

2014 Diary Dates...

11 Feb: P&C Meeting
5:30pm
21 Feb: Safety Circus,
11am, Yr3
3-4 Mar: Life
Education Van
11 Mar: P&C Meeting
5:30pm
18 Mar: Arts Council
– ‘Pass the Poetry
Please’
21 Mar: Harmony Day
24-26 Mar: Choral
Festival
28 Mar: Easter Hat
Parade, Prep to Yr3
4 April: Last Day of
Term
21 April: Easter
Monday
25 April: Anzac Day

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.

From the Principal's Desk

Our Prep classes for 2014



Welcome back to a new school year, a special welcome to those of us who are newcomers to the community. Enrolments are at 744 students including 92 prep students. We had a smooth start to the school year considering the weather conditions, thank you for assisting with this start.

We welcome a number of new teaching staff to the school, Mrs Tina Ryan as acting Deputy Principal and Ms Shannon Croston 6B, Miss Jenna Monkhouse 5B, Miss Jaana Aaltonen 1B and Miss Carly Martin Prep A.

Our Years 6 and 7 students commence their campaigns for 2014 leadership positions this week, culminating with the investiture parade on Monday 3rd March. We look forward to working with our leaders for this year.

The Parent-Teacher information sessions commence this week. These sessions are useful in establishing a partnership between home and school. The timetable for these sessions is included in this newsletter.

Our school provides a values-based education. Values education promotes students' responsibility in school, community and global contexts. In this safe and supportive learning environment students build resilience and develop social skills. These values are reflected in our school motto **COMMUNICATION, COURTESY** and **COMPASSION**. Conversations with students as to how they can demonstrate our School Motto have commenced.

Our Parents' and Citizens' Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th February at 5:30pm in the staffroom. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Enjoy your week.

Mike Anderson

Principal.

Parent Information Sessions

Prep	11 February	3.30 – 4:30pm in PA Room
Year 1	13 February	3:30 – 4:30pm in Library
Year 2	12 February	3:30 – 4:30pm Year 2 Rooms
Year 3	11 February	3:45 – 4:45pm in 3A/B Rooms
Year 4	13 February	3:15 – 4:15pm in 4A Room
Year 5	12 February	4:30 – 5:30pm in 5C
Year 6 & 5/6E	6 February	4:30 – 5:30pm in Library
Year 7	12 February	4:30 – 5:30pm in Library

Staff Profile



Hello! My name is Carly Martin and I am the new Prep A teacher. I have recently moved to Mackay from Brisbane, where I was working as a teacher for Brisbane Catholic Education. I am enjoying all that Mackay has to offer and slowly finding my feet in my new environment. I look

forward to working here and getting to know the school community. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself if you see me around the school. Best of luck for the new school year.

Foyer News



In the foyer of our office we have a display board where students work is displayed. Each fortnight our foyer display changes, this allows parents to see the great work the students are achieving in class.

Aboriginal inspired artwork created by 5BC

Many indigenous art works are made by several people sitting around a prepared background and working together. In Term 4 of 2013 5BC, who were studying Aboriginal art, did this but with a slight twist. A large sheet of paper was divided into a number of irregular shapes, which were cut out. Each child then filled their shape with a pattern using long, short, curved, straight, thick, thin, loop, zigzag and dot lines. The shapes were then put back together to create our masterpiece which is presently on display in the office foyer. Come and have a look! ☺

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TERM 1

WEEK 1:

- Contracts, Information and Beginning Quickstart Timetables sent home to parents.
- Contracts and Instrumental Levies due back to school by Friday 7th February.

WEEK 2:

- Quick start Beginners' Lessons begin this week.
- Brass, Woodwind and Percussion – Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Strings – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- First evening session for Brass and Woodwind Parents on Wednesday 5th Feb starting at 7pm.
- Percussion and Bass Guitar Lesson on Friday ONLY during Quickstart Week.

- Term One Timetables for all students issued.

WEEK 3:

- Lessons start for all students.
- Strings – Monday – Mrs Mora
- Beginning BWP students – Wednesday – Mr Matthews
- Continuing BWP students – Thursday – Mr Bayliss

WEEK 4:

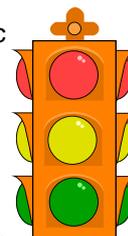
- Ensembles begin for continuing students.
- String Ensemble – Monday – 7.45am
- Concert Band – Thursday – 8am

Please see Miss Green if you have any questions or problems regarding instrumental music.

Learning Literacy

'TO, WITH & BY' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum

Reading instruction remains the No.1 academic priority at Fitzgerald State School again this year. A set of traffic lights helps to describe a balanced approach of reading instruction in all the classrooms of Fitzgerald State School. The TO, WITH & BY traffic lights can also be used a guide for parents aiming to lead their children towards independent reading of increasingly complex text.



Red Light - Read **TO** me! Show me how to be a reader. Make it fun. Give me your time and attention; read me fiction and non-fiction text. Talk to me. Tell me what you know about the world. Let me see you read. Let me see what a good reader looks like. Share your enthusiasm for reading and learning.

Orange Light - Read **WITH** me! Help me to be a better reader. Before I start reading, ask me to predict what will happen. Help me to connect with the text. During reading, check my understanding by asking me questions. Support me to work it out on my own. Pause – Prompt – Praise. After I read ask me to confirm my predictions and to retell the story. Ask me the meanings of words. Ask me questions about the text. Ask me to re-read to improve my fluency and accuracy.

