

ISSUE NO 4

www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au

2015 Diary Dates...

20 Mar: Cross Country
21 Mar: Harmony Day
22-23 Mar: Choral Festival
23-31 Mar: Parent/ Teacher Interviews
27 Mar: Free Dress Day
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.

18 March 2015

From the Principal's Desk

The School Dance was an enjoyable function for our school community with 320 students in attendance. Thank you to parents, staff and student councillors for your support.

Our P & C Executive for 2015 includes Daphne Neilsen – President, Jai Wright – Secretary, congratulations Jai and Daphne. The position of Treasurer is vacant, if you are interested in taking on this position contact us at the school office. Special mention of our outgoing President, Kerrie Sheehan who has been a member of the P & C for the past 10 years.

Many of our students are participating in the Best of The Bunch activities at the end of this term for good behaviour, well done.

Information about our school and all Australian schools is available on the My School website www.myschool.edu.au. The Student Gain average achievement scores from 2012 to 2014 in the National Tests of Reading, Writing and Numeracy compare favourably with the average achievement of all students in the Nation.

Please note that the tuckshop will be closed in Week 10, the last week of this term. The tuckshop will undergo an upgrade and be ready for the commencement of term 2.

The students have a Free Dress Day on Friday, 27 March, sensible and safe clothing is to be worn on this day,

Parent-Teacher Interviews are planned for the last two weeks of this term, parents if you could arrange a time with your class teacher.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson

Principal.

Staff Profile

Hello my name is Melina Frangos and I am teaching 5B. I have recently relocated to Mackay from the Sunshine Coast. I feel privileged to be teaching at Fitzgerald and thankful for the support I have been given so far by both staff and parents. I am looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead with my class and the rest of the Year 5 cohort.



Foyer Display

Deep in the ocean where the fish hang out, lives a glum, gloomy swimmer with an ever present pout. As he spreads his dreary wearies all over the place, the fish's friends try to convince their pal to turn his frown upside down. This is until he gets smooched by a beautiful silvery fish and he realises he is no longer a pout pout fish but a kiss kiss fish. Our year 1 students are looking at the characters emotions and feelings within different texts.

Free Dress Day

We have a Free Dress Day planned for Friday 27th March to assist with the Mother's Day Stall, as a part of the Free Dress Day students are to bring along a gold coin donation. A reminder to students to wear sensible and safe clothing.

Class Attendance

Students are encouraged to attend school regularly at Fitzgerald. Congratulations to the following classes who have received recognition for their high attendance at school during the past weeks.

Week 5 - Prep D & 5C

Week 6 - 2D, 3E & 5D

Week 7 - 2B & 3A

Congratulations also to 3A who were the February Attendance Champions.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. At Fitzgerald, 16 different nations are currently represented by our students, with many more cultures being represented by parents and grandparents. It was mentioned on parade that students not only recognise the differences that make each culture unique, but also those things that bring us together and make us a community. This week, students have been invited to participate in various lunchtime activities held in the school library.

Performing Arts Council



This week students attended the Arts Council performance of "Wake up and Read". Students and teachers were entertained by the magical wonders of Ozo the magician.

There were many magic tricks to keep students' focus as they, were asked what can books do for us. Books help us to create and use our imagination, we have the magical powers to imagine what the characters and scenes are when we read a

book. Classic lines from books were recreated in a puppet show that the students thoroughly enjoyed. Students were left with the parting knowledge that books can open up a whole new world for us.

From the Guidance Officer

1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching is a program designed to teach parents ways to manage their children's behaviour that also builds their children's emotional resourcefulness. It encourages a calm approach to parenting, even in those tough moments, and shows parents how to improve their relationship with their children. This course is a 3 week program offered for 2 hours each week. I am looking for expressions of interest from parents who may wish to attend. Following are the proposed dates in term 2; May 6th, 13th and 20th. The time will be 1:00-2:50pm and it will be presented at the school. There will be no cost involved but the school will incur a cost for the parent booklets so it's necessary to express your interest in. If you would like to express an interest in attending, please contact the school office (49656333) or email myself directly (awoth3@eq.edu.au) and provide your name and contact details. Alexia Wotherspoon

eLibrary - We would like to announce that Fitzgerald State School has been successful in registering for the Queensland State Schools eBooks Digital Library, twelve month trial. All students and teachers are now registered: Students and staff can login using their MIS ID or user name. Please go to the following link to begin reading -

<https://eduqueenslandau.libraryreserve.com/>

Thanks to our Admin Team and Laurel Shaw for making this possible.

