

ISSUE NO 3

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2015 Diary Dates...

4-6 Mar: Life Education Session

10 Mar: P&C Meeting

13 Mar: School Disco

16 Mar: Arts Council-Resistance

20 Mar: Cross Country

21 Mar: Harmony Day

22-23 Mar: Choral Festival

23-31 Mar: Parent/ Teacher Interviews

1-2 Apr: Parent/Teacher Interviews

29-31 Mar: Regional Instrumental Music Camp

29 Mar -1 Apr: Regional Instrumental Music Camp

30 Mar-2 Apr: Anti-Smoking Workshops-Yrs 5&6

30-31 Mar: Anti-Smoking Workshops-Yrs 5&6

2 Apr: Easter Hat Parade

3 Apr: Good Friday

20 Apr: Term 2 Commences

25 Apr: Anzac Day

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.

4 March 2015

From the Principal's Desk

The school leaders and monitors were presented with their badges at the school investiture parade held on Monday. The special guest speaker was Ms Julieanne Gilbert, Member for Mackay with school captains Trista Nelson and Joseph Garica presenting their pledges to the school community and Sophia Sticklan a year 5 student responding on behalf of the students, congratulations to all student leaders.



School Captains



House Captains

A P&C notice is coming home with this newsletter advertising the Annual General Meeting for next Tuesday 10th. If you could give some serious consideration to taking on an executive position. Our P&C have given tremendous support to our school over the years with a dwindling membership, so your support is necessary.

Our staff members are looking forward to continuing their association with mathematics educational consultant, Tierney Kennedy for the remainder of this week. There is a parent workshop this afternoon at 5:30 in the hall foyer, you are most welcome to attend.



Mum Davina Nelson, Fitzgerald School Captain 1987 with daughter Trista Nelson, Fitzgerald School Captain 2015 at the investiture parade proudly display their school badges.

Enjoy your week.

Mike Anderson
Principal.

Staff Profile



My name is Tracy Perfrement and I am co-teaching 4D with Merissa Bailey. Having taught as a relief teacher at Fitzgerald since 2010, I am very excited to move into a new position at the school, and to have the opportunity to work with the staff and students on a more regular basis. Born and raised in a

rural area of Southern Queensland, I have worked in many parts of our State. I have a strong practical literacy/numeracy background, having worked as a Journalist for many years, and assisting my husband run a small business before focusing on Teaching. In my first week, I have been made feel very welcome by both students and staff. I have had the opportunity to meet some parents over the past week and look forward to meeting many more in the weeks to come. As a parent of two children of my own in Year 5 and Year 7, I understand the importance of communication and encourage parents to come and talk to me with any questions or concerns (or just to say hello). I look forward to the challenges and achievements that 2015 has to bring and to helping my 4D Superstars be the best that they can be!

Foyer Display



This term **5C and 5D** (along with the other Year 5 classes) are focussing on reading Fantasy stories and are now analysing the first novel in the Deltora Quest series, 'Forests of Silence' by Emily

Rodda. The students are learning about how precise vocabulary enhances our understanding of the characters, setting, plot and theme. We are enjoying the adventure that Jarred and Endon are taking us on and suggest that you come and see our brilliant display that sets the scene on this great story. Maybe you will be inspired to read a book too! Remember that *'the more you read the better you read and the more you read the more you learn'*. So read! READ!! READ!!!

Library Notice

The importance of reading TO your child. At Fitzgerald the teaching of reading is our prime teaching goal. This graphic shows the importance of reading TO your child, this is the first and most important stage in learning how to read.

Parents should never believe that their child need not be read TO.

Children's oral language skills are stimulated by activities such as shared book reading. Listening



comprehension comes before reading comprehension. You must hear a word before you can say it or read and write it. Children are exposed to extended vocabulary and more complex language when adults interact with children by reading TO them. With greater vocabulary and understanding of spoken language children tend to have less trouble with reading. The positive effects of having books read aloud extend throughout primary school and I would add into secondary as well.

Children read on one level and listen on a higher level. Simple sentences in Dr Seuss books like "Hop on Pop" were written to be read by beginning readers to themselves but an adult must help by reading richer sentences like, "Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting our cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, "Stop thief!" (The Tale of Peter Rabbit)

Beginning chapter books are also written so that they can be read BY young children, but to develop vocabulary in these students it is important that more vocabulary rich books are read TO them. When parents share books with children, they also can promote children's understand of the world, their social skills and their ability to learn coping strategies. Reading about coping with a bully (for example) and discussing it while reading with a parent helps children to put difficult social skills into perspective.

'Help Your Child with Maths' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher

You're invited to join the 'Help your child with maths' workshop from **5.30pm-7.00pm this evening, Wednesday 4 March** in the foyer of the Fitzgerald SS hall. During this session, visiting educational consultant, Tierney Kennedy, will outline the Five Critical Number Concepts that need to be understood to help build a strong mathematical foundation for the future, provide tips for helping to improve your child's understanding of maths and how they can be more effective problem solvers. Tierney will also provide information about the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics, what this means for your family and suggestions for things that parents can do at home to help make maths fun and a part of everyday life. No need to RSVP. No cost. We're looking forward to seeing you! All welcome!

