

ISSUE NO 17

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2015 Diary Dates...

Nov 11th: Spectacular
Whole School Rehearsal

Nov 12th: Spectacular
Matinee- 12.30pm

Nov 12th: Spectacular
Concert 1. Prep –Yr. 3
6.00pm

Nov 12th: Spectacular
Concert 2. Yr. 4-Yr 6
7.30pm

Nov 10th: Book Fair
Commences

Dec 2nd: Book pack
available for collection

Dec 8th: Awards Night

Dec 8th: P&C Meeting
7:30pm

Dec 9th: Year 6 Dinner
Dance/Graduation

Dec 9th: Report cards go
home

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.

11th November 2015

From the Principal's Desk

Following the Spectacular performance on Thursday night, over two thousand parents and students will have been entertained by our prep to year six students over two concert performances and a matinee performance of the year six production, 'I Spy'.

Our year six students take to the Spectacular stage with their psychedelic seventies musical comedy production of 'I Spy'. The evil Stench organisation has stolen the largest diamond in the world. They plan to hold the world to ransom by using the diamond to power their huge city-destroying laser weapon. The top secret agents of Abolish aim to stop the diabolical plan by retrieving the diamond and freeing the peace-loving peoples of the world from the clutches of Stench. The original 'I Spy' script was written by Tim Donnelly, the musical score by Jill Green and lyrics by Conny Groen and was last performed in 2005. What a tradition of high quality productions, this one being the thirty-second.

Once again, to our director, Jill Green and her wonderful team of current and former staff and parents, special thanks, a huge and obviously enjoyable task for all.

We look forward to seeing the benefits of a good Arts Program with our students displaying their talents for our community to enjoy.

Concert one commences of 6:00pm and concert two commences at 7:30pm. Drop off and pick up arrangements are included in this newsletter.

Enjoy your week.

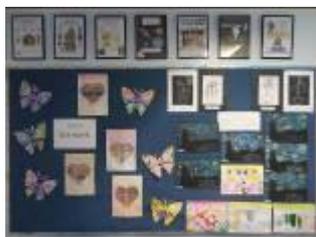


Mike Anderson

Principal.

Foyer Display

This Term in Prep our Science unit is all about movement and how things move. The art that we created allowed the children to use those movements to create art. The rest of the art pieces are a combination of water paint spray techniques and craypas drawings. The children used these techniques to replicate famous artist's pieces.



Spell-a-thon Fundraiser - We raised \$6367.80 from the spell-a-thon. A big thank you to students and staff for your support. This money will go to purchasing necessary classroom resources.

Parent Volunteers – Thank you - During Education Week 200 parents received a certificate of recognition for their support of our school, Thank you parents for your continuing support of us in a range of ways from school camps to classroom support to tuckshop to attending P&C Meetings and so on.

School Confidence – Parents - The recent School Opinion Survey indicated that 98% of the parent respondents agreed that students receive a good education at our school. It is pleasing to see that parent confidence is high in our school, well done to parents, staff and students.

School Attendance - Please ensure that if your child is absent, you inform the school either on the day of the absence or upon return to school. **Student Absence Line: 49 656 360**

2016 School Term Dates – Students

Wednesday	27/01/2016 - 24/03/2016	Term 1
Monday	11/04/2016 – 24/06/2016	Term 2
Monday	11/07/2016 - 16/09/2016	Term 3
Tuesday	04/10/2016 - 09/12/2016	Term 4

Safety: Early Arrivals to School - Parents please be aware that there is no school supervision before 8.00 am at our school. The dropping-off of your children at 7:00am or 7:30am is a potential risk to their safety.

'Year 6 Tech Crew' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher - The Year Six Tech Crew are assisting the reading improvement of a group of younger students by setting up and logging on a bank of laptop computers early each morning. They are ensuring that when the year two and three online Reading Eggs group arrive, they can get straight onto their reading practice. The group of big and little buddies and Teacher Aides will celebrate a job well done at a Breakfast Reading Party in the Library on Friday morning of Week 9.



