

## From the Principal's Desk

### Dates for your 2013 Diary....

**6 Feb to 14 Feb:** Parent Information Sessions  
**22 Feb:** Arts Council – 'Then and Now'  
**12 Mar:** P&C Meeting 5.30pm  
**21 Mar:** Harmony Day  
**26 Mar:** Choral Festival  
**28 Mar:** Easter Hat Parade, Prep to Year 3  
**28 Mar:** Last Day of Term  
**29 Mar:** Good Friday  
**30 Mar:** Easter  
**15 April:** Term 2 Commences

### Student Absence Line: 49656360

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

### Our Prep classes for 2013



Welcome back to a new school year, a special welcome to our new families. We have 103 prep students enrolled this year. Thank you to the parents and staff who have assisted in having a smooth start to the year.

We welcome a number of new and returning staff to our school, Mrs Helen Foulger as deputy principal and eight staff teachers. The complete list is included in this newsletter.

The Parent-teacher information sessions commence this week. These sessions are useful for establishing links between home and school. The times for the year levels are included in this newsletter.

Following the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in Mathematics, English and Science in 2012, History is being implemented this year. We are looking forward to reporting the student achievements in this subject at the end of semester two.

Our first Parents' and Citizens' Association meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 5:30pm in the staffroom. You are most welcome to attend.

Enjoy your week.

Mike Anderson  
Principal.

## Parent Information Sessions

Prep	12 February	4:00pm in PA
Year 1	13 February	3:30pm in Library
Year 2	14 February	3:30pm in 2D
Year 3	13 February	3:30pm in 3A
Year 4	14 February	3:30pm in 4A
Year 5	6 February	5:00pm in 5B
Year 6	6 February	4:30pm in 6A
Year 7	13 February	4:30pm in Library

### Staff Profile – Helen Foulger Deputy Principal.

Hello everyone! My name is Helen Foulger and I will be joining the team at Fitzgerald this year as a Deputy Principal. In my time with Education Queensland, I have worked in a range of positions across

Queensland including being Principal of small schools, deputy positions and teaching at most levels from Pre-school to Senior Geography in a Secondary setting. I have been fortunate to see a lot of Queensland, from Mount Isa to Weipa and a variety of locations in between. My first teaching position was in a three teacher school in the middle of Cairns and my most recent was as Principal in a P-10 school in Biggenden. My first week at Fitzgerald has been both welcoming and informative. I have been very impressed, as I have spent time in classrooms, with the professionalism and dedication of the teachers and staff at the school and with the students' obvious preparedness and willingness to learn while they are at school. I look forward to a great year here working with a dedicated leadership team, staff, parents/carers and students to achieve the best possible outcomes for our students.



### New Staff in 2013 at Fitzgerald –

#### Staff Returning

Jill Smith(L.O.T.E), Caroline Steginga(4D), Nadine Haber(4D)

#### Staff Transferring In

Helen Foulger - Acting Deputy Principal  
Julie Wilson(Prep), Alice Collard(1C), Sarah Osborne(1B), Lisa Hunt(6A), Tamara Schmid(Special Needs)

### Foyer News – 1C and 1D

Most students in 1C and 1D have settled in well into our year 1 routine. Already we have been working hard in all areas. Come to the foyer and see our display showcasing some of our hard work. 1C have been writing about feelings and 1D have been writing about what they like to do at school.



### Green Spot – Monitoring Student's Lunches



It is terrific to see children coming to school with a variety of healthy options in their lunchboxes.

Unfortunately, we have noticed whole sandwiches, fruit and unopened poppers being

thrown into rubbish bins. Not only is this wasting parents money, it is also doing damage to the environment.

Parents can help to minimize the amount of food thrown away by:

- Talking to their children about how to pack a healthy lunch.
- Involving their children in making and packing their own lunch.
- Cutting up fruit into smaller, manageable pieces.
- Asking their child to bring home any uneaten food.

This is a great way to teach your children organisation skills and planning for their day ahead. Remember also, to pack lunches in reusable containers.

**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

### Instrumental Music Term 1 -

#### Week 1:

- Contracts, Information and Timetables sent home to parents.
- Contracts and Instrumental Levies due back to school by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

#### Week 2:

- Quick start Beginners' Lessons begin this week.
- Brass, Woodwind and Percussion – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Strings – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

#### Week 3:

- Lessons start for all students.
- Strings – Monday – Mrs Mora
- Beginning BWP students – Tuesday – Ms New
- Continuing BWP students – Thursday – Mr Bayliss

#### Week 4:

- Ensembles begin for continuing students.
- String Ensemble – Monday – 7.45am
- Concert Band – Thursday – 8am

Please see Miss Green if you have any questions or problems regarding instrumental music.

