

From the Principal's Desk

**Dates for your 2012
Diary....**
**May 9-11 – Mother's
Day Stall**
**May 15-17 – NAPLAN
Tests, Yr 3, 5, 7**
**May 21 – Arts Council
Production**
**May 22-26 –
Education Week**
**May 24 – Under 8's
Week**
**May 24 – North High
Visit to Yr7**
**May 29 – McDonalds
Math Competition**
**June 4-5 – Bike Ed
Commences Yr4**
**June 6 – School
Photos**
**June 8 – Free Dress
Day**
**June 12 – P&C
Meeting**
June 13 - Fanfare
**June 13 – Junior
Athletics Carnival**
**June 15 - Senior
Athletics Carnival**

**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.**

The wearing of the correct school uniform is considered to be a reflection of the pride our students have in their school and themselves. A reminder that long hair is to be plaited or tied back, natural hair colour not dyes without words, numbers or symbols 'cut into' the hair. Parents are able to discuss any aspects of the Dress Code with the Principal.

Our years 3, 5 and 7 students are preparing for the National Literacy and Numeracy Tests which will be held next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students are reminded to get adequate sleep, 8 to 9 hours each night, eat healthy meals including breakfast and exercise regularly.

Education week is celebrated in our school in the week beginning the 21st May. A planned activity for this week is to present to parent volunteers a Certificate of Thanks in recognition of their efforts in our school.

A big "well done" to the students who are representing our school, district and region in a number of sporting and cultural events this semester.

Our Parents' and Citizens' Executive for this year is
President – Kerri Sheehan
Vice President – Rick Anderson
Secretary – Jai Wright
Treasurer – Bruce Chester-Master

Thank you to our parents for being part of Executive for this year.

Thank you to Linda Orgill and Sue Hamilton-Smith for conducting the Read With Me Parent Reading Workshop on Wednesday.

Thank you to Kerri and her willing team members who organised the Mothers Day Stall this week. To all of our mothers enjoy your day on Sunday.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson
Principal.

Staff Profile – Helen Ebert.

Hi! I am very pleased to be rejoining the Fitzgerald School Community. In 2004 I was fortunate to begin my teaching career at Fitzgerald and left a few years later to commence my country service at Moranbah. Over the last couple of years I have been on maternity leave (I have two young daughters) and have returned to Fitzgerald on a part time basis. This year I am working with the lovely Tracey O'Connor. We work with year 6 and I take the class every Wednesday.



Foyer News – Year 1A and 1B have been spending our art lessons learning about cool and warm colours and how the different colours can change the feeling or mood of a picture. We found out that using ‘cool’ colours to decorate a picture doesn’t just mean that we get to use the colours we think are best. Cool colours are blues, greens and purples. Warm colours are reds, yellows, oranges and browns. We then used our knowledge of the difference between cool and warm colours to create some amazing works of art which are on display in the foyer.



NAPLAN Testing Time Again – Students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing next month, to assist their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 15-17 May 2012. NAPLAN assesses the skills that students develop over time through the school curriculum, and provides additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in the key curriculum areas. An individual NAPLAN report will be sent home for every child later this year. Further information is available on the [ACRA website](http://www.nap.edu.au).

[http://www.nap.edu.au/](http://www.nap.edu.au)

TravelSmart - On Friday 27 April we successfully

launched our 2012 TravelSmart campaign with a walk to school and breakfast.

Approximately 120 students walked, rode or caught the bus to school. These students collected a ticket and a passport. Tickets were



used to ‘buy’ breakfast and also to enter some lucky prize draws. A huge **“thank you”** is extended to Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and Hector for coming on board to support our safe, smart travel to school. Not only did Hector walk from the Football Fields with the first group, he also gave out balloons, stickers, posed for photos with students and brought 10 prize packs for our prize draws. Free passes to the Moscow Circus were also given out as part of the prize draws. Our year 7 student leaders are now available each morning from 8:20-8:40 to stamp passports for students

who come to school in a “TravelSmart” way. Walking to school does not mean that you have to walk from home. We would encourage you to park at the Football Fields, for example, and walk to school from there. This helps reduce the amount of traffic out the front of our school and therefore increase safety for our school community.



Our next ‘walk’ to school day will be Friday 18th May, which is the National Walk Safely to School Day. See you then.

Drop Off and Pick Up – We are aware that drop off and pick up areas around the school are very hectic in the morning and after school. Please exercise patience when using these areas. Do not park and walk away from your car in this area.

Our students’ safety is our major concern and if everyone practises care and patience, hopefully we will have no incidences. These are council car parks and we are extremely lucky to have them.

As part of our TravelSmart initiative we would encourage parents to use the football field car parks as a great drop off/pick up point. This would ease congestion around the school and would be a great form of exercise for the students.

Book Fair - To celebrate the National Year of Reading 2012 our school is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair starting on



Wednesday May 16 and running until Friday May 18 morning. We will be open from **8am-9am and 3pm-4pm** every day. Friday we will only be open during the morning 8am-9am.

Our theme – Book Fair Showtime – will make reading entertaining for the entire school community. They will delight in an exciting atmosphere of great books, thrilling stories, and fun. Readers of all ages will walk away from the Book Fair with the grandest prize of all: a lifelong love of reading!

