

## ISSUE NO 4

[www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au](http://www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au)

### 2015 Diary Dates...

**14-24 Mar:** Parent/ Teacher

Interviews

**1-2 Apr:** Parent/Teacher

Interviews

**24 March:** Easter Hat

Parade

**24 March:** Last day Term 1

**25 March:** Good Friday

**11 Apr:** Term 2

Commences

**15 April:** Last day for

Academic Competition

entries to be paid for

**25 Apr:** Anzac Day

**19-22 June:** Regional

Instrumental Music Camp

**15 April:** Second payment

for school fees due

### **Our newsletter can now be viewed on the school website**

[www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au](http://www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au)

18 March 2016

## From the Principal's Desk

The first dance for the year proved to be a success for our community. Thank you to our parents, staff and students for your support.

Information about our school and all Australian schools is available on the My School website [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) The Year 3 to 5 Student Gain Average achievement scores from 2013 to 2015 in the National Tests for Reading and Numeracy compare favourably with the average achievement scores of all students in the Nation.

The P & C Executive for 2016 includes Cath Kean – President, Jai Wright – Secretary, Daphne Neilsen – Vice-President, congratulations Cath, Jai and Daphne. The position of Treasurer is vacant, if you are interested in taking on this position contact us at the school office.

The parent-teacher interviews are happening this week and next, please take the opportunity to have an interview with your child's class teacher.

Congratulations to the students who are participating in the Best of the Bunch activities for this term. Students who have demonstrated good behaviour throughout the term participate in the BOB activities.

### **Many people ask us, why is regular attendance at school important?**

Regular school attendance will mean that your child gets a better chance at life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day:

- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

Our Star classes for the past two weeks are Prep C, 2C, 4C and 5A. Well Done to these classes.

The school vacation dates are from Friday 25/03/2016 until 08/04/2016 enjoy the vacation. The School Watch number is 131788 to report suspicious activity at our school.

Please support the Election Bar-b-que this Saturday. If you can assist for a couple of hours contact Nic on 0422 885 204 or the school office on 4965 6333.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson

Principal

## Staff Profile



Hello Fitzgerald! For those who don't know me, I am Miss Jesshope and have the privilege of teaching year 4A for 2016. I completed my degree at the end of 2015, and was lucky enough to have my final placement in Townsville, which is where I am originally from. I have lived in Mackay for three

years and have had most of my placements during my study in Mackay. I am already enjoying the adventure of teaching and feel I am learning just as much as my students. I am truly grateful to be a part of your school and I look forward to becoming more involved with the school community and can't wait to see what else 2016 has in store!

### **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Mackay & District Choral Festival**

On Monday 14 March our Senior Choir participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> Mackay and District Choral Festival.

Rehearsals were held on Sunday afternoon and Monday with the concert being held on Monday evening. Over 500 choristers from around Mackay and Whitsunday sang in a massed choir event with guest conductors Ms Jenny Moon, prominent Australian choral conductor and Mr Anthony Young from Brisbane. The choirs consisted of 450 primary school students along with 100 high school students and community based adult singers and teachers. Well done to our own senior choir students who have been rehearsing since the beginning of term for the event. A great effort resulting in a night of joyful singing!

Jill Green – Music Teacher

### **From the Guidance Officer**

Many parents, grandparents and carers attended the recent Triple P group seminar at North Mackay High. We were lucky to be addressed by Dr Matt Sanders, professor of clinical psychology and founder of Triple P. As Dr Sanders says, "Doing a high-quality evidenced-based program is one of the best investments you can make in your child's future."

### **There is now Free Access to Triple P**

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting Queensland families by enabling free access to Triple P programs.

Triple P helps you;

- Raise happy children
- Manage kids' behaviour so everyone enjoys life more
- Set rules and routines everyone follows
- Get along well with your kids and argue less
- Feel more confident as a parent

Visit [www.triplep-parenting.net](http://www.triplep-parenting.net) to find providers who are offering Triple P free of charge. Triple P is also available online so you can log into your personal

parenting course whenever and wherever it suits you.

