Bands in NAPLAN Testing.

It is essential to note that as an indicator of school effectiveness, NAPLAN Testing is a useful reflection tool but within the real and holistic context of student learning and achievement, NAPLAN Testing is but a single snapshot or test conducted outside normal teaching and learning routine within a full year of relevant, deep and meaningful educational student experience. NAPLAN Tests must be viewed as an indicator along with all other teacher and student collected evidence, before an accurate judgement of student achievement can justifiably be made. It is possible that a child simply had a ‘bad day’, no matter that child’s ability. It is therefore critical that parents attend parent / teacher interviews at end of semester, to review student assessment/s collected over time.

Colds & Flu Season

The weather has turned cool to chilly and the westerly wind has begun. Children are susceptible to colds, flu and illness while their young bodies build natural tolerance and increased immunity to many germs and viral infections.

If your child displays any symptoms of being ill or unwell, please do not send your child to school.

We do not have staff nor facilities to care for sick children. Neither teachers nor other children want to ‘catch’ the infection. Children naturally closely interact with one another and infection will spread rapidly within the school. Teachers will send students displaying symptoms of colds, flu or illness to School Administration and School Administration staff will phone for the parent to collect the child from school.

Queensland Youth Music Awards

McDowall State School Wind, Brass & Percussion and Strings students have both competed in the Queensland Youth Music Awards for 2015. Both ensembles were praised for their performance earning both of them a “Gold Award” and placing our students within the top three performing ensembles. Adjudicators applauded the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme, noting that our students delivered the best balance in performance sound. Adjudicator comments complement what we already know. Our programme is significantly made up of beginning instrumental music players and we now begin the teaching of instruments from Year 3.
Within the next 12 months, the performance standard of McDowall State School students will realise ever higher standards. Documented academic research tells us that students playing a musical instrument are found to be better academic students. In 2016, McDowall State School anticipates that two classes in each Year Level from Year 3 to Year 6 will learn wind, brass or percussion and one class in each Year Level from Year 3 to 6 will learn strings, all being involved within the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme.

Celebration Of Childhood Open Morning

The McDowall State School Celebration of Childhood Open Morning will be held on Friday 23rd of October, 2015. We believe that childhood is an important developmental phase within human life. It is a special time when heightened learning and mastery occurs in preparation for adolescence and adulthood. Childhood is an experience that must be protected from the impositions of modern society and celebrated. Once childhood is lost, it can never be reclaimed. This year we have something very different, Qld Arts Link will be delivering a special theatrical performance called “The Park Cleaners”.

We value the role that parents undertake in cherishing childhood. Therefore, an invitation is extended to community groups, organisations and agencies that support and assist families, and would like to establish an information or activity stall within the school during our Open Morning, to make contact with School Administration on Tel: 3872 5333 or admin@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au. Access within the McDowall SS is always at the discretion of the Principal.

School Council

McDowall State School Council is currently reviewing student behavioural standards as they apply across P-6. There is a strong commitment by councillors that the high standards that already apply within ‘Our Great State School’ must continue. School Council is currently reviewing the ‘Student Responsibilities Booklet’ as issued to all families at time of student enrolment and is available from the school website; and is cross referencing this document against a range of student behaviours. Further inclusions within this review include: (a) The matrix used by class teachers to determine the Behaviour Rating on the Student Progress Report Card (b) Student behaviours that should result in student enrolment suspension and/or student exclusion; and (c) Behaviours that an observer should see, demonstrated by staff, parents and students within different contexts and locations within the school.

Our Professional Staff

To ensure McDowall State School staff deliver on ‘best professional practice’, the Principal encourages team action research initiatives that lead to heightened student achievement, a strong focus on personal performance development; and professional collaboration (where possible) with educators from other schools (locally, within Queensland, nationally and internationally). The Brisbane North Teachers’ Learning Network is based at McDowall State School and delivers training programmes for teachers drawn from many district primary schools. Last week, Mrs Janet Mogridge and Ms Sonia Bridgeman attended the National Disability Reform Convention in Sydney. Next week, Ms Vanessa Crowhurst and Mrs Ann Russell will be presenting at the Primary English Teachers Association.

