

From the Principal's Desk**Dates for your 2013
Diary....**

22 Feb: Arts Council
– ‘Then and Now’

1 Mar: School Dance

12 Mar: P&C
Meeting 5.30pm

21 Mar: Harmony
Day

26 Mar: Choral
Festival

28 Mar: Easter Hat
Parade, Prep to Year
2

28 Mar: Last Day of
Term

15 April: Term 2
Commences

**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.

Congratulations to our School Leaders for 2013. Our leaders are to be invested into their positions by Mr Jason Costigan, Member for Whitsunday at a special parade on Monday 4th March at 9:00. The names of our leaders are included in this newsletter.

Our students have received information about the School Dance and a Parent Participation Form, if you could complete and return the forms by Friday 22nd February, thank you.

Class photographs of our year one students will appear in the Daily Mercury on Wednesday 20th March.

It was pleasing to see the number of parents attending the parent-teacher information sessions. Further communication can be had with our staff by arranging to have an interview at a mutually acceptable time. Parent-teacher interviews are planned for the end of this term. At these interviews the academic and social progress of your children is discussed.

Our school will be participating in the Flood Relief Appeal by conducting a Free Dress Day this Friday, 22nd February, with a gold coin donation. Students are reminded to wear sensible and safe clothing.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson

Principal.

School Council		Sports Captains		
Nicolas Morokutti Cameron Harmer May-Lee Wilson Pratibha Raut Hayley Berck Tenaya Quinn Mickeye Sippel Courtney Virgo	House	Captains	V. Captain	
	Eagle	Jacob Morris Stephanie Honan	Kye Grant Dana Costigan	
	Jabiru	Jacob Flor Allie Whitehead	Eli Monk Reanna Quinn	
	Brolga	Kyuss Grant Paige Steindl-Corrie	Jose Ong Jessica Flor	
	KingFisher	Mitchell Cheetham Keely Coburn	Declan Wheeler Kenzie Nichols	
Sports Monitors		System Monitors		
Mackenzie Quinn Ashley Bundesen Kimberly Tonna Georgia Sartor Chloe Miller Carmen Jooste	Alannah Bond Taniesha Williams Anzel Jooste Teia Schelkis Nicole Villalba Alice King Carlin Bates Renz Formeloza			

Foyer News – 5/6E and 6B

In 56E we have been looking at all the values that students display at Fitzgerald to make our school safe, where everyone is happy and it is a great place to learn.

This year we commence our exciting journey of formally incorporating History into our Curriculum as part of the Australian Curriculum. Year 6 have discussed what it means to be Australian and draw our images of Australia in the past. We will be learning more about the reasons why Australia became a federation.

From the Classrooms –

The students in 3D have been discussing the value - to consider, what it's like to be considerate and how to show consideration. Read the following sentences to gain an insight into how considerate the students are becoming.

I showed consideration by helping another student when they were hurt in the playground. (Madeline)

I definitely showed consideration towards the environment and the wildlife on Friday, by picking up rubbish in the playground. (Hannah)

I considered my friend's feelings when she was sitting alone and I asked her to come and play with our group. (Teagan)

I showed consideration last week, when my friend and I wanted to play together but had different games in mind.



We decided that we would take turns playing each game. (Cody)

I consider my friends' feelings by talking nicely to them. (Penny)

I showed consideration towards my dad by helping him mow the lawn and then I gave him a drink of water. (Riley C)

My teacher likes when I show consideration by looking at her and listening when she is teaching us. (Liam)

I give my teacher a hug to show consideration. (Samantha)

I show consideration to my mum by helping my brother with his homework and cleaning my room. (Montana)

I showed consideration towards my friend by looking at her when she is talking to me. (Danika)

Project 600 – Last week 24 eager Yr5 students participated in a statewide online learning initiative called Project 600. Students at Fitzgerald are actively engaged in web based numeracy lessons with a teacher from Gracemere. The aim of Project 600 is to improve numeracy skills of the Year 5 students and to develop students' general capabilities as described in the Australian curriculum including Literacy, Numeracy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Competencies and Information and Communication and Technology competencies. Students also complete online homework activities through The Learning Place. Watch this space over the next 12 weeks to discover what the children think about the project and find out about what they are learning.

Green Spot –

The Green Spot section of our Newsletter aims to help build awareness among the Fitzgerald School community about earth friendliness and energy conservation. Each fortnight, the Newsletter will include a new section designed to:

- 1) Educate families about important environmental facts and trends and
- 2) Call families to action by suggesting ways in which we can be more earth friendly.

As individuals, families and as a community we can all do a better job of reducing our negative impact on our environment and preserving our planet. Let's make a commitment to learning more and **DOING** more to promote sustainable living. Our children and *their* children will thank us!

Recycle - Most of what we throw away is not rubbish, although we treat it that way. Throwing away materials that we could reuse or recycle not only increases our overall resource use, but also creates the problem of rubbish disposal. The world is rapidly running out of places to dump 'waste' and it is becoming more and more expensive to dispose of waste.

There is a need for everyone to be responsible about using resources. One of the ways we can all do this is by following the **4Rs principle**.

Refuse products that are over packaged or cannot be repaired and say 'no' to unnecessary plastic bags. **Reduce** the amount of waste you personally create.

