

ISSUE NO 13

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26th August 2015

From the Principal's Desk

2015 Diary Dates...

August 27th: Prep
Excursion
August 28th: Year 1
Excursion
August 28th: Year 2
Excursion
August 31th-Sept 2: Year 4
Camp
Sept 7 – 17th: Prep – Year 3
swimming
Sept 7th: Spell-a-thon forms
to be returned.
Sept 7th-11th: Spell-a-thon
Tests conducted at school
Sept 8th – P & C Meeting
5.30pm
September 18th: Last day
of term 3
November 12th –
Spectacular Concert
October 5th – Labour Day
Holiday
October 19th – Pupil Free
Day

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.

Congratulations all round to our bands and the Opti-Minds team for their spirited performances in their respective competitions held last weekend. The bands gained Silver and Gold awards and the Opti-Minds gained an Honours award. See the reports in this newsletter.

Special mention of the Wakakirri team, a Regional Nominee for the Best Story to the National Competition. A tremendous effort once again, the fourth year in a row.

The Book and Science Week celebrations continue with a range of enjoyable and educational activities planned for the students.

Many of our students are attending excursions and camps at this time of the year. We anticipate that the students will enjoy and learn from their experiences. Our year four students attend Camp Kinchant next week. Thank you to our staff and parent volunteers for your support.

A reminder that we have less than two weeks to learn our words and gain sponsors for our Spell-a-thon. This is always a good fundraiser for our school.

Thank you to staff and parents who assisted at the dance held recently. We had over three hundred of our students in attendance.

Our next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8th September at 5.30. You are most welcome to attend.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson
Principal.

Foyer Display

Year three have been extremely busy this term learning about the Sun, Earth and Moon within Science. We have also been practising how to write using the correct Queensland Cursive Script. The students are very impressed with their quality workmanship.



Year 3 Excursion

Last Wednesday, the Year 3 students participated in a History Excursion which took them by bus through town then onto the Mackay Harbour. Whilst there, they participated in discussions about changes to the Mackay Marina. Students enjoyed learning about what the Harbour looked like before they were born and the drastic developments which are now evident today. Many of them voiced their concerns about the environmental impact these developments have had on the native wildlife and the decreased natural features that are evident today. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day which culminated in an ice block at



Mulherin Park before returning by bus to school where they staggered back to their classrooms for some rest! A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to assist us on the day.

Safety – Picking up children

Parents please ensure that your children know the arrangements for after school pick-ups. A reminder that up to 3.30pm is recognized as being a reasonable time for students to be collected from the school of an afternoon. If there is an emergency situation where you are unable to get to the school contact the school office, so that plans can be discussed for the situation.

Thank-you Mrs Neilsen!

Congratulations to Daphne Neilsen, who has been awarded a certificate of appreciation from Nick Marsden, CQ Region Director for Transport for five years' service as a Fitzgerald State School crossing supervisor. Mrs Neilsen also served from July 1985 to February 1997. The school is very appreciative of Mrs Neilsen efforts, she is currently in her second term as P & C President. She also volunteers her time outside of the school community, she is a long-time member of Education Service Association, which raises money for local charities. She has sat on a pole to raise funds in the middle of winter for the Queensland Cancer Council. In Mrs Neilsen's spare time she babysits her grandchildren, Zarni, currently in year four at Fitzgerald and Charlotte, who is in Prep, Ashleigh is now in year 7 at Mackay North State High School. "Volunteering is very rewarding. I do it because I like helping other people, especially those less fortunate than ourselves," said Mrs Neilsen.



Music News - REGIONAL WAKAKIRRI CHAMPIONS!! Recently our school performed at the Regional Wakakirri Finals. Our story dance item was "Shrek" and included students from Years 4, 5 and 6. Our students did an amazing job and received the following awards:

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Characterisation
Storytelling
Individual piece of set
Overall costume design
Staging
Sustainable production
Creative reuse of materials

STATE AWARD

Best Entertainment Story Award

NATIONAL AWARD

Story of the Year nominee

Many thanks to Trina Saunders for costuming, Debbie Hunt for props and sets and Danielle Hargreaves for event organization. Thanks to all parents for their support and our wonderful students for a great performance and for being an excellent team. We are now eligible to be selected for the National Award. Great work everyone!

MUSICA VIVA VISITS OUR SCHOOL!

On Tuesday 4th August our school was fortunate to receive a performance by visiting Musica Viva group – 'Best of Brass'. The group is one of Australia's most well-known and highly acclaimed Brass Quintets. The wind quintet impressed the students with their musical expertise on instruments from the brass family. Students from Prep to Year 6 had been introduced to the music over several weeks in their classroom music lessons with the concert being a culminating event. Musica Viva is a wonderful way to introduce students to different genres of music and expose them to live performances with professional musicians!

MACKAY ORCHESTRA AND BANDS 2015!!

Our concert band and string ensemble performed at the annual Mackay Orchestra and Bands Competition at MCC last Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Our students played to a really high standard and were also able to listen to other ensembles play. Our concert band received a gold award and trophy and our string ensemble received a silver award with trophy. Many thanks to parents for their support in getting students to the performance venue. Excellent effort everyone!

OPTI-MINDS - Team Fitzgerald competed in the Social

Science Division 1 Opti-Minds Event over the weekend and did very well to receive an Honours - 2nd Place, against 17 teams. Over the 6 weeks my team of 7 worked hard to put together a



performance that is intended to solve a problem. From writing the script to creating the props needed for the performance, everything is done by the students. The Opti-Minds Challenge has been created within Queensland to provide our children with the opportunity to further develop and extend team skills and dynamic problem solving strategies.

