

## From the Principal's Desk

### 2014 Diary Dates...

**11 Mar:** P&C Meeting  
5:30pm

**18 Mar:** Arts Council  
– ‘Pass the Poetry  
Please’

**21 Mar:** Harmony Day

**21 Mar:** School Dance

**24-26 Mar:** Choral  
Festival

**24 Mar-4 Apr:** Parent-  
Teacher Interviews

**4 April:** Easter Hat  
Parade, Prep to Yr2

**4 April:** Last Day of  
Term

**21 April:** Easter  
Monday

**25 April:** Anzac Day

Fifty-four of our students were presented with their leaders and monitors badges at a special parade on Monday. Mr Jason Costigan, Member for Whitsunday and Mr Jai Wright, P&C Executive member presented the badges to the students. The school captains Tyler Forbes and Emma Cameron gave their pledges to the school community with Ella Sippel responding on behalf of the student body, congratulations to all students.



Our first dance for the year is planned for Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Details will come home next week, please indicate if you are able to assist for a couple of hours. These are always enjoyable functions for the students.

The parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for the last two weeks of this term. This is a good opportunity for us to discuss the early progress of your children. Watch out for the schedules that will come home next week.

Parents if you could assist us by reinforcing the steps involved in the ‘Fitz High 5’ with your children. It is a good strategy to describe how to solve problems between students in 5 possible ways. Further information is in the newsletter.

Our infant students are taking full advantage of the permanent shade structure built over their fort. Thank you to our Parents’ and Citizens’ Association for making this project possible. Don’t forget the next P&C Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> March at 5:30pm in the staffroom, we need your support.



### 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.

Enjoy your week.

Mike Anderson

Principal.



### Student Council

**Year 7** - Tyler Forbes, Joe Fortescue, Edward Westcott, Stephane Schott, Emma Cameron, Anisha Goonewardane, Mercedes Rees, Skye Plumley

**Year 6** - Dylan Ashford, Cole Morgan, Jackson Pain, Ella Sippel, Rebecca Flor, Terah Hope, Mr Costigan, Member for Whitsunday, Mr Jai Wright, P&C executive.



### House Captains

Front Row - Jeremy Tass, Ben Allen, Wesley Dyer, Kye Sleeman, Kiara Purdue, Kaitlin Scott, Back Row - Hugh Arthur, Bridget Donovan, Shameus Edwards, Riley James, Lily Pringle, Lily

Tarlington, Georgie Coburn. Absent - Monica Davis, Kyrin Allinson, Paige Bone.

### Foyer News



### Fitzgerald Leadership Process

This year the Years 6 and 7 students participated in an election process at Fitzgerald. The students filled out enrolment forms to become eligible to vote in the 2014 School Captain

Election.

Students interested in becoming Student Councillors, System Monitors, Sports Captains and Sports Monitors filled out a nomination form to apply for these positions.

A selection panel of Mr Anderson and staff read the forms and selected the successful applicants. Afterwards Mr Anderson announced the leadership positions.

Student Councillors started campaigning with the help of their committee members, and constructed badges and posters to persuade the students of years 6 and 7 to elect them as captains and vice-captains.

Representatives of the AEC, Australian Electoral Commission, Mrs Loriza Vukialau, visited our school and explained the voting system in Australia. We conducted a random draw for the order of candidates on the ballot form.

Student councillors created and presented campaign speeches in front of an audience consisting of the years 5, 6 and 7, their teachers and invited guests.

All year 6 and 7 students forwarded into the hall foyer where there were polling booths where the students could privately vote for their choice of School Captain on a secret ballot form. The votes were counted at the office after the polling booths closed.

That Friday Mr Anderson announced the successful School Captains and Vice-Captains of Fitzgerald State School.

A special ceremony was conducted at our school hall, where the Member for Whitsunday, Mr Costigan, presented badges to all students in leadership positions, including the 2014 School Captains, Tyler Forbes and Emma Cameron.

By Tyler and Emma

### Staff Profile



Hello everyone! My name is Shannon Croston. I am delighted to have joined the professional and dedicated team at Fitzgerald this year as a Year 6 teacher. My previous teaching position was at Bucasia State School. I have been teaching for 11 years in the Mackay area with the majority of that time teaching year 6 and 7 classes. This year I am privileged to have joined the fantastic Year 6 teaching team and am looking forward to working with the awesome students in 6B.

### Fitz High 5

What is Fitz High 5?

'Fitz High 5' is a whole school approach to build social skills and develop resilience. It is an integral part of the Values Program and shapes the School Code of Behaviour. This 5 step problem solving strategy can be used in the classroom and in the playground to diffuse potential conflict situations. IGNORE, TALK FRIENDLY, WALK AWAY, TALK FIRMLY, REPORT.



### Library News

#### Online resources for all families at Fitzgerald State School

All families at Fitzgerald are able to access excellent online resources that are used at school and can also be accessed in the comfort of your own home. A great tool to help out with those tricky assessments or questions you may be asked by your child.

World Book Online is an encyclopaedia subscribed to by our school. It has many educational and entertaining articles for all students. The web address is:

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/products?ed=all&gr=Welcome+Fitzgerald+State+School%21>

The user name and log on details are:

**User name: fitz1883**

**Password: fitzlib**

One other excellent web site you may wish to visit is our "**Library Web Site**"

<http://fitzgerass.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/> This is where activities and events in the Library are posted regularly. Your child is also able to search the Library catalogue and visit other web sites from this page.



