

Spooky Tuckshop

A couple of our parents got a little creative this week and decided to put on a "Spooky Tuckshop". The students were treated to a delicious array of food with



some very spooky additions. We had spider web biscuits complete with web and spider, shortbread finger biscuits that



looked alarmingly realistic, eyeball pasta with cheese & olive "eyeballs" and more. Suffice to say that while the visual effects were spectacular, they certainly did not ruin anyone's appetite.

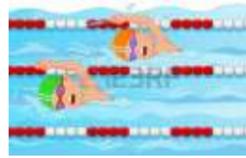


Quilpie & District Swimming Carnival—Friday 18th November

How would you like to help?

Timekeeper—Recording—Scoring—Ribbons—BBQ—Serving—Setting Up—Cleaning Up?

If you are able to help at our annual carnival, please contact St Finbarr's on 07 4656 1412



St Finbarr's Student Protection

Contacts are as follows.

Genny McNair ~ Kara Marsh



Mini Vinnies—Christmas Appeal

Please bring an unwrapped toy/present suitable for a boy or girl up to the age of 12 years to be included in the St Finbarr's Christmas toy hamper on speech and awards night.

The Hamper will be taken to St Vincent De Paul in Charleville where it is there distributed to families in need.



Our very own Junior Queensland

Polocrosse Team Member!



Congratulations to Catherine who has been selected to represent Queensland in Polocrosse at the 2017 Albury Junior Classic. We wish her all the best and it is wonderful to see that all her hard work and dedication has paid off. Well done!

DAY FOR DANIEL—Keeping Kids Safe

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Day for Daniel and wearing red last Friday. We raised \$52 to go towards child safety. Great effort from our small school.



Kieran Lander Visit

Kieran Lander who was a past student of Quilpie State College was welcomed back to town last Friday. He spoke to the assembled students from St Finbarr's and Quilpie State College about a variety of topics including health, education and of course, sport. Kieran spoke of healthy eating, especially the importance of having breakfast. He displayed ball skills and showed the students how to correctly handle and kick the ball. Kieran even taught the teachers some new tips and ball games that they can use during sport. Kieran stressed the importance of education and attending school, at one point saying "My greatest achievement was finishing school". He was interesting and engaging to listen to and all the students enjoyed their time with him.



St Finbarr's Parish School

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Principal: Mrs Genny McNair

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Newsletter Checklist

◆ Tuckshop Envelope

◆ Policy Updates

Important dates

◆ 4th November Assembly for World Teachers Day 9am

◆ 11th November Remembrance Day

◆ 18th November Quilpie and District Swimming Carnival

◆ 24th November Speech and Awards Evening/shed opening

◆ 27th November End of Year Mass

◆ 1st December Last day. Pool Party

Dear Parents and Friends

We have been very fortunate to be able to utilise the services provided through **CWAATSICH** and a visiting **Audiologist from Clarity Hearing** to Test a large number of our students. This is part of our ongoing program of regular screening and testing. As mentioned previously fluctuating conductive hearing loss cannot be picked up with an occasional screener. Anna Chandler, Advisory Visiting Teaching – Hearing Impairment, provided essential information regarding the importance of hearing in student learning and the impact that even short periods of hearing loss can have on student learning and participation in class. Results of the Audiology testing have been received and any parents requiring follow up have been contacted.

All students will be involved in the **Remembrance Day** service on Friday 11th November. Students will walk from the school and meet at the Bob Young Memorial Park at 10.45am. Please ensure that students are in full summer uniform including white socks and black shoes.

As a school we have been gathering data on student achievement in a formalised whole school testing regime. During this time we have been able to determine student progress and areas of strength or need for reinforcement. In recent weeks the whole school data has been collated and presented on a data wall to identify patterns and growth both in individuals and classes. This data has been aligned with growth as determined in NAPLAN results and ICAS tests. This has resulted in some very interesting observations and discussion amongst teachers and staff. This information will be used to direct teaching.

Each year students have been involved in the **ICAS tests**. These are in the same style as the former NSW maths and English competitions and therefore these tests are regarded more as a competition than a test. We have adopted these as another way in which students can become familiar with this style of testing. We are hoping that students can track their progress from year to year and strive to achieve well on these. Not all students in Australia participate in these as they do need to be purchased. All students who complete the test are awarded with participation certificates. Ardie and Bella attained Credit Awards and Hayden a Distinction in English and Ardie also achieved a Credit Award in Mathematics. Credit Certificates are awarded for those who achieve within the top 36% and Distinction Certificates are awarded for those whose results are in the top 11% of those who completed the competition.

Included in this newsletter is information regarding policy updates from the Catholic Schools Office affecting use of ICT, conflict of Interest, Privacy statement and Critical Incident management. Please make yourself aware of these changes and familiar with the policies.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that **Tina, Toby and Thane** will be leaving our school community at the end of the year. Tina, who has been Library aide since 2010 and OHS officer for the last 2 years has received a position at St Francis de Sales Catholic School at Clifton. This has been a very timely move for the Hilton family as Toby's Primary schooling is coming to a close. Toby will be attending Clifton High School. We congratulate Tina on her new position and wish her and her family every happiness and success in the next stage of their life. Tina's Library and OHS positions will be a reallocation of hours to school officers already on staff.

