

From the Principal's Desk

Dates for your 2013 Diary....

May 6-10: Education
Week

May 20-24: Arts
Council - Fun with
Maths, Book Fair

May 23-24: School
Photos

May 24: School Disco

May 27-31:
Instrumental Music
camp Yr7,
Under 8's Week

June 6: Queensland
Day

June 10: Queens
Birthday Holiday

June 12 & 14: Senior
Sports Carnival

June 13: Junior Sports
Carnival

June 20: Mackay
Show Day Holiday

November 14:
Spectacular

Education Week is celebrated in State Schools this week. As a part of the celebrations our staff like to recognize those parents and community members who provide valued volunteer support to our school with a special thank you certificate. This certificate will come home this week with the children.

Our years 3, 5 and 7 students are preparing for the National Literacy and Numeracy Tests which will be held next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students are reminded to get adequate sleep, 8 to 9 hours each night, eat healthy meals including breakfast and exercise regularly.

Next Tuesday evening at 6:00pm we have a popular information session for parents on the dangers of the internet for our children presented by Sergeant Nigel Dalton, Mackay Police. This session is useful as it is a follow-up to the annual talks conducted with our upper school students. Further information is provided in this newsletter, if you could notify the school office of your attendance. Please note that our monthly **P&C Meeting starting time is 5:00pm** followed by the talk at 6:00pm.

Our school buildings and surrounds continue to receive a facelift with the replacement of the fence to the front of the administration building and the internal and external painting to various buildings.

Thank you to Kerri Sheehan and her willing team members who organised the Mothers' Day Stall this week. To all of our wonderful mothers enjoy your day on Sunday.

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.

Woolworths Earn and Learn –

The Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion has begun for 2013.

When you shop at Woolworths you will receive a sticker for every \$10 you spend. Stick these to a Learn and Earn sticker chart and bring it to the school office.

Foyer News - 1A and 1B

Year One have been learning about emotions as a lead up to discovering what adjectives are. They were required to think of an emotion and then make a plan of how they would create a doll displaying this emotion. After this they made their doll according to their plan.



Staff Profile – Tamara Schmid - Special Needs

My name is Tammy Schmid and I am the Special Education Teacher here at Fitzgerald. I have moved to Mackay from the Gold Coast, where I worked in a Special School for two years. So far I have had an amazing experience working at Fitzgerald; the staff are fantastic and have made me feel welcome. I am passionate about working with students with special needs and assisting them in their daily learning experiences. I am also looking forward to meeting with the parents in our community.



From the Classrooms –

Harmony Day 3A and 3B

Harmony Day is not a day when we laugh at differences. It is a day when we learn different things like food, cultures and songs. We have five students in our classroom who come from different countries. They may eat differently, but we don't laugh at them. If we do, they might get upset and Harmony Day is not about that. So that is how I celebrate Harmony Day.



Jordan Latcham 3B.

Using Greens Screens in 6B

On the 18/04/13 classroom 6B began using Green screen technology. We had to stand in front of a green sheet and take a picture of ourselves doing a pose of our choice. Once we had taken the picture we had to download it from the camera onto our laptops. We used Microsoft Office 2010 to crop most of the green out without cutting any of our body parts. Once we were happy with our image we imported the picture to PAINT.NET clicking the magic wand which was located in the tools bar to get rid of the green. Finally after all of the little bits of green were gone we selected another background of our choice and inserted that picture. To complete our new image, we had to go into the drop down tab called image and click flatten. By Jessica Tilbrook



Green Spot –

Energy Sense Hints for the Home Environment

This summer, set your air conditioner to a cool and energy efficient 25°C as every degree cooler adds around

10% to your air conditioner running costs – which quickly adds up.

Some simple energy sense hints for Cooling:

- Use fans – they can help to circulate cool air through the house and are always friendlier on your pocket than air conditioning.
- Turn the air conditioner off when you leave home - it should only take around 20 minutes to cool your house when you return.
- Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Install ceiling insulation with a minimum rating that suits your locality.
- Shade your windows with curtains and blinds to protect from the sun.
- Close doors and windows in areas you want to cool.

For more handy hints visit <http://www.ergon.com.au>

Library News –

May is National Family Reading Month!



Scholastic is celebrating the

17th year of National Family Reading Month this May by giving families great prizes for reading more in May! Having reading role models and reading together are critically important factors in a child's learning and literacy development. Research shows us that family reading time is one of the BEST ways to grow a child's interest in the wonderful world of books!

PARENTS — Read More in May!

Make reading a family affair this May and encourage everyone in your family to read for at least 10 minutes a day. You can also participate in Scholastic Book Clubs' Read More in May challenge for the chance to WIN \$150 worth of book vouchers for your family to spend on Book Clubs and Book Fairs!

To enter the competition visit :

www.scholastic.com.au/bookfairs/enter and you could win a Reader's Prize Pack valued at \$250.

Book Fair -

Our school is holding a Book Fair during the week May 20 to 24. Students will be able to view the items for sale during school on Monday 20 May and Tuesday 21 May. The Book Fair will open for sales on Wednesday morning. The Fair will be open each morning from 8.00am-9.00am and each afternoon from 3.00pm-4.00pm. The Fair WILL NOT open on FRIDAY AFTERNOON!

