Brisbane Northside Netball Championships

Following on from their success as District Champions and being undefeated in all Gala Day games, our Year 6 Girls Blue Netball Team recently competed in the Brisbane Northside Championships.

During the course of the day the girls played five games. The first four games they won outright and the fifth game was the Grand Final. At half time, the girls were ahead by one goal, however in the second half their opponents, Samford State School, ended up winning by a close margin of one goal.

The girls gave it their best and were Runners Up on the day. I’d like to congratulate the girls on their outstanding performances. I was very proud of each one of you. Also a big thank you to our supporters on the day. It was great to see so many family and friends getting behind the girls. Last but not least, a huge thank you to Leanne Kickbusch-Jones for umpiring on behalf of McDowall SS. She has been a wonderful support person for McDowall’s netball programme and we greatly appreciate all she does. I wish the girls all the best with their future netball endeavours. Mrs Russell - Year 6 Netball Coach

Mrs Russell congratulating her team at Senior Assembly (left to right): Molly B, Kelsey P, Caileigh F, Shanaya J, Tiah R, Georgia W & Charlotte T.
Principal’s Post

Is Your Child Ready For School In 2016?

During the past fortnight, while visiting teacher applicants for transfer onto the McDowall SS staff, visited teachers have expressed concern that children entering the Preparatory Year and Junior Primary Years in their school demonstrate increasingly lower standards of speech pattern, vocabulary and reading comprehension ability. Why is this so? Why is the literacy competency of children trending in decline from 0-5 years? Is this a modern lifestyle phenomena? Eg. An addiction to touch screen technologies? Aren’t children being frequently exposed to quality language interaction? Are we too busy to be ‘personal’ in our communication? Have we become victims of electronic overstimulation, brief concentration spans and instantaneous response? Teachers indicate that across the Junior School, schools are having to redirect available resources to deliver programmes of instruction in response to this trend.

This same issue has also been noticed at McDowall State School. It is true to say that the Australian Curriculum expects that a child entering the Preparatory Year already meets heightened entry levels of ability. When the child fails to meet such standards, the child faces a ‘steep’ learning curve possibly experiencing unnecessary frustration and anxiety. (www.australiancurriculum.edu.au) It is true that Preparatory Year teachers rely on parents to invest time and energy in their child’s preparation for school. Much can be done at Kindergarten but ultimately, parent/s need to take the lead in this responsibility. The Preparatory Year teacher will never replace the parent. It is also true that Preparatory Year teachers will do whatever they can in responding to child ability deficiencies within their finite time and resource constraints but they have a mandated professional responsibility to meet the requirements and demands of the Australian Curriculum (from Week 1). The Preparatory Year is not an extension of Kindergarten and play-based learning. The Preparatory Year is the beginning of formal education, (P-12), outlining key national benchmarks and achievement milestones.

Family life and daily experiences from birth: teaching your child to speak – discontinuing ‘baby talk’ and ‘lazy speech’ / avoiding use of slang, physical and co-ordination development, family discussion, shared activities, play, sibling interactions, diet, discipline, parent modelling of behaviour, ethics instruction, health, sleep, meeting developmental milestones, shared reading, recreation, family relationships, child care, etc, etc, all contribute toward a child’s readiness for that special first day at school. Is your child ready?

Continued Focus On P-2 Speech Patterns, Vocabulary & Reading Comprehension

McDowall State School retains a strong, targeted focus on early childhood literacy: curriculum standards and child skill acquisition. Through the ‘Great Results Guarantee’ funding, our school has prioritised investment in the delivery of a Speech Language Pathologist (additional three days weekly) across P-2 along with a full time additional teacher-aide for each P-2 Year Level. Our focus has been to develop and implement quality speech & language communication, vocabulary acquisition and extension, reading and reading comprehension programmes, supported by effective multi-faceted professional teaching teams. Heightened student achievement has resulted. Not satisfied, in 2015, a $362,856 investment ensured not only the continuation of the 2014 focus but delivered an additional full-time teacher-aide within both Years 3 and 4 to follow on from the learning investment already made. McDowall State School teachers professionally collaborate within Action Research and Work Unit planning, implementation and student assessment across each Year Level, drawing on both the professional expertise within the Year Level and as available from specialist school-based teachers. A Great Results Guarantee 2014 Report is available from www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au . A report for 2015 will be uploaded late Term 4. Parent volunteers assisting within class programmes continue to be welcomed and acknowledged through the McDowall SS Flying Gang Initiative.

