



Tartan Times

McDowall State School
An Independent Public School since 2013

Achieving better outcomes for all students

NEWSLETTER

Office	3872 5333
Absence	3872 5366
Tuckshop	3872 5304
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Website	www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au

Please direct ALL OSH enquiries to the following number - 3353 5755

Attendance Matters!

- Children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day.
- Going to school means getting a better chance at life.
- School helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication.
- Teamwork and resilience.
- Going to school is a legal requirement.



If your child does not want to go to school, contact our school for assistance and support.

What's Happening

05-16.02.24	P-6 Parent / Teacher Meetings
19.02.24	School Council Meeting
23.02.24	Yrs 3-6 Instrumental Music Tuition Programme & Hire Fees Due
26.02.24	Captains & Student Councillor Badge Presentation - Senior Assembly
29.02.24	School Photos
01.03.24	P&C Association Disco
05.03.24	Yr 6 Parliament House Excursion - 5/6D1
06-07.03.24	Yr 5 Nudgee Beach Excursion
07.03.24	Yr 6 Parliament House Excursion - 6C2
08.03.24	Student Resource Scheme Payment Due
11.03.24	Yr 6 Parliament House Excursion - 6C4
13.03.24	Yr 6 Parliament House Excursion - 6C1
13-18.03.24	NAPLAN Testing
15.03.24	Yr 6 Parliament House Excursion - 6C3, 6D2
20.03.24	Yr 1 Raw Art Incursion
25.03.24	P&C Association General Meeting
28.03.24	Prep Easter Hat Parade
18.04.24	Yr 3 Great Anzac Biscuit Bake-off
22.04.24	P&C Association General Meeting
29.04.24	Poem In Your Pocket Day
30.04.24	Yr 3 Star Lab Incursion
01.05.24	Yrs 5-6 Wavell SHS Problem-solving Challenge
06.05.24	Yr 6 Mathematics Olympiad
09.05.24	P&C Association Mother's Day Stall
10.05.24	Inter-School Sport P-2 Under 8's Day (8am - 12pm)
17.05.24	Inter-School Sport Walk Safely to School Day
20.05.24	School Council Meeting
22.05.24	P-2 National Simultaneous Story Time
23.05.24	Yr 5 Street Science Incursion
24.05.24	Inter-School Sport
27.05.24	P&C Association General Meeting

EDITION: 14 February 2024

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School Administration (Office)

Open Mon to Fri, 8.00am – 4.00pm
Payment days: Tue & Thur: 8am – 11am

Recess Times

Prep – Year 2:	10.30am – 11.10am 12.45pm – 1.25pm
Years 3 – 6:	11.00am – 11.40am 1.15pm – 1.55pm

School Assemblies

Mon: 9:00 – 9:30am (Years 3–6)
Wed: 8.30 – 9:00am (Prep–Yr 2)

Tartan Tuckerbox (Tuckshop)

Monday: 1st break only
Open Tuesday to Friday
Flexischools orders avail. Mon-Fri
To volunteer: [click here](#)

Uniform Shop

Open Mon & Thu, 7.45am to 9.30am

Standard Uniform (Mon – Thu)

- Tartan or red polo shirt
- Bottle green pants shorts / skirts
- Bottle green socks & black shoes (Tartan)
- White socks & black shoes (red polo shirt)
- Red bucket (for Prep Year) or Bottle green 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 / skirts
- White socks
- School hat

Principal's Post

Acknowledgement of Country

We are learning on Turrbal country. I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we learn, the Turrbal people, and recognise their continuing connection to land, air and sea. I also pay my respects to all elders past, present and those who are emerging here at McDowall SS and in all schools and educational settings.



Welcome to New Staff for 2024

I would like to welcome the following new staff to McDowall State School for 2024:

- Farwa Hussain - Prep Teacher
- Rebecca Connell – Year 1 Teacher
- Manraj Ghuman – Year 2 Teacher
- Michelle Tinkler - Year 3 Teacher
- Rylee Caspanello – Year 4 Teacher
- Sandra Paterson - Year 5 Teacher
- Karen Kent – Year 5 Teacher
- Pierce Jones – HPE Teacher
- Andrea Hey – Child Needs Teacher
- HPE / The Arts , One day per week Teachers - Megan Anderson, Anna Ittensohn, John Polmear.



