Dear Parents and Carers

Parish School Forum Renewal

One of the key goals in our School Improvement Plan in the area of Community is to: Strengthen partnerships between school, families and community to improve student outcomes. Where parents and carers are engaged as active participants in their children’s education there are clear benefits for the child, for their learning and for the school. One important outcome we are seeking in pursuit of this goal is to renew the Parish School Forum at St Finbarr’s.

The Parish School Forum is the model of school organisation and governance by which members of school communities in the Diocese of Lismore are invited into “full co-responsibility for the religious and educational life of the parish school community” (Parish School Forums Manual, 2005). The local purpose is undertaken by practising values from the Gospels and with commitment to the school’s Catholic identity and mission.

The purpose of the St Finbarr’s Parish School Forum is to provide a structure which:

• Builds school community through collaboration and partnerships; and
• Supports school leadership in developing, nurturing and reviewing the strategic direction of the school.

Through the Forum renewal process important new structures and processes are being established to enable broader school community collaboration and consultation, to provide enhanced transparency and to enable more regular review and better communication with all members of our school community.

Membership will include: Chair (leadership, communications and link to Diocesan Parent Assembly); Treasurer (financial); Six parent/carer members (two from each stage who are team builders and who provide grounded liaison between the Forum and parent community; Secretary (minutes and agenda facilitation), Principal, Assistant Principal or staff representative; and Parish Priest or his nominee.

A nomination process for a new Chair will begin next week so that the successful candidate is able to help lead the nomination process for new Forum members early in the new school year, in preparation for the Annual General Meeting in March. Parents and carers will be invited to nominate potential candidates for this important leadership role. Individuals may self-nominate. You need not identify yourself as the person making the nomination unless you self-nominate. Next week’s newsletter will begin the nomination process.

This week you are invited as a valuable member of our school community to give feedback on the following list of desirable qualities for those who serve and the suggested skills mix to enable the Forum to effect its purpose and for members to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. Your feedback can be emailed to sfpbyron@lism.catholic.edu.au or provided in writing to my attention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essential Skills</th>
<th>Desirable Qualities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good communicator</td>
<td>Actively contribute at meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organised</td>
<td>Value working in a team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic thinker</td>
<td>Think creatively and flexibly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem solver</td>
<td>Tolerant and respectful of differences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team builder</td>
<td>Have a strong commitment to the vision and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good listener</td>
<td>mission of the school</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Your feedback on whether these are the skills and qualities that we should be considering throughout the nomination process will keep us focussed and united in our purpose as a school community to renew our Parish School Forum.
Assistant Principal Message

Leadership

As this year draws to an end the excitement among our School Leaders is palpable. While Year 6s are gearing up to begin their orientation to the various high schools, our Year 5s are preparing to take over as the leaders within St Finbarr’s.

Although it is an exciting time it is also a time when students are at their most sensitive; our present leaders are jubilant at what they may lie ahead, but at the same time are becoming nervous at the prospect of starting a new school, meeting new people and familiarising themselves with the new learning environment. I am sure the “letting go” process is just as hard for parents as it is for the student.

At St Finbarr’s we believe that we equip our students with the necessary skills in order to thrive in the high school environment and beyond. Our students have been encouraged to understand the consequences (positive and negative) of their decisions, and when they believe they have failed in some way, to dust themselves off and move forward.

Particularly in Year 6 we have focused on developing independent learners who are self motivated, who can voice an opinion in a respectful manner, who listen to others and develop a passion for social justice. They began this process in Term 4 last year and continued to develop and reflect on their leadership style at our Leadership Day in Term 1 this year.

Our Year 5s are currently navigating their way through the expectations of a school leader and as John mentioned a few weeks ago, should be congratulated on their role at the Orientation day. These students stepped up to the challenge with great enthusiasm and pride and I echo John’s congratulations to them. They should feel very proud of their efforts and I am excited about the role they will play in our school community next year. They will have the opportunity to nominate for a number of different teams, including: Assembly Team, Library Monitors, Happy Helpers, Recycling Team, Media Team and so on. Our leadership program is designed to ensure we are developing active community contributors and that the roles are shared in order to maximise the leadership opportunities across the year level.

