Dear Parents and Carers

Wellbeing Program

I am delighted to announce that St Finbarr’s was recently successful in an application for funding for a school wellbeing program. The program utilises the services of a psychologist to work with small groups of students, and occasionally individuals, in a proactive manner to address friendship struggles, social difficulties or underlying anxieties.

The program also allows for a small number of sessions of individual counselling for students who are coping with significant difficulties in their family or personal lives.

Ms Shannan Goodwin is the local psychologist who will lead the program, beginning tomorrow. Shannan will work in the school every Wednesday from 9:00am to 2:00pm for the remainder of the school year. Parents will be notified if their child is being considered as part of a small group to work with Shannan and a referral process exists for parents who want to pursue individual support for their child. Your child’s class teacher is your point of contact to begin the referral process.

Program Achieve—You can do it! Education

Every Tuesday morning I spend 40 minutes with each stage as we undertake Program Achieve. This is a very valuable program that aims to build positive habits of mind in our children through focusing on the 5 keys to success. Together with the school values the keys to success aim to build strong positive habits to support personal and social growth. Please contact me if you would like to know more.

Regards

John Wilson
Principal

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<th>Important Dates</th>
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<th>Professional Development</th>
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<td>The following professional development activities are being undertaken by our teachers during the coming weeks.</td>
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Altar Server Roster
Saturday 31 August
Group B
Jimmy Sanderson
Joel Fitzpatrick
Grace Gilham
Nina Ruane
Keoni Smiles
Tom Reynolds
Please be at the church at 5:40pm.
Assistant Principal Message

**ESSENTIAL LEARNING in Stage Meetings**

Every Tuesday teachers meet with me in stages, in “PLTs”, Professional Learning Teams. This is a structured meeting time for teachers to discuss, analyse and plan the student learning for their stage. At each meeting, the teachers and I focus on the three big ideas that support the work of PLTs, Learning (student learning), Collaboration (teachers working together and having collective ownership over the learning of all children), and Results (using data to inform our teaching).

Our school has been focussed on Maths this year and our priority has been creating and teaching ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS; the core skills and knowledge vital to students’ ability to understand further concepts more deeply. Essential Learnings are outcomes and understandings that are transferable to other areas of Maths. For example, an Essential Learning for Stage 1 would be to count and order numbers to 999. Students require this understanding (of counting and ordering) in other areas of Maths such as place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and problem solving. Due to this transferable skill and knowledge, this learning is deemed “essential”.

This does not mean that we are NOT teaching the rest of the Maths curriculum. Everything in the curriculum is important and we teach all concepts throughout the year. The maths concepts deemed as essential, however, are prioritised and their teaching and monitoring is the focus of our PLT meetings.

In the next few weeks I will share the essential learning currently addressed in each stage and the ways teachers are setting goals and tracking student growth in these areas. In the meantime, if you have any questions about essential learnings, or how your child’s learning is progressing in these areas, feel free to make an appointment to speak to your child’s teacher.

Carolyn Wade  
Deputy Principal  
Leader of Pedagogy

**Filming Creative Arts.**

The Stage Three Media Team is currently preparing for the Creative Arts Showcase in week 10. With the help of Bridie Carter, we are interviewing students and filming parts of their creative arts specialist lessons; dancing, singing, music and drama across all stages.

We are hoping to finish our filming next Tuesday and then begin editing and creating stage “films” for use on the showcase night.

This is a fantastic experience for us and we have learnt many great filming techniques from Bridie, such as how to check for good lighting before filming. We look forward to sharing these short films with you on the showcase evening, Wednesday 18 September.

Morgan, Montana and Finn, Team Media

**Lismore Music Eisteddfod Success**

Congratulations to the St Finbarr’s drummers and school band for coming home with three first-place trophies from the Lismore Music Eisteddfod! The Adjudicator congratulated the St Finbarr’s students on their “energetic and highly musical” performances.

