

From the Principal's Desk**Dates for your 2012****Diary....****Sept 10-20** – Prep to Yr3 Swimming Program**Sept 11-14** – Yr 7 Camp**Sept 17-21** – P&C Spellathon**Sept 19** – Walking Wednesday**Sept 19** – Free Dress Day**Sept 19** – Cultural Evening**Oct 8-28** –Eisteddfod**Oct 16** – P&C Meeting at 5:30 in Staffroom**Oct 22** – Student Free Day**Oct 22** – Open Morning for New Parents to Prep**Oct 26** – Australia World Teachers Day**November 15** – 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.

Recycle your old MOBILE PHONES

Send your old/unused mobile phones to the recycle bin at the school office. The school will receive \$1.00 for each mobile phone that is recycled. HELP the ENVIRONMENT.

Our students have a range of events offered to them for the last two weeks of term. Please watch out for the details on each of these events. All of these events are planned so that the students can learn and at the same time enjoy with their peers.

Our Prep to year three students commence their swimming program this week and the year seven students attend their school camp at Kinchant Dam. Thank you to the adults for your involvement with the students in these programs.

The Spell-a-thon tests are conducted next week. Please get the sponsorship forms back to teachers next week for a tally. The holidays should allow you to collect sponsorship money. Thank you for supporting this excellent fund raiser. Money is due back in after the holidays, 15th October.

The Cultural Evening is to be held on Wednesday 19th September at 6 o'clock in the school hall. This evening will feature students in choirs, bands and drama group. Walking Wednesday which is becoming a regular event will be held on this date as well.

The Student Councillors have planned a free dress day for the 19th September. Students can come dressed using the first initial in their christian name or surname. A gold coin donation and sensible and safe clothing are requirements.

Please note that the style of footwear in the School Dress Code now includes black shoes or mainly white in colour sports shoes as a choice. This does not include slip-ons, skate shoes, other shoe colours, thongs or sandals.

A special mention of Tania Wall a valued teacher aide at our school who received a 25 Year Service Medallion recently, we thank Tania for her diligence with students and staff over the years.

Mrs Karen Whittaker our Deputy Principal leaves us at the end of this week. We thank Karen for her three years of service to our school community and congratulate her on a career move to Head of Primary, International School Suva for 2013. Mrs. Tracey Adams returns from leave and will commence duties in Semester two.

If you see any suspicious activity happening in our grounds during the school holidays please call the School Watch number – 131788.

Have a good holiday. School resumes on Monday 8th October.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson
Principal.

Foyer News – This week’s foyer display is a celebration of our award winning performance “Cinderella – The Real Story” in this year’s Wakakirri Story-dance competition. Don’t forget there is a photo display book in the foyer if you would like to order some. Come and see!!



Farewell from Karen Whittaker - It is with great sadness that I bid you all farewell. The past 3 years have been extremely memorable at Fitzgerald State School and it will be difficult to leave such a wonderful, caring and dedicated staff, terrific students and supportive parents/community. I would like to thank each and every one of you for adding to such great memories of such a great school. For the remainder of the year (Term 4), I will be acting principal at Andergrove State School. From there, I board a plane in January for some extended special leave. My new position in 2013 is Head of Primary at the International School Suva, Fiji. Here, I hope to make a new home in a place I have loved and called my second home for many, many years and hopefully make a difference at another wonderful school. It will be hard to beat Fitzgerald however! It has been my honour to be a deputy principal here at Fitz and many of you have called or dropped in to say thanks. I would like to say thanks to you too. I am grateful for all of your help and support over the past few years. People have asked how I feel about leaving. “Parting is such sweet sorrow.” The sweet part is that I am beginning a new, exciting adventure and chapter of my life. The sorrow of course is the goodbyes and leaving this fantastic school and the fabulous people and students associated with it. I am thankful that you all shared this journey with me. With that, I must say goodbye for now. Remember, that Fitz is the best and always will be! Why? Because of you! I’ll miss you all!

Karen Whittaker – Deputy Principal

TravelSmart – Walking Wednesday



It feels good to travelsmart

Our very first TravelSmart student who has filled his passport and received all the rewards along the way! Well done Kayden Parter from 1C.