Due to the leadership shirts arriving so late this year, I have pre ordered these, so that they will arrive for our leaders in the first few weeks of next year. This week our current Year 5 students will try on sample sizes and I will place this order in the next week or so. Parents will receive the invoice for this shirt next year. If you do not want your child to receive a leadership shirt please contact the school and let me know.

I would like to thank our current leaders who in this busy time have readily accepted the extra challenges we present to them. I feel very proud of their contribution to the school and know they will be leaders of the future.

Carolyn Wade
Assistant Principal
Leader of Pedagogy

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Student Awards

Congratulations to the following St Finbarr’s students whose achievements will be recognised at our next whole school assembly on Friday afternoon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Learning Award</th>
<th>Value Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder W</td>
<td>Lachlan Tuckwell</td>
<td>Lucy Ainsworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miaela Johnston</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1 I</td>
<td>Sara Crawford</td>
<td>Oliver Shearman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Keast</td>
<td>Imogen Hofer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1B</td>
<td>Oscar Parker</td>
<td>Zalia Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luca Scionti</td>
<td>Jackson McCabe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2H</td>
<td>Brydie Hanigan</td>
<td>Gabi Orrock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Hartley</td>
<td>Mia Sansom</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2W</td>
<td>Cooper Berry</td>
<td>Conall Barrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilli Dillon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3S</td>
<td>Moby McMullen</td>
<td></td>
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PR and Communications Secretary

St Finbarr’s School is seeking a highly-organised, technologically adept person to manage a range of school communications in 2014. The successful candidate will be an excellent communicator with a strong commitment to the Catholic ethos and values of St Finbarr’s School.

The position will be part-time, fixed-term for the 2014 school year. Hours are yet to be finalised but are expected to be between 10 and 14 per week. The successful applicant will be employed under the School Support Staff (Country and Regional Dioceses) Enterprise Agreement 2011.

Applications including current CV with two professional referees and addressing the above criteria should be emailed to jpackham@lism.catholic.edu.au and marked to the attention of The Principal by Wednesday 4 December.

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CANTEEN NEWS

Mrs Imeson’s Stage 1 class has been allocated the month of December for canteen duty. Please email Cyra… cyra.fisher@gmail.com to express your availability.

WE NEED YOU

“Many hands make light work”

No previous experience required, your hard work is rewarded with free lunch.

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YEAR 7 2014 RESOURCE PACKS

Reminder that Year 7 2014 Resource Pack is available to purchase online www.officemaxschools.com.au (Search for: Xavier Catholic College and select Xavier Catholic College, Skennars Head NSW / Password: 2XAVCATIND)

To ensure delivery prior to Term 1 and save $9.95 off packing & handling charges please place order before 31 December 2013.
This coming Sunday is the first day of Advent.
The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. Advent begins four weeks before Christmas and is a time when Christians around the world prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and look forward to the time that Jesus will come again. Advent also marks the start of the Churches year and Pope Francis has dedicated 2014 to 'The Year Of Faith'.

What do the Advent Candles stand for?

First week of Advent (purple candle). The candle of Hope is lit so prayers on this week focus on hope.

Second week of Advent (purple candle). This candle is a symbol of God's Peace, reminding Christians of the Prophets who said that the Messiah would be born.

Third week of Advent (purple candle). The candle of Love, represents John the Baptist who baptised Jesus.

Fourth week of Advent (pink candle). The candle of Joy reminds Christians of Jesus' mother, Mary.

Christmas Day (a white candle). The fifth candle reminds Christians of the birth of Jesus.

Blessings
Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis.

Altar Server Roster
Saturday 30 November
Group E
Aydin Neighbour, Natalia Hosie, Indiah Kairies, Camille Neighbour and Ossian Quinn-Jarvis
Please be at the church at 5:40pm.