P-2 Teachers: Informed by World Leading Research and Internationally Accredited Expertise

On Tuesday 15th September, 2015, class teachers across P-2 will attend a full day workshop on “The Language Bases of Reading Comprehension” led by Professor Laura Justice, a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Ohio State University and Executive Director of the Crane Centre of Early Childhood Research. Professor Justice’s primary interests have included the development of early intervention programmes, such as “Read It Again”, programmes designed to promote school readiness of preschoolers and early childhood language and literacy skills. She is also a Fellow of the American Speech Language Hearing Association and author / co-author of numerous accredited and peer reviewed research papers as well as 10 books, including Language Development, Theory into Practice, Shared Storybook Reading and Engaging Children with Print. She is both acknowledged and awarded internationally, including within Australia. Only being available in Australia for three days, we are extremely fortunate for McDowall SS teachers to be able to work with her on one of these days.

Normal McDowall State School class arrangements will apply on Tuesday 15th September, 2015.
McDowall SS specialist teaching programmes will be suspended, with these teachers reassigned to class duties across P-2. PE and Music Lessons will continue. Class teachers will establish a programme of instruction to be implemented during their absence. For some classes, a relief teacher, known to the school, will be assigned. Mrs Jan Saunders TL and Dr Mary Cavanagh DP P-2 will diligently oversee class and recess activities. For the majority of Years 3-6 classes, normal school routine will apply.

McDowall State School both actively seeks to appoint and to professionally support existing teachers in realising the best possible learning outcomes for all our enrolled students. Our teachers bring diversity in experience along with professional knowledge, skills and practice into our multi-faceted teams to promote timely, focused teaching, intervention, support and understanding for students. We therefore, need to ensure that our teachers have access to the best possible research and educational expertise to assist them with their duties.

**Student Council Casual Dress Day**

The McDowall State School Student Council will hold a Student Casual Dress Day on Friday 18th September, 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.

**Spring School Vacation Period**

The McDowall State School will close for the Spring School Vacation from Saturday 19th September through to Monday 5th October, 2015 (Labour Day). P-6 students will return to school on Tuesday 6th October, 2015.

**School Watch  Tel: 13 1788**

We need your eyes and ears! Not everyone values nor appreciates our school.

It is not expected that anyone will be found loitering or wandering among our buildings during week-ends or out-of-school hours. Gates are locked. Police will challenge your presence. Contractors and OSH staff are instructed to take digital photographs and refer such people to the police. If you see or hear anything out of the expected at our school, please ……

Phone 13 1788.

Unless you have written authorization from the Principal, adults and children found within the school grounds are trespassing and can be charged by the police. Please keep clear of the Out-of-School Hours Care Programme, unless you are a parent dropping off or collecting your child. OSH access is only via Metro Street gate.

The Principal expects that when charges are made by police, that cost recovery be pursued through the courts for rectification costs associated with any found school damage and vandalism.

**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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th September</td>
<td>3F2</td>
<td>Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured this fortnight from classes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th September</td>
<td>5G2</td>
<td>PC2 &amp; 4E1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th October</td>
<td>6C3</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th October</td>
<td>2J7</td>
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**School Achievements**

**Math-e-magicians!**

Brows furrowed in concentration, pencils scribbled furiously and hushed whispers filled the room of the 2015 District Maths Challenge. More than 35 teams of Year 5 and 6 students from the local area were faced with challenging maths questions as they battled it out in team and relay events.

