St Finbarr’s school has been blessed to have had parishioners Claudia and Peter Kiernan actively involved with school life for many years.

Claudia and Peter are moving away from Byron Bay. On behalf of the staff, parents and students of St Finbarr’s we would like to wholeheartedly THANK YOU. Your presence, encouragement and love has warmed our hearts.

May God light your way and watch over you as you settle into your new community.

Byron Bay High School

Warren Lee, our Relieving Deputy Principal for Year 7 2015, is offering a tour of the school for parents who may be considering sending their child to Byron Bay High School.

The date is Tuesday, 17th June at 10am, meeting in the Admin area.

School Fees
Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or forward 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.

Newsletters via email
In the interests of reducing paper we are currently offering parents two means of receiving the newsletter electronically:

1. via email
If you would like to receive the school newsletter electronically via email each week please contact Rachel Keaney on rkeaney@ism.catholic.edu.au

2. via school stream app
The school steam app can be downloaded from your app store.

HEART FREEZER
Calling all Master Chefs - AKA... Mrs Boggis’s class.

June has been allocated to stage 1/B.

Containers will be sent home with each student in this class.

Thankyou to Earth and Sea for the generous donation of containers.

CANTENEEN NEWS

June has been allocated to Mrs Clark’s Stage 3 class.
Please pledge your help to Cyra, cyra.fisher@gmail.com

If time is short... ONE HOUR of help 8:30-9:30 would be greatly appreciated.

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.

General Messages

Bangalow Swim School:
WINTER PROGRAM ENROLLING NOW!
Learn to swim for Babies to Pre School children
Stroke Correction for older children
Enclosed Heated Pool Year Round
6687 2911 www.bangalowswim.com.au
swim@bangalowswim.com.au
168 Binna Burra Road, Bangalow

Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

Sunday’s Gospel
John 20:21-23
And Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained.

When our children greet parents and teachers each day with the words “peace be with you” they follow in Jesus’ footsteps and in so doing are asking God to send his Spirit among us. These words are in fact a generous gift or opportunity for us; a chance to begin the day with God’s peace and to take this peace into all our encounters.

Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Over the last two weeks I have tried to highlight how the Critical Questions help to direct the work of our teachers when they collaborate in their professional learning teams to improve learning for our children. The third critical question ensures that the teaching won’t stop if the learning hasn’t happened for all students, just because the planned teaching time for that unit of learning has come to an end.

3. How will we respond if students haven’t learnt it?
If, at the end (or at any given point) of the planned teaching cycle, some students are not proficient or are not demonstrating the expected learning, the teachers will use additional time, outside of the regular learning time for this subject, to implement short bursts of planned intervention targeting these specific skills and knowledge. Some learners just need more time. Our teachers are currently preparing to implement timetabled weekly 30 minute Maths intervention sessions from the beginning of Term 3.

This is a very different approach from the conventional teaching model. At St Finbarr’s we are naming specific skills and knowledge that are essential for students’ further learning and guaranteeing that the learning will be exactly the same no matter what class the student is in. Furthermore, for these essential learnings, we agree to not move onto a new area of learning until we have done everything possible to enable all students to be proficient.

Assembly CANCELLED
Unfortunately due to the Questacon visit on Friday the assembly for this week will be cancelled. The performance of the School Band will be rescheduled for early next term. We are very excited about the Questacon experience for our children and the scheduled assembly would have reduced the Questacon session for some classes. Parents are most welcome to attend one of the sessions. The times are as follows:
- 9.00am to 10.00am: Stage 2
- 10.00am to 11.00am: Stage 3
- 12.00am to 1.00pm: K & Stage 1B
- 2.00pm to 3.00pm: Stage 1 & 11

Regards,

John Wilson
Principal

165 Bangalow Road Byron Bay NSW 2481 tel: 6685 6342 fax: 6685 4784 email: stfpbyron@ism.catholic.edu.au www.stfpbyron.ism.catholic.edu.au
Learning

Report Cards
Teachers are in the final stages of comparing assessment tasks, analysing data, making professional balance judgements regarding student grades and writing reports for Semester One. You will receive your child’s report card in the coming weeks and will have an opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher in Week 9 if you feel that it is necessary. Can you please advise your child’s teacher this week if you require two report cards that need to be mailed to different addresses.

Science Questacon
On Friday students will have a wonderful learning opportunity to engage and explore in the field of science. Questacon strives to promote greater understanding and awareness of science and technology within the community. They are committed to making the science experience fun, interactive, and relevant for all students. Thanks to Mr Willis for organising this opportunity for the students at Finnie’s.

