Graduation Parade Friday 2nd December
A formal parade will be held at 1.00pm –3.00pm on Friday 2nd December to recognise our year 6 students on their completion of primary school and their contribution to McDonnell Creek State School. The formal parade provides an opportunity for our whole school body to be a part of the process and aspire to achieve the same goal. All parents and community members are encouraged and very welcome to join us in our main covered area. Graduation will be followed by an afternoon tea for students and their families.

This year’s graduation parade will be combined with our Academic and Industry awards. Our highest achievers and our students reaching a very high standard consistently with their behaviour and effort will also be acknowledged at this time. There will also be some student performances on this day.

Preparing your child for high school
The move from primary to high school can be a time of excitement and new experiences. It can also be a challenging or worrying time for some students. Helping your child feel supported will reduce the risk of disengagement from school in the future. Attached is a fact sheet to support parents in preparing their child for high school.

Class formation
Please notify the school as soon as possible if your child is leaving at the end of the year. This will assist the school to organise the right class formation and resources for next year if we have a good indication of expected numbers.

Regional office update
I understand how important it is that all parents are informed about staffing allocations so that you can support your child’s transition into their next year of learning and be reassured regarding their education. Unfortunately Regional office is unable to give us this information at present although they recognise that the school and the students have undergone considerable fluctuation and change in recent years.

Education Queensland Regional Office in Cairns make all decisions relating to staffing matters and the allocation of teachers. Teacher allocation is based on student numbers. At this stage it seems that McDonnell Creek state school will continue as a one teacher school into 2017.

If we have between 10 and 21 enrolments, there will be one fulltime teacher for p-6.

If we have between 21 and 25 enrolments, there will be one fulltime teacher, supported by a part-time teacher 2.5 days per week.

If we have 26 plus enrolments, there will be two fulltime teachers, in two separate classes.

My contract position as Acting Principal at McDonnell Creek State School ends on the 9th December. There is uncertainty regarding staff for 2017 though it is anticipated that Margaret McCarthy will be returning to her permanent position as full-time Principal in 2017. If there is any change to this parents will be informed accordingly. Should parents require any further information relating to ED QLD staffing policy and regulations please feel free to contact Cairns Regional office on 07 40465222.
McDonnell Creek State School Newsletter

**Student attendance and assessment**
As we are nearing the end of the year teachers are working hard to ensure that every student is improving. Over the next few weeks students will be participating in a variety of school assessment. Whatever the assessment it is vital that all students from prep to year 6 attend school so that teachers can gather the information that allows them to make professional judgements about each individual student.

If you need some supporting resources to reinforce this important message, please visit the Every day counts website ([www.everydaycounts.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.everydaycounts.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx))

**Safe and supportive school environment**

McDonnell Creek State School takes a school-wide approach to creating a safe, supportive and disciplined school. Schools should be safe and supportive environments for everyone—students, teachers, school staff, families and members of the community. The commitment and involvement of the entire school community is needed to create a safe, supportive and disciplined school environment that reflects high standards and expectations for positive and respectful behaviour and allows all students the opportunity to be successful learners.

Education QLD has some key documents to support students, parents and school staff. Some of the key documents include:

Swimming Carnival-
Our swimming carnival is being held on THURSDAY 24th November, 9-11.30 am followed by a sausage sizzle. All parents are welcome to attend and the emphasis is on fun and celebrating the culmination of this term’s learning with swimming. Children are to be transported by private vehicle on this day.

The Bartle Frere State School P&C will be running a sausage sizzle at our Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival on Thursday 24th November at the Babinda Pool.

The sausage sizzle will be at approx. 11:30am following the completion of our carnival.

- Sausage on bread $2.00
- Soft Drink $1.50
- Bottled Water $1.50

Cairns Waste Disposal Facility—
We had a great excursion today……thanks everyone for being great listeners and learners. Thanks to staff at Cairns recycling unit and to all staff members involved in organising this day.

Remember– WASTE FREE WEDNESDAYS and we will be having a follow up with Scott from today’s excursion at school here on Monday.
Here are some of the pinball machines that children are making in the senior class as they find out about force and motion.
Dental care and awareness
The dental hygienists came to visit our children with some good tooth care advice.