This Friday we will be celebrating **World Teachers Day** (last Friday) with an assembly at 9.00am. This will be the final assembly for the year. Everyone is welcome to attend as we will be presenting a number of student awards on the day as well.

Warm regards

Genny

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." - William Arthur Ward

Parish/Community News

A big "Thank you" to all those who came to celebrate the 40 years of St Finbarr's Church. It was an opportune time to reflect on the 40 years of Parish life since then.

In our changing times. Parish life has changed too, but one thing has not. As our song said "Its not just the building, the Church is the people inside". Our thanks to all those who

kept the story of Jesus alive in our Community. Now it's up to us!

All Saints and All Souls

Today we celebrated the feast days of ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS. These are celebrations of the Church where we take time to reflect on the special people who have touched our lives—the SAINTS of the Church who have particular meaning for us eg. our name Saint, School or Parish patron Saints.

Mia, Bella Darcy and Hayden introduced us to a new Saint—St. Teresa of Kolkata.

We remember too our family "Saints" - those from our family and friends who have died. Candles were lit to remember them.

You are invited to join us for Assembly at 9.00am Friday 4 November to celebrate World Teachers' Day. Our opportunity to remember and give thanks for our teachers, past and present.

Our Mass on Sunday 27 November will be our special Mass to mark 150 years since Mary Mackillop began the Sisters of St. Joseph. It will also be our Mass of Thanksgiving for the blessings of the year.



Its Electrifying!

Electrical energy is part of our everyday lives at home, at work and at school. We use it for refrigeration, machines and lighting. Portable devices, such as mobile phones, watches and many toys, rely on batteries for electrical energy. Electric circuits are needed to allow energy to be transferred from a battery to light bulbs, motors and buzzers, where it is changed into light, movement or sound.

During the 3-6 Science Unit the students have been developing their understanding of electricity. We have been using hands-on activities that explore the role of electrons in transferring energy in electric circuits. Through investigating batteries, light bulbs and insulators, we have been learning how battery-operated devices, for example, a torch, work.



P-2 News

We are well and truly half way through the last term of the year!

I would like to say a massive "GOODBYE" to our wonderful intern Miss C (or George).

The kids really enjoyed having her in the classroom. They worked really hard and continued to make me proud every day. They behaved like a dream and it was such an honour to be able to share my wonderful cherubs with Miss C for 4 weeks. We wish her all the best in her very own classroom, we all know she is going to be a great teacher!

This term the children have been very busy writing their recount for Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge. They all thoroughly enjoyed typing their good copies with our new iPad keyboards.

Miss C completed lots of fun maths lessons with the class. My favourite was when the children had to find all the clues that Molly Monster had left them. They had to follow her directions to get the special treat she had left them back in the classroom. That was heaps of fun! Fraser was so excited he said "WOW! Molly Monster was in our classroom!"

We have changed our whole school reading groups once again! The teachers are absolutely blown away with the progress all of the students have made this year!

Our class reading goal for P-2 is to ask questions and to infer while reading a book. They also need to look for clues. These clues are different things such as facial expressions or ideas that the author hasn't told us directly. For example today we read "The Cat Wants Custard" and in the book the owner asked the cat if he wanted some chicken and gravy, cat said that he had some nice sharp claws to scratch his leg. The children found two clues that told them that the cat didn't like chicken and gravy. The first was that his face was very cranky looking. The second clue was that if a cat liked something they wouldn't try and scratch your leg. This is a great activity to do at home with your child while they are reading their home reading book.

Until next time...

Mrs Marsh and the P/1/2 class



Miss C, Thane, Jonah and Billy using Smarties to help them with learning about the concept of sharing.

Farewell from Miss C

It has once again been a wonderful experience working with Mrs Marsh and her Prep-Year Two class. I was provided the opportunity to work with the class on a fulltime basis, which gave me great insight to see what running a classroom is really like. I am so proud of the kids and the effort they have put into their work over the past four weeks. They were an absolute pleasure to work with!

I was so excited when a prep parent informed me that her daughter had told her all about how vibrations caused sound within a science lesson, before showing her one of the sci-

ence vibration activities that we did in our lesson.

On another occasion, Mrs Marsh informed me of an English lesson where she asked the students, "Sally was on holidays and she was cold. Why would she be cold?" I was very charmed when the children replied that where she was staying on her holidays was far away from the Equator, a topic which we had been learning about in Geography. It is definitely great to know that the kids take these experiences with them outside of the classroom as well as bring their knowledge to other learning areas.

Overall, my final professional placement was definitely an experience that I will take with me for when I have my own classroom in 2017.

I am very grateful for the hospitality that the staff and school community has provided me with throughout my time with St. Finbarr's.

It has been a pleasure working with you all!

Miss C