Welcome to the following support staff:

- Seema Sharma – Teacher Aide
- Smitha Azariah – Teacher Aide
- Virginia Alford - Teacher Aide
- Anna Hart – Speech pathologist



NAPLAN National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Information for parents and carers

All students in Years 3 and 5 will participate in the NAPLAN tests on-line, in March this year. The testing window for the NAPLAN assessment is from 13th March to the 25th March 2024 – McDowall SS will conduct tests over a shorter time period than the window. Our testing timetable will be shared with parents in the coming weeks. NAPLAN tests students' skills in reading, writing and maths. The test questions are presented in Standard Australian English dialect. Students read some of the questions and listen to others with headphones.

The tests will get easier or harder, depending on how students are going in the test. Students do four different tests, which include Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. Students in Year 3 will do the Writing test using pencil and paper. Year 3 students will answer the other test questions online. Students in Years 5 will answer all their test questions online.

Class teachers are supporting students to be ready for NAPLAN tests. Please speak with your child's teacher if you have any questions about your child doing the tests. For more information on NAPLAN, visit <https://nap.edu.au>.



Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 students do the writing test on paper and on day 1 only. Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations). 	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with an idea or topic called a "writing stimulus" or "prompt" and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed after the writing test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed after the reading test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed after the conventions of language test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY

Wellbeing for Learning

Through the Australian Curriculum, we explore with students information on wellbeing for learning. The wellbeing for learning has a focus in the curriculum that:

- builds on awareness with an understanding of the importance of connectedness and belonging;
- the ability for students to manage themselves and their interactions with others through confidence and resilience; and
- engaging in health-enhancing behaviours such as healthy eating, physical activity, and sleep.



This is connected to the Queensland Department of Health's Mental Wellbeing initiative, which states that there are six (6) different areas (or building blocks) of mental wellbeing. These six building blocks include:

- Get Healthy – Be active, eat well and get more sleep.
- Keep learning – Challenge your mind and seek out new things.
- Show kindness – Give back, show gratitude and bring joy to others' lives.
- Connect more – Develop relationships, stay connected and care for each other.
- Take notice – Be mindful. Stay in the moment. Experience the world around you.
- Embrace Nature – Step outside, connect with the natural world and take care of the planet.

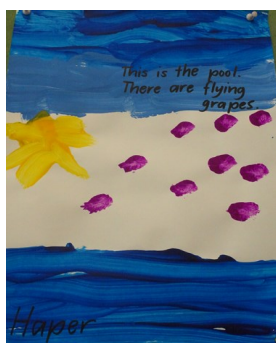
Each building block helps not just our students, but all of us to respond positively to a range of mental tasks that we face every day. To keep our minds in a strong and powerful condition, we need to regularly use the building blocks. Showing gratitude can improve your self-esteem, enhance empathy, reduce aggression and even help you sleep better. Acts of gratitude create strong positive emotions, and practising them regularly will also help build mental resilience.

https://www.mentalwellbeing.initiatives.qld.gov.au/?gclid=FAIaIQobChMIs_z8qqDggQMVTkJmAh1qOwp7EAAyAAEgK4MPD_BwE

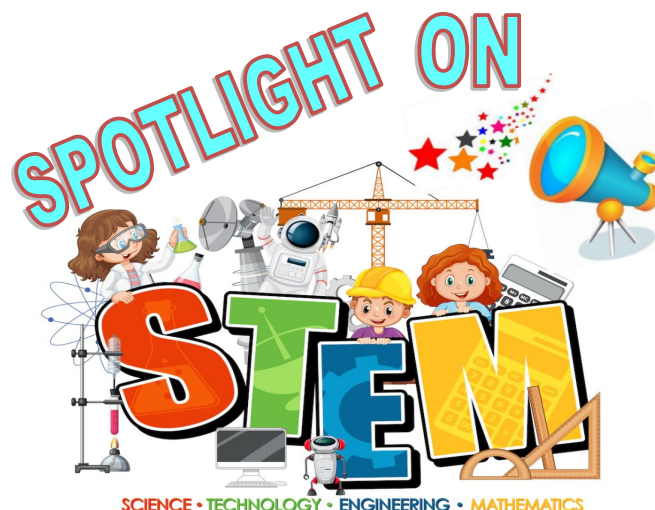
CONTACT: Ms Imogen Stager, Principal

Principal's Gallery

w/c 12th Feb	5G2	Please enjoy a snapshot of artwork featured from PB1-PB2
w/c 19th Feb	5G3	
w/c 26th Feb	4E2	
w/c 4th Mar	3N2	