Remember, if your child walks (even from the Touch Fields), rides a bike, catches the bus or carpools to school, they can bring their passports to the

office from 8:20 to 8:40 in the morning to collect their stamp and work their way to the many prizes along the way.

We encourage you to park at the Touch Fields in the morning and afternoon and walk the short distance to school with your child. This is great for health and gives time specifically for you and your child to spend together chatting. It is also an opportune time to teach road safety rules.

Our next whole school Walking Wednesday is Wednesday 19th September – next week! Come and join the walk with your child/children and collect a free tea or coffee from the tuckshop to reward your efforts. Students will be given a ticket that they can take to the tuckshop when they

complete their walk to school to receive a milo and muffin. They are invited to wait in the tuckshop area for the prize draws. These will be conducted before school and students need to be there to claim prizes. Di for the TravelSmart team.

ICAS English Competition – Students results in the recent NSW University ICAS English Competition are as follows: Credits – Alicia West, Claire Condren, Reilly Kurtz, Cian McLaughlin, Anisha Goonewardane, Carlton Rees, Pratibah Raut, Eli Monk, Jade Maclennan, Tom Henderson, Alexandra Westcott, Romy Mclean, Tamara Dobbie, Bridey Condren.

Distinctions – Harriet Goldspring, Joe Fortescue, Ben Davies, Rory Tarlinton, Jeremy Rees, Alex Stewart, Nicholas Holditch, Eden Whittaker. Well done to all who participated!

From the Classrooms –

4D Recount - Coming to Australia

I woke up in a pool of sweat. It was so terribly hot down in the hull. As the ship gently cruised across the sea my only friend and I ate our pebble sized breakfast and drank a little bit of dirty water.

After breakfast, Bell (my friend) and I overheard a guard saying that it looked like a jolly big storm was coming up. And right he was! The ship rocked and wobbled then tipped all the convicts on the floor. Falling on the floor made us even dirtier than before. Though it was hard to sleep, I did manage to get a little.

It was a sunny morning and I awoke to the unpleasant racket of people trying to steal my coat. While I fought them off the breakfast bell rang. As my ship mates and I shuffled across weaving our way through the other convicts I got a small glimpse of what was outside. I wanted to stop to get a better look. But being chained to other gaol birds and having guards yelling at you doesn’t let you get a jolly good look.

That afternoon we were told we had arrived at our destination. All the bother of being on the ship had paid off. I was allowed on land! The sand underneath my feet squeaked as I walked. How joyful it was to be walking on land!

But right at that moment I thought about my poor dear Mother. I’d missed her so much, and now I’d never see her again. I wonder what will happen next?

Written by Harriet Goldspring

Year 6 - Mathematics Olympics - Last week all of the

Year 6 students participated in a great session by completing our “Mathematics Olympics” to celebrate Literacy and Numeracy Week. Each class teacher organised an activity for the entire cohort to complete over the course of an hour.

6A for Australia was on an extremely lucky streak and placed first; 6C’s country of



choice was China and were placed 2nd overall in our Olympic Race! 5/6E for England placed third overall and 6B the brilliant Brazilians’ won the copper award! We were all very proud of each student in Year 6 who

conducted themselves as good sports throughout the afternoon.

Wakakirri – It was a fantastic achievement for the students and staff involved in Wakakirri to take out first place for the Mackay Region for 2012. This effort would not have been possible without the help and donations from the fantastic families involved.

Thank you for your support!

Kirsty Mawer, Costume Coordinator.

Learning Literacy – Recent literacy happenings at Fitzgerald are testament to the importance that our school community places on reading. The winners of the 'Thirteen Story Treehouse' Book Week design competition and class National Year of Reading verses are now on display in the school library. Please visit the library and have a look at the wonderful student work. Our staff is committed to ensuring the best possible literacy outcomes for the students at Fitzgerald State School and beyond. Teacher Aide and costume designer for our Arts program, Kirsty Mawer, volunteers her free time to read at the Northview Aged Care Centre. At least once a fortnight, Kirsty reads and provides company to Florence 'Nan' Dominie. They have a lot in common, Florence spent her professional life as a theatre performer and they both love a good story. Failing eyesight has been stopping Florence from keeping up with her reading. Year Two teacher, Linda Orgill, also volunteers her time as a reader. Linda is a 'Pyjama Angel' for the Pyjama Foundation, a charity dedicated to breaking the cycle of disadvantage experienced by Australian children in foster care. She regularly visits a home and reads to children in foster care, providing support for the carers and helping to grow little book lovers. Well done, Kirsty and Linda!

