Sports News

Representative Sport

Diocesan Cross Country: Friday 23rd May

Congratulations to the members of the Zone Cross Country team who battled a tricky course in Lismore on Friday. The Tweed Zone won the carnival quite convincingly from several of the other Zones, which make up the Lismore Dioceses. Once again St Finbarr’s excelled at the carnival with several of our students winning selection in the Diocesan Team to compete at the Polding Cross Country Carnival in Sydney on Friday 13th June.

Congratulations to all our students who competed on Friday.

Ethan Staunton, Lily Amos, Lenny Bridle, Billie Bridle, Freya Robertson, Erin Boggis, Jessica Mason, Jude Taylor & Ebony Anderson.

Polding Representatives:

Ethan Staunton (1st place 8th/9 yrs boys), Freya Robertson (2nd place 10th/9 yrs girls), Erin Boggis (3rd place 11th/9 yrs girls) & Billie Bridle (1st place 12th/9 yrs boys), Lily Amos (Reserve for 8th/9 yrs girls)

Oliver Rojo had a very successful weekend away representing Polding at the PSSA NSW Schools AFL competition. Polding finished 5th which was their best result for some time. Thanks to his Parents for their supreme sacrifice in travelling to and from Sydney and accommodation for the event.

School Sport

Gymnastics:

Gymnastics kicked off last Wednesday with all the children enjoying their introduction to gymnastics. Lots of moaning and groaning as the children were put through some stretching exercises and basic gymnastics positions as a lead in to the program.

Athletics Carnival: Field Events last week results: Long Jump

Jnr Boys (8,9,10yrs) 1st: Rauli Lagan 3.95m (Penola), 2nd: Will Amos 3.30m (Penola), 3rd: Lenny Bridle 3.24m (Tenison)(R), 4th: Finlay Parke 3.15m (Penola)

1yrs Boys 1st: Lucas Magree 4.23m (Penola), 2nd: Max Velle 3.65m (Chisholm), 3rd: Sam Callahan 3.51m (Chisholm) (R), 4th: Harrison Kirkwood 3.22m (Penola)

1yrs Girls 1st: Lola Neale 3.80m (Penola), 2nd: Holly Carter 3.45m (Tenison), 3rd: Grace Eady 3.15m (Penola) (R), 4th: Erin Boggis 3.05m (McKillop)

Notes: 1st & 2nd place into school team for Tweed Zone Carnival. (R) Reserve for Carnival.

Field Events this week: (Lunch)

Junior Girls (9,10yrs) Long Jump: Wednesday
Senior Girls (12/13yrs) Long Jump: Thursday
Senior Boys Long Jump: Friday

* Mrs Clark will be conducting Long Jump Trials for children Under 6 – 7 during normal P.E. classes.

General News

Kerry Willis & Lisa Clarke

Sports Team

General News - On Display - Parent Notice Board (Outside Library)

Byron Bay Writers Festival

Early Bird tickets selling out. Don’t miss out. Book Now!

Byron Bay Writers Festival, 1-3 August 2014, will feature more than 100 authors. The program includes some of Australia’s best writers and thinkers from US author Poe Ballantine, Malcolm Fraser, Claire Wright (winner of the 2014 Stella Award), Julian Burnside, Bob Brown and Tim Flannery to ML Stedman, Ashley Hay, Alex Miller, Andy Griffiths, Mem Fox and many more.

The full program, including the complete international lineup, will be available from 5 June 2014. Pick-up your heavily discounted 3 Day Pass and Youth Pass now before they sell out. Call 1300 365 552 or

www.byronbaywritersfestival.com

Principal’s Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

John 14: 16 – 18
Jesus said to his disciples, "...This is the Spirit of truth, ... You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."

In Sunday’s gospel Jesus makes a commitment to his followers that he will remain with them even after he is gone. In the same way that each of us experiences the continuing presence of a loved one in our lives after their death, Jesus promises that he will not leave us orphaned. Through this passage, John makes the connection with the Holy Spirit, a commitment from Jesus that God will remain present in our lives, in us and through us.

Professional Learning Community (PLC) The key to our work as a PLC is the ongoing cycle of collaboration between our teachers around the Four Critical Questions. As they teach a unit, an essential learning, the teachers in each team work through this cycle to address the individual learning needs of their students. Over the coming weeks I would like to explain the questions, one at a time.