Question: Who Is Responsible For Children Before & After Class?

The simple answer to this question is: Mum and Dad. Teachers and staff are employed to deliver a quality curriculum and effective teaching programme during the formal school day whether this be 8.20am-2.30pm or 8.50am-3pm. (Note that the beeper sounds 5mins earlier.) The school has no responsibility to provide child supervision before or after this formal instruction period. It is a parental responsibility to ensure safe means of transport or travel from home to the classroom and return each day. Given the challenges of modern life, the school seeks to assist parents (but not assume their role and responsibility) by providing designated student assembly areas before school, requested arrival and departure times and a teacher-aide to supervise Yrs 3-6 students from 8.15am. From 2.30pm, a teacher aide oversees students accessing the Kiss-and-Ride Facility and designated parent waiting areas are established. From 3pm, a School Administrator oversees students accessing the Kiss-and-Ride Facility, a teacher aide oversees students waiting for school buses; and often, a School Administrator oversees students using the traffic lights.

The P&C Association implements an Out-of-School Hours Care Programme based at K Block. This programme is available to parents for enrolment of children both / either before school or after-school. A Vacation Care Programme also operates. Children must be signed in and out of the programme. The class teacher is not responsible for children after dismissal from class and OSHC does not have a duty of care toward children until they are signed in.

The next School Council Meeting (members only) will be held on 11th August, 2015.
Again, it is the parent who is responsible for ensuring safe transition from classroom to home or from the classroom to OSHC. It is reasonable though, to expect that a McDowall State School student, when scheduled to attend OSHC, would punctually and safely (within the secure confines of the school site), present at OSHC Sign-In after dismissal from class. OSHC staff provide additional support and assistance for Preparatory Year students. Should any child experiencing a disability or high needs that may require special consideration, these are reviewed by the OSHC Director on a case by case basis.

**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 have been issued with a 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 2.40pm-3.00pm and 3.00pm-3.20pm.
- Years 3-6 parents should not access the Kiss-and-Ride Facility prior to 2.55pm.
- It is best to stagger vehicle arrival at the Kiss-and-Ride Facility within these times. There is no need for all parents to arrive at 2.40pm or at 3.05pm. 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.

**P&C Association Public Liability Insurance**

The P&C Association annually pays for public liability insurance on behalf of all parents and volunteers within the school site.

This insurance does not apply for staff or students. Should a parent volunteer experience an accident while within the school grounds, to be covered, they need to have sign in / out as a volunteer through School Administration. They also need to lodge an Incident Report with School Administration.

**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>Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured this fortnight from classes:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From 18th May</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>6C1 and 3F4</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 25th May</td>
<td>3F3</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 1st June</td>
<td>2J8</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 8th June</td>
<td>1J2</td>
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**Beginners Blitz Concerts**

Our beginner instrumental music students presented the first series of Beginner Blitz Concerts last week. The students were very keen to show off the new skills they have mastered during Term 1.

The String concerts began with a performance by the String Ensemble. Beginner string students then performed a series of pieces that demonstrated their progress. They certainly ‘wowed’ the audience with their confident and musical performance. Mrs Payne and Ms Spiller were very proud of the progress made by our beginner string students.

Band students were also very eager to demonstrate their skills. Mrs Gyte and Ms Woodruff led the students through singing, solfa and rhythm exercises to demonstrate the activities students participate in during their classroom music lessons. Students then played in small groups, showing off what they have learned in their group tutorials. Finally each band class performed en masse.

It certainly became clear to those in the audience how learning an instrument is a complex, challenging but ultimately rewarding pursuit. All students should be very proud of the progress they have made so far. We are looking forward to the next series of Beginner Blitz concerts in Term 3.

**Library News**

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

The annual Premier’s Reading Challenge will begin again at the end of May. Students can register at home or at school through their classroom teacher. All McDowall SS registrations are to be finalised by Friday 29 May.

**Book Club**

Thank you for your support of our recent Book Club. All orders have been processed and should be back at school soon. Remember, if you have any questions please ask at the library or contact Belinda or Christine at bookclub@mcdowallss.com.

