**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.

**Ideas for Building Responsible Kids**

Encourage independence early:

- Packing own lunch and bag,
- Carrying own bag to school
- Walking in to school independently
- Have a checklist of what they need to take to school – especially Friday with Swimming.
- Washing up after dinner – reward on Sunday night.
- Child cooks – Mum and Dad wash up!
- Patience and tolerance now will pay off later!
- Remember - PRAISE! PRAISE! PRAISE!

**FORMS DUE BACK THIS FRIDAY 11TH MARCH**

DELICIOUS PIES AND CAKES READY FOR EASTER

Don’t miss out on our 2016 Homestyle Bake Pie Drive! There is a wide variety of Family Savoury Pies, Family Packs, Easter Treats and other sweets. This menu will make your mouth water.

Save yourself a night of cooking and treat the family to a Farmhouse chicken and vege pie or a Settlements beef and mushroom pie followed by Apple Slice or Choc Jaffa Cheesecake.

Stock up for Easter with some Choc-chip hot cross buns, strawberry and cream hot cross buns and standard hot cross buns.

Forms are to be returned to school by **11TH MARCH** along with cash or cheques made payable to St Finbarr’s Parish School forms.

**ST FINBARR’S FETE!**

Friday 7th October St Finbarr’s Fete and Mystery Holiday. Mark the date on your calendar!

**P&F AGM—Thursday 10th March 7.00 pm**

Please note the change of time

Are you interested in taking on a position on the P&F Committee? The current committee has been running well for quite a number of years and each member has taken on extra workloads outside of school. All members of the committee are happy to pass on their positions if you are interested and will provide full support to anyone wanting to become more involved. If you are interested in nominating or being nominated for a position please advise the school. Everyone Welcome!

**REMINDER**

School Fees were due last week. Thank you to those who have already paid their fees. If you have overlooked this, we would appreciate it if you could take care of your account as soon as possible.

St Finbarr’s Student Protection Contacts are as follows.

Genny McNair – Kara Marsh

**NEWSLETTER CHECKLIST**

- Term 2 Planner
- Book Club
- Tuckshop envelope
- School statements

**Important dates**

- 10th March—Board/P&F AGM
- 11th March—Literacy & School Assembly @ 12.30pm
- 11th March—Homestyle Bake Order Forms due back
- 11th March—Netball/Rugby League Trials Charleville
- 18th March—Touch Football/Soccer trials Tambo
- 21st March—Q&D Cross Country
- 23rd March—Last Day of Term 1
- 24th March—Teacher Travel Day/Pupil Free Day
- 27th March—Easter Sunday Community Service at Supper Room
- 11th April—First Day Term 2
- 11th April—Flamenco Fire Art Tour

**ST FINBARR’S PARISH SCHOOL**

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

Phone: (07) 4656 1412—Fax: (07) 4656 1306

Email: Quilpie@twb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Genny McNair

**REMINDER**

In the coming months St Finbarr’s will participate in the Non State Schools Accreditation Board’s (NSSAB) cyclical review program. This occurs every 5 years. The Student Protection Officer, Peter Simpson will be visiting next week to monitor the schools implementation of Policy requirements. In Term Two, an external validator, Susan Seaton, will conduct a visit to monitor other areas of compliance including school Vision and Mission, administration, finance, educational programs and curriculum, students with disabilities, OHS, student welfare, staffing, professional development, buildings and facilities, resources and improvement processes. Much of the information needed for this review has been collated through the Excellence in Catholic Education reviews that have been conducted annually over the last 4 years as well as data from RAD1 parent, staff and student surveys. Other information will be gathered through focus groups of staff, School Board and P&F representatives and Catholic Schools Office staff. Following this a review report will be submitted to the NSSAB accreditation board.

Next term through EiCE we will also conduct reviews in the areas of Vision and Mission, Pedagogical Practices in Planning and Teaching, Assessing and Reporting, Professional Relationships and Teamwork and Stewardship.

This year students in Year 5 and 6 have been invited to attend the Canberra Camp with students from St Mary’s in Charleville and Sacred Heart in Cunnamulla. This will be held from 7th to 13th August. In past years one teacher and a staff member or parent attend this camp. Expressions of interest will be called for shortly.

During last week we have had a number of visitors from the Catholic Schools Office to provide support and professional learning to our teachers in a variety of special needs areas. Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent Information session held by Anna Chandler (Advisory Visiting Teacher - Hearing Impairment). Anna is an engaging speaker and very passionate about hearing and student learning. We are very fortunate to have Anna in our system. Regular twice yearly hearing screening of all students has now begun. Thank you to Toni Murray and the staff of the Quilpie Hospital for assisting with this, Jennifer Wills (AVT - Indigenous Ed.), Jane Murphy (AVT - ASD) and Jorja Foster (Speech Pathologist) all visited last week as well, working with students and providing specialist support to the teachers and school officers who work with our students. Mrs Marsh and I attended the Student Protection Contacts Inservice training in Charleville and Robyn Sharpe (SEQ) also visited the school. This is my 5th year of working in a Catholic School and I still marvel at the level of support and quality of specialist staff that visit our school. I also marvel at the level of professional discussion that is shared during these visits. The care of our students and support of staff is fundamental to all of these visits.

This term is also very busy with District Sports Trials. This coming Friday Toby will be participating in the 11-12 Year old Rugby League trials in Charleville and next week Millie, Catherine and Cody will be travelling to Tambo for the Touch football and soccer trials. We wish all of our students all the best. Thank you to Kym and Tina for transporting children. The annual Quilpie and District Cross Country will be held at the Quilpie Golf club on Monday 21st March. Further details are included in this newsletter.

