Dear Parents/Carers

WELCOME BACK!
Welcome back to Term 3! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday with your family and friends, and are looking forward to an action packed Term 3.

YEAR 6 CANBERRA TRIP
The Year 6 students, along with John Wilson, Carolyn Morton, Donna Clark, Celia Coleman and Perry Bartholomew are currently in Canberra on a 4 day long excursion. We have been very excited about this trip and wanted to share with you some of places that we will be visiting while we are away and look forward to telling you all about it on our return.

We flew into Sydney on Sunday morning, met our bus driver and after spending the day in Sydney we drove to Canberra late that afternoon. When we arrived in Canberra we checked into the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) amongst the athletes’ residences and will be dining with them for a buffet breakfast and dinner throughout the week. Whilst here we are looking forward to visiting:

- Sydney Taronga Zoo
- Australian War Memorial
- Questacon, Science Centre
- Old Parliament House
- Parliament House
- Australian Electoral Commission
- CSIRO Centre
- Botanical Gardens
And a number of Art Galleries and Museums.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenships education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $60 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Thank you to the teachers for organising such a great trip and to our Year 6 parents – for allowing us the opportunity to travel to Sydney and Canberra with their children. We look forward to seeing you all upon returning to St Finbarr’s.

Regards
John Wilson & Carolyn Morton

A big welcome from all of us at St Finbarr’s to Ayrton Wilkin who will be joining Stage 3S, Ethen Staunton in Stage2O, Izzy Allen and Molly Staunton in Stage1I.
Assistant Principal Message

MEDIA AND CHILDREN

How much time does your child spend watching TV? What about on the computer? Or playing on your phone or iPad? The American Academy of Pediatrics have published this article on the use of media by children and specifically on the rationale for discouraging screen time in the under 2’s. Here is the link if you’re interested in reading it in full – it also has a range of other resources and links available to find out more information on using media mindfully with your children.


Media is everywhere. TV, Internet, computer and video games all vie for our children’s attention. Today’s children are spending an average of seven hours a day on entertainment media, including televisions, computers, phones and other electronic devices. To help kids make wise media choices, parents should monitor their media diet. Parents can make use of established ratings systems for shows, movies and games to avoid inappropriate content, such as violence, explicit sexual content or glorified tobacco and alcohol use.

Studies have shown that excessive media use can lead to attention problems, school difficulties, sleep and eating disorders, and obesity. In addition, the Internet and cell phones can provide platforms for illicit and risky behaviours.

By limiting screen time and offering educational media and non-electronic formats such as books, newspapers and board games, and watching television with their children, parents can help guide their children’s media experience. Putting questionable content into context and teaching kids about advertising contributes to their media literacy.

The AAP recommends that parents establish “screen-free” zones at home by making sure there are no televisions, computers or video games in children’s bedrooms, and by turning off the TV during dinner. Children and teens should engage with entertainment media for no more than one or two hours per day, and that should be high-quality content. It is important for kids to spend time on outdoor play, reading, hobbies, and using their imaginations in free play.

Television and other entertainment media should be avoided for infants and children under age 2. A child’s brain develops rapidly during these first years, and young children learn best by interacting with people, not screens.

Regards
Carolyn Wade
Assistant Principal
Leader of Pedagogy

St Finbarr’s sends a huge THANKYOU to Byron Bay’s Supa IGA for their Community Chest donation of $442.60 to our school. This will help to buy further resources for our children.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about products with “may contain...” statements?

“May contain” statements are voluntary and unregulated and therefore it is often difficult to determine the real risk. If a food product has “May contain...” for any of the above food allergens, the food should not be given to a student with an allergy to the ingredient. For example, a product with ‘may contain traces of nuts’ should not be given to a peanut or tree nut allergic child.

There are many products carrying these statements, but is unnecessary to remove all such products from the school. These products pose a risk to the student with food allergy if they eat them, however there is no risk to the allergic student by sitting alongside a student who is eating a product labelled as “May contain...”. The important point is to make sure that no food sharing occurs.

To mark NAIDOC week Stage 2W wrote some reflective Haiku poems on the experiences of Indigenous Australians. The results were very moving.

Blind love has come here
They do not know what hit them
Blind song has saved us.

Freya Robertson Yr 3

Traditional soul
Sacred land was stolen, gone
Children were taken.

Olivia-Jade Greenslade Yr 3

Happy times gone now
Devastation spread quickly
Stuck, no way to leave.

Nina Ruane Yr 4

The men fought for land
Gurrumul sang for the earth
Life taken for good.

Sam Callahan Yr 4

Parking In Front of School

We have been contacted by Blanch’s Bus Company regarding vehicles parked in the bus bay in front of the school steps of a morning. Please ensure that you move down to the drop off zone adjacent to the school oval when dropping off your child of a morning. This will help to keep our children safe!

