

FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Teaching, learning and achieving in a safe and caring community



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11th November, 2010.

Better Ways to Receive and View the School Newsletter

Sometimes the newsletter gets 'lost' and doesn't make it home. Sometimes it gets squashed under the old sandwiches and banana. Want a better way to receive it??

Problem solved.

You can view the newsletter on our website in full colour (see address above) or, we can email it to you – simply let Roslyn Braine at the school office know your email address and it will be there safe and secure.
(telephone number and email address located above)

November

12 Formal Assembly 10.10 am

December

2 P & C Meeting 7.30pm

3 Orientation Day Year 7 2011

9 Presentation Night

9 Last Day for Year Ten's

10 Year 10 Presentation 9.10 am

15 Students last day of school.

16 – 17 Staff Development Days

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Principal's Message

In the next few weeks there will no doubt be a media frenzy based around the Federal Government's My School website. This website was set up for the first time in 2009 with a view to publicly showing how schools performed in the national Literacy and Numeracy tests known as Naplan. This data will again be available for 2010 from early December.

Is this website useful? How can we interpret the data that is on that site? How well does our school perform? Much has been written about the data on the website but I would like to make the following key points about it –

- When Naplan tests were first introduced they were devised to be a diagnostic test to help teachers and parents see areas of strength and weakness in students' literacy and numeracy skills. The tests were never intended to be used to rank schools or create what are now called 'league tables' between schools, but

rather to identify areas where schools could help students improve.

- The Naplan tests are conducted with Year 7 and 9 students only and they are general literacy and numeracy tests only. They do not test the majority of the areas of the curriculum nor the majority of the students.
- From the performance of that group of students on those two tests only, schools are then in effect ranked against other schools. If those students performed well on the test then the conclusion drawn is that the school is doing well and vice versa.

Clearly this is a very flawed process. Yes it does tell us some things about a school. But in making judgements about schools there are great number of things that need to be considered that are in no way discussed or examined on the My School website –

- Whilst literacy and numeracy skills are important there are also a great many other skills that are critical. The website totally ignores such key areas as technology skills, creativity, research skills, ability to analyse, manual skills, to name but some.
- In considering a school's worth there are other matters that need to be considered – the quality of the curriculum offered, the quality of resources available to students, extra curricula programs, student welfare support programs, the quality of the relationships between students and between student and staff, and so on.
- The quality of the teaching is a very critical factor in any school. Test results of their own accord do not give us a clear answer on this. There are a huge number of factors that go into why a student achieves certain results – the quality of the teaching they receive is an important element in this but there are many other critical matters as well.
- There also needs to be consideration of the nature of the school, the background of the students involved and the other things such as the facilities available to the school.

In other words judgements about schools need to consider many factors. It is a complex matter not a

simple matter. Schools do not exist to be in competition with each other. Our task is to look after the welfare and education of each of our students to the best of our ability.

We do not hide away from people making judgements or making constructive criticism based on evidence. We want to continually improve. What is important however are two things –

- That we work to get each and every student to achieve their personal best in all areas of their schooling
- That the students who leave us are good quality people who care about others and have the right attitudes and approach to life.

If we can do those things we have achieved a great deal. These are the things that really count about schools.

Bernie Roebuck
Principal

Centrelink and Youth Allowance – You may be eligible

From 1 July 2010, the Parental Income Test threshold for students to receive the maximum rate of Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY will increase from the current \$33 300 to \$44,165. This means that more students will be entitled to Youth Allowance and many students already on Youth Allowance will receive more support.

For example, the parental income cut-off point for a family with two children aged 18 and 20 at home will increase from around \$63 000 to over \$108 000 and the cut-off point for a family with two children aged 18 and 20 and living away from home will increase from around \$80 000 to over \$142 000.

These changes may affect you. To help you work out how much support you may be entitled to, go to the [Student Assistance Estimator](#). The Estimator allows young people to enter their parents' income level and family type to gain an estimate of the level of

support they might expect to receive under the proposed changes.