Reuse materials by using the product again before it is discarded. This extends the life of the product and gains the most out of the resource.



Recycling means reprocessing an item to produce a different product. For example, food scraps to compost.

www.keeppaustraliabeautiful.org.au/qld/

Arts Council – Friday 22 February

‘Then and Now’ looks at the determination, courage and good humor of Australian women. Using story-telling techniques, visual aids, audience participation and puppets, students are transported back in time to explore the vast differences between the way things were done then, compared to now. The “What Am I?” segment has students identifying a wash board, wooden pegs and an antique iron as they explore a time when cleaning clothes was a much bigger task than throwing them into a machine.

Prep Drop off and Pick up Times –

The doors to the prep classes open at 8:30am. If carers and children arrive before this time they are to wait in the undercover area in front of the tuckshop. A bell rings at 8:20am. At this time students should make their way down to the Prep area to begin class at 8:45am. The Prep day concludes at 2:45pm. Students should be collected at this time. In extreme circumstances, if children cannot be collected before 3:00pm they will be waiting in the Office foyer and can be collected from there.

Mobile Phones – It is recognised that students may need phones for security purposes for before and after school. Bringing them to school is not encouraged because of the potential for theft and general distraction and/or disruption associated with them and should only be brought as an imperative need for a student directly after school. However, if they are brought to school, they must be turned off and left at the school office for collection at the end of the day. Students have been alerted to this rule via class teachers, parades and newsletters. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Please ensure

Your child brings a raincoat or umbrella to school during wet weather and a hat everyday.



Belongings - Please ensure all items belonging to students are clearly marked with the student's name. It makes it easier to return lost items to the students.

Learning Literacy –

‘Every Day Counts’ by Sue Hamilton-Smith, NP Pedagogy Coach.

What makes a difference in student learning outcomes?

Research shows that higher rates of attendance at school are associated with higher academic achievement. Children who arrive on time and go to school all day, every school day, are more likely to perform better at all the literacy learning areas, including reading, writing and spelling.

Children with good attendance are more likely to make and keep friends, are happier and have a brighter future.

Literacy learning has been compared to a bridge. A strong bridge has strong foundations. Strong literacy foundations are built when a child attends school each day. A child who attends school each day is present when a new concept is introduced, present when the work is revised and revisited, and present when the work is assessed and when feedback is provided. Children who attend school each day are more likely to regularly complete homework tasks. Attendance gaps result in knowledge gaps, weaknesses that become more evident when the academic demands become greater. Every day counts to literacy learning outcomes. Every day

counts towards increasing a child's life choices and chances.

Sports Notices –

Northern Suburbs Touch Football

Congratulations to Jacob Werder, Shameus Edwards, Mitchell Cheetham, Paige Steindl-Corrie, Ellie Nixon, Allie Whitehead, Lily Tarlinton, Keely Coburn, Chloe Miller, Pratibha Raut and Rhiannan Kennell who have been selected in the Northern Suburbs Touch Football teams. We wish these students all the best for the upcoming Mackay Trials. *Please Note: Mackay trials have been postponed to Tuesday 26th February due to the wet weather.*

Junior Mixed Touch Football Competition

All information and nominations can be found on the Mackay Touch Website. Dates for sign-on: Wednesday 20th of Feb 3pm - 6pm, Saturday 23rd of Feb 9am - 12noon. Please contact Mackay Touch Association for more details.

Cross Country Training

A reminder that Cross Country training will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.00-3.30pm. Any parents who can assist with supervision would be much appreciated. Thank you to Mrs Hobbin for assisting with training and to all the parent helpers thus far.

Tuckshop Talk –

Thank you to all of our new volunteers for coming in to lend a hand. We still need more help so if you have some free time please come see us.

Some things to remember:

- Please do not tape or staple the bags. If ordering for both breaks, two bags must be used. We have the bags for sale at the office for 10c each.

- When ordering lunches for more than one child in a family and the money for all orders is put into one bag could you please write the name and class of the child who has the money onto the other bags.

- We have a new menu. Please make sure you order the correct foods on the correct days.

Roster – **Thurs 21/02** Nikki Poa, Robyn Adams **Fri 22/02** Robyn Adams, **HELP NEEDED Tues 26/02** Robyn Adams **Wed 27/02** Shirley Carey, Glenda West, Robyn **Thurs 28/02** Nikki Poa, Robyn Adams **Fri 1/03** Cath Kean, Kerri Sheehan, Sheryl Vella **Tues 5/03** Jean Kelleher, Robyn Adams **Wed 6/03** Shirley Carey, Glenda West

Thanks

Daneal and Antoinette.

Community Notices – **Touch Football** - Mackay Touch are running a Mixed Junior Competition for U10's U12's, U14's, U16's starting on 8th March 2013. The cost is \$55.00/player, minimum of 10 players per team. Nominations and Info can be found www.mackaytouch.com.au

Sign-On Days at Mackay Touch are as follows:

Wednesday 20th February 3.00pm - 6.00pm

Saturday 23rd February 9.00am - 12pm

Wednesday 27th February 3.00pm - 6.00pm

To arrange a different time call Dean on 0428 926797.