Learning

WHOLE NUMBER
Learning folders went home again last Friday, and if you haven’t already done so, please have a look at the Essential Learning Proficiency Scale (as seen in the picture below). These outline (in the green) the learning targets that the students are working in their whole number essential learning. These learning targets allow for teachers to be very specific in their teaching and cater for the learning needs of your child.

Feel free to ask your child about the learning targets they are currently working on and what learning they are engaged in, in order to achieve these targets. Currently Stage 3 students have completed their Whole Number post test, and teachers will be meeting with me this week to discuss and celebrate the student learning growth in these areas and what/if any intervention we need to put in place for students who have not yet achieved this.

There are a number of great online resources for students who have access to a device at home and are keen to consolidate their learning. Or alternatively, if you are looking for extra homework or enrichment for your child, the following websites are an excellent start.

http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/mathks
http://au.ixl.com/math/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z926x39
http://nrich.maths.org/primary-lower

I hope these are of some use to you as we focus on learning whole number at St Finbarr’s.

Carolyn Wade
Leader of Pedagogy

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Important Dates

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<th>March 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>9.30am Stage 3 Mass</td>
<td>2.00pm Reconciliation Retreat</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day — Mathematics</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Year 5 Trinity Visit</td>
<td>Year 6 Leadership Day</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>National Day of Action Against Bullying</td>
<td>9.00am — School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>2.00pm Reconciliation Retreat</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>1.45pm Woodlawn Visiting Stage 3</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Stage 1 — Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>6.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>6.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
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<th>April 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Holy Thursday</td>
<td>Term 1 Concludes 3:10pm</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Term 2 Begins</td>
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<th>May 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.00am — School Assembly</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>6.00-7.30pm Family Mass Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5.30-7.00pm School Forum</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Breakfast</td>
<td>9.00-10.30am Open Classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.00am — School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Confirmation St Finbarr’s Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Confirmation St Kevin’s Church</td>
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Evangelisation

Last Friday, a group of our Stage 3 students ran a wonderful Caritas Australia fundraiser during recess and lunch. Students ran goal kicking, basketball shots, egg and spoon races and quizzes for our school community. These games provided a wonderful opportunity for students across all year groups to grow as friends.

Next Wednesday, a team of dedicated Stage 3 students are hosting a cake stall for Project Compassion. I invite you to support this thoughtful student led campaign by donating baked goods to be sold on the day or buying a delicious treat, baked with love.

Our students, particularly Stage 3, have demonstrated a deep commitment to love like Jesus through their active support of Project Compassion. I invite you to support this cause through learning more about ‘Food for Life’ with your child on the Caritas Australia website and engaging with our student initiated fundraising activities.

Kind regards,
Kate Jones
Leader of School Evangelisation and Catechesis

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Catholic Education Commission NSW (CECNWSW) 2015 NSW Election Update

The current system of capital funding for non-government schools originated in the 1960s. In a joint proposal, the CEC and Association of Independent Schools NSW (AIS) argue, that it needs to be modernised and improved considerably to provide greater certainty and allow sound long-term planning. Currently they state it is ‘poorly conceived, inadequate and not strategic in scope’.

Labour officially launched their election plan on 1 March, promising to cut planning red tape for schools and allocated $1.3 billion in additional capital funding for schools and TAFE Colleges over the next decade. The CECNSW also welcomes Labour’s plan to create a cross-sectional Schools Growth Task Force to bring key players from the Catholic, government and independent sectors together to plan for growth by identifying the priority areas.

Both initiatives have been advocated by CECNSW to both the Government and Opposition (the Liberal-National Government is yet to officially launch its campaign).

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Upcoming Religious Parish School Events

Confirmation Info Night: 24th March 6pm at the church
Reconciliation: 26th March 6-7pm St. Kevin’s
31st March 6:30-7:30pm St. Finbarr’s Church
1st April 6:30-7:30 St. Finbarr’s Church
Conformation: 31st May 9am St. Kevin’s Bangalow
First Holy Communion Parent Info Night: Tuesday, 21st July 6pm at St. Finbarr’s Church
First Holy Communion: 12th Sept St. Finbarr’s Church 6pm

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By: Stage 3 students

Altar Server Roster: Saturday 7th March 2015
Olivia Hosie
Camille Neighbour
Sam Callahan

Please be at the church at 5:40pm.

