

## 2014 Diary Dates...

**12 June:** Arts Council Performance – My Friends and I

**17 June:** Junior Sports Day

**19 June:** Show Holiday

**20 June:** Senior Sports Day

**23-26 June:** Year 7 Camp

**25 June:** Report Cards go home

**27 June:** Final Day of Term 2

## From the Principal's Desk

Well done to both our music students and their teachers for the efforts that were put in to holding last Thursday's Twilight Concert. Those who attended this event were treated to some wonderfully melodic sounds coming from our students, some of which have only been learning their instrument for 5 months. Once again, well done!

Well done to our students who participated in the recent Chess Competition at Victoria Park State School. Thanks also go to our wonderful parent volunteers Terese Marrs and Audra Daniel who come in every week to train our students.

Our sporting students will be given the opportunity to shine in the upcoming Athletics Carnivals. Prep – Year 2 will have their carnival between 9am and 12noon on Tuesday June 17. Nominated students from Years 3 - 7 will participate in the Senior Field events commencing at 8am on Wednesday June 18 and all students in Years 3 – 7 will participate in the Senior Athletics Carnival on Friday June 20 commencing at 8.50am. A reminder that students are not permitted to wear coloured zinc, paint their faces, spray their hair or write team names on their bodies. Students are to wear their sporting colours on that day.

With the cooler months now upon us, it is timely to note that the winter uniform for students is royal blue jackets or windcheaters, long pants and fully enclosed lace up or velcro shoes that are predominantly black or white.

A reminder that our report cards will be released on Wednesday, June 25. Teachers will be reporting for the first time on student achievements gained from the Australian Curriculum in Geography. Interviews for this semester can be arranged by parent or teacher request.

Every School Day Counts! Thank you to families who continue to ensure that their children attend school every day. Our daily average attendance rate continues to be 92.8%. Well done to 3D who had a 95% attendance rate for the first week in June and Prep D who had the highest attendance rate in the lower school at 97%.

Our monthly P&C meeting will be held this month on June 17 at 5.30pm in the staffroom, all are welcome to attend.

We have the Mackay Show public holiday coming up on Thursday, June 19.

Enjoy your week.



Tracey Adams  
Acting 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



Over the past few weeks the 2C and 2D classrooms have been overflowing with cardboard boxes, paper rolls and plastic tubing. Students

in these classes had been collecting used items as part of their Technology unit which required them to design and make a ramp from recycled materials. This activity followed on from their Science unit which involved investigating push and pull forces in moving toys.

During class time, the children researched and brainstormed designs for their ramps. They then collected the materials they would need.

Finally the day arrived for the students to follow their plans and make their ramps. The students did a fabulous job and they all enjoyed creating and testing their marble ramps. You can see some of their very interesting and innovative designs in the Administration foyer.

## Chess Competition



The Mackay Inter-school Chess Tournament Competition was held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Victoria Park State School. Eleven students from Fitzgerald attended the event, including Year 5 student, Joseph Garcia, who took out a Merit Award for obtaining the highest individual score for primary school students. Congratulations Joseph and well done to all students who attended. The next tournament will be held in August, the date is yet to be set.

## A Note from your school Photographer -

Recently on photo day we took the following special group photos:

- School Captains
- Systems Monitors
- Sports Captains
- Sports Monitors
- Student Council

These presentations are a group photo presentation with the children standing together with their individual portraits below.

These special group photo presentations are available for purchase for only \$27 each by collecting a special group envelope from the school office.

You have until **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014** to purchase at this price (orders placed after Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014 will incur a \$20 search fee as the images will then be archived).

Your school photo order will be delivered to the school in approximately 28 days.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of your photo day experience with us, we would love to hear your feedback on 4921 3355 or by email at schoolphotos.cq@msp.com.au

Keep smiling!!



## Fanfare



Congratulations to all our students who attended Fanfare on Tuesday at North Mackay High School. The Concert Band received a Gold Award and the Strings Ensemble received a Silver Award. Well done.

## Learning Literacy

**'Practice makes Perfect!' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum.**

In his book about the habits of highly successful people, Malcolm Gladwell repeatedly mentions the "10,000-Hour Rule", claiming that the key to success in any field is, to a large extent, a matter of practising a specific task for a total of around 10,000 hours. The Romans, way back in the first century BC believed that "Practice is the best of all instructors." They knew that it is not enough to teach something well. It's not even enough to learn something well. Practice is required in order for the learner to attain proficiency. New learning is held in the short term memory bank of our brains, practice moves the new learning to long term memory. With practice, new learning becomes automatic, reducing the cognitive load and allowing the brain to apply the new knowledge and perform even more complex tasks. A learner driver in Queensland must have a minimum of 100 hours recorded in their Learner Driver log book. This is for good reason. The best driving instructors can assist a beginning driver to learn a new skill; they can even provide the conditions for some initial practice. But for this new skill to be incorporated and coordinated with all the other complex skills that are required for safe driving, plenty of practice hours are essential. The same is true for academic learning. Novice spellers, readers, writers, mathematicians need to be taught well, learn well,

but effort and practice over time lead to excellence. Make sure that your novice learner is given the opportunity and encouragement to practise their new learning. Practice really does make perfect!

