**General Messages**

**Women's Reflection Day**
St Francis Xavier Parish, Ballina invites you to join us in a day of prayer and reflection with Sister Maureen McDermott.

When: 10am—4pm Sunday, August 31 2014
Where: St Francis Xavier Old School Hall, Swift St Ballina
Contact: For info & to register contact before 22 August: Ballina Parish 6661 1048 or Gemma Duffy - 0407 722 546 allygata@bigpond.net.au

Parent Seminar—Xavier College

Dannielle Miller is one of Australia's foremost educators, authors and media commentators on teenage girls. We are excited to have Dannielle presenting a Parent Seminar at Xavier Catholic College on Monday, August 11 at 7pm. The seminar will look at factors affecting teenage girls today such as body image and low self esteem and will provide parents with tools to help their daughters cut through the negativity and bloom into confident teen girls.

When: Monday 11 August, 7pm
Where: Xavier Catholic College
Cost: $20

**New Rainbow Club in Byron Bay**

Rainbow Club believes that learning to swim is important for all children, including those with a disability, and we recognise that concentrated and individual tuition helps those with a disability acquire the skills needed to swim in an aquatic environment.

Rainbow Club offers heavily subsidised, one-on-one swimming lessons for children with a physical or intellectual disability, from pre-school to high school age.

A new Rainbow Club is being established in Byron and classes will begin in September 2014, on a Saturday, at Byron Pool.

We are now looking for regular children who would like to participate. We are also looking for parent committee members to assist in running the club.

It would also be great to hear from interested corporate sponsors, to ensure the club can continue to operate in the years to come.

For further information please email byronrainbowclub@gmail.com or call Lorisse on 0409 028 953

www.rainbowclubnsw.com.au

**TV’s Maddie and Possum Host a Day of Children’s Literature Mayhem**

Popular television personalities Maddie and Possum, co-hosts of the Prime7 Possum’s Club, will host the Byron Bay Writers Festival Kids Big Day Out giving children the chance to get up close and personal with some incredible writing talent.

The highly entertaining program is specifically designed to capture the imagination of children aged between six and sixteen.

Don’t miss Andy Griffiths, Mem Fox, Nick Earls, Sally Rippin, Asphyxia and our local favourites Jesse Blackadder and Tristan Bancks.

And, for the first time in Festival history, the 2014 Byron Bay Writers Festival looks like selling out before gates open on the Friday 1 August so buy your tickets now.

**Kids Big Day Out is being held on Sunday, 3 August and children, accompanied by an adult, can attend with a special discounted Youth Pass. For more Festival information or to purchase tickets, including Youth Passes, visit byronbaywritersfestival.com or call 1300 368 552.**

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**Principal's Message**

**Dear Parents & Carers**

**Sunday’s Gospel**

Matt 13:44-52

Jesus said to his disciples, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

**Father Anthony**

We received the news during last week’s Parish Dinner that Fr Anthony will be moving to a new parish in mid-September.

This will indeed be a big loss for our parish and school. We have been very blessed to work with a pastor so caring, so faithful and so down to earth with our children. This week’s gospel reading could easily be talking about Father Anthony; he is a treasure. I will provide further information when it becomes available regarding Fr Anthony’s destination and his replacement. I will also look for an opportunity for our school community to provide an appropriate farewell.

**Mr Piccoli**

We are very fortunate to have Mr Piccoli here as a 12 month replacement for Mrs Wade who will return from maternity leave for the start of the 2015 school year. I congratulate Mr Piccoli on the recent news that he has been appointed to the role of Assistant Principal at St Francis Xavier School Ballina from the beginning of the 2015 school year. I know he will do an outstanding job.

**Growing Together as Friends**

As you know, our school motto highlights the three core building blocks of education at St Finbar’s; loving Jesus, growing together as friends and learning for life. We strongly believe that each area is significant in every child’s growth and development.

Our work around ‘growing as friends’ is all about student wellbeing. We teach the necessary skills, knowledge and dispositions that enable our students to grow in their ability to be more resilient, confident, organised and persistent people who get along well with others. These five areas constitute the keys to success in Program Achieve, an outstanding research-based program that is used at St Finbar’s in conjunction with our school values.

Our school values, or the Finnie’s Eight as they are commonly known, are mounted on the wall of our covered area and are the eight values we sing about in the Finnie’s Rap at school assemblies. Each value is taught for 4 weeks and is comprised of four key virtues which form the weekly focus. During this time all teachers reinforce the value and exemplary behaviours are acknowledged each day. Our current value is **Encourage Each Other** (please see details over the page).

The Finnie’s Values and the 5 Keys to Success from Program Achieve form the basis of our weekly 40 minute Stage Time lessons. These are held in the school hall and led by Mr Piccoli and myself. We usually use a 2 minute film clip to explain the value or key to success together with a combination of small group discussion, drama and singing to reinforce it. Parents are very welcome to join us Mondays to Wednesdays from 1:50 to 2:30 (not this week due to the Stage 3 excursion).

With best wishes.

Regards,

John Wilson
Principal

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**BANGALOW—SWIM SCHOOL**

6687 2911

Learn to swim for Babies to Pre School children

Stroke Correction for older children

Enclosed Heated Pool Year Round

168 Birma Burro Road, Bangalow 2479

**WINTER PROGRAM ENROLLING NOW!**

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**Term 3 29 July 2014 Week 3**

**Loving, Growing, Learning for Life**

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**6687 2911**

www.bangalowswim.com.au

168 Bima Burro Road, Bangalow 2479

email: stfbyron@lism.catholic.edu.au www.stfbyron.lism.catholic.edu.au
**Learning**

Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

I request your support in making some Mathematical games and activities for Kindergarten. These resources will further assist our Kindy students to increasingly develop efficient numeracy strategies when solving mathematical tasks. The activities support the implementation of the Mathematics K-6 syllabus. It will assist our students to develop a powerful and flexible understanding of how numbers are used. These activities have been developed to developmentally build upon students’ current methods of solving mathematical problems.

