Canteen Duty
August Canteen Duty has been allocated to Stage 2W, with September allocated to Stage 2H
If you can help, even for an hour first thing that would be appreciated.
Contact: Cyra on cfaher@lism.catholic.edu.au
Friday 29th August—Help needed
Tuesday 2nd September—Help needed
Would be great to have helpers as we get the hang of the new Canteen Menu items

School Fees
Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or forwarded direct to Bank account number 09000371. 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.

New Canteen Menu
Please remember that canteen prices have changed with the new Canteen Menu.

Could you please ensure your child’s lunch order has the correct money. Copies of the Canteen Menu can be viewed online at the School Website with hard copies available at the office.

General News - On Display: Parent Notice Board (Outside Library)
Australian Elite Soccer Football Academy (AESFA) has partnered with Sports Camps Australia to provide a 3-day soccer camp at the stunning Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre setting.
Heads up! The camp will be held the weekend of 29th to 1st October, players will be aged 7-11 years old and divided into age groups. Visit our website www.sportscamspaustralia.com.au for more information.

Women’s Reflection Day
The Ballina Parish Women’s Reflection Day was held on Saturday, August 31st. To learn more about this event, visit our website www.belismore.org.au or call Judy 6624 5175 or 0437 112031.

The BEGINNING EXPERIENCE: A personal encounter weekend for those who are grieving the loss of a spouse/partner through separation, divorce or death will be held from 18th-19th October, 2013 at ‘Arabella Garden Inn Motel’ in Wollongbar. It offers participants the opportunity to turn the pain of loss into growth. Bookings are essential and applications close on 3rd October 2014.
For further details call Judy 6624 5175 or 0437 112031. or visit our website www.belismore.org.au for more information.

Principal’s Message
Dear Parents & Carers,

Sunday’s Gospel: Matt 15:21-28
He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

It is worth reflecting personally on this question of Jesus’, “Who do you say I am?” How do we personally understand Jesus and experience him in our lives? How would I respond if Jesus asked that question of me today? How would our children respond?

PLC = Higher levels of learning
With the support of our Learning for Life Team, a group of motivated parents and school leaders, I have been attempting this year to engage you in a conversation about the significant transformation taking place in the way our staff works to enable our students to achieve higher levels of learning. This is not about fancy language and the latest fad.

We have made a shift in fundamental purpose:
From emphasis on what was taught................................................................. to a fixation on what students learned
From coverage of content ................................................................. to demonstration of proficiency
From providing individual teachers with state curriculum documents .......... to engaging collaborative teams in building shared knowledge regarding essential curriculum

Higher levels of learning, Stage 1
As Jack rolls the dice, he and Tilly are racing to add them. The faster of the two must then explain what strategy they used in their thinking, e.g. “6 and 4 is 10 and 1 more makes 11.”

Asha used this think board to demonstrate her ability to add 23 and 4.

These add-on skills and knowledge are essential for successful further learning in Mathematics. Our teachers are drilling down to specific learning targets, sharing their most effective teaching strategies with each other and providing additional time and expertise for any child who needs it through weekly intervention (small targeted groups that can change each week depending on the specific learning target).

Everything PLC that has been included in the newsletters can be found on our website, on the ‘professional learning community’ page under ‘Learning for Life’. Please keep reading and I encourage you to communicate with other parents, your child’s teacher and any of our school leaders about everything PLC. Why not email me with a question or a comment (jwilson@lism.catholic.edu.au)? Engage and help to build this PLC; your child’s learning will be the winner.

With best wishes for the week ahead,
Regards,

John Wilson
Principal
Learning

Excellence in Catholic Education Awards

Congratulations to our Stage 1 teachers, Mrs Donna Clark and Mr Wilson for being selected as finalists in the 2014 Excellence in Catholic Education Awards. Stage 1 are nominated for Excellence as a Professional Learning Team. Mr Wilson has been nominated for Excellence in Leadership and Mrs Clark has been nominated for Excellence as an Experienced Teacher.