High Expectations
As we approach the end of term, it is easy to become complacent and switch to autopilot. At St Finbarr’s we pride ourselves on high expectations in all that we do. Our attitude and focus to achieve learning goals, our learning behaviour and the way in which we meet, treat and speak to others in our school community. Boys and girls, as we work towards the end of Term 2, finish the race strongly with your head held high, knowing that you have given your absolute best to all aspects of learning for life, growing together as friends and loving like Jesus.

Michael Piccoli
Assistant Principal

Parents in Partnership
Research verifies that parental engagement is a critical factor in a child’s educational success. Parental engagement in our school family, at St Finbarr’s, could produce multiple benefits for our students including better grades, more developed social skills and improved behaviour of students both at home and at school.

One way parents can engage with the school is to value and encourage our children’s learning by ensuring they complete their own homework in a positive and supportive learning environment. Homework is an opportunity for you to participate in our children’s education. Assisting our children to establish a routine will ensure they are set up for success, as ‘good learners are organised’. In the early years you could create a visual weekly timetable that reflects your family commitments and includes play, extra-curricular activities and homework. Students in the older years could use their diaries and parents could sign off each week to ensure they are meeting their learning organisational goals.

Alternatively, time permitting, you could contact our child’s teacher and volunteer as a valued parent helper. Your participation will build a positive home school connection and strengthen parental engagement and it can assist our children to reach their potential. We truly value your contribution as parents in partnership of our children’s education at St Finbarr’s.

Lisa Conte
Leader of Pedagogy

LEARNING FOR LIFE

ICAS WRITING TEST TOMORROW

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is run by the University of New South Wales and is the largest independent competition and assessment program for schools in Australia. Interested children who have registered from Years 3-6 will be participating in the writing test on Wednesday, 11 June.

The next ICAS test is Spelling on 18 June for children who have registered from Y3-6.

Evangelisation News

“Children and young adults are born contemplative but in the modern world they are bombarded from an early age with noise, stimulus and a message to keep busy”. (Coming Home, Catholic Education Office Townsville)

Mediation is now widely practised by people of all ages and from different walks of life. There are many well-evidenced reasons to mediate. These include that it lowers stress, decreases the symptoms of anxiety and depression, reduces blood pressure, and helps with concentration and staying attentive. It is perhaps not surprising, then, that there is also growing interest in the potential of meditation programs for improving student wellbeing in schools, including the use of Christian meditation in Australian Catholic schools.

At St. Finbarr’s, Christian Meditation will be introduced in every classroom from Term 3. The teachers at St. Finnie’s have been practising Christian Meditation every Monday morning all year and this will now be extended to our students. Based on the Christian belief that fullness of life is found in the love of God, Christian Meditation enables us to be still and to experience the love of God which is always present to us and within us. In the busyness of life it is not always easy to be silent and to know God in the here and now of our daily routines and relationships.

To find out more about Christian meditation you can visit the World Community of Christian Meditation website at http://www.wccm.org/ or visit the Diocese of Townsville Christian Meditation website at www.cominghome.org.au to learn about the implementation of Christian Meditation in each of their schools.

Kate Jones
Leader of School Evangelisation and Catechesis

Evangelisation and Catechesis Noticeboard

- 11th June: Year 6 Religious Education Test.
- 14th June: Ms Imeson will be leading the children’s liturgy
- 19th June: Early Years Liturgy of the Word in the Chapel.

Sports News

Polding Country (PSSA & CCC NSW Championship)

Our best wishes and support for our students and their parents attending the NSW Cross Country Championships in Sydney this Friday.

Best wishes to: Erin Boggis, Freya Robertson, Lilly Amos, Billie Bridle and Ethan Stauton.

School Athletics Carnival: Friday 20th June from 9.00am.

Fridays Events this week:
Wednesday: Junior Boys Shot Put
Friday: 11yr Boys and Girls Shot Put

800m: Junior Boys & Girls: Wednesday 18th June (Lunch)
11yr Girls & Boys: Wednesday 18th June

Senior Boys and Girls: Carnival Day.

Mr Wills away Thursday lunch at Tweed Zone Meeting

Gymnastics.
Our Gym program is moving along well with all the children enjoying the experience. They have moved into using apparatus and are having a wonderful time.

Kerry Wills
Lisa Clark