



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
Fax 3872 5300
Email admin@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au
Website www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au

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

2025 Student Booklists!

2025 Student Booklists for all year levels will be sent home today and are now available to be ordered through **Edsco Educational Supplies**.

For further information, Prep to Year 6 Booklists can be found on the McDowall SS website via the following link -

<https://mcdowallss.eq.edu.au/enrolments/booklists>



All students will need these items for the start of the 2025 school year.

Orders placed by **Friday, 8th November 2024** will receive **FREE** Delivery



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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–Year 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

What's Happening

10.10.24	New Family School Tours - 9:30am Yr 4 Big Bang Science Incursion
22.10.24	P&C Association General Meeting
23.10.24	Yrs 5-6 Bright Futures STEM Program Incursion
24.10.24	New Family School Tours - 9:30am Music Fest - Rode & Keona (Iona College)
25.10.24	Teacher Appreciation Day
29.10.24	Yrs 3-6 Public Speaking Challenge P&C Association General Meeting
31.10.24	Yrs 3-6 Pubic Speaking Challenge
1.11.24	Yrs 4-6 Interschool Sport #1
02.11.24	P&C Association Trivia Night (6pm - Hall)
04.11.24	School Council Meeting
07.11.24	Yrs 5-6 Performing Arts Celebration Concert (Albany Hills SS)
08.11.24	Yrs 4-6 Interschool Sport #2 2025 Student Booklist Orders Due (Edsco Educational Supplies)
10-15.11.24	Japanese Study Tour - Kudan Secondary School
13.11.24	Instrumental Music Parent Info Night #2 (6pm Hall)
13-15.11.24	Yrs 1-2 Swimming
25.11.24	P&C General Meeting

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.



This is an opportunity to highlight the important connection between social determinants of health and our mental health and to promote effective prevention strategies to keep people and our communities mentally healthy(#). Research consistently shows that those who are able to understand, accept and flexibly respond with kindness to their own pain and have empathy for others, have better wellbeing and resilience (*).

(#) <https://www.qldmentalhealthweek.org.au/>

(*) <https://contextualscience.org/resources> and <https://self-compassion.org/the-research/>.

Welcome Back to term 4



Welcome back to all students and staff to our final term for the year. Welcome to all the new families who have recently enrolled and joined McDowall SS. I spoke with students on assemblies last week and reminded them that

Term 4 is a report card term, where their parents will receive report cards to inform how they have gone with their learning at the end of the year. My message to students was to focus on achieving their learning goals and to finish the year strong. We often see marathon runners who give that final burst of energy at the end of the race and finish the race with a personal best. Using this analogy with learning, it is the same concept; I encourage students to persist in their learning, to be resilient with the struggles in learning, to keep trying even if it feels hard and to finish the year strong.

This is also the final term for our Year 6 students, before they go off to their next adventure. I know that our Year 6 students will continue to give their all to McDowall SS in their final chapter and leave their mark on the school. I thought I'd share a quote from BB King - who had a successful music career, gaining the name of King of the Blues, despite set backs, struggles and adversity he persevered. "The beautiful thing about learning, is nobody can take it away from you!" - BB King

Mental Health Week

This week is Mental Health Week across the country. Last week, on Friday 4th October, we commenced activities to support mental wellness and wellbeing for students. Thank-you to our Guidance Officer, Ellie Goodwin who has organised this week and been instrumental in organising learning activities for students and staff to support mental wellbeing. Mental Health Week is a national celebration encouraging social connection.

World Teachers Day



Friday 25th October marks World Teacher Day for Queensland. At McDowall we will celebrate all staff and show our appreciation to all staff on this day. We are extremely fortunate for the support of the P&C, who provide a token of appreciation to all staff with their very warm wishes, their gratitude and a lovely cup coffee to reward staff. Thank-you to the P&C for this very kind and thoughtful action. In the lead up to the day, I would like to thank all staff at McDowall SS for what you do to support our students! It is an absolute honour to support students to grow in their learning. Thank-you to all staff and congratulations!!! I also encourage parents and students, in the lead up to this day, to take the time to communicate your kindness and appreciation of staff at McDowall SS or to share your gratitude with an individual staff member, who you really appreciate.

