

ISSUE NO 2

www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au

2016 Diary Dates...

26 Feb: Safety Circus
11.15am
8 Mar: P&C AGM
9 Mar: Arts Council – It's a
Mad World
11 Mar: Cross Country
11 Mar: School Disco
24 Mar: Easter Hat Parade
24 Mar: Last day of School
25 Mar: Good Friday
16 June: Junior Sports Day
17 June: Senior Sports Day
10 Nov: Spectacular

17 February 2016

From the Principal's Desk

Our student leaders for 2016 are to be invested into their positions at a special parade on February 29th at 9:00am, congratulations leaders. The school leaders are listed in this newsletter.

Class Photographs for our prep students will appear in the Daily Mercury on Wednesday 23rd March. Students are asked to wear full school uniform on the photo day, 19th February.

The School Dress Code requires that all students wear the appropriate school uniform. Some reminders for the commencement of the year.

- * Class shirts to be worn on the designated day, Wednesday for this year.
- * Representative uniforms can be worn at school on one day only, immediately following the event.
- * Hats are to be royal blue not other colours.
- * Cultural uniforms to be worn on designated days.
- * Sports shirts to be worn on physical education lesson days and athletics day.

Parents could you please support us by discussing these reminders with your children.

Our Parents' and Citizens' Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8th March at 5:30, your attendance is important. Nominations for the executive positions will be sought at this meeting.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson
Principal.

Student Absence Line: 49656360

This service is available for parents rating their children's absence from school. Please clearly state their name, class and reason for absence. All absences are recorded for teachers.



Our Adopt-a-Cop, Constable Tonia Bradford on Parade with the Student of the Week recipients

Staff Profile



Hi, I am Rosie Watchirs, I am teaching 1A this year. I am very excited about being transferred to Fitzgerald because of its reputation and renowned expertise among staff. Since my

arrival at Fitz, my expectations have been exceeded and I am looking forward to what this year will bring.

I began teaching in Brisbane in 2011. I had access to very good schools and the learning opportunities available in a major city. By the time I moved to Mackay in 2013, I truly understood that my role as a teacher is to provide my students with a positive, caring, learning environment that enables them to grow personally, academically and socially. I see myself as part of a learning community, alongside my colleagues, students and their families.

I love being a teacher because I have the opportunity to see young people become more aware of their own decisions and grow in self-confidence. I am in a privileged position of giving the gift of education. When I meet a challenge, I remind myself of the rich rewards that teaching brings.

2016 Student Leaders –

Student Council – Alyssa Muller, Mitali Peshorn, Penny Zhang, Eva-Jane Newsome, Baiden Papavasiliou, Fletcher Klein, Emily Laird, Jackson Cross.

House Captains – JABIRU – Cody Vassallo, Ebony Wellby, BROLGA – Ryan Laycock, Teesha Edwards, KINGFISHER – Ryan Clews, Tara MacDonald, EAGLE – Ethan Ashford, Savannah Gorjup-Walters.

System Monitors – Alicia Flor, Rachel Kavana, Kane Steenhauer, Athlaia Garcia, Emma Young, Amy Young, Neah Rodgers, Mark Reedman, Dekotah Seed, Lucie Sippel.

Sports Monitors – Regan Benson, Ryan Donovan, Bryon Wood, Skye Mathers, Amarli Timor, Jordon Latcham.

From the Office – Student Accounts - Thank you to those parents who have already started making payments to the child's account for this school year. Many payment options are available, direct deposit, Centrelink, credit card or cash. **Please ensure all forms have your student's full name and class.**

Total student costs for 2016 are Prep Year \$241, Year 1 \$244, Year 3 \$253, Year 4 \$330, Year 5 \$176 and Year 6 \$470. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, we are very flexible with payment options, please enquire at the office.

Tackling cyber bullying - Children today are proficient in technologies such as mobile phones, email and the internet, however they don't always have the confidence or the knowledge to deal with cyber bullying. The Queensland Government has launched a new cyber safety pamphlet to help parents keep their children safe from online bullies.