The Four Critical Questions

1. What do our students need to learn? What are the specific skills and knowledge that must be learned to achieve this outcome, to be proficient in this essential learning? How can each teacher within the stage be crystal clear about what this learning looks like? These become the learning targets and are written for the students as "I can" statements. E.g. I can use the Split Strategy to solve addition problems.

It may look overly simple but without drilling down in this detailed collaboration: elements of the learning might look different in each class of the same year level; students who already understand a learning may not be moved onto new learning; and students who don’t quickly understand can miss out because of our pressure to move on to a new topic.

At St Finbarr’s we are committed to a focus on what students need to learn and what they have learned, rather than a focus on what teachers cover.

Regards,

John Wilson
Principal

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Learning

Enrolments for 2015

We would like to remind families of prospective students, that it is now time for any new enrolments for next year to be lodged. If you have family or friends who are intending to enrol students at St Finbar’s, please let them know that enrolment packages are available from the office and that all enrolment forms should be completed as soon as possible and an appointment made for an interview. Likewise, if siblings are going to be enrolled for next year, this should also be done now.

Semester One Interviews

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who were able to attend the parent/teacher interviews last week. We trust you found the interview with your child’s teacher beneficial and that it gave you an insight into your child’s progress at this important stage of their learning. Please be reminded that teachers are always available to discuss any concerns you have with your child’s learning. If you need to see your child’s class teacher, please make an appointment at a time convenient to everyone involved.

Semester One Reports

Semester One Reports will be sent home towards the end of the Term 2. At St Finbar’s, we respect the dignity of every child. Our aim is to nurture all learners, whilst providing parents and guardians with honest information about their child’s learning and achievements during Semester One. Stage 1, 2 and 3 reports use an A-E grading scale.

Your child’s teacher will make a professional on-balance judgement to determine which grade best matches the standards your child has achieved. This is based on all assessment information that has been collected during Semester One. This information is then used to allocate an A-E grade. There are no set numbers of grades allocated in a class or school. Each student receives the grade for which he or she has demonstrated achievement. The Common Grade Scale shown below is used to report student achievement in all NSW schools.

- A: The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.
- B: The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.
- C: The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.
- D: The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in the processes and skills.
- E: The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to the A-E Common Grade Scale, please see your child’s class teacher, as they are more than willing to assist you in this area.

Michael Piccoli
Assistant Principal

Evangelisation News

This Saturday, 31st May, St. Finbar’s is celebrating a Family Mass at 6pm. This Mass celebrates the students from St. Finbar’s and our friends at Bangalow and Byron Bay Public Schools who are being Confirmed on Monday night by Bishop Jarrett. An invitation is warmly extended to students (and their younger siblings) to join the singing at this Mass. There will be a practice at recess on Wednesday and lunchtime on Friday in my classroom for all students from Kindergarten-Year 6 wishing to participate.

This week, please keep the Holy Spirit Parish Confirmation candidates in your prayers as they complete their preparation and are presented to the Parish community by Fr. Anthony on Saturday night.

Our Confirmation Candidates are:

Kate Jones
Leader of School Evangelisation and Catechesis

School Forum

The Forum met on 19 May and welcomed Grant Hawkins as a new member. Grant is the parent of Jasmine who is in 2H. Grant has a background in marketing and his skills will complement those of other members.

The new parent pickup arrangements were discussed and all agreed that these are a fantastic success. Mr Wilson reported that staff are also pleased with the new arrangements as the children have a wet weather area in which to wait for their parents. Importantly, there are no cars parked in the bus parking area.

Other matters which were discussed include starting a school book club. Some students have books which they may be willing to loan. For example, my son Finley has some Percy Jackson and Diary of a Wimpy Kid books which he will loan the book club. This idea will evolve over the next month but, in the meantime, ask your children if they would be willing to loan any of their favourite books.

