Dear Parents/Carers

Parish School Forum Chair Nomination Process

Thank you to those who responded to my invitation in last week’s newsletter to provide feedback on the renewed Parish School Forum model and the appointment of a new Chair.

Today I invite parents and carers to consider nominating a member of our school community who possesses the appropriate abilities and characteristics (see below) to be considered for the important leadership role of Chair. Remember that you need not identify yourself as the person making the nomination unless you self-nominate. You also do not need to advise or seek the agreement of the person you are nominating at this stage. I can contact the nominees after nominations close.

If you wish you may include a short statement of your reasons for nominating the person that responds to some or all of the skills and qualities set out in last week's newsletter and the abilities and characteristics described below. Nominations should be marked Attention: The Principal and may be emailed to sfpbyron@lism.catholic.edu.au or delivered or posted in writing.

In addition to those skills and qualities listed in last week’s newsletter, the Chair would ideally possess the following:

Key Role Abilities
Ability to: work closely with the school principal; effectively lead a meeting; maintain regular positive communication with the school community; induct new Forum members; and support effective processes.

Key Personal Characteristics:
Seek out the gifts and strengths of others, patience, empower others, can develop a sense of community, support the Catholic ethos and shared wisdom of the team and school community.

Nominations should be provided by Monday 9 December, after which I will contact each of the nominees to seek their acceptance of the nomination, provide more specific detail about the role and arrange for a time to meet and discuss.

Xmas Fair Final Preparations
Here we go! So much work is happening on the ground to create a wonderful 25th St Finbarr’s Christmas Fair this Saturday to be celebrated by the entire local community. I ask that you have a read of the final Xmas Fair newsletter included today and make sure that you have added your name to a roster for Saturday or for the preparations on Friday. Thank you to one and all for your participation!

Parish Family Mass
Thank you to the many families that attended Saturday’s mass. It was wonderful to have our students so involved and to have Fr Anthony embrace their involvement in the liturgy. My thanks also to Mr O, Mrs Hunter and the teachers for their preparation with the children and for their active participation.

With best wishes for the week ahead,

Regards

John Wilson
Principal
Assistant Principal Message

REPORT CARDS

A to E grading

The A to E grading scale lets teachers report student academic achievements at any point in time using clear and consistent standards. As teachers, we will make a professional judgement to decide which grade best matches the standards your children have achieved based on information we have collected. This information can be in the form of a test, collected work samples, formative and summative assessment, anecdotal records and observations.

What is the A-E grade scale?

In short, the A-E scale describes the depth of knowledge and understanding, and also the range of skills that students working at that standard typically show. Grades are given for individual achievement and effort and students will receive a grade that best matches their standard of achievement. It is important for parents to know that teachers are not limited to a set number of each grade within their class/stage.

Choosing the right grade

A huge amount of work goes into collecting data about your child’s learning as well as ensuring there is consistency across the stage and school in relation to what each grade represents. St Finbarr’s teachers met a few weeks ago for a “Consistency Teacher Judgment” (CTJ) meeting and compared student work samples and sought feedback from colleagues in relation to their grading, feedback and overall reporting decisions. This was extremely beneficial for all teachers and in most cases it affirmed their professional teacher judgement when assessing student’s work.

Making progress during a stage

In the past I have had parents comment to me “my child got a B in Semester 1 and again in Semester 2. Why haven’t they improved?” Well the short answer is, they have.

If a student receives the same grade for two consecutive reports they have made progress. For example, if a student receives a “C” in the middle of the year and again at the end of the year they will be making progress.

Between the two reporting periods the student will have learned new knowledge and skills of a more advanced nature. In order to receive a “C” on the second occasion the student has achieved a sound level of competence in the processes and skills in relation to this new and more challenging material.

As we are currently in the midst of reporting, we are looking forward to sharing our professional judgement with you. As always, if you have any questions or concerns in regards to your child’s report card, please contact the teacher to discuss this with them.

Carolyn Wade
Assistant Principal
Leader of Pedagogy

CHRISTMAS FAIR WOOLIES BBQ

Thankyou to all those Finneys Finest Mums, Dads and Grandparents who helped with the Woolies BBQs. Special Thank you to Earth and Sea for donating ice, napkins and sliced onion. Thank you also to Su and Gav Reynolds who baked and donated quality cupcakes.

Fun Financial Literacy


NSW Premier's Reading Challenge app - now available!

We are delighted to announce the Department of Education and Communities has been working in association with Microsoft and Avenade to create a NSW Premier's Reading Challenge app. The free app will assist students to search for books on the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge booklist, record the books they have read and track their progress in the Challenge. The app is currently available on Windows 8 devices.

School Banking

This week will be our last banking day for the year. Prizes will be handed out at our final school assembly on Friday 20 Dec at 2:30pm in the school hall

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!

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.
RE NEWS

We begin this second week of our Advent journey with an image of the end of violence and a promise of justice and peace. The prophets use such wonderful images to tell the people that they could expect and hope for a day when "every tear would be wiped away." It will be a day of great peace - "the lion would lie down with the lamb" and the people will beat their spears into hooks to prune trees with. Weapons of war will be turned into tools of food production. And, the most unbelievable promise of all: "death will be no more."

Let us pray this week for a peace such as this in our world today.

Blessings
Helen Hunter
Leader of Catechesis

STAGE 3 SOCIAL

Altar Server Roster
Saturday 7 December
Hamish Wilson
Gabe Taylor
Tom Wilson
James Kearney

Please be at the church at 5:40pm.
School Banking
School Banking is every Wednesday.
Could each student who has a banking wallet please hand it to their teacher.

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.

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 (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

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 Caroline Bailey on 0409 804 131 or carolinebailey@rocketmail.com

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
Tuesdays 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

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

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

Byron Arts and Ind Park Arts Trail Fri 6 Dec from 6pm Open studio evening. Share the creative journey, discover the artists, follow the trail and purchase direct!