Wednesday 23rd March will be the final day of the school term as Thursday will be a pupil free day. As this will be the final newsletter of the term I would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Easter and safe and enjoyable holidays.

Warm regards

Genny

‘Nothing will ever change while you point the finger of blame. Out of responsibility comes possibility.’ Lisa Villa Friesen.
**NEW DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

The new Director, Pat Coughlan will be visiting the school on 14th April from 8.30—9.00am. Please come along to the school and meet him.

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**TRAINING HARD**

The St Finbarr’s students have been hard at work training each morning for the upcoming Quilpie & District Cross Country Trials. They are aiming to exceed 100 laps of the oval in total by Cross Country day. With the enthusiasm of the students still extremely high, they should certainly achieve that goal.

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**19 MARCH 1866.**

On that date, 150 years ago, Mary Mackillop began teaching in a renovated stable classroom in Penola in South Australia.

From “this small beginning” grew the Sisters of St Joseph, a Congregation of Sisters still present and active in all states and territories of Australia as well as in New Zealand, East Timor, Peru and Brazil.

As a school in the Mary Mackillop tradition for 66 years, we have much to be thankful for. Later in the year, we will celebrate the Sesquicentenary as a School and Parish Community.

Now that I am in Brisbane, I will be able to join many Queensland Sisters for the celebrations at St Stephen’s Cathedral on 19 March.

I look forward to our Community Easter Celebration on Easter Sunday.

Sr Marg.

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**THE IMPORTANCE OF READING**

Each morning Prep to Year 6 students have been enjoying reading together in one of 9 separate reading groups as part of the new whole school reading program.

We have been focusing on practising reading and comprehension strategies using ideas from our work with Angela Ehmer.

Parents reading to children of all ages is an excellent way for them to learn about books and use their imagination, increase their vocabulary and develop literacy skills.

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**Quilpie and District Cross Country**

**Monday 21st March @ The Quilpie Golf Club**

Children are to be dropped off by 8.30am at the Golf Club. Parents are welcome to attend.

Please bring
- Running shoes
- Lunch box and/or canteen money
- Water bottle
- Hat

Students are to be dressed in their house colours. For new students the colours are:
- Sommerfield—White
- Pegler—Blue
- McManus—Red

Children will return to school after the cross country if finished either with parents or by school and staff cars.

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**MINI VINNIES—STAMPS FOR PERU**

Our Mini Vinnies group have been collecting stamps for the last year. We now have enough to send away. The money raised from the sale of these stamps will help the Sisters of St Joseph to build schools and help the poor in Peru.

Millie and Finn

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**Prep—2 News**

Welcome to week 7. This term is absolutely flying by and with the final weeks of Term 1 approaching us quickly, it is a very busy time in our classroom.

We are finalising our persuasive letters and have been thinking very hard about the reasons why Mrs Marsh should let us have a particular pet. Jonah says he should get a pet parrot because they are really colourful and Ardie says he should get a pet dog because they are good guards which means he won’t get robbed.

Reading and spelling testing will commence in the next 2 weeks and I am looking forward to receiving these results. The results from these standardised tests will assist in ensuring your children’s learning is progressing continually throughout the year.

All of the students have been working really hard in maths and this week we have been counting backwards from 100 and beyond! This was tricky on the first day but the preps, year 1’s and even the year 2’s have continued to get better and better! One of the students today even said “This is getting too easy!”

Don’t forget to bring your library bags to school tomorrow!

Until next time...

Mrs Marsh and the Prep/1/2 students

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**The Things They Say!**

Matt (regarding working on times tables at school): “I had them all under control at home. I just don’t have them under control here!”

Charlie: “Mia looks after me. Do you know why? She thinks I’m really cute”

Billy (practising signing off a letter to his teacher): “From the best student ever and a thousand kisses!”

Millie: “Well that’s just life!”

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**APRE NEWS**

Hello all. Just want to let you all know that I received a lovely email from Sister Margaret. She is on her way to recovery and is hoping to be back on deck on the 21st March. We continue to keep her in our prayers and we eagerly await her return.

This Friday the 11th March at 12.30pm you are invited to help us celebrate the Feast of St Joseph’s and St Patrick with a Liturgy in the Mary Mackillop room. This will be followed by our whole school assembly. Due to music lessons and swimming we have had to change the time for this and I apologise for any inconvenience with the late starting time. Please join us for tea and coffee after the assembly.

Easter is just around the corner and we will be preparing a Community Easter Service at the Supper Room at 10am on Easter Sunday, 22nd March. Everyone in our community is invited to attend. Unfortunately Rev Kaye Pitman and Rev Di Murphy will not be here this year as they are doing Easter Services in Roma. They will be in Quilpie the following weekend and will have a service at St Matthew’s at a time to be advised.

I would like to take this time to remind everyone of our theme for the year “We have two hands, one to help our self and the other to help others”. I was on playground duty today and witnessed a Year 3 child holding the hand of a Preppy on the oval, guiding them to the start of the cross country run.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for their support and hard work throughout the school year. I am so pleased to see that the students have taken on this message so willingly.

Many blessings

Kara Marsh

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**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!**

Congratulations to Jamie, Catherine, Millie and Chelsea our students of the week for Weeks 5 and 6. Great work! Also congratulations to Ella and Chelsea for completing their golden sight words already!