Dear Parents/Carers

School Goals 2014 to 2018
Last Friday I presented the final draft of the St Finbarr’s Strategic Plan (School Improvement Plan) at the School Review and Development Certification Day. This was the final step in the year-long review and development process.

While the School Improvement Plan outlines a series of detailed strategies and intended outcomes, these fall under a series of broad goals that will guide our focus and growth during the coming 5 years. The School Goals are as follows:

Catholic Identity and Mission
1. Further embed and celebrate our Catholic culture and rich tradition
2. Increase engagement in Catholic practices and celebrations

Community
1. Strengthen partnerships between school, families and community to improve student outcomes
2. Promote and develop the well-being, diversity and capacity of all staff

Organisation
1. Strengthen the accountability structures at St Finbarr’s
2. Ensure systems are in place to regularly review current practices and modify plans for future development

Learning and Teaching
1. Build a positive and caring community and culture that improves learning for all students
2. Closely monitor all learners and make learning visible and explicit
3. Ensure that highly effective edagogy is undertaken by an expert teaching team

The full Plan can be found on the school website under News and Events.

Christmas Fair Launch
Tomorrow morning at 9:00am we launch the 2014 Christmas Fair with a wealth of Finnie’s student talent and a few surprises. As you know, the Christmas Fair is our major fundraiser for the year and an important local community event. It is vital that all parents are involved at some level in the Fair, in order to make it a success. In turn, a successful Fair means a stronger community and improved literacy materials and library resources for our children.

Your involvement in these last weeks leading up to the Fair or even for one hour on Saturday the 7th December, will make a difference and will be greatly appreciated. It will also demonstrate very practically to your child the value you place in community involvement. It is also fun! Please have a read of today’s Xmas Fair updates and target your involvement.

Thank you for everything you do to support St Finbarr’s and in particular thank you for playing a role in this year’s Christmas Fair.

With best wishes for the coming week,

John Wilson
Principal

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>9:00-10:00am Xmas Fair launch Mufti Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>6:30-8:00pm Final Craft Collective in Art room</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>9:00 Minifins last session</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>11:30-1:00pm Finnie’s Idol Grand Final 2013 Mufti Day for Philippines Awareness and Relief Day</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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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>6:00pm Family Mass - Feast of Christ the King at St Finbarr’s Church</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Year 3 Big Day Out at Camp Koinonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10:00am—3:00pm St Finbarr’s Xmas Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>10:00am Year 6 Graduation Mass</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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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>11:30am Final Liturgy and Ringing of the Bell Last day of school year</td>
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RAFFLE TICKETS
Stage 2W and Stage 3C are currently in the lead with returned raffle stubs, and are heading towards the Earth and Sea pizza party. If you require more raffle books, or have not yet received your book, please send a note or contact Jenny in the office.

ANY UNSOLD tickets are to be returned to school, in addition to sold ticket please.
Assistant Principal Message
ESSENTIAL LEARNING UPDATE
Last term I outlined the process of teachers meeting with me in their stages every Tuesday morning. I hope this provided some insight as to how this time is spent, and also highlighted our learning priorities for working in Professional Learning Teams. Thank you also to those parents who were able to come along to the information evening last month — your feedback was appreciated and I will continue to update you with how each stage of learners are progressing.

The current essential learning for Stage 2 is: Students use mental and informal written strategies for division. This flows on very well from their previous essential learning which focussed on students being able to quickly and accurately recall multiplication facts. The teachers have collaborated and devised a pre-assessment for the Stage 2 students to find out what the learners do and do not know, and we have just finished analysing this data together. From this data we have been able to identify three distinct groups of learners in each area of division that we will be focusing on: Students who need to be explicitly taught a concept, students who need further consolidation and students who would benefit from extension in this area. This will allow the three teachers to differentiate the learning according to the needs of the students.

Mrs Waters, Mrs Hunter, Mr O’Dwyer and I are currently planning the cycle of teaching and learning that will cater for the needs of the Stage 2 students, and we look forward to reporting the learning achievements in the upcoming newsletters.

Kinder & Stage 1 have just completed an intervention program based on the essential learning of counting and representing numbers. I have been fortunate enough to be involved in this program, so with an extra teacher we have been able to create learning groups twice a week to either allow students an opportunity to be extended, or to support students who did not achieve the learning outcome. This process has been very successful for both teachers and students, and again, puts focus on catering for the individual learning needs in the stage.

I look forward to sharing more student learning results with you soon.

Carolyn Wade
Assistant Principal
Leader of Pedagogy

UNIFORM SHOP
Linda urgently needs helpers in the uniform shop from 8:30-10am once or twice a term. Also, any second hand uniforms would be much appreciated.

Fun Financial Literacy

Oh my head is ITCHY!! Help
Many parents are daily treating their children’s hair for head lice. This can be an excruciating and frustrating process when, after weeks of treatment and lice-free hair, a reinfestation occurs.

It is absolutely imperative that all parents and carers act diligently, thoroughly and consistently to eradicate the spread of head lice.

We must work as a united team against this army of annoying insects that will find any chink in our armour. Please, please, please take the steps outlined below and do your part for the sake of all of our children.

Treatment (http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx)
Head lice are only found on the human head or hair. Head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding, carpet or anywhere else in the environment. Treatment anything other than the human head does not eradicate head lice.

Before you choose a treatment for head lice, consider the following:
Make sure that the heads you treat are infested with head lice, otherwise do not treat them.
Avoid treating babies for head lice or any scalp that is irritated or inflamed.
Protect children’s eyes when treating with any product. There is no preventative treatment available for head lice. Treating the whole family as a precaution contributes to head lice becoming resistant to the products used.