**Book Swap**

Each year, the School Library hosts a Book Swap as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations to support and promote indigenous literacy. Our annual Book Swap will be held on Thursday in the last week of this term.

To prepare for the Book Swap, we need donations of fiction and non-fiction books from McDowall State School families. These can be brought to the library where we will store them for the Book Swap.

During the Book Swap we display all donated books in the School Library. Parents, teachers and students can purchase a book for a gold coin (Swap a gold coin for a book!) All money raised goes to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. On Thursday, 25th June, The Book Swap will be open from 8:00–9:00am in the morning and again in the afternoon from 3:00–3:30pm.

CONTACT: Ms Crowhurst – Head of Curriculum  
CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian
Sports News

Gala Day Sports Results
Please see our special ‘Gala Day 1 Results’ supplement for a full report on scores and player performance.

Gala Day will be held on **Friday 22nd May 2015**
Gala Day 3 will be held on **Friday 5th June 2015**

Gala Day Sports Training
On the Fridays when a Gala Day is not scheduled, teams will participate in training from 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

Congratulations
- To Cooper P from Year 5 who has made the Metropolitan North Schools Hockey team. He will be competing shortly at the State Hockey Carnival in Ipswich.
- To Tory B from Year 6 who has made the Metropolitan North Under 11 Rugby League team.

Football Boots
I have some football boots that students can borrow for Gala Day sports. If you have boots to donate, please send them to the Sports Room.

Amart Sports
If you purchase goods from Amart Sports please remember to mention our SchoolName as we are part of a **Community Kickback Loyalty Programme** where we receive credits towards purchasing sports equipment.

Inter-school Sport – Jerseys and Uniforms
If your child has received - on loan - a McDowall State School sporting jersey, they are to wear this for Friday inter-school sport events such as Gala Days.

Following each event, students are to take their jersey home for cleaning and storage. Jerseys will be collected from all students at the end of the season and their names will be marked off our records.

Please ensure the jersey is looked after, report any damage or loss to the coach. The jersey is only to be worn on a Friday for inter-school sport and is not to be used for other purposes, e.g. club training.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

Defence Family News

**National Families Week**

**Hero Flag Project**

DCO Brisbane in partnership with the North Lakes and Mitchelton Libraries is facilitating a Hero Flag project in recognition of Australian Defence families. Come and have a look at the wonderful array of ‘Hero Flags’ children have made for their Defence parents at one of the locations below:

- **19th April** – at the GBCC Family Day Community Centre, Gallipoli Barracks. Rattey Street, Mitchelton.
- **11th, 13th and 14th May** - at the Mitchelton & North Lakes Libraries between 3pm – 4:30pm.

The Hero Flags will be displayed at the free celebratory sausage sizzle being held on Saturday 16th May at Sid Loder Park (adjacent to the Mitchelton Library) from 10am (proudly sponsored by Gaythorne RSL).

For more information, call DCO Brisbane 3354 0500.

CONTACT: Mrs Jones – Defence School Transition Aide
P&C Association

Note from the Executive
We had a hugely successful P&C Association meeting on 28th April in the OSH Building. We had many parents, school staff and Mr Norm Wyndham (Local Councillor for McDowall Ward) in attendance. Not only did we make the time to get to know each other over a cuppa and sweet treat, but we also had the opportunity to get through a lot of business. This included the following:

- Celebrated the success of the School Disco as a community event and fundraiser.
- Simplifying P&C Association structure and reporting.
- Establishing a shared vision of the purpose of each subcommittee and some of the roles.
- Welcomed new members (including new parent volunteers who will be overseeing Tuckshop and Uniform Shop operations).
- Agreement to purchase a new industrial freezer for Tuckshop.

On another note, the President, Treasurer and Vice President attended a one day upskilling event at the State Library of Queensland to learn about industrial relations requirements, taxation requirements, volunteering and event management and a number of other useful topics. We look forward to implementing many useful tips we have learned in the coming months.

If you have any initiatives or ideas you would like to implement at McDowall SS, you would like to meet other parents from school or just hear about what is happening, please come to our next meeting on Tuesday 26th May in OSH from 7-9pm.

