Dear Parents and Carers

Professional Learning Teams

I wrote at length last year about the school's work in becoming a Professional Learning Community. Our teachers have taken some significant steps already this year as we work together to focus on the 3 Big Ideas of a Professional Learning Community; a focus on learning, a focus on collaboration and a focus on results.

Each Tuesday morning our teachers meet with their Professional Learning Team to address the learning of their students. For 2013 our focus is on Mathematics. There are three teams; Kinder and Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3. The teachers meet for 40 minutes each week, working through a process that enables the following.

(a) Absolute clarity about what specifically needs to be learned by students in the unit of study
(b) Development of a common assessment piece to collect information about students’ knowledge and skills before and after the unit of study
(c) Use of this data to set goals for all students
(d) Sharing of successful teaching methods
(e) Arranging intervention and enrichment for students where needed
(f) Review of goal achievement

While this is taking place at the micro level within each team, we are also working at the macro level on our Vision for Learning. This is a statement that names what successful learning will look like at St Finbarr’s. I am seeking your feedback and input into this statement through the School Review and Development process taking place this term.

School Review and Development

Every 5 years each school in our diocese undergoes this process to set goals for the next 5 years. In the coming weeks I will outline how you can play a part in this important process, particularly through an online survey.

One of the questions in the survey will ask for your feedback on the draft Vision for Learning mentioned above. It would be terrific to have input from every family so that the Vision for Learning and the School Goals we develop are widely owned across the school community.

Dance Program

During Miss Morton’s (oops Mrs Wade’s) absence for the next 4 weeks Ms Lee Purdie and Mr Wills will run a dance program with each stage on Tuesday mornings. They will work with the stage for 40 minutes while the teachers meet in their Professional Learning Teams. Normally Miss Morton meets with the team while I take the stage for Program Achieve.

Regards

John Wilson
Principal

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
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<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Maths Enrichment at Holy Family</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Stage 3 Maths Olympiad</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Diocesan Cross Country</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Noah’s Ark Mufti Day and Sausage Sizzle “Raising Boys” Education— Forum for Parents with Warren Hopley 7pm at St Finbarr’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY— Proclaim (see attached letter from Director)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Year 6 RE test</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Bug Show - Kindergarten &amp; Stage 1 School Band performing at assembly</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Glow in the Dark Disco 5.30-8.30 pm at St Finbarr’s</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>School reports home this week</td>
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<td>26-28</td>
<td>Year 4 &amp; 5 Tyalgum camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>END OF SCHOOL TERM</td>
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OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH THE STUDENTS RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION THIS FRIDAY AT 6:00PM. PLEASE BE SEATED QUIETLY BY 5:45PM.

Altar Server Roster
Saturday 25May
Group E
Aydin Neighbour
Natalia Hosie
Indian Kairies
Camille Neighbour
Ossian Quinn-Jarvis

Please be at the church at 5:40pm.
Noah’s Ark Mufti Day Thursday 30 May
Gold coin donation for free dress
Sausage Sizzle - $2

Noah Brink of Stage 2W will be undergoing heart surgery this Thursday 23 May.

Friends of the Brink family have rallied together to help and support the family during this very difficult time. We would like to invite all students on a fundraising ‘Noah’s Ark Mufti Day’ on Thursday 30 May as a great way to let Noah know we’re thinking of him and to help support the Brink Family.

On the day we will be having a Sausage Sizzle and Animal Face Painting (two by two of course so pair up with a friend or a group and dress the same).

In addition, friends of the Brink family have arranged a raffle with some fantastic prizes generously donated by businesses and individuals in our community. Raffle tickets can be purchased for $10 on the ‘Noah’s Recovery’ Facebook page as well as at the school office. Please send money to the office in a sealed envelope with your name and amount. Donations can also be made at [http://bit.ly/noahbyron](http://bit.ly/noahbyron)

ALL OUR CHRISTMASES HAVE COME AT ONCE
The Christmas Fair last year raised a whopping $25,000 to purchase Laptops and Tablets for our students. The Laptops have arrived! Thank-you again to the parents, businesses, teachers, extended families, and wider community who supported our Fair and made this a reality.