Cyber safety – Links for families is a practical guide for parents, providing information and a list of resources and services to support safe online behaviour.

To download a copy of the pamphlet visit www.deta.qld.gov.au/docs/cybersafety.pdf

The Learning Café Monday Afternoons 2.30-3.00pm - by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher

The topics over the next two weeks will be of interest to most parents and caregivers of the Fitzgerald school community. Monday 22 February, 'Reading Eggs Online home access', and Monday 29 February, 'Maths Number Facts Strategies' Learning Café sessions at 2.30pm in the school library. Come and share a cuppa with school staff and find out more about how to support your child's school learning at home. Send an email to Sue Hamilton-Smith shami40@eq.edu.au if you need to know more, or if you have any suggestions for future 'Learning Café' topics.

ATSI Family Homework Support each Tuesday 3.00-4.00pm - by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher

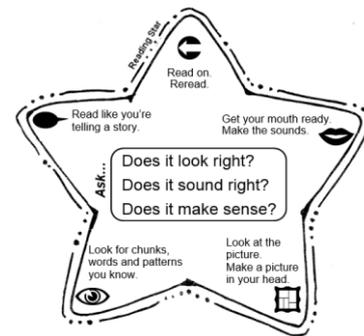
Parents and caregivers of Fitzgerald's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island (ATSI) students are invited to accompany their children to the weekly ATSI Family Homework Support afternoon, to be held in the mini computer lab beside 4E, from 3.00-4.00 pm each Tuesday of Semester One (with the exception of the last week of each term). Contact Toni Mooney tmoon38@eq.edu.au for more information.

Years 3-6 Inter-school Writing Competition - by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher

'North of the Pioneer - What animal makes the best pet?' Years 3 to 6 Student Persuasive Writing Competition. Each state school north of the Pioneer River is invited to submit their top two entries, in each year level, these students will each receive Highly Commended certificates. A Writer Prize Pack and a certificate will be awarded to each final winner and runner up in each year level category. There is no entry form, but students should add their Name, School, Grade (or ICP year level) on the By-line of their writing piece. Students are asked to also include a title. No handwritten entries. Quality of ideas, creativity and language use will be considered as more important than word count. Entries to Sue Hamilton-Smith by 4pm Friday 22 April 2016.

The Reading Star -by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher

A whole of school reading strategy is the use of the Reading Star. This provides a supportive guide to decoding words and essential meaning making. Every student should be able to name the five strategies on the points of the Reading Star that they can use to



work out an unknown word. Adults use exactly the same cues when they read challenging text. Reading is a complex cognitive process. The English language is tricky. Students who over-rely on a single strategy like 'sounding out' limit their ability to work out unknown words. These three questions help children to ensure that they are thinking and making meaning as they read: *Does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it make sense?*

Attendance-

Attendance figures remained high in Week 2 with 7 classes exceeding 98% of students attending every day and Year 6A having 100% attendance for the week. Well Done 6A!

Week 3 attendance has seen a drop in overall attendance figures with our highest attending class having an average of 98% of students at school.

Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year. Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year.

More information on the importance of regular school attendance is available at

<http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html>

Great effort – Mrs Tracey Adams, Deputy Principal.

From the Guidance Officer - 12 ALTERNATIVES to 'Losing it' with your Child

We all know that children, including adolescents, at times, can 'drive you crazy'. They may not listen. They are messy. They don't think before they act. They don't consider another's feelings. Unfortunately these factors are a part of growing up, and it takes a loving family to help them learn to be respectful, responsible, tolerant, caring, loving and self-controlled. When everyday problems pile up, our tolerance as parents may not be as strong. Often our ability to *control ourselves* will be tested. We may be easily angered but the message here is: **DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON YOUR CHILD or CHILDREN or PARTNER.**

It's a matter of mustering your self-control (we all have it). Think of the benefits.

If you show self-control, your child knows what it looks like and can copy it.

Here are some alternatives: Stop in your tracks. Step back. Sit down. Talk yourself back to calm. Take 5 deep breaths. Inhale. Exhale. Slowly. Slowly.