This is an extraordinary achievement for Stage 1, John and Donna and as a school community we wish them all the best at the awards night that will be held in Coffs Harbour on the 26th August.

Mad About Science-Karl Kruszelnicki

Karl Kruszelnicki is a scientist, who is best known as an author and science commentator on Australian radio and television. He is often referred to as Dr Karl. He holds degrees in mathematics, biomedical engineering, medicine and surgery.

Students at St Finbar’s will engage with Dr Karl in a 1-hour Skype session on Monday 8th September, Week 9 at 10am. This will be an opportunity for students to pose scientific questions, clarify their understanding of scientific concepts and engage in 21st century online learning.

The theme of the day is Mad About Science and is linked to Book Week. Students are encouraged to dress up to reflect the theme. We encourage all students to begin thinking like a scientist and come up with a question that they would like to ask Dr Karl. Two questions from each class will be selected to challenge Dr Karl and allow him to provide explanations to the students.

Author Visit

Browyn Thirkill will be visiting the school on Tuesday 26th August to spend time with each Stage presenting her new book. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue to engage our students in a love of reading and learning for life. The times are listed below.

12:00-Stage 2
12:30-Stage 1B and 1J
2:00-Stage 3
2:30-Stage 11 and Kindy

Michael Piccoli
Assistant Principal

Learning in Action

Staff were recently in-serviced in the new NSW interactive maths syllabus. Our teachers have been enthusiastically implementing teaching and learning strategies across the different mathematical sub-strands catering for different learning styles. One stimulus being used is the ‘thinkboards’ when problem-solving. Thinkboards are used to develop student ideas about a topic when investigating open ended problems and developing thinking skills whilst working mathematically.

Lisa Conte
Leader of Pedagogy

This week’s value: Give Everyone a Fair Go

(Weekly Virtues: Commitment, Justice, Reliability, Unity)

Justice is being fair in everything you do. It means that everyone gets their fair share and that you stand up for your rights and the rights of others.

Signs of success
- Finding out the truth for yourself, avoiding gossip and rumours
- Owning up to your mistakes and accepting the consequences
- Playing, sharing and speaking fairly
- Standing up for what’s right for yourself and others

Evangelisation News

Together, we can make a difference

We warmly extend an invitation to the St. Finnies community to join us in a campaign to help those in need. There are three ways your family might like to become involved. The first is that you join our Mini-Vinnies knitting campaign and knit your own squares at home to contribute to our school blankets. These will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul, Byron Bay, to help keep a person or family warm this winter. Our squares are 25x25 stitches and made from brightly coloured 8ply acrylic wool.

The second way your family can contribute is to donate new or gently used blankets or sleeping bags for people who are sleeping rough this winter. If your linen cupboard is looking somewhat full, you might invite your child to help you clean out items you don’t really need, while talking with him/her about how fortunate we are to have our basic needs for love, food and shelter met.

The third way to help make a difference is to view with your child the ‘Preferential Option for the Poor’ video by Caritas Australia on the ‘Loving Jesus’ tab on our school homepage and discuss the video response questions together. We invite you to join your child in making a poster in response to this video, highlighting what we can do to make a difference given the unequal distribution of the world’s resources. We would love to see these posters brought in to school for display around the playground.

Kind regards,
Kate Jones
Leader of School Evangelisation & Catechesis

Rainbow Education Noticeboard

- 29th August: NADOC Liturgy in the hall
- 30th August: Mrs Hill will be leading the children’s liturgy at Mass
- 4th September: First Communion Mini-Retreat 8am-10am. Parents and Grandparents warmly invited to attend with their child
- 14th September: First Holy Communion at St. Kevin’s, Bangalow.

Please let me know via email at kate.jones@stFINNIES.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU if your child is interested in singing at this special Mass.

