**Bush Play Adventures**

Earlier this term, Preparatory Year students enjoyed an excursion to the Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre to celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Childrens’ Day.

Childrens’ Day is held on 4th August each year and was first observed in 1988, with 2015 being the 28th celebration. The theme for 2015 was: Little People, Big Futures.

The Centre is building partnerships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and we were fortunate to be included in this. We were lucky enough to participate in many activities with Danny, an Aboriginal Elder.

During the Bush Play Adventure, Danny showed the children how to listen for the sounds of the bush and to make string from plants. We explored the natural environment, whilst looking for Koala Blue. The fun day ended with billy juice and koala biscuits. A big thank you is extended to the many parents and grandparents who assisted.

CONTACT: Mrs Sullivan – PA1 Teacher

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**BOOK WEEK 2015**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merrill O’Neill Assembly Yrs 3-6</td>
<td>3F4 Brisbane Urban EEC</td>
<td>Merrill O’Neill Assembly (P-Yr 2)</td>
<td>3F2 Brisbane Urban EEC</td>
<td>Yr 5-6 Tennis Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3N2 - Brisbane Urban EEC</td>
<td>P&amp;C Assoc. General Meeting 7pm K Block</td>
<td>3F1 Brisbane Urban EEC</td>
<td>REGIONAL ATHLETICS @ UQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Maths Tournament Albany Hills SS</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Tue 1st Sep</th>
<th>Wed 2nd Sep</th>
<th>Thu 3rd Sep</th>
<th>Fri 4th Sep</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Music EOI Forms 2016 due</td>
<td>Performing Arts Chamber Concert 6.30pm</td>
<td>3F3 Brisbane Urban EEC</td>
<td>P&amp;C Association Fathers’ Day Stall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3N1 Brisbane Urban EEC</td>
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<td>Jump Rope for Heart Day – Yr 6</td>
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<thead>
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<th>Tue 6th Sep</th>
<th>Wed 9th Sep</th>
<th>Thu 10th Sep</th>
<th>Fri 11th Sep</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tartan Network – 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>Mon 14th Sep</th>
<th>Tue 15th Sep</th>
<th>Wed 16th Sep</th>
<th>Thu 17th Sep</th>
<th>Fri 18th Sep</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>END OF TERM 3</td>
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<td>Casual Dress Day (gold coin)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**QUICK INFO**

**Principal’s Post**

**Library News**

**Music News**

**Sports News**

**Defence Family News**

**P&C Association**

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**ISSUE: 24th August 2015**

**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

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

- **BOOK WEEK 2015**
- Merrill O’Neill Assembly Yrs 3-6
- 3N2 - Brisbane Urban EEC
- District Maths Tournament Albany Hills SS
- 3F4 Brisbane Urban EEC
- Merrill O’Neill Assembly (P-Yr 2)
- 3F1 Brisbane Urban EEC
- REGIONAL ATHLETICS @ UQ
- Yr 5-6 Tennis Tournament
- Instrumental Music EOI Forms 2016 due
- Performing Arts Chamber Concert 6.30pm
- 3F3 Brisbane Urban EEC
- P&C Association Fathers’ Day Stall
- 3N1 Brisbane Urban EEC
- Jump Rope for Heart Day – Yr 6
- Tartan Network – 7pm
- END OF TERM 3
**Principal’s Post**

**Grandparents’ Morning**

Nine years ago, McDowall State School held its first Grandparents’ Morning. Grandparents assume many roles in support of children today. Many grandparents schedule this school event with the RNA Show Holiday week and travel considerable distances to be with their children and grandchildren. Every year, the number of grandparents attending Grandparents’ Morning increases. Friday 14th August was no exception. K Block was filled to capacity. Grandparents loved their cake, biscuits, tea and coffee. Collectively, we love hosting grandparents so that they may visit classrooms with their grandchildren, share in the educational experience and share their personal stories with children. The delight found in the eyes of our students and the enthusiasm demonstrated by grandparents to participate, is priceless! To every grandparent, thank you for your continued support and thank you for your investment in the lives of children.

Parents too, are thrilled to host grandparents during Grandparents’ Morning. P&C Association (including Tartan Network) volunteers provided the refreshments in K Block. Their smiles, kind gestures and care toward our special school visitors ensured all were refreshed and were able to enjoy the beautiful music provided by the Strings Quartet students. Thank you. An exceptional morning was experienced by all.

