Principal’s Message

Dear Parents,

After ten years I am leaving the St Finn Barr’s Community which I have loved serving as Principal. In reflecting on my time, there have been vast changes to the school environment, culture and academic results.

The school has grown from 225 students and one Kindergarten class of 25, to 280 students and two Kindergarten classes totalling, 320 students. The Administration building, as well as two classrooms, have been refurbished. The Hall and Kindergarten buildings were constructed. The grounds have been transformed with the addition of three playgrounds including the very popular swings, and our barren oval is now a lush green playing field for our students.

The school has developed a strong culture of recognising and celebrating a standard of behaviour where students know what is expected and value that behaviour as it creates a Safe, Respectful and Resilient Learning Community. The school has transformed from the Launceston Catholic School with the most number of behavioural challenges, to a school where there are few behavioural issues and the students are happy.

Academically, the school has continued to improve with students benefitting from a settled learning environment and improving quality teaching. The Reading initiative this year has been a great success with improved reading outcomes across the school.

I would like to thank the staff for their support and their dedication to the students and families of the St Finn Barr’s community. In particular, I would like to thank the Office staff, Jennie James, Sue Pearton, Sharon Young and Kylie Burke who are just magnificent. Alice Cannon and Carmen Aylott are great leaders within our school and go well beyond the expected in their roles as Assistant Principals.

I will miss the families and students of our community. In my ten years I have met and come to know and respect so many families who want the very best future for their children, which is why their child attends St Finn Barr’s. I will miss the welcoming nature and friendliness of the students who are a credit to their parents and to the school.
I would like to recognise and thank the many members of the School Board and Parents and Friends who have dedicated their time and effort in making our school a great community. I would like to recognise the Student Leaders who have done a great job this year, in particular Charlton Allen and Tayla Barlow who have been outstanding as School Captains.

I would like to thank the present and past school community and staff members for the support and friendship that has been extended to me. I have appreciated and valued it. I will miss St Finn Barr’s and its wonderful community.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas break. Enjoy and be safe, and I look forward to seeing and competing against St Finn Barr’s in the Sporting carnivals and Friday sport next year and continuing to have contact with our community.

Anthony Healey,
Principal.

St Finn Barr’s Pupil Free Day in 2017 - Monday, 3rd April

This Wednesday parents are invited to attend a picnic lunch starting at 12.45pm. The Picnic areas will need to be at the front and on the back oval due to the upgrading of the middle oval. It will be a Plain Clothes Day for students on the last day of Term. (Kinder B will have Plain Clothes Day on Tuesday, 13th December.)

MYTERN - SAVE THE DATE

All Parents, pop this date in your diary for 2017. Thursday 16th February, 7:00pm in the Discovery Centre. Parent Sessions on MYTERN (Taking Emotional Responsibility Now). MYTERN teaches you that it is your response to life’s challenges that dictates your emotions, and you can learn to take control of that response.

www.myterncity.com.au

P & F NEWS

The St Finn Barr’s Parents and Friends would like to thank the whole School Community for their ongoing support this year at all our activities.

Thanks to all those who took the time to come to the meetings or helped at events throughout the year. Many thanks to Jennie, Sue, Sharon and Kylie in the Office, who are invaluable in all their help with everything we do - we couldn’t do it without them! Also to Mr Soule who is a massive help with everything we do.

The St Finn Barr’s Parents and Friends would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing the whole SFB Community at our Welcome Night on Friday 18th February, 2017.
Prayer
Loving God,
We celebrate the goodness that this year has brought us.
We rejoice and thank you for the many blessings we have experienced in our school community.
Let us hold on to that joy and recognise the grace of your presence in those memories.
We ask this in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

Thanksgiving & Graduation Mass
When: Monday, 12th December 2016
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Where: St Finn Barr’s Church

The Church will open at 6:30 p.m.
Grade 6 students to arrive at 6:45 p.m. and meet on the top court.

Grade 6 students to wear summer uniforms.
Grade 5 Leaders and Readers to wear summer uniforms.
Kinder to Grade 5 students are to sit with their parents and may wear casual clothes.

Come along and celebrate our Year.

Thank you for your support with items for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. A wonderful effort!
SCHOOL BOOKLISTS 2017

Have You Ordered Your Child's Books for 2017?

Booklists have been sent home with codes for online purchasing. Please remember that orders placed on or before 11th December will be delivered free of charge. All orders after this date will incur a delivery fee of $9.95.

