

ISSUE NO 10

www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au

15 July 2015

From the Principal's Desk

2015 Diary Dates...

July 24: Read with Me
Parent Information Session
9.30-11.30am

July 28: ICAS English Test

July 28: Read with Me
Parent Information Session
5.30-7.30pm

August 3-5: Visiting
Author – Brian Falkner

August 6- Wakakirri

August 11 – P&C Meeting

August 10-13: Year 4 Bike
Education

August 14: School Disco

August 17-20: Year 4 Bike
Education

August 31-Sept 2: Year 4
Camp

Welcome back to a new term everyone, a special welcome to the new families to our school community. Our staff look forward to working with you and your children for semester 2.

Our staff and students farewelled Mrs Liz Stephen, teacher aide special needs, after twelve years of service at our school. We wish Liz a happy retirement and thank her for her efforts in assisting students with their learning needs.

Parents, a reminder that the School Opinion Survey details were sent home with the semester one report cards via the youngest child in the family. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have your say about what our school does well, and how our school can improve. The online survey is available to 31st July, 2015.

Congratulations to our community for conducting successful Athletics Days at the end of last term. Thank you to Tim Campbell, Physical Education teacher for co-ordinating these days. Read about these days in this newsletter.

Well done to the 208 students who will receive Good Attendance certificates for term two. The average daily attendance rate for students in semester one was 93% as compared to 92.1% for the same period in 2014. Remember, Every Day Counts!

We look forward to our author in residence, Brian Falkner who visits us from 4th August. Further details about Brian's visit are coming home as an insert with this newsletter.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson
Principal.

Student Absence Line: 49656360

This service is available for parents ringing their children's absence from school. Please clearly state their name, class and reason for absence. All absences are recorded for teachers.



Foyer Display

The Year 6 Cultural Element, in Japanese lessons, had the student's participate in a scaled down version of a Japanese Sports Day. In Japan, all schools and

communities hold their Sports Festival on the second Sunday or Monday in October. This was created in celebration of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. The Year 6s took part in 3 events, Origami Sumo, Janken Pon Soccer and Tamaire – bean bags in a hoop.

They were split into two teams – the red team and the white team. All sports festivals across Japan only ever have a red team and a white team. These colours represent the Japanese Flag. The points were added together across the 4 year 6 classes and a winning team decided. Well done Shiro-gumi – The white team!

From the Guidance Officer – Helping Children with Mental Health Difficulties

The following links are sourced from kidsmatter.edu.au and are provided in good faith. Kids Matter does not necessarily endorse all views and content within the following sites.

Kids Helpline is a free, private and confidential, 24 hour counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25. Counselling is offered by phone, email and online. Counsellors respond to issues ranging from relationship breakdowns and bullying, to sexual abuse, homelessness, suicidal thoughts, and drug and alcohol use. Phone: 1800 55 1800

Reach out Australia is a website aimed at young people experiencing tough times and mental health difficulties such as depression, anxiety, eating disorders, bullying and relationship issues. It has fact sheets, stories, videos, a blog and a forum, and can provide daily SMS tips.

Beyond Blue is a national organisation with the key goal of raising community awareness about depression and anxiety, and reducing stigma associated with the illness. Beyond Blue works in partnership with a number of services and organisations, including schools. Kids Matter Primary was developed in collaboration with Beyond Blue and is partly funded by them. Their website has a range of downloadable mental health resources and checklists.

The **Australian Psychological Society (APS)** is Australia's largest professional association for psychologists. The APS contributes to community wellbeing by promoting mental health and the benefits of early intervention across the lifespan. **Kids Matter Primary** is one of their children's initiatives. Its website includes professional, academic and community resources including tip sheets on psychological issues and information on help seeking options.

Sane Australia is a national charity conducting programs and campaigns to improve the lives of people living with mental illness, their family and friends. It operates a helpline and website. They also host a youth site on mental illness which has factsheets aimed at young people, a helpline, stories and fun stuff like ecards and wallpaper.

'Read with Me! By Sue Hamilton-Smith, Master Teacher - Parents, grandparents, guardians and caregivers are invited to attend a 'Read with Me! How to Support Your Developing Reader' workshop session.

This two hour 'Read with Me!' workshop session is designed to assist you in helping your child with their reading development in the early years at school and at home. Come and learn about the reading process, how children learn to read and how best to support them to become independent expert readers. Some key reading instruction strategies used by the teaching staff at Fitzgerald State School will be outlined. The workshop content will be useful when supporting the home reading of your beginning and developing readers. Research shows that the more intensely parents are involved in their child's schooling, the more beneficial the academic achievement and social adjustment effects. The earlier in a child's educational process parental involvement begins, the more powerful the effects. This 'Read with Me!' workshop will be led by Fitzgerald SS Master Teacher, Sue Hamilton-Smith. **Cost:** No cost to members of the Fitzgerald SS community. **Time & Dates:** 9.30am to 11.30am Friday 24 July and repeated 5.30pm to 7.30pm Tuesday 28 July. **Venue:** Fitzgerald State School's Hall Foyer. **RSVP:** Please register your interest by leaving your name and contact details at the Fitzgerald SS office, or email Sue Hamilton-Smith shami40@eq.edu.au

ICAS Science Competition Results

Congratulations to our students who competed in the ICAS Science competition. Those students who received Distinctions and Credits:

Distinctions – Penny Zhang

Credit – Brooke Vella, Baiden Papavasiliou, Jack McCubben. Well Done!