The team challenge ensued, with one hour to solve ten particularly problematic questions. A close leaderboard was revealed with several of our teams in the hunt for a win. Following morning tea to refresh and refuel, was the relay event in which team members had to challenge themselves in a series of maths challenges with an equal balance between speed and accuracy needed to be upheld.

Excited and nervous contestants waited not-so-patiently as the announcer took an excruciatingly long time to announce the results. Third and second place winners were announced and it was then that the much awaited news was delivered. Our students beamed with smiles and delight as they realised they’d won. They jumped out of the chairs eagerly to accept the trophy for first place, tying with another team on 57 points.

Well done to all competitors for their dedicated preparation and performance. A special congratulations to our winning team of Trent H, Dennis S, Aohang D, Aaron K and Jamie R, who displayed excellent team work and dogged persistence. A big thank you must go to Mr Pedwell and parents for driving and supervising on the day.
Opti-MINDS Challenge

On Sunday 23rd August, two teams from McDowall State School competed in the Opti-MINDS Challenge, a creative problem solving event. The Challenge empowers participants to think, create and communicate. It is an opportunity for all those with a passion for learning and problem solving to showcase their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way.

Teams are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from one of three categories:
- Science and Engineering
- Language and Literature
- Social Sciences.

Our two teams, the 'Top-notch Two’s' (Year 2 students) and 'Team Tartan' (Year 4 students), competed against schools from across Brisbane.

Our students produced creative presentations in challenges also attempted by high school and university competitors. They worked hard for six weeks, often during their breaks, after school and even weekends. All their hard work culminated in a 10 minute presentation to a panel of judges and an audience. They also had to do a spontaneous challenge behind closed doors before a panel of judges. Both teams created props, costumes and scripts and performed at a very high level and are proud of their achievements.

"Working together brought the team together for Opti-MINDS. Once we worked as a team, we thought quicker as a group.” Ermia F, Aowen D and Ewan M.

“A huge thank you goes to Ms Bridgeman from 2O2 who not only nominated the teams for the challenge, but also motivated and supported the Year 2 team throughout their preparation and competition performance. We are lucky to have such an amazing teacher at our school." Stephanie KS, Parent.

“Please pass on my sincere gratitude and thanks to Ben Mills (from 4E1) for the support and guidance he provided to the Year 4 Opti-MINDS team in this year’s challenge. Without dedicated teachers such as Ben, participation in events such as Opti-MINDS would not be possible. Thank you for allowing our children the opportunity to participate in such a great event”. Kees M.

CONTACT: Mrs Anderson - Learning Extension Teacher

Preparatory Year Activity Day

There were koalas, wombats, platypuses, emus, echidnas and kangaroos on the loose in the Preparatory Year precinct during our fabulous Preparatory Year Activity Day. These Australian animals (or rather, our Preparatory Year students sporting Australian animal headbands!) all participated in the fun of animal play, singing songs, making puppets and participating in a fabulous obstacle course and other outdoor games.

At the conclusion of the day, the oval was awash with colour as the children enjoyed flying the amazing, colourful kites that they had created during the day.

Thanks to Mr Henderson and Ms Woodruff for participating in our Activity Day this year.

A huge thanks also to Anelle Moller and the wonderful volunteers from the Tartan Tuckerbox who organised the many meal deals enjoyed on the day.

CONTACT: Mrs Thistlethwaite – Preparatory Year Teacher
**Music News**

Congratulations to our Instrumental Music students who performed in the Chamber Music Concert on Wednesday night. This was a great opportunity for students to show off their musical skills through small group and/or solo performances.

There are many new skills students have to learn when playing in a small group. As they do not have a conductor, students must learn how to start together as well as choosing their own tempos and figuring out how to maintain them. They are also responsible for dynamics, articulations, balance, phrasing, intonation, not to mention playing the right notes and rhythms. Students certainly displayed their musical prowess to a very appreciative audience. Bravo!!

