

ISSUE NO 1

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2016 Diary Dates...

- 3-12 Feb:** Life Education Session
- 4 Feb:** Brass/Woodwind Parent Information Session – 5pm **Beginners Only**
- 11 Feb:** Brass/Woodwind Parent Information Session - 5pm **Beginners Only**
- 26 Feb:** Safety Circus 11.15am
- 9 Mar:** Arts Council – It's a Mad World
- 11 Mar:** Cross Country
- 24 Mar:** Easter Hat Parade
- 24 Mar:** Last day of School
- 25 Mar:** Good Friday
- 16 June:** Junior Sports Day
- 17 June:** Senior Sports Day

3 February 2016

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to a new school year everyone, a special welcome to new staff, parents and students.

The new teaching staff are Jessica Trounson - Year 5, Alex Jesshope – Year 4, Rosie Watchirs – Year 1 and Nikita Nilsen – Year 1.

Well done to all of us for making it an especially smooth commencement to the year.

We have enrolled 99 Prep students who start their formal education with us. Our school community will continue to provide students with the best possible education through their 7 year journey with us.

To find out more about your child's classroom and the school, we invite you to the Parent Information Sessions that are being held over the next two weeks. The timetable for the sessions is included in this newsletter.

Don't forget to support our school by getting involved where you are able to. A P&C volunteer request form was sent home Tuesday, please complete and return to the office. The first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, 9th February at 5.30pm in the staffroom. We look forward to your attendance at this meeting.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson
Principal.



Prep A



Prep B



Prep C



Prep D

Student Absence Line: 49656360

This service is available for parents rating their children's absence from school. Please clearly state their name, class and reason for absence. All absences are recorded for teachers.



Staff Profile

Hello, my name is Nikita Nilsen. I am very eagerly joining the Fitzgerald team this year with my year 1C class. I have spent the past seven years teaching in the Mackay Region, the most current school being Sarina State School, as well as recently taking a year off on maternity leave. I am thrilled to be joining the Fitzgerald school community and look forward to meeting and working with many of you throughout the year to come.

Parent Information Sessions

Wednesday 3 Feb				
Year 5 – 4.00pm				
Monday 8 Feb	Tuesday 9 Feb	Wednesday 10 Feb	Thursday 11 Feb	Friday 12 Feb
Year 4 – 4.30pm	Year 1- 5.30pm	Year 3 – 3.15pm Year 6 – 3.30pm	Year 2 – 3.30pm Prep 4.30pm	

Attendance – A positive start was made by all of our students in regards to attendance during week 1 of the term. An extra congratulations goes to 5 of our classrooms who all received a certificate on parade for 100% attendance during the first week of school. As Jonathon Thurston says, ‘Missing School can put you on the bench for the rest of your life, because every school day counts’. Classes achieving 100% attendance for Week 1 were 3C, 3D, 5A, 6A and 6B.

Great effort – Mrs Tracey Adams, Deputy Principal.

Life Education - Life Education sessions for all Year levels will run at the school from today through until Thursday 18th February. Life Education aims to motivate and empower young people to make smart life choices for a healthy future. A range of age appropriate topics are addressed within the program. Please refer to the note that was sent home last Friday for more information on the module/s that your child/children will be engaged in. –Mr Peter Robinson, Deputy Principal.

2016 School Term Dates For Students

Term	Dates	Length
Term 1	Wednesday 27 January - Thursday 24 March	9 weeks
Term 2	Monday 11 April - Friday 24 June	11 weeks
Term 3	Monday 11 July - Friday 16 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 4 October - Friday 9 December	10 weeks

Road Safety Reminders – The School Crossing

Use the crossing provided and follow the supervisors’ instructions. Listen out for the whistle to cross the road.

Parking – Please do not park in the hospital grounds situated across from the bottom school car park, this is private property.

If motorists are leaving the bottom car park, could you please turn left and travel up to the roundabout rather than attempting to turn right onto Norris Road. This will help alleviate traffic congestion at peak times.

