



Tartan Times

McDowall State School
An Independent Public School since 2013

Achieving better outcomes for all students

NEWSLETTER

Office	3872 5333
Absence	3872 5366
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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.
- Children engage in teamwork and build 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

29.04.24	Poem In Your Pocket Day
30.04.24	Yr 3 Star Lab Incursion Yr 4 Downfall Creek Excursion
01.05.24	Yrs 5-6 Wavell SHS Problem-solving Challenge
02.05.24	Yr 4 Downfall Creek Excursion
07-08.05.24	Yr 2 Bugs Education Incursion
09.05.24	P&C Association Mother's Day Stall
10.05.24	Inter-School Sport P-2 Under 8's Day (Prep and Year 2 8:30-10:30am, Year 1 11:15-12:45pm)
13.05.24	Yr 6 Mathematics Olympiad
16.05.24	Yr 4 Picasso Art Show
17.05.24	Inter-School Sport Walk Safely to School Day
20.05.24	School Council Meeting
21.05.24	Fanfare - Strings (Ferny Grove SS)
22.05.24	P-2 National Simultaneous Story Time
23.05.24	Yr 5 Street Science Incursion Fanfare - Bands (The Gap SS)
24.05.24	Inter-School Sport
27.05.24	P&C Association General Meeting
03-04.06.24	Yr 4 Junior Strings Workshop - (Aspley SS)
10.06.24	Yr 6 Mathematics Olympiad
12.06.24	Yrs 4-6 Athletics Carnival - Field Events & 800m
13.06.24	Yrs 3-4 Morning Melodies Matinee (Yr 3 Classes & Yr 4 Ensembles - Adagio Strings, Metro / Myer Band) Yrs 5-6 Performing Arts Celebration Concert (Hall)
14.06.24	P-6 Athletics Carnival - Track
17-19.06.24	Prep Vision Screening
19-21.06.24	Yr 6 Camp (Sunshine Coast)

EDITION: 24 April 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)

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 respect to all Elders past, present and those who are emerging here at McDowall SS and in all schools and educational settings.



ANZAC day - Lest We forget

This week on Thursday we mark ANZAC day. On Wednesday we held our school's commemorative ceremony to mark the Gallipoli landings in 1915, as well as acknowledging all Australians who have served and died in military operations.

The Ode

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.

Lest we forget. 🌸

The fourth stanza of the poem For the fallen by Laurence Binyon (1869–1943).



Staffing Update

This term we welcome Mrs Andrea Cowley to the Deputy Principal position for Years 2 to 4, while Mrs Pike is on leave. Mrs Cowley brings a wealth of knowledge to the role and has previously been a Deputy Principal in state schools. Welcome Mrs Cowley.

We also welcome the following staff for short periods while school staff are on leave – Susanne Tidswell (P1C1), Dennis Williams 4E3 and Yat Ying Elaine Lam (Japanese).

Welcome Back to the following staff – Amanda Tully (Prep teacher - PA2) and Sandra Davis (Teacher Aide).

We are currently in the process of working with Scripture Union to recruit a School Chaplain following the departure of Chappy Hayden Krohn.

Queensland Engagement and Wellbeing Survey Years 4 to 6 students - Inclusive Design pilot

In Term 2, students in Years 4 to 6 will be asked to take part in the Queensland Engagement and Wellbeing (QEW) Survey. We know that wellbeing for learning and engagement are important parts of your child's life at school. The QEW Survey is designed to measure how students view their wellbeing and engagement across different topics. The information we get from the survey helps us better understand and support our students.

This year the Department is trying new ways of collecting this data from students so we can hear the voice of all students. Our school is part of the Inclusive Design pilot, and will be trialing two inclusive surveys and arts-based. An information letter will be sent out to parents and carers in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the school. More information about the QEW Survey, including FAQs, can be found on the Education website: <https://qed.qld.gov.au/publications/reports/statistics/schooling/students/queensland-engagement-wellbeing-survey>

Strategic Planning for 2022 to 2025

Our key focuses for the 2024 are:

1. Learning (Excellence): Deepen understanding of the Australian Curriculum through moderation (inc external), pedagogical approaches, cognitive engagement, visible learning practices (Learning Walls).
2. Belonging (Equity): a whole-school approach to inclusion, inclusive practices, differentiated teaching and learning to ensure every student is able to realise their potential.

