Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you one and all for a fabulous St Finbarr’s Christmas Fair. From food to fairies, water bombs to wildlife, performances to prizes, refreshments to recycled clothing, craft to chairoplanes and baking to booming drummers this Fair had it all!!

I am amazed at and humbled by the generosity of our parents and staff; many of you contributing from your own business or working solidly for months to prepare items for the day. The set up crews began early Friday and the last of the pack up took place this morning. Everyone played their part and it made a huge difference.

The day was such a cracker - there were wall to wall smiles around every corner of the school with something for everyone. Many parents, carers and parishioners took responsibility for a stall or for a specific role and through your efforts the community of St Finbarr's grew another foot taller.

The bean counters are still finalising the result but it looks like there was an increase on last years takings. Possibly even more pleasing however was the number of children who thanked me for the Christmas Fair because they enjoyed the experience so much.

I thank Gabby and our very dedicated committee who have held a very clear vision for the Fair; harness the rich history and continue to make it more and more of a real family day that the whole Byron community can enjoy and be proud of. Just take a look at the Echo’s video clip to gauge how successful this vision has been.

Take a bow St Finbarr's!

Regards

John Wilson
Principal

THANK YOU ASSEMBLY!!

For what you have done, for what you have said…
For what you have helped me with, thanks seem not enough.
I want only to tell you one simple phrase, Yet I feel the need to ensure that the emotion is conveyed. If I could just say it, and ask you, please, multiply my thanks by infinity…

On behalf of the teachers and students at St Finbarr’s we would like to invite ALL parents to assembly this Friday as we celebrate and give thanks for the wonderful role you play in our school life. Assembly will begin at 2:30pm in the school hall.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2:30pm Thank You Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>10:00am Whole School Year 6 Graduation Mass Mini Vinnies’ Xmas Appeal Movie Day— gold coin donation</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<th>January 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>School Admin Day Uniform Shop Open between 8:30-10:00am</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Term 1 begins Years 1 to 6 Best Start Interviews Kinder over the three days, 29—31 January</td>
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<th>Feb 2</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten First Day</td>
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Assistant Principal Message

Holiday Learning!

As the school year comes to an end we remind parents that to retain a child’s reading level which he/she has acquired, a child needs to continue reading each day throughout the holidays. It’s fun to brainstorm all types of text that can be found to read; children’s section of the newspaper, children’s magazines, online books, books from home, libraries or bookstores, reading maps and brochures, signs, etc. There are books that have been made into movies and a couple coming soon to cinemas (The Hobbit – is a great example for those in Stage 3 who like a literary challenge). It might be fun to read the book(s) before watching the movies and discuss which was preferred in the end. Create a challenge with your child(ren) to all read 10 minutes each day.

If your child experiences difficulty writing, over the holidays it is a good idea to create a Holiday Journal. Journals or writing books also make great gift ideas – which often excite children, thereby encouraging them to use it throughout the festive season. To make this a more meaningful experience, you could ask your child to share what they have written each day at the dinner table and provide positive feedback about the descriptive language they have used throughout. Illustrating their favourite part of the day (after writing their recount) creates a relaxing activity they can do also.

Maths is one of the easiest skills to incorporate into a game, as several well-known board games are great math skill builders (perhaps sneak a board game, preferably one that requires counting or tallying up scores under the Christmas tree?!) These are great for children from K-3. For older kids, Monopoly and The Game of Life are great choices because both use money, which is always great for teaching maths skills. You can also have your children count the money in their piggy banks or help you with your shopping. By asking them, “If I use this 50-cent voucher to buy this two-dollar loaf of bread, how much will this bread cost?” It’s teaching math and economics all at once. A great tip is to also ask children “how did you work that out?” – which encourages children to articulate their thinking, as there is often more than one way of working things out.

Most of all – enjoy your holidays with your children and embrace any opportunity to learn with them.

Carolyn Wade
Assistant Principal
Leader of Pedagogy

New French Classes in 2014

Research shows that learning languages is best begun at a young age; and that learning a foreign language can improve cognitive function, promoting intellectual and mental development in children. French classes for pupils at St Finbarr’s will begin again in Term 1 2014 in the library for pupils wishing to continue or to begin learning French.

