In the coming months in preparation for the Quilpie Centenary celebrations, St Finbarr’s will be creating a float showcasing our school and its history.

If you have any memorabilia of the school or something reflecting the spirit of the school we would love to display it on our float. Some ideas are:

- School uniforms
- Photos (we can copy these)
- Wooden desks, slates, etc

Please help us to make the St Finbarr’s float the best we can!

**ST FINBARR'S PARISH SCHOOL**

Account details are:

settled by 15th February. If you have not, we would appreciate if your account could be settled by those of you who have settled your accounts. If you School Fees were sent home with the last newsletter. Thank you for your patience.

In addition if your child is late please remind him/her to call the school gate in the afternoon. However if we do not hear from you before the end of term, your child will be marked as present.

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**REMINDERS**

TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL AND LATE ARRIVALS

Students in year P-2 are to be accompanied by a parent to and from school unless they walk or ride to school with an older, responsible sibling (at parents discretion). All other students may walk/ride independently. Please remind your child of road rules and ensure their helmets are fitting well. The school is not responsible for the safety of your children until they enter the school gate in the morning and once they leave the school gate in the afternoon. However if we see any unsafe behaviour outside of school we will address this with students and parents as needed. In addition if your child is late please remind him/her to call at the school office so they can be marked as present.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

After School Craft Activities

After School Craft Activities for 2017 have commenced. Craft Activities are for school aged children.

Join us every Monday afternoon from 3.30pm—4.30pm at the Quilpie Shire Library. Come along and have a great time.

For further information please contact Michelle Donohue (07) 4656 0500

**SNACK ATTACK**

Michelle will be providing fruit for snack attack in her role as the Council Health Promotions Officer. Fruit will be provided to all students in the school at 10 am each Monday throughout Term 1.

Term 1 School Fees

School Fees were sent home with the last newsletter. Thank you to those of you who have settled your accounts. If you have not, we would appreciate if your account could be settled by 15th February.

Account details are:

St Finbarr’s Parish School  BSB 084 829
Ac No 50 886 7529

Thank you!

**ST FINBARR’S PARISH SCHOOL**

Jabiru Street, P.O. Box 34 Quilpie, QLD. 4480

Phone: (07) 46561412—Fax: (07) 4656 1306

Email: quilpie@twb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Genny McNair

Date: 8th February 2017

Term Dates for 2017

Term 1: 23 January—31 March

Term 2: 18 April—23 June

Term 3: 5 July—15 September

Term 4: 3 October—30 November

Reminder

A friendly reminder that school does not open until 8.30am and supervision of students does not commence until this time. As a matter of safety, children should not arrive at school prior to 8.30am as they will not be supervised.

Thursday 23rd February 2017

Parent Teacher Information Night.

Join us at the school on Thursday 23rd Feb at 6.00pm for a BBQ dinner. This will be followed by a brief Parents and Friends AGM and then the Parent Teacher Information Night.

**NEWSLETTER CHECKLIST**

- Tuckshop Envelope
- Book Club
- Term 1 Parent Calendar
- Expressions of interest board and P&F executive
- Austswim/first aid Course
- Farm Safety Calendar 2017

Important dates

- 10th February District Swimming Carnival
- 23rd February Parent Information Night & BBQ
- 23rd February P&F AGM
- 26th February Beginning of Year School Mass
- 1st March Ash Wednesday
- 16th March Feast of St Joseph and St Patrick Assembly
- 13th Quilting workshops with Jan Phillips
- 31st March Pupil Free Day
- 28th April Quilpie Shire Public Holiday

Dear Parents and Friends

It was wonderful to see so many parents and family attend the Welcome and Badge Giving Assembly. All of our new students, staff and families were formally welcomed to our school community. Miss Long and Mrs Moran introduced their classes and the school leaders and house captains were presented with their badges. All students in years 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to be a leader of our school. As Millie indicated in her speech, all of our students look forward to the day they can wear a leadership badge and represent the school. The School Leaders for 2017 are:

- Millie – Pegler House Captain
- Finn – McManus House Captain
- Marcus – Sommerfield House Captain
- Mini Vinnies President - Cody

Our House Captains made their own pledges which were to be supportive and encouraging of their team mates. Cody explained the role of the Mini Vinnies group and is looking forward to coordinating activities this year.

Finn and Marcus will be competing at the District Swimming Carnival in Charleville this Friday. Finn will be competing in all events and Marcus in 50m freestyle, backstroke and breast stroke. We hope they have a successful and enjoyable day.

