

ISSUE NO 14

www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au

2015 Diary Dates...

September 7 – 17th: Prep

– Yr. 3 swimming

Sept 7th: Spell-a-thon forms to be returned.

Sept 7th:11th: Spell-a-thon tests conducted at school

Sept 11: Flash Mob – National Literacy & Numeracy Week

Sept 18: Last day of term

October 5th: Labour Day Holiday

October 19th: Pupil free day

November 12th: Spectacular Concert

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.

09 September 2015

From the Principal's Desk

Mathematics consultant, Tierney Kennedy, visited our school last week to continue working with our staff. Our students will benefit from this focus on Mathematics teaching and learning.

Our words are being tested this week for the Spell-a-thon. Results go home with the students so that the collection of sponsorship money is carried out by the 23rd October.

The Cultural Evening is set down for Wednesday, 16th September at 6pm in the hall. Our students in the choirs, bands and the drama group always present an enjoyable performance for us, it is an event to look forward to at the end of the term.

The prep to year 3 commenced their two week swimming program this week, details have been forwarded to parents.

The value for this month "A Fair Go" was highlighted to the student body on assembly by leaders Charlotte Meads and Bryon Ashfield-Smith. See the report on this value in the newsletter.

Last Friday we celebrated Teacher Aide Day, with a morning tea, to acknowledge the excellent support that the aides provide to our students and teachers, thank you everybody.

Our next P&C meeting is on Tuesday, 13th October at 5:30pm in the staffroom. You are most welcome to attend.

Enjoy the holidays, we start term four on Tuesday 6th October. The School Watch number is 131 788 for security breaches to our school.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson
Principal.

Foyer Display

National Literacy and Numeracy



Week highlights the importance of achieving proficiency in these important areas to enable our students to have the best possible life choices and chances. The NLNW 2015 foyer

display presents photographs of how student literacy and numeracy learning is supported across our school. Thank-you to our army of dedicated and professional Teacher Aides, who work with students across the school every day. Thank-you to Support Teachers, Bev Croton and Christina Sam for their commitment in helping our classroom teachers to differentiate learning to help meet the needs of all students. Thank-you to Special Needs Teacher, Sharon Roi, who advocates tirelessly for students with disabilities. Thank-you to Laurel Shaw and Janelle Stuart for helping to instil a love of reading and books, using both print and digital texts. And of course, thank-you to parents and caregivers who support the literacy and numeracy work happening in our classrooms, they are helping to ensure the best literacy and numeracy outcomes for their child.

Last week the spotlight was on Maths, with Tierney Kennedy visiting Fitzgerald to work with our Teacher Aides on supporting numeracy development across the year levels. Tierney also added to teacher understanding of the fluency proficiency of the Australian Curriculum: Maths and shared some practical ideas on how to differentiate mathematics instruction.

This week our attention is directed to literacy, with all classes participating in a NLNW 'Read all Day!' flash dance, an adaptation of Taylor Swift's 'Shake it Up!' Thank-you to Ms Scott-Girgenti and her group of year six dance leaders: Byron Ashfield-Smith, Charlotte Meads, Ian van der Westhuizen, Elarna Kennell, Caitlin Lauga and Joshua Wilson. Parents are invited to come along and join the celebration, on the school quadrangle at 2.30pm on Friday 11 September. **By Sue Hamilton-Smith**

ICAS English Competition Results

Congratulations to our students who competed in the ICAS English competition. Those students who received a Distinction, Credit or Merit Award:

Distinction – Penny Zhang.

Credit – Bryon Ashfield-Smith, Brooke Vella.

Merit- Jack McCubbin, Karli Davis.

Please bring in all of your Earn & Learn stickers as soon as possible as promotion has closed as of 8th September, we still have time to claim our rewards.

From the Guidance Officer - To mark the start of the 25th anniversary of National Child Protection Week, Australian of the Year Rosie Batty has called upon all Australians to play their part in protecting children from abuse and neglect.