For more details, see the message board in the front office for your enrolment form. And please direct any queries to your French teacher, Patsy Bennett, on 0448808333. Merci!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Learning Award</th>
<th>Value Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder W</td>
<td>Seth King</td>
<td>Indigo Grey</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dean Rogers</td>
<td>Maddie Jung</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Olive Davidson</td>
<td>Toria Tyson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1 I</td>
<td>Melody Phillips</td>
<td>Beau Laird</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jack Bugden</td>
<td>Suri Phan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1M</td>
<td>Tilly Cubis</td>
<td>Mia Leishman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maya Sullivan</td>
<td>Erin Woolsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 1B</td>
<td>Tom Topham</td>
<td>Lily Amos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2O</td>
<td>Kurtis Butler</td>
<td>Phoenix Mort</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jasmine Crawford</td>
<td>Chloe Crawford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Louis Watson</td>
<td>Eliza Saxton-Hauser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2H</td>
<td>Ellen-Grace</td>
<td>Kai Barker</td>
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<td>Hobday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Callum Balcon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 2W</td>
<td>Lola Eady</td>
<td>Nina Ruane</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Freya Robertson</td>
<td>Lenox Bridle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keelin Goninan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3C</td>
<td>Elke Richardson</td>
<td>Lilia Piper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lachlan Whiteford</td>
<td>Bella Reaney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3M</td>
<td>Latesha Adams</td>
<td>Ruby DeNardi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maleka Mitchell</td>
<td>Hamish Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3S</td>
<td>Erin Boggis</td>
<td>Charlotte Dale</td>
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<td>Connor Wallace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finnies</td>
<td>Gabe Taylor</td>
<td>Elke Richardson</td>
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<td>Finnest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Sofi Reaney</td>
<td>Hayden Rogers</td>
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<td>Mackillop</td>
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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.

Heart Freezer 2013

Thankyou to everyone who has assisted with Heart Freezer during the year. Many meals were prepared, baked and frozen in the name of love. I thank all those who have been so considerate of other people’s needs and been swift to arrange meals for class mates, while maintaining respect and confidentiality.

Cyra Fisher, our very own “Finnie’s Finest Foodie” has been instrumental in the operation of the Heart Freezer, and I would like to sincerely thank her. Cyra offers space in the canteen, contributes meals and assists in the distribution of meals. Again, thankyou to Earth and Sea, for the contain- ers. All containers are generously donated by Denise and David.

While the Heart Freezer is winding down to ensure an empty freezer over the holidays, meals can still be obtained. Please see Jenny Packham or Cyra for assistance. Jo Wilkie
Dear Parents, Carers, Teachers and Students,

What a big year we have had in our school library! After months of preparation, mid-year we successfully converted to a new Library management system called Oliver. Oliver is an extremely user friendly system that all students and staff can access for searches and library event information.

This year we also completely refined our Non-Fiction or information book collection by simplifying the subject categories and colour coding them so that children can more easily locate the books of their choice. This enables children to spend more time actually enjoying and using the book rather than looking for them.

Each year we are fortunate enough to purchase the latest children's fiction books through our Australian Standing Order subscription. Previously these books have focused on quality Australian authors, however this year we extended that selection to Non Fiction and International Award Winning books. The quality of these books has been wonderful and our library collection immeasurably enriched by their inclusion, particularly when translated from a foreign language into English with illustrations by world renowned artists. Teachers and students alike have thoroughly enjoyed these unique and valuable resources.

In 2013, our Parent Library has grown considerably as well. The Lismore Diocese Parent Assembly donated a wide variety of books and DVDs to assist parents with raising children and guiding their development. Subjects range from personal development and discipline, societal influences and peer pressure to literacy and educational considerations.

Sadly we have reached the end of our borrowing year in the St Finbarrs' school library. The good news is that our beautiful new Byron Bay library and other Richmond-Tweed Shire libraries can provide all levels of readers with fabulous books over the Christmas holiday period and beyond.

Meanwhile, I am calling for the return of all our school library resources to commence a stocktake and general maintenance. So please search high, search low, check your book shelves, your cars, under beds, desks or any other favourite nook in which you may have settled with a book. Should you think books have been returned to the town library by mistake, please enquire directly with them. School library reminder notes have been distributed to help students locate their books, and invoices will be issued for those books that are returned damaged or remain missing. Thank you all for your assistance and cooperation.

I wish the staff, students and families of St Finbarr’s a joyful Christmas and New Year. I look forward to another year of discovery through beautiful books and sharing the wonder of words with our children and teachers.

Fond regards,

Jacky Wilkosz
School Librarian

The Third Week of Advent – December 15th

The third week of Advent begins next Sunday with “Gaudete Sunday.” Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of St Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose coloured, and the rose coloured vestments often used by Father at the Eucharist.

The Joy Candle represents the joy the Wise men experienced when they discovered Jesus. The Wise men shared the joy of Christ's birth, just as we can share with others the joy of His presence in our lives. This Third Week, we light the pink candle which means joy and celebration.

The Candy Cane Story.

Did you know the candy cane tells the story of Jesus?

