P and F News
The St Finbar’s P and F held its Annual General Meeting last Thursday.

Congratulations to the following people on their election to the committee
President—Ben Hall
Vice President—David Lowe
Secretary—Kerry Thompson
Treasurer—Ange Bonsey
Fundraising—Josie Bowen

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM. Your ongoing support for our school is greatly appreciated.

Isolated Children’s Parent’s Association A.G.M.
At the Quilpie Pool
This Friday 27th Feb at 4pm

School Dental Visits
The School Dentist is now set up and operating from the Quilpie State College. With your newsletter is a note from Kym, the Dentist and a form to fill out. These are to be returned to St Finbar’s by Friday and an appointment will be made. Initial visits are consultations only and if follow up work is required, you will be contacted about this. Appointments will be scheduled for next week.

Parent Info Night—Thurs 26th Feb
Parent Info Night is a great opportunity for parents to learn about the things the students do in the classrooms and what parents can do and learn to help with homework etc.

The evening program looks like this:
6.00pm—General school info and parent and volunteer induction for Student Protection.
6.30pm—Kara hosting P—2 presentation
7.15pm Jess hosting 3—6 presentation
A BBQ dinner will be available from 6.30pm compliments of the P and F. Mrs McNair and teachers will be on hand to supervise children while parents listen to presentations.

Homestyle Bake

Big News!
Newsletter

Each family will have received an order form for Homestyle Bake with this Newsletter.
There is also a Cup Cake order form which is a new addition to the Menu.
There are lots of yummy things on offer so check it out!!
Order forms and money are to be returned to school by Friday 20th March along with cash or cheques made payable to St Finbar’s Parish School.
Items will then be delivered to the School on the 31st March just in time for Easter.

We need our order to reach a certain $$$ amount to avoid paying freight which eats into our profits so please get behind this great Fundraiser. All proceeds go towards our Brisbane Camp in Term 2.

Final arrangements are being made for the Camp to Brisbane.

Staff attending will include Genny, Kara, Jess, Sarah and Tina.
Parent supervisors will include Josie, Brendan and Belinda. Other Parents who will be assisting as needed include Kacey and Michelle. Brendan and Sarah will be driving the buses with Genny as a relieving driver for the big bus.

Dereck and Carolynn Taylor from Taylorswim will be holding First Aide, Bronze Medallion and Life Saving courses at the Quilpie Pool on the 21st and 22nd March. They can be contacted on 46561202 or via email at taylorswim@iprimus.com.au

St Finbarr’s Student Protection
Contacts are as follows.

Genny McNair
Kara Costello

The St Finbarr’s Student Protection

Contacts are as follows.

Genny McNair
Kara Costello

St Finbarr’s Student Protection

Contacts are as follows.

Genny McNair
Kara Costello

St Finbarr’s Student Protection

Contacts are as follows.

Genny McNair
Kara Costello

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

Volume: 6
Issue: 3
Date: 25th Feb 2015

Dear Parents and Friends

A major focus for us at St Finbarr’s is not only the academic development of our students but equally important, the development of the whole child. The St Finbarr’s Vision is to equip students with the essential values, processes and skills required to participate effectively in a rapidly changing world. I have mentioned in newsletters in previous years how, as a school we can teach, model, and support to an extent develop these values, but that parents have a far greater influence on child development from birth to 12 years of age.

Parents can be a very strong influence on positive behaviours. Parents with good self-esteem and resilience often tend to raise children with more secure self-esteem and coping skills. Role modelling can be an extremely powerful and effective parenting tool and we should use it to our advantage. The following paragraph has been taken from an article I have read recently.

Being a positive role model requires forethought and self-control. Today we talk a lot about disciplining our children. We as parents need to put an equal emphasis on disciplining ourselves. We need to challenge ourselves to identify the positive things we can role model for our kids – things like happiness, consideration, self respect, patience, generosity, self-discipline, diligence, kindness, bravery and compassion. Kids respect adults who walk their talk. Children are sensitive and astute with an uncanny ability to distinguish between adults who only talk a good game and those who play the game by the rules they preach. Credible adults inspire kids’ confidence and admiration. Hypocrisy disillusions children and sends them looking for others to follow. - Karen Stephens, Illinois State University - Author, instructor and director.

Resilience in children is of particular importance today in our rapidly changing world. Resilient children are also able to withstand the pressures that school provides. Resilience is being able to ‘bounce back’ from difficult times, setbacks and other significant challenges. More importantly it is about dealing effectively with pressure and getting through tough times with good outcomes. Children learn how to be resilient from the model their parents provide, which is as important and effective as any guidance or teaching we can give them at school. Controlling anger and frustration, modelling calming strategies, demonstrating problem solving, learning to live with and adapt to the things we can’t control are all things we can model for our children. As parents we also need to help our children develop the skills to become resilient rather than intervening and solving their problems for them.

Ways in which we develop these skills at school will be discussed at the Parent Information Evening on Thursday night, so please come along at 6.00 pm. An information sheet containing some helpful tips has also been included in this newsletter.

Can I please remind parents of protocols regarding student absence? For unexpected absences the preferred method is to call the office and leave a message if the office is unattended. For expected absences, especially for extended periods, an absence note is preferred. Verbal messages at the beginning of the day to teachers often tend to raise children with more secure self-esteem and coping skills. Role modelling can be an extremely powerful and effective parenting tool and we should use it to our advantage. The following paragraph has been taken from an article I have read recently.

