Dear Parents and community members,

Catholic Schools Week, CSW
Catholic Schools work continuously towards the inclusiveness of each child. The word catholic has inclusivity in its make up. All are welcome, all may participate, each may sense a security in belonging. Our Mass with Children at last Saturday’s Vigil Mass was a reflective celebration and a fitting way to close CSW. Our liturgical thanks to God as participants of the school community was a real and tangible form of worship. Teachers at St Finbarr’s model a terrific sense of service to the students each day, and at Mass that night it was apparent.

To all the parents, grandparents and carers who were able to find the time to enjoy lunch on campus or attend the sandcastle building or visit a classroom last week. We valued your presence, thank you.

Feedback
Over this fortnight there is a particular opportunity for parent feedback to the school. Each year the Lismore Catholic Schools Office invites students, parents and staff to complete this survey. It endeavours to gather information that will assist the improvement cycle of the school in providing a quality Catholic education.

Representation of the parent perspective is gained by a random selection of families to complete the survey. It remains voluntary but as it is an insightful and useful strategy at the school level. Should you receive a survey, please consider completing it as this can help in recognition of what to maintain as the school’s strengths for our local community as well as identifying what is valued but requires further development.

Staffing Announcements
Next week Mrs Cotes commences her maternity leave for the remainder of the year. We will be placing you and your family in our prayers Chantelle.

After being advertised Mrs Cote's position was completed. Mrs Felicity Leeson has accepted the position. We welcome Felicity who has taught in Catholic Schools for ten years.

Mrs Tish Whittingham, the Kindergarten teacher, has announced she and her husband are expecting a baby later this year. Congratulations Tish and Nic on your lovely news of joy.

School medical updates
Thank you to the parents who recently updated changes to medical conditions for children. It is, naturally, important information that school records are current and accurate.

With my best regards,

Michael Cowley
Principal
Loving, growing, learning for life

This week’s value:
Love Like Jesus Did
(Forgiveness, Compassion, Service, Humility)

Service: is giving to others and wanting to make a difference to their lives.

Signs of success
- Looking for opportunities to help others.
- Doing your part to care for the Earth.
- Offering help and not just waiting to be asked when something needs to be done.
Thank You
A very big thank you to our wonderful families who joined us for our Catholic Schools Week celebration including our family picnic day, the Stage 2 liturgy and our family Mass on Saturday night.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Just a reminder that students celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation may attend on Tuesday 28th March or Wednesday 29th March any time between 6 and 7pm at St. Finbarr’s Church.

Upcoming Liturgies
All parents and friends are invited to attend the Stage 1 Mass on Friday, 24th March at 9:30am at the Church.

Mini Vinnies Commissioning
All parents, grandparents and friends are invited to attend the commissioning of our Mini Vinnies students at our school assembly this Friday at 2:30pm. We are very grateful for the work of our students so far in donating books and computers for our Kenyan school and designing and leading our Project Compassion fundraiser.

ALTAR SERVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Chloe Crawford, Sarah Crawford, Holly Crawford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Miles Horner, Sunny Horner, Oliver Kearey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sheryl Hurley & Kate Jones
Leader of Evangelisation
Leader of Catechesis

**Important Dates**

**March 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Year 6 Leadership Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 5 Excursion to Trinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>DIO Winter sports trials Stg 2 &amp; 3— Grafton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30-3:00pm—School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day—Wear green for project compassion gold coin donation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>9:30-10:30am—Stg 1 Mass at St Finbarr’s Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 &amp; 29</td>
<td>6:00-7:00pm First Reconciliation celebration St Finbarr’s Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>1:30-3:00pm John Burland concert in the school hall, all welcome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**April 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>School Holy Week Celebrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Students Last Day Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Cross Country Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pupil free day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Students First Day Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>ANZAC day March 10:15am Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Book Club Due 23/03/17**

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). The next issue is due 23/3/17.

Please note, we are not offering cash sales. You can only order online using the LOOP site.

Please contact Titian if you have any questions regarding Scholastic Bookclub or LOOP.
Catholic Schools Week
Thank you to the students and parents who joined us for our Open Classrooms last week as part of our Catholic Schools Week celebrations for 2017. It was also wonderful to have students showcase their beautiful singing voices each morning – thank you teachers and students for leading us in song each morning, and again, thank you parents for joining us.

