Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs. Mercedes Clear (Gr 5/6) and Mrs. Jane Foster (Gr 3/4) have been appointed and will be joining our teaching staff for 2014.

Mrs. Clear taught Gr 5/6 at SFB in Term 3, 2012 and following that, travelled overseas. She is excited to be returning to our school and is looking forward to working in our community again.

Mrs. Jane Foster has been appointed to Gr 3/4 Aylott and will teach on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs. Foster is currently teaching at St Thomas More’s in Gr 1/2. She is an experienced teacher who has worked in various states across Australia. She is also excited to be joining our teaching staff.

Many thanks to the P & F who are organising the Christmas Parade float for our school and the many parents who are supporting this event by allowing their children to participate. It is very exciting for our children who are thrilled to be part of this event.

A meeting is being held in early December to discuss with the parents of our current Gr 4 & Gr 5 students the direction SFB will take with iPads. We have trialled having iPads in two classes this year where the children use them in class and also took them home. There are lots of positives with all technology and also challenges. St Patrick’s College has indicated that they will be moving to all Year 7 students requiring an Ipad from 2015. This is a factor in our forward planning. The meeting with parents will decide whether we move to every child having an iPad next year in all Gr 5/6 classes or not. The parents who attend this meeting will be able to assist in making this decision after information sharing and a full and frank discussion.
If parents wish to have a conversation with teachers about issues that have arisen it is appropriate to make an appointment so that a proper discussion can occur. It is not appropriate to have the conversation in the middle of the classroom with children and other parents standing around listening at the start of the day.

It would not be considered professional for a teacher to walk up to you as you are standing with a group of parents and begin a conversation about the issues your child is having, in front of other parents. Equally it is not appropriate for parents to confront, and I deliberately use that word, teachers in front of their students and other parents about issues that have arisen.

The relationship between SFB teachers and parents is very good. It is very much based on mutual respect. As parents you want and do everything possible which will assist your child to become the best person they can be. Teachers also want exactly the same for your child and work very hard to achieve this. When issues arise please do come and talk to the teachers, but do it in the appropriate way, in an appropriate place and at an appropriate time.

Our Gr 5 students are submitting their applications for the Student Leadership positions (School Captains, Vice Captains and House Captains) in our school. At our Orientation Day on 5th December they will give a prepared speech and the election process will occur. I look forward to receiving their applications and hearing their speeches to their peers on the day.

Have a great week.

Anthony Healey,
Principal.

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**ICT News**

A meeting is being held on Wednesday, December 4th at 6.00 p.m. for our Grade Five and Six Parents in 2014. It is hoped that a representative from each family in the group will be able to attend this meeting.

It is to outline some of the thinking in our planning for work with iPads in 2014 and to discuss the implications. The aim is to achieve the best possible outcome for our Students and families.

In the meantime, Prep Bird Parents, please continue to return your iPad end of trial surveys. Thank you to those who have!

Please forward any questions to lynne.seaton@catholic.tas.edu.au
School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

We are a Community of
Safe
Respectful
Resilient
Learners.

Remember the 6:1 positives as we come into the “silly season”. December seems to be coming quickly. Let’s keep sharing the positives so we really can stay a community that is safe, respectful and resilient.

Tip from the SWPBS website......

“When using praise as positive reinforcement effectively, it needs to:

be specific: Make praise as effective as possible by making it specific. Say who is being praised and why! Some individuals do not understand more general praise and the positive reinforcement will be wasted!

be immediate: Use praise immediately after the appropriate behaviour occurs!

be used frequently: Make sure praise is frequent! Once is not enough – keep praising those great behaviours to keep those great behaviours going!!

Sincerely,
We can do it!

If you have any SWPBS questions you would like addressed in the Parent Newsletter, please email lynne.seaton@catholic.tas.edu.au

Uniform Shop News

Have you placed your uniform order for 2014?
To assist with ordering of supplies please place your order now and collect it in 2014.

2014 Opening Hours

The Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesday 29th January, 11-2 p.m.
and Thursday 6th February, 8.30 - 9.30 p.m. and 2.30 - 3.30 p.m.

Please mark these dates in your Calendar.
Prayer
God our Father,
in the challenges of each day,
let us remember all the children in
the world who do not have the freedom and security that we do.
Give us the strength and faith
to remember your message of love and peace
and to live our lives believing and sharing that message with others.
We make this prayer in your name.
Amen.

 Parish Buddy Masses are on Thursdays at 12:00 in the Church. The class attending this week is the 3/4 Team.

 St Vincent de Paul
In the lead up to Christmas there are many families who are not able to enjoy many of the special privileges and treats of the Christmas season.
We are asking you to support St Vincent de Paul and bring one item to donate, this could be:
- Festive food goodies to add to Christmas hampers
- Non-perishable food items
In each classroom there will be a box to put these items. All donations will be given to St Vincent de Paul and will be given out at Christmas time.
Thank you for your support.

 Dates for your diaries:
Carols Concert - Wednesday, 11th December @ 6:30 p.m.
End of Year & Graduation Mass - Tuesday, 17th December @ 7:00 p.m.
Thank You
Thank You
Thank You
Thank You

An open invitation.

