

From the Principal's Desk

Our students are participating in a range of academic, sporting and cultural activities this term. It is pleasing to see the level of participation and success from our students in activities that have been held to date. Thank you to our staff and parents for organising and assisting with these activities.

The School Dance was attended by 420 of our students. Thank you to our P&C members and staff who assisted with the dance. The Student Council conducted a raffle with a bicycle as first prize. This raffle was won by Tyler Morris.



Congratulations to our Athletics Team for winning both the Aggregate and Average Shields at the Northern Suburbs Athletics Carnival held last week.

A number of projects are planned for our facilities this term with the internal and external painting of the Music Room and Modular 4, the roof replacement to the Music Room covered link, the installation of our audio system to the Hall and a makeover to the Modular 4 garden.

A well done to four of our year 6 students who are finalists in the Young ICT Explorers Competition, Taniesha Williams, Dana Costigan, Alannah Bond and Mickeeley Sippel, there is more information in this newsletter from their teacher Janelle Stewart on their success. Just a reminder that parents of our year 5 students are invited to an information session on the Laptop Classroom for 2013 to be held on August 2nd.

An Education Queensland Parent Opinion Survey will be sent to forty parents to complete. If you receive a survey could you take a few minutes to complete and return the survey to school by the end of the month. The results of the Survey will assist with future planning for Education Queensland and our school.

Don't forget our monthly P&C Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 14th August at 5:30 in the staffroom.

Enjoy your week.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike".

Mike Anderson
Principal.

Dates for your 2012 Diary....

August 7-10 –

Regional Choral Camp

August 8 – Japanese Cultural Performance Yr6 and Yr7

August 9 – Arts

Council Performance- Bouncing around - Prep to Yr2

August 13 – Musica Viva Performance

August 13 – Science Week

August 14 – P&C Meeting @ 5:30pm

August 14 – ICAS Maths Competition

August 14 – Songroom Arts Council

August 20 – Walking Wednesday

August 23 – Wakakirri

August 26 - Optiminds

August 27 – Literacy and Numeracy Week.

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.

Foyer News – Year 2A and 2B

Year 2A and 2B have been learning about patterns of growth and change in living things. Come to the office foyer and see if you can match our baby photos to who we are now.



TravelSmart -
Let's encourage smart travel.

It feels good to travelsmart

Walking Wednesday

Our July Walking Wednesday, on 25th July, was a huge success! 114 students walked the short distance from the Touch Football Fields to the school before enjoying a milo and a muffin for breakfast. A prize draw was done, where 15 lucky winners took home a Travelsmart bag with a water bottle and a pen. A very big thank you to all staff who helped make this event successful.

Our next Walking Wednesday will be held on August 22nd. We encourage you to join us on the walk and stop in at the tuckshop for a free tea or coffee before walking back down to your car for the journey home.

Congratulations to those families who are adopting this healthy practice already and parking at the Touch Football Fields in the morning and walking to school together. This fortnight, the **Craig family** are highlighted as the *Family of the Fortnight*, for beginning this routine. Well done!
Di Schmidt for the TravelSmart Committee

Green Spot– Monitoring Student's Lunches



It is terrific to see children coming to school with a variety of healthy options in their lunchboxes. Unfortunately, we have noticed whole sandwiches, fruit and unopened poppers being thrown into rubbish bins. Not only is this wasting

parents money, it is also doing damage to the environment. Parents can help to minimize the amount of food thrown away by:

- Talking to their children about how to pack a healthy lunch.
- Involving their children in making and packing their own lunch.
- Cutting up fruit into smaller, manageable pieces.
- Asking their child to bring home any uneaten food.

This is a great way to teach your children organisation skills and planning for their day ahead. Remember also, to pack lunches in reusable containers.

Learning Literacy – ‘Read with Me!’ community information sessions by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Literacy Coach. Parents and caregivers are invited to celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy Week in the National Year of Reading by attending a ‘Read with Me! How to Support Your Beginning Reader’ community information session. These sessions aim to give adults caring for and working with young children the skills to support and encourage their emergent and beginning readers. Participants will learn about the reading process, how children learn to read and how best to support them when they are reading to an adult. Linda Orgill, experienced classroom and literacy learning support teacher and Support-a-Reader facilitator will lead the workshops, brought to you by the Australian Literacy Educators’ Association (ALEA) Mackay Local Council.