ATTENTION PARENTS
We have had a reported case of chicken pox. If your child shows any signs of the virus please keep them from school and see your doctor.

RAISING BOYS NIGHT
Due to amazing response by parents, childminding will now be provided by Parent Assembly.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
Dear Parents, During June I will be conducting a Nutritional research project on the food consumed by the children on a non-canteen day as part of my Master’s Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. Lunch boxes will be opened on one day only by the children but not touched by myself. No discussions/recommendations will be made to the children on what they have in their lunchbox other than for clarification purposes. No individual child data analysis will be performed or recommendations given, I will only be analysing data by class, year and sex. The results will be used as part of my assessment and will be available for everyone to view, hopefully by the end of July. If you have any questions about the research, feel free to contact me Joanne White 0468347050
(Parent of Jonah White, 1M) .

Student Awards
Congratulations to the following St Finbarr’s students whose achievements will be recognised at assembly next week (Stage 2 Monday, Stage 1 and K Tuesday, Stage 3 Wednesday) at 9:00am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Learning Award</th>
<th>Value Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder W</td>
<td>Lily Bartholomew</td>
<td>Declan Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1 I</td>
<td>Paige Smith</td>
<td>Clare Johnston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1M</td>
<td>Erin Woolsey</td>
<td>Tilly Cubis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1B</td>
<td>Tom Topham</td>
<td>Indigo Sorio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2 H</td>
<td>Lucy Pilgrim</td>
<td>Mia Sansom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2O</td>
<td>Sapphire Phillips</td>
<td>Uira Cunha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3C</td>
<td>Elke Richardson</td>
<td>Lucas Morrisey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3M</td>
<td>Jordan Hawkins</td>
<td>Lexi Pilgim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3S</td>
<td>Isaac Nash</td>
<td>Grace Eady</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finnies</td>
<td>Ties Van Kempen</td>
<td>Mia Sharman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finnest</td>
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<td>Mary Mackillop</td>
<td>Tom Gosling</td>
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A very warm welcome to new student, Maya Sullivan in Stage 1M, from all at St Finbarr’s.
Zone Cross Country Friday 10 May.
Our Cross Country Team competed at the Tweed Zone Carnival last Friday 10 May. We finished 3rd overall and were very competitive all day in every age division. Congratulations to Masato Leishman (9yrs Boys), Erin Boggis (10yrs girls) and Freya Robertson (9yrs girls) who won their age divisions in convincing fashion. Congratulations also to Riley Buckland 2nd (12 yrs boys), Oliver Stautner 4th (12 yrs boys) and Billie Bridle 2nd (11yrs boys).
All these student have won selection in the Zone Team to compete at the Diocesan Carnival at Murwillumbah on Fri 24 May. Congratulations to Caroline Bailey who is the running coach of most of these students. It proves that hard work and dedication will reap rewards.

School Sport: MLC Hot Shots Tennis Program (hotshots.tennis.com.au)
Our Hot Shots Tennis Program began last week and the children have been most excited and actively engaged in a wonderful skills based program which will give them skills for life. The program caters for all age groups and all tennis experiences. Our coaches from Byron Bay Tennis (Bryan, Trent and Simon) are doing a tremendous job passing on their skills to our students. This week we received a wonderful assortment of free Tennis Equipment courtesy of MLC Tennis Hot Shots and Tennis Australia for use in our school.

Free Hot Shots T-Shirts.
Being a registered member of the MLC Hot Shots Program the children from St Finbarr’s have the opportunity to apply online for a free T-Shirt. However, I would suggest that parents take the time to read the obligations associated with this offer fully before going ahead with applying for the T-shirt. As with most promotions your personal details are required.
To apply for the free T-shirt visit: hotshots.tennis.com.au/start-playing/claim/. Go to Venue Name and type in St Finbarr’s School and complete the fields required.