CONTACT: Mrs Soraya Bews - P&C Association President

New Shops Subcommittee
Big shout out to Selda J, Amanda C and Angela S for coming on board as our new Shops Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. They will be supporting Anelle and Di to manage the operations of Tuckshop and Uniform Shop. As they come in as new members, we say goodbye and thank you to Janet Davidson-McGowan who has spent the last four years in the subcommittee. We appreciate all you have contributed. Thank you.

Fundraising News
Mother’s Day Stall
The P&C Mother’s Day Stall was held on Friday 8th May 2015. It was a hugely successful fundraiser where children enjoyed purchasing a special gift for their mum.

At least 35 parents volunteered their time leading up to the event with wrapping gifts and on the day of the stall. This support was very much appreciated.

Results from our Mothers’ Day Stall:
- Amount Raised: $2,600
- No. of volunteers: 35
- Volunteers spots filled: 65%

Entertainment Books
The new 2015 | 2016 Entertainment Books are here! The P&C Association retains 20% of the price of every Membership sold.

Order your new Entertainment ™ Membership now. You can choose from the traditional Entertainment™ Book or the NEW Entertainment™ Digital Membership, which puts the value of the Book into your iPhone or Android smartphone! Each membership has hundreds of 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotels, shopping, groceries and travel and contain over 2,000 offers that you can use whenever you like until 1st June 2016.

Order now: www.entbook.com.au/2208b49 (books will be delivered to your child’s classroom).
Volunteer Profile

Name: Aleks Edmundson

What is your connection to McDowall SS? Three girls enrolled in Year 3 at McDowall SS.

What have you volunteered for this term? Parent help in 3F1 on Monday afternoons for class activities and weekly morning reading groups in 3F3. I am also hoping to help with the knitting project in 3F2 next term.

What did you get out of it? To support my daughters in their class activities, to contribute to the school where my children spend a significant amount of time and to feel a connection to the school community.

Do you work? (if so how many days?) I have recently returned to work, working 2-3 days a week.

What is at the top of your bucket list? Summer in Tuscany after a winter in Paris.

What do you hear yourself saying over and over to your kids? “Clean up the toys...Clean up the toys!!...CLEAN UP THE TOYS.”

Student Banking Update - Term Two

Thank you to the children who regularly bank each week. Together we raised just over $800 for school resources in Term one. Great job everybody.

- Look out for new Pat the Dog posters in your classrooms reminding you that banking day is Wednesday.
- A reminder that the Disneyland Competition requires you to bank a minimum of 25 times through out the year to be eligible for an entry into the prize draw.
- New Term Two rewards now available: the intergalatic rocket and the invisible ink martian pen.
- Want to Open a Youthsaver Account and get involved in the school banking program?

All you need to do is open a Youthsaver Account at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone on 13 2221 or via Netbank if you are an existing customer with NetBank access.

If you go into a branch don't forget to take in some identification for you and your child (driver's licence, birth certificate, passport). McDowall SS will receive $5 from the Commonwealth Bank for every student who makes their first school deposit.

Many thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers who help process the school banking, we appreciate the giving of your time.

CONTACT:
Mrs Kathy Wright or Mrs Julie Forster
School Banking Coordinators

School Administration

Procedure for Late Arrivals / Early Departures

All students arriving late to school or departing early, must report to School Administration and be signed in or out by a parent or guardian.

Late Arrivals

All students who arrive at school five or more minutes after the first beeper must come to School Administration. All late students must be signed in by a parent or guardian; or have a note from their parent explaining the reason for their late arrival. Parents are requested to then escort their child / children to their classroom.

Early Departures

Parents seeking to collect their child / children before the end of the school day are to advise their class teacher on the day in writing, or, by contacting School Administration before the end of second recess, 1.25pm. All students must be collected from School Administration and signed out by a parent/guardian.

What To Do If Your Child Is Absent

If your child / children will be absent from school due to illness or other reasons, you MUST report this to the School via our dedicated Absentee Line ph: 3872 5366. Please leave a clear message including your child’s name, class and reason for absence.

If you know in advance that your child / children will be absent from school, please write a note to their class teachers and notify School Administration beforehand.

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