Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome

Welcome to the St Finn Barr’s School Community for 2017. The start of a new year with new opportunities and the chance to begin afresh for us all.

Particularly a special welcome to new students, to new families and to new staff. I hope and pray your time as part of the St Finn Barr’s community is rewarding.

Welcome to new staff and to those returning staff.
We welcome Miss Laura Hyland who will be teaching Grade 5-6.
We welcome Miss Tia McGillvery who will be teaching Kindergarten.
We also welcome Ms Renae Bennett who will be working on Prep each Thursday and Friday and Mrs Jo Appleby who will be working on Grade 1-2, both are returning from Maternity leave.

Welcome especially to all our new Kindergarten students and also to Noah Carroll, Marley Young, Stella Jones, Layla Jones, Nahom Fisahye and Fitihawit Fisahye.

We offer our condolences to Mrs Heather Cousins whose mother passed away during the holiday period. We will continue to keep Heather and her family in our prayers.

We offer our congratulations to Ms Nadia Paternoster and Ms Amy Perinski who were both engaged during the holidays. We wish them the best in this exciting time of planning for their futures.

As a new member of staff at St Finn Barr’s for 2017, I begin the year with great excitement. I am looking forward with anticipation to getting to know your children and yourselves over the coming weeks and months and to becoming a member of your community.
Welcome Mass and Presentation of Leaders

On Thursday February 23rd at 12 noon, we will celebrate Mass as a community to welcome the new school year. At this Mass our grade 6 leaders will be blessed and presented with their badges. Please accept this as an invitation to attend this Mass to celebrate with the whole community and to recognise and bless the leaders of our school.

Student Leadership 2017

It is with great excitement I look forward to getting to know and to working with the Student Leadership Team over the course of the year.

Congratulations to:

Tommy Townsend and Estelle Tomkinson, School Captains for 2017
Jasper French and Madison Hodge, Vice Captains
Ryley Sanders and Shannon Kelly, Captains of Bethany
Harison Edwards and Milla Garvey Captains of Marian
Jack Harper and Montana Swain Captains of Patrician

As School Leaders I also look forward to working with the whole Grade 6 body of students as the leaders of St Finn Barr’s School.

#grateful

As a Community we have much to be grateful for.

I am grateful to those who have done much work over the last weeks to ensure that the school is looking fantastic and teachers were ready to start within their classrooms last Thursday.

Thank you to Mr Richard Soule for his work in maintaining and presenting our grounds and buildings to ensure they looked fantastic for our return.

To the amazing office staff - Jennie, Sue, Kylie and Sharon who have been working hard over the last few weeks helping me fit in, answering all my ‘silly’ questions and in preparing everything that is necessary to ensure the school is ready to start.

To the cleaners - especially Jodie and Michael who have worked tirelessly over the break to ensure classrooms and other learning spaces are clean and well presented.

To the teachers, who have been preparing and planning their rooms and teaching programs so they were ready when the children returned last Thursday. The classrooms were looking amazing and inspiring and ready for learning.

Mrs Angie Kok who has worked in the Uniform store to ensure all were able to access and purchase the necessary school uniform items.

Thank you to all.
This year our school theme will be BEING GRATEFUL.
We will spend a lot of time being grateful for what we have and learning to express this gratitude in many ways. 
Watch this space.

Wellbeing
Last Wednesday Dr Jane Foster worked with staff introducing us to the concept of MYTERN. Staff are really excited about learning about this way of helping us all learn to take responsibility for our own emotional feelings.

I am extremely excited and look forward to Dr Jane Foster coming in to work with your children on Thursday February 16th during the school Day. Jane will then run a parent session in The Discovery Centre at 7:00pm on Thursday evening. I look forward to meeting many parents and carers at this session.

To enable parents to attend this parent session, the 1/2 Browne Classroom under the Discovery Centre will be opened for your children to play during this meeting time. Miss Alice Cannon will be there to supervise with some helpers. Please phone the office if you require this service so we can staff it adequately.

It would be wonderful to see many parents at this session. MYTERN offers a way to help us respond to our children which helps build their independence and resilience to deal with day to day ‘problems’ in their worlds.

What is MYTERN?
MYTERN is an extremely powerful skill that teaches children (and adults) how to take control of their response to everyday stresses and challenges, improving mental, emotional and physical health . MYTERN is suitable for ages 3 and up, can be easily introduced, and has the potential to transform you, your school, the home and the workplace, through creating a common language.

What can it do for our children (and us)?

