

From the Principal's Desk

This term is a busy one for us with many of our students participating in a range of academic, sporting and cultural activities. Thank you to our staff and parents for organising and assisting with these activities.

The athletics team was successful in winning both the Aggregate and Average Shields at the Northern Suburbs Athletics Carnival. This is the second year that the team has won both shields.

A big well done to all of our year 6B students who are state finalists in the Young ICT Explorers Competition, this is the second year that students from Mrs Stuart's class have made the state finals. More information on the class success is included in this newsletter.

This week we are celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy Week in our school with a number of planned activities and competitions. It is a good opportunity to raise a further awareness with the students of the importance of being literate and numerate.

2013 Diary Dates...

Aug 13: ICAS Math Testing

Aug 12-16: Science Week

Aug 18-24: Book Week

Aug 22: 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

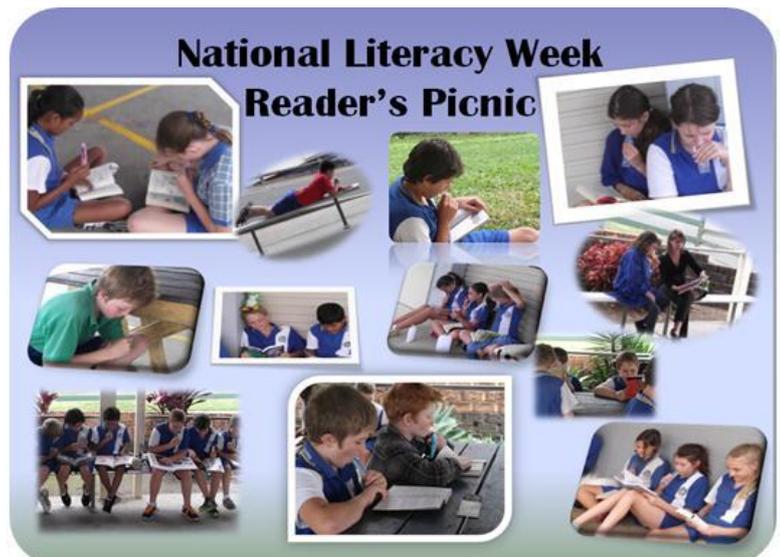
Sept 11-13: Year 5 Camp

Sept 18: Cultural Evening

Nov14: Spectacular

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.



A flyer went home advertising the School Dance which will be held on Friday 9th August, if you could return the disco permission slip to the school. Volunteers are required for both dances, thank you for your support.

Don't forget our monthly P&C Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 13th August at 5:30 in the staffroom.

Enjoy your week.

Mike Anderson

Principal.

Foyer News – 2A and 2B

This term Year 2 has been studying both shape and fractions in Maths. To



apply this knowledge 2B made fraction flags and 2A made animals using regular shapes. The children thoroughly enjoyed this practical application of Maths. They produced some interesting results which you can view on the display board in the office.

From the Classrooms – 5/6E and 6B

Today we celebrated National Literacy Week with a Reader's Picnic! Our two classes sat down together reading side by side and sharing our books whilst enjoying an ice block. Miss Bankie (5/6E Class Teacher) was kind enough to read her favourite book to our classes. Although it was a little overcast and drizzling we sat outside and enjoyed reading as part of our whole school's celebration.

Green Spot – Worm Farms

What organic waste do worms like?

*Food scraps including all fruit and vegetable scraps and peelings except for onions and citrus although small amounts are probably okay.

*Coffee and tea grounds and/or bags.

*Vacuum dust and ash (small applications only).

*Hair.

*Paper, and any unwaxed cardboard, although break it up please.

*Plant clippings and grass - although you should wet the grass as it can be very drying.

WORMS don't like to eat meat and dairy products and they also attract vermin so are best avoided.

The smaller the material the better, worms don't actually have teeth instead they suck up the food, so small bits are best. Unlike a compost heap you don't need to turn your worm castings. In fact you might do some damage to young worms, so its best to leave the farm alone, except for adding food and checking on the conditions.

<http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/environment/sustainability/waste/organic-waste>

Family Portraits –

The Family Portraits will be taken this Saturday and Sunday 3rd and 4th August. There are still some available appointment times so if you are considering having your portrait taken but have not yet made a booking please contact Michelle Davies on 0422 954 245.

Learning Literacy –

By Sue Hamilton-Smith, NP Pedagogy Coach.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week aims to highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all children. Producing highly literate and numerate citizens remains the academic goal at Fitzgerald State School. We utilise many whole of school instructional practices to help us to achieve this aim. This year the NLNW website has encouraged children to read and write poetry, use

mathematics to analyse waste in the *This is Rubbish* activity and to read *Herman and Rosie*, a delightfully written and illustrated book by Australian author, Gus Gordon. If you visit the website, you'll find an AUSLAN translation of this *Read for Australia* book, set in New York, it is about friendship, music and following your dreams. Author of the classic counting book, *One Woolly Wombat*, Kerry Argent is the 2013 Literacy Ambassador. Regular ABC *Catalyst* presenter, Simon Pampena is this year's Numeracy Ambassador. The national website has all the details. www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week - National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) will be held this year from 29 July to 2 August.

The NLNW is a collaborative project involving all governments and school communities to highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all children and young people, with a focus on school aged children. NLNW gives schools the opportunity to get involved in a range of fun literacy and numeracy activities.