Leadership Day
This week we are hosting the Year 6 Leadership Day where our Year 6 students will gather in the hall and participate in leadership and team building activities. It is also a great opportunity for students to reflect on their role as leaders so far; highlight the challenges, and celebrate the successes they have experienced. The Year 6 leaders are encouraged to actively participate in their leadership role at St Finbarr’s and within these roles the students work together as a team and develop the necessary skills in order to work productively and positively; getting along, organisation, persistence and motivation. I look forward to sharing some photos with you on our school’s Facebook account on Thursday.

ANZAC Day
ANZAC Day is fast approaching and I am pleased to advise that our preparations for the day are well under way. The ANZAC Day parade will be held this year on Tuesday 25th April and St Finbarr’s has once again been invited to attend this community event, and asked to assemble out the front of the Beach Hotel at 10.15am in full school uniform. Parents are welcome to walk with us, or meet us at the Memorial Gates (Rec Grounds). There will be a short ceremony, which will include St Finbarr’s students laying a wreath on our behalf, and all students are welcome to represent the school at this community event.
As always there will be teachers there to assist in organising the parade – so look out for the staff and the St Finbarr’s school sign.

School Support
For the remainder of the term Shannan Goodwin, our school psychologist, will be working in classes to support teachers and students within their learning environments. This is quite different from her previous role in the school, however we are confident that more students will benefit from her classroom presence and are looking forward to her getting to know more of the students in the Finnie’s Family.

Carolyn Wade,
Assistant Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Learning Award</th>
<th>Value Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Whittingham</td>
<td>Oscar. S</td>
<td>Madeleine.H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1B Miss Blower</td>
<td>Ada. J</td>
<td>Pepper. D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1N Miss Ninness</td>
<td>Leila. M</td>
<td>Wilf. C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2P Mrs Piccoli</td>
<td>Oliver. G</td>
<td>Natasha. B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2BC Mrs Boggis/Mrs L Clark</td>
<td>Zara. M</td>
<td>Oliver. K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2M Mrs McEvilly Butler</td>
<td>Max. S</td>
<td>Stella. F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2H Mr Houghton</td>
<td>Jonah. T</td>
<td>Lily. M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3N Mrs Cronan</td>
<td>Jack. B</td>
<td>Sara. C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3J Mrs Jones</td>
<td>Sophia. G</td>
<td>Paloma. J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3C Mrs Clark</td>
<td>Lily. D</td>
<td>Beau. L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

SCHOOL FEES
Term 1 Fees are due by 15th March
Thank you to all those who have already finalised accounts.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or forwarded 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 number from statement.

Please contact Alison Mason immediately, amason@lism.catholic.edu.au, if you are experiencing financial difficulty.
Being week 8, the honeymoon of school starting back can start to wane, routines are set and challenges can begin to arise in the school setting. We understand as a school the impact school refusal has on families.

School refusal refers to severe emotional upset experienced by a child at the prospect of attending school that can result in significant school absence. School refusal is different from truancy in that the child is staying at home with the knowledge of the family and despite their best efforts to enforce attendance.

Our staff recognise that early intervention with school refusal is the most effective way to overcome the challenge. School refusal is a more persistent problem that might be characterised by some of the following signs:
- tearfulness before school or repeated pleas to stay at home
- tantrums, clinginess, dawdling or running away before school
- frequent complaints of illness before or during school, such as stomach aches, headaches, dizziness or fatigue
- difficulty attending school after weekends, holidays, school camps or sports days
- long, unexplained absences from school
- periodic absences or missed classes for which no explanation is given
- frequent lateness to school
- long periods spent in the sick bay.

The following factors might be involved in school refusal:
- anxiety about social situations or activities that involve a performance or evaluation, such as sports days, speaking in front of the class or tests
- anxiety around being separated from significant parents or carers
- academic problems or learning difficulties
- peer issues, such as social isolation, bullying or conflict with friends
- difficulty or conflict with teachers
- traumatic events, such as family illness, grief or parental separation/divorce
- difficulties with transition, such as moving to a new school, returning to school after a long absence due to illness or entering/exiting primary school
- rewards inherent to staying at home, such as spending time with a parent, watching TV or playing video games.