After School Yoga Club - With Karen.
For 5 - 8 Year olds.
Starting Monday 22 July.
3.15-4.15pm
7 Week Block - $63.
For Bookings call Karen on 0420239791.
A Parish dinner is being held at the Byron Services Club in the Pandanus Room on 25 July, 6.30/7pm. The cost is $27.50/head and includes a buffet meal with lots of variety. This is a combined get together of the Parishes. Numbers are required by 20 July. Monies may be left at the Presbytery with name and number attending on an envelope. It would be a good opportunity for parents and teachers to represent the school and meet some of the Parish Community.

E Street....Evangelization news and views at St Finnies
Welcome to a new segment in our school newsletter where we hope to keep you better informed about our wonderful Catholic Faith.

Why We Do The Things We Do
Why Sunday?
On Sundays we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. According to the biblical story, on the seventh day God rested having completed the creation of the world. Appropriately, on the first day of the week Christians commemorate the 'new creation': the renewal of the world through Christ's loving sacrifice. Traditionally Christians approach this day as a day of worship and celebration, resting from work and focussing on their faith community and their family. This Sunday, take time out to give extra emphasis to this celebration. (e.g. Spend time with your children, take a walk with a friend, prayerfully review the Sunday readings.)

Sacramental Programme – First Reconciliation and First Eucharist
Children who are baptised from Year 3 and above are invited to enrol in our Parish / School Sacramental Programmes for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in Term 3. A parent meeting will be held on Tuesday, 30 July at 7pm in the Stage 2 classrooms at the school. Children who were confirmed last year in Year 2 will be automatically enrolled. Parents of new children are asked to fill out the form attached and return to the school office by the end of Week 1 Term 3.
First Reconciliation will take place on Tuesday 6 August at 7pm at St Finbarr’s Church, Byron Bay. First Eucharist will take place on Sunday, 8 September at 9.30am at St Kevin’s Church, Bangalow.

Children’s Liturgy Leaders
At the Saturday night Parish mass children’s Liturgy classes are offered to families within the mass. Presently, generous staff from St Finbarr’s school lead these. We are looking for extra volunteers to help out here. All materials and notes are provided. If you would like to join this team contact me: todwyer@lism.catholic.edu.au

Altar Servers
A new roster will be published soon for Term 3. A big thankyou to the children and their families for supporting us in this important ministry. On his return from annual leave Fr Anthony will arrange a time to meet with our new and experienced servers.

Yours in Christ
Tom O’Dwyer
Leader of Evangelization

CAT CHAT
Welcome to the first ‘Cat Chat’ for our school newsletter. This will be a regular sharing of snippets from the YOUCAT, which is a youth version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Pope Benedict XVI introduced the YOUCAT in 2011 to assist people around the world in understanding more about the teachings of the Catholic Church. I invite you to contemplate the scripture reading and insights that follow.

How did Jesus deal with the Law of the Old Covenant?
“Do not think”, says Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, “that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17).
Jesus, being a faithful Jew, lived according to the ethical ideas and requirements of his time. But there were times when Jesus interpreted the Jewish laws in a more unconventional way.

(YOUCAT questions 335-336)

Peace Reflection
Jesus sent his disciples to preach the Good News to all, telling them, “Whenever you go into a house, first say, Peace be with the house” (Luke 10:5). Helen Keller could neither see or hear. Yet she became a great public speaker. One night after a lecture someone asked: “If you could have one wish granted what would it be?” The questioner thought Helen might say “I wish for the ability to see and hear” but she said “I’d wish for world peace.” Jesus would have applauded Helen’s beautiful response. For that is what he told his followers to be: Instruments of peace. “Happy are those who work for peace”, Jesus told crowds on the mountain. “God will call them his children!” (Matthew 5:9)

Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis

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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, Coordinator.

Keep us up-to-date
Don’t forget 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.

Canteen
Rostered on for canteen this week is

Friday 19 July - Volunteer still needed

Tuesday 23 July - Volunteer still needed

Cyra, our intrepid canteen manager, urgently needs help on Tuesdays and Fridays. Even if you can spare an hour or two it would be greatly appreciated or unfortunately the new winter menu will have to be cut back!

REMINDERS

School Fees
Term 3 fees will be sent out to all families within the next week.
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.
EFTPOS facilities are available at the office.
BPAY facilities are also available using Biller Code & Reference No. from statement.
Please contact John Wilson if you are experiencing financial difficulty.

HAPKIDO CLASSES
Korean Martial Art of Self Defence
Have Fun and Get Fit
New kids classes starting on 15 May
Class Times
Kids (8years – 12 Years) Wednesday 3:45-5:00pm
Adults Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm
Thursday 6:30pm-8:30pm
Saturday 9:30am-11:30am
Location St Finbarr’s Primary School Hall
For more info call: 0413 058 189 Email: byronbayskateboardcoaching@gmail.com

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
Bookings essential contact Karen to register 0420 239 791

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 carolinejaibaley@rocketmail.com

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

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

STS Student Exchange– Contact us today to start your adventure
1800263964 or 0401741754 email: stsf@people.net.au

Understanding Bullying-A free information session at the Byron Community Centre on Wednesday 24 July at 7pm headed by Michael Shaw m. 0415532791