

## 2014 Diary Dates...

**8-11 Sep:** Prep-Yr3 Swimming  
**9-11 Sep:** Regional Big Sing  
**11 Sep:** YICTE Day – Yr 6C Showcase  
**15 Sep:** Tierney Kennedy ‘Problem-Based Maths’ Parent Session 5:30pm-7pm  
**8-18 Sep:** Prep-Yr3 Swimming  
**16 Sep:** Cultural Evening  
**19 Sep:** Last Day of Term 3  
**6 Oct:** Public Holiday  
**7 Oct:** Term 4 Resumes  
**7-26 Oct:** Eisteddod  
**8-10 Oct:** Yr 5 Camp  
**20 Oct:** Student Free Day  
**20 Oct:** Prep Open Day  
**31 Oct:** Day for Daniel  
**13 Nov:** Spectacular

## 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.

## From the Principal’s Desk

Congratulations to our Opti-Minds team, the team gained an Honours Award at the recent Regional Opti-Minds Challenge in the Science Engineering section. Thank you to Ms Jill Smith for preparing the students, further details are included in this newsletter.

It was pleasing to see the dads and grandfathers and invited guests being positive role models to our young readers at the Real Men Read event on Friday afternoon. This was a good way to show the students the importance of reading. Thank you to Mrs Sue Hamilton-Smith for co-ordinating this event.

The students will be learning their facts for the remainder of the term to assist with the Fact-a-thon fundraiser. If as parents you could help by having the students learn their facts and gain sponsors.

Our Prep to Year three students commence their swimming program next week, details have been finalized for this 8 hour program.

The Cultural Evening is set down for Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm in the school hall. This event showcases our choirs, bands and drama group.

Good luck to Mrs Stuart’s year 6 students who are attending the NQ Young ICT Explorers Competition at the Townsville University on Saturday where the students will be presenting their project designs.

A uniform alert, the students have been reminded to wear the school hat which is royal blue with a broad brim 7cm or greater in width.

The September P&C meeting will be held on next Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at 5:30pm in the staffroom, all are welcome to attend.

Congratulations to our students who have received Scholarships to Mackay North State High School for 2015.

Ella Sipple - **Academic**  
Sofia Garcia - **Cultural**  
Tyler Forbes - **Academic**  
Joe Fortescue - **Cultural**  
Lily Daniel - **Cultural**  
Jana Bassan - **Cultural**  
Wesley Dyer - **Sporting**



Enjoy your week.

Michael Anderson  
Principal

## Foyer News

### Sowing The Seeds Of Knowledge - 3A and 3B



Term Three for 3A and 3B has been exciting, filled with numerous hands-on Mathematical learning experiences that have involved all

students on differentiated levels. We have learnt how to partition whole numbers into common fractions, including some very large numbers. Together, we realised that we divide objects equally each and every day, when we do simple things like cutting an apple or sharing a pizza that has been cut into eighths. We also enjoyed learning about symmetry and how shapes that are symmetrical have two equal parts, one a mirror image of the other. We skilfully applied what we had learnt by designing our own Symmetry Bugs.

Another applied learning task that Year Three students have been working towards, is their application of multiplication strategies and one of these is to represent a multiplication fact using an array. As we've just done seed art as part of a Science Week project, we made our arrays with seeds, a more enjoyable way to improve the students' knowledge and understanding.

We hope you come and take a look at our energetic learning display!

### Opti-Minds



On Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> August, Jake Squires, Reilly Kurtz, Edward Westcott, Alex Jesser, Stephanie Nicholson, Carlton Rees and Brae Wagner spent the day at Pioneer High School, representing Fitzgerald

in Opti-Minds. At the beginning of Term 3 they were given 3 long term problems to choose from. The Team chose the Science Engineering problem, which had the group work on creating an elevator (excluding use of a counter weight) that could move up to 3 small tuna cans. In the spirit of Opti-Minds the team worked very well to create a dramatic solution to the problem, and design and make the elevator, which was undoubtedly the star of the show. With many ups and downs during the preparations and transporting the elevator to Pioneer High School, we can proudly announce that the Team received an 'Honours' award for their working elevator and performance. Well Done Team Fitzy!

### Greenmount Homestead

Last Thursday all Year 1 classes went to Greenmount Homestead. We went by bus. We went there so we can learn about past and present. I felt excited! There were four activities. First we



did our sketch and then we went into the house. Then we had our morning tea after we went to the museum. Finally we went outside and then we came back to school.

