

From the Principal's Desk**Dates for your 2013
Diary....****21 Mar:** Harmony
Day**22 Mar:** Year 7
Cyber Safety talk -
Sgt Nigel Dalton**26 Mar:** Choral
Festival**28 Mar:** 2:15pm
Easter Hat Parade,
Prep to Year 2**28 Mar:** Cross
Country**28 Mar:** Last Day of
Term**15 April:** Term 2
Commences**12 & 14 June:**
Senior Sports
Carnival**13 June:** Junior
Sports Carnival**14 November:**
Spectacular

Parent Teacher interviews are being conducted this week and next week. Parents have the opportunity to discuss with their teachers the academic and social progress of their children at these interviews.

Prior to the end of this term, many of our students will participate in a range of activities including the Regional Choral Festival, Harmony Day, Cyber Safety, B.O.B. Day, Easter Activities and Cross Country, a busy time of the year for us.

A "well done" to the students who will be involved in the Best of the Bunch – B.O.B. day activities planned for the end of term. Students who have demonstrated good behaviour on a consistent basis will be involved in these activities.

Information about our school and all Australian schools is available on the My School website www.myschool.edu.au. Of note on this website is the favourable comparison of our student scores in 2012, with other Australian schools with similar students in the National Tests of Reading, Writing, Spelling and Numeracy.

A reminder that the school vacation commences on Friday 29th March and the new term commences on Monday the 15th April, enjoy your vacation.

If you should notice any suspicious behaviour in our grounds over the break, please contact School Watch on phone 131 788.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson

Principal.

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.

Foyer News – 3C and 3D

Over the course of the term, classes 3C and 3D have been exploring the elements of art and design. We have produced some beautiful works of art, some of which are now on display in the front foyer. We have also been fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to participate in the 'Songroom' program which is being run by local artist, Wanda Bennett. The patterns and textures we have discovered have been translated into fabric wall hangings and natural collages using items from the garden. We are very proud to share our creations with you.



Staff Profile – Sarah Osborne (1B)

My name is Sarah Osborne. I am teaching Year 1B this year here at Fitzgerald. I have moved to Mackay from Mourilyan State School in Far North Queensland. I have been teaching for seven years in the Far North Queensland region. The staff and community at Fitzgerald State School have made me feel very welcome and I am looking forward to a bright future here at your school. Thank you,
Sarah Osborne.



From the Classrooms – The Science Project -

The Dotcom Kids Project is an online learning program delivered by Fitzgerald State School in partnership with Brisbane School of Distance Education (BSDE). BSDE offers a range of online extension opportunities called UniFY and our school has joined Dotcom Kids. The program encourages students to ask questions and appraise solutions and it will extend your child's thinking skills. It will also provide a great opportunity to experience online learning including the chance to connect with an online teacher. Connections with university staff and students are also made, hence the name UniFY – University For You. This project commenced on Monday with several students in our Year 6 laptop class and by all accounts was enjoyed. We hope to keep you up to date with the exciting things we are learning each week.

Storybirds – 6B

If you heard 'tweeting' coming from the Year 6 and Year 1's on Wednesday, it would definitely have been children reading and sharing their online books made using the "Storybird" site. The students in 6B have been working extremely hard on creating a book to promote our Fitzgerald's



Reading Girl love of 'reading and sharing'. We also spent the afternoon showing Year 1D how to create their own story using Picture Book Maker which was very exciting.

Book Donations Help Others -

Last year, Bridget Donovan, a Year 5 student, decided that she needed to help solve a problem. Her father, Mark, works as a senior crew member on a rescue helicopter in the Solomon Islands. After visiting a local school of 500 students, he shared his shock and amazement at the lack of resources and facilities there, with Bridget. Soon after, she sought permission to ask her classmates to bring in any reading books from home which were unwanted. Bridget was also offered a number of surplus books from the school library. Mark then had to find creative ways of getting the books over to the Solomon's when he travelled to work. Mark has since reported that the Principal was emotionally overwhelmed by donation of these much needed reading materials. The Donovan family has promised to maintain their close association with the school. Often a small number of committed people can make a big difference!

Green Spot – Plastic Bags

Did You Know?

Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide. That comes out to over one million per minute. Billions end up as litter each year. Hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, whales and other marine mammals die every year from eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food. Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade – breaking down into smaller and smaller toxic bits contaminating soil and waterways and entering the food web when animals accidentally ingest. Even though reusable bags have now become mainstream, plastic bags have a way of sneaking into our houses—holding loaves of bread, hidden in cereal boxes, or on those days we forget our totes at the supermarket.



What YOU can do -

- Take them back to the supermarket to bring home your next batch of groceries.
- Put them in a plastic bag recycling bin at the grocery store.
- Donate them to a charity <http://www.wellesleygreenschools.com>

Run around Australia -

Win prizes for our school by Running Around Australia with Mount Pleasant Shopping Centre! There will be thousands of dollars worth of prizes to be won this year, including a major cash grant for the winning school.

How does it work?

Being involved in Run Around Australia is easy! Every dollar spent by our school's supporters at Mount Pleasant Shopping Centre will help to earn kilometres for our school. You simply need to present your receipts at the Customer Service Desk or put them in the in centre drop boxes. The competition begins on Monday 15th April and will run for 6 weeks ending on Sunday 26th May.