The staff at St Finbarr’s are here to help should you be experiencing school refusal. We can;
- Work with families to understand why the child might be refusing school.
- Work with professionals within the broader community to support the child using a united approach.
- Maintain close contact with families, even during extended periods of non-attendance.
- Support families to implement a morning routine that conveys expectations of school attendance. Consider the support the child might require upon arrival at school. This might include meeting with a friend at a specific place and time, using a quiet space to settle before school starts or engaging in an activity or responsibility such as a monitor role.
- Provide recognition and positive feedback for any efforts towards school attendance.
- Respond to any school-based needs, such as academic support, dealing with bullying or support with social relationships.

Please inform your child’s teacher if you are experiencing school refusal, and we can work together to intervene in a positive and proactive way.
Learning

ICAS
The University of New South Wales is offering our students the opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) for students in Years 2-12. Students can participate in Digital Technologies, Science, Maths, English, Spelling and Writing. Students wishing to participate in the ICAS assessments from Years 2-6 are invited to register and pay prior to 27th March 2017 (Registration forms and dates are attached). All participants will receive a detailed summary of results and an award at Assembly. Practice assessments are available online at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/practice-online. For further information please go to www.eaa.unsw.edu.au (the ICAS parent letter and registration form are included on the following pages).

LEARNING CELEBRATIONS
Stage 2 Science
Last week students in Stage 2H and 2M Science tested their scientific hypothesis of “The more energy an atom has the more it moves.” As you can tell the students were incredibly engaged in these real life hands on experiences.

Year 1
In Year 1 Miss B and her class have been focussing on learning their friends of 10 with automaticity in Mathematics. Who is number 3’s best friend? It is Number 7! They played games, used concrete materials and maths apps on the I-pads when working independently, with partners and in small groups. It was lots of fun!

Warm regards,
Lisa Conte
Leader of Pedagogy
2017 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Dear Parents,

The University of New South Wales is offering your child an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

ICAS assessments have taken place annually in schools for over thirty years and in twenty countries. Educational Assessment Australia (EAA), who design and deliver the assessments, is the not-for-profit arm of the University of New South Wales.

ICAS:
- is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning for students in Years 2–12;
- assessments are available in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing
- gathers performance information through a 30–60 minute supervised in-school test
- provides a continuous, independent and comprehensive record of a student’s performance, and maps their development over the full period of primary and secondary schooling
- enables the progress of each student to be mapped in each skill against their previous performance, demonstrating personal improvement no matter the starting point
- uses fellow students’ results as a reference point; results are mapped against all students sitting at the same year level in Australia
- provides an excellent preparation for national testing
- enables students at all levels of ability to participate; ICAS contains questions designed to specifically explore the abilities of students of all standards – this includes those of both lower and higher levels of achievement
- medals are awarded to the top students per state in each subject and year level (when sufficiently meritorious and the test was set on the official sitting date)
- achievement certificates are awarded to all students at a range of levels:
  1. High Distinction to the top 1% of students
  2. Distinction to the next 10% of students
  3. Credit to the next 25% of students
  4. Merit to the next 10% of students
  5. Participation to all other students
- results are available to parents and students online; these online reports and analyses remain available indefinitely.
- ICAS reports indicate which questions were answered correctly, compare student performance to that of the other students tested and are highly suitable for inclusion in a student’s portfolio for future tertiary entrance or job opportunities
- entries are administered through the school, so teachers can also access the information

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form overleaf and return it, with your entry fees, to your school by Monday 27th March 2017.