- realise that there is no need to blame people or circumstance for how you feel
- gain control of your emotional responses to everyday stresses and challenges
- learn that you are not failing when you drive on the rougher roads for a short time – you are building your resilience
- realise that lifting others off the red road (due to the minor daily stressors) is not helping them to build their resilience
## Staffing for 2017

I think it is useful to publish the list of staff employed for the year. This may be helpful when communicating with the teachers or administration around your children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal: Mrs Liz Illingworth</th>
<th>Assistant Principal: Mrs Carmen AyloR</th>
<th>Assistant Principal: Miss Alice Cannon</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder: Ms Siobhan Young (Tue, Thurs, Fri)</td>
<td>Kinder: Miss Tia McGillvery (Mon, Wed, Thurs)</td>
<td>Prep: Mrs Danielle Newman (Mon-Wed) Ms Renae Bennett (Thurs and Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep: Mrs Louise Mann</td>
<td>1-2: Miss Letitia Brown (Team Leader)</td>
<td>1-2: Mrs Tammi Crosswell (Mon-Wed) Mrs Catherine Digney (Thurs and Fri)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2: Mrs Jo Appleby</td>
<td>3-4: Mrs Hayley Clayton (Team Leader)</td>
<td>3-4: Mr Brett Hyatt</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4: Miss Jessica Edwards (Mon - Thurs) Miss Amy Perenski/Mrs Maryam Maleki (Fri)</td>
<td>5-6: Ms Nadia Paternoster (Team Leader) (Key ICT Teacher)</td>
<td>Physical Education: Mr Anthony Hielscher (Wed and Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music/Drama Mrs Kellie Boyle (Mon-Wed)</td>
<td>Social Emotional Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Mrs Lesley Vandervelde (Tues, Wed and Fri)</td>
<td>Administration Mrs Jennie James (Mon, Tues, Thu, Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Mrs Sue Pearton (Mon and Tues)</td>
<td>Administration Mrs Kylie Burke (Mon-Thur)</td>
<td>Administration/ICT Mrs Sharon Young (Tue-Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Assistants Mrs Debbie Lynch</td>
<td>Teacher Assistant Mrs Jan Pengelly</td>
<td>Teacher Assistant Mrs Lucinda Boyle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Assistant Mrs Gabrielle Rose</td>
<td>Teacher Assistant Mrs Lynn Cooper</td>
<td>Teacher Assistant Mrs Kate Dobber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian Mrs Sharon Van Baalen (Thurs and Fri)</td>
<td>Utility Officer Mr Richard Soule</td>
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### PIPS Testing (Performance Indicators in Primary Schools)

All Prep-aged children are expected to complete PIPS Testing at the beginning and end of their Prep Year. This testing provides important data for teachers about starting points for students and also shows growth over the Prep School year. Your child will complete this testing 1:1 with their classroom teacher. The information gained from PIPS Testing is invaluable to identify ways to best support the early literacy and numeracy outcomes for all Prep children.
Term Dates 2017 (Student Free Dates)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term One</td>
<td>9 February - 13 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Two</td>
<td>1 May - 7 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Three</td>
<td>24 July - 29 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Four</td>
<td>17 October - 21 December</td>
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Please note there is a student free day on Monday April 3rd and Monday October 16th.

Instagram, Twitter and Team App

Please follow the school on Instagram - @stfinnbarrs and/or Twitter - @stfbilton
Regular photos and reminders of things happening around the school will be posted. I am hoping to also link this to an official facebook page in coming weeks. Please follow to see the progress of your children.

St Finn Barr’s Parents and Friends Welcome Night

Please put the date of Friday February 17th, 5:00-7:00pm into your diaries. Come along, bring a picnic and have a great evening together where you can catch up with friends, welcome new families and meet the teachers of your child(ren). I am looking forward to meeting many of you on this night.

Grade 3-6 Swimming Carnival and Swimming Trials

Swimming Trials will be conducted at the Riverside Pool on Tuesday 14th February. Students will be bused to and from the pool. Please ensure students come to school with bathers and a towel for this event. The purpose of this event is so that races for the Carnival can be organised and students placed in events best suited to their ability.

The St Finn Barr’s Grade 3-6 Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday February 28th. As most parents are aware we will need significant parent help to run this event. It is essential that parents and friends have their WWVP Card in order to be able to help at this and all other school events. Information from Mr Hielshcher will be circulated soon in regards to this.

Camp Dates for 2017

Grade 5 and 6 Camp will be at Camp Clayton, Ulverstone from May 3rd - May 5th.
Parent Student Teacher Goal Setting Meetings - March 14 - 16th 3:15-5:45

Mark these dates in your calendar. Tuesday March 14th, Wednesday March 15th and Thursday March 16th. Notices to make bookings to meet with your child’s teacher will come home closer to the date.

The focus of these meetings will be on setting goals for your child’s learning and growth over the 2017 school year.

Early Arrival at School

Supervision on the school grounds begins at 8:30am each day. If your child arrives at school prior to this, they must sit and wait on the seats out the front of the Grade 3/4 Block until 8:30am. Please help to communicate this message to your child.