Peter Parker
Parent Forum Chair

Student Awards

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

- **Kindergarten**
  - Award: Learning Award
  - Value Award: Value Award
  - Names: Archer Munro, India Piccoli

- **Stage 1B**
  - Award: Lucy Ainsworth
  - Value Award: Isabella Wall

- **Stage 1J**
  - Award: Mallea Stevens
  - Value Award: Sunney Homer

- **Stage 1I**
  - Award: Dean Rogers
  - Value Award: Mia Bridger

- **Stage 2H**
  - Award: Lucinda McGaughan
  - Value Award: Isabell Walser

- **Stage 2D**
  - Award: Erin Adie
  - Value Award: Curtis Butler

- **Stage 2W**
  - Award: Masa Leishman
  - Value Award: Alana Rojo

- **Stage 3C**
  - Award: Tim Hayes
  - Value Award: Kai Ferguson

- **Stage 3P**
  - Award: Celest McGaughan
  - Value Award: Ties Van Kempen

- **Stage 3S**
  - Award: Grace Gillham
  - Value Award: Sapphire Phillips

- **Finniss Finnest**
  - Award: Johah White
  - Value Award: Scarlett Bear

- **Mary Mackillop**
  - Award: Misha Figelman
  - Value Award: Archie Munro

HEART FREEZER

Calling all Master Chefs - AKA... Mrs Boggie’s class.

June has been allocated to stage 1B. Containers will be sent home with each student in this class.

Thank you to Earth and Sea for the generous donation of containers.

School Fees

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or forwarded direct to Bank account BSB 082-514 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 difficulties.

CANTEEN NEWS

Please return any tea-towels that may be holding at your house post Bush Dance.

June has been allocated to Mrs Clark’s Stage 3 class. Please pledge your help to Cyra: cyra.father@gmail.com if time is short... ONE HOUR of help 830-930 would be greatly appreciated.

Thankyou to Michelle Herbert who consistently gives her time to the Canteen.
LEARNING FOR LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS MATHS OLYMPIANS

Congratulations to our Stage 3 team which earned some excellent results last Wednesday in the first of five challenging tests in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads. The second Maths Olympiads test will be held on Thursday, 12 June with the next guest presenter workshop booked for Thursday, 5 June. Keep practising!

FANCING YOURSELF A FILMMAKER?

REFLECTION. There are many ways to consider the concept of reflection. Why is reflection important? What do we reflect upon? How is reflection symbolised in films and videogames?

This is the theme for this year’s national moving image competition for primary schools run by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). Respond to the theme of reflection using digital media in the form of animation, live action film or videogame. The winning entries will be the ones judged to be the “most innovative, exciting and individual”. Registration is now open online and is free (and you will receive access to comprehensive online resources and interactive production tools). There are prizes to be won too! You can view past winners and get more details at www.acmi.net.au/screenit.aspx

Entries open on Friday, 29 August 2014 and close at 5pm on Friday, 12 September 2014.

Homelessness in Australia Should Not Exist

Help spread the word!

The Mercy Foundation Youth Awards is a competition for Primary and Secondary schools in Australia. The purpose of the award is to encourage students to think about social justice in their community, especially the issue of homelessness.

Primary students are invited to submit a project that addresses or explores a social justice issue in Australia. Students may wish to consider poverty and homelessness as their theme, although this is not mandatory. Other issues may include the environment, asylum seekers and refugees, indigenous issues, and discrimination.

The project should be able to be submitted electronically (eg PowerPoint or Presi presentation, movie/documentary, e-book).

Submissions will be judged on their content, creativity, effort and quality. Please send your submission to office@mercyfoundation.com.au by June 20th, 2014.

Prize: $250 in vouchers is shared between the winning students and $500 is awarded to the winning school/s to be used on social justice resources and activities or as a donation to a local Social Justice organisation.

You may like to see the following websites for more information about homelessness in Australia:

www.mercyfoundation.com.au
Www.homelessnessclearinghouse.govspace.gov.au
Www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au
Www.yfoundations.org.au

Please see Mrs Jones if you have any questions.

Good luck and have fun.

Can Breakfast Make Kids Smarter?

Last year the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing published findings from their research that says it does. The research found that children who regularly have breakfast on a near-daily basis had significantly higher full scale, verbal, and performance IQ test scores.

Why? After a whole night of fasting, breakfast serves as a means to supply “fuel” to the brain. Meanwhile, social interaction at breakfast time with others may promote brain development. Mealtime discussions may facilitate cognitive development by offering children the opportunity to expand their vocabulary, practice synthesizing and comprehending stories, and acquire general knowledge, noted the authors.

So the advice is eat breakfast – it may make you smarter.

http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/sia/Pages/Can-Breakfast-Make-Kids-Smarter.aspx