“National Child Protection Week encourages everyone to learn about the role they can play in their local community so we can prevent abuse before it starts,” Ms Batty said.

Statistics released this year revealed that 40, 844 children were confirmed as having experienced abuse or neglect in Australia last year.

The 25th annual National Child Protection Week

(September 6 to 12) raises awareness about child abuse and neglect and this year aims to educate Australians about the impacts of family violence and simple ways they can create change in their own community.

For more information visit the NAPCAN website <http://napcan.org.au>

Sports Notices - School's Tennis Competition

Recently three Fitzgerald teams competed in the Mackay School's Tennis Competition. A total of 27 teams participated on the day. Fitzgerald 1 Team (Lilly Shepherd, Caiden Wood, and Ryan and Sheridan Donovan) finished in 11th position. Fitzgerald 2 Team (Sophia Sticklan, Lara Bolton, Shaye Plumley and Shelley Patterson) finished in 12th position. Fitzgerald 3 team (Shannon Potts O'Neill, Oliver Skinner Volker, Dakota Williams and Amy Hook) finished in 20th position. Well done to all teams!!

Interschool Sport

Our year three and four students have been participating in games of Oz Tag on Friday afternoons against other schools in Mackay. Last week our year four boys team continued their unbeaten run against St Francis and St Mary's. Our year three boys also won both of their games against St Francis. Whilst our year three and year four girls teams won one of their games and lost their other. Well done to all players.

Library Notices -WOW! What a huge responsibility and enormous shoes I have to fill! I would like to introduce myself as the new Teacher librarian at Fitz for the remainder of the year. As you would be aware, Mrs Laurel Shaw and I have worked closely together for the past two years and while she is off exploring the world, I am busy making the library my own. I would like to welcome you to come and help out in our library when you are able: we always have new books that need to be covered, children who love to read to, or be read to by an adult. We are also trialling home reading with our brave Year 3B and 3C classes, if you are available to listen to a child read in the mornings we would love to see you in the library.

Year 4 Camp – Kinchant Dam

The year 4 students and teachers enjoyed three days and two nights at Kinchant Dam completing various team building activities such as low ropes, adventure games, catapults, raft building and canoeing. Throughout the camp the students were challenged to use appropriate communication skills to complete their tasks, which improved immensely over the three days. The students impressed us with their use of manners at meal times and their willingness to get in help with the cleaning duties. So parents should have lots of help cleaning the house and doing the dishes! A massive thank you to our wonderful parent helpers, Nic Flor, Damien Carrison, Sharon Turner and Chris Davis who were simply amazing.

Best of the Bunch – Activities – Students who have demonstrated good behaviour this term get their opportunity to participate in B.O.B day activities, well done.

The Big Sing Performance –One hundred choristers from primary schools across Mackay and District will participate in a workshop to improve their choral skills for the rest of the week. This is a great opportunity for twenty-nine of our students who will be part of a combined choir to perform on Friday in the Hall at 3:30pm. All welcome to attend.

Student Council News – Sausage Sizzle – We are planning for our Sausage Sizzle on Monday. Thank you to our administration staff and parent volunteers who will assist in making this a great event. Thank you to Woolworths Andergrove for their kind donation of \$100 towards the sizzle.

Prep Excursion – On the 27th August, Prep went on their amazing Shoal Point Beach excursion. The students and teachers had lots of fun with rotating activities which involved parachute games, exploring rock pools, combing the beach for different objects and materials and building sand castles. The children were very well behaved and the weather was amazing. Some students managed to fall asleep on the bus trip home after a day of fun in the sun.



Year 2 Excursion-

On Friday, 28th August, Year 2 excitedly boarded buses and headed to the city for the first part of our excursion. We were extremely lucky that when we were examining the new mural on the levee wall due to be unveiled that evening, we were met by one of the artists, Marg. She very generously gave up her time to talk to us and to show us a particularly special part of the Paxton building's history. Sailors are sneaky!