Curriculum - Network – Moderation cluster - Albany Hill SS and Albany Creek SS

In the coming week, the teaching staff will engage in external moderation with our cluster schools of Albany Hills SS and Albany Creek SS. Cluster Moderation involves teachers from each year level, from each of the schools, together with leadership members, discussing the Australian Curriculum, the marking guides that we use to assign grades to students for their assessment, how we teach the curriculum based on our students and our learning walls that we use to support students to consolidate their learning. Cluster moderation is always a rewarding afternoon, which supports teachers to share their knowledge, experiences, learning and expertise with their colleagues in cluster schools and to create greater networks with the other schools. The discussions will focus on building a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Australian Curriculum to support student learning.

CONTACT: Ms Imogen Stager, Principal



Principal's Gallery

w/c 14th Oct	1J1	Please enjoy a snapshot of art-work featured from P/1C1
w/c 21st Oct	2J7	
w/c 28th Oct	2J8	
w/c 4th Nov	6D2	



2025 Enrolments

2025 Enrolments and Interviews

We are planning to have all interviews completed by week 5 of this term. New prep families should have received an email link for this booking. Please contact the office urgently if you have not received your invitation.

All interested families are welcome to attend our Junior Assemblies on Wednesdays 8:30am-9:00am with seating at the back of the hall (with the exception of 13/11/2024 due to Remembrance ceremony).

PREP 2025 ENROLMENT FORMS DUE

MCDOWALL STATE SCHOOL

PROGRAM FEATURES:

- ✓ Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- ✓ Explicit and Play-based learning
- ✓ Australian Curriculum v9

ENROL NOW

(07) 3872 5333
<https://mcdowallss.eq.edu.au/>

School Tours

School tours are being conducted on 10th, 24th October and 4th and 28th of November for families who have missed Open Morning. Tours leave the school office at 9:30am. Bookings essential via SOBS.

<https://sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php?schoolid=1481>

McDowall State School

SCHOOL TOUR

Explore the facilities at McDowall State School

Bookings essential:
<https://req.sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php?schoolid=2044>

Tours leave from school office at 9:30am

10.10.2024
 24.10.2024
 04.11.2024
 28.11.2024

(07) 3872 5333

Tadpoles (New Preps) 26, 27 and 28th November 2024

Kindergarten children enrolling at McDowall for 2025 will have the opportunity to attend a lesson at school with one of our Prep Teachers. This is an excellent opportunity for children to get a 'feel' for school and our teachers to meet your child. Parents remain at the back of the room for this hour. If children already have part or some of their uniform they are very welcome to try it out!

Bookings essential via sobs:

<https://sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php?schoolid=1481>

Your Tadpoles Prep teacher will not necessarily be your child's classroom teacher as class lists are not due to go out until 23rd January 2025.

2 EVENTS TO GO!

TADPOLES- FOR CHILDREN
 Simulated class for 45 mins with a Prep Teacher: a parent required to supervise

TAPS 'Teacher and Parent Seminar'
 For parents and carers only- Tuesday 26th November
 4:30-5:30 PM
 Prep A block
 Bookings not required

Select from 26, 27, 28 November
 2 sittings: either 8:30-9:15am OR 9:30-10:15
 Tadpoles Bookings via SOBS
<https://sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php?schoolid=1481>

TAPS 26th November 4:30PM- 5:30 PM

Teacher And Parent Seminar (TAPS) for newly enrolling Prep families 2025 will be held in the Prep A building from 4:30pm-5:30pm. In contrast to our other events, this session is designed only for parents. This session covers all the final details such as labelling of equipment and stationery, first day procedures, curriculum including personal and social capabilities and self-regulation. Bookings are not required for this event.

Multi-Age Classes at McDowall State School

Multi-Age classes can be formed anywhere from Prep to Year 6. In Queensland, there are many schools that by design, implement mixed-age classes. Multi-age grouping is just one of the devices used to organise classrooms, deliberately mixing children from various age groups of more than one year in the one class. Multi-age groupings are also known by other terms, e.g. composite, have been operating for many years and are common in our schools. In some cases the formation of a multi-age class offers the best teacher/student ratio for quality teaching and learning. Reasonable teacher/ student ratios allow for frequent monitoring of learning, the development purposeful and precise learning goals and quality feedback for all students.

What are some of the benefits of placement in a multi-age class? Students can:

- > take on a mentoring role, and benefit from helping students in co-operative learning situations.
- > have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences with the knowledge and understanding of others.
- > are able to practice and reinforce their own skills as they teach them to other students.
- > get to mix socially and academically with a wide range of students.