Being a positive role model requires forethought and self-control. Today we talk a lot about disciplining our children. We as parents need to put an equal emphasis on disciplining ourselves. We need to challenge ourselves to identify the positive things we can role model for our kids – things like happiness, consideration, self respect, patience, generosity, self-discipline, diligence, kindness, bravery and compassion. Kids respect adults who walk their talk. Children are sensitive and astute with an uncanny ability to distinguish between adults who only talk a good game and those who play the game by the rules they preach. Credible adults inspire kids’ confidence and admiration. Hypocrisy disillusions children and sends them looking for others to follow. - Karen Stephens, Illinois State University - Author, instructor and director.

Resilience in children is of particular importance today in our rapidly changing world. Resilient children are also able to withstand the pressures that school provides. Resilience is being able to ‘bounce back’ from difficult times, setbacks and other significant challenges. More importantly it is about dealing effectively with pressure and getting through tough times with good outcomes. Children learn how to be resilient from the model their parents provide, which is as important and effective as any guidance or teaching we can give them at school. Controlling anger and frustration, modelling calming strategies, demonstrating problem solving, learning to live with and adapt to the things we can’t control are all things we can model for our children. As parents we also need to help our children develop the skills to become resilient rather than intervening and solving their problems for them.

Ways in which we develop these skills at school will be discussed at the Parent Information Evening on Thursday night, so please come along at 6.00 pm. An information sheet containing some helpful tips has also been included in this newsletter.

Can I please remind parents of protocols regarding student absence? For unexpected absences the preferred method is to call the office and leave a message if the office is unattended. For expected absences, especially for extended periods, an absence note is preferred. Verbal messages at the beginning of the day to teachers may not get passed on with the hectic morning routine. Absence notes have been included in the newsletter for your convenience.

Warm regards

Genny

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” Nelson Mandela
P-2 Prattle

It has already been a month since we began Term 1 of 2015! The P-2 classroom is buzzing and the kids have settled into the routine of school and are working extremely well together. It is truly wonderful to be a part of this classroom.

A huge part of our classroom this year is our ‘Fancy Nancy’ word wall and books. This is an initiative I have started to help increase and improve our vocabulary in the classroom and in our school work. The children enjoy listening to the Fancy Nancy picture books being read and have been picking up on some ‘fancy words’. Thane recently reminded the class that ‘exhausted’ is a fancy word for feeling tired and that a fancy word for copy is ‘mimic’. These moments then promote a group discussion on other words and their meanings. Another exciting highlight of our new vocabulary project are the ‘Fancy Nancy Reading Crowns’. The girls love wearing these while reading the books during silent reading in the afternoons! Miss Costello also enjoys wearing the crowns during our vocab lessons!

In maths last week we explored place value and the children were very excited to use our magnetic MAB blocks and bundled paddle pop sticks to help them learn about numbers. It is important in the early years to use concrete materials to assist with mathematical learning and the children thoroughly enjoy this aspect.

We would like to warmly welcome Mousey to our classroom. In true St Finbarr’s style, the P/1/2 students have made him feel welcome. Everyone wants to help show Mouse the great aspects of our classroom and school. Well done guys, I am very proud of you!

Until next time...
Miss Costello and Prep/1/2

APRE News

Thank you for participating in our Parish Liturgy on Sunday night. It is always encouraging to see families gathered together to thank God and ask God’s blessing on our year together.

In setting the scene for our year together, we were reminded that St Joseph’s/St Finbarr’s School is 65 years old this year. In 1950, the “Sisters hopped down from the train” In that year, the Sisters rented a house in Jabiru St as the Convent and Boarding facilities were not ready for occupancy.

On occasional Sunday afternoons, Fr Mick Cronin, the Parish Priest would take the Sisters fishing. This photo found recently in a Parish filing cabinet has written on the back “taken soon after arrival.” Certainly a successful afternoon’s fishing. The 3 sisters were Sr Muredach Lynam, Sr Magdalen Anderson and Sr Carmel Carroll. The shadow of Fr Mick Cronin, the photographer, can be seen in the photo too.

This week we farewell Majella Proctor as she heads for “retirement” in Millmerran. Majella, as a past student, parent and staff member contributed much to the St Finbarr’s story and we wish her all the best in the years ahead.

This week we welcome Anglican Bishop Cameron Venables to Quilpie. He will be conducting a service in St Finbarr’s as St Matthew’s church is in need of repair after a ceiling collapse. The service will be on Thursday 26 February at 6.00pm.

SR MARG

Pancake/Shrove Tuesday

Thank you to Sr Marg for her expert direction with the 3—6 students in making and flipping the pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We all enjoyed plain and apple pancakes and judging by the second helpings, they were very popular. Dylan collected the donations for Project Compassion and we raised $32 which will be forwarded to Caritas once all the boxes are returned by families at the end of Lent. After lunch we had pancake races which were not as easy as one might think.

We wish Dylan and Euan and Claire from QSC all the best at the Regional Swimming Carnival in Miles this Friday.
Swim your hardest Dylan!! Good Luck.