Pictured here, front Row L to R: Taleeka Morgan, Toby Jones, Chloe Berkett, Jaala Grant, Tara Forbes. Middle Row L to R: Hamish Armstrong, Paige Penola, Byron Ashfield-Smith, Brittney Sartor, Sharna Gray, Emma Benson, Amber Vella, Jacinta Harris. Back Row L to R: Damon Randell, Joseph Garcia, Daniel Counsell, Josie Wescott, Charlotte Meads, Ebony Columb, Hailey Wallace, Ebony Di Guardo, Emily McLennan. Absent: Githmal De Soysa, Tiana Pompey, Sara Taylor, Jack Wicks.

'Completion of the Premier's Reading Challenge' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher - The Premier's Reading Challenge period is over for 2015 and once again an impressive amount of students participated this year. Special mention must go to three classes who achieved 100% participation in the Challenge. Congratulations to Mrs Meg Collins and 1A, Mrs Jill Hobbin and 3A and Ms Croston and 6B.

'Break a leg, Fitzgerald!' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher - The benefits of an arts rich education are great. There are strong links between arts education, student motivation and engagement in school - attitudes that contribute to academic achievement. Arts education builds communication skills. The beat, repetition and patterns of music and dance makes for great numeracy. The arts demands creative problem-solving, planning, organisation and perseverance. Studies show that students who engage in the arts demonstrate improved performance in academic grades, standardised test scores and attitudes concerning community. Participation in the arts broadens experience, caters for different learning styles and promotes divergent thinking. This week's 'Arts Spectacular' is a showcase and celebration of arts education at Fitzgerald State School. This event promotes community – a shared purpose and team spirit. In the classroom this translates to students who have a sense of belonging, have developed positive relationships with those around them, who feel good about themselves and are ready to learn. The Australian Curriculum states that, "The Arts have the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, exciting the imagination and encouraging them to reach their creative and expressive potential." Have fun and break a leg this week Fitzgerald!

Spectacular Drop off and Pick up Arrangements

CONCERT ONE

Commences at **6.00pm**.

Prep, Year One, Year Two and Year Three students should assemble in the undercover walkway located between the Entertainment Centre and the City Library at **5:30pm**.

All students will be under supervision outside the Auditorium for the whole of Concert One.

Parents must see the class teacher to have their child marked as left prior to taking their child.

We anticipate Concert One will **conclude by about 7.00pm**. Following the performance all children to be collected from the foyer.

CONCERT TWO

Commences at **7.30pm**.

Years 4 and 5 students not in Wakakirri should assemble in the Entertainment Centre Grounds **near the Fountain at 7:00pm**.

Year 4-6 students who are performing in the first half of Concert 2 or the Year 6 production are required to go straight to the Space where they will be supervised.

Year 4 students should have a ticket to sit with parents after their performance or are to be collected by parents.

Students in Year 5 will be escorted to their seats at the rear of the theatre after their performances.

Year 4 and 5 students who are not staying for the rest of the show after their class item must be collected by parents' immediately in the foyer area when their children have completed their commitments. Teachers will be unable to wait with children due to other performance duties so we ask parents to be prompt in the collection of their children.

Library News - We have oceans of books available for purchase at our final Book fair of the year! Come along and do your Christmas shopping or simply buy a book! The Book Fair is our major fundraising activity for the Library each year with 20% of the sales going towards Fitzgerald's library collection.

Opening times:

Tuesday 10th Nov 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Wednesday 11th Nov 8:00 – 9:00 am

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Thursday 12th Nov 8:00 – 9:00 am

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Friday 13th Nov 8:00 – 9:00 am

If you are ever feeling lonely - come to our library! Each day we have a wide selection of lunch time activities for students to participate in! Mondays through to Wednesdays we rotate through a choice of computer work, programming BeeBots (little computer robots), puzzles, jigsaws, jumbo chess, checkers, games and drawing! Each Thursday our library becomes a Martha Stewart playground aka Craft day! Last week we all enjoyed making paper bag kites! Fridays we sit down and relax watching a movie in our lovely air conditioned library or read our favourite books in comfort. But every day is a reading day in our school library! Come along and join the fun!