School Fees –

Statements of fees will be sent home before the holidays. Highlighted fees are now overdue. Please organise payment for these fees through the office. Please note the date on the statement is the 15 March 2013 and any payments made after this date will not appear on the statement.

Learning Literacy – ‘Pause, Prompt, Praise.’ by Sue Hamilton-Smith, NP Pedagogy Coach

“In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings,” Ann Landers.

Our goal at Fitzgerald State School is to create independent learners who have the knowledge, skills and strategies to work the world out for themselves. So that’s why, when a developing reader is stuck on a word, we don’t

immediately jump in and provide the answer right away. We PAUSE – PROMPT – PRAISE, Pause, to give a reader the time to think and work things out for themselves, Prompt, to help them to remember their reading strategies, Praise, when they have used their strategies, given it a good go and maybe even achieved the correct answer! The Reading Star provides a supportive prompt to the reading cues 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. The English language is tricky. Students who over-rely on a single strategy like ‘sounding out’ limit their ability to work out unknown words. Reading IS making meaning. These three questions help students to ensure that they are thinking and making meaning as they read: *Does it make sense? Does it look right? Does it sound right?*

Queensland Inspirational Women Speaker’s Award -

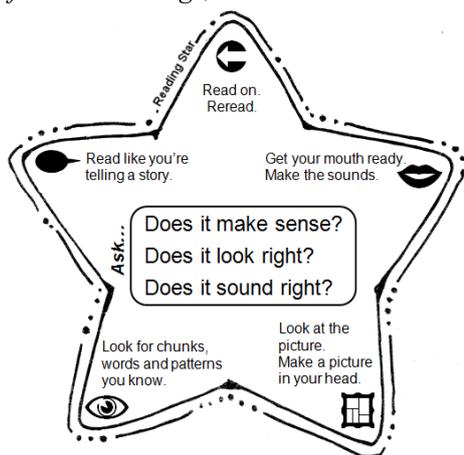
Tim Mulherin, Member for Mackay today congratulated the Mackay nominee for the Queensland Inspirational Women Speaker’s Award, Daphne Neilsen. Daphne is a crossing supervisor and a long time supporter of Fitzgerald State School.

The Queensland Inspirational Women Speaker’s Award is an opportunity to publicly recognise and honour an inspirational woman from each electorate from around the State. The award was timed to coincide with International Women’s Day.

“I am proud to nominate Daphne Neilsen for the Queensland Inspirational Women

Speaker’s Award. Her tireless work in several fields for community organisations is testament to her unquenchable desire to work for her community.” Mr Mulherin said.

“Daphne Neilsen leads by example and will never ask of someone what she is not willing to contribute herself or



work toward achieving on behalf of a good cause. Many people are influenced by her energy and leadership and she has been a positive influence in encouraging people to support their community.” Mr Mulherin said.

Sports Notices –

Cross Country

A reminder that the new Cross Country date is Thursday the 28th March. Students will be required to be on the school oval at 8.00am for marshalling.

Northern Suburbs Netball

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in the Northern Suburbs Netball teams. In the 11 years team the following students were selected: Bailee Dunshea, Kiara Purdue, Emma Cameron, Zali Mooney and Maygan Fitzgerald. Chloe Miller was selected in the 12 years team. Well done girls.

Schoolboys Rugby League

The schoolboys Rugby League squad has been selected and training has commenced this week. Training occurs twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7.45-8.30am. Games will commence next term.

MLC Tennis Hot Shots Program

Currently all classes are participating in the MLC Tennis Hot Shots Program in PE lessons. The school received \$1500 worth of free tennis equipment to help students develop tennis skills whilst participating in this fun program. All students have the opportunity to claim a free T-shirt by participating in this program- go to hotshots.tennis.com.au/claim and type Fitzgerald into the venue search space. For every student who registers the school will receive \$2.

P & C News –

A big thank you to the families who supported our back to school packs. We received \$3200 from this fundraiser. Great fun was had by all at the school disco. Thank you again to all those parents who gave a helping hand, it was greatly appreciated. Money raised from these fundraisers will be used for extra resources for the school.

Don’t forget to get your Easter Raffle tickets back to the office by Thursday 21st March. The Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 27th March.

Tuckshop Talk –

We are still having problems with the tuckshop bags. Please check the menu for correct pricing, no foreign coins will be accepted, if ordering for both breaks you will need 2 bags, check what days you can order certain items and please do not tape or staple money to the bags or staple bags together.

The last day for tuckshop next week will be Thursday 28th March.

We hope everyone has a happy Easter and safe holidays.

Roster - **Wed 20 Mar** Robyn Adams, Meagan Griffin
Thurs 21 Mar Robyn Adams, Leanne Thompson, Nikki Poa
Fri 22 Mar Cath Kean, Glenda West
Tues 26 Mar Robyn Adams
Wed 27 Mar Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED
Thurs 28 Mar Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa
Tues 16 Apr Robyn Adams
Wed 17 Apr Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED
Thurs 18 Apr Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED
Fri 19 Apr Natasha Leibowitz, HELP NEEDED

Thank you,
Daneal and Antoinette.