If you are available to laminate, cut out or photocopy resources during Week 4 on Wednesday 8th August from 8.45-11am please let me know by emailing me at lconte@isr.catholic.edu.au.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks for your support.

Lisa Conte
Leader of Pedagogy

**Student Learning Folders**

This term, to help provide parents with more regular feedback on their child’s learning and achievements, students will bring home a learning folder each fortnight. This folder will contain samples of student’s work, informal and formal assessments and reflections and evaluations of student learning.

Parents are encouraged to make some time each fortnight to read through and discuss their child’s folder with them, and provide their child with some positive and constructive feedback. This can be done by:
- acknowledging effort as well as achievements,
- being careful not to focus on mistakes,
- recognising areas of improvement,
- avoiding false praise and
- helping children to identify the next important steps in learning.

Students’ Learning Folders will come home this Friday, and every Friday in non-assembly weeks. As the folders will contain significant information and data for teachers, it is important that they be returned the following Monday. Parents are asked to sign and date the samples in the folder so teachers can track that folders made it home and were viewed.

The staff and teachers of St Finbarr’s value and recognise the important role parents play in student’s learning, and hope that this initiative will help to further strengthen this partnership.

Donna Clark
Leader of Curriculum

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**Evangelisation News**

Storytelling is the oldest form of education. Cultures all around the world have told stories to pass on information from one generation to another. Even today, effective teachers use storytelling as a way of conveying important messages. These teachers use contexts familiar to their students to create a connection between the message and the student’s lived experience.

Parables are stories in the bible told by Jesus to convey a deeper message about how to live as people of God. Through parables, people can enter into the story being painted and connect with the characters and the challenges they face. Parables invite us to contemplate our relationship with God and with each other. They guide us in how to be more loving. I invite you to ask your child about their favourite parable and what this story teaches them.

Kind regards,
Kate Jones
Leader of School Evangelisation and Catechesis

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**Parish News**

**Special Mass and Events**

- 6th August: The Josephite Associates are celebrating the Feast Day of St. Mary Mackillop with Mass at 9.30am at St. Finbarr’s Church.
- 15th August: Mass for the Feast of the Assumption. Byron Bay at 9:30am and Bangalow at 5:30pm.
- 31st August: Women’s Reflection day at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Ballina at 10am. Contact the Ballina Parish Office on 66811048 for more information.

**Weekend Mass Times**

- St. Finbarr’s, Byron Bay: Saturday 6pm
- St. Kevin’s, Bangalow: Sunday 9:30am

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**Alter Server Roster - Saturday 2 August 2014**

- Erin Boggis
- Chloe Crawford
- James Kearey
- Sam Callahan

Please be at the church at 5:40pm.

**Evangelisation and Catechesis Noticeboard**

- 29th July: Parent Information Night for First Holy Communion 6-7pm
- 2nd August: Mrs Jones is leading the children’s liturgy
- 14th September: First Holy Communion at St. Kevin’s, Bangalow

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**Sport News**

**Zone Athletics Carnival:** What a day! What a result! What a magnificent team of athletes!

St Finbarr’s triumphed at Friday’s Zone Athletics Carnival with our best result for some time. The team finished third overall and won the aggregate shield (for scoring the most point per school population). Some 25 students won selection into the Zone Team to compete at the Diocesan Carnival in Port Macquarie on the 8th August and we had 3 age champions.

Congratulations to:
- Masa Leichman: Junior Boy Champion
- Jessica Mason: Junior Girl runner up
- Lola Neale: Smr Girl runner up.

The final results for each student will be published in our next newsletter. Many thanks to our Team manager, Mrs Lisa Clark, who organised the team with great efficiency throughout the day.

Some children did not receive their Diocesan Note on the day. These will be sent to me this week and I’ll arrange for Mrs Clark to give them out. (As I am in Sydney with Stage 3).

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**Parents please Note!**

A Special Request for parents of those children selected for the Diocesan Carnival in Port Macquarie on the 8th August. As you are aware the school does not provide transport to the Diocesan Carnival. This is a decision for parents to make. If your child is not taking up their place in the Zone Team, please contact me ASAP so I can inform the Team Managers so a replacement can be found for your child.

Those families attending the carnival are asked to return the Diocesan Note to school ASAP this week to Mr Wills in a sealed envelope with Diocesan Athletics marked clearly on the front.

Contact: kwills@isr.catholic.edu.au

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**Kerry Wills**
Sports Co-ordinator

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**Canteen Duty**

August Canteen Duty has been allocated to Stage 2W.

If you can help, even for an hour first thing that would be appreciated.

Contact: Cyra on cyra@isr.catholic.edu.au

Friday 1st — Helpers needed
Tuesday 5th — Helpers needed

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**The Flinnie’s Eight**

1. Love Like Jesus did
2. Be True to Yourself
3. Always do Your Best
4. Speak up and Support Others
5. Encourage each other
6. Week 1 Virtue: Friendliness
7. Week 2 Virtue: Generosity
8. Week 3 Virtue: Gentleness
9. Week 4 Virtue: Joyfulness
10. Give everyone a Fair Go
11. Help everyone Belong
12. Celebrate and Educate For Life

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**ICAS Dates**

ICAS Mathematics - 6th August 2014