A Parent Information Evening will be held on Thursday 23rd February. During this evening classroom teachers will outline their programs, activities and expectations for the children and their classes. I will share some of the events and activities coming up this year and run through some of the Student Protection and OHS requirements. A great deal of essential information will be shared and a free BBQ dinner is on offer so please come along at 6.00pm.

The P&F AGM will also be held on Thursday 23rd February at 6.30 pm. Nomination forms have been enclosed for P&F executive positions. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be provided.

To optimise our time in the pool on Fridays, can I please ask that any student from year 1 to year 6 who is able to ride their bike, bring their bike to school on Friday morning. We do appreciate that it is hot at the moment but this is a much better option than walking.

Next week I will be in Toowoomba for the first Principal’s meeting for the year. These are held once each term. In my roles as Learning Support Teacher, Curriculum Coordinator and APRE – Curriculum I might also have to attend meetings in Toowoomba but these absences I will limit as much as possible. As Sr Marg will still be away, Miss Long will be deputiser for the week and will keep me informed of the happenings of the school.

Friday 28th April is a gazetted holiday for the Quilpie shire for the Quilpie Centenary. This holiday will be in lieu of the Melbourne Cup holiday in November. The school will be creating a float for the parade to be held on the Centenary weekend. If you have any photos or memorabilia from the school, including old school uniforms or any old school items including wooden desks, slates, etc. and are happy for us to borrow them it would be appreciated. These can be left at the school before the end of term.

Warm regards
Good luck Finn & Marcus!

Congratulations to Finn and Marcus for qualifying for the District Carnival this Friday in Charleville. Finn will be competing in all events and Marcus will be competing in the 50m Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke. We wish them and Lewis and Lexi the best of luck and look forward to hearing how they go.

Snack Attack

Thank you to Michelle who will be providing Snack Attack to the students every Monday for Term 1. They are certainly enjoying the delicious fresh fruit each Monday.

Sr. Marg’s News

Congratulations to St Finbarr’s School Community on the wonderful Assembly to begin the school year, welcome a new staff member, new students and families and to bless and present School and Leadership badges to students.

The photos and story of this ceremony recalled in this newsletter remind each of us of the close relationship between family and school. The simple image of a parent pinning on a School/Leadership badge is a silent affirmation of the bond between school and family.

St Finbarr’s School badge is based on the badge worn by students in Schools taught by the Sisters of St Joseph. Each school added name and motto, so each badge has a story to tell.

It is certainly a reminder of the passing of the years to welcome new second generation students to our School family. Welcome Lauren and Izzy and Leah and Delaney.

Congratulations Genny, Staff, Students and Families!!

Sr Margaret

IT News

Last Thursday I started working with the P-2 classroom. We learnt how to turn on a laptop, login and shut the laptop down. This was a fun lesson with all the children listening and following instructions. But at the start of the lesson, when I walked into the classroom with two laptops in hand, I was surprised to be asked “What is that Mrs Haylock”?

P -2 News

Hello and welcome to week three!

In English this term we are working on persuasion. Students have been exploring different advertisements to identify the target audience and how emotive languages are used to persuade and influence the reader. The Prep’s have been working extremely hard with learning to identify and use the Golden sight word ‘a’ and ‘I’ and write and sound the letter ‘s’ and ‘a’.

Last week in Mathematics for year 1 and 2 we were revising place value and exploring the addition and subtraction combinations to 10 using strategies like counting on and partitioning. This week, the year 1 and 2’s are recognising and describing one-half of shapes and collections with classifying two-dimensional shapes using obvious features. The Prep’s last week were participating in learning activities on the number 2 and this week are now focusing on the number 3.

This term our History unit is ‘Who am I, Where do I live and who came before me’. This unit is really fun and interesting as it explores family histories, family structures and various family celebrations of comparing the past and present.

We have a class marble jar, which I am sure many of you have heard about! Our aim is to collect 100 marbles by the end of the term to earn a reward of a class party. Students can earn marbles by demonstrating positive behaviours within the classroom and school environment. So far we have collected 21 marbles...great effort P-2!

Have a great week!

Mrs Moran

Welcome and Badge Giving Assembly

We welcome the new school leaders of St Finbarr’s for 2017, Millie, Marcus, Finn and Cody.

Our Preps were also very proud to receive their school badges at the Assembly. Each new student was called up individually and introduced and their parents were invited to join their children and present them with their badges.

It was a great start to the year to see so many families attending the Assembly and we welcome all families back to St Finbarr’s for 2017.

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Students of the Week

Congratulations to our first Students of the Week for 2017. Coincidentally, our teachers chose siblings! Lachlan from the P-2 class received the award for his focus and hard work. Hayden received the award for much the same reason—his smooth transition into the 3-6 class and working quietly and diligently.