

From the Principal's Desk

Dates for your 2012 Diary....

April 26 – Debating Competition commences

May 15-17 – Naplan Tests, Yr 3, 5, 7

May 21 – Arts Council Production

May 22-26 – Education Week

May 29 – McDonalds Math Competition

June 6 – School Photos

June 13 - Fanfare

June 13 – Junior Athletics Carnival

June 15 Senior Athletics Carnival



Welcome back to a term that promises to be a busy one for us, a special welcome to the new families to our school.

Anzac Day remembrance featured in our school this week with one hundred and seventy of our students and staff participating in the Town Anzac Parade. A range of activities conducted in the classrooms continue to keep the Anzac Spirit alive.

The School Anzac Parade was held on Monday with Mr George Newton a Vietnam Veteran and President of the Returned Soldiers' League, Mackay Sub-branch as a special guest. We thank Mr. Newton, school chaplain Mr. Nic Ayre, student councillors Hope Ashford and Cooper Lewis and our school choir for being a part of this special parade. LEST WE FORGET.

Our value for this term is Tolerance. Our tolerance towers will be on display in the office for this term. We could assist our students by discussing this value with them. An insert which may be of assistance to you is included with this newsletter.

It was pleasing to see the attendance at the recent parent teacher interviews. The communication between home and school can assist with student progress.

Many of our students assisted by staff and parents have registered to be a part of our Walk To School Day which will be conducted tomorrow Friday 27th April.

The P&C Annual General Meeting is set down for Tuesday 1st May at 5:30 in the staffroom. You are most welcome to attend.

Enjoy your week.

Mike 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.

Recycle your old MOBILE PHONES

Send your old/unused mobile phones to the recycle bin at the school office. The school will receive \$2.50 for each mobile phone that is recycled. HELP the ENVIRONMENT.

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.

Staff Profile – Hi, my name is Bec Grace. I have come to Fitzgerald SS from Tagai State College (Badu Island Campus) in the Torres Strait where I have been teaching Prep to Year 3 for the last three years. I enjoyed my time working and living on an island no bigger than 15km wide. I found the community welcoming and even managed to learn some traditional dances. This year I am fortunate to be team teaching with Sam Scott in Year 4.



Parents are advised that the school has moved to electronic roll marking in line with the new Education System – OneSchool. Parents are reminded of the requirements:

- ensure their child arrives at school or their educational program on time every day
- contact the school prior to any planned absences
- provide an explanation (preferably in writing), if not beforehand then within 2 days of the student's return to school, each time their child is absent from school, this may take the form of:
 - a medical certificate
 - a written explanation note containing the student's name, dates and reasons for absence
 - a verbal explanation to the school through either a phone call or visit to the school. The Student Absence Line telephone number is: 49656360.
- ensure their child follows the school's recommended processes and procedures for late arrival and early departure. Students are expected to report to the office preferably with a note or an adult explaining the reason for late arrival or early departure. Students for early departure must be collected from the office by an adult.

Safety: Road Crossing -

Use the school crossing at the front of our school. Supervised crossing times are 8:00 – 9:00 am and 2:30 – 3:30 pm.

Foyer News – After listening to a talk by Mrs Shaw about the Anzac's participation in World War One and because we are learning about advertising 6A created posters to persuade people to enlist in the Forces. Mackenzie Quinn 6A.



Each year, on or near the 25th of April, all Australians have a public holiday. It is Anzac Day and it honours the memory of thousands of soldiers who fought in the Gallipoli campaign and in many other wars in which Australia has fought.

Year 6B have created Anzac Art using War photographs (Primary Sources) to create a commemorative display for our foyer.

TravelSmart Schools Project – The TravelSmart schools project is designed to gain an understanding of your travel behaviour and opinions towards various travel modes, services and infrastructure in the school community. The information collected will be used to develop solutions aimed at easing traffic congestion around the school.

We are seeking your participation in an online survey in order to help us understand how you travel to and from school now and whether you change your travel behaviour through the year. There are two Parent Surveys to complete over the next few weeks. All responses will be collated and these will be reported back in an aggregated form. No individual responses will be provided, and your confidentiality is assured.

If you can help by being part of this survey, please go to <http://www.travelsmartschools.com.au/> to complete your survey.

Thank you for your time.
Fitzgerald State School
TravelSmart Committee

Learning Literacy - 'Read with Me! How to Support Your Beginning Reader' by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Literacy Coach.

To celebrate the National Year of Reading 2012, parents and caregivers are invited to attend a 'Read with Me! How to Support your Beginning Reader' workshop session. These two and a half hour sessions are being offered to assist you in helping your child with their reading development in their early years at school and at home. Come and learn about the reading process, how children learn to read and how best to support them to become independent, expert readers. The evening session is from 6.00pm to 8.30pm Tuesday 8th May and the day session is from 9.15 am to 12.00pm Wednesday 9 May (the content is the same in both sessions). Please register your interest through the school office.