Daytime Session, 29 August, 12.00pm - 2.30pm at Mackay West State School, Evening Session, 29 August, 6.00pm - 8.30pm at Gordon White Library

Cost: The event is free, but numbers are limited, so registration is essential.

Register online:

<http://www.alea.edu.au/events/category/queensland>

Family Portraits - Family Portraits

Just a reminder that Family Portraits will be taken by NQ Family Portraits on 18/19 August. Thanks to all of you who have already handed in your forms and money, and for those of you who are yet to do so please don't leave it too late as bookings are limited. I will be sending home appointment times in the week prior to the photos and if there are any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0422 954 245 or 49 421489. Michelle Davies

Library News - The Reading Hour

The Reading Hour will be held on 25 August 2012 and is both a focal point for the National

Year of Reading 2012 for all ages and also the call to action for families – “share a book with your child for 10 minutes a day, an hour a week”.



TheReadingHour

Evidence of the importance of reading to your child mounts with every year. This article recently appeared in the Herald Newspaper and highlights yet again how reading to your child (whatever their age or abilities are) can help improve results across the curriculum.

Naplan Results and Home Reading (Aust Institute of Family Studies)

YOUNG children whose parents regularly read to them were likely to perform better in Naplan tests, according to a longitudinal landmark study. Mini-bookworms who were surrounded by books at home and visited the library did best. The Australian Institute of Family Studies research found children with established reading habits by the age of four or five eventually achieved higher literacy scores. The study was based on data from almost 5000 children, using diaries when they were aged 4-5 then 10-11.

It also evaluated the impact of early reading on Naplan scores for about half the group in grades 3 and 5. About 50 per cent of young children were read to almost every day, 30 per cent three to five times a week, and one in five just one or two days a week.

But by the time they hit 10 or 11, a hardcore group of one in 10 shuns books and don't enjoy reading.

Researchers Killian Mullan and Galina Daraganova said it highlighted the importance of a supportive family environment at an early age. "The early home environment is directly important to literacy scores in Naplan in year 3," Dr Mullan said. "Our research suggests increased exposure to a positive home reading environment is linked to better literacy outcomes for children."

The research found girls were more likely to read for leisure than boys, and to enjoy it more.

Raising Children Network executive director Dr Julie Green said literacy was a skill that took effort.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/mini-bookworms-do-best-in-naplan-tests/story-e6frf7kx-1226433379139>

REMEMBER it is best if you start early but it is never too late!

From the Classrooms –

Year 1 - Greenmount Homestead

This term Year One is focusing on how technology is a part of their everyday lives and how technology has changed and improved their lives today. Last Thursday, they went on an excursion to Greenmount Homestead to view these changes first-hand and to gain some understanding of



life in early Mackay. Students were able to identify many items they had been learning about in class, as well as learn about some of the early figures who have played a part in Greenmount's history. A great day was had by all, with many wonderful stories making their way back to school with the children. The Year One students and teachers would like to say thank you to the 'Friends of Greenmount Society' for showing us around on the day, as well as saying thank you to our parent volunteers. Without these people, our day could not have been the success it was.

Year One Teachers.

Year 3B - Creative Writing Swifter, Stronger, Higher

In the Olympics, I'll be competing in swimming events. But I...I...I...I...couldn't swim. I was bobbing up and down but I had to beat Mr Willy Wonka the champion of swimming. Once Mr Willy Wonka was near the finish line and won the race I was filled with despair. When he won I was angry. I went up to Mr Willy Wonka but I didn't want him think I was mad so I had to say he did pretty good out there. He even won the London swimming race. I competed in it too and I tried my Hardest to win. I came twenty-fifth out of the eighty-five swimmers.

Then I competed in the Chinese swimming race, so did Mr Willy Wonka. In the race I was coming second and Mr Willy Wonka was first. I swam even Quicker and then I was coming First. Finally I got to the Finish Line and I won for the very First time, it was all a dream come true. Yippee for me!!

