

## From the Principal's Desk

### 2013 Diary Dates...

#### Eisteddfod Times

**Oct 24:** Yr 4-5 Choir  
Starts at 6:30pm

**Oct 25:** Yr 6-7 Choir-  
Bus leaves at 7:30am

**Oct 26:** Drama Group  
Starts at 8:30am

**Oct 21:** Pupil Free  
Day

**Oct 21:** Prep Open  
Morning 9:30-10:30

**Oct 25:** Spell-a-thon  
Monies due

**Oct 25:** World  
Teachers Day

**Oct 25:** Day for  
Daniel

**Nov14:**  
Spectacular

**Dec 10:** Awards Night

**Dec 12:** Year 7  
Dinner Dance

### 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.

Welcome to our last term for the year, a special welcome to our new families to the school. This term in so many ways gives us the opportunity to celebrate all that is good about our school and reflect on the collective efforts of our school community throughout the year.

The Eisteddfod commenced this week for our students and will continue for the fortnight. We are looking forward to hearing of the achievements for our students. Performance details are included in this newsletter.

Our Spectacular, 'Ghost Camp' will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Mackay Entertainment Centre. Information concerning ticket allocations was sent home Tuesday.

Students in Years 3, 5 and 7 have received their national test result reports. Our school performance overall is similar to the national mean in the five areas Numeracy, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, Reading and Writing. Well done to the students who have improved their results or attained excellent results. Thank you to the staff, parents and students for your efforts.

We are seeking information as to whether your children will continue at our school for 2014. Please complete the form going home with this newsletter and return it to the school office by Friday October 25<sup>th</sup>. If the form is not returned we will assume that your children will be returning. This information assists us in planning staff numbers for next year.

An open morning for the 2014 Prep families is planned for this coming Monday October 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30am to 10:30am at the Hall. Please inform prospective families for 2014 to contact the school office for enrolment details.

A reminder that our school has a student free day on Monday October 21<sup>st</sup>.



Mike Anderson

Principal.

## **Foyer News – 4C and 4D**

Year 4 have had a busy Term 3 and are now re-energised to attack the last nine weeks of the year. With Spectacular on the horizon and end of year reports, we encourage parents to remind students of homework responsibilities and to remain focused for the final stretch.



We have on display in the foyer some work samples from Term 3, including some photos from Bike Ed, our research on Saibai Island and recounts of people during the arrival of the First Fleet.

## **D for Daniel Day**

The Day for Daniel is a National Day of Action to raise awareness of child safety, protection and harm prevention. Students are asked to wear something red as an accessory to their uniform to promote this day of action on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

## **ICAS Maths Competition**

Student results in the recent NSW University ICAS English Competition are as follows:  
Credits – Jacinta Harris, Brooke Vella, Josh Wilson, Callum Chester-Master, Brianna Edgar, Rebecca Flor, Reilly Kurtz, Carlton Rees, Jessica Tilbrook, Trinity Robinson, Kaylah Smith, May-lee Wilson.  
Distinctions – Rohan Murray.  
Well done to all who participated!

## **News from the Library**

The competition for the Kindle e-book reader was a huge success last term. Students from all year levels showed great levels of creativity when writing the poem and choosing a site for reading. We had students reading to chickens and reading in space as well as on the trampoline!

Unfortunately only one person could win the prize! That lucky person was Luke Pain from 6A. Congratulations!

Thank you to every family that participated and helped to “Read across the Universe!”

This term we will be holding our second Book Fair for the year. It will be held during Week 8 – November 18-22. This is a great opportunity to purchase some Christmas presents while helping to support our Library at Fitzgerald!  
Laurel Shaw, Teacher Librarian.

