



Tartan Times

McDowall State School
An Independent Public School since 2013

Achieving better outcomes for all students

NEWSLETTER

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Japanese Students visit McDowall!



McDowall State School recently hosted a group of students from Kudan High School in Japan. The students spent five days at McDowall. During their visit the Japanese students attended English (ESL) classes as well as participating in many school activities. They spent time in various year levels as part of integration sessions organised by the school.

A big thank you must go out to the school buddies who helped the Japanese students during their exchange. Our school buddies really helped make the Japanese students feel at home at McDowall. The Japanese students really enjoyed the farewell party where lots of Aussie food favourites were tasted.

Thankyou also to the teachers and students at McDowall who welcomed the Japanese students into their classrooms during the integration sessions. A big thank you to Doug and the team for providing the yummy party food!

To the host families who have opened their homes, another big thank you. The Japanese students have thoroughly enjoyed their time here at McDowall State School and I'm sure they will go home with many fond memories.

Contact: Ms Vanessa Crowhurst, Head of Curriculum

What's Happening

20-22.11.24	Yrs 1-2 Swimming
21.11.24	Yr 6 Lifesaving
25.11.24	P&C General Meeting
26.11.24	Yrs 5-6 Instrumental Music Tour (By Invitation Only) TAPS - Prep 2025 (4.30-5.30pm / PA Block) TAPS - Year 1 2025 (4.30-5.30pm / Admin Building) TADPOLES - Prep 2025 (8.30-9.15am OR 9.30-10.15am) TAPS - Year 4 2025 (4.30-5.30pm / 4E1) Yr 6 Instrumental Music Students on Tour (Mt Samson & Dayboro SS)
27.11.24	TADPOLES - Prep 2025 (8.30-9.15am OR 9.30-10.15am) Instrumental Music - 2025 Deposit Due
27-28.11.24	Yrs 1-2 Swimming
28.11.24	TADPOLES - Prep 2025 (8.30-9.15am OR 9.30-10.15am) Yr 6 Lifesaving
04.12.24	Yr 6 Presentation Assembly (9.00-10.30am) Yr 6 Celebration Dinner - Kedron Wavell Services Club (5.30-8.30pm)
05.12.24	Yr 6 Fun Day - Albany Creek Leisure Centre Yr 6 Lifesaving
9-13.12.24	Week 11 Alternative Program (8.30am-2.30pm)
13.12.24	Last Day of Term 4

EDITION: 21 November 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–Year 2)

Tartan Tuckerbox (Tuckshop)

Open Monday 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 / skorts
- 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 / skorts
- White socks
- School hat

Principal's Post

Week 11 Alternative Program

Due to the school year, this year, comprising of 41 weeks (rather than the usual 40 weeks), state schools across Queensland are engaging in the opportunity to implement an enhanced focus on student engagement, cultural and wellbeing activities through alternative programs in week 11 (9th December to 13th December).



School times will change for Week 11 ONLY to be 8:30am to 2:30pm (Monday 9th December to Friday 13th December 2024).

Additional information for parents and Carers:

Supervision of students before school in the morning would commence from 8am as usual; Before school each day from 8am to 8:30am, students will be asked to go to the following areas:

- > Prep students to go to the PC undercover area
- > Years 1 and 2 students to go to the J Block undercroft area
- > Years 3 and 4 to go to the Year 3 under covered area
- > Years 5 and 6 to go to the Emblem covered area
- > In week 10 students will take home all their resources from their classroom. During week 11 students attending, will be asked to bring to school their pencil case, lunches, water bottle and a hat;
- > Students will still have age-appropriate lunch break times and separate play times for the senior school and junior school;
- > Each day their regular/ familiar teacher will meet students and mark rolls, and will farewell students at the end of the day as a check in;
- > Kiss and Ride supervision will start from 2:30pm and will conclude at 3pm, with parents collecting their children by 3pm during week 11- only.
- > If parents are unable to collect their child by 3pm, students will be brought to a limited supervised location in the school grounds until parents are able to collect their child as soon after 3pm. Please note this would not extend past 3:30pm as per normal collection times.
- > Students who catch the bus to and from school will be accommodated during this week, to ensure supervision while they are waiting for the bus as per normal.
- > McDowall OSHC will communicate further information with parents about their supervision for week 11.
- > If you know your child will be absent during week 11, please add your child's absence to Qparents.

Some of the focuses for the week 11 alternative program activities will include:

- > Building a growth mindset to support positive thinking and healthy wellbeing. Learning the right techniques to deal with new or unexpected situations; growing a positive mental health;
- > Understanding relationships; Getting along – making new friends and the importance of feeling confident to being placed in new situations and having the social strategies to adjust;
- > Communicating effectively; identifying and using communication skills that enhance relationships for particular groups and purposes in a variety of situations.
- > Building on empathy, empathetic thinking and understanding the perspective of others;
- > Being confident, resilient and adaptable; students will evaluate, rethink and refine approaches to tasks to take account of unexpected or difficult situations.
- > Working collaboratively; cooperation in play and group activities;
- > Developing leadership skills; discussing the concept of leadership and identifying situations where it is appropriate to adopt this role.
- > The Learning Pit – adapting and flexible thinking.