North Mackay Private Hospital Car Park

Parents and Guardians of children at Fitzgerald State School are being advised that North Mackay Private Hospital car park is for patients only. You are no longer allowed to park on these premises as such parking on the hospital grounds is reserved for patients, families, clients and visitors of North Mackay Private Hospital and their Consulting Suites only. Could parents and guardians dropping off and collecting children from Fitzgerald State School please make alternative parking arrangements. Cars that are parked in this area will be towed away. **Contributed**

School newsletters are distributed fortnightly to all school families. The youngest child has the responsibility to deliver this to your household. Please take time to peruse the newsletter. We endeavour to keep every family informed about school life at Fitzgerald. Newsletters usually come home every second Wednesday.

Newsletter Advertisers

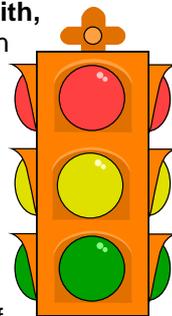
Once again we thank the business organisations that continue to sponsor the newsletter copy. Your continuing support is appreciated.

From the Office – Student Accounts - Thank you to those parents who have already started making payments to the child’s account for this school year. Many payment options are available, direct deposit, Centrelink, credit card or cash. **Please ensure all forms have your student’s full name and class.** Payments can be spread over a number of weeks and if you would like to have this option please call or drop into the office. Total student costs for 2016 are Prep Year \$241, Year 1 \$244, Year 3 \$253, Year 4 \$330, Year 5 \$176 and Year 6 \$470.

Statements will be sent home over the next week.

‘TO, WITH & BY’ by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher

Reading instruction remains the No.1 academic priority at Fitzgerald State School again this year. A set of traffic lights helps to describe a balanced approach of reading instruction in all the classrooms of Fitzgerald State School. The TO, WITH & BY traffic lights can also be used a guide for parents aiming to lead their children towards independent reading of increasingly complex text.



- Red Light - Read **TO** me! Show me how to be a reader. Make it fun. Give me your time and attention; read me fiction and non-fiction text. Talk to me. Tell me what you know about the world. Model what a good reader looks like. Let me see you read. Share your enthusiasm for reading and learning.
- Orange Light - Read **WITH** me! Help me to be a better reader. Before I start reading, ask me to predict what will happen. Help me to connect with the text. During reading, check my understanding by asking me questions. Support me to work it out on my own. Pause – Prompt – Praise. Remind me to use the Reading Star strategies. After I read ask me to confirm my predictions and to retell the story. Ask me the meanings of words. Ask me questions about the text. Ask me to re-read to improve my fluency and accuracy.
- Green Light - Encourage me to read **BY** myself! Let me practise my skills. Make sure that I read in bed. Ensure that I have books to read. Give me books for

presents. Check that I'm reading a balance of fiction and non-fiction. Help me to find a favourite author. Take me to the library. Wide, varied and self-selected reading creates fluent and resourceful readers.

Learning Café Monday Afternoons 2.30-3.00pm by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher - Parents and caregivers are invited to join the Fitzgerald State School learning community by attending a weekly Learning Café. Come to the school library at 2.30pm any Monday afternoon, share a cuppa with school staff and find out more about how to support your child's school learning at home. The first two topics for discussion are applicable to all year levels. The topic on Monday 8 February is 'TO, WITH & BY' Reading and on Monday 15 February the topic is Reading Eggs online access from home. Send an email to Sue Hamilton-Smith shami40@eq.edu.au if you need to know more, or if you have any suggestions for future 'Learning Café' topics.

'ATSI Family Homework Support' begins Tuesday 16 February by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher - Parents and caregivers of Fitzgerald's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island (ATSI) students are invited to accompany their children to the weekly ATSI Family Homework Support afternoon, to be held in the mini computer lab beside 4E, from 3.00-4.00 pm each Tuesday of Semester One (with the exception of the last week of each term), beginning Tuesday 16 February. Parents and caregivers are asked to bring along any homework questions or concerns and have a cuppa with school staff. Students are asked to bring along their homework, writing materials and a book to read, they will be provided with a piece of fruit and a drink. Contact Toni Mooney - tmoon38@eq.edu.au for more information.