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This week’s value: Be True to Yourself
(Virtues: Honesty, Assertiveness, Being Honorable, Truthfulness)

Assertiveness is being positive and confident, thinking for yourself and making the choices that are right for you.

Signs of success
• Thinking for yourself and asking for help when you need it.
• Saying “No” to things that might hurt you, get you into trouble or make you feel unsafe.
• Speaking out and sharing your ideas and opinions.

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Current Situation
• NSW Capital Funding
  • $524/student in Govt Schools
  • $27.60/student in non-govt schools.
• Capital funding from NSW Govt to non-govt schools has dropped by $12.4 million or 18.5% since 2006-07.
• In that time, enrolments have grown by 33,800, the equivalent of 40 new secondary schools.
• At least 39 NSW Catholic schools applied for Govt funding to help with much needed capital projects in 2014, only 18 applications were part funded ($34.6m of $119.2m requested).
HELP NEEDED!!

Even if it is just an hour on the occasional morning, your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Uniform Shop: Wednesdays 8.30—10am
Contact—Linda on 0427 850 322
Canteen: Tuesday & Friday mornings
Contact—Cyra on 0419 968 611

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

General Messages

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

Author Event, Mary Ryan's
Join women's fiction author Lisa Walker and romance writer Jennifer St George at Mary Ryan's at 6.30pm, Thursday, 12 March (this week!). Together with the fabulous Mandy Nolan, they will explore their love of books and writing.

Free Event. Please book on: 6685 8183. And remember, Mary Ryan's has moved to a fabulous new store on the cnr Fletcher and Byron Streets. See you there!

SUPERHERO KIDS YOGA ARRIVES IN BYRON BAY
Come join us this Saturday from 11:30-12:30pm Byron Regional Sports & Cultural Complex
UPCOMING CLASSES
Saturday 7th, 14th & 21st March 2015
$12/child, 2 siblings $10/child, 3 siblings $8/child
To confirm your spot please text or call Georgie on 0422 292 800 yoganauts.com.au

NSW Govt, Sport and Recreation Camps
See program details and book into Easter camps

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

Bush Dance Success

What a fabulous night of fun, food, music and community we had on Friday. It was wonderful to see so many families connecting with each other and in particular to see new parents being welcomed and introduced. Congratulations to the Year Two Class who won the dance off competition (and to their parents for getting them across the line!). These lucky students will now enjoy a pizza party generously donated by Earth 'n Sea.

Thank you to the many, many parents who planned, organised, set up, cooked, danced and cleaned up. A special thanks to Michael and Bridie for the hay bales, Dani and Jake for the food set up and corn, Netti for the fabulous prizes, Bun Coffee, Alice, Lilly, Ella, Ian, Chris and the Mason family for clean up!

Visiting High Schools
This Wednesday, Stage 3 students welcome Mr Michael Vella, Principal of Xavier Catholic College to our Stage Time. Mr Vella will provide Year 6 students with Information packs, speak about school life at Xavier and answer students' questions about the transition to high school. Last week we welcomed Mr Stuart Galley and Year 7 students Georgia Schaefer and Grace Eady from Byron High School.

Next Thursday, Year 6 students will work with Year 10 students from Trinity Catholic College as part of their Leadership Retreat Day while Year 5 students visit Trinity for the day. The following Wednesday Mr Chris Comerford will bring Year 7 students from Woodlawn to speak with Stage 3 students and answer questions about Woodlawn.

These opportunities really help St Finbar's students to understand what each high school offers but more importantly enable them to feel more comfortable about the transition to Year 7. Our students' questions last week were clever and generally answered personal interests and needs. I thank the principals, coordinators and students from each school for the time they give us for this important process and congratulate our students on their attention and courageous questioning. Please note up coming open nights.

Student Learning Growth
This week I am meeting with the teaching teams from each stage to discuss the units of work and learning targets that have been planned in each subject this term and to look at the growth in learning for each of their students. As Learning Folders come home every fortnight you are encouraged to celebrate the growth in your child’s English and Maths learning targets. Please see the Learning article over the page for further detail.

Tomorrow, I will be joined by two Year 6 leaders at the blessing and Opening of St Ambrose Catholic School at Pottsville. After many years of planning the school opened its doors in January and joins our North Coast cluster. Please keep principal, Mr Brian Laybutt and the school staff and families in your prayers at this exciting time.

With best wishes,

John Wilson
Principal