

From the Principal's Desk

Dates for your 2012**Diary....****Oct 8-28** –Eisteddfod**Oct 22** – Student Free Day**Oct 22** – Open Morning for New Parents to Prep**Oct 26** – Australia World Teachers Day**Oct 31** – Walking Wednesday**Nov 11** – Remembrance Day**Nov 13** - P&C Meeting**Nov 15** – Spectacular**Nov 19-23** – Book Fair**Nov 28** – Walking Wednesday**Dec 11** – Awards Night**Dec 13** – Yr 7 Dinner Dance**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.

Welcome back to our last term for the year, a special welcome to our Deputy Principal Mrs Tracey Adams who returns from leave and to our new families.

We have a number of events planned for this term, watch out for the details in the newsletters.

The Eisteddfod commenced this week for our school and will continue for the fortnight, a big well done to the Recorder Ensemble and Band who performed during the week. We look forward to hearing positive news from our performers.

Our Spectacular, "Realm Quest" will be held on November 15th at the Mackay Entertainment Centre. Information concerning ticket allocations was sent out earlier in the week. Ticket allocations for this event must be back to school by Friday 19th October.

Students in years 3, 5 and 7 have taken home their national test result reports. Congratulations to the many students who improved their results or attained excellent results. Thank you to our staff, students and parents for your efforts. Our school performance overall is similar to the national mean in the five areas Numeracy, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, Reading and Writing.

We are seeking information as to whether your children will continue at our school for 2013. Please complete the form going home with this newsletter and return it to the school office by Friday October 26th. If the form is not returned we will assume that your children will be returning. This information assists us in planning staff numbers for next year.

An open morning for the 2013 Prep families is planned for this coming Monday October 22nd from 9:30am to 10:30am at the Prep building. Please inform prospective families for 2013 to contact the school office for enrolment details.

Going home with this newsletter is an insert, Our Value: Self Discipline, if you could talk with your children on this subject. We look forward to filling the office foyer with the stars of self discipline.

A reminder that our school has a student free day on Monday October 22nd.

Enjoy your week.



Mike Anderson
Principal.

Foyer News – 4C and 4D

4C students have been reading and viewing a number of traditional stories. Students were asked to create their own story with a moral. They had to use a bee character in their stories. They have



also viewed a number of texts about the First Fleet coming to Australia and wrote a recount from the point of view of either a convict or an Aborigine.

4D students have been looking at People of Change. The students have been researching famous indigenous people who have made a contribution to our society. They have also been studying different rock forms and have done artistic representations of Uluru using water colours and oil pastels.

From the Classrooms –

Year 6 Cyber Bullying - Last Wednesday, Sergeant Nigel Dalton from the Mackay Police came to talk to us about bullying, and in particular, Cyber bullying. His main message was being safe using technology.

He made us aware that anything you put on the internet, in a text message or email has the potential to be sent all over the world. Once uploaded or sent, you lose control of the image or document. He also reminded us that you need to be at least 13 years old before you can have a Facebook or Myspace account.



The increase in technology has meant an increase in bullying. All forms of bullying and violence are unacceptable behaviours and can be dealt with by the law in particular.

TravelSmart-

We would like to hear from you!

It feels good to travelsmart

This year Fitzgerald State School is part of the Department of Transport and Main Roads' TravelSmart Schools Project. In order to measure the success of the TravelSmart Project and monitor travel behaviour change trends at our school we need to understand how ALL students travel to and from school.

To participate in the online Parent Survey there are a few simple steps to follow:

1. Follow the link www.travelsmartschools.com.au and register your details. Registration is open from Monday 8 October. Once you have registered you will receive a confirmation message.

2. When the online Parent Survey link is open for you to complete you will be sent a notification.

3. The online Parent Survey will require you to record your travel behaviour to and from school from **Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November 2012**.

If you do not have access to the online Parent Survey link at home, why not try your local Council library?

Walking Wednesday - This term we have 2 school organised Walking Wednesdays – Wednesday 31 October

and Wednesday 28 November. As always, these will be followed by a light breakfast from tuckshop and prize draws for TravelSmart goodies. Remember, you can walk from the Touch Football Fields any day, you don't have to wait for our Walking Wednesday! Meet a friend there in the morning and walk your children to school together. This is an easy way to get those precious minutes of exercise accrued each day.

Green Boot Award - Each week on Travelling Tuesday we survey our students to find out how they travelled to school that day. Last week the Green Boot Award went to 4A and 2B for having the most students coming to school in a TravelSmart way. Congratulations and keep up the great travel choices those people! Di for the TravelSmart team.



Stay Safe From Swooping Magpies -

Protect yourself from swooping magpies this spring.

August to October is peak magpie nesting season. During this time, magpies often display territorial behaviour to protect their young including swooping at passers-by. There are a few techniques that can be used to avoid or minimise the chance of a magpie attack. The best is to simply avoid the area where magpies are known to be swooping.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management also suggest the following safety tips:

- wear a hat, helmet or sunglasses
- get off your bike and walk
- walk in a group
- never approach a baby magpie
- keep an eye on the magpie, as they don't tend to swoop when being watched.

If you are swooped, don't stop or run, just walk away.

And, most importantly, never deliberately provoke or harass a magpie.

For more information visit www.derm.qld.gov.au

ICAS International Competitions -

Students at Fitzgerald choose to participate in an international competition in the key learning areas of Maths, Science and English. We have just received our results for the Maths Competition held last term. Once again Fitzgerald students did themselves proud. Out of the 65 students from Year 4 – 7 that participated in the Maths competition, 4 received Distinctions and 15 gained credits. Fantastic effort! Award winners (Distinctions and Credits) were presented with their awards on parade. They are also listed below.