From the Guidance Officer - The Who's in Charge? Group is an 8 week program for parents or carers of young people (10 to 18) who are abusive, violent or defiant. The group aims to provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas, reduce the guilt and shame which most parents feel. Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child's behavior and explore ways of increasing safety and well-being.

Help parents feel more in control and less stressed - Starting: Tuesday 2nd February 9.30am-11.30am Or Thursday 4th February 5.30pm-7.30pm

Place: Mackay Youth Support Services CASA office, Cnr Gregory & Alfred Sts, Mky. Contact: Karen 4951 4299 Email - u-nite@myss.org.au

Sports Notices - Cross Country - The school cross country race will be held on Friday 11th March. All students from years 3-6 will be able to participate. Training will be starting on Tuesday 9th February. Training will be held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.05-3.30pm. If you would like your child to participate, they will need to fill out the relevant permission and medical forms and return to the school please.

Library Notice - Welcome to 2016! Mrs Ross, Mrs Shaw and I would like to welcome you all to another fantastic year of interesting books, activities, digital technologies and so much more as a part of your child's library experience! This year, we have already processed over 475 new books, with many more arriving shortly.

Every student at Fitzgerald, has the opportunity to borrow from our library each week with their class members **during dedicated borrowing times** – this demonstrates how important reading is across the whole school and the dedication of your child's classroom teacher. Without their support, our library would not be the hub of reading at our school. Your child is also welcome to come in to borrow a book or home reader (Years 3 and 4) before school once the first bell rings at **8:20am**, during our second lunch and for a short time after school. We are more than happy to help them locate a book, keeping in mind Reading Girl's Motto – a book in each hand!

Library lunch time activities will also be commencing this year with craft every second Thursday – this month we will be creating bookmarks for Library Lover's Day and Valentine's Day. Please feel free to pop into our library and share a book with your child and watch the exciting changes as our library evolves and grows! *"A child's success as a reader begins much earlier than the first day of school. Reading, and a love for reading, begins at home."*

Tuckshop Talk – We would like to welcome back all families old and new to another year of school. Tuckshop is now open. The tuckshop menu was sent home Monday. If you are interested in volunteering please do so, please call into the office and leave your name and number or call into the tuckshop. A few things to remember- Do not staple or stick down bags, both breaks must be on separate bags, order lunch on correct days, bags can be purchased for 10c from tuckshop, plastic bags are not to be used for tuckshop, ice blocks must be ordered through the bag system and children from Prep to year 2 cannot be served over the counter at both breaks.

Thanks – Antoinette & Daneal

P & C News - The P&C would like to welcome all families of the school for 2016. Going home with this newsletter will be an expression of interest form for activities run by the P&C. Please take the time to look and see if you are able to help in any way. For families new to the school the P&C hold during the year discos, pizza days, Easter Raffle, icy cups, Spell-a-thon as well as running the tuckshop. Proceeds from these activities go towards projects around the school. At the end of 2015 we purchased 4 new floor mats for the Prep classes. We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting for the year next Tuesday Feb 9th at 5.30pm in the Staffroom

Icy Cups

Icy cups will be available for sale starting this Friday afternoon in the Prep area from 2.45, the cost is 50c. Please support as this is a fundraiser for the P&C and a great way to cool off on a Friday afternoon!

If anyone would like to help make or sell icy cups please call Belinda on 0421 248 763.

Community Notices

Norths Netball Club 2016 Online Registration

Information - Go to <http://mynetball.com.au>

Please print online registration form, Norths Netball Registration form, Harrup Park Membership form, Northern Beaches Bowls Club form and bring to registration day. UNIFORMS WILL BE CHARGED SEPARATELY if you are only \$20 hiring. If you need to purchase another one you will need to pay on the day of sign up or you may pay online via online payments.