

## From the Principal's Desk

### 2014 Diary Dates...

**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

Congratulations to the students who received recognition at the Awards Ceremonies on Monday and Tuesday of this week. More news on our ceremonies is included in this newsletter.

The semester 2 report cards are released today, 10<sup>th</sup> December, some excellent results and good improvements from our students are noteworthy.

To our year 6 and 7 students, farewell, take the opportunities that will be offered to you at your respective high schools in 2015.

To the staff and parents thank you for your efforts throughout the year, a successful year for Fitzgerald.

To the staff members who are leaving us at the end of the year I extend to you the very best of wishes and thank you for your dedication to the students.

Departing staff members who are retiring, Claire Thompson, Trish Johnston, Liz Wesseling.



Staff members who are transferring to other schools, Chris Spillman to Mackay North State High and Tammy Schmid to Roma.

To all of our families and staff enjoy the Christmas and New Period period and we look forward to being with you in 2015.

The school office is open from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January, the students commence the school year on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Enjoy your week.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike".

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.

## Japanese Pop-up Restaurant

This year's Japanese Pop-up Restaurant was for both year 6s and year 7s and had the students cooking Okonomiyaki – Japanese As-you-like-it pancake.



During the session they set up their restaurant, followed a recipe, cooked it on the BBQ and experienced the flavours of Japan. All students were very adventurous and tasted all that was on offer.



A very big 'Arigatou' to all the parent helpers that made each session flow smoothly. Your time was greatly appreciated!

Jillian Smith  
(Japanese Teacher)

## Chess Club

Thank you all for coming to the school chess club this year everyone has had a blast. Thank you so much to Audrea Daniels, Tracey Davidson and Nadia for helping out this year, much appreciated. We will resume next year the first week back at school in Mrs. Bobby's room. We plan to participate in the inter-school tournament at Victoria Park School in February. Thank you students, have a great Christmas and happy holidays. Terese Marrs and the elf helpers.



## CURRICULUM HAPPENINGS

**Year 7 Mural** by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum.

Thank-you to Mrs Deb Hunt, Mrs Lynne Adams, Mrs Trina Saunders and Bunnings Mackay for helping our Student Council to enact a plan that commemorates that this Year Seven group is the last ever at Fitzgerald State School. The Student Council took their idea of painting a huge 7 with student signatures on one of the playground mural spaces to Mrs Hunt. Plans were drafted and approved, the space was cleaned and primed and the design sketched onto the wall. Members of the Student Council painted the background and all Year Seven students added their signatures. Students Anisha Goonewardane,



Stephane Schott and Tyler Forbes are pictured here refreshing adjoining murals with the help of Mrs Trina Saunders and Mrs Deb Hunt. And a big thank-you to Bunnings for providing the paint!

**Fitz Blitz Reading Party!** by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum.

As a part of the 'Fitz Blitz - Let's Read!' initiative a team of teachers and teacher aides has been providing some year two students with extra reading support first thing each morning from Monday to Thursday of each week. The team has been working on reading fluency and



comprehension and use of the Reading Star Strategies to work out tricky words. All children receiving this support have improved in their reading skills, confidence and attitude to learning. The group recently had a party to celebrate their success and so they can keep reading over the summer break, each child received a copy of a book from the popular 'Tashi' series by Anna Feinberg. There is no holiday from reading for these keen Fitz Blitz readers!

**Join the Summer Reading Club!** by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum

Our request is that you keep reading to and with



our child over the long break from school. It will be two months before your child receives books from school to practise their reading skills. That's a long, long time for a developing reader. No child can afford to have a holiday from reading. Instead, the summer vacation can be a time to read for pleasure and to consolidate learning. Children who read and are read to will be more prepared for the academic challenges of 2015.

**5 Tips to keep reading over the long summer break:**

1. Read to your child every day. Keep it fun.
2. Talk about what you read together.
3. Give books as gifts.
4. Compare books with their movie versions.
5. Become a member of the local library and sign up for the Summer Reading Club.

<http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au/theclub/registration/>

**Year 6 and 7 Script Writing Drama** by Lily Daniel 6B.

On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December Fitzzy's drama club had a special treat. Our amazing teachers, Mrs Hamilton-Smith, Miss Green and Mrs McAuley arranged for play writing sensation Angela Betzien to visit from Sydney and share her extraordinary talents. Ms Beitzen told the group that she grew up writing poetry and narratives. When she was 16, Ms Beitzen entered a play writing competition and won. Part of the prize was to have a well-known director and some actors to put her winning play on stage. Ms Beitzen had asked Miss Green if the Years 6 and 7 Drama Group could show her the piece that they entered into this year's Mackay Eisteddfod. After watching the production, Ms Beitzen gave some great feedback. She told the group that the piece was funny and interesting because it had a great message and had a fun way of telling the audience what a narrative was all about. The Drama Group also played lots of games, such as a name game where they had to say one thing they liked and one thing they disliked starting with the first letter of their first name, an acting game where they got into a group of 6 and were given a word to make a quick play about, they made up songs for past significant events and created improvisations using one word responses and recipes. To conclude an amazing day, Ms Beitzen read some of the first scene of one of her plays, 'Where in the world is Frank Sparrow'. So on behalf of Fitzzy's drama club we'd just like to say a huge thank-you teachers and of course the brilliant Angela Betzien for sharing her time and knowledge with us.

### **Awards Night**

Congratulations to all the students of Fitzgerald State School and a special mention to the following students who received awards in the following areas.

Sportsperson of the Year (Male) – Riley James

Sportsperson of the Year (Female) – Lily Tarlinton

John Wessel Perpetual Award – Tyler Forbes

Anne McDonald Cultural Award – Rebecca Flor, Ella Sippel

David Blair Memorial Award Year 5 – Byron Ashfield-Smith

Scott Family Award (Year 6 Overall) – Rebecca Flor

Dux of the school Year 7 – Tyler Forbes

### **School Chaplain Program – Thank you**

Thank you for your support of this program, we were able to raise \$750 from the free dress day held last Friday.

### **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

### **Watch over our school during the holidays**

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school.

If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 131788.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

If you do see something suspicious, please don't attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let's work together to help create a safer school community!

If you would like to know more about the School Watch Program, please call Education Queensland's School Security Section on 07 3237 0874.

### **Tuckshop Talk**

Just a reminder tuckshop will not be open on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, the last day of school. We will reopen Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the second week back at school next year.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas, see you all next year.

We would also like to say a big thank you to our wonderful volunteers, without you all we would not be able to operate the tuckshop.

Please consider volunteering next year if you can spare an hour or two.

Thank you.

Antoinette and Daneal.

### **In the event of a natural disaster - Access to school closure information**

#### **1. QSchools app**

The QSchools app will provide up-to-date information about school closures, in the event of a natural disaster causing damage to the school or preventing access to the school.

Visit the department's apps page for more information and all the features:

<http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/>

The QSchools app is available for free download through iTunes, Google Play and the Windows store.

#### **2. Websites**

Up-to-date information about school closures can be accessed on the following websites.

· School Closure Website: <http://esc.eq.edu.au>

· DETE Disaster information Website:

<http://deta.qld.gov.au/natural-disasters.html>

· QGOV Website:

<http://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/information/pages/closure.html>

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