Dear Parents and Carers,

School Review and Development Process
Feedback from the surveys of students, teachers and parents has provided a number of consistent key themes. These themes are now being developed into the goals of our Strategic Management Plan 2014 - 2018. Over the next couple of weeks I plan to share these common themes with you.

There were a number of areas of generally positive feedback including that: students are nurtured and generally feel happy and safe at St Finbarr’s; students are learning the ‘basics’ of literacy and numeracy more effectively; more consistent teaching practice has developed across the school; teachers are very available to students and their parents; a welcoming school and parish community supports families; the Catholic life and mission of the school is valued and many structures and programs have been refined over the last 5 years.

Key emerging themes from the area of teaching and learning include:

Teaching and Learning
- Engage students more in their learning
- Utilise more ‘hands on’ and active learning and provide a purpose for learning
- Provide more regular and specific feedback to students during the learning process and provide more regular feedback to parents about their child’s learning
- Continue to develop more consistent teaching practice across all classes
- Continue to cater for the needs of all learners

Please note that many interesting and helpful items of critical feedback were also received across a wide range of areas. Many of these individual items of feedback vary from the general themes and have prompted further investigation about or review of specific school processes.

With best wishes for the week ahead,

Regards

John Wilson
Principal

Altar Server Roster
Saturday 10 August
Group D
Hamish Wilson
Gabe Taylor
James Kearey
Tom Wilson
Please be at the church at 5:40pm.

We were very sorry to hear of the recent passing of Anna Hooper, a former teacher at St Finbarr’s. Our thoughts and prayers are with Anna’s family.
Assistant Principal Message

STUDENT ATTENDANCE
Over the last 6 months, teachers have been monitoring student attendance (for our annual census requirements) and John Wilson and I recently collated this data. We were quite surprised to see that consistently over this period we had a large number of students not attending school. We understand the need to keep children at home at times, but wish to remind you of the importance of sending your child/children to school. We recently updated our Student Attendance Policy, if you wish to find out more information on this, it can be located on the school’s website.

School Attendance = Student Success
Research is increasingly showing that attendance at all ages is incredibly important and is directly correlated to student success. According to a study conducted by Hedy Chang and Marijose Romero they found that when students are chronically absent during Kindergarten (both excused and unexcused absences) that these students perform lower academically in Stage One. This is true “regardless of gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status” (Chang, Romero 2008). This can also be said for students who are consistently late for school and therefore missing up to 25 minutes of learning each morning – totaling in 100 minutes of missed learning each week.

Did you know?
If students miss as little as EIGHT days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed an entire year of education.

It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day. A small number of absences may be justified if your child:
• is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness
• is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family matter (eg: a funeral)
• has to go to a special religious ceremony

If you experience difficulty getting your child/children to school, please contact your class teacher to discuss this with them. We hope to see an increase in student attendance over the remainder of the school year.

Carolyn Wade
Assistant Principal
Leader of Pedagogy

Student Awards
Congratulations to the following St Finbarr’s students whose achievements will be recognised at our next whole school assembly on Friday 16th August at 9:00am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Learning Award</th>
<th>Value Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder W</td>
<td>Oscar Fogarty, Thomas Amos, Lucy Ainsworth</td>
<td>Gisele Blunden, Toria Tyson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1I</td>
<td>Suri Phan, Isabella Wall</td>
<td>Molly Staunton, Izzy Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1M</td>
<td>Monique Anderson, Archie Topham</td>
<td>Daniel Davison, Lily Kila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1B</td>
<td>Charlie Berry, Christopher Kyprianou</td>
<td>Otis Wilson, Mia Bridger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2O</td>
<td>Dylan Bailey, Jasmine Crawford</td>
<td>Paige Wilkie, Sapphire Phillips, Ellen Staunton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2H</td>
<td>Lucy Pilgrim</td>
<td>Blaze Lowry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2W</td>
<td>Mitchell Johnston, Sam Thistlethwaite</td>
<td>Keelin Goininan, Ossian Quinn-Jarvis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
THE FINAL COUNTDOWN
Only 25 days to go before the end of the Premier’s Reading Challenge !! Have you completed your online reading record? It must be completed and validated by 1 September. Even if you are only halfway through it is not too late!!
YOU CAN DO IT. See or email Mrs Waters if you want to join in – you still have time. ewaters@lism.catholic.edu.au

RSL ANZAC ART AWARDS
RSL ANZAC Art Awards is a colouring and art competition for all NSW School students. Cash prizes are on offer for all category winners, an exhibition with the major prize trip to the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea for the highest scoring artwork from a year 11-12 student. There is a Primary and Secondary competition. Please visit: rslanzacartawards.com for online entry registration and submission of your artwork. Read the terms and conditions carefully.

HEART FREEZER
“Seeing a need and doing something about it…."
The month of August has been allocated to Mrs Waters and Mrs Hunters’ Stage 2 classes.
Takeaway containers generously donated by Denise and David from Earth ‘n’ Sea have been distributed. Extra containers are available from the office.
Hearty appreciation to all those families who continue to support the Heart Freezer.
Welcome to "E Street" where we hope to keep you better informed about our wonderful Catholic Faith.

Why We Do
The Things We Do
First things first

First things first
The initial part of the Mass (the Introductory Rites) is an important time of gathering and preparation. The entrance song helps to open the celebration, unite us as a body and lead our thoughts towards the mystery of God's love which we have come to celebrate. The priest's greeting ('The Lord be with you') and the congregation's response ('And with your Spirit') affirms that Christ is present in our midst. This is a time for focussing on the importance of the opportunity for worship that lies before us.

Sacramental Programmes – First Reconciliation / First Eucharist

Children's Sorry Prayer
"Dear God, thank you for loving me. I am sorry for not loving others, and not loving you. I am sorry for all my sins. Please help me to live like Jesus. Amen"

First Reconciliation, for candidates in Year 3 and above, will take place tonight (Tuesday 6 August) 7pm at St Finbarr's Church, Byron Bay.

Feast of St Mary MacKillop Mass – Thursday 8 August 9.30am St Finbarr's Church.

Feast of The Assumption of Mary Mass – Thursday 15 August 9.30am St Finbarr's Church

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

The Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Feast Day: August 8

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1909. She took the religious name Mary of the Cross. Responding to the isolation of colonial families, she pioneered a new form of religious life to provide education for their children. She and her sisters shared the life of the poor and the itinerant, offering special care to destitute women and children. She is remembered for her eagerness to discover God's will in all things, for her charity in the face of opposing opinions and lack of support and for her abiding trust in God.

We can celebrate Mary MacKillop’s life of service and remember the challenge that faces us in choosing a path in life that enables us to use our talents and make our mark by lives of service.

Blessings
Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis
**School Fees**
Fees invoices have been sent home with children. 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.

**Canteen**
Rostered on for canteen this week is

- **Friday 9 August** - Kylie Hawkins
- **Tuesday 13 August** – Ami Tsunashima

**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.

**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 in St Finbarr’s Hall 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 carolinebailey@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 $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

- **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