

## From the Principal's Desk

### 2014 Diary Dates...

**28 Nov:** Free Dress Day for Chaplaincy

**8 Dec:** Yr 6 Graduation Evening

**9 Dec:** Awards Night

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

**10 Dec:** Yr 7 Graduation Evening

**11 Dec:** Yr 6 Excursion and Yr 7 Excursion

**Dec 12:** Last day of 2014 school year - Finish at 3pm

**Jan19:** School Office Re-opens

**Jan 26:** Australia Day Public Holiday

**Jan 27:** 2015 School Year Begins

Our Spectacular production, Eureka was of a very high standard, full credit to Ms Jill Green and her production team, staff, volunteers and last but not least of all our students who continue to delight with their performances.

The Awards Ceremony for years 5 to 7 students will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm in the Hall. Students who are to receive an Academic, Social, Sporting or Cultural award will receive a letter of invitation next week.

Our final P&C meeting for the year will be held after the Awards Ceremony on the 9<sup>th</sup> December and is expected to commence at 7:30pm. You are most welcome to attend.

The Best of the Bunch (BOB) reward activities are planned for students who have exhibited good behaviour throughout the term. Congratulations to all students who are to participate in these activities.

The report cards for semester two will be issued on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Parent-Teacher interviews are on a request only basis from either the parent or class teacher.

In the Annual Statewide School Opinion Survey, 98% of the parent respondents agreed that their child is getting a good education at our school. It is pleasing to see that the parent confidence in our school continues, well done to the staff for their efforts in educating the children.

To our years six and seven graduating classes enjoy your respective dinner dances on the Monday and Wednesday evenings of the last week of school term. Our community will take the opportunity to congratulate and farewell you during your final weeks of primary school.

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.

## **WELL DONE ON A SPECTACULAR SPECTACULAR 2014!!**

Students from Prep to Year 7 excelled on stage at our school's annual Spectacular. Teachers continue to do a fantastic job of preparing their students and give them the opportunity to perform in a real theatre experience. We enjoyed everything from Cool Kids, Holiday Celebrations and Gnome Love Stories to exploring the evolution of dance. Our Year 6 and 7 students excelled in their humorous production of the gold rush and the story behind the Eureka Stockade in 'Eureka.' A huge thank you to everyone involved as it takes the efforts of everyone in the school to provide a spectacular production and such a rich experience for our students.



## **Premier's Reading Challenge Certificates**

This photograph shows representatives from Prep to Year 2 collecting certificates for those in their class who completed the challenge of reading 20 or more books during this year's reading period. Fitzgerald State School participates in the Premier's Reading Challenge each year. The initiative aims to encourage parents and caregivers to become involved in their child's reading, highlights the importance of being a reader and encourages children to read more and read more widely. Congratulations to all students who successfully met the 2014 Premier's Reading Challenge!

## **School Chaplain Support – Free Dress Day**



Our chaplain, Nic Ayre has an important role to carry out within the school welfare program. Community support is needed to assist with the employment of Chaplain Nic; if we could assist as a school by bringing along a gold coin on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Students, if you are not wearing the school uniform, remember sensible and safe clothing for a school day.

## **2015 School Term Dates**

Queensland Term Dates:

Term 1 Tuesday 27 January – Thursday 3 April

Term 2 Monday 20 April – Friday 26 June

Term 3 Monday 13 July – Friday 19 September

Term 4 Tuesday 6 October – Friday 11 December

## **Learning Literacy**

*It's ALL Important!* by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum

At Fitzgerald State School we take pride in ensuring that our students receive a well-rounded education. It is good practice to teach a wide range of facts and procedures through a balance of subjects, in a variety of ways, taking interests and different learning styles into account. Explicit instruction is our core business, but we also employ investigative approaches. Our priority is the academic. We strive to produce literate, numerate, knowledgeable problem-solvers. We develop readers, who read more and read more widely, fiction and non-fiction texts, for a variety of purposes. We teach key mathematical concepts and utilise opportunities to develop numeracy through all of the learning areas. We value traditional and new technologies. We respect diversity. We support those students whose first language is not English; we teach a second language to our upper primary classes. We provide students with opportunities to increase their world knowledge and understanding of