Are the difference in ability between ages unique to multi-age classes?

No, all classrooms have a diverse mix of student ability and experiences. Teachers cater for the students in their classes based on their needs and will work with our Head of Department Curriculum and year level colleagues to ensure that the curriculum needs of students are being met.

"Research shows it makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight year group or in a multi-age class – it's the teacher who makes the difference." Multi-age or composite classes: 2008 to 2014, NSW Department of Education and Communities, January

How will a multi-age Class address the academic needs of my child?

All teachers at McDowall State School receive planning time with the Head of Curriculum. In the same way, a multi-age class teacher will receive this support and also connect with both year levels as they tailor the curriculum for this class. This will ensure:

- > Teaching and learning is developed with the precise Year Level expectations for each student. Your child will not be 'kept back a level' or 'promoted a level'. Similarly to ways teachers cater for learning abilities, year level distinctions will be central to the planning of learning activities.
- > All students engage in levelled assessments focussed on the *Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards* and are reported on at the end of each semester.

- > Your classroom teacher will moderate the standards of work with the relevant year level, to ensure consistency of teacher judgement for reporting purposes.

Is the Planning Different for a multi-age class?

Yes the planning documents cater for both year levels.

- > Sequencing of content across the year is adapted to ensure some level of consistency for both year levels being taught in the classroom e.g. Biological science taught in the same term. This may mean that units are covered in a different order to other classes in the school in that year level. The integrity of the standards is never compromised.
- > Typically students attend specialist lessons as a multi-age class and specialist teachers adapt their sequence of learning in the same way the classroom teacher does.

Who is responsible for the teaching, learning and assessment?

Your class teacher is always responsible for ensuring the curriculum is taught, adjusted to meet individual needs and reported on each semester. Teacher Aides implement these plans, directed and overseen by the Classroom Teacher.

Will my child's social and emotional needs be considered?

Once a multi-age class is developed, McDowall State School will consider ways to maximise opportunities with their same age peers. Examples include allocated eating, debriefing and play with their year level. For the junior school, arrangements will be made for transitions to play and eating areas and choice of play spaces. For older students considerations may include sporting activities, performances and other school events to ensure that your child has a similar school experience to that of the rest of their peers. Participation in leadership programs such as Junior and Senior badges and Student Council remains the same. These arrangements and planning documents are usually finalised in the first weeks of school. You will have an opportunity to meet your teacher to discuss your child and ways their educational and social needs will be supported.

How are classes formed at McDowall State School?

Class compositions are developed with extensive consultation with previous year level teachers, Child Needs and other support staff. Class lists also take into account new families arriving very close to the start of the school term. This places the school in the very best position to tailor classroom enrolment to maximise learning. For these reasons, class changes rarely occur.

All parents have the opportunity to discuss the teaching and learning in Weeks 3 and 4, 'Meet The Teacher' sessions to answer more specific questions regarding how the learning is occurring for your child.

For further information on the benefits of multi-age classes summarised by Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) :

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/p_10/ey_lt_multi-

Music News

Instrumental Music

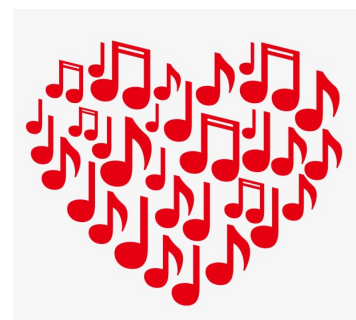


Our Instrumental Music teachers are continuing to test students for inclusion in the 2025 McDowall Instrumental Music Immersion Programme of Excellence. It is a huge task with over 140 expression of interest forms submitted. Teachers are starting to test students in Year 2. Students in Years 3, 4 and 5 will be tested later in the term once we know vacancies within the program. Letters of 'acceptance into the Instrumental Music Programme' will be sent home during the week beginning 4th November 2024.

Current Instrumental Music students have received a letter confirming their place in the 2025 programme. Student involvement within the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Programme of Excellence is for a minimum period of one full school year, with an expectation of long-term commitment. The exception to this is where student participation is discontinued due to not continuing to meet the requirements and commitments of the programme, or at the discretion of the Principal.