## **Learning Literacy**

*Pause – Prompt - Praise* by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Literacy Coach

The teaching and learning of reading is the Number One academic priority at Fitzgerald State School and will continue to be so in 2014. Developing readers need a bank of handy sight words. They are also taught a range of strategies to help them to work out unknown words. They use the sound-letter combinations of our language, but also look at the pictures for clues and they look into a word for patterns they may know. They read on and re-read and use the punctuation to read in a phrased and fluent way, like they are telling a story. Our developing readers are taught that reading is thinking and to ask: *Does this look right? Does this sound right? Does this make sense?* A developing reader needs a patient, supportive adult as they practise using these strategies. A supportive adult keeps reading to a developing reader and also leads a developing reader towards independence.

**PAUSE** when a child experiences difficulty reading a word. Pause before expecting an answer. Be patient. Give them a chance to think for themselves. Give them a chance to work it out on their own.

**PROMPT** to help a child to continue reading. Give a hint. Remind them of a strategy that would be useful. But if they don't know or if word is not correct after two or three prompts, say, “The word is \_\_\_\_\_.”

**PRAISE** a child who is working at being a great reader. Use explicit praise. ‘Great phrasing!’ ‘I like how you stopped at the full stops.’ ‘You used your sounds to work out that word.’ ‘I liked the way you re-read that sentence when it wasn't making sense.’ ‘You worked it out by finding a little word in that long tricky word.’ ‘Well done. I saw you looking at the picture to help you work



out that word.' Use general praise. "Good job!"  
'Great reading!' 'I like when you read to me.'  
'Now I'll read to you.'

### **Sports Notices**

Tim Campbell is away as the CQ Regional manager at the State Athletics Championships in Brisbane with Paige Steindl-Corrie who is competing in track and field events. We wish Paige all the very best.

### **Use of School Facilities**

Parents are reminded if they wish to use the school facilities for after school sport etc, they need to call at the office to complete a "Long Term Use Agreement" form and have it approved by the Principal. This is a legal requirement by Education Queensland.

### **P & C News**

At our monthly meeting approval was given for the erection of a permanent shelter over the infant fort. This is good news for our students. Don't forget to get the Spell-a-thon money to the office by next Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October so that we can finalise the count and award prizes to the classes and students.

### **Tuckshop Talk**

Welcome back to another term of school. Hope you all had an enjoyable break. A reminder that Fruit Salad Yoghurt is no longer available. Parents are reminded that when sending money for tuckshop, please do not include any foreign coins as the bank will not accept them. When placing your order, please ensure that you are ordering for the correct day and that you enclose the correct change in the bag as payment. The tuckshop has a very small float to start the day and it is very difficult to organise change for \$20 or \$50 notes.

### **Roster**

Thurs – 17/10 – Robyn Adams  
Fri – 18/10 – Jean Kelleher, Cath Kean  
Tues – 22/10 – Robyn Adams  
Wed – 23/10 – Robyn Adams  
Thurs – 24/10 – Robyn Adams, Nikki Pao  
Fri – 25/10 – Cath Kean  
Tues – 29/10 – Robyn Adams  
Wed – 30/10 – Robyn Adams  
Thank you, Daneal and Antoinette

### **Community Notices**

**Foster Carers** – Could you be one? Contact us for a Foster Care information pack on 49535 097 or visit [carepathwaysqld.com.au](http://carepathwaysqld.com.au)

**Brooke-Lee Modelling and Department School** – Mackay Workshop – For more information go to [www.brookelee.com.au](http://www.brookelee.com.au) or call 0406 974 439.

**Mackay Salvation Army** – Food and gift collections has begun for families in need for this years Christmas Appeal. Please remember that we accept all non-perishable food, no alcohol or chocolate and all food must be in date. Donations can be dropped off at the Family Store at 48 Gregory St, Mackay.

**Northside's Christmas Card & Gift Sale**  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November, 9am-1pm,  
Northside Uniting Church, corner Bedford Rd and Fleurs Way, Andergrove. For more information phone Gwenda or Peter on 49 421438 or 0428 976 858.

**Mackay Coastal Clean Up** – Come along and help protect our beautiful beaches. For more information go to [www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au](http://www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au) or contact Eco Barge Clean Seas on 49465 198.