The more a child reads, the stronger reader he or she becomes. Strong reading skills are essential to a child’s success in school and life. Our Book Fair encourages this success by offering students access to great books at affordable prices. Children are more likely to read books they personally choose. The wide variety of choices offered at our Book Fair ensures that there will be something for everyone! And

remember every item sold directly benefits our Library!

Please join us to make this Book Fair the BEST our school has ever seen. I look forward to seeing you at the Fair!

Laurel Shaw

Teacher Librarian

P.S. Remember our **EARLY BIRD SALES** will be held on **Tuesday 15 May from 5pm-7pm.**



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

So, if you want to avoid the crush on the first morning, see you there!

Learning Literacy – ‘Every Day Counts’ by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Literacy Coach.

What makes a difference in student literacy learning outcomes? Research shows that higher rates of attendance at school are associated with higher academic achievement. Children who go to school all day, every school day are more likely to perform better at all the literacy learning areas, including reading, writing and spelling. Children who turn up each day are more likely to make and keep friends, are happier and have a brighter future. Literacy learning has been compared to a brick wall. A strong brick wall has strong foundations. Strong literacy foundations are built when a child attends school each day. A child who attends school each day is present when a new concept is introduced, present when the work is revised and revisited, and present when the work is assessed and when feedback is provided. Children who attend school each day are more likely to regularly complete homework tasks. Children who do not attend school each day have gaps in their knowledge. Their knowledge wall has gaps and weaknesses that become more evident when academic demands become greater. Every day counts to literacy learning outcomes. Every day counts towards increasing a child’s life choices and chances.

Primary School Debating Competition

Our Fitzgerald State School Debating Team will compete against Alligator Creek State School in the interschool competition at 6pm this Thursday 10 May at St Joseph's Primary School. Reanna Quinn, Romy McLean and Jade McLennan are preparing to debate the topic, ‘Technology promotes laziness’. The team has prepared some convincing affirmative arguments to explain that the use of technology is resulting in lazy health habits, lazy thinking and lazy social relationships. Their advice is to, “Turn it off. Get healthy, wise up, start talking and get real.” Pratibha Raut is the timekeeper for this debate.

Sports Notices –
Capricornia AFL

A big congratulation to Rory Tarlinton who has been selected in the Capricornia AFL team. Rory will now travel to Southport for the State Trials. Fantastic achievement Rory and we wish you all the best for State selection.

Mackay Hockey Trials

Well done to Christy Anderson, Caitlyn Orth and Shay-Leigh Simonsen who have been recently selected in the Mackay girls hockey team. The girls will now travel to Moranbah for Capricornia trials, all the best girls.

Northern Suburbs Soccer

Congratulations to Declan Wheeler, Bayley Kendrick, Nathan Challenger, Ben Vella, Dana Costigan, Moeshia Harris-Bickey and Isabella Saunders who have been selected in the Northern Suburbs Soccer team. We wish all these players the very best for the upcoming Mackay trials.

Northern Suburbs Cross Country

Congratulations to all runners from Fitzgerald School who recently participated in the Northern Suburbs Cross Country race at Glenella School. Extra congratulations to Lily Tarlinton, Connor Laycock, Ellie Nixon, Nicholas Morokutti (11 Years Age Champion), Mitchell Cheetham and Abby Cryer, who have been selected in the Northern Suburbs Cross Country team. We wish these runners the best of luck for the Mackay trials at Sarina Golf Course.

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.

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.

Tuckshop Talk – Playwater is back on the menu, except for blackcurrant flavour and we now have Blueberry yoghurt available!

When ordering, please check the menu for correct pricing and what is available on the day you order. Please use two bags when ordering morning tea and big lunch and please do not staple or tape the bags together. A BIG thank you goes out to our volunteers!

We are still looking for help in the tuckshop so come and see us if you are able to help.

Roster – Thurs 10/05 Cindy Lawn, Gerri Nolan **Fri 11/05** Aretha Lyon, **HELP NEEDED Tues 15/05** Cathy Kean **HELP NEEDED Wed 16/05** Cindy Lawn, Glenda West **Thurs 17/05** Cindy Lawn, Geri Nolan **Fri 18/05** Megan Griffin, **HELP NEEDED**

Thank you
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!

Mackay Junior Orchestra and Mackay Youth

Orchestra - We are seeking interested young musicians to come and join the Mackay Youth and the Mackay Junior Orchestras. Through a program of rehearsals and performances, these orchestras seek to develop the musical potential of its members. Mackay Youth Orchestra (MYO) caters for the experienced musician, while the Mackay Junior Orchestra (MJO) provides beginner level instrumentalists with the opportunity to learn the basics of orchestral playing. Both ensembles have experienced and respected conductors and both groups perform a mix of modern and classical music. The Mackay Youth Orchestra is under the experienced guidance of Conductor Earl Winterstein while the Junior Orchestra is capably led by Conductor Gwenda Aay. Run by a committee of volunteers, the organisation is non-profit and solely exists for the benefit of the young musicians and the audiences they entertain.

For more information please contact Vicki Braithwaite on 0418 150690 or Leonie Curran on 0413778676 or by email mackayorchestra@gmail.com