### **By Taylor Fisher**

On Thursday we went to Greenmount. 1D,1C,1B, 1A and Mums and Dads went too. We went because we were looking at old things. We drew a landscape and we got to see the home. I felt really happy and excited.

### **By Izzy Bassan**

On Thursday all the year ones went to Greenmount on two buses. We saw old things in Meggie and Peter's room and saw the old grandfather clock. We saw the old sewing room and the very old telephone and saw Gloria's statue. I felt super-duper happy.

### **By Keira Doré**

### Year 5 Semester 1 Banner



As our Term 3 BOB day activity each Year 5 was allotted a rectangle where they were to depict some aspect of our Semester 1 curriculum. We had a brainstorm and came up with quite a variety of possible subjects. The Year 5 students are rightly proud of their efforts. Many thanks to Mrs Berkett, mother of Chloe in 5C, for her problem solving skills and her time, to get it ready for hanging. As it was blowing over the railing, Mr Ballard, father of Cody in 5A, kindly donated some heavy duty sinkers to keep it anchored. There are a group of 5A students who have taken responsibility for hanging it each morning and removing it each morning.

### Learning Literacy

**Real Men READ! NLNW Community Event** by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum

Thank-you to the gentlemen of the North Queensland Cowboys and Mackay Cutters Rugby League Teams for supporting Fitzgerald State School's 'Real Men READ!' National Literacy and Numeracy Week event. They were great role models. Our school community got such a buzz by their attendance and it helped to send some clear messages about the importance of reading to our

students, thank-you also to all those who came along to read with a child, especially to the dads, grandads and other significant males who are so important in the lives and education of our children. We figure that by getting the men involved we can double the amount of reading that is happening in homes. Photographs from the NLNW 'Real Men READ!' event will be on display in the school library very soon.



**De-Mystifying Mathematics** by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum

There has been a date change for the De-Mystifying Mathematics Parent Information Session to be led by Cairns-based Educational Consultant, Tierney Kennedy. The workshop will now be held from 5.30pm-7.00pm on **Monday 15 September** in the Fitzgerald State School Hall Foyer. During the information session, Tierney will provide tips for helping to improve your child's understanding of maths, how they can be more effective problem solvers as well as information about the Australian Curriculum and what all this means for your family. Tierney believes that Mathematics is often the subject that many parents shy away from, so will provide suggestions for things that parents can do at home to help make maths fun and a part of everyday life. During her week visiting Fitzgerald State School, Tierney will also share her knowledge of mathematics with our teachers, teacher aides and students. You might like to have a look at Tierney's 'Back-to-Front Maths' website, there are ideas how parents can help babies and toddlers as well as students in lower, middle and upper primary.

<http://www.backtofrontmaths.com.au/free-resources-and-information/parents-portal>.

Please give your name and contact details to the Fitzgerald SS office, or email [shami40@eq.edu.au](mailto:shami40@eq.edu.au) if you are interested in attending the workshop. No cost. Tea and coffee provided.

**Sports Notices**

**Queensland Touch Football Trials**

Congratulations to Shameus Edwards who has recently participated in the State Touch Football trials in Mackay. Shameus was part of the Capricornia team that played off against other teams across the State. Throughout the tournament the Capricornia team and Shameus put in some excellent performances. Well done.

**Tuckshop Talk**

Playwater is no longer available. We are now selling LOL which is 99% fizzy fruit juice, flavours are Tropikl, Razzi and Blackcurrant.

**ROSTER**

- Thur 4<sup>th</sup> – Robyn Adams, Shiren Arkther
- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> – Bec Benson, **HELP NEEDED**
- Tue 9<sup>th</sup> Robyn Adams
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> – Robyn Adams, **HELP NEEDED**
- Thur 11<sup>th</sup> – Robyn Adams, Shiren Arkther
- Fri 12<sup>th</sup> – Cath Kean, Deb Jenkins
- Tue 17<sup>th</sup> – Robyn Adams

We have lost some of our volunteers due to work commitments, so we are asking for more parent helpers for the remainder of the year. For the tuckshop to run we need help, so if you can spare one day a week, a fortnight or a month it would be greatly appreciated. Come and see either Antoinette or Daneal in the tuckshop.

**When can my child attend kindergarten?**

Child Born	2015	2016	2017	2018
1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011	✓			
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012		✓		
1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013			✓	
1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014				✓

**Teacher Aide and School Support Staff Day**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

We recognise the efforts of all aides and support staff who assist the teaching staff and community in improving the outcomes for students. Take the opportunity to thank them in your own way during the week.

Our newsletter can now be viewed on the school website [www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au](http://www.fitzgerass.eq.edu.au)