This Thursday is the swimming carnival for our Year 4 – 6 students. We will be leaving the school at 9am and will have returned prior to pick up time at 3pm. We look forward to all students participating in this fun school event. **A reminder due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines we are not able to invite parents to come and watch.**

At the end of the week all parents will receive information about an online survey regarding the third party Internet providers such as Matheletics and Reading Eggs, that we use to support the teaching of the curriculum. All families are required to complete this survey.

Throughout this term, we have had several students across Years 4 - 6 participated in the ICAS Science, Maths and English tests. Congratulations to all students that participated. A special mention goes to the following students who excelled across the various disciplines.

**English**

High Distinction - Kiah Ortega (Yr 4), Zahra Nolan (Yr 6)
Credit - Lilah Marlow (Yr 5), Akhil Gogula, Miley Caporn, Samuel Lilley (Yr 6)

**Maths**

Distinction – Charlotte Boyd (Yr 5)
Credit – Ace Dineen, Gemma Hunter, Kiah Ortega (Yr 4), Rowan Dhu, Maddison Ebert, Akhil Gogula, Will Magee, Zara Nolan (Yr 6)

**Science**

Distinction – Kiah Ortega (Yr 4),
Credit – Harrison Bone, Leah Zhang (Yr 4), Charlotte Boyd (Yr 5), Miley Caporn, Abhijita Naidu, Zahra Nolan (Yr 6)

**Spectacular Information** – This year due to COVID guidelines we are having to modify our Spectacular planning. As we are not permitted to hold this performance at an external location, we will be holding it in the school hall across several nights to ensure that we are upholding the social distancing requirements. The Year 6 Spectacular will occur across two nights on Wednesday the 11th and Thursday the 12th of November. Prep and Year 2 will be held at separate times on Wednesday the 18th, Years 1 and 3 on Thursday the 19th and Years 4 and 5 on Friday the 20th of November. Please let your child/children’s teachers know if they will be participating in Spectacular this year. The performances will be video recorded and further information will be sent out in a letter at the start of next term.
As this is the final week for Term 3, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Term break and for those families that are leaving us, we wish you well in your new school communities.

Regards,

Tracey

The Virus

I peeked out the boarded up window, seeing empty streets and the dim light of the flickering lamppost. I tried to imagine what life was like before this nightmare started. The world I once knew would never be the same. The sandy plains with smiling children playing, was just a distant memory. The people I loved were dying from the terrors that hid in plain sight. I was the only one left. The only one who wasn’t infected, by the virus.

I dropped the wattle sap and prickly pear into the saucepan. Looking down at my list that my father handed me before he died, I realized I was short one ingredient. The droppings of the alpha thorny devil. This was the last ingredient to complete the cure. The cure that could stop the virus that infected my town. The cure that my dad devoted his life to find. I grabbed a backpack off the shelf and pushed myself out of the rickety, old door and onto the cobblestone path outside.

The blaring rays of the sun were starting to rise over the sand dunes. I was taking in the warm breeze when I heard hooves and grunting behind me. I turned around cautiously, and prepared to run. “Ahhhhhh! Camel stampede!” I could hear the hooves getting closer, and I knew they would soon trample me. Camel heads appeared in my peripheral vision. Turning back, I wrapped my hands around an unsuspecting camel’s neck and lifted myself onto his hump. I clung on and rode into the sunrise.

Thud!

As my eyes dozed, I had been flung to the ground like a pack of potatoes. My camel had re-joined his caravan when he was spooked by the shadow looming in the distance. As I edged closer, my face met two blood-shot eyes. The hideous creature before me was the alpha thorny devil, bigger than a double decker house. It was eying me down, ready to attack. I pulled out the shotgun from my backpack. Aiming to the sky, the noise splintered the still air. All that remained of the petrified devil was its poo. There was no time to overthink...

Squelch. Into the backpack it went.