Make Every Day Count In 2015

Make 2015 the year when your child doesn't miss a day of school. Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren't at school or don't stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. Check out the Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV. <http://www.youtube.com/DETEQueensland>

Library Notice

Author visit- Brian Falkner will be visiting Fitzgerald State School from August 1st – 6th. Brian is a vibrant, energetic, entertaining person. As part of his visit, students are given an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of one of his books.

Please see the insert in this newsletter for more information.

Brian is part of our Celebrations Book Week. The theme for book week is "Books Light up our World". Book week will be celebrated August 24th-28th. Classes will be involved in activities around this theme during the week.

Show Handwriting

Hand writing was showcased by Fitzgerald students at the recent Mackay Show. The judge had a difficult time choosing the



winners. She looked closely at letter formation, slope, spacing, size and joins. Congratulations to Maddison Ebert in Year 1B for second place and Dean Nelson from Year 2B for third place. Well done to everyone who entered.

Congratulations to all students who proudly displayed their artistic abilities Students from 2C recently entered

some of their outstanding chalk pastel ANZAC sketches of soldiers and poppies into the Mackay Show Children's Art Competition. Each piece of art work entered was displayed in the Art and Craft exhibition shed at the show. Lincon Dowsey was awarded a ribbon and certificate for being a 'high achiever', and all students who entered received a ribbon of participation

Sports Notices

Sports Day

It was fantastic to see all students from prep to year 6 participating in our Sports Days at the conclusion of term 2, whether it was field events, rotation activities for the Junior Sports Day or our Senior Sports Day. All students came dressed in their house colours and performed to the best of their ability. The results from the Senior Sports Day were:



8 Year Age Champions:
Jardine Kennell and Caprice Womal



9 Year Age Champions:
Damian Lawn and Ava Wheeler



10 Year Age Champions:
Jaxon Purdue and Teesha Edwards



11 Year Age Champions:
Brooke Vella and Wade Jackson



12 Year Age Champions:
Jhett Bates and Takia Buchanan

Overall Age Champions: Jardine Kennell and Brooke Vella

Champion Ball Games House: Kingfisher

Best Presented House: Kingfisher

Champion Relay House: Brolga

800m Champions: Jhett Bates and Brooke Vella

Overall House Champions: Brolga

Northern Suburbs Athletics

Notes have gone home to students selected in Northern Suburbs Athletics trials to be held on Monday 20th July (12.00-3.00pm at W.A.S- Shot Put and Discus) and Tuesday 21st July (8.30-3.00pm at Cathy Freeman Oval- Track and Field Events). Permission slips and money will need to be paid to the office prior to these dates.

Mackay Under 10 Rugby League Carnival- Grant Rovelli Cup

Congratulations to our team of under 10 boys who recently competed in the Grant Rovelli Cup against other schools in the Mackay District. The team went through the day undefeated, winning all of their games against Victoria Park, Emmanuel, Marian, Eimeo Road and St Mary's. The team ended up coming second overall to St Brendan's on for and against difference. Well done boys, a great team effort!

Works Matters – A number of grounds projects were carried out over the holiday period – the front garden to the administration building was replanted and the side garden to the years 1 and 2 block had a tidy-up.

Thank you to the volunteers who came up to the school on their holiday to refresh and add to the paintings on the concrete around the Year 1 and 2 buildings. Special thanks go to Bunnings for donating the paint, and to past parent Deb Hunt, and teachers Narelle Beanland, Lorelei Thomas, Leigh Mansfield and daughter Mikahlah. Thank you to Sue Hamilton-Smith for co-ordinating this project.

Tuckshop Talk

Welcome back to another term. Please remember not to staple or sticky tape bags down. No foreign coins as we will have to alter your child's order and a replacement food item to the value will be substituted.

Please ensure you order tuckshop on the correct days. LOL are no longer available and we now have Aqua Water in Peach, Blackcurrant and Apple, these are similar to Play Water.

Sports Day: Thank you to all who baked cakes for either the Junior or Senior Sports Day and a huge Thank You to the parents who were able to help on the day. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

MILO drinks are continuing until the end of term, they will be available from 8.00 – 8.30am Tuesday – Friday.

ROSTER:

Wed 15th July – Robyn Adams

Thurs 16th – Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED

Friday 17th – Jean Kelleher, HELP NEEDED

Tues 21st – Robyn Adams

Wed 22nd – Robyn Adams

Thurs 23rd – Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED

Friday 24th –HELP NEEDED

Tues 28th – Robyn Adams

Wed 29th – Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED

Thurs 30th – Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED

Please consider volunteering.

Antoinette & Daneal

Woolworths Earn & Learn 2015

This program is again operating from 15th July and our school is participating. Please have family and friends collect stickers, as this program has provided wonderful resources for our school in previous years. Bins are located at Mount Pleasant and Northern Beaches Woolworths stores and sticker cards can be sent direct to the school.

Lost Property

Our lost property bin is located outside our administration building. The bin is currently full of students clothing and lunch boxes. Please check the bin for any of your missing items.

Community Notices

St Joseph's Parish of North Mackay and Northern Beaches will be commencing Sacramental Process.

Date: July 28th 2015

Venue: St Joseph's Hall, Canberra Street, North Mackay.

Time: 7.00pm

For further details, contact Parish Office – 4957 4855

Canelands Coles are supporting our drought affected farmers out west. We are accepting donations of any kind for the families who are struggling to make ends meet on the land. Your donations will be greatly accepted and will be delivered by our team.