All students conducted themselves admirably throughout the day and were congratulated for being such an attentive audience. I was very proud of all involved.

Brianna Slattery  
(Stage 3 music teacher)

**An Update from Noah’s Family**

Today marks the 3 month date since Noah’s open heart surgery. Reflecting earlier I was marvelling that the human mind is such a complex thing - so much of what we experienced as a family now seems so foreign to us that looking back through the images and clips we took at the time is like watching a story of someone else’s life, it seems so far removed…

As you would’ve noticed Noah is growing(!) and going from strength to strength after his surgery. I wanted to write to update all the beautiful St Finbarrs families, who rallied for us so vigorously at the time, of what a great support everyone was to our family, Noah and his continued well-being.

From time to time Noah will have a halter monitor fitted for some ongoing monitoring while his heart continues to heal. But apart from that - he’s back to his outgoing little self again. Thankyou again from the bottom of our hearts for your help through a very scary and unstable part of our lives. It is a joy to experience the simple pleasures of life again, with a healthy, happy family.

Warm regards,  
Justine & Miguel Brink

**Father’s Day Gifts**

After lots of feedback the School Forum is trialling a **new Father’s day gift idea** to reduce the cost to parents.

Rather than purchasing a bulk order of gifts and selling these to students through a stall, **students are preparing a simple gift idea during the week** and involving their dads (or significant others) on Friday morning.

We won’t reveal exact details just yet as we’d like this to be a surprise for all fathers, grandfathers and significant others coming along. With the reduced cost of gifts this year a simple gold coin donation will help cover expenses. We look forward to sharing this surprise with you on Friday morning.

The Forum Team
Dear Children, Parents and Friends of St Finbarr’s

As many of you know, I love to run, I love kids, and I love kids’ running. In November of this year, I will be running (as part of a relay team) **500km over three days** to raise awareness and money for the Endeavour Foundation (**www.endeavour.com.au**). This fantastic charity was started by a group of Mums in QLD and NSW helping kids and young adults with physical and/or mental disabilities. I have pledged to raise $700 for this charity, and in return for donations, will run the Byron Lighthouse 10k run this year dressed as a Smurf (including blue body paint). Donations can be made online via my fundraising page: **https://2013teamendurancerelay.everydayhero.com/au/caroline** or by cash/cheque (in a sealed envelope) which I can collect from the office. Thank you so much for any donation you can give, and for helping me to make a difference.

With best wishes Caroline Bailey
Email: carolinejbailey@rocketmail.com

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**MINI ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

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Dear God,
You are the one who knows how absolutely special fathers are.
You made them that way.
Thank You for fathers.
For big, strong men with tender hearts,
with hands that are calloused and rough,
yet so soft and gentle when hearts need mending.
Lord, help us to treasure this day in being with our dads,
even if it must be only by phone.
We also remember all those who have helped fill the void
when fathers are absent – grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins,
teachers and the women of our families.
May the precious memories flow, and bring laughter,
and new love and appreciation of all they do.

Lord, please take care of our dads.
Though they are brave and protective,
they must also be frightened sometimes.
Lord, when their hearts break because they can’t do it all,
please help us to let them know how much we love them.

May God bless all fathers today and everyday.
Happy Father’s Day!
In Jesus’ name,
Amen.
Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis

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**Happy Father’s Day**

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Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis
School Fees
Fees are due Friday 30 August. 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. Please remember to fill in deposit slip.

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 30 August - Volunteer needed
Tuesday 3 September - Corinne Nash

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

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@gmail.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

Byron Bay Nippers Sign-on-Sun 15 Sep 3-5pm & Sun 29 Sep 10am-12pm at Byron Surf Club for more info, www.byronbaysurfclub.com.au

The Ballina-Byron Family Centre
6684 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

Mullumbimby Circus Festival– Mullum Showgrounds 4-6 Oct tickets & info
www.mullumcircusfest.com