### Library News -

Welcome to 2013! The Library is open and welcomes you and your children to visit and read a book. We open before school for those who wish to borrow an extra book for reading and sharing or just for those who want a quiet place to sit and read before school starts. We open at the first bell: 8.20am; are open at lunch for quiet reading or activities and also after school until 3.20pm.

Remember:

Reading! YOU make the difference.

Read every day, anytime, anywhere.

Read with your children and talk about what you are reading.

**READ TOGETHER!**

Laurel Shaw

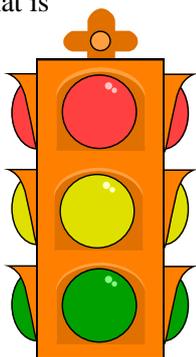
Teacher Librarian

## Learning Literacy –

'TO, WITH & BY' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, NP

Pedagogy Coach

I am delighted to be continuing as Pedagogy Coach at Fitzgerald State School during 2013. In this role I aim to enhance the already effective teaching that is taking place at the school, to encourage our students to be their very best and to help parents to support their young learners. 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 as 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. Let me see you read. Let me see what a good reader looks like. 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. 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.

## Student Dress Code -

Students are being reminded of aspects of the Dress Code. Improvements are expected from some of our students in the areas, the wearing of, appropriate footwear, jewellery, hairstyles and no makeup or hair dye.

Parent Communication – It is important that parents/caregivers show respect in their interaction with each other and students.

If a parent has an issue or concern the appropriate protocol is to make an appointment with the staff member, outside of student learning times, to discuss the matter in a calm manner. If the matter is school and not classroom related it should be referred to the principal/deputy principal in the first instance.

All members of the school community are asked to abide by these protocols so that the school can maintain a safe supportive environment for our students to learn.

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 – Do not park in the hospital grounds situated across from the bottom school car park.

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.

## Sports Notices –

### Northern Suburbs Touch Football

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent Fitzgerald at the upcoming Northern Suburb Touch Football trials: Paige Steindl-Corrie, Stephanie Honan, Ellie Nixon, Allie Whitehead, Lily Tarlinton, Keeley Coburn, Chloe Miller, Rhiannon Kennell, Prathiba Raut, Dana Costigan, Wesley Dyer, Kyuss Grant, Jacob Flor, Kade Allinson, Mitchell Cheetham, Locke Stone, Jacob Werder, Danny Balfour, Shameus Edwards and Drazic Cotter.

### Upcoming Northern Suburbs Trials

Further information will be provided to the students closer to the dates of these trials.

Touch Football- 7<sup>th</sup> February

Basketball- 22<sup>nd</sup> February

11yr Netball- 7<sup>th</sup> March

12yr Netball- 9<sup>th</sup> March

## Tuckshop Talk –

Welcome back to school in 2013.

The canteen will be operating from Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to operate the canteen from Tuesday to Friday of each week.

A new menu for 2013 will be coming home soon. Please ensure you only order from the new menu.

**Roster** – As it is the beginning of the year we are putting a call out for volunteers to work in the canteen. The canteen cannot operate efficiently without the help of volunteers. If you would like to help in the canteen please see the office ladies for a form or come and speak to us in the canteen.

Thanks

Daneal and Antoinette.

## Community Notices –

### Norths Netball Club

#### PLAYERS WANTED!!

Registrations are now being taken for the winter season commencing March 2013

Junior Teams - u9, u11, u13, u15

Senior Teams - 16 & over

Training held at Wallace Street, Bucasia courts (Dolphins Soccer Ground)

To enquire email us at [northsnetball@hotmail.com](mailto:northsnetball@hotmail.com) or phone Tina 0414 590721 or Sharon 0400 246900

[www.mackayjuniortennis.com.au](http://www.mackayjuniortennis.com.au)

### Wanderers Soccer Sign on

Wanderers are still signing players in all AGE groups.

Join now and attend the clubs FUN day on Saturday March 2nd at our Ben Nevis Street grounds. All players must have turned 5 before they can play

For further information contact D.Patton, Ph.49424423, Mob. 0407733501 or [www.mackaywanderersfc.com.au](http://www.mackaywanderersfc.com.au)

