NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme for NAIDOC week this year is the Yirrkala Bark Petitions...

In August 1963, the Yolngu people of Yirrkala in northeast Arnhem Land sent two bark petitions, framed by traditional ochre paintings of clan designs, to the Australian House of Representatives. The petitions protested the Commonwealth’s granting of mining rights on land excised from Arnhem Land reserve and sought the recognition by the Australian Parliament of the Yolngu peoples’ traditional rights and ownership of their lands. Asserting title to Yolngu country under Yolngu law, the petitions were the first traditional documents recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament and helped to shape the nation’s acknowledgment of Aboriginal people and their land rights.

We value the foresight, strength and determination of the Yolngu people whose Bark Petitions set into motion a long process of legislative and constitutional reforms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Professional Development

The following professional development activities are being undertaken by our teachers during the coming weeks. These activities are important components in furthering expertise and professional practise as well as further developing the curriculum.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2</td>
<td>Mrs Hunter</td>
<td>Leaders of RE</td>
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<td>Mr O’Dwyer</td>
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**Altar Server Roster**

**Saturday 27 July**

**Group B**

Jimmy Sanderson
Joel Fitzpatrick
Grace Gilham
Nina Ruane
Keoni Smiles
Tom Reynolds

Please be at the church at 5:40pm.
Dear Parents/Carers

As this year’s NAIDOC celebrations were held during the school holidays I invite you now to reflect on the important continuing struggle faced by our Indigenous brothers and sisters. The decisive action of the Yolngu people half a century ago highlights the length of this ongoing struggle towards true reconciliation, justice and equality for all Australians.

Our Year 6 students visited the Tent Embassy outside Parliament House last week which was established in 1972. Through a range of tours and visits students learned about many of the key moments in the history of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander struggle for equality and recognition.

As a school community we will continue to work closely with the local Arakwal Community to build understanding, reconciliation and offer opportunities for our children to learn, understand and to be the change that is still required.

School Camps and Excursions

My sincere thanks to our Stage 2 and 3 Teachers and Teacher Aides for their significant contribution to the Tyalgum Camp and Canberra Excursion held in recent weeks. Both activities were very successful and provided rich active learning for our students. Our teachers provided 24 hour a day care and undertook many hours of detailed planning to ensure both events were safe, effective and enjoyable. I also congratulate all students who took part for their excellent attitude, respect and listening.

As teachers are now evaluating the outcomes of both excursions, parent feedback would be much appreciated. In the next two weeks we will provide an evaluation form to the parents of all Stage 2 and 3 students. In the meantime don’t hesitate to email your child’s teacher with any relevant reflections.

School Song

The School Staff is considering writing a song which is specific to St Finbarr’s and that can be used as a stirring school song at important celebrations and liturgies. Such a song would ideally inspire all to live by the important values which lie at the heart of life and learning at St Finbarr’s. I would love to hear from any parents, carers, grandparents or former students with suggestions of key words, phrases, images or even possible verses, refrains or melodies that might be included. Please just email your contributions to sfpbyron@lism.catholic.edu.au with the subject heading “School Song”.

Pupil Free Days

I remind you that this week ends with two Pupil Free Days. On Thursday the entire staff is poring over teacher, parent and student survey data and beginning to draft School Development Goals for the coming 5 years. On Friday we continue our detailed preparation for the rollout of the Australian English and Science Curricula, beginning in January next year.

Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead,

Regards

John Wilson
Principal

Assistant Principal Message

Social and Emotional Learning

Parents and carers have a critical role to play in guiding and supporting children’s social and emotional learning. Social and emotional skills develop with practice. Everyday situations present lots of opportunities for children to learn and practise skills for coping with emotions, managing relationships and solving problems. You can help children build the skills they need by providing effective coaching. The following information is taken from an article published by Kids Matter, who often produce great resources for parents. Check out the link below for more information on this topic.

How Parents and Carers Can Help?

Encourage discussion of feelings

Encourage children to talk about how they are feeling. Listen with empathy so they feel understood. Help them see that feelings are normal and that all feelings are okay, it is important to understand them, and that understanding and talking about feelings helps you to manage them.

Support children’s confidence

Help children identify and develop their strengths by encouraging them to have a go at things and find activities they enjoy. Praise their efforts, celebrate their successes and encourage them to keep trying and learning.

Provide opportunities to play with others

Playing with other children provides practice in important social skills such as sharing, taking turns and cooperation. Help children develop their skills by praising their appropriate play behaviour, for example: “I noticed how nicely you shared your toys. That made it fun for both of you.”

Lead by example

Parents and carers are important role models. Children learn how to behave by observing and imitating the behaviour of those around them, particularly adults. When you model positive ways of coping with strong feelings like anger, it helps children feel safe and shows them ways that they can manage strong feelings too.

Give children choices

To develop responsibility, children need practice in making choices that are appropriate for their age and experience level. You can help children build decision-making skills by encouraging them to explore options and helping them think through the reasons for their choices. Involving children in family decision-making (that you are in charge of) helps them develop skills for responsible decision making and encourages cooperative family relationships.

Encourage creative problem-solving

Asking questions that help children think of alternative solutions supports their thinking and problem-solving skills. When problems arise you can explore them together by asking questions, such as: “What could you do about that?” or “What do you think might happen if you try that?”

