

ISSUE NO 15

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2015 Diary Dates...

Oct 13th- 24th: Eisteddfod
Oct 19th: Pupil Free Day
Oct 19th: Prep Parent
Morning 9:30-10:30am
Oct 20th-30th: Prep
Interviews
Oct 21st: Spectacular ticket
order form due
Oct 23rd: Spell-a-thon
monies returned
Oct 26: Education Week
Oct 30: World Teachers'
Day
Nov 12th: Spectacular
Concert
Nov 10th: Book Fair
Dec 8th: Awards Night
Dec 8th: P&C Meeting
5:30pm
Dec 9th: Year 6 Dinner
Dance/Graduation
Dec 11th: Last Day of
School

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.

14 October 2015

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to term four everyone, a special welcome to the new families to our school. Planning for the 2016 school year has commenced with information being sought from our families concerning their intentions for enrolment. If you could complete the form going home with this newsletter and return to the school office by Friday, October, 23rd.

The prep families for next year are invited to an open morning, 9:30 – 10:30, this coming Monday, October, 19th. Please inform families who are interested in our school for 2016 to contact the school office for enrolment details.

The students are well into their practice routines for Eisteddfod and our Spectacular at the Mackay Entertainment Centre. A big well done to all involved with both these events. To date, the Recorder and Strings Ensembles 1st placings and the Concert Band gained a highly commended at the Eisteddfod. Don't forget to return your Spectacular seating ticketing order form by Wednesday, October, 21st.

The Spell-a-thon results are in and the collection of sponsorship money is happening, if we could have all money to the school office by Friday, October 23rd. Thank you for your support.

A reminder that next Monday, October 19th is a student free day for the school staff.



Congratulations to our scholarship winners to Mackay North State High School for 2016, Brooke Vella – Sport, Jack McCubben – Academic and Byron Ashfield-Smith – Academic. The students will be presented with their scholarships at a special ceremony next Wednesday.

Enjoy your week.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Mike".

Mike Anderson

Principal

Foyer Display -2A/B Animal Habitat Collages As part of our Technology assessment, Year 2 students were asked to design and construct a habitat for an Australian animal that identifies and includes its needs, using collage materials. After choosing an animal, the

students needed to research what their animal needs to survive. They then needed to think about the materials that they could use to construct a model



of the animal's habitat which shows its needs. The next step was to plan and label each part of the collage. Once the collage materials had been collected, the fun of constructing could begin! After the construction of the collages was completed, the students had to explain the features of their habitats and why they are significant to the chosen animal's needs, why they chose the materials that were used, what worked well with their construction, any problems that they experienced and any changes that they would make if they were to do this activity again.

I.C.A.S - A number of our students sat the I.C.A.S Mathematics competition recently and received at a Credit or Merit level. Congratulations to the following students.

Year 4: Lucas Maiorana – Credit

Year 5: Jaxon Bone, Baiden Papavasiliou,

Jessica Recker - Credit

Penny Zhang – Merit

Year 6: Brooke Vella – Credit

Bryon Ashfield-Smith, Joshua Wilson, Damon Randell - Merit

Every Day Counts – Every day counts is a state wide initiative that aims to assist in improving student attendance at school through a shared commitment by students, parents, caregivers, schools and the community.

Congratulations to these Year levels – Week One

Year level	Attendance %
Prep C	100%
1A	100%
2A	99%
2B	99%
3A	98.35%
4A	98.5%

News from the Library

Book Fair - Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading: Set the example. Let children see you read. Have a collection of books in the home. Update this collection routinely to keep pace with changing tastes and reading skills. Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.



Fitzgerald will hold our final Scholastic Book Fair for this year, the week beginning 10th November. This book fair will provide you with the opportunity for a little Christmas shopping! We will have a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level.

Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Book Fair Early Bird & Grand Opening: Tuesday 10th November 2015 from 4:30 – 6:00pm.

Students of Fitz! Come and visit your school library!

Pirates and cowboys have come to our library and will be leaving clues for you to discover. By the end of the term you may be able to read your way to a secret treasure! We also



have special lunch time activities running for each year level so you will need to visit our library to investigate!

Parents of Fitz! We invite you to visit Fitz's Reading Café and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: encouraging kids to open a world of possibilities through reading! Join us every Monday morning from 8:15 and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee whilst sharing a book with your child. There will never be a substitute for a parent's direct involvement in your child's education. But wait... there's more! Once the bell rings and you are able to stay and volunteer your time to help Mrs Ross cover all of our new books, we would really appreciate your time and support

Sports Notices

Steve Jackson Rugby League Carnival

A big congratulations to our Under 11 rugby league team that participated in the Steve Jackson Carnival against other Mackay schools. The team performed very well across the day and had victories against Victoria Park and Sarina, a draw against Emmanuel and two losses against Marian and Mackay West. Our team ended up coming third in our pool. Well done boys!