DON'T FORGET: We have an EARLY BIRD

SALE on Tuesday evening 5.00pm-7.00pm.

NAPLAN Testing Time Again –

Students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing next week, to assist their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 14-16 May 2013. NAPLAN assesses the skills that students develop over



time through the school curriculum, and provides additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in the key curriculum areas. An individual NAPLAN report will be sent home for every child later this year. Further information is available on the ACARA website <http://www.nap.edu.au/>

Out of Bounds Areas -

A reminder to parents and students that the Year1 and the Year3 play areas are out of bounds before and after school.

Learning Literacy –

Compelled to Write by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Pedagogy Coach.

True authors write, not because they have to, but because they feel compelled. This is well- illustrated by famous Russian science fiction writer, Isaac Asimov, "I write for the same reason I breathe - because if I didn't, I would die." It's not that they find writing easy, but they are driven to document their words and to spend hour upon hour editing and rewriting as they strive for literary perfection. All students at Fitzgerald State School are expected to write. For some, the opportunities given to write in class time and for homework tasks are not enough. Their compulsion for writing should be nurtured. These children should be encouraged to read more and read more widely. Through reading, young writers begin to imagine the possibilities. They need the tools, to gather their ideas and to work with their words. They need a mentor, who will read their offerings and provide encouragement and constructive feedback. They need opportunities to share their writing. They need real reasons to write and challenges to feed their developing skills. Entering a writing competition provides a goal for keen writers. Students from Years 3 to 12 are invited to submit entries for the prestigious 2013 Whitsunday Voices Short Story Competition. Writers are free to respond to a theme or topic of their choice and there is no limit to the number of entries allowed. Visit the Festival website for information about the competition categories, word requirements, prizes and to download the entry form. Entries are due by Tuesday 11 June.

<http://www.whitsundayvoices.com.au/thisyearsfestival>

Run Around Australia -

Look out for the Fitzgerald box next to the customer service desk at Mount Pleasant Shopping Centre, present your receipts at the desk to earn kilometres for the "Run Around Australia 2013" competition. For more information go to www.runaroundaustralia.com.au.

Drop Off and Pick Up – We are aware that drop off and pick up areas around the school are very hectic in the morning and after school. Please exercise patience when using these areas. Do not park and walk away from your car in this area.

Our students safety is our major concern and if everyone practises care and patience, hopefully we will have no incidences. These are council car parks and we are extremely lucky to have them.

As part of our TravelSmart initiative we would encourage parents to use the football field car parks as a great drop off/pick up point. This would ease congestion around the school and would be a great form of exercise for the students. Just a reminder that the top carpark is not available for parent parking before or after school.

The Mackay Show -

The **Mackay Show** is on Tuesday 18 June to Thursday 20 June. Children can enter items in "Just 4 Kids". A show schedule can be downloaded at www.mackayshow.com.au

or I have one on my window. Children can make craft items, an art piece, some scrapbooking or grow a plant. I am able to take them and collect them if delivered to the school. Handwriting for the show will be completed at school. Please see me if you have any questions.

Bev Croton.

Sports Notices –

Mackay Soccer Trials

A big congratulations to Declan Wheeler, Isaiah Kennell and Kaison Ayre who have been selected in the Mackay boys' soccer team. We wish all these boys the very best for the Capricornia trials in Yeppoon.

Mackay Softball Trials

Well done to Riley James who has been selected in the Mackay softball team. Riley will now compete in the Capricornia trials. All the best Riley.

Rugby League

So far the team has had two games in the season. Unfortunately the boys lost to a very strong Walkerston team in the first round 6-22. A much improved performance in the second round saw the team defeat Sarina 22-12. Well done!

We wish the team the best of luck in this Friday's ARL Development Cup.

A reminder that training continues on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7.45am.

Tuckshop Talk –

We are still getting orders placed on the wrong days. Please check the menu because we will not supply incorrect tuckshop. Please also check pricing as the order cannot be supplied as requested if the money is incorrect.

Roster –

Thurs 9 May Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa **Fri 10 May** Cath Kean Glenda West **Tues 14 May** Robyn Adams **Wed 15 May** Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED **Thurs 16 May** Robyn Adams, Leanne Thompson **Fri 17 May –** Gean Kelleher, Cath Kean **Tues 21 May** Robyn Adams **Wed 22 May** Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED **Thurs 23 May** Robyn Adams HELP NEEDED

Daneal and Antoinette.

Community Notices –

Is there room in your life for one more? Foster a child. Foster carers open their hearts and homes to children and young people who are unable to live at home with their families because they are at risk of harm.

For more information about becoming a foster carer, call 1300 550 877 or go to www.qld.gov.au/fosterachild.

Who is Chatting to your Kids?

A Parent Information Session on:

- The dangers of the internet for our children.
- Predatory behaviour into your home and your child's life.
- Bullying /Cyberbullying.

Presenter: Sergeant Nigel Dalton, Mackay Police

When: 14 May 2013

Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm

Where: Fitzgerald State School Library

Audience: Parents and Staff only, no children.

Who is Chatting to your Kids?

Numbers Attending _____

R.S.V.P. by 13 May 2013 Thank you.