These social skills are from the Personal and Social Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum. More information can be found at:

<https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/general-capabilities/personal-and-social-capability?element=0&sub-element=PSCSEAA>

NAPLAN Results for 2024

Well done to all Years 3 and 5 students who sat the NAPLAN tests earlier this year. To celebrate, there were outstanding results that students across the school achieved on these assessments. Our results in both Year 3 and Year 5 for 2024 NAPLAN were excellent as well as being exceptionally above both the state and national results. Our students also excelled in achieving results in the top two NAPLAN bands for each year level. The mean scale score results that outshone the nation and state as per below:

Year level		Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Year 3	McDowall SS	433.6	435.5	421.2	434.6	420.5
	Queensland	382.5	395.1	384.2	387.2	388.4
	Australia	404.1	415.9	401.4	408.8	403.8
Year 5	McDowall SS	545.2	517.1	525.7	558.0	530.3
	Queensland	474.9	461.2	470.8	484.4	472.4
	Australia	492.1	484.8	486.5	498.4	489.1

CONTACT: Ms Imogen Stager, Principal

Principal's Gallery

w/c 25th Nov	6C2	Please enjoy a snapshot of art-work featured from 2Q2
w/c 2nd Dec	1J4	
w/c 9th Dec	6C3	



Together, our school's commemorations ensured that the legacy of those who served and sacrificed will be remembered by future generations. It was a busy day for all involved and I must pass on my thanks to the students for their incredible work on the poppies and excellent behaviour throughout the services. We have unfortunately misplaced a medal that was on display, please keep an eye for this and please return to the DSM if found.



CONTACT: Ms Amanda Gilmour, Defence Mentor

Library News

All books are due back by the end of this week (week 8). We would appreciate your assistance with ensuring your student's library books are returned by this Friday. Overdue emails will be sent daily from next week to facilitate all students commencing their 2025 school year with a cleared loans record. Classes will still be visiting the library in the final three weeks of school to share some Christmas books, have some quiet time, and maybe some games and activities. Staff will be completing stocktaking, shelf checking, and lots of preparation for next year.

The final Book Club orders will be submitted this week and will be distributed to students as soon as they arrive. If you marked your order as a 'gift', you will receive a phone call or email to let you know it is ready to pick up from the library.

'Books make great gifts because they have whole worlds inside of them. And it's much cheaper to buy somebody a book than it is to buy them the whole world!' Neil Gaiman

Defence News

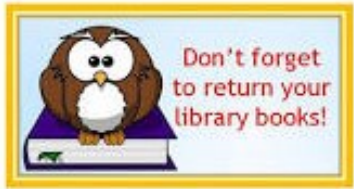
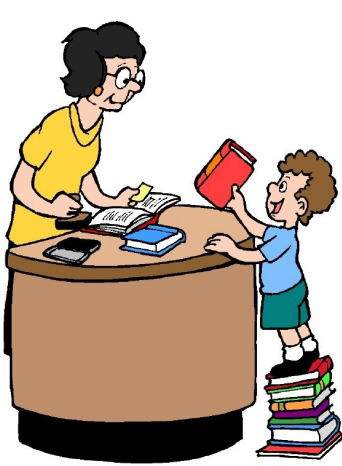
Honouring Remembrance Day at Our School



On Remembrance Day, we came together as a school community to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who served our country. The Defence School Mentor (DSM), Amanda, began the day by attending a moving ceremony at Gallipoli Barracks, where she took part in the Walk of Remembrance, reflecting on the service and dedication of our armed forces with the students from year 6.

Back at school, students from Prep to Year 5 gathered for assemble in the hall and then "planted" their poppies in the memorial garden, each symbolising gratitude and respect for the men and women who have protected our freedoms. The ceremony was a quiet but powerful moment, teaching our students the importance of remembering and honouring the past.

Additionally, a special display was prepared in the library, featuring items that highlighted Australia's military history. The display offered students a closer look at symbols of remembrance, including poppies, historical artefacts, photographs, and medals. This thoughtful setup created and promoted a space of reflection, bringing Remembrance Day's significance closer to their hearts.



Music News

Celebration Concert Success

Congratulations to all the students who performed at last week's Performing Arts Celebration Concert! The evening was a true showcase of the incredible talent we have here at McDowall State School. Performing live in front of an audience takes great courage, and every student demonstrated remarkable bravery and skill. On stage, they not only honed their performance abilities but also learned valuable lessons in trusting themselves and overcoming any fears. One of the greatest benefits of the performing arts is the boost it gives to a child's confidence, as they gain the skills to present themselves with poise.

A huge round of applause to all the students who performed—you did an outstanding job! Of course, such an event wouldn't be possible without the support of many behind the scenes. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and teachers who dedicated their time to help with concert preparations, supervision, and behind-the-scenes organizing.

We'd also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Albany Hills State School for generously allowing us to use their beautiful hall and facilities. It was an excellent venue, and it added to the success of the evening, making it an unforgettable experience for students, teachers, and the audience alike. Thank you to everyone involved for making the night such a special celebration of our talented performers!



