Singers Score Silver

A very excited Honours Choir performed in the Queensland Youth Music Awards on Friday evening the 29th May. Students competed against choirs from a number of private and state primary schools across North Brisbane. In a hotly contested heat our Honours Choir was awarded a silver certificate.

The students sang beautifully and were given some lovely feedback about their performance. Some of the adjudicator’s comments are below.

“Good energy and dynamic contrast!”


Hearty congratulations to all of the students in Honours Choir who have worked so hard this year. A big thank you to the Mums and Dads for supporting their child’s choral singing. It is very much appreciated.
Principal’s Post

Parent Teacher Interviews
Student Progress Reports will be issued to students on Monday 22nd June, 2015. Parent / Teacher Interviews are scheduled to be held from Monday 15th June through to Friday 26th June, although class teachers will issue notices indicating their personal availability.

Parents are requested to book a time and the class teacher will confirm this mutual agreement to meet. Mid-Year Parent / Teacher Interviews are for a maximum time period of 15mins.

The purpose of any Parent / Teacher Interview is to “focus on the child”, reflect on student progress to date, celebrate achievements, identify barriers to further improvement; and then to work in partnership to deliver sought achievement within the shortest possible time frame. It is the parent’s choice whether or not they wish to attend a formal Parent / Teacher Interview. If parents have already been in contact with the class teacher during the semester, there may not be a need to attend Parent / Teacher Interview at this time.

School policy requires “truth in reporting” and that there is a general expectation that there should be “no surprises” within a Student Progress Report for either a parent or student. Realistically, as a child progresses through Year Levels, the work expectations, standards and complexity of work will increase in order to achieve all Student Progress Report ratings. This may result in rating variation from one year to the next. These variations may require discussion. The Australian Curriculum is constantly under review and refinement.

The Parent / Teacher Interview should reinforce the relationship between teacher and parent. Parent / Teacher Interviews should focus on how the parent and teacher will in partnership, effect further student achievement within the next reporting period.

Tips for Parents Attending Interview
Parent / Teacher Interviews are scheduled for 15-20 minutes duration. 5 minutes is afforded for social greeting and farewell. This means that both the teacher and parent must be prepared and organised for the interview. Prepare discussion points to ensure the productive use of time.

The parent must be punctual to the interview or their time at Parent / Teacher Interview will either be shortened or be forfeit. There is no guarantee that rescheduling can occur. Parent / Teacher Interviews consume valuable out-of-work hours family time for both parent and teacher.

Interviews are held because both parent and teacher seek to improve student learning outcomes. Should a parent not be able to attend a booked Parent / Teacher Interview, it is courteous for the teacher to be advised as soon as possible. Parent / Teacher Interviews must run to time so when time is up, the interview must end. Teachers will use a range of methods to monitor interview length. Often there is another parent waiting to attend their interview. It is not appropriate to extend time into another parent’s interview. Teachers are not permitted to extend Parent Teacher Interviews into student instruction / supervision time.

The teacher may expect that an interview will need longer than 15 minutes and will plan for this within the schedule. If this did not occur, and both parent and teacher believe that further productive discussion is required, a second mutually agreed meeting may be arranged for a future date and time. A planned extended interview may involve a review of an Individual Education Plan or Individual Learning Support Plan.

The teacher must always be prepared to give an accurate and honest appraisal of the child’s work and progress. The teacher needs the parent to provide an accurate and honest appraisal of home issues that may affect student progress at school. Without judgement, in partnership, both parent and teacher then plan how they will build from present achievements and together, better support the child to achieve best possible student learning outcomes.

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>15th June</td>
<td>5G1</td>
<td>Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured this fortnight from classes: 2J8 and 1J2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd June</td>
<td>6C2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th July</td>
<td>2O2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th July</td>
<td>4E3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured this fortnight from classes: 2J8 and 1J2
**Inter-House Cross Country**

The annual Inter-House Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday 19th June beginning at approximately 9.05am on the school oval. All students are involved in this carnival with distances of different length according to age group. All courses are located within the school rounds.