**Sports News**

**Tennis at McDowall State School**

Under the National School Partnership Programme, we’ve teamed up with Tennis Australia to deliver the ‘ANZ Hot Shots’ at McDowall State School in 2015. They’ve donated $1,500 worth of equipment to our School, including raquets, balls, portable nets, teaching resources and carry bags. Currently, Years 3 to 6 students are using this equipment in their PE lessons, [like 5D1 below]. Our local tennis club is Everton Tennis Centre who conduct lessons at McDowall SS before and after school. Why not check out their website for more information? [www.evertontennis.com.au](http://www.evertontennis.com.au)

**Tennis Tournament**

Last Friday we held our annual Tennis Tournament for Years 5 and 6 students. There were some great matches and long rallies. This year’s winners are: Saitoria H and Ali R (pictured), with runners-up Sarah B and Luke F. Thank you to all staff and parents who volunteered to umpire and to Everton Tennis Centre for for providing umpires and prizes.

**Regional Athletics Carnival**

Congratulations to the many students who competed at the Regional Athletics Carnival at UQ last week. McDowall State School sent four relay teams to compete against the best from North Brisbane private and public schools. Our Under 10 Girls Team earned 3rd (bronze medals) while our Under 12 Girls Team earned 2nd (silver medals) – Fantastic. Well done also to the following students for earning a place in the Metropolitan North Athletics Team: Levi A (Long Jump), Cooper P (Long Jump) and Jorja S (100m and 200m).

**Gamer-tainment Stall at the Spring Fair**

This stall will be massive! There has been a great response, with more than 800 DVDs, 200 video/computer games and 400 music CDs being donated. Prices will be cheap so come and grab a bargain. If you’d like to donate, there’s still time!

Thank you very much for all of your donations.

CONTACT: Mr Henderson - PE Teacher

**Defence Family News**

**Defence Parent Morning Tea – Term 3**

Save the date!! Come and share a cuppa and a chat with the DSTA and other Defence parents.

**When:** Tuesday 14th September, 8.45am – 10.00am  
**Where:** Library Courtyard Area – McDowall State School.

**REMINDER! – KidSMART Courses**

**KidSMART Deployment**

Tyler Turtle and Sam Super help children to learn how to manage change and how to stay connected during parental absences.

**When:** Friday 25th September, 9.00am - 12.00pm  
**Where:** Gallipoli Barracks Community Centre.

**KidSMART Relocation**

A programme for primary aged children designed to help manage relocation and settlement into a new community.

**When:** 22nd Oct, 29th Oct and 5th Nov, 3.30pm – 5.00pm  
**Where:** Gallipoli Barracks Community Centre.

Please contact [dcobrisbane@defence.gov.au](mailto:dcobrisbane@defence.gov.au) or phone (07) 3354 0500 for further details or to register your interest.

I may be contacted via email [clione404@eq.edu.au](mailto:clione404@eq.edu.au) or by leaving a message with McDowall State School Administration on (07) 3872 5333.

CONTACT: Mrs Jones – Defence School Transition Aide
**School Library News**

**Children’s Book Week Winners**
Books shortlisted in the Children’s Book Week Competition are now available for students to borrow. Last week the winners were announced in each category. Classes voted for the books they thought would win prior to the announcement. 6C2 were the only class who voted for a book that the judges chose – ‘One Minute’s Silence’ in the Picture Book of the Year category. Click here for the Book of the Year Awards [2015 Shortlist](#).

**Merrille O’Neill Poetry Competition**
Our winners in McDowall State School’s annual Merrille O’Neill Poetry Competition were announced last week on both Assemblies. The poems were judged by the English team at Craigslea State High School. They had a hard time deciding due to the high standard of work across all Year Levels. The 2015 winners are:

- **Year Two:** Ryan T. – Acrostic Poem ‘Giant’.
- **Year Three:** Lucy S. – Noun Verse Poem ‘Tsunami’.
- **Year Four:** Thenuri B. – Cinquain Poem ‘Puma’.
- **Year Five:** Anika S. – Haiku Poem ‘Waterfall’.
- **Year Six:** Emily B. – Free Verse Poem ‘Together Forever’.

Our Year 6 winner, Emily B, is the overall Champion for 2015 and now has her name on the Merrille O’Neill Poetry Competition Perpetual Trophy. Well done everyone!

