Dear Parents/Carers

Structures and classes 2014
In 2014 there will be 10 classes organised exactly as they have been this year. There will be one Kindergarten, three Stage One classes, three Stage Twos and three Stage Threes.

Enrolment Trends 1996 to 2013

The graph above shows how the school’s enrolment is now returning to the levels of 10 years ago. I explained at last Monday’s Parent Information Night that our total enrolment currently sits between a ‘single stream’ school (one class of each year level = 7 classes) and a ‘two stream’ school (two classes of each year level = 14 classes). At this point in time the arrangement of classes in stage groups is the most effective way of structuring our classes. As enrolments change this structure may also change; we are taking it one year at a time and there will be a cap on our overall growth.

At the parent night we also highlighted those influences on student learning success that, according to the research, have the most significant impact. The way a class is structured has much less of an impact than the influences of the teacher and the child’s own self-concept as a successful learner. You can find this section of the parent night presentation on our website under ‘Parents and Students’ then ‘Student Learning’.

Next week I will explain the process we will be using to group students in each of the stage classes for 2014.

Congratulations to Mrs Katherine McGloin who has been appointed for a further 12 month contract at St Finbarr’s. Mrs McGloin will replace Mrs Whittingham during her maternity leave and will teach Kindergarten in 2014.

My sincere thanks to Bec Fogarty and the Kindergarten parents who assisted with yesterday’s Kinder student orientation and morning tea.

Have a wonderful week.

John Wilson
Principal

**Important Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.30pm Craft Collective Workshop # 4: Fabric Stencilling with Sarah Harvey in Art room</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9:00 School swimming carnival 6:00-8:00pm Stage 2 family get together at Byron Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Xavier Orientation Day - Year 7 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1:50-2:55pm Andrew Chin Concert in school hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Surf Safe begins</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Xmas Fair launch Mufti Day-Xmas theme</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Minifins last session</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>6:00-7:30pm Stage 3 Social</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Woodlawn Student Orientation</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>6:00-7:00pm Family Mass at church – all welcome</td>
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<tr>
<th>December</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10am-3:00pm Xmas Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9:00-10:00am Advent Liturgy in hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>10:00am Year 6 Graduation Mass - whole school</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>6:00pm Graduation Supper and ceremony</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Stage 3 Wet N Wild excursion</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>11:30am Final Liturgy and Year 6 Ringing of the Bell Last day of school year</td>
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St Finbarr’s Craft Collective Workshop # 4: Fabric Stencilling
Please join us at 6:30pm Thursday 7 November in the Art Room (beneath the Hall) with local artist, Sarah Harvey http://www.saraharvey.com.au/About. Sarah, whose artwork exhibits locally and abroad, was the creative force behind last term’s fabulous ‘Crafternoon’ workshops for kids. Bookings are essential as places are limited. RSVP kristenmacdougal@icloud.com See our school website for more info
Assistant Principal Message

Becoming Cyber Smart

This is the third and final instalment of information for parents based on our Cyber awareness night with Senior Constable Nathan Verinder. The word “bullying” is often thrown around by kids to describe behaviour on the playground that he/she would consider annoying, teasing and/or hurtful to their feelings. Bullying is actually so much more than that, which is why every school has a bullying policy. Ours can be accessed via our school website.

Bullying is ongoing, repetitive and deliberate behaviour. So one-off incidents on the playground certainly don’t fall into this category.

Cyberbullying follows the same definition, however the forms it takes are either via a mobile phone, instant messaging, online games, emails or social media sites. One of the biggest issues with cyber bullying is that there is often an online audience – so the victim will very quickly feel disempowered and possibly humiliated in front of others. The different forms of cyberbullying are outlined below.

Flaming: heated exchange

Harassing and/or threatening messages: eg. text wars, constant emailing

Denigration: sending nasty SMS, pictures or prank calls

Impersonation: using a person’s screen name or password eg. logging in as somebody else on Facebook and updating their status.

Outing or trickery: sharing private or personal information belonging to somebody else eg. tagging somebody in humiliating or inappropriate photos on Facebook/Instagram, filming somebody and uploading it on Youtube without their permission.

Ostracism: intentionally excluding others from an online group eg. removed from buddy/friend list, removed from Skype contact group.

Even though these incidents usually occur at home, the St Finbarr’s anti-bullying policy may apply outside of school hours and off school premises where there is a clear and close connection between the school and the conduct of students.

When cyberbullying occurs, students are usually in the care of their parents. Nathan provided some great advice to parents about how to be cyber smart and therefore avoid these situations with your children. They include:

- Turn the wifi off at a certain time of night,
- Don’t allow mobile phones or laptops in the bedroom,
- Have a central location where the technology items are charged over night (kitchen bench),
- Model appropriate technology use (ie. don’t be on your phone 24-7).
- Sit down with your children and get them to “teach you” about the apps, or sites they use.
- Talk to children about internet safety.
- Teach children how to NOT respond so that they don’t get the reaction they don’t want.

Please contact your child’s teacher if any cyberbullying occurs so that the school can investigate and address it thoroughly.

Carolyn Wade
Assistant Principal
Leader of Pedagogy

Maths Olympiad

Congratulations to the following Stage 3 students, who have just completed the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad.

Conall Barrett
Erin Boggis
Riley Buckland
Patrick Colbert
Charlotte Dale
Tom Gosling
Jordie Hawkins
Natalia Hosie
Finn Kite
Tom Leary
Caelan Maladay
Damian McDonald
Elliott McGaughran
Jade Monti
William Nash
Aydin Neighbour
Lilia Piper
Finn Robertson
Oliver Rojo
Lilli Sansom
Mia Sharman
Connor Wallace
Morgan Walford-Smith
Lachlan Whiteford
Hamish Wilson

This competition required students to sit a series of 5 problem-solving papers delivered every month. The Olympiad questions were very challenging in nature and required a great deal of mathematical skill, understanding, creativity and ingenuity.

