Astronomers of the Future!

Year 3 Starlab
Our Year 3 students recently had a fantastic view of our planet, Earth. Through the use of a portable planetarium and science theatre, Starlab Education inspired all who attended and our students discovered more about Earth, the causes of day and night, shadows, the sun and our solar system.

Year 5 Planetarium
Year 5 students really enjoyed the interesting range and of exhibits in the gallery and foyer. They enthusiastically located and read information related to their activity sheet. Students then enjoyed a very informative presentation in the observatory, where they viewed features of our solar system and learnt a variety of important facts. It was a terrific day and a special thank you is extended to our parent helpers during the excursion.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

▶ QYMA Honours Choir – The Gap SHS – 6.30pm
▶ School Evacuation Drill 12.15pm (Visitors are not to enter the school)
▶ School Health & Safety Meeting 7.50am
▶ School Lockdown Drill 12.15pm (Visitors are not to enter the school)

▶ Gala Sports Day #3 (Yrs 4-6)
▶ Queen’s Birthday Holiday
▶ Junior Music Camp - Strings
▶ Junior Music Camp – Strings
▶ Junior Music Camp – Strings
▶ Beginner Blitz Day – Band (Wind)

▶ Athletics Trials (Yrs 4-6)
▶ School Council Nominations Open
▶ Parent Teacher Interviews begin (P-6)
▶ Performing Arts Celebration Concert 6.30 pm

▶ Interhouse Cross Country 9.00am (P-6)
▶ Art Competition Assembly
▶ Student Progress Reports Issued
▶ Art Competition Assembly
▶ Interhouse Athletics Yrs 4-6 Field Events
▶ NAIDOC Week Book Swap

ISSUE: 29 MAY 2015

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6 Defence Family News
7 P&C Association

QUICK INFO

School Administration (Office)
Open Mon to Fri, 8.00am – 4.00pm
Payment days: Wed & Fri, 8am – 11am

School Assemblies
Mon: 8:55 – 9:30am (Yrs 3–6)
Wed: 9:00 – 9:30am (Prep–Yr 2)

Tartan Tuckerbox (Tuckshop)
Counter Sales - Monday
Open - Tuesday to Friday

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
▶ Bottle green bucket (for Prep Year) or reversible broad-brimmed hat
▶ Winter: bottle green jacket, jumper and track pants

Friday (Sports)
▶ 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
**McDOWALL MAGIC CARDS**

McDowall State School students take great delight in receiving a ‘McDowall Magic Card’ by their teacher. Each student will record their name and class, before placing the card into the Year Level box. Each Friday, teachers conduct a draw for three cards and seek to identify the student having placed the most number of McDowall Magic Cards into the box for that week. Within this context, recently I began asking P-6 students, about the word ‘magic’. Students readily identify with the magical fantasy that is portrayed in movies and games but were challenged when asked to identify what the ‘magic’ was within the real school context. The ‘magic’ that we seek at McDowall SS is the same for adult and child. This powerful ‘magic’ is simple yet extremely effective, when regularly and consistently used. It is as easy as saying ‘thank you’ but more effective when you also tell the other person why you are thanking them. Neither adult nor child is good at this. It is so sad, that we are more likely to first see the criticism before we delight in acknowledging the contribution made by another person.

McDowall Magic Cards cannot be requested. They are issued because the child has been ‘caught’ doing the right thing and the teacher seeks to thank them. “Thank you for sitting quietly while I spoke with the other child’. “I saw you helping the new student to our school, and want to acknowledge what you have done.” As Principal, I actively encourage staff to issue McDowall Magic Cards as often as possible. No-one should expect to be thanked for doing what is right. We all should want to do the ‘right thing’ BUT don’t we all feel acknowledged and extra special when someone actually makes the effort to thank us? Isn’t it so, that we are more likely to repeat that positive behaviour and do it more often, after someone has acknowledged us in this way?

If all adults (staff and parents) and students all dispensed this ‘magic’ within our Great State School, as often as possible, can you imagine what an even more ‘magical’ place our school could be? There are many staff, parents and students who do so much, each and every day. We all need to dispense some “McDowall Magic” each and every day.