Teach children to use assertive communication skills

Show children how to confidently and respectfully communicate their thoughts, feelings and needs to others in an assertive way, for example: “I really don’t want to play that game. It’s too dangerous. Let’s play a different game instead.”


Carolyn Wade
Assistant Principal
Leader of Pedagogy
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 go to church when I can pray alone?*

"Why go to Mass when I can pray to God by myself?" some people ask. To understand the Mass we need to understand the Church as a community, as a family. A simple analogy:

Family members come together for meals, not just for physical nourishment, but as a way of sharing life together. The Sunday Eucharist is a bit like that for Catholics. It is the sacred meal, our 'family meal', whereby we come together to worship God, not just for our private spiritual nourishment, but to acknowledge that we belong to one another as God’s family, that we are a people who share in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

*Mini Vinnie's..... “Scarf and Beanie Day”*

On Wednesday, 24 July, St Finbarr’s Mini Vinnie’s Group will hold a “Scarf and Beanie Day” to raise awareness of and support for the 2013 St. Vincent DePaul Winter Appeal.

All children are asked to wear their favourite scarf and/or beanie as part of their school uniform for that day. Each child has been given a garbage bag into which they may place items (i.e. clean clothes, useable toys, books and particularly warm blankets) to be donated to our local St Vincent De Paul shop.

Bags are to be returned to the school on or before Wednesday, 24 July.

Thank you for your anticipated support

Sacramental Programme

*– First Reconciliation and First Eucharist*

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is fundamentally about our relationships with others, and about how those relationships define our relationship with God. It provides us with a way to reflect meaningfully on our attitudes and our habits and about how we live in the world. It helps us to become aware of God's presence in all the moments of our lives. It invites us to pray, to confess God's mercy, and to change our lives.

Children from Year 3 and above who are baptised and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to enrol in our Parish / School Sacramental Programmes for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in Term 3.

A compulsory 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 students are asked to fill out the form attached and return to the school office by the end of Week 2.

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.

Altar Servers

A new roster was published last week and given out to the children. Fr Anthony will arrange a time soon to meet with our new and experienced servers.

Yours in Christ

Tom O'Dwyer

Leader of Evangelization

Sacramental Programme – First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Parental Response

| Child One: I would like to enrol my child ________________________________, who is in ________________ class at St Finbarr’s into the Parish / School Sacramental Program. |
| Child Two: I would like to enrol my child ________________________________, who is in ________________ class at St Finbarr’s into the Parish / School Sacramental Program. |

Parent / Guardian ________________________________
Byron Bay Writer’s Festival Comes To St Finbarr’s!

Next week is National Literacy and Numeracy week and what better way to celebrate it than to meet three of Australia’s leading authors and illustrators? On Tuesday 30 July all children in Stages Two and Three will attend the Byron Bay Writer’s Festival School Programme. This will be held in St Finbarr’s School Hall from 12.45pm to 2.45pm. Guest speakers this year are award winning children’s authors and illustrators: Libby Gleeson, Leigh Hobbs and Judy Horacek. Students will listen to each of these writers speak and have a chance to ask them questions and have books signed as well.

Any parents who are interested in taking their child to the Youth Day at the Byron Bay Writer’s Festival will find details of the programme at the Byron Bay Writers Festival website or at the following link:

Youth Day is on Sunday 4 August from 9:30am until 4:30 pm and one accompanying adult is admitted free with each youth pass purchased.

We feel fortunate to be hosting the School’s Program for the Byron Bay Writer’s Festival again this year and look forward to an entertaining and inspiring afternoon.

Donna Clark
Leader of Curriculum

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Scripture in a Contemporary Way........

Why do we hand on the faith?

We hand on the faith because Jesus commands us: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19).

Mother Teresa used a good comparison for this question: “Often you can see power lines running alongside the street. Unless current is flowing through them, there is no light. The power line is you and I! The current is God! We have the power to allow the current to flow through us and thus to generate the light of the world:.”

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One night Jacob camped under the stars. In a dream, he saw God. That dream changed his entire life. Jacob woke up and said, “The LORD is here! The LORD is in this place!” (Genesis 28:16)

What is the closest I have ever come to an experience such as that described by Jacob and the student?

A high school student wrote in a homework assignment: “I was skiing all alone down a slope. Suddenly, I pulled up and stopped. I still don’t know why; It was like someone said ‘Stop, Chris!’ Everything was quiet and beautiful: The clear blue sky above me, The soft white snow below me, And green cedars on each side of me. As I stood there, A strange feeling came over me, And a strange thought entered my mind: God is here with me!” It was a moment that I will never forget.

Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis

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One night Jacob camped under the stars. In a dream, he saw God. That dream changed his entire life. Jacob woke up and said, “The LORD is here! The LORD is in this place!” (Genesis 28:16)
REMINDERS

School Fees
All fees were sent home last week. If you didn’t receive them please contact the office. 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
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.

School Banking
School Banking is every **Wednesday**. Please hand bank books to class teacher.

Canteen
Rostered on for canteen this week is

**Friday 26 July** - Michelle Herbert

**Tuesday 30 July** – Trina Higgins

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!

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: 0404 489 781

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 carolineja@rocketmail.com

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

**Michelle Dawson Let’s Go to Sleep Exhibition Opening**– 31 July 6pm till 14 Aug. Artist talk, book signing, Q & A 3 Aug 11am @ Retrospect Galleries ph 66808825
Email: Byron@retrospectgalleries.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 $5 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