Well Women’s Clinic at Edmonton Community Health
(These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)

Monday 5th December 2016
Service includes Pap Smears, Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, Domestic Violence, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women’s Health Nurse.
For appointments phone 4226 4900

Babinda Primary Health Care Outreach Centre
Mamu Health Service Limited operates a full time bulk billing Primary Health Care Outreach Centre at 91 Munro Street Babinda. Operating Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm Doctor available every day for November 2016.

Please contact Babinda clinic if you require a Doctor appointment and for after hours care please present to your local Hospital Department or dial 000 if it is an emergency.
Preventing your child for high school

The move from primary to high school can be a time of excitement and new experiences. It can also be challenging or worrying for some students. Helping your child prepare for high school and making them feel supported will reduce the risk of disengagement from school in the future.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Relationships – your child will meet new people, make new friends, and need to re-establish their position within a peer group.
- School work – your child will need to adapt to new teaching and assessment styles, cope with a wide range of subjects, adjust to having different teachers and classrooms, become more responsible for their own learning, manage a heavier study and homework load, and learn a new and more complex timetable.
- Getting around – your child will have to adjust to a new school site, get to class on time with the correct books and materials, and possibly cope with new transport arrangements.
- Adolescent developmental changes – your child will be experiencing normal developmental changes during this time (e.g. physical changes, emotional swings, and an increased desire for independence). Peers will become a greater influence in their life.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL?

Before your child starts:

- Attend parent information/enrolment sessions and open days.
- Take your child to school open days.
- Involve your child in selecting the appropriate school.
- Encourage your child to develop their independence (e.g. look after their own belongings, use a diary to plan their homework and activities, read a timetable).
- Ensure you child has all of the things needed to support their learning (e.g. stationery and books, uniform).
- Familiarise yourself with the new school’s policies and procedures so you can answer questions and support your child’s decision-making.
- Find out what transitions services and supports are offered by your child’s new school which may include visiting the school prior to enrolment.
- Talk to your child before the move happens. Discuss what they’re most looking forward to and what they’re worried about. Give your child lots of reassurance.

Every day counts – Is your child at school today?
www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts
- Emphasise the positives and highlight the new opportunities your child will have.
- Involve your child in decision-making (e.g. transport to and from school, selection of school bag and additional school materials, and subject choices if applicable).

**During or after the time your child starts high school:**
- Find out who your child’s form teacher or year level coordinator is and make contact or ask questions.
- Ensure your child has a suitable place to study at home, away from distractions such as the television or mobile phone. If your child has access to the internet for study, ensure they are visiting appropriate websites.
- Assist your child in developing a homework/study plan and assist with supervision of homework in the junior secondary years.
- Attend parent nights and interviews. Keep in regular contact with class teachers and support staff (email is a great way to do this).
- Encourage your child to join an extra-curricular program offered by the school.
- Discuss your child’s achievement results and reports with them and help them to set future learning goals.
- Talk to other parents to check whether your child’s experiences and feelings are similar to those of others.
- Ensure your child gets plenty of sleep, eats well and gets regular exercise as this is important for a successful transition to high school.
- Ensure you maintain consistent routines with your child (e.g. getting ready for school).
- Celebrate milestones with your child (e.g. the first day, first week, end of term).

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SIGNS TO LOOK FOR WHEN MY CHILD IS NOT COPING?**

Be aware there may not be obvious or visible signs that things are not going well for your child. Be conscious of any changes in your child’s behaviour, attitude, communication or reactions that are different to what you would normally expect. For example, they may:
- show a lack of involvement in the new school
- lose confidence or self-esteem
- refuse to talk about school or friends/peers
- have no desire to go to school, or refuse to go
- show a decline in academic performance
- become withdrawn or display excessive behaviours
- become easily emotional (crying or angry at the slightest instance).

**MY CHILD IS HAVING DIFFICULTIES ADJUSTING IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT CAN I DO?**

It is important that you don’t wait for things to improve on their own. Talk to your child to find out what the issues are. Be aware that they may be reluctant to open up to you. It is also a good idea to have a discussion with your child’s form teacher, year level coordinator or guidance officer so they can assist you in developing some strategies to address these issues.

**USEFUL WEBSITES**

http://raisingchildren.net.au/

http://deta.qld.gov.au/initiatives/learningandwellbeing/resources.html#