School Uniform

A reminder to all that PE Uniform is worn by all students each Wednesday and Friday and other days students should be in full school uniform.

Parking

The safety of all our students is of utmost importance. Please be respectful of all during school drop off and pick up times. Local business car parks are not for school use. Please be respectful of all. Staff are on duty until 3:15pm so come a little later if that helps.

A reminder that newsletters are accessed through TEAM APP.

Have a great week.

Liz Illingworth,
Principal.

Webpage: www.stfinnbarrs.tas.edu.au
Twitter: @stfbilton
Instagram: stfinnbarrs
Team App: https://stfinnbarrscatholicschool.teamapp.com/
Our February Focus is being a WEST Person.

“We are a community of safe respectful resilient learners”
**Playgroup Term 1, 2017**

Our Birth to 4 years Playgroup provides a great opportunity for you and your child to become familiar with our school, meet other families of the school and engage in a range of activities that will help develop the skills your child will need throughout their school life. The activities will focus on your child’s physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language development.

New families are always welcome!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Overview 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day of School</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Playgroup</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Playgroup</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring a Piece of fruit to share.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Back!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring a Piece of fruit to share and a change of clothes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Play</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring a Piece of fruit to share and a change of clothes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Play</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring your Teddy and some food to share.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teddy Bears Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring a Piece of fruit to share.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patterns and Shapes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring a Piece of fruit to share.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 30th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patterns and Shapes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring a Piece of fruit to share.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring a Piece of fruit to share.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45am - 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Hunt</td>
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</tbody>
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Please contact the school on 63263082, for more information.
Contact Information
The School Office is open from 8.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. daily.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 318
Mowbray Heights, 7248
Phone: (03) 6326 3082
Fax: (03) 6326 1989
Email: stfinnbarrs@catholic.tas.edu.au
Web: http://www.stfinnbarrs.tas.edu.au

Notification of Absences/Sickness of a Child
The school must be contacted by the child’s parent on the morning of the child’s absence. Where it is known in advance that a child will be absent, the school should be informed by the parent. This can be either by phone or email stfinnbarrs@catholic.tas.edu.au

Epipens, Medication, Asthma Plans
If your child has an epipen or medication in the school office please check with the office and make sure it has not reached its expiry date. If you are new to the school and your child is anaphylactic please ensure we have your child’s epipen and action plan in the office. If you have indicated that your child has asthma could you please update their asthma plan. Thank you.

Working with Vulnerable People Registration
Government legislation now requires all people working or volunteering with vulnerable people to be registered. It is an expectation placed on our schools that any person who is on an excursion, helping in the classroom, helping out with students getting changed after swimming, attending camps etc must have this registration.

If parents do not have registration or registration is pending you may not be able to volunteer and attend the excursion or school event.

How to apply for a WWVP and Number
1. Complete the online application form www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children
2. Print the “Application Receipt” which is generated when the application has been completed in full.
3. Take the “Application Receipt” to a Service Tasmania shop, pay the fee and have your 100 point check to confirm identity.

Once your registration has been approved and you receive your WWVP card, please bring it to the school office for verification. Thank you.

P.E. Uniform
All students from Prep to Grade 6 will wear their P.E. uniform on Wednesdays and Fridays. School Uniform will be worn on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Parents & Friends News

Welcome back!

To start the year the Parents & Friends has organised our annual welcome picnic! Bring a picnic dinner, relax and enjoy the evening, with family fun activities and entertainment provided. Free activities include a Jumping Castle and Orb Balls. It’s a great opportunity for Families and Teachers to catch up with each other after the school break and new families to come and join in within our school community.

Parents & Friends Welcome Picnic
Friday 17th February, 5pm - 7pm outside the SFB School Hall.

This is a free school community event.

Our first meeting is 7th March, 2017 at 7.30pm. You are warmly welcome to attend the Parents and Friends meeting. Maybe you are interested in meeting other parents, finding out more about the P & F, or joining in on fundraising and volunteering in the school community.

We would love to see you there.
A Few Snaps From Around The School From Our First Few Days
Community News

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Are you, or is a friend or relative of yours, interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? If so, then the RCIA process is an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith in a friendly, small group environment. Please feel free to bring a friend along to accompany you on the journey, or to help them as they explore the riches of our faith. If you would like to join this group, please join us for an INFORMATION EVENING MONDAY 6th March at 7:30pm at the Pastoral Centre, 44 Margaret Street Launceston. For enquiries/expressions of interest please contact Gordana or Paul Crowe on 0417 307 147 or 6331 1674 for more information.

Are you looking to join a Netball Club? - Heritage Islander Netball Club is the club for you!
If you are aged between 8-15 years old, and want to have some fun, or learn a new sport, come along Thursday nights to Hoblers Bridge, Centre Court 1 at 4:30 pm. Contact: Annette Griffin.....0458 711 993 for more information

School Banking is fun, rewarding and easy!
All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:


2. In branch. Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver’s licence and birth certificate.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. School Banking day is Monday. Your child will need to drop their bank book into the office on Monday before school.

