Dear Parents and Friends

Last Friday I was very fortunate to attend the Downlands College Investiture. Our closest event at St Finbarr’s is our beginning of year badge giving ceremony. There were actually a number of similarities in the two ceremonies, including the Blessing of the Badges and the making of pledges by the school leaders. As a parent of boarding students I have not always been able to attend their school functions. The ceremony, symbolism and tradition of this ceremony was moving as the students, especially the year twelves take on their leadership roles and begin their final year. Our year at St Finbarr’s has begun with a similar atmosphere of eagerness, and anticipation amongst staff and students.

Also on Friday, Dylan and Anna and Claire, Euan, Bodie and Carli from the Quilpie College represented Quilpie and District at the Regional Swimming Carnival in Charleville. Congratulations to everyone on their performance. Anna, Euan and Claire all received Age Champion medals. Dylan, Claire and Euan have qualified in several events to go on and represent the Charleville and District team in Miles. These magnificent results can be attributed to the commitment these students have made to their training throughout the holidays, and to the expertise of Derek and Carolyn Taylor. We are very fortunate to have swimming coaches and instructors of their expertise in our town.

Please note that we have had a change in date for our Parent Information Evening, which has been moved to Thursday 26th February to allow for the P & F Annual General Meeting. All parents and members of the school community are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting. Drinks and nibbles/ BBQ will be provided by the P and F. A nomination form has been enclosed for office bearers which can be left in an envelope in the office.

Thank you to everyone who has returned expression of interest forms for the upcoming Brisbane camp. Camp supervisors will be notified by the end of next week with travel and accommodations arrangements also being finalised.

To mark the beginning of Lent, we will be having Pancake/Shrove Tuesday next week with pancakes for morning tea. We will also provide fruit so children will only need fruit break snack and lunch on this day. Please send your child along with a gold coin donation for Project Compassion.

Thank you to everyone who has returned expression of interest forms for the upcoming Brisbane camp.

P & F AGM

The P & F AGM will be held at the School Thursday 19th Feb at 6.30pm.

A nomination form has been sent home for anyone who would like to nominate people for Office Bearers. Please return to the office before the AGM on the 19th. Everyone welcome.

St Finbarr’s Student Protection
Contacts are as follows.

Genny McNair
Kara Costello

Newsletter check list

- Tuckshop envelope
- P and F nomination form
- ICPA Membership form

Important dates

- 17th Feb - Pancake/Shrove Tuesday NO MORNING TEA REQUIRED Gold coin donation
- 18th Feb - Legends of the League @ QSC 9am
- 18th Feb - Ash Wednesday @10.30am
- 19th Feb - P and F AGM 6.30pm
- Friday 20th Feb - Assembly and Feast of St Joseph and St Patrick 11.30am
- Sunday 22nd Feb - Beginning School Year Mass @ St Finbarr’s Church
- 26th Feb - Parent Info Night
- 27th Feb - ICPA Meeting at Quilpie Pool
- 2nd April - Last Day of Term

Book Club

Orders are due back this Friday 13th Feb. Don’t forget, any child who won an End of Year Award last year can come and order their $20 prize. We have spare catalogues on the office counter for the children to look through.

Music

A music practice time timetable has been drawn up for Music Students to practise in the Mary Mackillop Room in school breaks and before school. Students are also expected to practise at home and they have been given practice diaries to fill in each week. Please ask your child to show you their diary and familiarise yourselves with their expectations for practice.

St Finbarr’s Parish School
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Email: Quilpie@twb.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Mrs Genny McNair

TUCKSHOP

Tuckshop has started off well for 2015. This week the students enjoyed Sally’s yummy ice cream slice and Mrs Haylock’s delicious Spaghetti Bolognese.

Some minor changes were made to the roster for the first few dates but we hope that all other allocations are suited for each family. If you have any concerns, please contact the office.

There is still one remaining free date for the 16th November if anyone would like to volunteer.

We have received some mail regarding a fan-ter.

16th November if anyone would like to volunteer.

We are running another Homestyle Bake Fundraiser for Easter. Catalogues will be out soon. This will be run to raise money for the Brisbane Camp in Term 2.

Please return to the office before the AGM on the 19th Feb at 6.30pm.

Please bring a Gold Coin donation for Project Compassion.

Please send fruit break and big lunch next Tuesday. We will provide fruit for morning tea also.