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**P&C ASSOCIATION DAY**

Did you know that the McDowall State School Parents’ and Citizens’ Association has been passionately delivering additional facilities, equipment and business services on behalf of our school for 40 years? Through the achievement of parent volunteers, generations of children have benefitted. A five year old excitedly starting school in 1975, would today be a mature professional decision-maker influencing the lives of those around them. Our Great State School establishes a firm educational foundation from which graduates shape our societal future. Your P&C Association does what it can in both complementing and extending beyond what McDowall SS can deliver alone, to ensure that all our students experience the best possible primary education. Our school continues to uphold a well earned reputation for educational excellence. This is worthy of celebration!

P&C Association Day is Friday 29th May, 2015. The P&C Association is looking to compile a photo book capturing the 40 year history of the McDowall SS Parents’ and Citizens’ Association. If you have photos, articles or stories that you would be willing to share about the history of our school, please contact Mrs Soraya Bews, P&C Association President at president@mcdowallss.com

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**STUDENT DRESS STANDARD**

Collectively, we are all proud of our school and in particular, our students. The McDowall State School and P&C Association expects that every student attending our school will be wearing school uniform each school day. Wearing our uniform readily identifies children with this school, fosters a strong sense of belonging and heightens personal pride. The McDowall State School Dress Code is available on www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au and a summary is included within this Tartan Times. With the onset of Winter, parents are requested to ensure that jackets and jumpers comply with the Student Dress Code. Additionally, parents are requested to ensure that items that may be discarded due to a ‘warming’ day, all be clearly marked with the child’s name (and class) so that if found, may be returned to the student.
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IMMERSION 2016

Following on from a recent article about the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Programme, we have received a number of enquiries from parents seeking child access into this programme for 2016. A Waiting List applies for 2015. It remains our intent to deliver a maximum of two classes in each of Years 3-6 to learn wind, brass and percussion; and one class in each of Years 3-6 to learn strings in 2016. Parent Information Sessions will begin from August as it is important for both interested parents and interested students to understand their commitment and obligations should they accept an offer of placement. Formal expressions of interest will be invited for entry into the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme 2016 from late August, 2015. Please note that continuing students will retain priority placement into 2016.

SPORTS CENTRE UPDATE

The McDowall State School P&C Association continues to progress the Sports Centre project toward construction, due during mid-2016. The architect has submitted drawings and plans for building certification and compliance approval. The Principal is seeking EQ financial subsidy to offset project costs. The Sports Centre will take approximately five months to build. It will be located behind J Block and include a full sized indoor basketball court, new P-1 toilet facilities and a large equipment storeroom. New, redesigned play equipment will be established elsewhere within the school.

The Sports Centre will significantly compliment the School Physical Education and Sports Programme. It will provide all weather games and play space during recess periods. Out-of-school hours, the Sports Centre will be used by the P&C Association OSH Programme. This P&C Association inspired and delivered infrastructure will provide benefit and use across the school day.

School Administration

STUDENT ENROLMENTS 2016

School Administration will finalise the Student Enrolment Information and Interview process for 2016, within the next few weeks. The Principal will then write to each family having lodged an Enrolment Application at School Administration. It is increasingly evident that McDowall State School is the primary school of choice for an ever increasing number of families seeking a quality primary education for their child/ren. Sadly, in 2015, McDowall State School cannot accommodate the enrolment of all children seeking to enrol here. Presently, only Year 5 enrolments are available for potential out-of-catchment enrolments. Enrolment Applications are now being received at School Administration for P-6 in 2016. It is important that Enrolment Applications are lodged with School Administration as soon as possible as they are date/time stamped upon receipt.
School Library News

Premier's Reading Challenge
The reading period for this year’s Premier’s Reading Challenge began on Tuesday 19th May but registrations are open until this Friday, 29th May. Last year more than 77,500 students successfully completed the challenge overall reading 1.65 million books! The aim for this year is to reach a total of two million books!

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is a very worthwhile event to develop children’s literacy skills and help cultivate a passion for literature. Participating students will receive a certificate signed by the Premier. If your child’s class is not participating and you would like your child to be involved, please drop in and see us at the library to register. For more information please visit: http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge.

On Thursday, 25 June, The Book Swap will be open in the School Library from 8:00–9:00am in the morning and again in the afternoon from 3:00–3:30pm.

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

Sports News

Athletics Trials 2015
Each year we conduct athletics trials to identify students to compete within the finals for field events and which division they run in for 100m and 200m. These trials are only for students born in 2003, 2004 and 2005 and will be held as per the timetable below. All students are encouraged to trial.