Piano, Keyboard, Guitar, & Ukulele Lessons & Pre-School Music & Movements Classes

The Music Tree offers instrumental tuition in a fun group environment perfect for the young beginner (up to 8 yrs). Classes include the use of percussion instruments, music games, movement and lots of fun activities - the perfect balance to keep young kids interested and motivated. Award winning parent/child music classes for babies and pre-school children including our Family Fun Class. Did you know that music is one of the most beneficial activities your child can participate in developing not only a huge range of motor, cognitive, social and language skills, but also helping children with reading readiness and maths. We also run sessions for schools, play groups, parties etc. e-mail: info@themusictree.com.au  www.themusictree.com.au Ph: 0407344107 www.facebook.com/themusictreetas

After School Care 2017

Do you require After School Care for your child/ren in 2017? Would you like your child to be in a calm relaxing environment with low ratios and a Diploma qualified, professional carer, and to be cared for as an individual rather than one of the crowd? School pick-up and afternoon tea provided as well as great activities and outings and Child Care Benefit available. If you are looking for that personal touch please contact Debby on Ph: - 63266308 or 0438 322 721 Registered with Northern Children’s Network
Launceston Youth Theatre Ensemble - Enrolments open

Have you always wanted to try an acting or drama class? Would you like to perform on the stage? Do you want to meet wonderful new people, have fun and develop your confidence? Enrolments are open for our 2017 ensemble, for young people in grades Prep-12. Participating in theatre at a young age develops imagination and creative thinking, communication and social skills, and builds courage and confidence. At LYTE, you receive excellent acting training, great insight into theatre craft and professional practise, and will participate in exciting theatre workshops and productions. LYTE is a company for everyone, those who may wish to become actors and those who may not. No previous experience required.

We’d love to have the opportunity to welcome you to our ensemble.

Contact: Renée Bakker. Email reenebakker1981@gmail.com Facebook Launceston Youth Theatre Ensemble

The Northern Tasmanian Junior Soccer Association, would like to invite boys and girls 5-16 years of age, to join the largest participation sport in the world. Season 2017 kicks off in April at Churchill Park, Invermay.

The Association is made up of the following clubs;

Westside Devils – Mitsubishi Park, Westbury Road, Prospect Ph. 0418 316 475 e-mail Amanda Noble ccstas@bigpond.net.au

Launceston United – Birch Avenue, Newstead Ph.0408 441 836 (Club Sec) e-mail Heather Reading heather.reading@education.tas.gov.au

Riverside Olympic – Windsor Park, Riverside Ph. 0439 032 396 (Club Sec) e-mail riversideolympicjuniortas@gmail.com

Southern Raiders – Prospect Park, Harley Pde, Prospect Ph. 0400 639 790 (Club Sec) e-mail southernraiders@gmail.com

North Launceston Eagles – Churchill Park, Invermay Ph. 0407 034 779 (Registrar) e-mail Andrew Harper abharper@mmm.com

George Town JSC – Blue Gum Park, George Town Ph. 0400 289 417 (Club Sec) e-mail Kristy Fawdry kristyfawdry@hotmail.com

Deloraine JSC – Deloraine Ph. 0459 032 169 e-mail tieniellem@icloud.com

Northern Rangers – NTCA Ground Ph. 0448 008 606 e-mail rangers.juniors@gmail.com

To register to play, or for more information please contact one of the above clubs, or the NTJSA on 03 6331 911 or e-mail admin@ntjsa.org.
Parents & Friends Welcome Picnic

Please join us for a get-together to catch up with friends, welcome new families and meet the teachers.

Friday 17th February.

5 -7 pm outside the SFB School Hall.

Bring a picnic dinner and relax and enjoy the evening.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there.
We are a community of safe respectful resilient learners

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Thursday, 9 February
Students - Term 1 Commences

Thursday, 16 February
7 pm - MYTERN Parent Session

Friday, 17 February
Welcome Night SFB 5-7pm

Friday, 24 February
Gr 5/6 Friday Sport - Summer

Tuesday, 28 February
Swimming Carnival Gr 3-6

Friday, 3 March
Gr 5/6 Friday Sport - Summer

Friday, 10 March
Gr 5/6 Friday Sport - Summer

Friday, 17 March
Gr 5/6 Friday Sport - Summer

Thursday, 23 March
NIJSSA Swimming Carnival

Friday, 24 March
Gr 5/6 Friday Sport - Summer

Thursday, 30 March
Back up Day - NIJSSA Swimming Carnival

Friday, 31 March
Gr 5/6 Friday Sport - Summer