The hopes of the town were on me. As I stirred, the lives of hundreds relied on my cure. I thought of my mum gasping for breath in the next room and realised it wasn’t just my mum, but all the mum’s of my town. Could I add a dash of ‘hope’ into the pot? A pinch of ‘love’? Nope, a pile of poo was what was needed. Taking a spoonful, I lowered it to my mum, urging her to drink it. As she slurped the liquid, her cheeks regained their colour and the coughing disappeared. It worked! Running to the other houses, I passed on the cure, hearing the snotty noses fade away. Dad wasn’t here to see his hard work triumph but I know that he would be so proud.

Written by Maddison Ebert

First Place (Category Year 5/6)
STUDENT FEE UPDATE

Student activities next term will include; Spectacular $14, Year 6 Excursion $35.50, and Graduation Dinner ($ to be advised).

Please ensure you have notified us of your child’s participation in Spectacular. The $14 costume payment is required before costumes will be purchased for your child, please advise your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

Statements were sent home last week. All school fees are due prior to the end of Term 3, in order for students to participate in the end of year activities. Should you be experiencing financial hardship please contact the school to arrange a suitable payment plan.

Student Absence Line

Parents, a reminder that you can SMS our school absence line at any time. This service can be used for past, present and future absences or late arrivals. Once you have sent your SMS, the school will receive this message. The number is 0426 305 678. You will not need to use QParents or the school absence line once you have SMS the school. Please save this number into your phone.

If your student needs to be picked up early from class for an appointment, please call the office and your student will be waiting for you in the office foyer, please do not go to the classroom as this will interrupt classroom learning.

If your student is late for school, please come to the office for a late slip.

Please ensure your contact details are up to date, to ensure effective communication.

Due to new Education Queensland requirements direct deposits to the bank account, payments over the phone and credit card details given via paper can no longer be accepted.

The new payment options are as follows:

- Payment through Bpoint or Qparents using the invoice details on your debtor statement
- Payment in person at Front Office counter
- Cash payment in envelope with student details placed in deposit box in Office Foyer

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Dates to Remember

September 17\textsuperscript{th}  Senior Swimming Carnival
September 18\textsuperscript{th}  Last day of term
October 5\textsuperscript{th}  Queen’s Birthday – Public Holiday
October 6\textsuperscript{th}  First day of Term 4
December 11\textsuperscript{th}  Last day of Term 4
**From the PE Department**

We are all excited to repeat another fun sports day with the SWIMMING CARNIVAL this Thursday at the NMSHS pool.

A good response from swimmers to compete in 25m & 50m events will be supported by lots of participation in our flotation assisted events as all other students hit the water to get wet and enjoy the day.

MOST IMPORTANT: Students are to bring hat, water bottle, sunscreen and eats to nibble on during their non-swimming times. Children may bring some money to purchase lunch and support the canteen. The wearing of sports shirts is highly recommended however, NO ZINC please – this will interfere with the filtration system of the pool.

Again, unfortunately, parents are not permitted to attend due to the COVID regulations, however we are sure your children will arrive home with many interesting tales about the day.

Yours in sport at Fitz.

*Kent Lyons, PE Teacher.*

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**LOTE News**

From the LOTE room...

During this term, over half of the Year 5 and 6 Chinese students entered the Mackay Region Language Network Chinese/Japanese Calligraphy Contest. This is an annual contest open to all schools in the Mackay region which teach Chinese or Japanese. For the competition, students from grades 4 - 12 write Chinese or Japanese characters as neatly as possible, ensuring they are as close a reproduction to the original text as possible. For example, the Year 5 text was the characters for the numbers 1-7, as follows:

一二三四五六七

Whilst all students performed admirably, I'm very pleased to announce that in the Year 5 division Fitzgerald State School received 2 placings. A big congratulations goes to:

First Place - Matthew Connolly
Third Place - Emerald Barrow

Well done! 很好!

The work of all students who received a placing is currently on display in the children’s section of the Gordon White Library, please take the opportunity to drop in and check it out. The work of the other 18 finalists from our school is on display in the laptop space at school.

Well done to all those who participated, the quality of work was very high and you should all be very proud of yourselves.

Nolan 老师
P&C News

Thank you to all those families who submitted their amazing artworks for plates and cups. These have now been set for production and we will keep you advised once we have been notified of a date for delivery.