Children at Fitzgerald will participate in a Teddy Bear's Picnic where they may share stories that have been shortlisted by the Children's Book Council of Australia, in the National Book of the Year Competition, or may even listen to a book by Nette Hilton who will be visiting our school and working with students between August 12 and 14.

Students in lower year levels will use UNO cards to complete Numeracy tasks with older students being asked to enter into a competition to design a Numeracy task using the cards.

More information is available from the National Literacy and Numeracy Week website:

www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au .

Library News –

We are lucky to have the author Nette Hilton visit Fitzgerald State School from August 12 – 14. Nette will be talking with all year levels about her books and the process of writing successfully. She will also give writing workshops to some students and teachers.

Nette's background in teaching and a million other jobs have left her well equipped with story ideas. Her best known books are *The Web* and *Proper Little Lady*, both of which were shortlisted and winners in The Children's Book Council of Australia's Book of the Year Awards. She has visited a great many schools and inspired many children to write - including two past winners of the Nestle competition.

QSchools App - Queensland school communities now have a new way to interact with their favourite state Schools using the QSchools smartphone app. The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from and about schools. The app is designed to integrate with a new type of school website, and allows users to see when news, events and newsletters are posted to their selected school website. The school community can also receive emergency announcements



such as natural disasters and school closures through the app.

Fitzgerald State School commends this app to you as a great way to get current and new information about events and news. For more information about this app go to <http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/apps/education/qschools.html>

P&C News –

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th August at 5:30 in the staffroom. Items being discussed at this meeting will be the cover for the grade 1 play area, donation for the instrumental music program, review of school curriculum priorities and Father's Day. We would love to see parents at this meeting to be a part of these discussions.

Thanks

Kerri Sheehan
P&C President

Car Parks

Motorists are asked to be vigilant of our students when entering the top and bottom car parks before and after school. Please note that the top car park is not a drop off area for students. Delivery vehicles and staff use this car park most often.

Students are asked to use the footpath at the front of the school and not walk through the top car park at any time.

Young ICT Explorers Competition –

Every student in 6B have successfully managed to be shortlisted for the Young ICT Explorers Competition which is an Australia wide event. Saturday 10th August is the Queensland Judging Event where we were selected from 348 projects to the 30 shortlisted (6B taking 8 of these places) which is quite an incredible accomplishment. To the credit of the students, they have all demonstrated how technologically advanced and innovative their class is within our own region and across Queensland. The students were required to create their own idea and design a program using ICT's. Our group projects included an iPhone application, computer game, a website to help you design or paint your home, and we were able to utilise their knowledge of robotics by building and programming their robots to perform tasks or support student learning. Due to time and largely money constraints, it will not be feasible for 6B to attend the event on the 10th August in Brisbane. However, with the support of our school, staff and our Regional Support Manager, Mr Mark Boustead, we will be holding an alternative event which will provide the students with the opportunity to showcase their "YICTE Projects" in the near future.

It is amazing to think that in less than two years of being involved in 1:1 Learning or Laptop Classes, what we as a school have been able to achieve and accomplish.

Congratulations 6B on such a wonderful achievement.
Janelle Stuart - Class Teacher.

School Opinion Survey –

School Opinion Surveys were sent out to randomly chosen parents at our school last week. As the opinions of parents at our school are valued it would be appreciated if all surveys could be completed either online or in paper form and returned to the office.

Sports Notices –

Northern Suburbs Track and Field -

Congratulations to all Fitzgerald athletes who recently participated in the Northern Suburbs athletics trials. Our

school performed extremely well winning both the Aggregate Points Trophy and the Average Points Trophy. We also had Brooke Vella, Logan Clark, Paige Steindl-Corrie, Reece Del Simone and Carmen Jooste receiving Age Champion awards. A total of 30 students have been selected in the Northern Suburbs team to compete at the upcoming Mackay trials on the 31st of July, best of luck to these competitors.



Volunteers Required for School Disco –

There is still need for volunteers to help collate disco forms on the morning of Thursday 8th August, if you could spare some time to help please contact Jai 0429 852 949.

Tuckshop Talk –

We are no longer selling plain flavoured chips through the tuckshop and fruit salad yoghurts will only remain on the menu for a short time.

We are still having problems with incorrect pricing and ordering. Please check that you have the current menu and pricing. Please do not staple bags together or money onto bags. Thank you.

Roster – **Thurs 2 Aug** Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa **Fri 3 Aug** Nikki Poa **Tues 6 Aug** Robyn Adams **Wed 7 Aug** Cath Kean **Thurs 8 Aug** Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa **Fri 9 Aug** Cath Kean **Tues 13 Aug** Robyn Adams **Wed 14 Aug** Robyn Adams

Thank you,
Daneal and Antoinette.

Community Notices –

Mackay North State High School Enrolments for year 8 in 2014

Application 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 enquiries for all year levels.

For information contact the school on Phone 49 631 666

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 30th July 2013, at St Josephs School Hall, Canberra Street, North Mackay, starting at 7:00pm

Resiliency Robbers

All parents have the best of intentions when raising kids. Wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their children's long term best interests.

- * Fight all their battles for them.
- * Make their problem, your problem.
- * Give kids too much voice.
- * Let kids give in too easily.
- * Neglect to develop independence.
- * Rescue kids from challenging or stretch situations.

By Michael Grose – Parenting Educator
parentingideas.com.au