Maths: Distinction – Reilly Kurtz, May-Lee Wilson, Rory Tarlinton and Jeremy Rees,

Credit – Callum Chester-Master, Sophie Ma, Alicia West, Joe Fortesque, Trent MacLennan, Hayley Berck, Madison Lewis, Eli Monk, Mickeeley Sippel, Kaylah Smith, Tom Henderson, Tamara Dobbie, Hayden Ede, Cooper Lewis and Alex Stewart

The Eisteddfod So Far -

I had the privilege of accompanying the Recorder ensemble and the Concert Band to the Eisteddfod Tuesday morning. What a musical morning! Our students excelled themselves in both performance and behaviour and I was a proud

Deputy. From this morning's performances, our concert band placed 3rd in their section and the recorder ensemble placed 1st. Congratulations to all students and to our fantastic staff who spend countless hours preparing them.

Tracey Adams.

Deputy Principal.

Learning Literacy – Practice makes Perfect!

by Sue Hamilton-Smith, Literacy Coach.

“Practice is the best of all instructors.” The Romans, way back in the first century BC knew that it's not enough to teach something well. It's not even enough to learn something well. Practice is required in order for the learner to attain proficiency. New learning is held in the short term memory bank of our brains, practice moves the new learning to long term memory. With practice, new learning becomes automatic, reducing the cognitive load and allowing the brain to apply the new knowledge and perform even more complex tasks. A learner driver in Queensland must have a minimum of 100 hours recorded in their Learner Driver log book. This is for good reason. The best driving instructors can assist a beginning driver to learn a new skill; they can even provide the conditions for some initial practice. But for this new skill to be incorporated and coordinated with all the other complex skills that are required for safe driving, plenty of practice hours are essential. The same is true for academic learning. Novice spellers, readers, writers, mathematicians need to be taught well, learn well, but effort and practice over time lead to excellence. Practice really does make perfect!

Sports Notices –

QLD Softball

A big congratulations to Kiera James who has just been selected in the Queensland Softball side. This is a fantastic achievement Kiera, and a reward for all of your hard work. We wish you all the very best for the National Titles in Canberra later on in the year.

Capricornia Softball

Congratulations to Riley James who has recently participated in the State Softball Trials. Fantastic work Riley considering he was playing against mostly 12 year old players.

Capricornia Cricket Trials

Well done to Riley James and Wesley Dyer who participated in the Capricornia Cricket trials in Emerald at the end of term 3. Both boys played particularly well against a group of players older than them.

Congratulations as well to Kiera James who also participated in the girls cricket trials recently in Yeppoon, a fantastic achievement for her first year of cricket.

State Athletics

We wish Hayden Ede all the best as he plans to travel to Cairns next week to participate in the State Athletics trials in the long jump event, all the best Hayden.

Health –Head Lice - Head lice are a very common problem



in schools and institutions everywhere in the world. While they are not a threat to health and do not transmit disease, they do cause a lot of distress and anxiety for families and schools. Anyone can get head lice. They affect all socioeconomic groups and are not a sign of poor hygiene. They have

no preference for ethnic background, hair colour, hair type

or age. All parents should check their children and other family members for head lice regularly as early detection decreases treatment time and helps break the breeding cycle. Treatment should only be applied when live lice are found on the head. To break the cycle, all infested people should be treated at the same time. While there is no need to vacuum, wash or treat with insecticide any furniture, clothing, bedding (except pillowcases), toys, carpets or hats, the following actions can be taken to help prevent infestation/re-infestation:

Avoid head to head contact with other persons.

Keep long hair tied back or in plaits, especially at school. Do not share brushes, combs, or pillows.

Wash combs and hair brushes after each use (60oC for 30 seconds). Pillow cases of persons known to be infested should be washed daily on hot cycle or put in the clothes dryer for 15 minutes.

Treat all household members whose head lice have been detected. Keep hair short, particularly during an outbreak. It is easier to detect and treat head lice in short hair.

Safety – Car Parks –

Motorists are asked to be vigilant of our students when entering the top and bottom car parks before and after school. Please note that the top car park is not a drop off area for students. Delivery vehicles and staff use this car park most often.

Tuckshop Talk –

Welcome back to all of our Fitzgerald families to term 4. We hope you had a great holiday.

We are in desperate need of volunteers in the tuckshop particularly on Wednesdays and Fridays. If you can spare 1 – 2 hours on any free days on our roster after dropping the kids off, please call tuckshop on 4965 6333.

Thanks

Daneal and Antoinette.

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.

Community Notices –

MILO in2CRICKET PROGRAM

FITZGERALD STATE SCHOOL

6 WEEK PROGRAM (Thurs 25th Oct – Thurs 29th Nov)

START: 3:15PM FINISH: 4:15PM

COST:

\$20 = 6 weeks coaching

Or

\$65 = 6 weeks coaching + starters

pack. Pack includes bag, bat, ball, shirt, bucket hat and water bottle.

REGISTER on the 25th October 2012

Further information contact Lauren McQueen on 0429 051 027

Salvation Army Family Open Day –

A Family Open Day is being held on Saturday 27th October at 48 Gregory Street, Mackay, from 10am-3pm.

Live Contemporary Band, BBQ and Drinks, Stalls, Fashion Parade, Baking Competiton(Entries to s.scott2012@y7mail.com), Face Painting, Games and Competitions.

There will be programs for all ages, children through to adults! For more information contact Lt. Terri Goodwin 0428186471 or email s.scott2012@y7mail.com.