Andrew Chinn comes to St. Finbarr’s
An amazing time was had by students and staff on 8 November when Andrew came to visit St Finbarr’s for the very first time. Workshops were held for each stage followed by a whole school concert performed after lunch for parents and visitors. Andrew taught us many of his songs and showed how music can be a wonderful way to pray in our classrooms. A special time for Andrew was becoming an honorary member of Miss Slattery’s band during lunch time.
REMINDERS

School Fees
Fees are now due.
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

As part of ‘Social Inclusion Week’ and to celebrate the many gifts that come with age, Stage 2 collaborated with Byron Community Centre and The Byron Healthy Aging Project to write postcards to our 65 year old selves. These postcards will be on display at the community centre from the 25-29 November.

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 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

Join romance author Jennifer St George with comedian Mandy Nolan for the launch of Jennifer’s new novel, hosted by Mary Ryan’s Byron Bay at 6pm, Thursday, 5 December. Light refreshments. All welcome. RSVP essential (02) 6685 8183

Babysitters Needed!
Byron Bay Runners members need reliable, experienced babysitters around the Byron area Tues 5-7pm and Thurs 6-8pm $$ 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

Austswim Swimming Lessons call Sally Preston for bookings and info 0423222918

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. 1300292872 or 0266702400

BASKETBALL CAMP 1- 12-18yrs - Mon & Tues 20 & 21 Jan. 2014, 9-3pm Cost $70 1 day/$120 2 days
CAMP 2- Under 12yrs- Fri 24 Jan. 2014, 9-3pm Cost $60 for the day Lunch provided and fun guaranteed.
All info and Registration Forms on www.byronbasketball.com or ph; 66872246 a/h, HURRY, REGISTER NOW, NUMBERS ARE LIMITED!!
SPORT NEWS.

Student Profile: Caelan Maladay
Caelan is a Year 6 student who has represented St Finbarr’s at numerous carnivals since Year 3. Caelan has been a regular member of the Tweed Zone Athletics Squad for several years. Caelan represented the Tweed Catholic Schools at the Polding Selection Trials (all catholic schools from North Sydney to Tweed Heads and West to Tenterfield) in 2012 in Shot Put. Recently Caelan represented Polding at the P.S.S.A all schools State Cricket Carnival held in Bathurst during November. Caelan is a speed bowler and returned amazing figures against some very talented cricketers from both Catholic and Public Schools systems. Congratulations to Caelan for a wonderful effort.

Congratulations to Will Nash Year 5 for being selected in the Lismore Diocesan Cricket Team for next year's Polding Trials. Well done Will

FINNIES IDOL GRANDFINAL 2013
Wednesday 27th November 11.30am-1.00pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Act Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.Ruby Stella Lexi Sahara Mia</td>
<td>Dance: The Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.Elliotte Alana Lili Brydie Nina Ebony Emily</td>
<td>Dance: Parachute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.Jim Sanderson</td>
<td>Song: Royals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.Tess &amp; Alicia</td>
<td>Song/Guitar: Skinny Love</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.Stella &amp; Lola</td>
<td>Dance: Dancing Queen</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.Julia</td>
<td>Song:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.Will &amp; Isaac</td>
<td>Instrumental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.Mia</td>
<td>Song: The Climb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Gabi</td>
<td>Song: You're not sorry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.Paige &amp; Samara</td>
<td>Dance: Every time we touch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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HEART FREEZER

Wow … thankyou sincerely for the response to meals from Mrs Boggis’s and Mrs McGloin’s classes. We have been able to assist many families this month.

Last call out for the year… Mrs Imeson’s Stage 1 class has been allocated the month of November/December. Please return your container, filled with a freezable meal sometime during this month.

Heart Filled thankyou to David and Denise from Earth and Sea Pizza for their continued support for another year… Earth and Sea donate all of the containers used for Heart Freezer. Your generosity and love is appreciated.

Thankyou everyone for “Seeing a need and doing something about it”...

Homestay Families Wanted

Lexis English Language School, housed in the premises of the former St Finbarr’s School in Ruskin St Byron Bay, is seeking families to provide accommodation for their international students.

Interested families need to supply a separate bedroom and where possible provide an evening meal with the family. A payment of $235 per week is provided to families for the service.

Please leave your details at the school office if you are interested.