

## From the Principal's Desk

### 2014 Diary Dates...

**7-26 Oct:** Eisteddfod

**20 Oct:** Student Free Day

**20 Oct:** Prep Open Day

**23 Oct:** Yr3 Choir  
1pm, Yr4/5 Choir  
6:30pm

**24 Oct:** Yr6/7 Choir  
8:30am

**31 Oct:** Day for Daniel

**31 Oct:** World

Teachers Day

**3-14 Nov:** Prep

Interviews

**11 Nov:** Remembrance Day

**11 Nov:** Spectacular Practice – Yr7

**12 Nov:** Spectacular Practice – Whole School

**13 Nov:** Spectacular

**17-21 Nov:** Book Week

**28 Nov:** Free Dress

Day for Chaplaincy

**8 Dec:** Yr6 Graduation Evening

**9 Dec:** Awards Night

**9 Dec:** Final P&C Meeting

**10 Dec:** Yr7

Graduation Evening

Welcome back to a new term everyone, a special welcome to our new families and staff. This term is always a busy one for us with the opportunity to celebrate the student and staff achievements as a community.

The Eisteddfod has commenced for many of our students and will continue for the next two weeks. Good luck to our performers. Already we have news that the Recorder Ensemble and Concert Band performed creditably gaining third and second placing respectively.

Our students have commenced their practice for our Spectacular, "Eureka", which will be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Information concerning ticket allocations went home on Monday.

A big well done to the students for their results in the Fact-a-thon, the collection of sponsorship money is due this Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to community members for your support.

We are seeking information as to whether your children will continue at our school for 2015. Please complete the form going home with this newsletter and return it to the school office by Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>. If the form is not returned we will assume that your children will be returning. This information assists us in planning staff numbers for next year.

An open morning for the 2015 Prep families is planned for this coming Monday October 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 10:30am at the Hall. Please inform prospective families for 2015 to contact the school office for enrolment details.

A reminder that our school has a student free day on Monday October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy your week.



Michael 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



Work samples from 4Cand 4D are currently being displayed in the administration building. Work includes a monochromatic colour study, historical recounts from the perspective of a child convict on board the First Fleet, sustainable living and the four R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Replace) and minute-to-win-it games designed, tested and reflected on from our science unit.

## Prep A Outside Area



Over the holidays, the Prep A outside area was given a "makeover". A donation of rock, for ground cover from the P & C, and concrete pavers from Duane Legarde of Batrosa, made this makeover possible. This area will now be used for the students to do reading groups and other outdoor activities. A huge "thank you" to Miss Martin, Mrs Mooney, Mrs Wilson, Zali Mooney and Craig Monaghan for giving up their time to complete this task. Thank you to Les, our groundsman for helping with this large task as well.

## Drinking Fountains

We have installed a further three refrigerated drinking fountains for the students, a timely delivery. Thank you to the Student Council and P&C for their support.

## The Value "Integrity"

Our student counsellors presented the value for the month, "Integrity" to the students on school assembly. Their presentation, in part, states that Integrity is standing up for what you believe is right, living by your highest values. It is being honest and sincere with others and yourself. You are honest when your words and actions match. You don't fool yourself into doing what you know

is wrong. You fill your life and your mind with things that help you to live a good life.

## Wakakirri Update

Exciting news has been received for the Wakakirri production - Aladdin, a nomination for the National Best Story Award, go to [www.wakakirri.com](http://www.wakakirri.com) and under WAKA TV you can view our production, episode 19.



## Instrumental Music Selection 2015

Instrumental music selection process is now underway for 2015. We will be selecting students from Year 2 for strings and from Year 3 for woodwind, brass and percussion. The selection process is very stringent and involves input from classroom teachers, the music teacher and from the administration. Student selection is based upon behaviour, parent and home support and musical ability. If your child has been selected they will receive a letter of invitation to attend a parent / student meeting, details of which will be in the letter. If your child does not receive an invitation and you wish to discuss the possibilities of them joining the instrumental music program please come to see me.

Thanks for your support,

Jill Green

Music Teacher.

## Learning Literacy

'*Magic Words*' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum.

