Extreme Reading Photography Competition

We are launching a new School Library competition for Year 6 students. Students will take a photo of themselves in front of a green screen (which we have in the School Library), reading a fiction book. They will then use a green screen app to insert an extreme background. The theme of the background must be relevant to the theme of the book. Students will upload their photo for judging by Friday 11th March and winners will be announced on Senior Assembly on Monday 21st March.

Matissa M’s (6C1) entry for the competition
Principal’s Post

An Enterprise: Focused On Student Learning

Make no mistake, McDowall State School is a large business enterprise that is constantly evolving with clear intent to consistently deliver the best possible learning outcomes for all enrolled students. With a P-6 enrolment of 968 students, a staff number exceeding 100 and an annual school budget exceeding $2m, every focused endeavour ensures that as a school, we provide the educational expertise, time, resources and funding at ever increasing rates to directly support improved educational experiences within our student-centred curriculum. We also harness an ‘economy of scale’ to ever further develop and provide extra-curricular experiences for our students. In 2016, McDowall State School has already ….

- Appointed an additional Deputy Principal. Three Deputy Principals are now focused on daily school operations across P-1, Years 2-3 and Years 4-6.
- Appointed two additional class teachers. With the implications of Year 7 transition onto Secondary Education now behind us, class numbers should stabilise at 39 due to the sustained influence of Enrolment Management.
- Employed three new teacher-aides, bringing our valued teacher-aide workforce to twenty-two.
- Extended Guidance Officer time to three full days weekly.
- Extended our Instrumental Music – Wind, Brass & Percussion teacher time by 2hrs p/wk.
- Extended our Instrumental Music – Strings teacher time by an additional day each week.

McDowall State School will open a new ‘Performing Arts Classroom’ located at the western end of the School Library by 11th March, 2016. This will provide a permanent location for ‘band set-up’ and better accommodate the needs of our Instrumental Music Immersion Classes.

Our teachers and support staff engage within meaningful annual, professional team-centred ‘performance development’ directed through ‘action research’. In ‘knowing’ our students and ‘identifying issues’ affecting student learning, teachers constantly reflect on and evaluate teaching practices, highlighting strategies that are proven to deliver heightened student achievement. Increased curriculum and societal curriculum demands place ever challenging expectation within the school day. The McDowall SS response is to firstly, provide as much (as possible), time, staff, funds and resource under direct teacher management; and secondly to significantly invest in staff expertise. McDowall State School is staffed by experienced, committed, diligent and enthusiastic educational practitioners. As Principal, I both acknowledge my staff and highly commend them to our parents.

There are many, many things that parents can do to provide educational opportunities for their children. In being buffeted by modern day commercialism, many parents overlook one simple truth.

It is not about the iPad, gifts, the clothes, week-end sport, tutoring, child care, visiting Dream World, being friends with your child, etc. Nice. Children may say this is what they want … BUT what they really need is a responsible parent. This cannot be outsourced. It is all about the parent child relationship. The parent’s legacy to this world is their child’s upbringing. This takes quality time. Children need routine, security in terms of safety, welfare and expectations. Children thrive when clear rules and boundaries are set and are consistently reinforced. Children need love. Love is not a word, but an action. It is only from this relationship base, will children learn, achieve and reach toward their future potential.

McDowall State School is a Primary School. Our purpose and role is clearly outlined within the school website. We have very limited access to allied health services and specialist health practitioners. Parents generally access these services through Queensland Health and provide written medical reports to the school. Teachers and parents, then collaboratively consider any implications that may affect student learning. An Educational Plan may be drafted. For parents, seeking to develop and refine their ‘parenting skills’, McDowall SS invests part of its HR Salary Budget so that Metropolitan Region can implement a ‘Managing Young Children Programme’. This programme is delivered by Guidance Officers for parents and is accessed by application. Further information is available from the Guidance Officer through School Administration.

May I sincerely thank McDowall SS parents for both their continued support and for fulfilling their parental responsibilities. McDowall SS students are extra-ordinary!