I would like to especially acknowledge the following students, who achieved outstanding results against all participating students in Australasia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 20% (80th Percentile)</th>
<th>Finn Robertson</th>
<th>Aydin Neighbour</th>
<th>William Nash</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 30% (70th Percentile)</td>
<td>Elliott McGaughran</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 50% (50th Percentile)</td>
<td>Lachlan Whiteford</td>
<td>Lilia Piper</td>
<td>Connor Wallace</td>
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I offer a huge thank you to Mike Neighbour who gave up a lot of his time to run regular problem solving workshops with the Maths Olympiad participants. It was wonderful to watch students’ problem solving ability and confidence grow as a result of Mike’s challenging classes.

Music Enrichment

Last week, Celeste McGaughran, Camille Neighbour, Aydin Neighbour, Conall Barrett, Isaac Nash and Will Nash took part in a music enrichment day at Holy Family Primary School, Skennars Head.

The day involved collaborating with Stage 2 & 3 students from Holy Family, St John’s Mullumbimby and St Francis Xavier, Ballina. This was a wonderful opportunity for these students to explore their passion and talent for music with other like-minded peers.

A big thank you to Libby Spash at Holy Family for organizing and facilitating the day.

Brianna Slattery
(Stage 3 Teacher)
Why We Do 'Today is the feast of…'
When families and friends celebrate birthdays, graduations and anniversaries they are making a statement about a person or a value which is collectively important to them. The Catholic Church, too, is full of celebrations - saints' feast days and holy days - that affirm certain people and truths that are important to us as a faith family. Such occasions help unite and keep alive important events and relationships which have shaped our very existence as a Church.

All Saints Day and All Souls Day begins the Month of the Holy Souls
Every year the Church recalls the example, witness, and prayer of the holy women and men who have been identified by the Church as saints. These saints are more than just role models; they are family members with whom we continue to share unity, in a bond of prayer, called the Communion of Saints.

Our Patron Saint - St Finbarr
He was the son of an artisan and a lady of the Irish royal court. Born in Connaught, Ireland, and baptized Lochan, he was educated at Kilmacahil, Kilkenny, where the monks named him Fiannbharr (white head) because of his light hair; he is also known as Baire and Barr. He went on pilgrimage to Rome with some of the monks, visiting St. David in Wales on the way back. Supposedly, on another visit to Rome the Pope wanted to consecrate him a bishop but was deterred by a vision, notifying the pope that God had reserved that honor to Himself, and Finbar was consecrated from heaven and then returned to Ireland. At any rate, he may have preached in Scotland, definitely did in southern Ireland, lived as a hermit on a small island at Lough Eiroe, and then, on the river Lee, founded a monastery that developed into the city of Cork, of which he was the first bishop. His monastery became famous in southern Ireland and attracted numerous disciples. Many extravagant miracles are attributed to him, and supposedly, the sun did not set for two weeks after he died at Cloyne about the year 633. His feast day is September 25th.

“Socktober” – Australian Catholic Mission
Our recent “Crazy Sock Day” here at St Finnies where the children wore any sock combination to school, raised over $200 for Australian Catholic Mission’s fight to end poverty. Well done!

Yours in Christ
Tom O’Dwyer
Leader of Evangelization

In November we remember the Saints of the church. We examine their stories of selflessness, courage and in many cases their desire to make right an injustice. It is evident that we have our own saints at St Finbarr’s and their efforts are to be commended.

While many children were out collecting lollies on Halloween, Lara, Amiee and Freya spent their time raising much needed funds for CARITAS Australia. Here's a photo of Freya and Aimee at the stall (Lara was at dance at the time the photo was taken). In the afternoon they made cupcakes, space bugs (chocolate treats), broom sticks and friendly rocks. A total of $57.95 was raised by these amazing Stage 2 girls.

Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis
REMINDERS

School Fees
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 8 November – Volunteer needed
Tuesday 12 November - James

There will be no more Winter Warmers (pizza and pasta) as the warm season has arrived.

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
Contact Karen to register on 0420 397 791

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

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

Women’s Boxing at St Finbarr’s
Tues 6pm, Wed 6pm and Fri 6am.
Call Kendall for enquiries on 0432795933

Baby 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

Lismore Symphony Orchestra
– Byron Theatre Sun 10 Nov 2pm
66856807 & Lismore City Hall Sat 16 Nov 7.30pm 1300066772

RRISK (reduce risk increase student knowledge)
Free presentation
Tweed Heads Civic Centre Thurs 5 Dec 4-6pm. Bookings essential by Fri 29 Nov ph. 1300292872 or 0266702400

Babysitters Needed!
Byron Bay Runners members need reliable, experienced babysitters around the Byron area Tues 5-7pm and Thurs 6-8pm $5 negotiable. Email “byronrunner@gmail.com” with your contact details, for more info

Toastmasters - meeting every 1st & 3rd Mon of the month in the music room at St Finbarr’s

Free Financial Advice – WorkShop with Adam Wade
Tuesday 12 Nov and Wednesday 4 Dec from 5:45pm – 7:00pm. Hosted at TNR Byron Bay office, Suite 1 / 120 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. RSVP to Penny.Robinson@tnrbyron.com.au or email Adam.wade@afanet.com.au.
For more information call Adam Wade on 0424141882.

Austswim Swimming Lessons call Sally Preston for bookings and info 0423222918