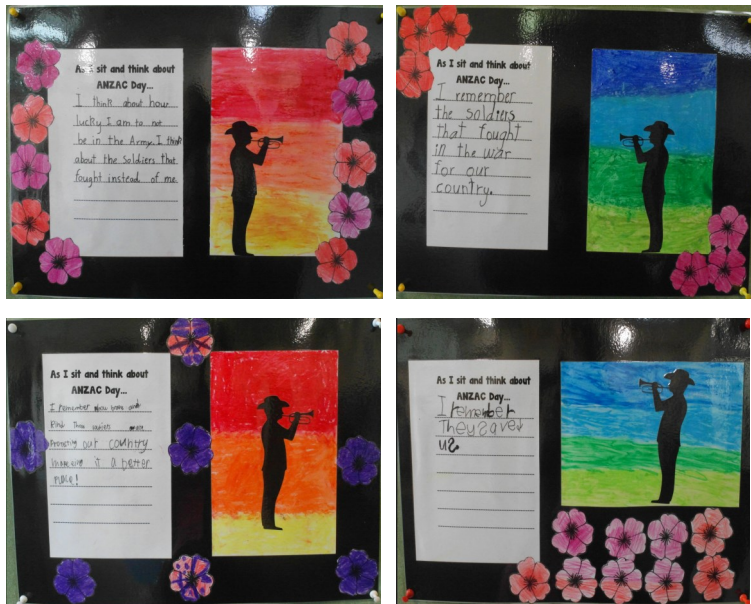
Department of Education		McDowall State School 2024 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN									
Learning - Excellence		Wellbeing and Engagement & Culture and Inclusion									
<p>School priority 1: Deep understanding of the Australian Curriculum including teacher capability in planning and implementing all AC General Capabilities and Cross Curriculum Priorities – 2021 School Review Key Improvement Strategy (3) - Deepen understanding of the AC through continuous PD, time for collaborative planning and the implementation of the four phases of moderation</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep knowledge of the Australian Curriculum (AC) including all General Capabilities and Cross Curriculum Priorities through a BA&E Moderation model Collaboratively refine pedagogical approaches aligned to the curriculum and students' needs, including making learning visible through learning walls in all classrooms that are aligned to the Achievement Standards of the AC and the development of goals and feedback for students on their learning <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with BA&E moderation process for English and Mathematics including cluster moderation and exploring vertical moderation practices Enhance teacher capabilities in Digital Technologies and STEM through the curriculum Define high impact strategies and pedagogical practices for cognitive engagement Continue visible learning practices including learning walls in all classrooms encompassing the implementation of the McDowall SS agreed essential elements for learning walls and goal setting and feedback practices for students aligned to the success criteria (Achievement Standards), commencing co-construction of exemplars 	<p>Monitoring</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Term 1</th> <th>Term 2</th> <th>Term 3</th> <th>Term 4</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>Long term measurable/desired outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the percentage of students from Prep to Year 6 achieving a C or better in the Australian Curriculum learning area of English and Mathematics Increase the percentage of students from Prep to Year 6 achieving an A or B level of achievement in the Australian Curriculum learning area of English and Mathematics All Teaching staff engaging in Moderation practices (BA&E) and processes including engagement in external moderation with sister schools <p>Responsible officer(s): Principal, Deputy Principals, Head of Department - Curriculum, Head of Special Education Services, Learning Coach</p>	<p>AP measurable/desired outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of students achieving a C or better in English and Mathematics 20% of students achieving an A in English and Mathematics 75% of students achieving an A or better in English 50% of students achieving a B or better in Mathematics <p>Reliability: 90% attendance - Curriculum Collaboration Days - 90% Staffing - 90% - 90% and Learning Learning Coach</p> <p>Responsible officer(s): Principal, Deputy Principals, Head of Department - Curriculum, Head of Special Education Services, Learning Coach, Guidance Officer</p>
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4								
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
<p>School priority 2: Build an understanding of inclusive Education across the school aligned to Whole School approach to Differentiated Teaching and Learning – 2021 School Review Key Improvement Strategy (3) - Collaboratively develop a whole-school approach to address problems with clear roles, responsibilities and accountability for all staff to ensure every student is succeeding</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum and Pedagogical practices that are supported by reasonable adjustments, tailored supports and differentiated teaching to support every student to realise their potential Curriculum differentiation in planning, assessing and teaching students, including pre-assessments Build deep knowledge of inclusion and the dimensions of student inclusion including practices that focus on Students with Disabilities, First Nations Students, cultural diversity, Students in Out of Home Care, Gifted and Talented Students, EAL/D, LGBTIQ+ and supporting students with wellbeing to learning <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop teacher capabilities to include pre-assessment practices to inform curriculum and pedagogical differentiation – data literacy Develop capabilities and teaching processes to support appropriate student behaviour aligned to the General Capabilities of Personal and Social Capabilities and Ethical Understanding Develop practices of staff to build team capacity and co-teaching with class teacher Continue and refine Academic Case Management and Case Management practices Continue to refine transition processes to through and from school with a continued focus on strengthening partnerships Wellbeing supports focused on student wellbeing for learning and staff morale 	<p>Monitoring</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Term 1</th> <th>Term 2</th> <th>Term 3</th> <th>Term 4</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>Long term measurable/desired outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the success and wellbeing of all students through inclusive education supports All students are welcomed and learning and achieving with similar aged peers, that includes reasonable adjustments and tailored support <p>Responsible officer(s): Principal, Deputy Principals, Head of Department - Curriculum, Head of Special Education Services, Learning Coach, Guidance Officer</p>	<p>AP measurable/desired outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of students with disability achieving a C or better in English and Mathematics Close the gap for First Nations students and increase the number of Indigenous students achieving an A in English and Mathematics Reduction in behaviour incidents Notes monitor wellbeing measures <p>Reliability: 90% attendance - Academic Case Management - 90% Staffing - 90% - 90% and Learning Learning Coach</p> <p>Responsible officer(s): Principal, Deputy Principals, Head of Department - Curriculum, Head of Special Education Services, Learning Coach, Guidance Officer</p>
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4								
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								