**Book Week Fancy Dress Day**
McDowall State School celebrated Book Week on Thursday 20th August, 2015 with a Fancy Dress Day. It was a wonderful success! Students and staff dressed up as a character from children’s literature. A wide range of books were represented by the characters and costumes on the day including: tooth fairies (School Administration), Mrs Twit (School Library), Snow Queens, Harry Potter, the Wizard of Oz and even Huckleberry Finn! Thank you so much for the amazing effort and enthusiasm you gave to getting your child ready for our Fancy Dress Day!

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

**P&C Association**

**UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

It never ceases to amaze me when I experience the generosity of people from within our school community. The Bring Weeks for the Spring Fair have shown how invested and supportive our community is. Thank you to you all.

And then, there are also particular individuals who don’t even need to be asked to lend a hand. They know what they can contribute and look for every opportunity to do so. Mr Cameron Jesson, a school Dad and licenced electrician has kindly contributed the following this year alone without even being asked:

- Donating & installing air conditioning for the Uniform Shop.
- Donated a Panasonic TV to the Spring Fair raffle.
- Installing new electrical power boards in OSH at a heavily discounted rate.
- Helping the Tartan Tuckerbox team find a solution on how to maintain storeroom temperatures in summer.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**

**Recruitment for Uniform Shop Convenor**
We have shortlisted four applicants for the role of Uniform Shop Convenor. Two applicants are internal to the school community and two applicants are external. We will conduct interviews on Friday 4th September and should have a new member of staff on board by the end of September, 2015. In the meantime, we would like to say a huge thank you to Jodie Cornwell and Julie Forster who are filling the role temporarily while we engage within this recruitment process.
TUCKSHOP NEWS

Term 4 Menu – What Do You Think?
For your chance to influence the Tartan Tuckerbox menu, check out the proposed menu for Term 4 on our Facebook page and tell us what you think.

SCHOOL BANKING

Concerns regarding the ‘Cosmic Light Beam Torch’
Due to the inclusion of four button batteries that can be accessed by unscrewing the back of the torch, concerns have been raised about the ‘Cosmic Light Beam Torch’. Whilst this reward has been independently tested and deemed to meet relevant product standards the Commonwealth Bank has made the decision to proactively withdraw this item from the School Banking Rewards Programme. Parents are requested to dispose of any ‘Cosmic Light Beam Torches’ their child may have already received. Students who have previously received a ‘Cosmic Light Beam Torch’ are welcome to redeem an alternative reward item.

GETTING READY FOR NEXT YEAR NOW

2016 Booklists
Booklists detailing text and stationery requirements for 2016 will be sent home in early in Term 4.

Stay in the know and make your voice count at McDowall State School. Regularly attend P&C Association meetings. Be as passive or active as you like. Hear from Mr Fogarty (News, updates, decision-making opportunities.) Hear about what the P&C Association is spending money on to help your kids? Drive change for things you are passionate about. No attendance = no complaints. The P&C Association meeting is the forum for negotiating and influencing change at McDowall State School.

Vinyl Book Covers
The P&C Association will be selling vinyl book covers again this year. Take the hassle out of covering your children’s books by purchasing these easy, durable and reusable covers. Profits are reinvested back into the school via P&C Association Contributions.

Sticker Name Labels and Personalised Products

To make your preparation for 2016 even easier, the P&C Association is introducing sales of Sticker Name Labels and personalised products via Stuck On You. Your P&C Association will receive 20% of the commission on all sales when you enter our unique fundraising code with your order (to be provided). You can also order online and have them home delivered.

Tupperware

When collecting your Bookpacks on the 1st December 2015, you will have an opportunity to peruse and purchase from a Tupperware Fundraising display.

Tupperware has a wide range of lunch storage supplies and drink bottles to help reduce lunch litter.

Your P&C Association will receive 10% of all sales in cash, $20 for each Tupperware party booking and a choice of prizes to either raffle off or use in our Tartan Tuckerbox.