Festival Media Launch
Brooke Vella, Tom Orgill, Trista Nelson and Josh Wilson represented Fitzgerald State School at a media launch last Wednesday 18 April. The launch was held to mark the opening of the



Whitsunday Voices Youth Literary Festival booking season. The students met Katherine Battersby, acclaimed author and illustrator of 'Squish Rabbit'. They learnt about her work and helped her to create a picture of a giant hamburger, for possible inclusion in one of her future picture books. Katherine is just one of the authors who will return to Mackay from 11 - 14 July to lead writing workshops and booktalks for students and adults. Students are currently invited to work on entries for the creative writing and book trailer competitions. All the details are on the Festival website. www.whitsundayvoices.com.au/

Primary School Debating Competition

The first round of the Mackay Primary Interschool Debating Competition will be held at 6pm this Thursday 26 April at St Joseph's Primary School. Mr Mike Anderson and Mrs Sue Hamilton-Smith are helping Lillian Kajewski, Romy McLean and Pratibha Raut prepare to debate against

the topic, 'Famous people are good role models for young people'. Jade McLennan is Chairperson for this debate and Tiger-Lily Roderick and Reanna Quinn are gathering some compelling arguments for the next interschool debate. Debating is best described as 'war with words', the students need to research and write an engaging speech, deliver it persuasively and skilfully dispute the arguments presented by their opposition.

For Parents – Support your child's wellbeing and learning – All Parents and carers are encouraged to attend a free event with respected child and teenage psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Greg.

There is a very strong link between the wellbeing of young people, and their ability to learn and achieve in education. Dr Carr-Greg will outline ways that you can support your child's wellbeing at home, which will in turn help them during their school years.

The parent information session is being held at the Ocean International, 1 Bridge Road Illawong Beach, Mackay at 6:30 – 8:00pm on Tuesday 8 May 2012 - Light refreshments will be available.

To RSVP please emaileventregistration@deta.qld.gov.au or phone 32359072 by Tuesday 1st May 2012.

Attention all creative and artistic children.-

The **Mackay Show** is on in June and they want you to enter in **Just 4 Kids**.

If you can draw, sew, knit, glue, scrapbook, decorate then this could be you. You can download the schedule at www.mackayshow.com.au or see me at my room. I will be asking teachers for names of neat hand writers to enter this section. I can take your entries and collect them. Please see me before school if you have any questions. Bev Croton

Sports Notices –

Mackay AFL

Congratulations to Rory Tarlinton who has been selected in the Mackay AFL team. Rory will now travel to Rockhampton for the Capricornia trials. We wish him the best of luck.

Cross Country



On the 18th of April the school cross country race was held. It was excellent to see over 100 competitors participating in the race. Congratulations to all competitors. Brolga were the overall house champions for the second year in a row. The following students were the age champions on the day: 9 Years- Tyler Berck and Paige Bone; 10 Years- Connor Laycock and Lily Tarlinton; 11 Years- Mitchell Cheetham and Allie Whitehead; 12 Years- Ben Vella and Abby Cryer; 13 Years- Stefan Mawer and Bridey Condren. Some students will be asked to compete in the Northern Suburbs Cross Country trials on the 27th April, a note will go home to these students. Thank you to Mrs Baker for assisting with training leading up to the race.

Northern Suburbs Tennis

Congratulations to Cameron Harmer, Nic Morokutti, Kade Allinson, Jacob Flor and Eli Monk who recently represented Fitzgerald at the Northern Suburbs Tennis

trials. All boys performed extremely well. Unfortunately they missed out on selection but still did Fitzgerald school proud. Well done!

Schoolboys Rugby League

Round One of the John Paap shield saw Fitzgerald take on Marian school. The boys played very well for their first game and won the game 24-12. The next game will be held on the 2nd May against Eimeo Road at Abbot Park. A reminder that trainings are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7.30am onwards. The team will also be nominated in the ARL Development Cup (QLD wide knockout competition), games for this competition will be held on Friday the 4th May.

P&C News -

School Rewards Competition

Look out for the Fitzgerald box next to the customer service desk at Mount Pleasant Shopping Centre, present your receipts at the desk to earn kilometres for the 'Run Around Australia 2012' competition. For more information go to www.runaroundaustralia.com.au.

Mothers Day Stall – The Mothers Day Stall is a major fundraiser for our school, raising around \$5000 profit for the school P&C. A note will go out for your class day to attend the stall which will start the week commencing the May 7th. Gifts include \$5 and \$10 gift packs, stationery items, painted wine glasses and lots more. Prices range from 50c through to \$10.

Tuckshop Talk – Welcome Back. We hope everyone enjoyed the break. Once again thank you to our wonderful volunteers. If you can spare a morning to help that would be great. Come up and see Daneal or Antoinette

Roster – Thurs 26/4 Gerri Nolan, Cindy Lawn **Fri 27/04** Aretha Lyon, Annette Smith, **Tues 01/05** Cathy Kean **Wed 02/05** Glenda West, Cindy Lawn **Thurs 03/05** Gerri Nolan, Tracey Laird **Fri 04/05** Cheryl Vella, Kerry Sheehan **Tues 08/05** Cathy Kean **Wed 09/05** Cindy Lawn, Glenda West **Thurs 10/05** Gerri Nolan, Ciny Lawn. Daneal and Antoinette.

Community Notices –

Take Home a Big Brother or Sister Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012 for their 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on **1800 500 501**, request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Jump into Gymnastics

Gymnastics is a year round sport and it's never too late to start. FUNtastic One hour classes are available for boys and girls from two years old. Kindergym classes for two – three year olds, four year olds have their own Gym skills class, there is a class just for preps, beginner classes for boys & girls in gymnastics or trampoline and a Gym Mix class which includes six disciplines and is loads of fun.

Want to know more? Phone Mackay Gymnastics 49 53 1425.