A candymaker wanted to make a candy that would tell the story of Jesus: His birth, His ministry, and His love for us shown in His death. The candymaker began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. The colour white symbolised the sinlessness of Jesus. The hardness of the candy showed the firmness of God's promise that He would send His Son. The candy was shaped like a shepherd's staff, reminding us of those common people who first heard the announcement of Jesus' birth. Then the candymaker used three small red stripes to show the stripes of blood on Jesus' back caused by the soldiers at the time of His arrest. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Jesus on the cross. The candy cane is sweet. By knowing and following Jesus, our lives are touched by the sweetness and care of this One who is now our Saviour, Friend and Guide.

Blessing,

Helen Hunter

Leader of Catechesis

Altar Server Roster
Saturday 14 December
Group E
Nora Woolsey, Natalia Hosie, Paige Wilkie, Indiah Kairies and Ossian Quinn-Jarvis

Please be at the church at 5:40pm.
E Street....Evangelization news and views at St Finnies
Welcome to “E Street” where we hope to keep you better informed about our wonderful Catholic Faith.

Why We Do Advent
The Church calendar begins with the Advent season, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This period is a time of preparation, not just for Christmas gifts and luncheons and holidays, but for the great feast of God's revelation through the birth of Jesus Christ. For centuries before Jesus' birth, the Jewish people waited for the coming of the promised Messiah as foretold by the Scriptures. We find ourselves in a similar position as we look forward to the second coming of Christ at the end of time. Although we do not know the hour nor the day, each Advent we renew our faith in this great promise.

A Christmas question
Since we do not know the exact historical date of Jesus' birth, why do Christians celebrate Christmas on 25th December? In the ancient world, a pagan festival held on 25th December worshipped the sun as the divine controller of all life. The Roman Emperor Aurelian established this festival in 274, naming it Natalis Solis Invicti ("the Birth of the Unconquered Sun"). By choosing this day as the birth of Christ, Christians intended to counteract the pagan belief as they celebrated Christ as the true light of the world, the Saviour who dispels the darkness of sin with the light of God's love.

Philippines’ Awareness and Relief Day
A “Mufti Day” was held on Tuesday 26 November to raise awareness and money for the many families devastated by recent storms in the Philippines. A big thank you to Stage 2 classes who supplied and operated a cake / cookies stall at recess and lunch. An amazing $771.35 was raised. A fantastic effort. Thanks so much for your support. All money will be passed onto CARITAS.

Mini Vinnies' Christmas Appeal Movie Day – “Nativity 2”
A “Movie Day” will be held on Tuesday 17 December to raise awareness and money for the many families in need this Christmas. All children are asked to bring a gold coin donation. Stage 2 classes will be operating a “Sweets’ Bag” stall (50 cents) at recess prior to the movie. All money will be passed onto our local St. Vincent DePaul Chapter.

Whole School Graduation Mass.
10am, Tuesday 17 December, St Finbarr’s Church Byron Bay.

Community Support
As a Catholic School with Catholic Identity we have an obligation and desire to help all those in need in our world. This is done through classroom lessons, awareness, prayer and money raising projects. With your generous support the Finnies’ School Community has excelled in 2013.

Term 1 –
“All Things Bright and Beautiful Day” for Australian Flood victims - $1500.00
Project Compassion throughout Lent - $850.00

Terms 2 and 3 –
Vinnies’ Winter Appeal “Let’s Make Blankets and Pillow cases for the needy” - $350.00
Australian Catholic Mission – “Crazy Sock Day” - $381.00

Term 4 –
Philippines’ Awareness and Relief Day - $771.00
Vinnies’ Christmas Appeal Movie Day – “Nativity 2” – to be held in Week 11.

That’s nearly $4,000.00. But most importantly, your children have worked together to make our world a better place. I say… “Well done!”.

Yours in Christ
Tom O’Dwyer
Leader of Evangelization
FINNIE’S 2013 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR
School Fees
Payments are 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.

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.

Fun Financial Literacy

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

BABYSITTERS NEEDED!
Byron Bay Runners members need reliable, experienced babysitters around the Byron area Tues 5-7pm and Thurs 6-8pm $10 negotiable.
Email ‘byronrunner@gmail.com’ with your contact details, for more info

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
$6 each 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

Austswim Swimming Lessons call Sally Preston for bookings and info 0423222918

16th-17th AUGUST 2014
Past students, teachers & friends of the school are invited to join us for a weekend of celebrations that include an Open Day, Dinner & Mass.
For more information email cinnamonclark@gmail.com

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!!

Babysitters Needed!
Byron Bay Runners members need reliable, experienced babysitters around the Byron area Tues 5-7pm and Thurs 6-8pm $10 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

Women’s Boxing at St Finbarr’s
Call Kendall for enquiries on 0432795933

Basketball Camp Info

Sistagurl EP launch -20 Dec 6-11pm Tickets $10 or $15 with CD
Where: Kulchajam, 1 Acacia St, Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate
Contact: Nadine Smith nadinetahia@gmail.com 0421 731 642