We will celebrate Pancake/Shrove Tuesday next week with pancakes for morning tea. We will provide fruit for morning tea also. Please send fruit break and big lunch next Tuesday. Please bring a Gold Coin donation for Project Compassion.

Pancake/Shrove Tuesday—17th Feb

We will celebrate Pancake Tuesday/Shrove Tuesday next week with pancakes for morning tea.

We will provide fruit for morning tea also. Please send fruit break and big lunch next Tuesday. Please bring a Gold Coin donation for Project Compassion.

Don’t be afraid to learn. Knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can carry easily.” unknown
Welcome to week 3!! What a few weeks it has been in the 3-6 classroom. We have shifted our desks and the students have been moved into groups as an incentive and to help students with team work and working as a team to complete tasks. Each group was asked to come up with a creative group name. The names they chose are; Outback Crusaders, the Dundees and the Little Rascals. Groups who work well as a team and who are completing the tasks as asked will receive points. The group with the most points at the end of the week will receive prizes from the prize box. So far, the students are enjoying these groups.

The 3-6 students were introduced to Social Justice last week which is a principle of the Church’s Social Teaching. I put the words “Social Justice” on the whiteboard and asked the students what they thought this meant. Some of the responses included; something we have to do in the future, helping others, caring for others, love, respect, fairness, peace, the right things to do, learning and being careful. These were such great responses from all the students considering it was the first time being introduced to Social Justice.

Tuesday was “Safer Internet Day”, the 6 students had discussions about how we can be safe on the internet. Some of their responses included; not talking to strangers on the internet, not giving out personal details about yourself, including; real name, address, phone numbers, email address, parents names, name of your school, where you live. Students responded well to this discussion which will be valuable for them as they continue to use computers.

I will be in touch again in a few weeks time,

Thanks,
Miss Taylor

From the News Desk

Each week we will be getting up to date news from two students. Their news can be about anything. Maybe something from the news or something happening in their lives. We look forward to being kept informed. This week we heard from Dylan and Matt.

Today after school, Mum, Dad, Jamie and I are going to the Unit in Toowoomba to see my sisters.

I wanted a day off school and my sisters are going to help me figure out my game because I have an xBox 360 and my sisters are good at playing the xBox.

While we are away, we will go to the shops to buy food and clothes and some toys. I am looking forward to getting a new bike helmet and a new Spiderman suit.

I am going to miss three days of school but I am still going to do my homework.

By Matt Lowe

Next Thursday 12th Feb will be “Library Lover’s Day”. Students have been down in the Library filling out heart shaped cards with the books they LOVE. Miss Tina and some of the students have wrapped a book from the library especially for each student in the school and these will be unwrapped on Library Lovers Day. They can then be borrowed. Each students book was chosen with something they “LOVE” in mind.

By Dylan Hall

APRE News

The Church season of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, begins with Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate this day with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes in a service commencing at 10:30am in St Finbar’s Church. All students will participate in this Parish service. All families and members of the Parish and wider community are invited to participate.

Lent in the Christian Community is a time when we make a conscious choice to be more prayerful, more thoughtful and caring and more disciplined in our choices. Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving were the traditional terms.

Fasting is not just limiting the food we eat (as it was many years ago.) “Fasting” gives us the opportunity to make choices—choosing to go without something; choosing less of something; choosing something you don’t particularly like to do and persevering in it. It’s a personal choice and commitment each of us makes.

Project Compassion is the “Almsgiving” suggested. “Almsgiving” is an old word meaning to give something (money, food, clothing) that will help bring relief.

Each family will receive a Project Compassion Box to contribute during Lent. For example, as a family you might choose not to have ice cream for dessert. Perhaps you could put the ice cream money in your Project Compassion Box. The boxes are to be returned to school in the last week of Term.

Have a thoughtful Lent.

The Mass for the Beginning of the School Year will be celebrated on Sunday 22 February at 6pm at St Finbar’s Church. It will also be the first Mass of the year.

All students will have some involvement in the Liturgy. We look forward to all families participating in the Mass to ask God’s blessing on our year.

In our long standing tradition of forming a guard of honour at the funerals of those who have had a connection with St Finbar’s, we will form a guard of honour at the funeral of Ken Hewson whose children attended St Finbar’s. Ken and Jenny were great supporters of St Finbar’s. Ken’s funeral is at 10am this Friday. The students don’t attend the funeral; the guard of honour is as the procession leaves church for the cemetery.

SR MARG