Dear Parents and Carers

**St Finbarr’s Mission**
At St Finbarr’s we celebrate God’s presence in all we do.

We are a vital community within the Holy Spirit parish and we empower our students to always give their best and to transform their world by **loving like Jesus**.

**Growing together as friends**, by modelling and teaching about respectful relationships, we strive to nurture and care for our community and for our land every day.

We focus on the needs of each child and aim to engage our students actively and cooperatively in the process of **learning for life**.

What is our purpose?
2013 is a year of transition at St Finbarr’s and our two pupil free days last week proved very important steps in the process. I really do appreciate how difficult it will have been for many of you to juggle your commitments to enable you to care for your children on Thursday and Friday and I sincerely thank you for enabling the Pupil Free Days to take place.

The implementation of the Australian Curriculum will coincide precisely with our school’s new Strategic Plan for the years 2014 to 2018. The Australian Curriculum in NSW brings with it both a clear mandate in terms of specific content as well as opportunities for students to make connections and investigate important perspectives and understandings in their learning.

One striking aspect of your survey feedback was the range of expectations and preferences for learning at St Finbarr’s; **more sport, less sport, more arts, less arts, more attention to the basics, more attention to enrichment, less of a focus on excellence and more on personal best**….. There are limitations to what can be achieved in primary school; limitations from curriculum expectations and limitations from available time. We cannot do it all.

It is therefore very important that our priorities are crystal clear. Our priorities flow directly from our purpose, from the underlying values and means of the school. Ours is a catholic school situated in a local community rich in diversity of beliefs and values. Through this process of developing our strategic plan we need to reflect upon and review our mission and develop a clear vision for learning.

What are your priorities for your child’s learning? What do you believe is the purpose of primary schooling? Our teachers value your thoughts and beliefs and I invite you to continue to contribute to this very important process by responding to these questions.

Over the coming weeks I will continue to share feedback with you from our surveys and from our developing draft of the strategic plan and invite your continued involvement in the process. Please remember also that we would love to hear any suggestions from your family regarding our proposed school song.

Regards

John Wilson
Principal
Playing Chicken
Why is it that every time I jump on the mower the chooks manage to break the perimeter of their other-times secure enclosure? And every time it happens I find myself thinking about the origin of the phrase playing chicken as a lone chook stares me down as if to say “I dare you”. No, she doesn’t stare, she looks dismissive of me and my approaching large noisy cutting machine, head down and intermittently striking her insect prey beneath the grass and weeds.

As usual I tell myself “she’ll move, don’t change course”, and as usual at the last moment I lose my nerve and swerve to avoid her just as she slides her left leg as gracefully as a gymnast to appear millimetres to the right of my right hand wheel, pecking at insects as if nothing had happened. Except today I hear a squawk and she doesn’t reappear to my right…..

…Ih Honeycomb, what have I done? I was distracted. I’m thinking about so many things; did I remember the vege-mite in the shopping order? Will there be enough money in the bank this week to pay for the car service? Why don’t we have a political leader in this country brave enough to lead a human response for our asylum seekers rather than trying to win votes? How am I going to juggle all that I need to do this week? And then I remember, none of this is real. There is only this very moment and how present I am to life right now, the breeze, the sun, the grass, the chook….

…Honeycomb?!!! I look to my left and there she stands unperturbed, pecking at insects and fully present to her life. Turns out she was just playing possum.

JW

Who was St Augustine?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Do I need to check the food label every time?
Food labels must always be checked EVERY time new stock (new products and those previously ordered) arrives to determine whether the food is appropriate for particular students with food allergy. Ingredients and manufacturing processes of commercially prepared foods often change, so it is important to check the label every time. If a food product arrives un packaged and unlabelled, you must obtain a list of ingredients from the supplier.

PARENT TALK BY SUE DENGATE
The workshop is being held 27 August 7-9pm at Trinity Catholic College in Lismore and is FREE for all parents/caregivers in our Catholic Schools. They must register at 1300557874 or parents@lism.catholic.edu.au $15 entry for those not in this school system, tickets through www.fedup.com.au or pay at the door. Limit 150 people. More info - jokelly@lism.catholic.edu.au
SPORT NEWS
Zone Athletics Carnival
St Finbarr’s travelled to Cudgen last Tuesday 23 July for the Zone Athletics Carnival. This carnival is also a selection carnival for the Zone Athletics Team which will compete at the Diocesan Carnival at Lismore on Friday 9 August (Week 4). A team of 41 athletes represented our school on the day. The carnival as always was extremely well run and once again St Finbarr’s was supported by a large group of parents who travelled up for the day to support the team. Many thanks to our parents for your support. You are always a very important part of our team at these events. Our team performed well throughout the day and many of our athletes made it through to the finals in many events. At the end of the day we finished a credible 3rd overall which was our best result for a number of years. Congratulations to all our team for being such a wonderful bunch of children. You were a delight to take away and you were a credit to our school. Several of our students won selection in the Zone Team to compete at the Diocesan Carnival. These students are: Riley Buckland, Erin Boggis, Lola Neal, Billie Bridle, Lucas Magree, Grace Eady, Caelan Maladay, Oliver Rojo, Tom Reynolds, Phoebe Smiles and Ebony Anderson. Riley Buckland was once again the standout athlete at the Carnival and was presented with the Senior Boys Champion Award for his efforts. Thanks also to Miss Brianna Slattery who was our Team Manager at the carnival. It’s a big day to co-ordinate and Brianna did a wonderful job making sure all the children made their events plus ensuring all were safe and happy throughout the day.