To each and every one of our Parents, Grandparents and Friends who have in ANY WAY helped our community this year we send a huge thank you from each of us!

So many of our events and support in learning would not function without YOUR interest, commitment and support.

We are having a Morning Tea on Tuesday, 3rd December at 11.00 a.m.
in the Hall to celebrate YOU.
We would like you to know we appreciate you.

Please come along. Don’t be modest. Don’t be shy. We know who you are and would like you to be there as we show our appreciation. Tell your family and friends who have been there for us. Come and join in.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

From Staff and Students at St Finn Barr’s 2013.
**HEADLICE**
Headlice have been found amongst children in the school. Please check your child's hair today.

**Late Arrival and Notification of Student Absences**
All students who arrive at school after 8.55 a.m. must sign in at the office and get a late arrival slip to give to their class teacher. This is to assist with the student absent system.

The school must be contacted by the child's parent on the morning of the child's absence. Contact can be made by phone or email to the school office. Where it is known in advance that a child will be absent, the school should be informed by the parent in advance, in writing. Thank you.

**School Books 2014**
Booklists and log on passwords for the ordering and payment of school books in 2014 will be sent to parents by the beginning of December. Books must be ordered and paid for before 31st December or there will be a late fee of $9.95.

Families who qualify for Student Assistance will be notified by the school office in the first week of December and they will not need to order books online. These families will need to collect their books from the School Office on Wednesday 29th January, or Thursday 30th January, 2014. Please mark these dates in your Calendar.

*If any families have any questions or concerns please contact our school office.*

**Student Assistance Scheme (STAS)**
STAS is one of the forms of financial assistance available to assist with the cost of school levies. The scheme provides assistance for low-income families towards the cost of levies for students enrolled from Kinder through to year 12. Families who have been in receipt of STAS 2013 have been sent correspondence regarding STAS 2014. If you have changed address you will need to contact the Department on 1800 816 057.

*STAS application forms can be collected from the School Office.*

**Launceston Catholic Schools Music Program**
presents the
11th Annual Concert & Awards Evening
Thursday November 28th 2013, 7pm.
Nano Nagle Gymnasium,
St Patrick’s College Launceston.
Tickets available from your school office
or at the door.
Adults $5.00
Child $3 (3-16)
**Christmas Parade**
The Christmas Parade is THIS SATURDAY and we have 70 students participating. Our last working bees will be on Wednesday afternoon after 2pm and after school on Friday. We will be at Fr Richard’s shed behind the Church and the garden. Please come and help if you can. Students who have not passed on their preference should wear their sports uniform with a Christmas hat or decoration (please don’t buy anything special just use what you have) and we have some green and red stockings to brighten them up. If you have any questions please contact Annie Duffy on 0458006093. If for some reason your child cannot attend the Parade please text Annie on 0458006093 before 9am on the day as we will have a role call and have to have all children accounted for. All children attending will have a note sent home with more details this week. If you don’t get one please collect a copy from the office.

**Ezy Covers**
Last year we discovered a fabulous product that is available for everyone to order online. They are a great and easy way to cover books. For every cover sold the P & F gets 5 cents but if you put in the school code of ZFA186 the donation increases to 10 cents. The covers look great and are ridiculously easy, there is a great display of samples in the office. They are only available online. Please take note of the Ezy Cover flyer in this newsletter and at the office.

**Next Meeting**
The last P & F meeting for the year is on Wednesday, 4th December at 7.30pm at the Gunners Arms Hotel. This is a dinner meeting to celebrate the end of the year. If you are planning to attend please RSVP by Monday 2nd December. We hope to see you there.
The Great Wall of Dairy visit to Hagley
Dear Parents/Caregivers

This is the third Assessment and Reporting update for 2013 and provides information about your child’s end of year report. All Catholic schools in Tasmania are moving towards a common report format (Prep-10) for both mid-year and end of year reports. Common reporting helps to build consistency in and between our schools throughout all stages of schooling. In 2014 we will be seeking feedback from parents/caregivers regarding both the midyear and end of year report. We look forward to your responses as we continue to work together to provide the best possible education for your child.

Dr. Trish Handmarsh
Director of Catholic Education

End of Year Reports Prep-10

The End of Year Report is a summary statement that records the achievements of your child at a particular point in time. Teachers make a judgment based on their shared professional knowledge about how evidence in student work, over the school year, matches the achievement standards for each year level.

In each subject area teachers develop assessment that is directly aligned to what students have had an opportunity to learn, based on the intended curriculum. What is reported is directly aligned to what has been assessed. The intended curriculum for Tasmanian Catholic schools is outlined below.

The Curriculum for Tasmanian Catholic Schools

In Tasmanian Catholic Schools the curriculum for Religious Education is Good News for Living. Good News for Living can be viewed online at http://www.catholic.tas.edu.au/publications/re-resources

The Australian Curriculum English, Maths, Science and History are the intended curriculum for Tasmanian Catholic schools P-10 and in 2013 students were assessed against the achievement standards for these subjects (these can be viewed online at http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home

The Australian Curriculum and/or the Tasmanian Curriculum inform the curriculum for other key learning areas, with the exception of VET (Vocational Education Training) subjects and specific school-based electives offered in Years 9 & 10.