Count to 10. Better yet, 20 or say the alphabet out loud or backwards. Phone a friend, or a relative. Still mad? Punch a pillow, a punching bag or munch an apple. Thumb through a magazine, newspaper, photo album, and work manual.

Do some sit-ups, kick a ball, and jog on the spot.

Pick up a pencil and write down your thoughts/ feelings/ frustrations. Take a shower, or better still, a bath. Lie down on the floor listening to your favourite music. Talk to your pet – they are good listeners and non-judgemental. Go to your shed (if you have one) otherwise do that gardening/ mowing you need to do.

By now hopefully you are feeling calm. By now the problem may not have seemed like it deserved the blood pressure, but it's time to deal with the issue in a calm, peaceful, rational way. You can do it. It's all a matter of choice.

Adapted from: Qld Centre for Prevention of Child Abuse Information Sheet

Sports Notices

Mackay Swimming Team

Congratulations to Ethan Banks and Shandon Bentley who have been selected in the Mackay Districts School Sport Swimming team. Their times will now be submitted for possible selection in the Capricornia team. Well done Ethan and Shandon.

Library Notice

Reading seems to be in full swing in our library! This is absolutely fantastic to witness each and every day. You are more than welcome to pop in and visit our library. During each lunch hour, our library is buzzing with activity, students are productively playing with blocks, reading quietly, using the computers and participating in various board and card games with Mr Nic Ayre, Mrs Davis and ourselves.

We would also like to promote our subscriptions for Reading Eggs which each child has an individual user name and a generic password which is **fitz2016** we

would love to hear your child's good news story and we will aim to keep you up to date with their progress. World Book Online is another useful tool for your child to use whilst at Fitzgerald State School. As a part of our subscription all students have the ability to participate in online games, activities and guides your child to level appropriate information when researching. Word Book Online can be accessed through Fitzgerald's CMEWeb <http://fitzgerass.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/> or Word Book Online <http://www.worldbookonline.com> Username: **fitzlib** Password: **fitz1883**

We are also hoping to gather previously loved Lego pieces to use as a part of our lunchtime activities. If you would be willing to donate any Lego to our school we would love to hear from you. If you have any questions, please pop into our library or drop me an email jstua19@eq.edu.au.

P & C Notices

School Uniforms

The school P&C is considering a revision of the school sports uniform. Parents, particularly of children in years Prep-2, are invited to attend the next P&C meeting to express interest in being part of this revision process. 5:30pm, 8th March in the Admin block, staff common room.

Mother's Day Stall - HELP Needed!!

For the past number of years Fitzgerald P&C has been able to provide a quality Mother's Day stall as a service to the school community and fundraiser. However, there is no longer anyone to co-ordinate this great initiative. If you would be interested in taking on this role, please Contact the Fitz P&C (jaianthonywright@gmail.com, (0429 852 949).

Tuckshop Talk

BBQ chips and Aqua hero flavoured water are no longer available until further notice.

ROSTER:

Thurs 18th – Jenny Higginson, Robyn Adams
Friday 19th – Melissa Sterling, Masie Greaves
Tuesday 23rd – Robyn Adams
Wednesday 24th – Robyn Adams
Thursday 25th – Jenny Higginson, Robyn Adams
Friday 26th – Maisie Greaves
Tuesday 1st March- Robyn Adams
Wednesday 2nd – Robyn Adams, Tamika Cook
Thank you Antoinette and Daneal

Community Notices

Mackay Saturday Drive

A scavenger hunt style event particularly for those new to Mackay. A chance to see some of the sights around Mackay, meet some new people and have some fun. 9-2pm, this Saturday 20th February. Meet at Fitz hall. Contact Jai for more info 0429 852 949

jaianthonywright@gmail.com

FITZGERALD JUNIOR HOCKEY SIGN ON

HOOK INTO HOCKEY – New Players

Under 7, Under 9 & Under 11

Date: 18th February 2016

Time: 3.15pm-4.00pm Tuckshop Area

Enquiries if unable to attend or for any further details Please Contact – Sharon Turner 0439795115

/49550804 or chippaturner@bigpond.com