Learning Literacy - 'Five Critical Number Concepts' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher During Tierney's Kennedy's recent 'Help your child with maths' parent workshop held at Fitzgerald State School, she highlighted Five Critical Number Concepts that need to be understood to help build a strong mathematical foundation for the future. Our teachers and teacher aides are ensuring that these number concepts are taught well. There are also some easy activities that parents and caregivers can do to help support the number work that is happening in the classroom. Visit the Parent's Portal of the Back-to-front-maths website for tips for parents of babies, toddlers and school aged children. <http://www.backtofrontmaths.com.au/free-resources-and-information/parents-portal>.

Quantity – Trusting the count, ability to total. The quantity number concept is more than just counting. Key question: What changes a number and what doesn't? *At home: Count mixed groups of objects, move them around and count them again. Play board games where the number of moves matches the number on the dice. Set the table with the right amount of items for all. Get the right amount of pegs to hang out clothing on the line.*

Partitioning – Ability to break numbers into smaller parts and put them together again. Key question: Can you show this number in another way? *At home: Play skittles (six plastic bottles works well), talk about how*

many were knocked down and how many are left to get. Make money values using different coins and notes. Play Snakes & Ladders with two dice. Play card games.

Place value – Relative size, understanding of how big numbers are when compared to each other. Key questions: How are these numbers kind of the same? How are these numbers different? *At home: Compare and sort objects that are similar and different because of colour, shape and material. Play with sand or water using different sized cups. Learn the time on an analogue clock face. Talk about quantity, weight, volume and cost differences when shopping.*

Arrays – Multiplicative thinking, ability to picture multiplication in a two-dimensional structure (array or grid), rather than in a single dimension (additive). The arrays number concept is more than remembering multiplication and division number facts. Key question: Can you show this number in rows? *At home: Look for arrays like eggs in an egg carton and windows on a high rise building. Cover a Lego 8 block with blocks of one, two and four. Learn number facts with spots placed in arrays.*

Fractions – Proportional reasoning, size of a part compared to the whole. Key question: What can you tell me about this part? *At home: Talk fractions when cutting up sandwiches, when sharing a plate of food, pizza or pie. Use measuring cups when in the kitchen.*

Sports Notices

Cross Country - The school cross country race is on 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.

Northern Suburbs Rugby League - Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in the Northern Suburbs Rugby League team to compete at the upcoming Mackay trials: Teesha Edwards, Jaala Grant, Ryan White, Jaxon Purdue, Riley Pompey, Ethan Ashford and Riley Whitestyles.

Northern Suburbs Hockey - Well done to the following students who have been selected in the Northern Suburbs Hockey trials. They will now compete in the upcoming Mackay trials: Brooke Vella, Josephine Westcott, Kelsey Higgins and Jacinta Harris.

Northern Suburbs Basketball - Congratulations to the following students who were recently selected in the Northern Suburbs Basketball team: Riley Pompey, Tiana Pompey, Jaala Grant, Joel Bartley, Bailey Van Helmond, Jackson Cross and Tyrese Jones.

From the School Chaplain

In the month of March we will be focusing on the school value of Care and Compassion. When we care for someone we think about ways that we can help them. We should take time out, be quiet somewhere and really think about what is the best way I can help my Mum, Dad, Teachers and Friends. Compassion is really putting care into action. It's one thing to say "I care about you" but it's another thing

completely, to prove your care by physically showing it. Examples may be doing the dishes because you care for your Mum. Another example would be that we care about our teachers by following their instructions.

Tuckshop Talk

Due to the tuckshop receiving a makeover we will not be trading on the last week of school. The last day of tuckshop will be Friday 27th March. We will re-open 21st April. Playwater is no longer available it has been replaced by LOL (Tropical, Razzi and Blackcurrant)

Roster:

Thurs 19th – Robyn Adams, Luisa Bisual, Bec Benson
Fri 20th – Claire Gallagher, Help Needed
Tues 24th – Robyn Adams
Wed 25th – Robyn Adams, Margaret Smith
Thurs 26th – Luisa Bisual, Robyn Adams, Alma Hawdon
Fri 27th – Cathy Kean, Aretha Lion, Nicole Best
Have a safe Easter and see you all back Tuesday 21st April
Antoinette & Daneal

Community Notices

Student Exchange - is looking for host families across Australia to welcome overseas students into their home if you are interested visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student or call 1300 135 331 for more information

Mackay Redbacks Inline Hockey - invites you to trial sessions every Friday 4:30pm at The Mackay Leisure Centre Enquiries Karlien 0451 078 544

PEACH – Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health. Program includes 10 sessions on the topics of nutrition skills, relationships with food and eating, changing family lifestyle behaviours and making healthy eating affordable. Register today 1800 263 519 or visit www.peachqld.com.au

Mackay Gymnastics – School Holiday Fun Days Cost \$16-50 Wednesday 8th April, Friday 10th April, Wednesday 15th April, and Friday 17th April starting 9:30am – 11:00am 5 Snow Wright Court, Beaconsfield. Email: admin@mackaygymnastics.org.au

School Disco **'Friday the 13th'**



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