'Floating on Talk' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher

Influential British educator of the early 1900's, James Britton, once famously said, "Reading and writing float on a sea of talk." Proficient oral language lays the foundation for success in the schooling years and beyond. Oral language is the bridge between our thoughts and our communications with the world. It transfers the language in our heads to the language of our culture. Oral language provides a platform for self-belief, thinking and learning. Our work is to move a child's oral language from a more spoken-like form to the more written-like. To achieve real success with this multifaceted competence takes some effort and like all effective teaching, oral language instruction is scaffolded for success, by parents and by teachers. Queensland Education Department Speech

Language Pathologists, Erica Ho and Vickie O'Hara recently visited Fitzgerald to support our early years' teachers and teacher aides in the delivery of oral language programs that aim to ensure that all students become confident communicators who speak and listen with fluency, clarity and sensitivity for a range of purposes in many personal, social and learning contexts. Oral language development is important and it's complex. So, talk to a child, share your interests, engage them in conversation, discuss events and read together. Give a child time, listen to them deeply, provide good language models, prepare them for social occasions, 'recast' rather than 'correct' their pronunciation, grammar and social errors.

Update on the Office 2013 Suite

As mentioned in our last newsletter, all state school students from Prep to Year 12 can now download multiple free copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite to their personal home and mobile computer equipment. Students who want the free software will need an active Managed Internet Service (MIS) login, school email account and password. It is important to note that your child must log onto a school computer, with their individual MIS login and password prior to attempting the download at home. Please let us know if you have any issues and we will aim to help you. The following link on Education Queensland's Learning Place site will guide you through this process.

<http://education.qld.gov.au/learningplace/>

eLearning Classes

Term 1 is proving to be an extremely exciting year in Digital Technologies. Our Year 1 – 4 classes have been producing Avatars and Vokis' which are used as their digital identity to be safe when working online in our digital world. (A voki is an educational online tool that allows students to create their very own talking character, it ensures that all students are being cyber safe, by not using an actual photo of themselves).

Cyber Safety is an essential skill required in our globally connected world. Our year 6 students are currently undertaking an online eSmart course where the students will complete eight learning modules that evaluate their comprehension of key technology and cyber safety topics, and equip them with the knowledge and skills they require to learn, play and socialize online earning themselves a Digital Licence. This is an initiative of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation and is only available to 2015 Year 6 students at this stage.

Year 1-3 Classes have also been extremely busy recording themselves reading their home readers onto a program called Audacity or using a digital tool called an EasiSpeak microphone. Children are able to listen back and hear what they actually sound like when they read aloud. The goal of this activity, is to increase their ability to read fluently and with expression. Over the next few weeks, students will be learning how to email these recordings home to their parents and upload them onto Education Queensland's Learning Place.

Finally, it is time to think to the future, this year our school is opening the Young ICT Explorer's

Competition up to students who would like to participate in this event. Last year, our Year 6 students of 2014 were successful in being shortlisted to attend the Townsville Competition and took out 2nd, 3rd, Merit & Student Choice Awards. It was a fantastic learning opportunity and one that we would like to share with our whole school. Year 4 students have already begun this process as a part of the Digital Technology lessons and we have had a number of innovative ideas to bring to life. Please see Mrs Stuart if you are interested in participating or assisting in anyway.

Cross Country

The school cross country race is Friday the 20th of March. Only those students who have handed in their permission forms and have been participating in training are allowed to participate. Competitors will need to be on the oval at 8.00am for marshalling. Approximate race times are 8 years 8.15am, 9 Years 8.35 am, 10 Years 8.55am, 11 Years 9.15am, 12 years 9.30am.

Capricornia Swimming

Well done to Ethan Banks who recently participated in the Capricornia Swimming trials in Rockhampton. Whilst missing out on selection, Ethan swam very well and recorded personal best times in all of his events. Well done Ethan!

P & C Notices

School Disco – Friday 13th March, Theme 'Black Friday' Prep to Year 2 5:30-7:00pm Doors open 5:15pm, Year 3 to Year 6 7:15-8:45pm Doors open 7:05pm

Tuckshop Talk

Thurs 5th-Robyn Adams, Help Needed
Fri 6th- Sarina Dodd, Help Needed
Tues 10th- Robyn Adams
Wed 11th- Robyn Adams, Kylie Keates
Thurs 12th- Robyn Adams, Help Needed
Fri 13th- Claire Gallagher, Help Needed
Tues 13th- Robyn Adams
Wed 18th- Robyn Adams

We still need more volunteers to help, so if you have some time.

Thank you

Antoinette & Deneal

Community Notices

Mackay KinKare - meetings held 4th Wednesday of the every month 10:00am to 12:00 noon. George Street Neighbourhood Centre. Enquiries Deb 0423749552 or Kellie 0434035124

Mackay Evangelical Church (MAKE) - meets 4pm Sundays at Fitzgerald State School Hall. Kids church runs during service. All welcome! Contact - 0429 852 949 (Jai) or visit MAKE church

Angels Softball Club – Boys & Girls 6yrs-12yrs sign on 7th March 10am-2pm Mackay Softball Grounds Beaconsfield Rd. Enquiries Antoinette 0416432988

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