Dear Parents and community members,

Thank you for your presence at the Parent Information evening last week. Naturally, it is not possible for everyone who wants to attend to be there on the night. Up ahead in this school term there will be another opportunity for parents to participate in a school event during Catholic Schools Week.

By way of a ‘take-away’ from Wednesday evening, I present the following. An area St Finbarr’s aims to provide students with are learning experiences which are purposeful and rewarding for each student. Embedded in contemporary learning processes is a commitment by teachers to ‘learning competencies’ to assist lifelong learning. There are many concepts used in modern education to describe the focus and skills required of students. The list of competence continues to grow and includes competencies in the academic, interpersonal and intrapersonal domains.

The Six Cs as identified through the educational research of Michael Fullan are Character, Citizenship, Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity. Developing students in learning the content of Key Learning Areas is the mainframe of daily classroom lessons. In designing lessons, teachers consider the learning dispositions of their students. Lessons utilise the Six Cs by the way the class discuss, research, present and reflect on their learning. It is all about supporting young learners to learn. By creating moments and routines that personalise teachers are proactive and supportive to help their class draw on a variety of values, such as perseverance when problem-solving. The development of citizens who are life-long learners helps students in our care to be practicing skills that build knowledge and create occasions for students to sense an ownership of learning.

Behaviour is learnt so new behaviours get taught as the child is ready for the next step. If this is the case, students can be found somewhere along a developmental journey for the entire learner profile.

As adults, we too can enquire: “What do you want us to do for you?” Asked in humility, it is a question that can open doors, tear down walls, and build up schools. What I have found is that when a ‘Christ centred mindset’ shows up at school with a message that says, “We are here to serve the needs which are most important to you,” it sets the stage for amazing things to happen. Doors open and opportunities to help multiply. The school environment improves. Community grows. What we do know and share is that children matter—and we have as a community a sincere desire to support each other in educating our young ones. And that is more than enough.

In talking with parents of our students, I want to thank each of you for the reminders that are essential to the needs of life that are growth. We, as adults, realise our need to be the ‘lighthouse’ for our children and we must continually be ‘Student’ too so that we can grow and learn. Growth does indeed cause us to stretch and become better. To teach someone else, we must first be the ‘Student’. I am so grateful that I am discovering our community is more like a river flowing than a storage reservoir.

Any situation or environment where we can intellectually or emotionally grow, we are ‘Student’. The experience is richer if we deliberately enter that situation with an awareness of this and embrace it.

“Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy.” Pope Francis

With my best regards,

Michael Cowley

Principal

Loving, growing, learning for life

This week’s value: We Value You
Thank you
It’s with deep gratitude that we thank all our families who were able to come along to celebrate our Opening School Mass last week. We are delighted to have welcomed our ‘little friends’ in Kindergarten and blessed the work being undertaken by our Year 6 leaders. Our sincere thanks also go to all those who helped celebrate the occasion by providing morning tea afterwards.

Upcoming Liturgies
We would love our families and parishioners to help us celebrate the following upcoming events:
- Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, 1st March - School Hall, 9:30am
- Stage 2 Mass - Friday, 10th March - St. Finbarr’s Church, 9:30am
- Stage 1 Mass - Friday, 24th March - St. Finbarr’s Church, 9:30am

Incitāre
Another upcoming event is Incitāre. Incitāre is a one day retreat experience for Year 6 students from parish primary schools based in regions of the diocese to celebrate their faith at a diocesan level. A small group of students from our school will meet like-minded peers and celebrate with other young people who practice their faith. Students have been invited who have represented our school in discipleship ministries at St. Finbarr’s.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES FOR 2017
RECONCILIATION
First Reconciliation Parent Information Evening, Wednesday 15th February, 6.30pm St Finbarr’s Church.
Celebration of First Reconciliation, Term One, 28th & 29th March, 6-7pm, St Finbarr’s Church.
CONFIRMATION
Confirmation Parent Information Evening, Term Two, 3rd May 6.30pm St Finbarr’s Church.
Sacrament of Confirmation Tuesday, 30th May, 6pm St Finbarr’s Church.
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
Parent Information Evening, Term Three, 26th July, 6.30pm St Finbarr’s Church.
First Holy Communion, Saturday 6pm Mass, 2nd September, St Finbarr’s Church, Byron Bay.

PARENTS ARE REQUESTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE AT INFORMATION EVENINGS IF YOU WISH YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME.

RECONCILIATION MEETING - THIS WEEK WEDNESDAY 15th, Feb. 6.30pm St Finbarr’s Church. At this meeting you will be invited to enrol your child in the Reconciliation programme and receive information about the importance of this Sacrament, its background, and the celebration of this sacrament for your child this year. This meeting is for parents and children are not required to attend.