An awesome performance on the day 'Team Fitzy' - Joshua Wilson, Toby Jones, Jack Wicks, Maddason Smith, Damon Randell, Brooke Vella and Khataya Miller-

Wilson. Thank you to Mrs Smith for co-ordinating this activity.

Read all Day' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher

The Premier's Reading Challenge period ends this week, all reading records need to be finalised and handed in by Monday 31 August. Thank-you for supporting an initiative that encourages our children to read more and to read more widely!

To celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy Week and the importance of reading at Fitzgerald, you are invited to watch our students perform a flash dance on the school quadrangle at 2.30pm Friday 11 September. Thank-you to Mrs Scott-Girgenti and her troupe of dancing experts who will lead the school in a 'Read all Day' remake of a Taylor Swift song, 'Shake it off'.

'A Fortnight of Light at Fitzgerald State School'

Fitzgerald State School is celebrating Science Week and Book Week by holding two weeks of light inspired lunchtime activities for students. 'Making Waves: The science of light' is the theme of National Science Week, 15-23 August and 'Books light up our world' is the theme of the Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week, 22-28 August. Linking the weeks is resulting in light inspired hands-on activities taking place in the school library each day of the 'Fortnight of Light'. Teacher librarians, Laurel Shaw and Janelle Stuart and Science coordinator, Shannon Croston have been sourcing torches, reflective and glow in the dark materials in preparation for the event. "Items like batteries are expensive. We're very appreciative that Bunnings Mackay has donated some materials to add to the learning fun."



From the Guidance Officer –



SPORTS NOTICES

Capricornia Track and Field - Congratulations to our recent participants in the Capricornia Track and Field trials. Special mention to Brooke Vella who won her 100m event and placed second in the 200m. Well done on your Capricornia selection Brooke and we wish you the best for the State Titles in Townsville.

Interschool Sport

Well done to our year 3 and 4 players who recently participated in interschool sport at Quarry Hill. Students were involved in OzTag games against Victoria Park, Eimeo Road and St Marys schools. Standout players for the girls were Ava Wheeler and Kayla Baggow and Miah Wuatai-Davis and Ryan White for the boys. Thanks to Mr Hope and Mrs Hobbin for coaching the teams.

School Tennis Competition

Well done to Caiden Wood, Ryan Donovan, Sheridan Donovan, Shaye Plumley, Dakota Williams, Lara Bolton, Sophia Stickland, Amy Hook, Shelley Patterson, Shannon Potts O'Neil and Oliver Skinner-Volker who recently represented Fitzgerald at the Mackay Schools'

Tennis Competition. All players performed strongly against their opposition. Thanks to our school tennis coach 'Lefty' for his hard work and preparation with all of the players.

TUCKSHOP

Milos will finish at the end of this term. There will be a new menu coming out next term, keep an eye out for it. It will be sent home first day back at school.

Please do not staple or tape the lunch bags down. Do not write both breaks on one bag, you need two bags. Bags are for sale, 10c each at the tuckshop.

ROSTER:

Thurs 27th – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook
 Friday 28th – Aretha Lyons, Nikki Best
 Tues 1st Sept – Robyn Adams
 Wed 2nd - Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook
 Thurs 3rd – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook
 Friday 4th – Tamika Cook, Jenny Higginson
 Tues 8th – Robyn Adams
 Wed 9th – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook
 Antoinette and Daneal.

P&C

Thank you to all parents and students who came along to the last disco for the year a great night was had by all. Huge thanks to the parents who helped in the canteen, cooking on the bbq, at the door and security. A special thanks to Jai Wright for all his work in organising the night.

A reminder to everyone about the upcoming spell-athon. Money raised from these occasions goes towards resources for the school, last year we purchased a set of iPads for the school. Our next meeting is Tuesday September 8th in the staffroom beginning at 5.30pm.

Thanks again for your continued support of the P&C and your school.

Prep Enrolment Ages

Prep is the first year of school and provides the foundation for your child's education. Children must be 5 by 30 June in the year they enrol. Check the table below to see when your child can start Prep.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Child born 1/07/10 to 30/06/11	Prep			
Child born 1/07/11 to 30/06/12		Prep		
Child born 1/07/12 to 30/06/13			Prep	
Child born 1/07/13 to 30/06/14				Prep

Community Notices

WALK 4 WILLIAM MACKAY – On Saturday 12th Sept at 10.30 there will be a "Walk 4 William" held at Blue Water Quay from 10.00am. William Tyrell disappeared from Kendal NSW on the 12th September 2014.

MACKAY GYMNASTICS – are holding School Holiday Fun Days for primary aged boys and girls (aged between 5-12 years). Cost \$16.50 per day at 5 Snow Right Court Beaconsfield. Starts at 9.30am – 11.00 am Wednesday 23rd Sept, Friday 25th Sept, Wednesday 30th Sept, Friday 2nd October 2015.

SURF SAFE APPEAL 2015- Please support our Surf Lifesavers during the 2015 Surf Safe Appeal. Volunteer to collect for the Mackay Surf Lifesaving Club and participate in the Annual Door Knock event.

For further information please contact Mackay Surf Lifesaving Club on 4955 5630 or our Surf Safe Appeal Coordinator Karen on 0407381651.