Sports News

Stage 3 Gala Sports Day

The Gala Sports Day is on this Thursday 28th August at Arkinstall Park Tweed Heads. All students from Stage 3 (Yr 5 & 6) will participate. All information for this event was held on Wednesday 5th September. Students are reminded to be at school no later than 8.20am for a 8.30 start. A meeting will be held on Wednesday with all students attending to discuss organisation for the day.

Polding Athletics

Good luck to the following students who are travelling to Newcastle for the Polding Athletics Carnival. We congratulate you on your selection and for undertaking the challenge to take on the best of the best at what is a wonderful carnival. Thank you so much to the parents who have given so much to give their child the opportunity of experiencing an event of this quality.

Polding Representatives:
- Masa Lechman
- Will Amos, Thomas Chatterton, Jude Taylor (Jnr Boys Relay with Masa)
- Lola Neale
- Lucas Magre
- Levi Lealand

Kerry Willis
P.D.P.E & Sport

Finnie’s Idol 2014

Entries for this year’s idol will be available from Wednesday outside the Library. As with last year ONLY 2 Entries per performer is permitted. Entries close Friday 5th September.
NAIDOC DAY CELEBRATION 2014

Friday, 29th August, is NAIDOC Day at St Finbarr’s School.

NAIDOC DAY is a day when we come together as one people in the eyes of our God, who bears many names, to understand, respect and honour the dignity, spirit, culture and rights of our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

It is a day we pray for healing for all people who live in this beautiful sacred land.

It is a day we honour Australia’s Indigenous communities especially the Arawkal people here in Byron Bay.

NAIDOC Day at St Finbarr’s is a “Mufti Day” where all children are invited to dress in the colours of red, black and yellow.

The day will begin at 9am with a special liturgy in the Hall. After this, in sport groups, the children will rotate through activities focused on music, dance, art, games and multi-media.

Lunch will be a whole school BBQ (sausage sizzle). Please bring $2.00 for this. Recess will be as normal with the Canteen operating.

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BLANKET DRIVE

Please support the Mini Vinnies winter appeal and donate new or gently used blankets or sleeping bags for people in need.

Together we can make a difference.

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Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools Office

Catholic Education is seeking the Views of Parents

2014 is a special year when Catholic educators in the Diocese of Lismore are listening to the views of parents regarding our working together to provide each child with the best educational opportunities to have a full and meaningful life.

As part of this process of listening a survey has been developed for the Catholic Schools Office, Lismore, by the Centre for Children and Young People (CCYP), Southern Cross University. All parents will receive this survey during the coming week by direct e-mail. Principals may obtain hard copies of the survey from the Catholic Schools Office should any parent prefer this option. Surveys will need to be complete by 5 September.

The results of this survey will be vital to attaining a ‘snapshot’ of how we understand and work together as partners for each child. Your assistance in taking a few minutes to complete the survey is highly appreciated because it will help us build stronger Catholic schools together for each child.

In October, special Proclaim Lismore Parent 2014 Gatherings will be held across the Diocese of Lismore between parents, clergy, principals and the Catholic
WE'LL MEET YOU AT ST FINNIES CHRISTMAS FAIR
SAT 6 DECEMBER
10-3PM

RAFFLE TICKETS - COMING OUT THIS WEEK

Last year we raised $4500 from raffle ticket sales. Thank you! This helped cover some of the larger Fair expenses so we could reduce prices for wristbands and other activities.

This year we are distributing Raffle tickets earlier to give families more time to sell their raffle books. Raffle tickets will go home towards the end of this week or early next week.

RAFFLE PRIZES

Thank you to our generous sponsors for their prize donations

First Prize: 1 night at Beach Suites, Byron Bay Penthouse Apartment

Second Prize: Skull Candy Headphones Pack donated by Byron Skips

Third Prize: Cheetah Amigo 20” Boys BMX Bike

Fourth Prize: Fromage La Rue Petit Vintage Cloud Light