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<th>Banksia</th>
<th>Grevillea</th>
<th>Melaleuca</th>
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<tr>
<td>29/05/15</td>
<td>Shot put</td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>Long jump</td>
<td>High jump</td>
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<td>20.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/05/15</td>
<td>Long jump</td>
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<td>11.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/06/15</td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>High Jump</td>
<td>Shot put</td>
<td>Long jump</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.00pm</td>
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Students should come to school prepared, that is, with their hat, drink bottle, running shoes etc.

Book Club
Catalogues for our last Book Club for this term went home last week. Orders can be completed online using LOOP at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP.

Remember, if you have any questions please ask at the School Library or contact Belinda or Christine at bookclub@mcdowallss.com.

Book Swap
Thank you for the donations we have received for our annual Book Swap being held at the School Library in the last week of this term. The Book Swap is part of our NAIDOC Week celebrations to support and promote indigenous literacy.

There is still plenty of time to donate. We are seeking donations of fiction and non-fiction books from McDowall State School families. These can be brought to the School Library where we will store them for the Book Swap.

During the Book Swap we will display all donated books. Parents, teachers and students can swap a gold coin for a book! All money raised goes to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.
Congratulations to our TRYathletes

Congratulations to the following six students from our school who took part in the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon at the Sleeman Sports Complex at Chandler on 17th May:

- Cruz B (Yr 2)
- Oliver B (Yr 5)
- Harry B (Yr 4)
- Hayley F (Yr 6)
- Hayden F (Yr 4)
- Charlee H (Yr 4)

The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon will be run again in 2016.

Parent Volunteers at Gala Days

Thank you to the many parent volunteers who have been turning up to Gala Day Sport and helping out. It is a difficult task for teachers to umpire a game and supervise non-playing students at the same time, so your help is greatly appreciated.

New sports equipment

McDowall State School has recently purchased a new set of soccer jerseys and four portable shade tents for use at Gala Days and other major sporting events.

Amart Sports Community Kickback Programme

Thanks to this programme, we have received for FREE a large amount of sports gear to use in our inter-school sports and PE programmes.

Remember to mention the name of McDowall State School whenever you purchase items from Amart Sports.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

Defence Family News

It was lovely to be able to see our student’s Hero Flags on display at the National Families Week celebration last week. All of our current defence students participated in this project, with the end result being displayed with flags from many other local schools. I particularly enjoyed spotting our McDowall SS flags scattered amongst all of the other flags and catching up with some of our families.

For those families with loved ones away for extended absences or currently deployed, please remember that support is only a phone call away via the Defence Family Helpline - 1800 624 608. Should you have any concerns about your child and their schooling, please drop me a line via cjone404@eq.edu.au.

CONTACT: Mrs Jones – Defence School Transition Aide

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>Artwork Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st June</td>
<td>2J8</td>
<td>Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured this fortnight from classes: 201 and 3F3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th June</td>
<td>1J2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th June</td>
<td>5G1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd June</td>
<td>6C2</td>
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Having grown up in a Mediterranean family, the "village" mentality was a way of life for me. After moving 1,500km away from my village and having children, I realised just how critical a village was in my life and in others’ lives too. I am so grateful to have found an energetic, generous and active village at McDowall State School and aim to foster that spirit even more. This fortnight has seen a lot of community happening at McDowall State School. The McDowall State School P&C National Walk Safely to School Day, the preparations for the McDowall State School P&C Spring Fair and the anticipation for the McDowall State School P&C 40 year Celebration Dinner, warm my heart. Keep it up McDowall SS. As our Vice President said (and I have to agree), at the end of the day, all we have is each other.

CONTACT: Mrs Soraya Bews P&C Association President

Spring Fair
Work on the McDowall State School P&C Spring Fair is progressing well. We are now recruiting Year Level stall coordinators and meeting with them to start planning in more detail. We already have three stall coordinators confirmed: Prep, Year 1 and Year 5. The McDowall State School P&C Spring Fair web site is almost ready for launch and will provide the community with up to date information about this exciting event. Volunteer details are being finalised this week with links distributed to those who are wanting to participate. The Spring Fair Coordinator met with school staff at a staff meeting and as a result a few more stalls have been added. It’s all happening! For more information contact Amra Memesivic at vicepres@mcdowallss.com.

Fundraising News

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

Order your new Entertainment™ Membership today. 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)

Sports Day
1. Sports Day Volunteers Needed
Each year the Sports Day provides the P&C Association with the opportunity to raise vital funds which are invested back into the school. To ensure we run a successful fundraising event, we urgently need a couple of people to assist with the overall organisation and coordination of the day. If you are able to assist, please contact the fundraising coordinator as soon as possible. We also need volunteers to assist with the following tasks:
- Baking cakes and other goodies for sale at the cake stall - http://vols.pt/ZfaFv3

If you are able to assist with any of these tasks, please click on the link next to each task and sign up via www.volunteerspot.com.au.