The Tasmanian Curriculum can be viewed at http://www.education.tas.gov.au/Students/schools-colleges/curriculum/Pages/ Tasmanian-Curriculum.aspx

End of Year Report Format

The End of Year Report includes:

- A summative A-E rating for subjects studied
- An indication of progress against the strands identified for each subject
- Attitude and application ratings
- A general/pastoral comment

Individual subject comments are not included as part of the End of Year Report.

In the primary school, subject based comments will be incorporated, where appropriate, within the general comment.

In secondary schools, subject-based comments will only be included in the general comment if especially warranted.

In consultation with parents/caregivers a narrative report may be provided for one or more subjects. A narrative report is given when it is not appropriate to assess a student against grade level expectations.
The Complete Picture

The A-E rating is only one part of the compete picture of student progress. The progress by strand highlights areas of strength and/or areas for further development. Please be aware that students receiving all ‘extending’ on the strands may be awarded an A or B based on the quality of their work.

Application and attitude to learning will help you to determine if your child is working to his/her full capacity. Together these provide the overall picture of your child’s progress, which cannot be conveyed by a single A-E rating.

It should also be noted that a student who has maintained the same rating from report period to report period is making progress. A C on the mid-year report and a C at the end of year indicates that your child has made the expected progress from one report period to the next.

Reporting in Kindergarten

Kindergarten educators are required to keep quality journals of student progress and development throughout the year. These journals are a rich source of information about student development and take time and care to maintain. They are used for a number of purposes including reporting to families.

These journals comply with the National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care and take the place of other formal forms of report documents used previously.

Days of Attendance

Attendance figures represent the number of days attended as at report submission date prior to printing. Depending on school size and internal demands, the day(s) of printing will vary. This will result in small differences in the total number of days between and, in some circumstances, within schools. Your child’s school will inform you of the dates represented on the report.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

When parents/caregivers receive a report card they also have the option of a parent-teacher interview to discuss their child’s progress. At the end of the year Parent/teacher interviews are by parent request. Requests for an interview need to be made immediately following the release of reports. Teachers are not available from the 20th December 2013 until 3rd February 2014.

A-E Ratings

The A-E rating describes the quality of achievement against the year level achievement standards. Students cannot be assessed against an achievement standard beyond their year level unless they have been taught the entire year level content to which an achievement standard applies.

The A-E rating is based on evidence of student learning through ongoing assessment. It is not influenced by effort or attitude, which are reported separately.

A- Outstanding Achievement
B- High Achievement
C- Sound Achievement
D- Partial Achievement
E- Minimal Achievement

An A indicates a student has demonstrated outstanding achievement of the knowledge, skills and understandings expected at year level. This statement encompasses evidence of learning beyond the expected level.

An E indicates a student has demonstrated minimal achievement of the knowledge, skills and understandings expected at year level.

A C indicates your child has achieved the expected standard for a student in that year level.

Students in Prep-Year 2 will not receive an A-E letter rating. Their achievement will be conveyed using the rating descriptor only. (e.g. High achievement)
The last Book Club for the year has been sent home.
The date for return of orders is Wednesday 27th November, 2013.

No late orders can be accepted, even those paid for online, to allow processing and delivery of the orders before school finishes for the year.

Thank you.

Community News

Tasmanian multiple birth Association
School Aged Multiples Information Night

Are your multiples heading off to school?
Are your multiples already at school?
Come along and learn how to be prepared! And ask advice to clarify plans for your children already at school!

TasMBA is hosting an information night aimed at providing parents and carers of multiples with answers to questions like:
- Do you separate multiples?
- How do you manage multiple homework tasks?
- How can I prepare my multiples for school?
- What should be on my to-do list?
- Hear how other parents have done it!

RSVP: ASAP to Katie Wightman via Facebook, on 0417 146 529 or president@tasmba.org.au

St. Finn Barr's Catholic School

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## Calendar

### November

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### December

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<td>Monday Prayer 1/2 Team</td>
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<td>Grade 6 Leavers Dinner at Aurora Stadium- 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Parent Help Thank you Morning Tea 11-11.30 am</td>
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|        |        | Infant Swimming Prep - Gr 2 | Infant Swimming Prep - Gr 2 | Christmas Carols Concert @ 6:30 pm | Infant Swimming Prep - Gr 2 |        |
|        |        |        |           |           |        |          |
|        |        |        |           |           |        |          |
|        | Infant Swimming Prep Team | Infant Swimming Prep - Gr 2 | Infant Swimming Prep - Gr 2 | Infant Swimming Prep - Gr 2 |        |          |
|        |        |        |           | Christmas Carols Concert @ 6:30 pm |        |          |

| 15     | 16     | 17      | 18        | 19        | 20     | 21       |
|        |        | Thanksgiving and Graduation Mass at 7pm |        | Term 4 Ends |        |          |
|        |        |        |           |           |        |          |
|        |        |        |           |           |        |          |
|        | Morning Prayer 1/2 LM/CA |        |        |           |        |          |

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