School P.D.H.P.E:
The focus in classes this term will be educating our children in Drug Education. Drug Education in Primary Schools looks at the safe use and storage of medicines in the home, keeping safe around medicines, people who look after me, making good decisions and how drugs affect me and others.

Live Life Well at School: visit online: Fresh Taste @ School
This week I have inserted a snippet from the Fresh Taste @ School website for school canteens. There are plenty of good ideas to support healthy eating choices for our kids. I’ve attached the following for your information.

THE AUSTRALIAN DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Children and adolescents need sufficient nutritious foods to grow and develop normally.
* Growth should be checked regularly for young children.
* Physical activity is important for all children and adolescents.

Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods.
Children and adolescents should be encouraged to:
* Eat plenty of vegetables, legumes and fruits.
* Eat plenty of cereals, (including breads, rice, pasta and noodles), preferably wholegrain.
* Include lean meat, fish, poultry and/or alternatives.
* Include milks, yoghurt, cheese and/or alternatives. Reduced fat milks are not suitable for young children under 2 years old, because of their energy needs, but reduced fat varieties should be encouraged for older children and adolescents.
* Choose water as a drink.

And care should be taken to:
* Limit saturated fat and moderate total fat intake. Low fat diets are not suitable for infants.
* Choose foods low in salt.
* Consume only moderate amounts of sugars and foods containing added sugars

CARE FOR YOUR CHILD’S FOOD: PREPARE AND STORE IT SAFELY
Kerry Wills
Sport & PDHPE
School Fees
Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or forwarded direct to Bank account BSB 062-514 A/C No. 00900371. Please quote account number or child’s name as details. BPAY facilities are also available using Biller Code & Reference No. from statement. Please contact John Wilson if you are experiencing financial difficulty.

Keep us up-to-date
If you change any of your contact details i.e. address, work/home/mobile phone numbers, emergency contact details, email addresses you need to let the school office know immediately.

School Banking
School Banking is every Wednesday. Could each student who has a banking wallet please hand it to their teacher. This is then placed into a grey folder and delivered to the office for collection by Susan Cubis.

Canteen
Rostered on for canteen this week is
Friday 24 May - Michelle Herbert
Tuesday 28 May - Michelle Herbert

General News - On Display - Parent Notice Board (Outside Library)

The Ballina-Byron Family Centre
6686 4109
See notice board for all services and programs.

After School Yoga Club - St Finbarr’s with Karen
Mondays 3.15 to 4.15pm
$63 for 7 week block
Contact Caroline Bailey on 0409 804 131 or carolinejbailey@rocketmail.com

Fit Fins Run Squad 2013
Running Club from Kinder to Year 6
Training sessions Mondays and Fridays from 8am to 8.30am
$50 per term
Contact Caroline Bailey on 0409 804 131 or carolinejbailey@rocketmail.com

Byron Bay Junior Basketball— Winter comp starting for Terms 2 & 3.
www.byronbasketball.com

STS Student Exchange— Contact us today to start your adventure
1800263964 or 0431741754 email: stsf@people.net.au

From Heroes into Men—Parents who want to learn a program to provide their sons with boy to manhood guidance are invited to a free info session Tues 28 May 5.30-7pm at Brunswick Heads Regional Library

Family Referral Service—Your link to Support
1300 338 774
Voluntary referral service for families, children and young people

Babysitters Needed!
Byron Bay Runners members need reliable, experienced babysitters around the Byron area
Tuesdays 5-7pm and Thursdays 6-8pm $$ negotiable.
Email ‘byronrunner@rocketmail.com’ with your contact details, for more information.

Toastmasters - meeting every 1st & 3rd Mon of the month in the music room at St Finbarr’s

Bangalow Museum Goes Indian— North Indian cuisine Fri 24 May 6-9pm Bookings ring 66872183