Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea
On Thursday May 5 the school hosted mothers and grandmothers at the McDonnell Creek community afternoon tea. The P-2 class, lead by Ms Sandra sang a beautiful song expressing love. The students selected sweet and savoury snacks and a glass of juice to serve to their Mother or Grandmother to enjoy. All in attendance had an enjoyable afternoon tea sharing food, conversation and laughter. We all look forward to our next community event.

NAPLAN
All year 3 and 5 students at McDonnell Creek State School participated in the 2016 NAPLAN testing on May 10, 11 and 12. Congratulations to all students who were relaxed and confident across the testing days using strategies learned to give all questions a “Red, Hot, Go”. We would also like to thank staff and students not involved in the testing for ensuring that quality learning continued uninterrupted over the three days. Thank you also to parents for assisting students by ensuring their children had early nights, adequate sleep and healthy breakfasts each day.

Conduct
Our school is committed to ensuring that all staff and students feel safe within the school. All staff members adhere to a departmental Code of Conduct. Students and staff participate in Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) lessons that explicitly teach expected behaviours and reward students for demonstrating these behaviours. As part of this commitment we remind all community members that it is inappropriate to approach students to discuss concerns or incidents that occur at school. All issues and concerns need to be directed to either the classroom teacher or the Principal who will address these concerns, take appropriate actions and communicate back to the parent. Please ensure that communication remains calm and respectful and that community members communicate with either Ms Sandra or Ms Williams-Carey. Thank you to the parents who communicate positives with us.

“Every day, in every way, every child is learning and achieving....”
Premier’s Reading Challenge
As part of her dedication to the school library, Ms Bufi has registered all McDonnell Creek students to be a part of the Premier’s Reading Challenge. As well as being fun, the challenge aims to boost children’s literacy skills by encouraging students to read widely for pleasure and learning, to develop their imagination, and to cultivate a passion for literature.

Our school has already registered, and students are all ready to start reading next Monday. We have sent an information letter and reading log home today. Please record your reading in the reading log and report your progress to Ms Bufi in our school library time. We have until 26th August to complete the challenge.

P & C Day
Friday May 13 is P & C day. This is a state wide recognition of the important contribution that all P & C Associations make to the success of schools. The McDonnell Creek executive met on this day, over morning tea to create a shared and unified understanding of P & C goals and how these align with school priorities. The P & C open an invitation to all community members to further celebrate this occasion at their next general meeting at 3:30pm on Thursday May 19.

May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month
The Queensland Government’s 2016 campaign for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month challenges schools, sporting associations, workplaces, neighbourhoods, communities and all of us as individuals to reinforce the message that domestic and family violence is never acceptable - Not Now, Not Ever.

DET have developed a Respectful Relationships Education Program to teach children from a young age that domestic and family violence is never acceptable, and that everyone has a responsibility to act. Our school will participate in this program during Semester 2 2016.

Contacts
In an emergency call the police on 000 (triple zero).
DVConnect Womensline - 1800 811 811
24 hours, 7 days a week (Queensland)

DVConnect Mensline - 1800 600 636
9am to 12 midnight, 7 days a week (Queensland)

1800 RESPECT - 1800 737 732
24 hours, 7 days a week (Australia)

Kids Helpline - 1800 551 800
24 hours, 7 days a week (Australia)

Elder Abuse Helpline - 1300 651 192 (Queensland)
07 3867 2525 (rest of Australia)
9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
P-2 Classroom

This term we are learning about built and natural environments as part of our geography unit. The children have been exploring the features of the world around us and the terms used to describe these. We have built two models- one country model and another town model which display some of these features.

This is the town model. The children discussed what makes up a town/city like Cairns- skyscrapers, libraries, movies, shops, parks, traffic/traffic lights and round-a-bouts, shops and offices, lots of houses or apartment blocks, motels/hotels, factories and production plants etc.

The other model incorporated features from a country environment. We decided to feature a section of our landscape between Cairns and Babinda that includes, rainforest, farmlands, the Gordonvale Sugar Mill, beaches, the Pacific Ocean, islands, Mt Bartle Frere, hills, waterfalls, creeks, rivers, a bridge, our school, Deeral BP garage, etc.

The children are also absorbed in understanding mapping codes to interpret a map, making their own maps, and developing a clearer understanding of locational – EAST, WEST, NORTH, SOUTH. To move a bit deeper into a geological feature in our environment we looked at different types of mountains and created our own volcanoes. The recipe for this fun and awe-inspiring activity will be coming home so don’t be surprised if your backyard sandpits are turned into ‘molten lava flows’ in the near future!
Senior Classroom

Last Friday we decorated our Mother’s Day pots. Mrs Rees painted them at home and we used glass pebbles and ceramic tiles to decorate them. The glass pebbles were the most challenging as they kept slipping off. We had to persevere, but it was worth it. We talked about the different ways our mum’s could use their pots…

Rick – “Mum put some of her jewellery in it.”
Mason – “Mum put it on her special shelf. We did put some lollies in it, but they disappeared quickly!”
Rhiarna – “Mum is using it to keep her keys safe.”
Lauren/Molly – “Mum put some pretty stones in them.”
Hein/Cade/Brett – “Mum used them as decorations.”
Jackson – “Mum put ornaments in it.”
Esa/Aaron – We are working on them today.

Hot Shots Tennis

The Hot Shots program has ignited a love of tennis with many students playing daily tennis matches. We were all excited when our new Hot Shots tennis equipment arrived providing the school with tennis resources including brand new nets, tennis racquets, balls and line marking. Coach Jim Floyd runs sessions each Friday of term 2. We welcome parents to pop in and see their “tennis stars” in action.

Email Correspondence

As part of the school’s commitment to sustainable practices we are seeking feedback about sending school correspondence via email. This would include reminder letters and the fortnightly newsletter. We have provided both a paper copy and email of this fortnight’s newsletter to all families as a trial. Please provide your feedback to either Christie or Donna in the office.
Student of the week

Gotcha Winners

Super Spellers

HELPERS NEEDED

Mr Richardson is seeking parent helpers for the Combined Schools Sports Day. Jobs can include:

- Time keeper
- Measuring
- Collecting equipment

You do not need to be a track and field expert. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

Please see Ms Williams-Carey before the end of the week and we will pass your details onto Mr Richardson. Thank you in advance.

Date Claimers

19/05/2016 School Photos
19/05/2016 P & C Meeting
21/05/2016 Babinda Umbrella Ball 7pm
21/05/2016 Aloomba SS Trivia Night 7pm
25/05/2016 Senior Athletics afternoon - Babinda P-12 school
26/05/2016 U8’s day - Babinda P-12 school
30/05/2016 Arts Council - Mirriwinni SS
02/06/2016 Small Schools Athletics Carnival
16/06/2016 Combined Schools Athletics Carnival
24/06/2016 Last day of Term 2
11/07/2016 First day of Term 3