2. Sports Day Parents Raffle
During Sports Day on Friday 26th June 2015, the P&C Association will be holding a Sports Day Raffle for parents who attend on the day. All funds raised will be invested by the P&C Association back into our Great School.

Can you help support this event by donating some raffle prizes?

In the past, donations have included bottles of wine, boxes of chocolates, vouchers and meat trays, just to name a few. If you can donate an item for the raffle, please contact our fundraising coordinator via email (fundraising@mcdowallss.com) or leave your donation at School Administration by Wednesday 17th June 2015.

More details regarding the P&C’s fundraising events for the Sports Day will be sent our via the Tartan Network and published in the next Tartan Times.

CONTACT: Tanya Donaldson
Fundraising Coordinator - Parent Volunteer
Email: fundraising@mcdowallss.com

National Walk Safely to School Day  
Friday 22nd May 2015
Thank you to one of our champion parent volunteers, Mrs Kathy Wright and all the other wonderful volunteers who helped make our 6th National Walk Safely to School Day a huge success. On Friday morning, the 22nd May, the energy was buzzing down on the school oval and it wasn’t even 8am! From three different starting points in McDowall, children, parents and teachers walked to school, finishing at the oval. They played with giant balls, enjoyed a huge and scrumptious breakfast and shared in energetic, positive community spirit.

Thank you to the Bunya Lions Club for cooking the delicious pancakes and to Woolworths Northeast Plaza for supplying free fruit to our walkers. Thank you to Mr Fogarty for walking with us again this year. Thanks to the parents for making our community happen by walking alongside your kids, serving breakfast, running games, setting up, cleaning up and all the rest (including our terrific tuckshop team). Thank you to Mr Mills (Yr 4) and Mr Margetic (Yr 2) for running ball games.

So many children commented on how much fun they had and parents were overheard saying how fantastic the whole event was. Our community rocks!!

40th Celebration Event

Have you contributed to at least one event or activity at McDowall State School in the last 40 years? If so, have you received your invitation to the "40 years of achievement - celebration and appreciation" event to be held on 12th June? See details below.

Volunteer Profile

Name: Melissa Kurosawa

What is your connection to McDowall SS? I am mother to Kai (Year 5) and Kori (Year 2).

What have you volunteered for this term? This term I have volunteered for Book Club and Tartan Tuckerbox.

Do you work? (if so how many days?) I work as a supply teacher and I also run my own music business from home after school hours 5 days a week.

What is at the top of your bucket list? I have done lots of travelling in my life but have never been to Europe. That is the top of my bucket list!

What do you hear yourself saying over and over to your kids? I am constantly telling my kids to "Get off the iPad!", "Get off the computer", "Get off my phone!". Maybe I should just say "Get away from the technology!"

P&C Audit - the good, the bad and the ugly

The P&C President and Treasurer have completed an audit on all P&C subcommittees and businesses. The audit aimed to inform bodies of work required to achieve improved compliance of regulation and legislation expected by P&C Association from Department of Education and Training of which we are a statutory body. In addition, the audit will inform training needs of our office bearers and paid P&C staff (OSHC, tuckshop, uniform shop). The P&C Executive will work with relevant stakeholders behind the scenes to address compliance measures as required.

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**McDowall State School P&C invites members of the community who have contributed* to the school in the last 40 years to…**

**40 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

*celebration and appreciation*

When: Friday 12th June
Time: 6.30pm
Where: McDowall SS School Hall
RSVP: Friday 5th June via secretary@mc dowallss.com

Light supper and refreshments will be served

We would like to compile a photo book capturing the 40 year history of the McDowall SS Parents’ & Citizens’ Association. If you have photos, articles or stories that you would be willing to share about the history of our school, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Soraya Bevs, President, McDowall SS P&C Association at president@mc dowallss.com

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*Contributions include helping with reading, art, gross motor or other classroom activities, escorted class on excursion, attending a P&C meeting, joining a P&C subcommittee, volunteering fundraising events, volunteering in tuckshop or uniform shop, processing school banking deposits, helping package and distribute book club orders, helping out in the school library cataloguing books and covering new books, holding an executive position on the P&C, holding an official role on the P&C.