Stage 3 Tweed Zone Gala Sports Day: Friday 16 August
All students from Stage 3 will travel to Tweed Heads for the Tweed Zone Catholic School’s Gala Sports Day at Arkinsell Park Tweed Heads. The day is a celebration of Sport and Catholic Education in our Zone. The day will feature several non competitive sports for the children to play and mix with children from the other Tweed Zone schools. In addition to the non competitive component of the day there will also be a serious side to the day. Teams in Netball and Soccer have been entered by all the schools and the successful teams will be selected to represent the Zone at the Diocesan Gala Day in Grafton on Wednesday 18 September. Students were invited to select one of the following sports for the day. All teams will have an opportunity during the next two weeks to prepare for the Gala Day. Sports for the non competitive section are: Touch Football, Soccer and Netball. All these sports are open to boys and girls. In the representative section Netball is girls only however girls are invited to enter into the representative Soccer. Detailed information about the day will be sent home this week.

Student Profile: Caspian Tuckwell Age 7
Sometimes we get all caught up with the larger school sport scene and we do miss some of the amazing achievements of our students in their chosen sports outside of school. Caspian Tuckwell is a quiet unassuming 7 year old who is a multi talented sports person. Caspian is an ace tennis player and also performs precision like routines on the backs of huge horses. He recently won his division at a recent Hot Shots Tennis Tournament and backed this up with an outstanding performance on the top of a huge grey horse at a recent equestrian event. Caspian also ran the 2km section at our recent Cross Country Carnival against much older students and just missed a place in the school team. Congratulations to Caspian Tuckwell.

Invitation:
If there is something outstanding happening in sport outside of school please let me know so I can share the achievements with our school community.

Personal Development and Health - Term 3.
The focus in classes for Term 3 is Relationships, Personal Worth and Self Esteem.
Units are: Kindy: Me and My Mates. Stage 1: Getting along with Others. Stage 2: Me, Myself and I. Stage 3: I like Me.
Reference: Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay P.D.H.P.E

P.E and Sport Focus - Term 3
The focus in classes for Term 3 in P.E and Sport are: Kindy & Stage 1: Fundamental Movement Skills / Games / Dance. Stage 2: Cricket Skills and Colour Comp. Stage 3: Gala Sports and Colour Comp.

Stage 2 Gala Cricket Day:
Stage 2 are busily preparing for their own gala day of cricket to be held during Week 6. Mr O’Dwyer will be sending home more details with the children soon.

Stage 1 Gala Sports Morning:
Not to miss out, the Stage 1 Gala Sports Morning is presently being planned for all children in Kindy and Stage1. Teachers are presently working out a suitable time and details will be sent home with the children early next week.

Kerry Wills
P.D.H.P.E and Sport
Welcome to “E Street” where we hope to keep you better informed about our wonderful Catholic Faith.

Why We Do

The Things We Do

What's that word mean?
The word liturgy comes from two Greek words meaning the work of the people. We are reminded that when we gather to worship it is the whole community that participates. It is not simply the work of the priest and altar servers with the rest of the congregation looking on.
The term eucharist comes from the Greek word eucharistia ('thanksgiving'). It was used in the early Church to refer to the entire celebration as well as to the consecrated bread and wine. The Mass is the greatest act of worship by which Christians give thanks for the salvation God has offered us through Jesus Christ.

Mini Vinnie’s… “Scarf and Beanie Day”

This was held last Wednesday, to raise awareness of and support for the 2013 St. Vincent DePaul Winter Appeal. What a wonderful success! Many thanks for your support. I’m sure many needy people will be assisted by the generosity of the St Finbarr’s community. All items will be sent to our local St Vincent DePaul shop for distribution.

Sacramental Programme – First Reconciliation

FORGIVENESS IN THE HOME

Children learn about God’s forgiving love through other people long before they have any formal teaching. They absorb your attitudes and ways of solving conflicts as a natural part of family life. They know the experience of a hug that offers love and forgiveness and acceptance. They learn that daily expressions of “I’m sorry”, “Excuse me” or “I beg your pardon” can lead to a greater understanding of forgiveness. The messages that they receive from family members remind them of their need to be reconciled when they do wrong, to acknowledge what they have done, and then to ask for the help they need to move on.

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 compulsory parent meeting will be held tonight (Tuesday 30 July) at 7pm in the Stage 2 classrooms at the school.

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.

Yours in Christ
Tom O’Dwyer
Leader of Evangelization

CAT CHAT

‘Someone who sings prays twice’.

St. Augustine understood that we are to offer more than our prayer thoughts to God. We are to pray with our whole being. Song can accomplish this. Music goes beyond... the regular speaking in prayers. It seems to soak deeper into one's soul. It's an act of the will & much more.

Blessings,
Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis
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.

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

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 2 Aug - Michelle Herbert
Tuesday 6 Aug - Sophie Monti

HAPKIDO CLASSES
Korean Martial Art of Self Defence
Have fun and get fit

Class Times
Tues 6:30-8:30pm (Adults and Teenagers)
Wed 3:45-5pm (Kids 8-12yrs)
Thurs 6:30-8:30pm (Adults and Teenagers)
Sat 9:30-11:30am (Adults and Teenagers)

Location St Finbarr’s Primary School Hall
Opposite Byron Bay High School
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 carolinejbailey@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

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

HAPKIDO CLASSES
Korean Martial Art of Self Defence
Have fun and get fit

6685 8466
byronbayfn.com.au

AFTER SCHOOL BYRON BAY SKATEBOARD COACHING CLINIC
Coach: Jai Lewan

Tuesday afternoon
Terms 1,2,3,4 coaching in 2013.
St Finbars Primary School $180 includes 8 lessons (minimum of 8 students)
All inquiries of interest please contact Jai Lewan.
Ph. 0413 058 189 Email: byronbayskateboardcoaching@gmail.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

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