After Class Roll Call, class groups must be on the school oval by 9am. Students run in Year Levels, not age groups. If late, a student will likely miss their race. The programme will begin with the Preparatory Year boys, then girls to be followed by Year 1 boys, then girls and so on to Year 7 girls. P-1 classes may elect not to remain on the school oval between 9.30am and 10.25am. Mr Wayne Swan MP (Federal Member for Lilley) will present sponsored trophies during a P-6 Presentation Ceremony on the school oval, at approximately 10.35am. First Recess will be rescheduled for 11am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Approx Time</th>
<th>Approx Distance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Prep Boys</td>
<td>9.05am</td>
<td>400m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Prep Girls</td>
<td>9.12am</td>
<td>400m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Yr 1 Boys</td>
<td>9.19am</td>
<td>600m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Yr 1 Girls</td>
<td>9.26am</td>
<td>600m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Yr 2 Boys</td>
<td>9.33am</td>
<td>600m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Yr 2 Girls</td>
<td>9.40am</td>
<td>600m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Yr 3 Boys</td>
<td>9.47am</td>
<td>750m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Yr 3 Girls</td>
<td>9.54am</td>
<td>750m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Yr 4 Boys</td>
<td>10.01am</td>
<td>750m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Yr 4 Girls</td>
<td>10.08am</td>
<td>750m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Yr 5 Boys</td>
<td>10.15am</td>
<td>1,000m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Yr 5 Girls</td>
<td>10.22am</td>
<td>1,000m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Yr 6 Boys</td>
<td>10.29am</td>
<td>1,200m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Yr 6 Girls</td>
<td>10.36am</td>
<td>1,200m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Class cross country training and course familiarisation occurs during the weeks preceding the Inter-House Cross Country Carnival both during daily fitness activity lessons (endurance) overseen by the class teacher and during scheduled Physical Education lessons (skills).

All students are encouraged to participate and do the very best that they can, even it this means walking some of the distance. All students should aim to finish the course. These are neither district nor regional competition distances. All runners earn points for their House. All students completing the course are issued with a sticker (if they want one).

It is recommended that students do not eat a substantial breakfast if after 7.30am. All students will require a substantial morning tea to eat at 11am. Should a student be ill, experience a medical condition or be recuperating after an illness, parents are to advise the class teacher in writing prior to this carnival, as it may not be advisable for the student to participate in this endurance event. Being a school-based carnival it is expected that parents have already ensured that student medical details held at school administration are current.

Parents and extended family are welcome to attend and watch races from the netball court and grass embankment area. Please bring your own seating and shade. Parents and guests are not to enter the marshalling, finishing or judging areas. A photo area will be established. Tracks are to be kept clear at all times. All students are expected to remain in and return to their House Areas, to be under the direction of House or Year Level teachers.

All students are to wear their House (shirt) Uniform and must wear suitable running shoes (not necessarily black). They must wear their school hat (no caps or visors), may wear sunglasses and must have sunscreen applied at home and have it to reapply while on the oval. It is wise to have a water bottle, small snack, and a small towel to sit on as the grass may be damp. All should be packed in a light bag. All items must be marked with the child’s name. Students may bring a change of uniform (including black shoes) to refresh themselves during first recess. Please, no felt pen writing on arms or legs. Please, no coloured hair spray or cans.
Casual Dress Day

The McDowall State School Student Council will hold a Student Casual Dress Day on Thursday 25th June, 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.

School Council

Elected Member Nominations 2015-2017

The McDowall State School Council meets five to six times annually to guide the broad strategic direction of the school. The School Council (a) monitors the school strategic direction (b) approves plans and policies of the school that are strategic in nature (c) monitors the implementation of these plans and policies; and (d) provides advice to the Principal about strategic matters. The McDowall State School Council does not interfere with school management undertaken by the Principal, make operational decisions, control funds or establish sub-committees.

The McDowall State School Council meets at School Administration on a scheduled Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm.

