**St Finbarr’s Parish School**

**Jabriru Street, P.O. Box 34 Quilpie, Q.L.D. 4480**

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

Email: Quilpie@twb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Genny McNair

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**Dear Parents and Friends**

Welcome to the 2017 school year. I hope all students, staff and their families have had an enjoyable and restful break and are all ready to take on the New Year and all that it has to offer.

I would like to welcome Mrs Moran to our staff. Melissa and Brad have just recently married and have moved to Quilpie with great enthusiasm, even with the heat and humidity of recent weeks. All of our teachers have worked tirelessly during the pupil free days, last week, to make preparations for the new school year. Mrs Haylock and Miss Belinda, [with the assistance of Greg] have made changes in the library to increase usable space and create displays to entice students into this area. Miss Belinda has taken on her new role as Teacher Library Aide with great enthusiasm, and together with Mrs Haylock, we look forward to the library being a vibrant learning area throughout the coming year.

We welcome all of our new families and students, including Ava, Izy, Clay, Delaney and Stuart, in Prep, and late in Year 4, to our school. All of these families have had close associations with the Quilpie community and school already and we look forward to continuing these in years to come. We were saddened to have the Haylock family leave us during the holidays. We wish them every happiness and success in their new ventures.

At St Finbarr’s we aim for excellence in all areas. Every Staff member puts in more than is required of them and they are very committed to student learning and wellbeing. We are proud of the high level of participation and involvement of our parents in our school. We expect high standards of our students with their commitment to learning, their school and each other. We have a lot to be proud of and we would love to see this reflected in students’ presentations throughout the year. Please check the uniform and dress requirements on the school website. The website is being updated regularly and is a great source of information regarding everything about the school.

Thank you to everyone who helped to maintain the school and parish grounds over the holidays including Ben, Kerry, Janell, and the council garden crew. The school and grounds are looking fabulous. We are very fortunate to have helpers such as these in our school. The toilet block has been refurbished over the holidays and are looking great. Miss Janell is so delighted with her new storage area. I’d like to thank Rob and his crew and Al and Jason for their work during the very hot days of January to get this completed.

Swimming will begin this Friday. Further details and permission forms are enclosed. Please return these Friday morning. Students in Year 1-6 are able to ride their bikes to the pool but we are asking that Prep Students wait until Term 4 when they are a little older.

All families and friends are invited to the beginning of year Prayer Service and Badge Giving Assembly. New staff, students and school leaders will be presented with their badges during this assembly. Our second Assembly this term will be the Feast of St Joseph and St Patrick on 16th March.

I look forward to meeting with everyone throughout the coming weeks.

Warm regards

Genny

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**Congratulations to the Australia Day Award Recipients!**

- Citizen of the Year – Philippa Ware
- Community Group Award – William Watts
- Sports and Recreation Award – David Kent
- Outstanding Junior Achievement Award – Ben McKellar
- Outstanding Achievement Award – Quilpie Shire Council Staff
- Certificates of Appreciation: Jess Gilby, Brian Joyce, Lachlan Kent, Gina McConnell & Noel Simmons

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**Term Dates for 2017**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>23 January – 31 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>18 April – 23 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>5 July – 15 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>3 October – 30 November</td>
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**The things they say!**

When Miss Janell tells Clay he has done a good job, Clays standard response has been “Yes, my mother would be very proud of me!”

“Work hard is my middle name!” - Clay

Miss Jennie said to Stuart “How are you Stuart?” Stuart lifted up his shirt and had his shorts pulled up to his chest and said “I’m a farmer!”

Some of the Preppies were asking who Ava was and Stuart says “That’s my girlfriend. She always wants me to play at her house”.

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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.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**After School Craft Activities**

After School Craft Activities for 2017 has 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

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****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.

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**Term 1 School Fees**

We have enclosed the fees for Term 1 with this Newsletter. We would appreciate if these accounts could be settled by 15th February.

Account details are:
St Finbarr’s Parish School 85B 084 829 Ac No 50 886 7529

Thank you!
Have a great week!
Expecting to work with you and your child/children this year!

I am looking forward to having an open communication between the teacher, student and parent. Please feel free to contact me at any time for a question or situation that you would like to discuss. There will be an upcoming parent and teacher information evening during which I will discuss homework, classroom expectations and additional information. I am looking forward to meeting you.

Having open communication between the teacher, student and parent is vital, therefore please feel free to contact me at any time for a question or situation that you would like to discuss. There will be an upcoming parent and teacher information evening during which I will discuss homework, classroom expectations and additional information. I am looking forward to working with you and your child/children this year!

Melissa Moran

We have created different nooks suitable for private reading, computer use, playing board games and colouring in.

Another change this year is that the library is now open during the lunch period for the children to enjoy any of those activities listed above and given the weather on this first week of term, they have certainly been making good use of this cool place to spend their free time.

Borrowing day is every week on a Thursday, so bring along your library bag! If you don’t have a library bag to take home your books, these are available from the school.

Mrs Haylock and Miss Belinda.

P-2 News

Hello and welcome to a new school year!

I hope that everyone has had a fantastic holiday break with their loved ones. I am very thrilled and delighted to be part of the St Finbarr’s community and wider community of Quilpie. Last year, I taught a year 2 class at St Anthony’s in Toowoomba and I am excited to teach and experience a multi-age class.

As this week is only a four day week there is no homework, however it will commence next Monday. This week our class will be getting familiar with our daily routines, daily jobs and classroom expectations. We will also be participating in activities to learn about the history, significance and traditions of Australia Day. I have sent home with students a letter regarding information on Show and Share this term. It is on a rostered timetable, therefore allowing it to be fair for all students.

Having open communication between the teacher, student and parent is vital, therefore please feel free to contact me at any time for a question or situation that you would like to discuss. There will be an upcoming parent and teacher information evening during which I will discuss homework, classroom expectations and additional information. I am looking forward to working with you and your child/children this year!

Have a great week!

Melissa Moran melissa.sherman@twb.catholic.edu.au

Parish News

Welcome to 2017 at St Finbarr’s. Unfortunately I am not able to be there for the beginning of term. I am having surgery on my fingers on Friday. This had been scheduled for the first Friday of the holidays but had to be delayed for 6 weeks because of other problems. This will be followed by a rehabilitation period. At this point, I don’t know when I will be back.

I hold family staff and students in prayer each day and ask you to remember me too.

2017 is a special year for the Quilpie community and St Finbarr’s school will be proud to be involved in the celebrations.

Wishing you all a great start to our year,

Sr. Margaret.

In English we will be working on persuasion. Students will be exploring different emotive languages on how to be persuasive. They will be completing two assessment pieces. One will be a persuasive letter to the council and the other will be an advertisement.

During Mathematics this year we will be extending on all the firm foundations that were laid last year. The basic Maths concepts will be constantly revised and enhanced with students quick thinking skills to remember facts. Students will begin the year investigating using measurements of time.

There are lots more fun learning adventures that will be carried out throughout the semester. Please feel free to come in and have a look at any time in and around the classroom.

If there are any concerns from parents my door is always open.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I hope we have a great year.

Miss Long

We welcome our new P-2 Class teacher Mrs Moran to St Finbarr’s. Melissa has moved out here after teaching in Toowoomba. The students are all excited and there have even been some thumbs up and comments such as “Its going great!” We are sure there will be some amazing things to come from this classroom.