[McDowall State School 2024 Annual Implementation Plan](#)

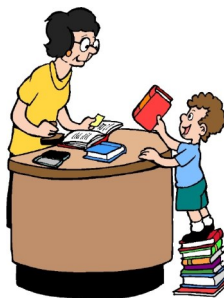
CONTACT: Ms Imogen Stager, Principal

Principal's Gallery

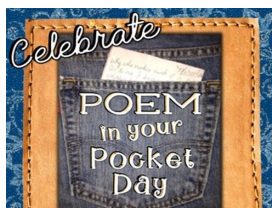
w/c 29th Apr	202	Please enjoy a snapshot of art-work featured from 201
w/c 6th May	5D4	
w/c 13th May	1J5	
w/c 20th May	1J6	



Library News



Borrowing continues in Term 2, and overdue notices will be sent home from week two. Term two for the library includes our 'Poem In Your Pocket Day' at the end of April, National Simultaneous Storytime at the end of May, The Premiers Reading Challenge from May to August, as well as our usual borrowing, lunchtimes in the library, and of course Scholastic Book Club coming home.



Our annual **Poem In Your Pocket Day** is on **Monday 29th April** this year. We hope all students (and staff) will bring along a poem, a self composed prose, or even a 'dad' poem on the day. The poem needs to be on a piece of card to allow the collection of signatures throughout the day as student's share their poems. Poems are collected in the library and a random draw from the completed poem cards is selected for a prize per year level. We look forward to seeing all those poems being pulled from pockets and shared with classmates and friends across the school.

Acting Deputy Principal Years 2-4



I am delighted to introduce myself to the wonderful community of McDowall State School as Acting Deputy Principal Years 2-4. My name is Mrs Andrea Cowley. I have worked in a number of primary schools in a range of teaching and leadership roles spanning across many, many years. Each position offered unique and valuable learnings and experiences which I now bring to

my role here at McDowall State School. I feel privileged to join this school where fostering excellent educational outcomes for all students is at the heart of the work each day. I am eager to work alongside the McDowall team to continue to deliver effective teaching and learning in an inclusive and welcoming learning environment where all students feel valued and successful every day. In the upcoming weeks I will continue to be focussed on building strong connections with students, staff and families. I was recently involved in the Annual ANZAC Bake off which showcased the school's strong values, not only in commemorating but also educating students about the spirit of the ANZACS. I'm looking forward to participating in many more events at this great school.