Music Fest

Rode Band and Keona Band will be competing in Brisbane's Music Fest competition at Iona College on **Thursday October 24th**. Presto Strings and Cantabile Strings are also competing in Music Fest. They will be performing on **Sunday 20th October** at Ferny Grove State High School. An information letter has been sent home with more details about these performances. This is a great opportunity for our ensembles to not only perform but to also listen to other ensembles of a similar age level. We wish them all the best.



MUSIC

Celebration Concerts

Once again McDowall will be presenting two end of year Celebration Concerts. Our beginning and junior students will perform during the Morning Melodies Concert on Tuesday 19th November, in our school hall, while our senior students will perform in the more formally formatted Celebration Concert Evening on Thursday evening 7th November. This year our evening Celebration Concert will take place at a new venue - the **Albany Hills State School Hall**. More detailed information will follow in November.

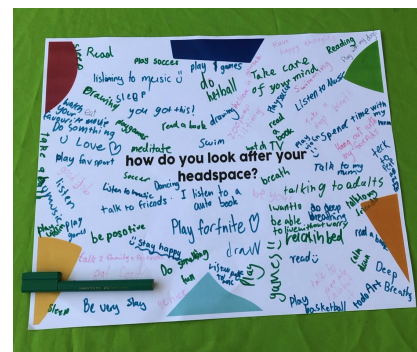
Key Performing Arts Dates for Term 4

Date	Event
Week beginning 30 th September	Confirmation letters for students continuing in the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Program of Excellence sent home.
Friday 18 th October	McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Program of Excellence Continuing Students Confirmation Forms returned.
Sunday 20 th October	Music Fest - Presto Strings and Cantabile Strings Ferny Grove State High School
Thursday 24 th October	Music Fest - Keona Band and Rode Band Iona College
Week beginning 4 th November	Letters of Acceptance into the McDowall State School Instrumental Music Immersion Program of Excellence sent home.
Thursday 7 th November	Celebration Concert - Albany Hills State School Hall - <u>Keong</u> Road, Albany Creek
Wednesday 13 th November	Instrumental Music Immersion Program of Excellence Parent Information Evening - McDowall SS Hall
Tuesday 19 th November	Morning Melodies Concert - McDowall SS Hall

CONTACT: Ms Vanessa Crowhurst, Head of Curriculum

Guidance Officer News

We started our celebrations of Mental Health Week last Friday with an information stall from Chey Seiffert - Community Engagement worker from Headspace. She challenged our Gr 6 cohort to reflect on what they do to look after themselves to receive a fun reward (pen, sunglasses etc).



This week there'll be opportunities for some affirmation-themed chalk art outside the library, around B block and in the walkways between the Gr 3 area and the Gr 4 area at 2nd break on Wednesday. And Friday there will be an information stall in the Gr6 area at 2nd break from Ed Linq workers James and Ashleigh who will be providing information on mental health and wellbeing.

More information:

<https://www.qldmentalhealthweek.org.au/>

CONTACT: Mrs Ellie Goodwin, Guidance Officer

P&C Association News

Tuckshop News

Monday is hard. So to help out, the P&C has opened the Tuckshop for second break every Monday for term 4! Place your orders on Flexischools.



World Teacher's Day

The last Friday in October every year celebrates the efforts of our teachers and school staff and thank them for all the work they do to educate, inspire and empower learners. Show your appreciation for your class teacher by purchasing them a coffee! You can find a link on our website to show your support!



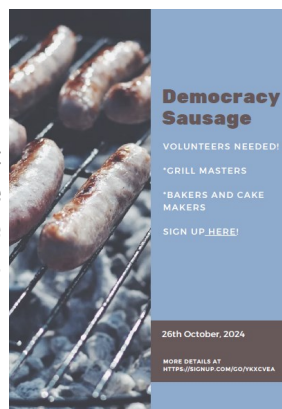
Wild West Trivia

This year we have taken trivia to the next level! Hosted by Triple Threat Quizmasters along with special musical guests Hoot 'n' Daddies, Trivia 2024 is set to be a great night of fun! For all the details, please check out our Facebook page! Need a few more people to fill your table? Get in touch with our team via Facebook.



State Election 2024

Democracy Sausage is an institution in this country! And we are always proud to be a part of it. Join us on the 26th October as a volunteer to do your part in the proud tradition of sausage sizzling! Not into selling sausages? The bake stall is also in need of volunteers to donate tasty treats to sell!



Sign up here -> <https://signup.com/go/YKxcVeA>

CONTACT: Mr Doug McGarry, P&C Association Operations Manager