the issues that are of concern to our society. We focus on social development and stress our core school values of Compassion, Courtesy and Communication. We aim high and expect students to work hard to achieve their best. We enlist your support, realising that positive home-school partnerships maximise student achievement. We know the worth of imagination. The recent Arts Spectacular was a wonderful culmination and celebration of the creative offerings at the school. We teach the importance of good health. Physical Education is an integral part of the school routine. We see that exercise increases a students' cognitive control, their ability to pay attention – and also results in better academic achievement. We want every student to look forward to their favourite time of their school week. It is all important to continued student engagement. We want it all: clever, caring, creative and healthy citizens, equipped with the motivation, knowledge and skills to take on an ever changing world.

### **Value – Freedom**

Our value for the remainder of the year is Freedom. Freedom has us enjoying the rights and privileges of Australian Citizenship free from unnecessary interference or control, and stand up for the rights of others. This value was presented to us by student leaders, Edward and Emma on a recent school assembly.

### **Library Notices**

As the end of the year is rolling around very quickly we are beginning to get ready for our annual stocktake. We are required to perform a stocktake at the end of every year. To facilitate this, the Library will be CLOSED from Monday December 1<sup>st</sup>.

All student loans need to be finalized by that date. Please make sure that your child has returned their borrowing to the Library to ensure our stocktake can run as smoothly as possible.

### **Book Fair**

Thank you to the Fitzgerald community for supporting our Book Fair. We have made about \$2000 for use in the Library. Fantastic!



Thank you for your support during 2014. We look forward to 2015!  
Laurel Shaw

### **Interviews for 2015 Enrolments**

Parents if you know of families interested in enrolling their children at our school for next year, have them contact the school as the administration

team is conducting interviews over the next two weeks. If you do not intend being at our school for next year, contact the office. Thank you.

### **Sports Notices**

#### **Sports Person of the Year Awards**

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at the recent Mackay Primary School

Sports Person of the Year awards: Shameus Edwards (Touch Football), Edward Westcott (Hockey), Zali Mooney (Netball and Touch Football) and Riley James (Cricket and Softball). Extra congratulations to Shameus Edwards who was awarded the leading touch football player award and Riley James who was awarded the leading softball player award, as well as a state representative award for softball. Riley was also nominated as being in the top 10 athletes in Mackay Primary School. Well done to all of these Fitzgerald athletes.

### **Rugby League Football Shorts**

Could all students please return their Fitzgerald football shorts to school. These are part of the school's rugby league uniform and are needed for next year's players.

### **Tuckshop Talk**

As it is getting closer to the end of term we will be unable to supply items as stock runs out. At present we can no longer supply Vanilla Cups, Chocolate Paddle Pops, Red Callipo, or BBQ Chips. We will try to substitute where possible.

The Tuckshop will be closed on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December the last day of the school year.

### **Roster**

Thurs 27/11 Robyn Adams, Shiren Akther,  
Fri 28/11 HELP NEEDED  
Tues 2/12 Robyn Adams  
Wed 3/12 Robyn Adams, HELP NEEDED  
Thurs 4/12 Robyn Adams, Shiren Akther  
Fri 5/12 HELP NEEDED  
Tues 9/12 Robyn Adams  
Wed 10/12 Robyn Adams

Thank you.

Antoinette and Daneal.

### **Community Notices**

#### **Mackay North State High School**

Junior Secondary shirts for Year 6 and 7 students will be available for sale at the school office on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December. The price is \$33.50.

#### **Pioneer State High School Orientation Day**

Pioneer State High School's Year 7/8 'Orienteer Pioneer' will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. All students enrolled for Year 7 and 8 in 2015 are expected to attend our Orientation Day. Similarly, if you are still considering your child's enrolment, you are welcome to come along to this day to learn more about what Pioneer can offer your child.

#### **Foster Carer - Could you be one?**

Churches of Christ Care Pathways support their carers with training, advice and access to local resources to enable them to provide the best home environment for the children and young people in their care. Contact us for a foster care information pack on 4953 5097 or carepathwaysqld.com.au.

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