CONTACT: Mrs Andrea Cowley, Acting Deputy Principal Yrs 2-4

Scholastic Book Club

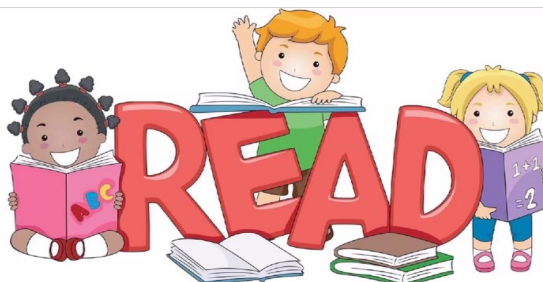
Scholastic Book Club catalogues for Issue 3 should have come home this week. Orders are due via LOOP on Wednesday 1st May.



The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) for 2024 commences in a couple of weeks. The PRC is not a competition but a way to inspire students to develop a love of reading. Students are encouraged to select a range of fiction and non-fiction books suited to their reading ability and record books read during the reading period, between 7 May to 23 August.

To complete the challenge:

- Prep to Year 2 must read or experience at least 20 books
- Years 3 and 4 must read at least 20 books
- Years 5 and 6 must read at least 15 books.



Experiencing books for Preps to Year 2 can include shared reading, listening to stories, or reading picture books. Every student who completes the challenge, and returns the completed Reader Record form **and** consent form, will receive a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Premier.

Due to the high volume of reader entrants in the PRC, the department utilises a third-party organisation (Median Technologies Pty Ltd) for collecting the reader entries, printing the individualised certificates and mailing them to schools. The department needs to receive consent in writing before it uses or discloses an individual's personal information or materials to a third-party organisation. By completing and returning the reader record form and the signed consent form to your child's classroom teacher, you agree to your child/ children participating in the PRC and their personal information (their first and last names, year level, class name and school name) to be collected, used and disclosed by the department for the purposes of registration of their entry in the PRC, and printing and issuing a Certificate of Achievement to your child. This information is collected and disclosed to Median Technologies and held for a period of one (1) year in their online database (<https://prc.median.com.au>) which is based in Australia (using local Microsoft Azure Cloud Services). Any data held by Median Technologies is deleted within one (1) year after the PRC is completed.

Some classes participate as a whole class, however if your students' class is not participating they can still complete the challenge within the school registration. Please let your student's classroom teacher know you would like them to participate and relevant forms will be sent home.

Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body. Sir Richard Steele

CONTACT: Ms Sandra Davis, Library Teacher Aide

ANZAC Biscuit Bake-off

Last week year three students were invited to participate in the annual Great Grade 3 ANZAC Biscuit Bake-off. Students were asked to bake a batch of ANZAC biscuits and to enter them into one of two categories – 'Traditional ANZAC biscuit' or 'ANZAC biscuit with a twist'. In all 48 entries were received for judging. Ms Walker, Mrs Thistlethwaite, Mrs Pedwell and Mrs Rogers were asked to judge the entries. The judging was anonymous. While judging was a most enjoyable and rewarding activity, it was also challenging, as many entries displayed promising culinary ability, individuality and creativity.

Parents and Grandparents attended a morning tea on Friday to taste the many and varied array of ANZAC biscuits and to watch the presentation of certificates and prizes.

Congratulations to the following students:-

Overall Winners

Ava O 3F2 Traditional ANZAC Biscuit
Eli N 3N2 ANZAC biscuit with a twist

Category Winners

Alec A 3F2 Tastiest ANZAC biscuit
Ada M 3F1 Most Appealing ANZAC biscuit
Hugo L 3F2 Chewiest ANZAC biscuit
Jessica J 3N2 Most Moreish ANZAC biscuit
Elias B 3F3 Most Original ANZAC biscuit



Following presentations, all Year 3 students were invited to taste the many delicious entries. Parents and students all agreed that there are certainly some budding 'master chefs' here at McDowall.



