

## From the Principal's Desk

### 2013 Diary Dates...

**Aug 13:** ICAS Math Testing

**Aug 12-16:** Science Week

**Aug 18-24:** Book Week

**Aug 22-23:** Wakakirri

**Aug 26-30:** National Literacy and Numeracy Week

**Aug 27-30:** Year 7 Camp

**Sept 2:** Musica Viva Performance

**Sept 2-4:** Year 4 Bike Ed

**Sept 9-20:** Swimming Prep-Yr3

**Sept 11-13:** Year 5 Camp

**Sept 18:** Cultural Evening

**Nov14:** Spectacular

Welcome back to a new term everyone, a special welcome to the families who are new to our school.

Our value for this term is 'Courtesy'. This value will be discussed with students on school parades and in classrooms. Parents if you could assist by discussing this value with your children. Take a look at our Courtesy Bank for student deposits situated in the office foyer.

Our School celebrated NAIDOC Week by recognizing the history and culture of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, a special guest Mrs Georgina Stemm assisted by creating art and craft pieces and story telling with the students, a big thank you to Mrs Stemm for her efforts with the students.

A reminder to motorists that the Stop Drop Go area at the front of the school is for up to 2 Minutes, thank you for your support.

It is important that our students are at school before the class commencement. An increasing number of students are reporting to the office, after 8:50am, for being late arrivals. If the students are at school at 8:30am this gives them enough time to prepare for school assemblies and the first lesson.

An Education Queensland Parent Opinion Survey will be sent to forty parents to complete. If you receive a survey could you take a few minutes to complete and return the survey to school by the end of the month. The results of the Survey will assist with future planning for Education Queensland and our school.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson

Principal.

### 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.

### **Staff Profile – Caroline Steginga 4D**

My name is Caroline Steginga and I am currently teaching the wonderful students of 4D. This is my first time teaching year four and I am very lucky to be working with Nadine Haber. I have 2 young children. Ryan is 3½ and Lily May is 15 months. They are both beautiful children and I am very blessed to have a great work/home life.



### **Foyer News – 5B and 5C**

Year 5B and 5C have been busy being creative. They have produced continuous line drawings, a portrait of Captain Logan, still life drawings and peculiar patterns.



### **Sustainability at Fitzgerald -**

As a part of Sustainability practices at Fitzgerald, Year 6 have been working extremely hard on re-establishing Fitzzy's Vegetable Garden and also creating a beautiful area to walk through and sit down to read between our classrooms. Please come and look at the great work we have done and you will see the beginnings of a lush grassy area.



### **Mackay Show Entries -**

Thank you to the teachers and students who took the time to do handwriting for the show. Congratulations to the following students who received a place:

Year 1 Girl - Livia Rays – Third Prize

Year 6 Girl - Sofia Garcia – First Prize

Year 6 Girl - Stephanie Dowe – Second Prize

Year 1 Boy - Ian Medina – Third Prize

Year 1 Boy – Jonah Turner – Highly Commended

Year 2 Boy – Kayden Parter – Second Prize

Year 3 Boy – Shan Sarathchandra – Third Prize

### **Mackay Show Cake Competition – 6A**

Year 6A held a Chocolate Cake Bake Off on June 12 to select a chocolate cake baker to enter the Primary School Chocolate Cake Section in the recent Mackay Show as the Fitzgerald State School representative. Eight chefs baked a cake and the cakes were all taste-tested. The cakes were marked on texture, colour, taste, and decoration and the winning cake was baked by Jordan Turner.

Jordan made a second spectacular cake which was entered into the Mackay show and he won second prize for his



entry. He won a voucher from John Donnelly's Good Guys.

### **Green Spot – Worm Farms**

A worm farm is a fantastic way to minimise food waste by turning your organic kitchen waste into nutrient-rich fertiliser for your plants and soils.

Worms eat organic waste and turn it into liquid fertiliser and worm castings (the organic material that has been digested by the worms). Both of these products can be used on your garden and on your pot plants to keep them thriving.

You can use worm liquid to replace fertiliser. The liquid needs to be diluted until it is the colour of weak tea. This mixture won't burn your plants. You could bottle your excess liquid and give it as a gift with instructions on how to use it.

Extract from

<http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/waste/kitchen-food-waste/start-worm-farm>. Lookout in the next newsletter for WHAT worms love to eat!!!

### **N.A.I.D.O.C Celebrations**

Last week we celebrated N.A.I.D.O.C. Georgina Stemm (Mena), grandmother of 2 students here at Fitzgerald, was excited to give up her entire week, to come and work with the students, to create artwork and share her stories. Mena is an Aboriginal woman from the "Bunuba Nyikina" tribe in the Kimberleys. She was brought up at the "Beagle Bay Mission" and has now moved to Mackay to be closer to her family.



### **Learning Literacy –**

*The Premier's Reading Challenge Continues* by Sue Hamilton-Smith, NP Pedagogy Coach.