Hockey News - This week saw the end of another successful year for Fitzgerald Hockey. All teams made it to the finals and played wonderful hockey. The Under 8 competition doesn't have finals but the progress made by both Under 8 teams was amazing. Thank you to all Coaches and Managers this year.

Fitzgerald Under 8 - This remarkable Fitzgerald under eights team has developed not only their hockey skills but more importantly skills in sportsmanship. The kids work as a team on the hockey field and at school; they celebrate each other's achievements like they are their own, whether it's a great tackle or a gold card. It has been wonderful to have been around such devoted, friendly players and parents this year. Our fantastic coaches, Hannah and Michelle, are outstanding teachers and our kids have been lucky to have them.

Jenny McLaughlin (Manager)

Fitzgrove Under 8 - This team had a wonderful year under the guidance of Wade Blanchfield, who gave up Tuesday afternoons to coach. Well done to all of the players for their continued enthusiasm. Thank you to Sharon Turner for managing the team.

Fitzandnorth Under 10 - With the joining of Fitzgerald and Andergrove this year, a fantastic little U/10 team called Fitzandnorth has been created. These girls have all put in 110% and have all improved tenfold. It has been our pleasure to watch these girls grow into lovely hockey players and we hope to see them again next year.

Tanya Taylor (Manager)

Fitzgrove Under 12 - The Fitzgrove team have had a great year and got all the way to the Division 1 finals. The girls from two different schools soon gelled to become a team and did not take long to give each other and me cheek. The

girls have enjoyed their training sessions with a keen passion for hill runs when they talk too much. I hope the girls continue with their enthusiastic approach to the game.

Gary (Coach)

Fitznorth Under 12 - North Mackay Primary and Fitzgerald combined to make a fantastic team who, under the guidance of Antoinette Westcott, won the Division 2 Grand Final. The team always had fun together and the girls were supportive of each other throughout the season. Thanks also to Antoinette for sponsoring the Under 10 uniforms this year. Thanks to Sandy Simonsen for taking on the manager's job for the team

Facilities Update - We look forward to having a sound system, ceiling fans, a portable stage and acoustic curtains installed in our hall. Thank you to our P&C for contributing to the funding for these acquisitions. The external walls to the tuckshop have received a facelift with a coat of paint applied by Dave and Les, thank you to our groundspeople.

Attendance is Important in the Last Week of Term – As we reach the end of Term 3, parents are reminded that children must attend every day unless they have a reasonable excuse for being away, such as illness. Visiting family, being tired or starting holidays early are not good reasons to be away from school. More information on the importance of regular school attendance is available at www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/docs/parent-fact-sheet.pdf

Safety – Car Parks – Motorists are asked to be vigilant of our students when entering the top and bottom car parks before and after school. Please note that the top car park is not a drop off area for students. Delivery vehicles and staff use this car park most often.

Tuckshop Talk – Tuckshop will be open on the last day of school and will reopen again on the first Tuesday back. Thank you to our volunteers. Please consider helping out in the last term of school as we still need help. Have a safe holiday and see you all back in the next term.

Roster – **Thurs 13/09** Janelle Newsome, Gerri Nolan
Friday 14/09 Cath Kean, HELP NEEDED **Tues 18/09**
Cath Kean **Wed 19/09** HELP NEEDED **Thurs 20/09**
HELP NEEDED **Fri 21/09** Cath Kean, HELP NEEDED
Thanks

Daneal and Antoinette.

Pauls Collect-A-Cap - Pauls donates 10c for each cap. If you purchase Pauls milk please send your caps into the office. It is an easy fundraiser for the school.

Community Notices -

The Global Experience – **Live it at home** – In January 2013 students from over 20 countries around the world will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 5 to 10 months.

Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today. To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or student exchange programs out of Australia call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300135331 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student .