Spotlight on STEM



Do you have STEM skills and knowledge you would like to share?

Please fill in our McDowall STEM Parents Questionnaire. Your responses will be collected and shared with our teachers. Our teachers can then contact you directly if there is an opportunity for you to be involved.

STEM PARENTS! WE NEED YOU!

DO YOU HAVE INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE IN SCIENCES,
TECHNOLOGIES, ENGINEERING OR MATHEMATICS?

ARE YOU WILLING TO SHARE YOUR
KNOWLEDGE WITH
OUR STUDENTS?

SCIENCES (EARTH & SPACE, BIOLOGICAL,
CHEMICAL, PHYSICAL)

ENGINEERING

MATHEMATICS

DESIGN

Help McDowall State School
provide exciting learning
opportunities for our students.
Scan the QR Code below.

A stylized illustration of a yellow and blue robotic arm with a white gripper, positioned as if it is placing a red 3D letter 'T' into the word 'STEM'. The letters 'S', 'E', and 'M' are already in place. The background is a solid purple color.

A square QR code with a circular school seal in the center. The seal features a sun, a gear, and a book, surrounded by the text 'McDOWALL STATE SCHOOL' and 'QUEENSLAND'. The QR code is set against a white background with a black border.



The Year 4's of McDowall State School are currently investigating Rocks, Weathering and Erosion in Science. In Week 2, 4E1 and 4E2 were lucky enough to have a Geologist, Tarrah Burke, from the Queensland University of Technology come to visit our classes. She spoke to the students about different types of rocks, what sort of work a geologist might do and how it is helpful in our current lives. The students loved seeing the items in her field pack, asking questions and using their 'magic eye' magnifying glasses to investigate some very interesting rocks. One student even found some plant fossils on a piece of mudstone. We love having family and members of the community come in to support our STEM learning.



NAPLAN Practice Test

NAPLAN is a nationwide measure through which parents, teachers, schools, education authorities, governments and the broader community can determine how well young Australians are developing their literacy and numeracy skills, providing the critical foundation for other learning.

Students in Years 3 and 5 will be participating in the NAPLAN practice test over the coming weeks, providing an opportunity to refine school processes and further familiarise students and staff with the online platform. The practice test provides a familiarity experience ahead of the March tests, and is held in the real NAPLAN 2024 environment. As this environment contains real student details, information about the privacy of student data has been forwarded to parents and is also attached to this newsletter.

Students will participate in NAPLAN online. NAPLAN online provides a better assessment and more precise results. One of the main benefits of NAPLAN online is that it uses tailored (or adaptive) testing. This means that students receive questions better suited to their abilities, so they can show what they know. Online testing also allows us to provide a wide range of accessibility options to support students with disability to access NAPLAN.

For further information including dates for NAPLAN 2024, please read the NAPLAN information brochure for parents and carers attached to this email, as well as information regarding privacy advice.

CONTACT: Ms Megan Walker, Acting Head of Department—Curriculum

P&C Association News

Beach Party!

Disco

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2024

Sensory Disco 3.30 - 4.30pm

Junior Disco 5 - 6.30 pm

Senior Disco 6.45 - 8.15pm

Now available for pre-purchase on Flexischools

Entry and Sausage Sizzle available on the night, but will cost slightly more.

Sausage Sizzle and Drinks available from the tuckshop from 4.30pm.

Snack Bar opens from 3.30pm. EFT available.

Best Dress Awards

Coffee Van

Games & Prizes

SAVE THE DATE

CONTACT: Mrs Liz Hooper, P&C Association Fundraising & Community Coordinator

NAPLAN
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy

TESTING