We are holding an Election BBQ at the school on 31 October, 2020 as a joint fundraiser with our onsite after hours care provider – PCYC. If you are free to volunteer please contact us, or complete the volunteer sign up that has been previously sent around.

A survey will be sent around over the holidays asking for feedback on P&C events happening within the school – we look forward to hearing from you and would love our families input into events at the school.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 October at 5pm in the staff room.

Have a safe and happy holidays – see you all in Term 4!

Guidance Officer News

Last week a number of students and staff participated in the Walk Safely To School Day. Thanks to the students and staff who supported this Healthy alternative.

National Child Protection Week was last week as well and I was lucky enough to be invited to joing 1C as they linked in with Australia’s Biggest Child Safety lesson. In class 1C have been learning about being safe and how our body gives us signals to say we don’t feel safe such as goose bumps and our heart beating fast. They are also able to identify people in their safety network that they can talk to if they don’t feel safe.
now accepting Prep Enrolments for 2021

To book for an interview please call 0749656 333 or email principal@fitzgeraldss.com.au
Playgroup at Fitzgerald 2020

Playgroup is starting again this week –

Thursday 6th August 1.30-2.30pm

Fitzgerald SS Playgroup is now operating on a new day and time and with a new

Playgroup team - Paula Pierotti (Teacher) and Lisa Ware (Teacher Aide)

Young children and their caregivers are invited to meet in the Fitzgerald State School hall 1.30pm-2.30pm each Thursday afternoon to play, learn and connect with others.

When? Every Thursday afternoon (1.30-2.30pm)

Who is invited? Any bubs, toddlers and before school aged children accompanied by their parents, grandparents or caregivers. Prams welcome.

Where: Fitzgerald State School Hall

What will the cost be? Free

Please do not attend if you have any cold or flu symptoms
Community News

Take Time For Mental Health... On Your Bike

This World Mental Health Day Selectability is inviting the Mackay community to take time for mental health... on your bike.

Now, more than ever, it is important for us to reconnect as a community, get active and shine a spotlight on mental health.

Our fun, family-friendly bike ride and BBQ brunch aims to help breakdown the stigma around mental illness and show the community that there are simple things that we can all do to boost our own wellbeing.

The event is also the official launch of our new ‘On Your Bike For Mental Health’ service.

DATE: Saturday 10 October
TIME: 8.00am - 10.30am
LOCATION: Bluewater Trail, River St
(start / finish near Fergus Bridge)
COST: FREE
REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.selectability.com.au

The Ride Circuit

Starting at the Fergus Bridge end of River St. the 2km ride will follow the Bluewater trail along the riverfront, past the boat ramps and around the Sandy Creek Environmental Reserve.

Continuing along the trail to Puke Park and then turn around to return to the Fergus Bridge. This will be followed by a BBQ at Tullara Clubhouse (food and drinks will be available for sale).

Mackay Gymnastics Inc
Gymnastics Holiday Camp
Early Bird Discount
2 Days for $70 per MGI Member
2 Days for $90 per Non Member
Early Bird ends 18th September 2020

PREP - 13 YEARS
MGI Members $45/Day
NON Members $65/Day
Payment required at time of booking

9AM - 3PM
Week 1 - 21, 23 & 25 September 2020
Week 2 - 26, 28 & 30 September & 2 October 2020

5 Snow Wright Crt Beaconsfield
To book call 49420032 or email
admin@mackaygymnastics.org.au

Mackay Gymnastics School Holiday Fun Days

INSIDE FUN,
OUT OF THE SUN

2 - 4 YEAR OLDS
for younger boys & girls
9.15am - 10.00am
COST $15.00

WHERE: At our facilities
5 Snow Wright Crt.
(Off Beaconsfield Rd)
WHEN: Mon 21st Sept 2020
 Wed 23rd Sept 2020
 Fri 25th Sept 2020
 Mon 28th Sept 2020
 Wed 30th Sept 2020
 Fri 2nd Oct 2020

5 - 12 YEAR OLDS
primary school aged
boys and girls
9.00am - 10.30am
COST $25.00

COME AND HAVE FUN IN THE GYM

Bookings Required
Phone: 4942 0032
Or Email
admin@mackaygymnastics.org.au