School Website Updates

The following documents have been updated within the school website: www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au.

- School Calendar and Date Claimers 2016.
- School Fees and Contributions 2016.

Local Area Car Parking

Parent car parking within the McDowall State School grounds is not permitted. McDowall SS grounds will be retained as a safe location of staff, parent visitors and students. Regulated parking is provided for staff, complemented by P&C Association staff/long-term volunteers who contribute toward student services. Parking on local area streets and roads is restricted and managed by Brisbane City Council; and enforced by Qld Police.

Registered vehicles have every right to use such public infrastructure and drivers can expect to be fined should they not comply with the law, regulations and signage. Being in a hurry or for personal convenience is not an excuse for blocking a driveway or putting other road users or pedestrian safety at risk. The McDowall SS operates separate Sector Timetabling to relieve traffic pressures.
Brisbane City Council has provided a Kiss-and-Ride Setdown / Pickup lane within the public carpark located beside the school oval. School Administration assist parents by providing student supervision for 20mins after 2.30pm and again from 3.00pm at the Kiss-and-Ride Setdown / Pickup lane. Students should be expected to walk to the school gate, attend Out-of-School Age Care or walk to the Kiss-and-Ride supervised area, in preference to parents parking on local area streets and entering the school for student pickup. Alternatively, contact Translink and consider accessing local bus services (teacher-aide supervised until 3.30pm), car pooling with neighbours or perhaps parking-and-striding (from a few blocks away from the school).

P&C Association AGM 2016
The McDowall State School Parents’ and Citizens’ Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday 22nd February, 2016 from 7pm in K Block. All Committee and Sub-Committee endorsed/audited Reports are due at School Administration for publishing. Annual Reports and audited financial statements will be presented during the AGM. Following the endorsement of reports, all P&C Association Executive positions are declared vacant and nominations are called for 2016.

An earnest and sincere thank you is expressed to the McDowall State School P&C Association Executive and membership for a very productive and successful partnership in furthering the development of our Great State School. To parents considering an active role within the P&C Association in 2016, please refer to the information on the P&C Qld website. www.qccpa.org.au Please discuss your interest with a standing P&C Association member or attend School Administration. We’ll pass your contact details on. All P&C Association memberships lapse at the AGM. Parents need to annually re-apply for membership.

Welcome Back!
Welcome back everyone to a new year in our School Library! Enthusiastic students have come in out of the heat for recess activities. Students are also keen to borrow books.

Establish a Library Routine at Home
- Our books are valuable resources and we need your help to keep them in good condition.
- We recommend that borrowed books stay in School Library Bags or in a special place in bedrooms while at home.
- Please ensure that your child is held responsible for putting books into their Library Bag for borrowing day.
- Please ensure that your children (a) look after borrowed books and (b) return them promptly so others may enjoy them.

Volunteers
There are always a huge range of tasks that need doing each and every week in the School Library including shelving and book covering. For parents who have a little time either after dropping students off or before picking them up, please feel free to come in and spend some productive time with us. We would be thrilled to meet you.

First Book Fair for 2016

| Book Fair: Fri 18 March – Thu 24 March |

Our Book Fairs are always a huge hit within our school community and we appreciate the enthusiastic support we receive. Funds from our two Book Fairs each year enable us to purchase an enormous number of books. This year our focus is to continue purchasing texts in support of the Australian Curriculum and to assist student access to e-books.

Library Borrowing Incentive Programmes

1. Library Frequent Flyers!
Every book, Years 1-3 students borrow, takes them on a new journey. These students will be issued with a ‘Read Around The World’ borrowing Passport during their first class borrowing session in Year 1.

Each child receives a stamp or sticker in their Passport every time they borrow, with the Passport progressing with them to the conclusion of Year 3. When 12 stamps are earned, students pass through Passport Control and receive a special certificate. Upon completing the whole Passport, a very special presentation on School Assembly is made!