**Instrumental Music Immersion Programme**

McDowall State School is seeking to configure 12 full classes within the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme in 2016: 2 x Wind, Brass and Percussion classes + 1 x Strings class in each of Years 3-6, potentially involving a minimum of 324 students (33% of total school enrolment). Planning is well advanced. Present Years 2-5 students have been provided opportunities to attend concerts and to inspect musical instruments. A Parent Information Evening was held in the School Hall on Thursday 20th August, 2015. Expression of Interest Forms have been issued, inviting parents to indicate whether they would like their child to be included within the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme in 2016. Additional forms may be accessed from School Administration.

*Instrumental Music Immersion Programme EOI Forms are due at School Administration by Monday 31st August, 2015.*

**Student Enrolments 2016**

Enrolment Applications are being received **NOW** 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. 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.mcdowall.qs.edu.au.

- All parents having lodged an Enrolment Application at School Administration have received a formal acknowledgement of receipt and a list of pertinent dates leading to the 2016 school year.
- From early September, School Administration will begin contacting parents to arrange an Enrolment Interview with a Deputy Principal.
- Parents of children already enrolled across P-6, yet to lodge an Enrolment Application for the Preparatory Year on behalf of a younger sibling, need to do so as soon as possible.

**Preparatory Year Early Entry 2016**

The Preparatory Year is the first year of school and provides the foundation for a child’s formal education. It is a full time programme. Children are expected to attend Monday-Friday, 8.20am-2.30pm at McDowall SS. Children must be 5 years of age by 30th June in the year that they enrol.

Children who are younger than the prescribed age for the Preparatory Year **may** be enrolled if they:

- Turn 5 year by 31st July in the year of proposed attendance; and
- The Principal is satisfied that the child is ready for education in the Preparatory Year, having regard to the child’s attributes (including ability, aptitude, social and emotional competence, physical development; and level of knowledge and understanding).

The Principal may also enrol a child who is younger than the prescribed age into the Preparatory Year if the child:

- Has previously started education that is equivalent to the Preparatory Year in another state or country; and
- Is considered ready for education in the Preparatory Year in regard to their attributes (including ability, aptitude, social and emotional competence, physical development; and level of knowledge and understanding).
- A programme is considered to be equivalent to the Preparatory Year if it is full time, school based; and has a defined curriculum delivered in the year prior to Year 1.

There are **no exceptions** to these requirements. The parent is expected to provide satisfactory evidence and appropriate documentation that the child is entitled to apply for enrolment.

Queensland Kindergarten and Preparatory Year eligibility requirements now align with New South Wales.
These cut-off ages are the youngest starting ages in Australia so parents (and Principals) need to seriously consider the readiness of a child to engage within formal education. Kindergarten is an important preparation for the Preparatory Year. Developmental play in Kindergarten is critical in terms of ensuring child readiness for primary school. It is not compulsory for a child to attend the Preparatory Year as soon as they are old enough. Eg. 5 years by 30th June in the year they enrol. Parents may delay their entry by one year if they feel that their child is not ready for formal education. The child will start school in the Preparatory Year.

**Aptitude and Ability Examples**
- Confidently makes choices/decisions and follows through.
- Makes several attempts to complete a new or challenging experience before seeking help.
- Talks confidently, including expressing feelings and ideas, to familiar and unfamiliar people.
- Attempts to resolve conflict by suggesting modelled strategies.
- Actively participates in familiar and new group learning experiences.
- Recognises a problem and ways to solve it.
- Actively seeks and accepts help from familiar and unfamiliar adults.
- Is willing to contribute thoughts, ideas and solutions.
- Has awareness of and attention to routines, roles and responsibilities.
- Responds to ideas using imagination and in a range of ways.
- Recalls past experiences, events, or discussions.

**Physical Development Examples**
- Confidently uses fine and gross motor skills to complete tasks.
- Sustains active involvement in challenging experiences.
- Monitors and manages own physical needs. Eg. Toileting.
- Sustains energy and displays endurance across the learning and routine expectations of a school day.