As well as viewing some of Mackay's beautiful historic buildings as we walked down Sydney Street, we were able to have a guided tour through our Town Hall. Many thanks to Mr Andrew Allen from the Mackay Regional Council for allowing us to explore this significant 1912 building.



We then drove around Queens Park, the location of Mackay's original Botanic Gardens and then onto our lunch destination, the current Mackay Botanic Gardens. After a picnic lunch the garden's education officer, Maya Harrison, showed us the Heritage Gardens and helped us understand how early pioneers in Mackay had to grow all the food they needed.

This was an excellent excursion and many thanks to the wonderful parent helpers who accompanied us.

Year 1 Excursion- This term in our History Unit we have been focusing on how generations have changed over time, and how technology has changed and improved our lives today. As part of these activities the Year One students journeyed back in time to Greenmount Homestead where we were surrounded with examples of old technology and listened to historical stories about our local Mackay families. At Greenmount we looked through the old homestead, the sheds, yards and the museum/resource centre. We saw many weird and wonderful things, the old Gramophone was the hot topic



of discussion. The students immersed themselves in part of Mackay's history and enjoyed having time to talk with their peers, teachers and parents about the old and interesting things that they saw throughout the day. A big thank-you to the parent volunteers who attended and for their wonderful contributions to our discussions about changes across our generations.

School Chaplain Program – Thank you – Thank you for your support of this program, we were able to raise \$605.00 from the free dress day held recently.

School Value – Fair go – School Representatives of the Student Council presented their understanding of the value A Fair Go. A Fair Go is when you give other people opportunities to accomplish what they wish to achieve. A Fair Go shows that you can give other people chances at anything. It shows that you give opportunities to people, no matter what their history, their beliefs, or their origin. You respect others and allow them to try what you have tried, you help those in need, and you tell people what is needed. By Bryon Ashfield-Smith and Charlotte Meads.

P & C Notices

A reminder to everyone about the upcoming spell-a-thon. Sponsorship forms, whether filled out or not, need to be returned to the office by October 23rd. Funds raised from these occasions goes towards resources or projects for the school. A new Tuckshop menu will be out for the beginning of next term. The annual back to school book pack scheme is in the process of being organised. Watch this space for news on this early next term. Thanks again for your continued support of the P&C and your school.

Tuckshop Talk

Tuckshop is open until the end of term. Milo drinks will finish 18th September. Please watch out for the new menu, Tuesday 6th October. Please ensure all orders are filled out correctly. Have a safe holiday, see you all back Tuesday, 6th October.

ROSTER:

Thurs 10th October – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook.
Frid 11th – Jean Kelleher, Tamika Cook and Sarina Dodd
Tues 15th – Robyn Adams
Wed 16th – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook
Thurs 17th – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook,
Frid 18th – Jean Kelleher, Tamika Cook and Jenny Higginson.

Community Notices – MIFNQ invites parents, carers, families and friends of people with mental issues or illness to a series of FREE workshops. Workshop 1 – Self-care for you and your family (Tue Sept 15, 2015) Workshop 2 – Introduction to Mental Illness (Thu Oct 15, 2015) Workshop 3 – Loss and Recovery (Tue Oct 20, 2015) Time/Venue: 5:30 to 8:30 at MIFNQ office, besides Taylor's hotel, Alfred Street.

RSVP – 0408 007 324/ 0429 219 571

MIFNQ & Headspace Mackay invites parents, carers, teachers and families to an information session on Self-Harm. 16 September, 2015 6:00-7:30pm. Venue – TBA Enquires – Deb Parker – 0408 007 324 or Sheree Hollywood 0429 219 571.

2015 In2 Cricket at Magpies Cricket Club. Sign on day September 14th at Magpies Cricket Club commencing 5:30pm. Cost - \$85.00 includes bonus player pack. For more information call Wayne Nielsen – 0419 712 262.

Our newsletter can now be viewed on the school website www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au