If you have lost your order form, copies can be found on our web page http://www.stfinnbarrs.tas.edu.au/news-events/newsletter

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Opening Hours for the last week of Term will be Tuesday, 13th December instead of Thursday.
8.30-9.30am & 2.30-3.30pm

Uniform Shop Back to School opening hours
• Tuesday 31st January, 12 noon - 3pm
• Thursday 2nd February, 9 am - 12 noon
• Tuesday 7th February , 10 am - 2pm

Order forms can be completed and left at the school office in December and orders will be ready for pick up in 2017.
Order Forms:- http://www.stfinnbarrs.tas.edu.au/community/uniform-shop

If you are wanting to leave pre-loved clothing in the Uniform Shop for sale, please remember to complete a Pre-loved Clothing form. http://www.stfinnbarrs.tas.edu.au/files/Pre%20loved%20clothing.pdf

REMINDERS

✦ Have you ordered your child's school books for 2017 ?? Please order online.
✦ Have you returned your Payment Arrangements Form for 2017 to the school office?
✦ The Library is closed for 2016. It would be appreciated if all outstanding books could be returned. Thank you!
✦ All Fee accounts should be finalised. If you are unable to finalise your account please contact the school office. Thank you.

Lost Property
• The Lost Property basket in the office is overflowing.
If your child has lost a jumper, rugby top or lunch box please come and have a look.
THANKSGIVING AND GRADUATION MASS

When: Monday, 12th December 2016
Time: 7:00 p.m.
The Church will open at 6:30 p.m.
Grade 6 students to arrive at 6:45 p.m. and meet on the top court.
Grade 6 students to wear summer uniforms.
Kinder to Grade 5 students are to sit with their parents and may wear casual clothes.
Where: St Finn Barr’s Church

Come along and celebrate our year.
Please collect your child’s report after Mass.
**Launceston Occupational Therapy**

Launceston Occupational Therapy is offering small therapy groups during the summer break on fine motor/early handwriting skills, handwriting skills and touch typing/technology assisted writing. Students will need to be assessed before the groups commence. Rates will be reduced for group sessions. Phone 63317202 for appointments.

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**WHERE THE PASSION BEGINS**

The Rugby Union Academy in Tasmania’s first and only rugby academy, catering not only for rugby players, but also young males who are interested in learning about the game, developing their rugby and having fun.

**Introduction into Rugby Program**

For players aged 7-12 years old we run an Introduction into Rugby program. The focus of this program is fun, active and game oriented program designed to introduce, educate and improve the skills of young rugby players in a grassroot level. Skill development is essential for young players to learn about the game of rugby union, however, it can be boring. Young players want to play games, be involved and have fun. That is why The Rugby Union Academy focuses on developing the essential skills of rugby union, while players are enjoying themselves in the company of others and having fun.

Programs are run during the school holidays from 4:30pm. So jump on our website and see when we are running a program near you. Join in the fun, get active, develop your skills and learn to play rugby.

**ENQUIRIES**

Website: www.therugbyunionacademy.com

Email: info@therugbyunionacademy.com

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**Celebrating Jesus Christ this Christmas**

**Christmas Eve: December 24th**

5.30 St Peter's, Youngtown
6.00 Sacred Heart, Newstead
6.00 St Francis, Riverside
6.30 Church of Apostles, Launceston
8.00 St Augustine, Longford
8.30 St Francis Xavier, Beaconsfield
9.00 Church of Apostles, Launceston
Midnight Church of Apostles, Launceston

**Christmas Morning: December 25th**

8.30 Carmelite Monastery, West Launceston
9.00 St Francis, Riverside
9.00 St Patrick’s College Chapel, Prospect
9.00 St Finn Barr’s Church, Invermay
9.30 St Peter’s, Youngtown
10.30 Church of Apostles, Launceston
11.00 St Canice, Glengarry

Kings Meadows Catholic Parish: 6344 5473  Launceston Catholic Parish: 6331 4377  West Tamar Catholic Parish: 6327 3971
CALENDAR

DATES FOR 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Students start</th>
<th>Students finish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Thursday 9th February</td>
<td>Thursday 13th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday 1st May</td>
<td>Friday 7th July</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 24th July</td>
<td>Friday 29th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Monday 16th October</td>
<td>Thursday 21st December</td>
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MESSAGE FOR ST PATRICK’S COLLEGE YEAR 7 STUDENTS 2017

Important Bus Information for Tuesday 7 February 2017 (Year 7 & 12 students only)

Metro school bus services will not be operating on Tuesday 7 February 2017. Accordingly, parents of Year 7 and 12 students who ordinarily catch Metro school buses will need to make alternative arrangements for transporting students to and from school on that day.

All country bus school services will be operating as normal from Tuesday 7 February.

Metro school bus services will commence on Wednesday 8 February 2017.