**Level of Knowledge and Understanding Examples**
- Listens, observes and communicates with others in a range of learning contexts.
- Applies knowledge from past learning to a new learning situation.
- Applies some modelled or familiar thinking routines to help solve problems.
- Independently maintains focus when engaging in a range of familiar experiences.
- Willingly engages in creating and using different types of texts.
- Experiments with copying and forming letters and assigns a meaning to their writing, uses letter names, if in a familiar context.
- Uses a variety of vocabulary when classifying, sorting, sequencing and comparing everyday materials and objects.
- Uses language associated with and shows understanding of spatial positions and directions.
- Is familiar with printed material. Eg. Can handle a book and can recognise some letters, numbers and symbols.

**Social and Emotional Competence Examples**
- Applies awareness of their own and others’ rights in familiar situations.
- Observes, asks questions and explains simple changes to their environment over time.
- Engages positively with familiar and new experiences, and manages unexpected situations and changes.
- Eagerly contributes to new and challenging experiences.
- Talks confidently, including expressing feelings and ideas, to familiar and unfamiliar people.
- Co-operates with others in a range of social and learning situations. Eg. The child can play and show self-control.
- Shows respect for others.
- Demonstrates coping skills and resilience when things don’t go to plan.
- Interacts appropriately with other children and adults.
- Self-manages own belongings and activities with increased independence.
- Shows responsibility such as helping to tidy up after activities.
- Uses language to communicate ideas, knowledge and feelings (oral language, augmentative language). The child can express their own needs.
- Behaves appropriately in situations. Eg. Rarely or never shows aggressive behaviours, is able to demonstrate helping behaviours.
- Copes well with separation from parent/s for the duration of the school day.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From 24th Aug</td>
<td>PC2</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 31st Aug</td>
<td>4E1</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 7th Sep</td>
<td>3F2</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 14th Sep</td>
<td>5G2</td>
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Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured this fortnight from classes: PB1 & PB2
School Library News

Children’s Book Week Display
Shortlisted books in the Children’s Book Week Competition are on display in the School Library, so please feel welcome to come and have a look at these books before or after school. They’ll be available for borrowing when Book Week finishes. The winning title in each category was announced on Friday 21st August, for more information visit, click here.

Merrille O’Neill Poetry Competition
Student entries for our annual Merrille O’Neill Poetry Competition have been judged by the English team at Craigslea State High School and are now on display in the eLearning Centre. Please come and have a look.

Competition winners will be announced at Senior Assembly on Monday 24th August and Junior Assembly on Wednesday 26th August. It would be great to have you there!

Mystery Readers
During Book Week, a number of classes will have a mystery reader come to their classroom door to read to students. This is another way we are celebrating Book Week and inspiring children to read and to love literature. Mystery Readers show students there are fun ways to enjoy a book and that adults love reading too!

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

Music News

SingFest 2015
On Monday 17th August, students in McDowall State School’s Honours Choir and Senior Choir participated in Education Queensland’s ‘SingFest’.

‘SingFest’ is an annual festival involving primary school choirs from across the region. School choirs gather together at the Queensland Old Museum for a day of choral workshops culminating in a celebration concert.

Choir students from ten other Brisbane schools joined with McDowall State School students to create a 300 voice choir. Students and teachers had a fantastic day working with Ann Pook (choir director). She was certainly able to bring the best out of the students.

The celebration performance was a highlight with students singing their hearts out. Congratulations are extended to all McDowall State School Honours Choir and Senior Choir members. Our students proudly represented their school, displaying perseverance, an exemplary work ethic and good humour during a very exhausting but very rewarding day.

Instrumental Recruitment Concerts
Instrumental Recruitment Concerts for students from Years 2 – 5 were held last week. At the concerts, all students received an ‘Expression of Interest’ form to indicate if they would like to participate in the Instrumental Music Immersion Programme in 2016. Please ensure students return this form as soon as possible but by 31st August, 2015 to School Administration.

Instrumental Music Parent Information Evening
A Parent Information Evening was held on Thursday 20th August from 6:30pm in the School Hall, for parents interested in their child being part of the McDowall SS Instrumental Music Immersion Programme in 2016. Interested? Please make an appointment to speak with Ms Vanessa Crowhurst (Head of Curriculum) through School Administration.

Chamber Music Concert
The McDowall State School Chamber Music Concert will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday 2nd September, 2015 in the School Hall. This concert is more intimate than our two large Celebration Concerts, showcasing the talent of McDowall State School students in small ensemble and solo performances. Students wishing to perform at the Chamber Music Concert should have already auditioned with either Mrs Payne or Mrs Gyte. Accepted students will be notified by their instrumental music teacher and receive a note for parents with all necessary information.