Green Light - Encourage me to read **BY** myself! Let me practise my skills. Make sure that I read in bed. Ensure that I have books to read. Give me books for presents. Check that I'm reading a balance of fiction and non-fiction. Help me to find a favourite author. Take me to the library.

2014 School Term Dates

Queensland Term Dates:

Term 1 Tuesday 28 January – Friday 4 April

Term 2 Tuesday 22 April – Friday 27 June

Term 3 Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September

Term 4 Tuesday 7 October – Friday 12 December

For more information the 2014 school calendar can be downloaded at

www.education.qld.gov.au/public_media/calendar/holidays.html

Road Safety Reminders – The School Crossing

Use the crossing provided and follow the supervisors' instructions. Listen out for the whistle to cross the road.

Parking – Please do not park in the hospital grounds situated across from the bottom school car park.

If motorists are leaving the bottom car park, could you please turn left and travel up to the roundabout rather

than attempting to turn right onto Norris Road. This will help alleviate traffic congestion at peak times.

School newsletters are distributed fortnightly to all school families. The youngest child has the responsibility to deliver this to your household. Please take time to peruse the newsletter. We endeavour to keep every family informed about school life at Fitzgerald. Newsletters usually come home every second Wednesday.

Student Dress Code

Students are being reminded of aspects of the Dress Code. Improvements are expected from some of our students in the areas, the wearing of, appropriate footwear, jewellery, hairstyles and no makeup or hair dye.

News from the Library

Welcome to 2014 from the Library
2014 is shaping up to be an exciting time in the Library. We have the author and illustrator Peter Carnavas visiting in August, two book fairs: one in May, the other in November and we are looking forward to sharing many new and interesting books with students this year. Our online catalogue is up and running. You can access it at: <http://fitzgerass.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/index.php>
When you use this web site you can search the resources available in our school library as well as search the internet using safe search engines. If you have any questions about this resource please come to the Library and chat to us.

Remember that the Library is open before school, at Big Lunch and after school for students to borrow books. We encourage everyone, especially Prep parents, to help your child borrow as often as possible from the Library as reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do to help your child prepare for reading and learning. Reading 15 minutes every day for 5 years equals 27,375 minutes!

Finally this year also brings about a change in Library staff. Mrs Laurel Shaw will work Monday to Thursday with Mrs Janelle Stuart on Friday.

Laurel Shaw, Teacher Librarian

P & C News

The first P&C meeting for the year will be held at 5:30pm on Tuesday 11th February in the Staff Common Room (in the main admin block). All welcome and new parents would be especially welcome to come along and input to the P&C.

Also, an urgent call for helpers! The parents who have helped for the last number of years to prepare icy cups on a Tuesday morning and then sell them to students on a Friday afternoon, are needing to step down. So we need a fresh set of parents to help out weekly at either one of those time slots. The existing parents will be happy to train you. This is a key P&C fundraiser and so your help would be much appreciated!!! Please contact Jai if you can help out (0429 852 949, jaianthonywright@gmail.com).

Also, the P&C has fundraised towards a Shade Shelter for the Infant Play Area. Unfortunately, the wrong pieces were ordered by the construction company and so this has not yet been completed, but will be shortly.

Sports Notices

Cross Country

The school Cross Country race will be held on Friday the 21st of March. Training has started this week, and will be run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon's from 3.00-3.30pm. Students born in 2001-2005 are able to compete in the race. Students must have filled in and returned their cross country note before they are allowed to participate in training and the race.

Mackay Junior Touch Football- Winter Competition

Mackay Junior Touch Association are running a Junior Touch Competition on Friday afternoons for Boys and Girls in U6 through to U16. For more information go to www.mackaytouch.com.au under the "Junior" tab.

Tuckshop Talk

Welcome back. Please check the new menu for correct prices also make sure the total of money is correct as we will not be able to supply the order if it is incorrect.

ROSTER:

Thurs 6th – Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa
Fri 7th – Rebecca Benson, Cath Kean
Tues 11th – Robyn Adams
Wed 12th – Robyn Adams, Lynece Wheaton
Thurs 13th – Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa
Fri 14th – Cath Kean
Tues 18th – Robyn Adams
Wed 19th – Robyn Adams

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

Values Program – 'Spirit of Fitz'

Fitzgerald State School provides a values-based education. Values education promotes students' responsibility in school, community and global contexts.

VALUES FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLING

Care and Compassion

Care for self and others.

Doing Your Best

Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable, try hard, pursue excellence.

Fair Go

Pursue and protect the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society.

Freedom

Enjoy all the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship free from unnecessary interference or control, and stand up for the rights of others.

Honesty and Trustworthiness

Be honest, sincere and seek the truth.

Integrity

Act in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct ensure consistency between words and deeds.

Respect

Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person's point of view.

Responsibility

Be accountable for ones's own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways, contribute to society and to civic life, take care of the environment.

Understanding, Tolerance, Inclusion

Be aware of others and their cultures, accept diversity within a democratic society, being included and including others.

Striving to uphold these values by demonstrating responsible behaviour and developing positive relationships is the 'Spirit of Fitz'.

These values are being displayed for all to see on the office foyer display board.