Alexia Wotherspoon – Guidance Officer

### **The Learning Café 2.30pm each Monday in the school library**

The Parent and Caregivers' Learning Café will have a break next week, but will begin again in the first week of the new term. Week 1 Term 2 Monday 11 April 2.30-3.00pm, the topic is the 'SCORE Demand Reading Sequence', find out how this reading strategy is helping children from all year levels to comprehend increasingly complex text. Week 2 Term 2 Monday 18 April 2.30-3.00pm, the topic is 'Sight Word Fun', find out why these high frequency words are so important, yet can be so tricky for a developing reader to remember. Come along and learn how to play some games that put the fun into the learning of sight words.

### **Persuasive Writing Competition**

'North of the Pioneer - What animal makes the best pet?' Years 3 to 6 Student Persuasive Writing Competition entries are due 4pm Friday 22 April 2016. Pick up a competition form from the school office. Sue Hamilton-Smith-Master Teacher

### **Foyer Display**



Year 3 had a visit from the Safety circus in February which we found very enjoyable. We learnt what to do if we are being bullied or see someone being bullied, who we can ask for help and how to stay safe on the roads. In art this term we are exploring and experimenting with the elements of design through the works of Pablo Picasso. As part of our health unit we know that the keys to being successful students are that we must be persistent, organised, get along with others and be confident in ourselves and our abilities.

### **Library News**

All Queensland state school students can now download multiple free copies of Microsoft Office 2016 to their personal home computers and mobile devices. You'll just need your school email address to sign in. Please come and see us in the library if you have any questions, as we have a handout to support you.

Reader's Cup participants are busy reading the books selected by our regions Teacher Librarians. Mrs Shaw is working diligently to prepare each student for the local interschool competition being held on 6<sup>th</sup> June at Eimeo State School. We are hoping that we

will see the return of the Reader's Cup to Fitzgerald this year!

### Digital Technologies



Students in Years 3-6 are busy working towards completing their first Scratch projects as a part of their digital technologies exploration. We have many talented students in our school who are already learning to be able to 'code' which is a fantastic achievement. Year 6 students have been busy using a Makey Makey which is a small computer board that can turn any object into a keyboard. We have been able to play a number of nursery rhymes, songs and tunes using everyday objects by creating and completing an electrical circuit. Cheers

Janelle Stuart M.Ed – Teacher Librarian  
Young ICT Explorer Ambassador

### Daphne Neilsen – Retirement

Daphne Neilsen retires as a School Crossing Supervisor after 24 years. Enjoy your retirement Daphne. Daphne remains actively involved as a grandparent and P & C member at our school.



### Sports Notices Cross Country



Congratulations to all of our runners from years 3 to 6 who recently participated in the school cross country race. All runners performed to the best of their ability and did a fantastic job for their houses. Brolga house were awarded the championship trophy for the

winning cross country house. Our age champions were: 8 Years- Koby Hine and Isabella Jenkins; 9 Years- Ciaran Reagan and Haylee Tonks; 10 Years- Cohen Frith and Ava Wheeler; 11 Years- Jaxon Purdue and Rachel Kavana; 12 Years- Wade Jackson & Amy Young. Well done to our age champions and Brolga House, overall winners of the 2016 Cross Country.



### Northern Suburbs Selection

Congratulations to the following students for their selection in the following teams. We wish them luck in the upcoming Mackay trials:

**Rugby League:** Hayden Drabsch, Kayden Parter, Caleb Owens, Ryan White, Jaxon Purdue, Jaidyn Lauga, Elijah Williams, Ethan Ashford, Cody Vassallo, Teesha Edwards, Taylor-Lee Dillon & Skye Mathers.  
**Netball** Hayley Shaxson

### P & C Notices

#### **Disco**

Thanks to everyone who came along and supported the recent school disco, and especially to those who helped out by volunteering to make this event happen. It was an enjoyable evening and there were over 400 students in attendance across the two discos with over \$3,000 raised towards projects for the school community.

#### **Easter Raffle**

This week forms will be sent home with information about our Easter raffle. Again we appreciate your support of this P&C fundraiser. Prizes will be drawn on the last day of school.

#### **P&C Meeting and AGM**

At the recent P&C Meeting and also our AGM, new sports uniforms, chaplaincy and P&C fundraisers for 2016 were discussed. Also executive positions were elected for 2016. President: Cath Kean; Vice President: Daphne Neilsen; Secretary: Jai Wright; Treasurer: still seeking nominations; Committee Member: Janet Young. At our next meeting we will be discussing projects we hope to pursue around the school community in 2016 and continuing to think about new sports uniform.

### Community Notices