Only a limited number of performances will be accommodated in order to keep the concert at a reasonable length.

Entry to the concert is $2, to be paid at the School Hall entrance. Continuing support toward the talented musicians at McDowall State School, we hope to see you there.

CONTACT: Ms Crowhurst – Head of Curriculum
Sports News

Regional Athletics - 25th & 26th August
Good luck to the many individual competitors and our three relay teams competing at UQ this week. Have a great day!

Community Kickback Programme
Amart Sports at Mitchelton operates a Community Kickback Programme. Next time you purchase something from Amart Sports, please mention our school. We receive a percentage of the purchase which we later redeem for sporting equipment. Recently I was able to acquire $550 worth of new gear for McDowall State School through this programme.

Tennis
This term, Years 3-6 students are learning tennis skills and playing games. Our School Tennis Tournament will be held on Friday 28th August and is open to students in Years 5 and 6. If any parents can assist with umpiring on the day, please contact me. Tennis coaching is available to students before and after school and is run by Everton Tennis.

Rugby League Promotion
All Year 3 students received a free football from the NRL as part of recent classes the organisation has been supporting during PE lessons.

Girls Night In
Girls Night In is held on the last Friday of each month. There is a different theme each month. A cost applies. The next event is on 28th August, 2015. For further details see the DCO Bulletin.

KidSMART Courses
The following two KidSMART Courses will be held at the Gallipoli Barracks Community Centre. For further details or to register, please contact dco.brisbane@defence.gov.au or phone 07 3354 0500.

KidSMART Deployment
Tyler Turtle and Sam Super help children to learn how to manage change and how to stay connected during parental absences. This event will be held from 9am to 12 noon on Friday 25th September.

KidSMART Relocation
This is a programme for primary-aged children designed to help manage relocation and settlement into a new community. It will be held on Thursdays 22nd October, 29th October and 5th November, 2015 from 3.30pm to 5pm.

DCO Brisbane Bulletin
Did you know that you can view the DCO Brisbane Bulletin online? You can also subscribe to receive the newsletter straight to your inbox! Follow this link to view the August edition.

CONTACT: Mrs Jones – Defence School Transition Aide

P&C Association

Update from the Executive
I know it sounds crazy, but the P&C Association Executive are already starting to plan for next year. Business planning processes are underway to ensure that the P&C Association continues to be strong and viable into the future. There will be opportunities for you to get more involved in your P&C Association if you wish to do so, as some of our incumbents will be moving on. We will keep you posted about these opportunities. Keep your eye out here and on Facebook (click the icon to go to our Facebook page).

In the meantime, preparations for the Spring Fair continue to intensify. We are so proud of the Spring Fair Team’s efforts. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their planning, preparation, coordination and communication. We hope you appreciate their efforts too as their time, energy and resources are benefiting us all. Three cheers to the Spring Fair Team.
FUNDRAISING NEWS

Father’s Day Stall
This year’s Father’s Day Stall is fast approaching and we need your help in preparation for the event. If you can assist, please sign up via Volunteerspot: http://vols.pt/Y2FBJG.

Contact: Mrs Bianca Guz - Parent Volunteer

Entertainment Books

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Recruitment for Uniform Shop Convenor
Advertising for the Uniform Shop Convenor role is now closed. We have had over 30 applications from people within and outside of the school community. We will be shortlisting and interviewing very soon. In the meantime, we would like to say a huge thank you to Jodie Cornwall who is temporarily filling the role while we recruit.

SPRING FAIR NEWS

Prize for Volunteers
Anyone who volunteers in a position to help out with the Spring Fair will go into the running to win some great prizes from our sponsors. Full details of the prizes will be on our Facebook page shortly. Volunteers don’t need to do anything to enter, just by volunteering to assist, you will automatically be in the draw.