For more information about ICAS go to www.eaa.unsw.edu.au, contact Customer Service on (02) 8344 1010 or send an email to info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

Your child can also prepare for ICAS using Practice Online. Practice Online tests are available for English, Mathematics and Science. Find out more about Practice Online at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/practice-online.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sofia Kesidou
Group Executive
Educational Assessment Australia

Mr Michael Cowley
Principal
St Finbarr’s Catholic Primary School

Educational Assessment Australia
Educational Assessment Australia PO Box 6020 Alexandria NSW 1435 Australia
T: +61 2 8344 1010 F: +61 2 8344 1030 E: info@eaa.unsw.edu.au W: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au
Educational Assessment Australia is an education group of UNSW Global Pty Limited, a not-for-profit provider of education, training and advisory services and a wholly owned enterprise of the University of New South Wales. UNSW Global Pty Limited ABN 62 086 418 552
2017 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Registration Form Years 2-6

Please return this form to your child’s school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Week/Term</th>
<th>ICAS Assessment Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Week 5, Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 23rd May 2017</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Week 6, Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 30th May 2017</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Week 8, Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 13th June 2017</td>
<td>$19.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Week 8, Term 2</td>
<td>Thursday 15th June 2017</td>
<td>$13.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Week 3, Term 3</td>
<td>Tuesday 1st August 2017</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Week 5, Term 3</td>
<td>Tuesday 15th August 2017</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Fee: $39.80

Please return this form with your payment by Monday 27th March 2017.

Child’s Name: ______________________  AMOUNT: $ __________

Method of Payment

☐ Cash  ☐ Cheque  ☐ Bankcard  ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard

Credit Card Number: ________________________________  Expiry Date: __________

Card Holder Name Signature: ________________________________

Name of Parent/Guardian  Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian
Catholic Schools Week Parent Picnic
Forum News

**Sports News**

**Diocesan Swimming Carnival** - Friday 3rd March, Lismore.

Congratulations to our boys who competed at the Diocesan Swimming Trials. Well done to the following students who have progressed to the next level.

Sam- 1st (12 yrs Freestyle)
Jake- 3rd (11yrs 50m Breaststroke)
Jonah, Sam, Jake, Will- 1st (Senior Boys Relay)

Great job boys!

**Diocesan Winter Trials** - Friday 17th March, Grafton.

Good luck to Matt (Rugby Union), Amy (Soccer), Emma (Soccer) and Lily (Netball) who will be participating in the Winter Sports Trials for their respective sports this Friday.

Regards
Lisa Clark- Sports Coordinator

**Forum News**

**Forum gets off to a great start in 2017**

Following a sweltering summer the Forum and school have jointly funded the installation of air conditions in the remaining six classrooms. It was decided at the February meeting that the comfort of children and teachers must be our highest spending priority. A contract has been awarded so in a few weeks time you may notice installers at the school.

**New members and general meeting**

Ange Murray and Denise Woolsey were welcomed as new Forum members at the last meeting. Denise has been a past member and returns with renewed energy. The Forum welcomes parents to the next general meeting. Come along at 6.30 pm on Monday 15 May, even if you can only stay for a short while, you're most welcome.

**Finnie’s Fair**

The fair turned a profit of around $19K. This was similar to last year and allowed the Forum to contribute to the air conditioning and allocate funds towards the all weather playing field. The play area will be located adjacent to the northern fence line. The Forum has been saving for over a year for this project and if the effort put into last years fair by parents is matched this year, the playing field will soon be a reality.

**Did you notice this bird?**

It’s a bush stone curlew which is a vulnerable species who visited the school in February. The occurrence of species like the curlew highlights the biodiversity of the area in which St Finbarr’s is located. Last year a koala was sighted in trees near the school hall.

Peter Parker
Chair
Wednesday 3rd May: College Open Night at 6.30 pm
Staff and students at St John’s College warmly invite any family who is considering enrolment at the College to attend the College Open Night. This is an opportunity to meet the staff and students and view the College facilities.

Friday 12th May: Closing date for Years 7 & 11 Applications

Sunday 21st May: Interviews 9.00 am - 6.00 pm
(Appointments are made on Open Night)

For further enquiries phone Mrs Debbie Melino on 6626 2606
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!

---

Healthy Harold’s Family Fun Day

Saturday
18th March
9am - 3pm
Byron Bay Public School

Special guests
Interactive sessions in our vans and classrooms
Face Painting
Sports Clinics
Educational Activities
Food Stalls
Entertainment
Native Animal Show
Rides and Jumping Castle
Plant Giveaways
Colouring competition

Come and say “Hi” to Healthy Harold and some of his friends

For more information call 0403 070 119 or email: lifeeducation.northern.nsw@gmail.com