A big thankyou to Mrs Frederick for co-ordinating the event. Also thankyou to the judges, teachers and parents who helped with organising the entries, judging the many delicious biscuits and setting up the morning tea. A very special mention and heartfelt appreciation to Belinda and the Yarn Circle from '**That Yarn Place**' at Samford for making and supplying the beautiful hand knitted poppies awarded to our winners.



Lastly, well done to the many Year three students who entered their biscuits into the competition. They were delicious!!!

CONTACT: Ms Vanessa Crowhurst, Head of Department - Curriculum

Music News

FANFARE



Fanfare is the state-wide festival of bands and orchestras from Queensland state schools. Since its inception in 1985, Fanfare has fostered the development of thousands of young Queensland musicians and highlighted the achievements of the music teachers of school-based ensembles participating in the Department of Education and Training's Instrumental Music Program. The program has been held on a biennial basis since 1986. Fanfare provides an environment to motivate young students to develop their skills and raise artistic levels, to be applauded by audiences, other contestants and adjudicators alike.

Presto Strings, Adagio Strings, Cantabile Strings and Allegro Strings will perform on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at Ferny Grove SS.

Rode Band, Keona Band, Metro and Mayer Bands will perform on Thursday 23rd May at the Gap SHS.

We wish all of our ensembles all the very best for their respective performances.



Northside Region Junior Strings Instrumental Music Workshop

Year 4 strings students will be attending a two day workshop at Aspley State School on **Monday 3 June and Tuesday 4 June, 2024.** An information letter was sent home last week with details regarding the online registration and payment process. This year all registrations and payments for regional workshops will be completed online. Please ensure you complete the online registration process.

Please note: Online registrations to this event will close at 10am Monday 20 May. No extension to this close-off date will be possible. If your child is not registered by this date they will not be permitted to attend.



MUSIC

Honours Instrumental Music Programme

Twenty – eight very talented McDowall State School Instrumental Music Students have been accepted into the Northside Honours Instrumental Music Programme which is being held on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th July at The Old Museum Building, 480 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, 4006. Acceptance letters and waitlist letters will be sent home this week. A reminder to parents of students accepted into the Honours Program that online registrations to this event will close at 10am on Monday 10 June.

Congratulations and best wishes to the students attending this programme.

CONTACT: Ms Vanessa Crowhurst, Head of Department - Curriculum

Guidance Officer News

Recently parents and carers may have found themselves responding to their children about media broadcasts depicting violent events. Children are likely to have questions about these events and parents and carers might be wondering how, or even if, they should address this. For most children, talking about an event, in age appropriate ways, can be a healthy and helpful way to process their thoughts and feelings. It is also a way for parents and carers to correct any misconceptions that may have been reported or that children may have picked up from only hearing or seeing part of the story.

Emerging Minds Learning has a useful fact sheet that supports parents in helping their children process their thoughts and feelings and to correct any misconceptions that children may have picked up from only hearing or seeing part of the story.

The full article can be found at:

<https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/talking-to-children-about-violent-events/>



CONTACT: Mrs Ellie Goodwin, Guidance Officer

P&C Association News

Celebrating 50 Years

The McDowall P&C is preparing to publish a book of our school's history for our 50th Anniversary celebration next year. If you're a past student, or know someone who is, we would love any old class photos or memorabilia you can dig up, or stories you'd like to share.

We aim to have the book ready to purchase in the lead up to and for the Spring Fair.

Please email information to fundraising@mcdowallsspc.org.au

If you'd like to join the P&C please check out the McDowall State School Parents and Citizens Association Facebook page for information our meetings and activities.



UPCOMING EVENTS TERM TWO

- 9 MAY**
MOTHER'S DAY STALL
DURING SCHOOL HOURS
- 17 MAY**
P&C DAY
- 9 JUNE**
SKATE NIGHT
ALBANY CREEK SKATEAWAY
TIME TBC

MCDOWALL SS P&C ASSOCIATION

Dates/events are subject to change. Please watch our Facebook page for details.

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