The McDowall State School Council membership is constituted as:

- Principal – Official Member
- P&C Association President – Official Member
- Four Elected Staff Members – Two Teachers and Two Non-teaching Staff
- Four Elected Parent Members

Elected Members have a tenure of two years. From the eight Elected Members, two Staff Members and two Parent Members retire annually. A School Council Election is therefore held annually. Retiring members may renominate for a further two year tenure should they wish to do so. Both Principal and P&C Association President wish to sincerely thank the following retiring members for their commitment and resolve in conducting a fully constituted School Council during the past 12 months:

- Raelee Milne (Teacher)
- Sandra Davis (Teacher Aide)
- Angela Turner (Parent)
- Tracey Wilson (Parent)

We also wish to thank Debbi Robertson-Stainsby for temporarily filling the Elected Member position vacated by Soraya Bews (Parent) upon Soraya’s appointment as P&C Association President. Nominations for this vacancy will be for 12 month period only.

To be eligible for election as:

- An Elected Member of Staff, a person must:
  - Not be an Official Member.
  - Not have been convicted of an indictable offence.
  - Attend a meeting called for the purpose of electing Staff Members.
  - Be a member of staff at McDowall State School.
  - Lodge a Nomination Form with the Returning Officer.

- An Elected Parent, a person must:
  - Not be an Official Member.
  - Not have been convicted of an indictable offence.
  - Attend a meeting called for the purpose of electing Parent members.
  - Be the parent of a child attending the McDowall State School.
  - Lodge a Nomination Form with the Returning Officer.

Nomination Forms may be collected from School Administration or from www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au in the School Council section. Nominations for School Council membership must be received by the Returning Officers (through School Administration) by 3.30pm on Monday 13th July, 2015.

The School Council Election will be held on Tuesday 28th July, 2015:

- Mr Ashley Proud Returning Officer. Election Meeting opens at 3pm and is adjourned at 3.30pm in Staffroom.
- Mr Paul Johnson Returning Officer. Election Meeting reopens at 6.30pm and closes at 7pm in K Block.

The ballot count will be conducted by the Returning Officer (and two assistants) as soon as possible after casting ballot closure. If the number of received nominations are the same or fewer than the required Elected Members, then the School Council Election will not proceed. The Nominees may be considered elected.
School Administration

Student Enrolments 2016
Enrolment Applications are being received at School Administration for P-6 classes in 2016. It is important that Enrolment Applications are lodged with School Administration as soon as possible as they are date and time stamped upon receipt. An Enrolment Management Policy applies to all student enrolments at McDowall State School to ensure that our facilities capacity is not exceeded. Enrolments will continue to be considered from residential addresses outside the McDowall State School enrolment catchment area to fill available vacancies for 2016. This policy is available for parent perusal through both www.education.qld.gov.au and www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au.

Tartan Times
Please note that the Tartan Times will not be published during the final week of Term 3. The next Tartan Times will be published on Thursday 23rd July, 2015.

School Library News

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Registration for this year’s Premier’s Reading Challenge is now closed. Any reading journals completed at home must be returned to school by Friday 28th August. If you have any questions about this Challenge please call in at the School Library, see you child’s classroom teacher or visit: http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge.

Book Club
Orders from the current Book Club catalogue will be delivered on Friday 12th June and will be the last for this term. Our next Book Club will be early in Term 3. If you have any questions about Book Club please ask at the School Library or contact Parent Volunteers: Belinda or Christine at bookclub@mcdowallss.com.

NAIDOC Week Book Swap
Thank you for all the donations we have continued to receive for our annual Indigenous Literacy Foundation Book Swap. The Book Swap is part of our NAIDOC Week celebrations to support and promote Indigenous literacy.

There is still enough time to donate, if you are able to do so. We seek 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.

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 literacy skills of young Indigenous Australians.

The Book Swap will be in the School Library on Thursday 25th June from 8:00am – 9:00am and again from 3:00pm – 3:30pm.

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

Music News

****** Reminder ******
Celebration Concert
Next Wednesday – 17th June at 6:30pm
Sports News

North District Gala Days
Well done to all students for putting in their best performances across the three Gala Day competitions. Thank you to all the parents who helped out at Gala Days. Please ensure your school jersey / uniform is returned to the coach as soon as possible.