All of our early years classrooms expect the students to learn to read a bank of sight words. At this school we have chosen to use the Magic Words, because they come in colourful rainbow sets with lots of support materials. Just Google M100W and you'll see what we mean! We could have chosen Dolch, Oxford, Reading Eggs, Fry or any number of other word sets. The Queensland Government even have an 'Out and About' free sight word app. All of these lists do the same thing. They introduce the first hundred or so most common words in the written English language. Many of these words are pretty tricky

for beginning readers to remember because they are 'structure', rather than 'content' words. Structure words are often abstract, they help put our ideas and sentences together, but they often aren't really an idea in their own right. Words like *here, the, was, of, to* are also tricky to learn to read because phonics (sound-letter correspondence) often just doesn't help, or only helps with part of the word. These words just have to be learnt by sight. That's why they are called 'sight words'! A beginning reader pretty much struggles until they have the first 100 or 200 sight words learnt with such accuracy and automaticity that they can be read anywhere, at any time. Then the magic happens. Once most children are fluent in the reading of a couple of hundred sight words – they launch and never look back. They conquer the early home readers, they begin reading more difficult material and their reading vocabulary multiplies exponentially. The more they read, the more they can read. Sometimes we introduce another couple of hundred words, but it's often unnecessary. The children pick up these new words, in context, by reading. How can you help? Support your child's acquisition of sight words, it works alongside a bank of other strategies to turn beginners into proficient readers. Keep reading TO your child every day so that they learn about the world, hear and see words, language and stories. Read WITH your child, take turns, read a second behind them, talk about what you're reading together, praise their attempts and progress. Encourage your child to read BY themselves, take them to the library and buy them books as presents. Have a look at the 'Out and About' website, it has lots of ideas to help your children recognise sight words.

<http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/out-and-about.html>

### **ICAS Maths Competition**

Student results in the recent NSW University ICAS Maths Competition are as follows:

Credit: Jackson Cross, Jessica Recker, Ryley Smith, Brooke Vella, Tyler Forbes

Distinction: Penny Zhang, Reilly Kurtz.

### **ICAS English Competition**

Student results in the recent NSW University ICAS English Competition are as follows:

Credit: Jaxon Bone, Marko Stanic, Sophia Sticklan, Byron Ashfield Smith, Monica Davis, Harriet Goldspring, Reilly Kurtz, Skye Plumley,

Distinction: Penny Zhang, Tyler Forbes, Joe Fortescue, Carlton Rees

Congratulations to all of our students.

### **Tuckshop Talk**

Welcome back to the last term of school. As we get towards the end of school we still need our

wonderful volunteers to come and help as some have had to leave for work reasons. If you can spare a couple of hours to help it would be greatly appreciated, especially on Fridays when help is definitely needed.

Roster:

Thursday 16/10 Robyn Adams, Shiren Arkther

Friday 17/10: HELP NEEDED

Tuesday 21/10: Robyn Adams

Wednesday 22/10: Robyn Adams

Thursday 23/10: Robyn Adams, Shiren Arkther

Friday 24/10: Bec Benson, HELP NEEDED

Tuesday 28/10: Deb Jenkins

Wednesday 29/10: Robyn Adams

Thursday 30/10: Robyn Adams, Shiren Arkther

Friday 31/10: Bec Benson, HELP NEEDED

Come and see us in the canteen if you can help on the days needed.

Antoinette and Daneal.

### **Health and Safety Reminder**

Impetigo (school sores) - Parents are reminded to get proper treatment for school sores before children come to school. (Sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing.)

### **KidsMatter**

KidsMatter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children.

KidsMatter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids. This program has been running at Fitzgerald with staff receiving professional development opportunities throughout the past year.

KidsMatter provides families with a range of information sheets to help them support children's mental health and wellbeing, and to recognise if and when professional help is needed.

They contain practical information, tips, and strategies across a range of common childhood issues, and were prepared by professionals experienced in the area of children's mental health and development.

To access the website, please go to

<http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/>

### **High School Open Days Year6 and 7 for 2015**

It's an exciting time for our year 6 and 7 students who will be moving to high school next year. As part of their transition to high school, students will have the opportunity to attend open days at our local high schools. Further details will be provided later in the term.

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