2. Sports House Competition
Years 4-6 students may promoting their Sports House by earning one point toward their House each time they borrow. The Sporting House Captains with the highest number of borrowing points are presented with the Inter-House Reader’s Cup trophy on School Assembly. Their colours are displayed in the School Library for one week.

Key School Library Facts
- The School Library opens before school from 8.00am and remains open after school until 3.30pm. Please call in.
- Borrowing periods are for two weeks with students invited to change their books each week if they choose to do so.
- Each class has a weekly borrowing lesson with their class teacher.
- Students with an overdue book are not permitted to borrow until all their overdue books are returned.
- It is compulsory for Prep and Year 1 students to bring a borrowing bag. This is preferred for Years 2 and 3.

Borrowing Guidelines

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<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Non-Fiction</th>
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<tr>
<td>Years 3 - 4</td>
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<td>Years 5 -6</td>
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School Library News
School Library Monitors
School Library Monitors are drawn from Years 5 and 6. We’re extremely proud of our wonderful School Library Monitors and welcome new students wanting to join the team.

Being a Library Monitor assists students to become more confident as well as develop skills in:
- Team work
- Leadership
- Initiative
- Organisation
- Responsibility.

These qualities complement those developed through the McDowall State School YOU CAN DO IT Programme.

Parent Library
We have a small number of “parent help” books with topics ranging from assisting your primary child, to surviving your teenagers, available for parents to borrow. Books will be issued in your child’s name. We hope to build and extend the collection if it is well used. The parent library collection is stored in the reference section of the School Library. Please come and have a look!

CONTACT: Mrs Saunders - Teacher Librarian

Music News

A Great Start to 2016
Nearly 280 very eager and enthusiastic musicians began their Instrumental Music Immersion for 2016. Our music teachers are delighted with how students have been organised and ready to begin lessons – instruments, music books and music fees paid! Thank you parents, for your assistance in preparing your children so successfully. It will be a fantastic year.

Congratulations to our new Cultural Captains for 2016, Remy B and Jayden E. Remy and Jayden were voted in by their peers last Thursday. Students listened to speeches presented by each nominee. It was wonderful to hear so many passionate and heart felt speeches.

We welcome back our wonderful Music teachers – Ms Woodruff, Mrs Gyte, Mrs Payne and Miss Melvin. We also welcome Ms Jabs, our new Brass, Woodwind and Percussion teacher, to the team.

Construction of the new Performing Arts Classroom is almost complete. We are looking forward to using this new space for rehearsals and lessons. We can’t wait to move in!

CONTACT: Ms Woodruff – Music Teacher

Sports News

Weekly PE Lessons
Every class in the school receives at least one half hour PE lesson per week. On the days students have PE, please ensure your children have a hat and suitable footwear for sports related activities.

Many students choose to wear their sports uniform (not the house sports uniform) and I encourage girls to wear their skorts.

Weekly PE Lessons This Term
This term, I am running a perceptual motor programme across Prep to Year 2. For students across Years 3 to 6, I am teaching hockey, netball and undertaking the first beep (fitness) test.

Other School-related Sports
As well as their weekly PE lesson, students have the opportunity to be involved in inter-school sports, school sports carnivals, school tournaments (tennis and table tennis), running club, district sports, after-school clinics, etc.

North District Sporting Trials
McDowall State School is a member of the North District Sports Association, along with 14 other primary schools. The District forms representative teams for a variety of sports and holds carnivals for athletics, cross-country running and swimming throughout the year.

To join a North District sports team, students must attend a trial and meet set criteria. Most students who earn a place within a North District team, play sport at club level and are one of their teams better players.

To attend a trial
1. Parents – download, complete and sign the:
   a. North District Sports Permission Form (PDF 126 KB)
   b. Student Information Pack (PDF 247 KB)
2. Once signed by parents, students give their Permission Form to Mr Pedwell (Deputy Principal) for his approval.
3. Mr Pedwell DP will sign the Permission Form for students who reflect the McDowall State School standard for student conduct (SRL0).
4. Students must take the following forms to trials:
   a. Permission Form signed by their parents and Mr Pedwell DP.
   b. Student Information Pack signed by parents.