Although the reading period does not finish until 6 September, I have found out this week that some students have already completed the Premier's Reading Challenge. Congratulations! Well done! This is a mighty effort! It's not that the Challenge is difficult. After all, reading continues to be our #1 priority at Fitzgerald State School. We know the importance of learning to read. We know that readers increase their life choices and chances. Teachers and parents are reading TO, sharing WITH and encouraging children to read fiction and non-fiction material independently BY themselves, at home and at

school. Successfully completing the Challenge requires that students in Prep to Year 2 read or experience 20 books, Years 3 and 4 read 20 books and Years 5 to 7 read 15 books by the end of the period. A reading log is kept and entries are verified by an adult. This Challenge is more than just a test of how many books a child can read; it is a test of goal setting, perseverance and record keeping. We have all known bright, talented individuals who begin, but struggle to complete projects, who become distracted and fail to provide evidence of their real potential. A Challenge over such a long period is a test of determination and organisation. If your child has mislaid the Reading Record Sheet you may like to download the form from the Premier's Reading Challenge website.

<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge/>

#### **Stay Safe at Cane Train Crossings -**

The sugar mills are crushing, so please be prepared for cane train activity. Mackay Sugar urges all motorists and residents to be alert when approaching cane train crossings. Children – don't play near railway lines or crossings, it's not safe! Motorists – look out for cane trains; don't try to race the cane train across the crossing, it's not worth the risk! For all community enquiries, contact the Mackay Sugar Communications department on 4953 8339.

**Student Fees** - Thank you to the parents who have paid or are paying off their Resource Hire and Voluntary Contributions. The funds contributed go towards purchasing valuable resources for our students. This in turn contributes to making Fitzgerald an exciting school to attend. At this time of year at least 50% of contributions should have been paid. Parents are reminded that for students to participate in extra-curricular activities they need to have paid or be actively paying off their contributions. If you are experiencing difficulties with your payment, send in weekly or fortnightly contributions. Centrelink payments are also an option. Please contact the school office if you wish to avail yourself of any of the options listed.

Thank you again for supporting the staff and students at our school.

#### **Family Portraits -**

NQ Family Portraits are again offering families and friends of the school the chance to have a family portrait taken on the weekend of 3rd and 4th August. This portrait on its own will cost just \$15 and, as families who have taken part in this offer before will know, the end results are always beautiful. If you would like to take part in this offer, please fill in your details on the booking slip and return this along with \$15 to the school office as soon as possible. I will be taking bookings until 28 July, and during that week I will be distributing booking confirmation slips to families who have handed in their forms.

If you require any more information or have any questions please don't hesitate to call me.

Michelle Davies (coordinator) Ph: 0422 954 245

#### **Head Lice – Reports**

We are getting reports of head lice in students' hair. Parents could you please check your child's hair on a regular basis and treat with pharmaceutical medication where necessary.

#### **Sports Notices –**

##### **U/10 Rugby League Carnival**

On the final day of term 2, the Under 10s rugby league team participated in a round robin competition against

other Mackay schools. The team played extremely well and won 5 out of their 6 games finishing in second place. Kyrin Allinson was voted most consistent player. Well done to all players.

#### **Tuckshop Talk –**

Welcome back for another Term and a reminder that the tuckshop is open from Tuesday to Friday.

**Roster** – **Thurs 18/07** Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa **Fri 19/07** Geri Nolan, Cath Kean **Tues 23/07** Robyn Adams **Wed 24/07** Robyn Adams **Thurs 25/07** Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa **Fri 26/07** Jean Kelleher, Cath Kean **Tues 30/07** Robyn Adams **Wed 31/07** Robyn Adams

Thank you,

Daneal and Antoinette.

#### **Community Notices –**

##### **St Josephs Catholic Parish of North Mackay and Northern Beaches Sacramental Program**

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (First Confession), Confirmation and First Eucharist (First Holy Communion) will commence with a parent information night on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013, at St Josephs School Hall, Canberra Street, North Mackay, starting at 7:00pm

##### **Mackay North State High School Enrolments for Year**

**8 in 2014** – Applications for enrolment and information packs and Scholarship Applications are available from the Mackay North High School office. Please return completed enrolment forms as soon as possible. We are accepting enrolments for all year levels.

##### **Pioneer State High School Enrolments 2014**

Year 7 into 8 Information Evening will be held in the theatre from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. For more information contact the school on 49559222 or email [the.principal@pioneershs.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@pioneershs.eq.edu.au).

##### **Cleaner Position Vacant – Victoria Park SS**

Permanent Cleaner 8 hours per week (4 days x 2 hours) +ADO, commencing 5<sup>th</sup> August 2013, application package available from Victoria Park School office, Applications close 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013

##### **Marvic Uniform and Embroidery 20% off Sale**

Marvic Uniform and Embroidery are having a 20% off everything sale beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and ending Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Method of payment must be cash, eftpos or credit card only. No laybys can be made.

##### **Foster Carer-Could you be one?**

Churches of Christ Care Pathways support their carers with training, advice and access to local resources to enable them to provide the best home environment for the children and young people on their care. Contact us for a foster carer pack on 49535097 or [carepathwaysqld.com.au](http://carepathwaysqld.com.au).

##### **Mackay Youth Support Services -Who's in Charge?**

##### **Reclaim respect and calm in your family!**

Does your child threaten, hurt or intimidate you? Do you feel you are losing control? Want to better handle conflict? The *Who's in Charge?* group is a 7 week program for parents or carers of young people (10 to 18) who are abusive, violent or defiant.

Starting: Term 1 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Place: Mackay Youth Support Services

Unit 2, 57 Wood St, (9<sup>th</sup> Lane) Mackay 4740.

Cost: \$5.00

Contact: Karen Ph 4953 2299

Email [u-nite@myss.org.au](mailto:u-nite@myss.org.au)