### **Stay Safe at Cane Train Crossings**

The sugar mills are crushing, so please be prepared for cane train activity. Mackay Sugar urges all motorists and residents to be alert when approaching cane train crossings. Children – don't play near railway lines or crossings, it's not safe! Motorists – look out for cane trains; don't try to race the cane train across the crossing, it's not worth the risk! For all community enquiries, contact the Mackay Sugar Communications department on 4953 8339.

### **Student Fees**

Thank you to the parents who have paid or are paying off their Resource Hire and Voluntary Contributions. The funds contributed go towards purchasing valuable resources for our students. This in turn contributes to making Fitzgerald an exciting school to attend. At this time of year at least 50% of contributions should have been paid. Parents are reminded that for students to participate in extra-curricular activities they need to have paid or be actively paying off their contributions. If you are experiencing difficulties with your payment, send in weekly or fortnightly contributions. Centrelink payments are also an option. Please contact the school office if you wish to avail yourself of any of the options listed. Thank you again for supporting the staff and students at our school.

### **Library News**

#### **Free Wi-Fi Access**

Free Wi-Fi is available to members at Mackay City Library, Gordon White Library, Sarina Library and Mirani Library for up to 90 Minutes per Day. Charges apply for non-members.

#### **School Holiday Activities – Mr Magic**

**Tuesday, July 1** - Walkerston Library 10am - 11am & Mirani Library 2pm – 3pm

**Wednesday, July 2** – Gordon White Library 10am – 11am

**Thursday, July 3** – Mackay City Library 10am – 11am

**Friday, July 4** – Sarina Library 10am – 11am

**Bookings are essential and will open on Monday, June 16**

### **Sports Notices**

#### **Sports Day**

Junior Sports day will be held for the Prep- Year 2 students on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> June from 9.00am until 12.00pm. Field Events for 9-13 year olds will be held on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> June from 8.00am

to 10.40am. Only those students selected in the field events are to attend this morning. Senior Sports day will be held on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> June from 9.00am until 3.00pm.

### **Rugby League**

Congratulations to Fitzgerald's rugby league team who scored a 30-8 victory over Slade Point/Mackay Central School last week. We wish the team luck in their games this week.

### **P & C News**

Thank you to everyone who ordered Pizza for Pizza Day. A huge thanks to my band of merry helpers, Jill Allen, Jean Kelleher, Vicki Caffarella, Sarina Dodd, Justine Morley, Leanne Thompson and Antoinette James.

### **Tuckshop Talk**

With sports next week we are asking for volunteers to help staff the food tent on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. We are also asking for donations of baked goods for both days, with the bulk to be sold on Friday. If you can assist it would be greatly appreciated.

**Junior Sports Day** – The canteen will be open as normal. A tent will be set up on the oval, offering a limited menu for parents only. Students will order as normal through the canteen on this day.

**Senior Sports Day** – The canteen will be **CLOSED** on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Students may pre-purchase food from the adjusted menu which will be sent home with the students shortly. The pre-purchased orders must be received by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June. **There will be no tuckshop for Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 on Senior Sports Friday.**

Volunteers are needed for both sports days. Please complete and return the slip at the bottom of the amended tuckshop menu if you are able to help. Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated on both sports days. These can be delivered to the canteen or directly to the canteen tent on the oval on sports days.

### **ROSTER**

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> – Robyn Adams, Liliana Umbarila

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> – Bec Benson, Lyneece Wheaton

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> – Robyn Adams

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> – Shiran Akther, Robyn Adams

Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> – **SHOW HOLIDAY**

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> – SENIOR SPORTS DAY – **CLOSED**

Tue 24<sup>th</sup> – Robyn Adams

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> – Shiran Akther, Robyn Adams

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> – Robyn Adams, **HELP NEEDED**

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> – **TO BE ADVISED**

### **Community Notices**

**Foster Carers** – Could you be one? Contact us for a foster care information pack, Churches of Christ Care Pathways, Phone – 4953 5097. [carepathwaysqld.com.au](http://carepathwaysqld.com.au)