The third brilliant resource available to use at home is the ABC Reading Eggs web site. Our school has a whole school subscription for this interactive resource. Your child is able to access this at home by using the user name and password that their class teacher has provided them. Reading Eggs caters for students from Prep and the big brother of Reading Eggs is Reading Eggspress catering for ages up to 13 years. This program not only reinforces reading strategies taught in the classrooms, but is also another avenue for your child to access online books and to engage in fun, interactive and engaging reading activities.

Please see your child's teacher if they are having difficulty remembering this.

### **North Mackay Private Hospital Car Park**

Parents and Guardians of children at Fitzgerald State School are being advised that North Mackay Private Hospital opened on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014. You are no longer allowed to park on these premises as such parking on the hospital grounds is reserved for patients, families, clients and visitors of North Mackay Private Hospital and their Consulting Suites only. Could parents and guardians dropping off and collecting children from Fitzgerald State School please make alternative parking arrangements.

### **School Finish Times**

The school day finishes at 3:00pm (2:45pm for Prep). If students need to be collected from school before the conclusion of the school day, parents must first sign their child out at the office before collecting them from the classroom. Please try to avoid picking up your child before school finishes so that disruption to class learning is minimised.

### **WIN a set of iPads**

The Daily Mercury is offering a set of 10 iPads to be won by one lucky school. The school with the most tokens per student wins! We need you to collect the tokens from the Daily Mercury and place in the box in the office foyer, so start collecting!

### **Life Education**

Over the next two weeks all students from Prep to Year 7 will visit Harold the Giraffe and his team in the Life Education van. Life Education is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to "motivate and empower young people to make smart life choices for a healthy future". The Life Education program enhances the "health and well-being" component of our curriculum by providing our students with engaging and age-appropriate activities that promote healthy living and positive choices. Students who have already attended Life Ed sessions described their lesson as fun and spoke animatedly about the importance of looking after their bodies and making smart choices to keep safe and healthy.

An information session for parents was well attended and positively received.

### **Learning Literacy**

'Get Creative!' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Head of Curriculum.

Students are invited to show their creativity by entering the Whitsunday Voices Short Story, Picture Book and Lit Vids competitions. All the details are available at <http://www.whitsundayvoices.com.au/thisyearsfestival>.

**Short Story Competition** Students from Years 3 to 12 are invited to submit entries for the prestigious 2014 Whitsunday Voices Short Story Competition. Writers are free to respond to a theme or topic of their choice and there is no limit to the number of entries allowed. Visit the website for information about the competition categories, word requirements, prizes and to download the entry form. Entries are due by 3pm on Friday 23 May 2014.

**Picture Book Competition** There are \$4,000 worth of cash and prizes up for grabs in the Whitsunday Voices Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Picture Book Competition which sees site mascot, Hector the Lump of Coal turned into a picture book character. The main competition is open to writers Australia wide. The schools categories

are open to any student in the Mackay educational catchment area.

**Lit Vids 2.014 Book Trailer Competition** Students are invited to create and submit entries to LitVids 2.014 to compete for some fantastic prizes. The competition asks students to create their own book trailers, which are short films or animations for the purpose of promoting and bringing a book to life.

**Fitz Blitz** Thank-you to all the parents and care givers who attended the recent 'Fitz Blitz: Let's Read!' information sessions. We now have more support for our developing literacy learners at Fitzgerald State School. We still need helpers at 8.30am-9.00am each morning of the week to work with some year two students who need some extra support. If you missed the sessions, but would still like to help, contact Sue Hamilton-Smith [shami40@eq.edu.au](mailto:shami40@eq.edu.au).

### **Chess Competition**

The Chess competition was held at Victoria Park State School on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February, well done to all boys Tom Daniels, Matthew Marrs, Declan McLaughlin and Patrick Bawden. Matthew received a chess merit for his playing.



### **Sports Notices**

#### **Capricornia Cricket**

Congratulations to Riley James who has been selected in the Capricornia Cricket team. Riley will now compete in the State Cricket trials in Ipswich. Best of luck Riley.

#### **Mackay Tennis**

Congratulations to Jackson Pain, Skye Plumley and Emma Cameron who recently trialled for the Mackay Tennis team. All students performed strongly on the day and narrowly missed out on selection. Well done to these players.

### **Tuckshop Talk**

Not all items on the menu are available every day. Please ensure you have checked the order from and ordered the correct items from the menu for the day you are ordering and enclose the correct money so your child does not miss out on their tuckshop order.

### **ROSTER:**

**Thurs 6/03** Nikki Poa, Robyn Adams, Hong Shi

**Fri 7/03** Cath Kean, Rebecca Benson

**Tues 11/03** Robyn Adams

**Wed 12/03** Robyn Adams, Liliana Umbarilla, Shiran Akther

**Thurs 13/03** Robyn Adams, Nikki Poa, Hong Shi

**Fri 14/03** Deb Jenkins, Ray Sellings

**Tues 18/03** Robyn Adams

**Wed 19/03** Robyn Adams, Shiran Akther

### **Community Notices**

**Angels Softball Club** - Come and give softball a go! Sign on Saturday 8 March and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 10am-2pm at the Mackay Softball Grounds Beaconsfield Road.

All ages welcome: U9, U12, Mums, Dads, Boys and Girls. Any enquiries to Chubb 0416 432 988 or Linda 0427 114 955.

**Lowes Schoolwear** - School Uniforms are now available through your local Lowes Canesland store or Online by clicking the link below

<http://www.lowes.com.au/CampusCategories.aspx?depid=165>