Volunteers Needed
The Spring Fair will be our first school fete in five years and we want to make it fantastic. Additionally, all funds raised will be used to provide additional funding required for our new Sports Hall which will be used for sports activities and for Before and After School Care activities.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already signed up on www.volunteerspot.com.au. Here’s of summary of where we still need volunteers:

**Year 1 Cake and Sweet Stall**
- Option 1: Bake cakes, slices, biscuits, muffins, fudge, rocky road and other sweets. We have some donated ingredients which can be picked up on:
  - Friday 4th Sep, 2pm until 3.25pm.
  - You can also arrange another time with the Stall Coordinator.
- Option 2: Sell cakes at the stall.
- Option 3: Be present during cake collection times on Friday 11th Sept or 12th Sept at 2pm-3.30pm.
- Option 4: Sell items at the Bric-a-brac stall.

**Year 2 – Plant Stall**
- Sell plants at the stall on Spring Fair day.
- Please note: Friday 11th September is when you may drop off your plants you have been growing at home.

**Year 3 – Hot Dog Stall – SHOWDOGS!!**
- Serve and sell hotdogs at the stall.

**Year 4 – Show Bags and Drinks Stall**
- Sell show bags and drinks at the stall on Fair day.

**Year 5 – Tartan Café**
- Bake a cake or cupcakes. We can supply cake mix (thanks to Bring Weeks donations).
- Prepare food and serve at the Café.

**Year 6 – Crazy Hair Stall**
- Help out at the stall on Spring Fair day.

Please see the table on the next page for a summary of stall coordinators, email addresses and links to sign-up pages on VolunteerSpot. You can also find this information on the Spring Fair website: http://mcdowallspringfair.com/volunteers.

Find it all a bit confusing to do it online? Do not worry. Look for hard copies next to the show bag posters. The Spring Fair Committee meets every Thursday Night in K Block (OSH Building) at 6.35pm. Our next meeting is Thursday 27th August 2015 and everyone is welcome to attend.
Where and How to Volunteer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stall</th>
<th>Coordinators</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>VolunteerSpot links</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 1 Cake Stall</td>
<td>Georgie Brampton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ben.georgiebrampton@hotmail.com">ben.georgiebrampton@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://vols.pt/fCHbc">http://vols.pt/fCHbc</a> <a href="http://vols.pt/9IF4c">http://vols.pt/9IF4c</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 2 Plant Stall</td>
<td>Zoe de Plater</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcdowallspringfair@gmail.com">mcdowallspringfair@gmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://vols.pt/RA60q">http://vols.pt/RA60q</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 3 Hot Dogs</td>
<td>Sonia Yates Aleksandra Edmundson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:yates_sonia@hotmail.com">yates_sonia@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://vols.pt/QQIPK">http://vols.pt/QQIPK</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 4 Showbags &amp; Drinks</td>
<td>Judy Martin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnnie@internode.on.net">johnnie@internode.on.net</a></td>
<td><a href="http://vols.pt/sVvHT">http://vols.pt/sVvHT</a></td>
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<td>Ashleigh Sentence</td>
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<td>Yr 6 Crazy Hair Stall</td>
<td>Tania Rotli</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcdowallspringfair@gmail.com">mcdowallspringfair@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gamer-Tainment Stall</td>
<td>Mr Henderson</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://vols.pt/fCHbc">http://vols.pt/fCHbc</a></td>
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</table>

Bring Weeks

We had an amazing response to Bring Week #2 with over 1,600 items donated by families. Many thanks to everyone who was able to donate. Huge congratulations to 201 who won the 2nd Bring Week. That is two weeks in a row!

Keep up to date with the Bring Weeks by bookmarking the Bring Week’s webpage - http://mcdowallspringfair.com/bring-weeks. Do you think we can break 1,600 items? That will be a high new record.

Special thanks are extended to all teachers and school staff for their support during Bring Weeks and of course to the hard working volunteers organising collecting, counting and storing of items. Big thanks to Mr Bruce Fogarty for offering us such valuable storage space.

Raffles

We will be soon asking students and parents to assist with raffle ticket sales. Thanks to our kind donors and sponsors, there are many exciting prizes to be won. Please see the attached poster for full details. A flier will be sent home soon. Tickets are $2 each or 3 for $5. You could win a 40 inch Viera Panasonic TV. In addition to this raffle, we will be running a very special raffle “Last One Standing” (LOS), which will be available in very limited numbers with extraordinary winning odds. More information on LOS will be coming soon.

New Sponsors

We welcome our new key sponsors and thank them for supporting this Spring Fair. They are:
- Rob Grant Mediations.
- Sonya Treloar, Ray White Real Estate.