Parent In-service – 'Critical Number Concepts' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum - Five Critical Number Concepts that need to be understood to help build a strong mathematical foundation for the future. Some easy activities that parents and caregivers can do to help support the number work that is happening in the classroom.

Quantity – Trusting the count, ability to total. Key question: What changes a number and what doesn't? *At home: Count mixed groups of objects, move them around and count them again. Play board games where the number of moves matches the number on the dice. Set the table with the right amount of items for all. Get the right amount of pegs to hang out clothing on the line.*

Partitioning – Ability to break numbers into smaller parts and put them together again. Key question: Can you show this number in another way? *At home: Play skittles (six plastic bottles works well), talk about how many were knocked down and how many are left to get. Make money values using different coins and notes. Play Snakes & Ladders with two dice. Play card games.*

Place value – Relative size, understanding of how big numbers are when compared to each other. Key questions: How are these numbers kind of the same? How are these numbers different? *At home: Compare and sort objects that are similar and different because of colour, shape and material. Play with sand or water using different sized cups. Learn the time on an analogue clock face. Talk about quantity, weight, volume and cost differences when shopping.*

Arrays – Multiplicative thinking, ability to picture multiplication in a two-dimensional structure (array or grid), rather than in a single dimension (additive). Key question: Can you show this number in rows? *At home: Look for arrays like eggs in an egg carton and windows on a high rise building. Cover a Lego 8 block with blocks of one, two and four. Learn number facts with spots placed in arrays.*

Fractions – Proportional reasoning, size of a part compared to the whole. Key question: What can you tell me about this part? *At home: Talk fractions when cutting*

up sandwiches, when sharing a plate of food, pizza or pie. Use measuring cups when in the kitchen.

School Value Freedom- Representatives of the Student Council presented their understanding of the value Freedom on school parade.

Freedom is an inner sense of calm. It comes especially in quiet moments of reflection or gratitude. It is getting very quiet and looking at things so you can understand them. Freedom is a way of approaching conflict with others so that no one is made wrong. It is being fair to others and yourself. Freedom is giving up the love of power for the power of love. Freedom is enjoying all the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship free from unnecessary interferences or control. With freedom, everyone wins. By Amber Vella and Jacinta Harris.

Japanese Speech Contest - Joshua Wilson, Rachel Harold, Joseph Garcia, Trista Nelson, Imogen Boucher, Riley Brown and Caitlin Lauga represented Fitzgerald School, Year 6 division, at our annual Japanese Speech Contest. With about 200 students from 24 schools in the Mackay area, it was the biggest turnout yet! The Year 6 division had the most students and it was tough competition to get through to the final 5 students. Even though we had no Fitzgerald representation in the finals, all students delivered excellent speeches. Well done, Fitzy!

P & C Notices - 2016 Book Pack orders have now closed through the office but can be dropped off at North Mackay News Express in Evans Avenue. A big Thank You to all families who have ordered this year. For those who opted for a school pickup your orders will be back at the school on December 2nd.

The Spell-a-thon was again a success with a little over \$6000 raised.

A Pizza Day is slotted for later this month, a note will come home shortly about it.

Thank you for continued support of the P&C.

From the Guidance Officer - Transitioning to high school

We would like to invite **parents/carers of Year 6 students** to attend an information session about transitioning to high school and some of the challenges the teenage years may present. The session will be presented by Sandi Winner from Headspace and Allahna Heywood from Community Youth Mental Health. The presenters will offer an insight into some of the social issues, mental health concerns or other general issues which students and their families may encounter and how they can access resources and supports which may help.

WHEN: Tuesday 17th November

TIME: 6-7pm

VENUE: Fitzgerald State School Library

RSVP: Alexia Wotherspoon – Guidance Officer (awoth3@eq.edu.au) or phone the school office 49656333

Tuckshop Talk

Thurs 12th Nov – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook, Jenny Higginson

Frid 13th – Alma Hawden, Tamika Cook, Maise Greaves

Tues 17th – Robyn Adams

Wed 18th – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook

Thurs 19th – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook

Frid 20th – Tamika Cook, Jenny Higginson, Maise Greaves

Tues 24th - Robyn Adams

Thankyou

Antoinette & Daneal