ALTAR SERVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th Feb</td>
<td>Miles Horner, Sunney Horner, Oliver Kearey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th Feb</td>
<td>Olivia Hosie, Anastacia Bleakley, Julian Bleakley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sheryl Hurley  
Leader of Evangelisation

Kate Jones  
Leader of Catechesis
LEARNING IN ACTION

Welcome back to 2017 for a wonderful first Term of learning. The newsletter is a wonderful opportunity for me to share and celebrate the wonderful learning that is happening throughout our school family from K-6.

Last week we welcomed our Mini Fins’s to St Finbarr’s where they engaged in play based learning centred on talking and listening, learning about reading, writing and counting.

In Kindergarten we are learning about repeating patterns using concrete materials in Mathematics.

In Stage One it has been wonderful to witness the students immersing themselves in reading, either to themselves, to a learning partner or with their teacher.
Learning Continued

Whilst in Stage 2 I saw lots of fabulous writing that focused on using language that hooked the reader especially in their History Unit of work about Australia.

In Stage 3 I witnessed some great problem solving happening in Mathematics. The students were solving problems and justifying their answers to their learning partners. They then moved on to creating number problems for their peers to solve.

Thank you to all of our wonderful teachers for creating such an engaging learning environment for our students. The students are always so proud to celebrate their learning achievements.

Warm regards,
Lisa Conte
Leader of Pedagogy

Sports News

Polding Summer Sports Trials

Congratulations to Dylan, Angus and Oscar who travelled to Newcastle to participate in the Polding Summer Sports Trials for their respective sports. It was an extremely hot day and the boys displayed their usual sportsmanship and determination, they are wonderful representatives of our school. A big thank you to their parents for making the effort to get them there.

Zone Swimming Carnival- Friday 17th February, Murwillumbah.

A reminder that all zone swimming notes and money is due in tomorrow, Wednesday 15th Feb. We wish our team the very best of luck in all of their events. The bus will be leaving school at 7.45 am.

Regards
Lisa Clark- Sports Coordinator
St Finbarr’s Catholic Primary School aims to develop the whole child and ensuring their well-being is strengthened within the curriculum and other Key Learning Areas. Last year our teachers drafted values based wellbeing program that aims to make connections with students’ Religious Education and PDHPE units of work.

Part of this wellbeing program involves our school psychologist Shannan Goodwin. This year, Shannan will be engaged in providing ‘in class’ programs alongside teachers that are aimed at developing:

- a common language across the school
- emotional intelligence and resilience
- focussed groups for anxiety and social challenges
- school specific therapy.

The best way to support your child is to communicate with your child’s teacher. Teachers need to receive notification when should students present any of the following behaviour patterns:

- school refusal
- anxiety in respect to school
- anger outbursts in the school environment
- social isolation
- social difficulties

Cool Kid Program

Cool kids is an anxiety specific group that the school has successfully run for the past two years. Being the parent of an anxious child is not an easy task. There is extra demands placed on the family in terms of time, emotion and communication and quite often those outside the immediate family circle do not see the distress being experienced by the child or the family.

Anxiety is a common problem. The cool kids program is an integrated skills training course that helps the child and their family to manage anxiety. The course is run over ten weeks for 30-40 minutes a week, in a group of 5-10 children. The children work in the group on a provided workbook, at the same time a parent workbook is being worked on in the home. This program incurs a cost of $30.

During this program parents are involved as a coach:

- helping your child to plan and implement new skills
- exploring different ways to interact with your child's anxious behaviours, and

Research evidences that for children involvement of parents in treatment of anxiety disorders leads to much better outcomes.

If you would like your child to benefit from this program, please return the slip below.

Please understand that we tailor groups based on age and gender, so your child will be placed in a group, when an appropriate group is available.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Cool kids registration

Child’s name:
Class:
Parents name:
Parents email:
Parents phone number:
Welcome to School Banking 2017

The Commonwealth School banking program encourages students to develop strong saving habits and learn valuable money skills. This year's theme is "Future Savers". There are 8 new reward items and a chance to win the Future Savers Grand prize.

Rewards include: Cyber Handball, Colour change markers, 3D Chalk, Tablet case, Smiley Emoji keyring, Volt handball, Pencil & Tech case and Epic earphones. Students choose from 2 rewards each term when they make 10 deposits.

The Grand Prize is a five day family trip to Tokyo Disneyland with flights, Disney passes, spending money and accommodation. Students who make 15 or more deposits by the end of term 3 will automatically go in the draw.

Parents can open a "Youth Savers" account for their child online (commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) or by visiting a Commonwealth Bank branch with ID for themselves and their child.

School banking day is Wednesdays and students will receive a school banking parent information pack soon with reward/prize details and a Savings tracker to record their deposits.

So join now and make savings fun!