Upcoming trials for boys and girls
- Rugby League: 1 March 2016
- AFL: 2 & 3 March 2016
- Girls soccer: 3 & 4 March 2016
- Hockey: 10 March 2016
- Boys soccer: 17 March 2016
Running Club

A school team will be selected to compete at the North District Cross Country on Monday 18th April.

Running Club is open to students across Years 4 to 6. While it is primarily to train and select a school cross country team, the Club is also a good opportunity for students to improve their fitness in readiness for the athletics season and inter-school sport. Students will train for eight weeks.

Donations

If you have football boots or running spikes that your child no longer fits into, and these are in good condition, please consider donating them to the McDowall SS Sports Department. I then lend them out for inter-school sport and athletics events.

A-Mart Sport

When purchasing any items from A-Mart Sport, please mention our school’s name, as we are part of their Community Kickback Programme. This means we receive free sports equipment relative to the overall amount purchased.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our Year 3 Red Ball Tennis Team. During the December/January school holidays, this team competed in the State Finals at the Brisbane International Tennis Tournament.

McDowall finished 4th out of seven schools – a fantastic achievement. Team members were: Jamie W, Phoebe C, Giselle T, Nicola S, Sam P, Henry P, Levi W, Tyler D, Miranda D, Ella P and coach Dom (from Everton Tennis & Gear).

CONTACT: Mr Henderson – PE Teacher

Defence Family News

Welcome to 2016 at McDowall SS. I hope that all of our new families are beginning to settle into their new homes and are beginning to find their way around our wonderful school. To all of our returning families, I trust that this year is as happy as the last and that you are looking forward to yet another exciting year with your new teachers.

Should you have just posted into the school and would like some information about Education Assistance (tutoring), please contact me on the email below or leave a message with School Administration.

Defence Community Organisation is hosting a family day and expo to welcome Defence families to the Brisbane region.

When: Sunday 6th March from 10am to 1pm
Where: El Alamein Oval, Gallipoli Barracks

DCO Welcome Day

Defence Community Organisation is hosting a family day and expo to welcome Defence families to the Brisbane region.

When: Sunday 6th March from 10am to 1pm
Where: El Alamein Oval, Gallipoli Barracks

Congratulation to Year 3 Red Ball Tennis Team. During the December/January school holidays, this team competed in the State Finals at the Brisbane International Tennis Tournament. McDowall finished 4th out of seven schools – a fantastic achievement. Team members were: Jamie W, Phoebe C, Giselle T, Nicola S, Sam P, Henry P, Levi W, Tyler D, Miranda D, Ella P and coach Dom (from Everton Tennis & Gear).

管理工作与过渡：实践策略与支持，为有自闭症谱系障碍（ASD）的国防家庭提供支援。

When: 周二，2月23日，上午9:15 - 下午3:00
Where: Gallipoli Barracks 社区中心

Note: 这些工作坊对所有现役成员及其家庭开放；或/和在役的全体正式服务成员。名额有限。

1. 全天小组工作坊

在这个工作坊中，你将被帮助识别自闭症个案的学习优势和挑战。您将探索如何利用此信息为家庭日常生活和过渡期开发策略。

点击这里在线预订。

2. 咨询

跟进电话或网络咨询，帮助您完成过渡/改变计划和与当地支持的选择。

When: 四月，2016年

3. 半天小组工作坊

这个工作坊将重点理解您的依赖于ASD的成员如何应对变化，并确定家庭的策略。

Where: Gallipoli Barracks 社区中心
When: 6月13日，星期一，上午9:15 - 下午12:00

需要更多信息，请发送电子邮件至 learning@autismqld.com.au。

联系国防家庭热线?

1800 624 608
24小时每天，7天一周

联系: Mrs Jones
Defense School Transition Aide (DSTA)
cjone404@eq.edu.au
McDowall and Mitchelton State Primary Schools