Year 6 Instrumental Music Students on Tour

On Tuesday 26th November the McDowall Year 6 Instrumental Music Students will be embarking on a day tour. Students will be performing for students at Mt Samson SS and Dayboro SS. An information and permission letter will be sent out with further details. Students are looking forward to a great day of music making.

Instrument Returns

All **school instruments** and green music folders are being **collected in week 9** (week commencing Monday 25th November) for cleaning and servicing. Please ensure you return your instrument to Mrs Gyte, Ms Jabs, Mrs Payne or Mrs Akeroyd. A number of students have been issued 'holiday loan' forms. Please ensure these are signed and returned to your instrumental music teacher.



Morning Melodies Concerts

This year's Morning Melodies concerts were a heartwarming showcase of the incredible progress made by our Junior music students choristers and dancers. Our young performers were filled with excitement and pride as they took to the stage, eager to share everything they've learned throughout the year with their parents, grandparents, and peers.

The concerts were a beautiful display of talent, creativity, and hard work. From energetic dance routines to melodic tunes, each performance was a testament to the dedication and passion our students have shown in their musical and dance studies. It was clear that the students not only gained new skills but also developed confidence and a love for performing.

A huge thank you goes to our amazing teachers, whose guidance and support have made these concerts possible. Their hard work, patience, and commitment to nurturing our students' talents have truly shone through in each performance.

We are so proud of all our performers and grateful to the families who came to support them. What a wonderful way to celebrate the year's achievements!

Instrumental Music Deposit Now Due

To secure your child's place in the Instrumental Music Immersion Program of Excellence for 2025, parents should have completed a Commitment Form and Confirmation Form and returned these to School Administration by **Friday 15th November 2024**. Once forms were returned, an invoice for the \$100 deposit was emailed home. **Payment of the \$100 deposit must be received by Wednesday 27th November, 2024, in order to secure your child's place in the 2025 program.** If you have not received an invoice, please check to ensure your paper work has been completed and returned to the school.

CONTACT: Ms Vanessa Crowhurst, Head of Curriculum

P&C Association News

Containers for Change

Did you know the OSHC runs a Containers for Change scheme? All funds are donated to the Eco Warriors to help teach the kids about meaningful environmental impact and change!

If you would like to help from home you can use our QR and Bar codes to donate directly to the Eco Warriors at ANY Containers for Change collection point! Help our kids in the fight for a better future today!

MEMBER NUMBER

McDowall State School Parents & Citizens Association

C10474661



Stalwart Award Nominations

Nominations for the 2024 Stalwart Award are now open!

Do you know a parent of a Grade 6 student who has been a staunch supporter of the P&C? You can nominate them for the McDowall Stalwart Award for 2024!

Send your nominations to secretary@mcdowallsspc.org.au



Tartan Hearts Family Support Fund

We are all in need of a little help sometimes. Some more than others. Sometimes it's an empty lunchbox or a uniform that's too small.

To aid the school in providing help for those in need in the community we set up the Tartan Hearts Family Support Fund. If you would like to generously add to this fund, you can find a link on our website or use the donation buttons on flexischools.



November P&C Meeting

Join us for our next P&C Meeting!

Every month during school term, the P&C meet to discuss upcoming plans for our school community, bring together new ideas and hear about the work the P&C is doing to improve the school.

Whether you're a parent, carer, or community member, your voice and ideas matter!

- Date: Monday 25th November
- Time: 7pm
- Location: K-Block or OSHC

Click the link on our website to become a member of the P&C to receive the teams link to join the meeting online.

MCDOWALL STATE SCHOOL
P&C
MEETING

MONDAY
25 NOVEMBER
K-BLOCK
Starting from 7:00pm



Our Secretary Fiona, is stepping down, if someone is interested in taking the position, you can shadow her at the last P & C meeting for the year next Monday.

Trivia Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the Wild Wild West Trivia Night we raised \$1,054.78. Thank you also to the businesses that helped support it and donated raffle prizes:

- > Brisbane Roar
- > Brisbane Lions
- > Verve Portraits
- > Stone Realestate
- > Skateaway
- > Bunnings Stafford
- > Vultey Electrical
- > Morgan and Wacker Harley Davidson Newstead
- > Hyper cool air conditioning & refrigeration
- > Mercure Hotel
- > Dreamfarm
- > Selective Motors Albion
- > Jetts Fitness Lutwyche
- > Tim Mander
- > Woolworths
- > Snap Fitness
- > Solace
- > Mint Skin & Beauty
- > Rode Meats
- > Tracey Davis
- > Kmart
- > Coles
- > Mode Hairdresser
- > Bart Mellish
- > Aldo's Barbershop



Spring Fair

We're looking for someone to help co-ordinate Stalls and Community Displays for Spring Fair next year, please email fundraising@mcdowallsspc.org.au if you're interested in helping



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



McDowall State School

celebrating

50
YEARS

Share your photos or stories for our school history book
Email fundraising@mcdowallsspc.org.au