Mackay Netball Gala Day

Congratulations to our girls' netball team that recently participated in the Mackay Schools Netball Gala Day. The team performed very well across the day with victories against Eimeo Road, Mirani and Victoria Park, but they unfortunately had narrow losses to St Mary's and Emmanuel school. The team ended up finishing second in their pool. Well done to the team and thanks to Mrs Sheena Shaxson for coaching the team!

From the Guidance Officer - Managing Difficult Moments

Praise and other kinds of acknowledgement are motivating, and are often needed to help children (and adults) change their behavior. Psychological research has shown that following up on a person's good behaviour with something positive makes it more likely that the behaviour will happen again, but is this enough? The following suggestions will also contribute to a calmer household:

Pick the battles

*Especially as children get older the battlefield can, if not monitored, become 'out of control' – As children grow and assert their independence they, at times, push the boundaries. Friends and technology become a focus rather than family; safety can be ignored; messiness and mood changes can create disharmony in the family. Picking and choosing which battle to tackle is an art to acquire. **Remember: Safety is a priority not to be negotiated.**

Be clear in your expectations

* Is what you have asked your child/ adolescent to do clear enough to ensure the expected behaviour *is* realistic and achievable?

*Sometimes we ask children to do things that are too difficult for them to do without help e.g. expecting a child to be in charge of young siblings is not realistic nor safe. Monitor your own behavior.

* Are you managing your own emotions when you are requesting your child to do the same? Do you say one thing and do another?

*Catch Your Child/ Adolescents Being Good

Keep a record of the behaviours you are pleased with and share the positive observations with your child.

Have reward strategies up your sleeve for those `hard to change` behaviours:

*Ask your child about what they like. If they suggest the reward, it will be more motivating.

*Make sure the reward is realistic for you to give (and preferably not costing money).

*If a child wants to earn a big reward you could use a token system.

Follow through with consequence.

*Is it fair and related to the misdemeanor?

*Does your child understand why they are given the consequence?

*Will there be opportunity for your child to learn from their mistakes?

Tuckshop Talk

Welcome back to the last term of school. A couple of little reminders. No staples or sticky tape on bags, correct money and order on the correct day. A new menu will be in this newsletter, please have a look as there have been some changes with what can be ordered on certain days. This menu will start Tuesday 20th October.

ROSTER:

Thurs 15th: Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook, Kelly Innes

Friday 16th: Tamika Cook, Maisie Greaves, Jenny Higginson

Tues 20th: Robyn Adams

Wed 21st: Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook

Thurs 22nd: Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook, Kelly Innes

Friday 23rd: Tamika Cook, Jenny Higginson

Tues 27th: Robyn Adams

Wed 28th: Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook

Thank you Antoinette & Daneal

P & C Notices

Spell-a-thon: All Spell-a-thon forms and money need to be returned to the office by Friday October 23rd.

School Book Packs 2016: This year the P&C has decided to go with North Mackay News Express on Evans Avenue as the supplier of the book packs for 2016. This is a local family business and we would encourage as many families as possible to support our local businesses. This year we will be offering different payment and delivery options. The lists and options for ordering and payment will come home next week.

Tuckshop Menu: A new tuckshop menu will take effect next week and is included with this newsletter. Please take the time to read the new menu and note new days and choices.

Thank you for your continued support of the P&C.

Students Helping Students – by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher - Students are helping students learn to read every day at Fitzgerald State School. Before classes begin, an army of trained big buddies visit the year one classes to read with and encourage their little reading buddies. Long before the first bell, the highly skilled year six tech crew set up and log on a bank of laptop computers, they are ensuring that when the year two and three online reading group arrive, they can get straight onto their reading practice. The year six library monitors report for duty each lunch time to efficiently check in and out library books to help all those students across the school who are keen to read. Learning to read is the number one priority at Fitzgerald and these great student leaders are getting up early, giving up their own time and helping to grow great readers.



L to R Year six library monitors, Amber Vella and Josie Westcott help Brooke Bowen borrow a book from the school library



Back L to R Year six tech crew members, Toby Jones and Paige Penola help year three students Debra van der Westhuizen and Francois Laas with their morning online reading lesson



L to R Year four student, Bianca Flor, helps little buddy, Nathan Pitt with his reading.



L to R Yr. four student, Emily-Rose Newsome, helps her little reading buddy, Georgia Hocking.

Community Notices

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 in their care. Contact us for a foster care information pack on 4953 5097 or carepathwaysqld.com.au.

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