Written by Brianna Kenny (3B)

Yr 6 - Schools National Tree Day Once again Year 6 students participated in the Schools National Tree Day program, with many activities being organised to further educate our children on the importance of preserving and maintaining our valuable planet. We planted 10 fruit trees and 15 native trees, participated in a treasure hunt to find various objects in our environment, viewed a tree planting video and many other activities.



A big thank you to Dave and Les our groundsmen for digging all the holes in preparation for our planting.



Fitzgerald School, teachers and students of year 6 would like to thank Bunnings for generously donating their time and the 25 trees, which made for a very successful Schools National Tree Day on Thursday 26, 2012.

Young ICT Explorers Competition - Congratulations to Taniesha Williams, Dana Costigan, Alannah Bond and Miekeley Sippel for being shortlisted as finalists in the Young ICT Explorers Competition. The Young ICT Explorers competition is now in its third year and this is the first time first time students have participated in this event.



'Young ICT Explorers is a competition for school students to produce the best Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) related project. The Young ICT Explorers competition aims to inspire and encourage school students to consider ICT as a career opportunity and gain a greater understanding of the diverse possibilities available through ICT.'

(YITCE Information Pack 2012)

These four young ladies are travelling to Brisbane on the 11th August to participate in the final judging competing against students from a variety of State and Private schools at the University of Queensland. It is an extremely exciting adventure that they are about to embark on and we wish them all the very best of luck in representing Fitzgerald State School.

Laptop Class for Year 6 students in 2013 - A Parent Information Night for the Laptop Class for 2013 will be held on Thursday night 2nd August in the Library from 5:30pm; all parents are welcome to attend as we embark on our 2nd year embracing 1:1 Learning.



At Fitz we

- ✓ promote **'anywhere, anytime learning.'**
- ✓ want to **unlock the potential** of our students.
- ✓ want to **'transform' learning.**
- ✓ provide students the **opportunity to demonstrate** their learning in new and exciting ways.

Sports Notices -

Northern Suburbs Athletics - Congratulations to all the students who recently competed in the Northern Suburbs Athletics trials. As a school, Fitzgerald performed extremely well winning the Overall Points Trophy and the School Aggregate Points Trophy. We also had a number of age champions on the day- Lily Tarlinton, Paige Steindl-Corrie (who won every event!), Hayden Ede and also Bridey Condren. Extra congratulations to these four students.

Mackay Athletics Carnival - Well done to all of the Fitzgerald students who recently represented Northern Suburbs at the Mackay Athletics Carnival. We had a number of students perform very well on the day, and have been selected in the Mackay Team- Bailee Dunshea, Zali Mooney, Paige Steindl-Corrie, Hayden Ede, Callum Rebetzke and Allie Whitehead. Extra congratulations must go to Paige, who once again took out the Age Champion award. Well done to these students all the best for the Capricornia trials in Yeppoon.

12 Years Rugby league - Don't forget the National 12 Years Rugby League Championships to be held from Sunday 5 August to Saturday 11 August at the League Grounds.

Tim Campbell
PE Teacher

Woolworths Earn and Learn - Keep those sticker cards coming in everyone! Last count today, we have 80,000 points accrued for our school to obtain free resources. Wow! Thanks for supporting us!

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 - Please note that we do not accept foreign currency through the canteen so please do not put it into the tuckshop bags. If you do not have brown paper bags to order your childrens tuckshop they are available from the canteen for 10c. Please allow for this when ordering. Please ensure you check the pricing of your order from the canteen price list. A copy of the list is available from the office if you need one.

Roster - 2/8 Geraldine Nolan, HELP NEEDED 3/8 Kerry Sheehan, Cheryl Vella 7/8 Cath Kean 8/8 Cindy Lawn 9/8 Geri Nolan, HELP NEEDED 10/8 Aretha Lyon, HELP NEEDED 14/8 Cath Kean 15/8 Cindy Lawn, HELP NEEDED Thanks

Daneal and Antoinette.