Read the product label before applying and use as directed.
Avoid using natural products like tea tree oil as treatment for head lice.

Apply product and leave it for 20 minutes. Comb out with a good quality lice comb.
If dead lice are found, that means product has worked. Re-treat in 7 days to kill the nymphs that emerged from unhatched eggs.
If you find live lice, which means treatment hasn’t worked. Use another product or try the comb and conditioner method. Reduce transmission of head lice by tying hair back or braiding and by checking your children’s hair.
Keeping a good quality head lice comb in the shower should help anyone taking a shower to use the comb. Do not use insecticides, methylated spirits or kerosene on your child’s head.

BUSKERS WANTED
For the BUSKERS TENT AT THE FAIR
Can you sing? Dance? Play an instrument? Tell a joke? Then we WANT YOU!

Please fill out your details on the form outside the library (on the leadership notice board) to put your name down as a Finnie’s busker and raise money for your school with your own amazing skills.
**Why We Do**

**Why do Catholics ‘pray’ to saints?**

It is a common and beautiful practice for Christians to turn to one another for support and encouragement as they journey through life. The Catholic way of ‘praying’ to the saints is simply an extension of this practice of drawing support from our faith family. Devotion to the saints can strengthen our love of God. Awareness of the saints raises our sights, empowers us to aspire to gospel qualities and helps us to see our earthly lives from the perspective of the promise of eternal life.

November is the month devoted to the Saints and Holy Souls.

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**Philippines’ Awareness and Relief Day**

A “Mufti Day” will be held on Wednesday 27 November to raise awareness and money for the many families devastated by recent storms in the Philippines. All children are asked to dress in blue, red, white and yellow, the official country colours and to bring a gold coin donation. **No face paint allowed.**

Stage 2 classes will be operating a cake / cookies stall at recess and lunch. Bring along some extra change for some bargain, yummy treats. All money will be passed onto CARITAS.

**Family Mass - Feast of Christ the King.**

6pm Saturday 29 November, St Finbarr’s Church.

Yours in Christ
Tom O'Dwyer
Leader of Evangelization

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**FINNIE’S IDOL SEMI FINAL DRAW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed 20th Nov: Semi Final 1</th>
<th>Thurs 21st Nov: Semi Final 2</th>
<th>Fri 22nd Nov: Semi Final 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latesha &amp; Takara</td>
<td>Emily Lola &amp; Alana</td>
<td>Mia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elke, Morgan, Bella, Montana Isaac , Ruby, Mia</td>
<td>Gabi</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paige &amp; Samara</td>
<td>Lilli ,Saskia, Lilia, Ruby, Jude, Tim, Billy, Mia</td>
<td>Paige, Lara, Aimee ,Olivia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madi</td>
<td>Camille</td>
<td>Ellen- Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camille &amp; Ellen-Grace</td>
<td>Jasmine, Nora, Scarlett ,Tilly, Erin</td>
<td>Ebony, Scarlett, Nora, Eliza Sapphire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Fees
School fees are due Fri 22 November. 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.

HAPKIDO CLASSES
Korean Martial Art of Self Defence
Have Fun and Get Fit
New kids classes starting on 15 May
Class Times
Kids (8 years – 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 carolinejbailey@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

Byron Hospital Auxiliary Craft Market fundraiser at Byron High Auditorium on Sat 23 Nov 9am-2pm

Babysitters Needed!
Byron Bay Runners members need reliable, experienced babysitters around the Byron area Tues 5-7pm and Thurs 6-8pm $30 negotiable.
Email “byronrunner0@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

Austswim Swimming Lessons call Sally Preston for bookings and info 0423222919

FREE FINANCIAL ADVICE - WORK SHOP with Adam Wade
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.

RRISK (reduce risk increase student knowledge) - Free presentation
Tweed Heads Civic Centre Thurs 5 Dec 4-6pm. Bookings essential by Fri 29 Nov ph. 1300232872 or 02667702400

Helping families move..
SPORT NEWS

Whole School Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to Chisholm house for taking out this year’s carnival in fine style. As mentioned in last week's newsletter it has been 11 years since Chisholm last triumphed. What a great day we had and what a great venue to hold a sporting event. Our school swim team was selected for next year’s representative carnival to be held at Mullumbimby. Many thanks to Kelly Balcon, Simone Webb, Neah Eady and Jo Wilkie for their help in timing each of our championship races and a huge thanks to our teachers for toiling away all day to make the day so successful.

St Finbarr’s Swim Team 2014
Congratulations to these students:

Term 4 Swim programs
The infants Swim and Survive Program will take a break again this coming Friday and return to the pool on Friday 29 November, 6 December and 13 December. The Primary Surf Safe Program commenced last Friday and this program will run each Friday for the next 4 weeks concluding on Friday 13 December.

Finnie’s Idol
Finnie’s Idol has reached the final stages in this year’s competition. This week three semi-finals will be held and only ONE act from each semi-final will be selected to join those already selected for this year’s big Grand Final performance. Below is the draw for the final week of competition. The Grand Final of Finnie’s Idol for 2013 will be held on Wednesday 27 November from 11:30am.

Junior Finnie’s Idol
We were blown away last week during the two junior heat days of Mini Finnie’s Idol. The standard was so amazing and CUTE that I am planning to hold a Junior Showcase so all the school and parents can watch these amazing performances once again. A date will be advertised soon.

Kerry Wills
Sport and PDHPE