Click here to check out the catalogue from which you will be able to order. If you have any broken pieces of Tupperware, bring them in to have them replaced by our Tupperware Demonstrator who will be on site to help you out.

SPRING FAIR NEWS

Bring Weeks
Thank you to everyone for supporting our Bring Weeks. We were absolutely overwhelmed with the response, with almost 6,000 items donated! We’d also like to congratulate 3F4, winners of our Final Bring Week! Well done everyone!

Thank you also to our generous sponsors and donors who have supported us amazingly.

CONTACT: Sally Gunn - Parent Volunteer
Our Spring Fair is just over a week away and it is going to be a great day! We do hope that all families will take the opportunity to attend and participate in the day as it will be filled with fun and entertainment for everyone.

This is what we have lined up for you:

**Stalls – Games - Entertainment**
For a full listing of all the exciting stalls, games and entertainment we have lined up for you, please view the Spring Fair website for more information.

**Pitch Burst Game**
Similar to a Dunk Tank, Bid online to soak one of our willing "victims", such as Principal Mr Fogarty, our local Councillor Norm Wyndham or State Member for Everton Electorate, Tim Mander MP.

**Food**
- Our major sponsor - OutBack Steakhouse - will be serving great burgers down near the tennis courts.

**Facilities**
- Take a break in the Chill Out Zone in the School Library. A baby change area is located in the external courtyard.
- For your convenience we are placing an ATM near the Tartan Café.

**Help for Spring Fair Set Up**
We are seeking volunteers to assist with setting up the Fair on Saturday and Sunday morning, 12th and 13th September, 2015. We particularly need larger vehicles such as utes, to pick up and deliver certain items.

If you can help us out with this, we would really appreciate it. Please send us an email, sign up here on VolunteerSpot, or call the Spring Fair Convenor on 0422 075 616.

**Year 1 Cake Stall & Year 5 Café Baking Drop Off**
Thank you to all our wonderful bakers and sweets makers. Please drop off your packaged and labelled items during the following times:

- Fri 11th September, 2.00pm and 3.30pm at the Tartan Tuckerbox.
- Sat 12th September, 2.00pm and 3.30pm at OSH.

If you need to collect any packaging for your items please email mc dowallspringfair@gmail.com or call Trisha Macdonald on 0409 56 5470.

**Volunteers Raffle**
Everyone who has signed up for a Spring Fair job or timeslot automatically goes into the draw for the Volunteers Raffle. Prizes include a free professional photo session (including prints), gift baskets, vouchers and more!

**All-Day Rides Pass**
You can pre-purchase your all-day rides pass at the early bird price of $30. Ride passes bought on the day will be $37. You have until 8th September 2015 to do this and can order on Flexischools.

These passes entitle one child to unlimited rides from 11am until 3pm.

Ride pass armbands can be picked up on Friday afternoon or on Sunday morning at the Fair. An accompanying parent may have fun on the dodgem cars for free.

Fair rides have been selected to suit different age groups. Please view the Spring Fair website for information about restrictions.

**Raffle Tickets & Prizes**
- Do you feel lucky in September? For your chance to win some fantastic prizes – including a big screen TV – make sure you buy our Spring Fair raffle tickets.
- Thank you to all families and the Student Council for selling our raffle tickets. Please return all sold or unsold tickets to your class teacher by Monday 7th September 2015.
- You feel lucky but would prefer to win cash? Then we have the right thing just for you. Could you be the Last One Standing? This is a reverse raffle and tickets will be drawn throughout the day. The winning ticket will be the last ticket drawn out of the barrel.

Team up with friends and family to buy your ticket ($100 each). If all 100 tickets are sold, the prize will be $5,000. If less than 100 tickets are sold, the prize will still be half of the value of all sold tickets. The cash prize will be paid by cheque to the name specified on the ticket. Tickets are now on sale at the Tartan Tuckerbox and OSH. Good Luck!

- Get your passport stamped as you make your way all around the Fair and enter to be in the draw to win a bike or toy voucher.

**We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!**