Upcoming sports events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12th June</td>
<td>Athletics Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19th June</td>
<td>Inter-House (School) Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 24th June</td>
<td>Inter-House Athletics – Field events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 26th June</td>
<td>Inter-House Athletics – Track events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations
Well done Tory B for being selected in the Metropolitan North Touch Football team and to Molly B for being selected in the Metropolitan North Netball team.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

Defence Family News

Afternoon Tea
There will be a Defence Parent Afternoon Tea on Tuesday, 16th June in the Library Courtyard. Please join us from 2pm onwards. All visitors to the School must sign in at the office or on the attendance sheet. It will be a lovely way to end the Term!

CONTACT: Mrs Jones – Defence School Transition Aide

P&C Association

Inter-House Athletics Carnival – Fri 26th June 2014
The Athletics Carnival is a great opportunity for the P&C Association to fundraise and invest the proceeds of this event back into our great school. BUT – WE NEED YOUR HELP. Here’s how you can get involved:

1. Food for Parents
While watching your children, enjoy a coffee, cold drink, cake/biscuits or even a sausage sizzle at our BBQ and Cake stall. You can also grab something for morning tea if you’re heading to work.

Volunteer Opportunity
- Baking cakes and other goodies for sale at the cake stall - http://vols.pt/ZfaFv3

2. Parent Raffle
We will be holding a raffle for parents and tickets will be available to purchase on 26th June. If you are able to help support this raffle by donating a raffle prize, please contact the fundraising coordinator via email (fundraising@mcdowallss.com) or leave your donation at School Administration by Wednesday 17th June 2015.

Volunteer Opportunity

3. Student Raffle
Students have the opportunity to win a Sports Day Mascot!
For just $1, students may purchase a raffle ticket and go into the draw to win their very own Sporting House mascot! There will be a mascot in each House colour.
Tickets will be available from the School Library from 22nd to 25th June or at the Student Treats Stall on the oval on Friday 26th June. Prizes will be drawn on the day.

Volunteer Opportunity
Serving at the Stall - http://vols.pt/hn7iMw

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

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

Volunteer Profile
Name: Michelle Ballinger
What is your connection to McDowall SS? This is my 10th year at McDowall. I have two daughters (Years 6 and 9) and twin boys in Year 1.
What have you volunteered for this term? I have committed to the tuckshop again for the year, going in once a month. I also volunteer twice a week in my boys class. One morning with reading and the other in Computer Centre.
What did you get out of it? Pure joy seeing the smiles on my childrens’ faces and knowing I am making a difference to their learning outcomes.
Do you work? (if so how many days?) I work one day a week for a couple of Occupational Therapists.
What is at the top of your bucket list? To see this beautiful country of ours with my family. We travel by car (even to Tassie) so we can experience it all.
What do you hear yourself saying over and over to your kids? Close the door.
McDowall State School P&C Association
Postal: P.O. Box 493, Everton Park 4053
Street: 1018 Rode Road, McDowall 4053
ABN: 55 267 229 753

Are you a licenced tradie?

Would you be willing and able to help the McDowall SS P&C in any of the following ways?

- Review quotes for value for money and scope of works
- Complete small jobs with labour free of charge or at a discounted rate
- Advise on other tradespeople you know who could do the job well

Why are we asking for your help?

The McDowall SS P&C owns and manages three businesses:
1. OSHC
2. Tuckshop and
3. Uniform Shop

All profits are directly invested back into McDowall SS to help better the education of all children at the school. Facilities require regular maintenance and from time to time, refurbishment and as you know, this costs money. As a P&C, we would prefer every single dollar to be spent on the kids and their education and not services rendered in the course of operations.

Achievements of the P&C – just a handful over the last 10 years

- Extension to the school hall
- Construction of OSHC building
- Construction of the Activity Building
- Construction of the Metro St Car Park retaining wall to create a grassed and level prep playfield
- Construction of E-Learning Centre in the school library
- Refurbishment of tuckshop
- Additional teacher aide hours

If you are willing and able to register your name and trade on a confidentially held database for the P&C please go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/tradehelp and register your details. In exchange, we are able to offer you exposure on our Facebook page (210 likers) and the Tartan Times (whole school) by way of an acknowledgement of your support.

For more information please contact Soraya Bews, P&C President on 0431 773 467. We thank you in advance.