Student Awards
Congratulations to the following St Finbarr's students whose achievements will be recognised at our next school assembly this Friday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Learning Award</th>
<th>Value Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Bess.O'B</td>
<td>Ruby.M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1B Miss Blower</td>
<td>Ben.B</td>
<td>Daisy.N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1N Miss Ninness</td>
<td>Liliana.W</td>
<td>Zara.S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2P Mrs Piccoli</td>
<td>Coco.L</td>
<td>Evie.C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2BC Mrs Boggis/Mrs L Clark</td>
<td>Tribly.B</td>
<td>Alex. HB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2M Mrs McEvilly Butler</td>
<td>Lily. B</td>
<td>Julian. B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2H Mr Houghton</td>
<td>Sadie.M</td>
<td>Indigo.G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3N Mrs Cronan</td>
<td>Sam.T</td>
<td>Jade.H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3J Mrs Jones</td>
<td>Joshua.C</td>
<td>Ella.B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3C Mrs Clark</td>
<td>Erin.A</td>
<td>Aslan.A</td>
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Book club has arrived!

This year, we are offering Scholastic Book club to all families at St Finbarr's. We are inviting our families to order Book club using Scholastic's LOOP site and / or app (available on both the apple store and Android market).

Our first order will be placed on the 17th of February. Please note, we are not offering cash sales. You can only order online using the LOOP site.
The Xavier Catholic College 2017 Instrumental Music Program

Xavier Catholic College invites students to participate in the College instrumental program. The guidelines for this program are outlined below.

- Bringing expert instrumental tuition to students at Xavier Catholic College, St Francis Xavier, Holy Family and St Finbarr’s Catholic Primary Schools.
- Some instruments available for hire to students entering the program for $10.00 per term.
- School based ensembles already rehearsing and waiting for you to join in!
- Highly qualified, experienced and specialised tutors.
- Small group lessons or individual private lessons.
- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Violin, Viola, Cello, Drum Kit and Percussion, Voice (singing) and Recorder lessons are available through the program.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Group Lessons</td>
<td>$17.50 per lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Tuition</td>
<td>$35.00 per lesson</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Private lessons)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Instrument Hire/</td>
<td>$10.00 per term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance Fee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ensemble Rehearsal</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Performances</td>
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Enrolling now
– see your school office for an application form.
"Let it go"
Autumn Retreat Day

As the external environment changes during the change of season, your internal environment can experience the same type of changes: dry leaves, dry skin, crackly leaves, crackly joints, shorter days, shorter attention span. The qualities of Autumn can unbalance us and lead to sickness in winter. Want to stay ahead of the game and enter winter grounded, focused and well??

By stepping out of your normal routine you can hit pause, reflect and gain clarity. Learn simple routines to stay well in the cooler months.

Location: Coorabell Hall - Byron Hinterland
Saturday March 4 - 9am to 4pm

1 x Akhanda Flow Yoga Class
1 x Energy Medicine Session to let go of negative mental patterning
Vegetarian Wholefoods class + Morning tea, Lunch & beverages
Ayurvedic lifestyle tips for Autumn/Winter & the art of self massage
1 x Restorative Yoga Session + Yoga Nidra
Wholesome intention setting
Investment: $175

To learn more about your facilitators and the practice of Akhanda Yoga, as well as to view testimonials visit www.jalayoga.com.au/workshops
Or call Emma Waters 0406 090 791

Release, Relax, Restore
Prioritise your health for 2017.
Canteen Helpers Needed

Helpers needed and warmly invited to join the Canteen Roster.

If interested, please contact Cyra 0419 968 611 or the School office to be added to the Roster.

Alternatively, just turn up any Tuesday or Friday morning and lend a hand!

BYRON BAY JUNIOR BASKETBALL SUMMER 2017 - TERM 1

AUSSIE HOOPS (5-8yr olds) Thursdays 3.30-4.15pm @ Byron Public School starts 9/02/17
MINIBALL (8-12yr olds) Tuesdays 4-5pm @ Cavanbah Sports Centre starts 7/02/17

For more information www.byronbasketball.com or ph; 66872246 a/hrs
e-mail, info@byronbasketball.com

Mallumbimby Hockey Club

2017 sign-up time!

Known as 'The Friendly Club', we are seeking and enthusiastically welcoming all old & new members – Men & Women, Junior & Senior – right now!

We are especially looking for junior girls and boys for U7, U9, U11, U12, U13, U14 and U16's.

Contact for more 2017 info Kath on 0417 427 963 or Email: yoursinhockey@hotmail.com

Mallumbimby Hockey Club is a 'multi Shire' club whose members hail from as far north as Gold Coast City Shire and as far south as Bellina Shire, with Murwillumbah as our hockey centre.

We look forward to playing hockey with you in 2017!

BYRON BAY JUNIOR AFL CLUB

Sign on for Byron Bay Junior AFL

Saturday the 18th of February from 12:30-2:30pm at the Sun Bistro and Wednesday the 1st of March from 4:30-6:00pm at Cavanbah Centre.

Or you can register online at www.byronbayjunior afl.com