This is the link to the Youth Allowance Student Assistance Estimator
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Programs/YouthAllowance/Pages/default.aspx>

This is a great tool for parents who are unsure as to whether or not they qualify for Centrelink benefits. It is relatively user friendly and will allow you to see if you could be eligible for payments and benefits. You may be surprised at the results as it is dependent upon number of children and income.

Should you have any further questions contact your local Centrelink Office.

Rosemary RA Hill
Centrelink Manager
Area North Central Vic
Deniliquin
W: 03 5898 3823
M: 0419 034 262
F: 03 5898 3899

Year 10 to 11 VET Student Workplacement Meeting

A huge thank you to the parents who attended this information session held on November 4th. I would also like to commend Year 10 students who listened intently to information about next year's courses. Mr Roebuck, Mrs Thompson from TAFE and Mrs Rowe, the VET/TVET coordinator for Finley High School, addressed issues important to the students for their studies in 2011.

We would like students who may be thinking about taking up a School Based Traineeship or Apprenticeship to seek out an employer now. Students must have an employer willing to work with them in an SBT or SBA. Students need to commence such this year.
Further details from Mrs Rowe at school.

An important message to all parents/carers of Year 10 students studying a VET/TVET course/s in 2011

Please do not make other appointments for the day of Tuesday May 3rd for your son/daughter. This day in Week 2 of Term 2 is the **compulsory** day for all students to attend an Occupational Health and Safety seminar at the Finley R.S. Club. Before students can attend workplacement they must have completed mandatory OH&S requirements. They will attend their first industry workplacement at the end of term 2. Week 10 – June 27th if they have attended this day.

Go 4 Grains Kid's Design Challenge

Year 8TM5 entered into this statewide competition. There were 1800 entries. We did not achieve a prize in the final held last week in Sydney but at a school level we are very proud of our students. Mrs Rowe as class teacher invited Ms Neilan and Mrs Maxwell to judge the class' efforts in designing a healthy food containing at least 2 grains that could be sold at the school canteen. We will award our winner with their prize at the formal assembly this Friday. We think our winner showed ingenuity. We may not have been awarded a prize but we have the honour of being one of four NSW schools written up in a Case Study of our road in the competition. This will be on the Go 4 Grains website. Many of our students in the class came from grain growing families or their supportive industries. We are so proud of our students' efforts.

Year 10 Food Technology decorated special occasion cakes

The photos of the 40 cakes are on display in the front foyer of the school. We invite you to call in and have a look at the superb efforts of our talented students. At Friday's formal assembly we will award prizes to the winners and runners up of the public vote for best cakes. Well done Year 10.

Mrs Rowe, Mr Weir and Mrs Maxwell.



Cake decorated by Victoria Hogan



Cake Decorated by Tyler Pyle

TOP SPELLERS

The **Year 9 and 10 spelling competition** was held at the end of last term. Results are as follows:

- 1st Hayley Daniel (yr 10).
- 2nd Matt Bodaddio Yr 9)
- 3rd Andrew Bauer (yr 9)
- 4th Shane Twemlow (yr 9)

Other winners of the competitions held in each class were: Rhys Smith, Jessica Butler, Billyjoe Midson and Shenae Gibbs.

The **competition for year 7 and 8** was held in week 3.

- 1st Chloe O’Bryan (yr 7)
- 2nd Maxine Harris (yr 7) and Tarla Gray (yr 7)
- 3rd Lachlan Oddie (yr 8)

The other winners of class competitions were: Mitchell Gustin, Alexandra Williams, Jordan Hicks,

Kenny Connors, Melissa Rogers, Trent Nielson and Rosa-Lea Cleve.
Special thanks to McNaughts Transport for donating \$400 for prize money.

ENGLISH COMPETITION RESULTS

Distinction – Chloe O’Bryan (yr 7)
Maxine Harris (yr 7)

Credit – Jeshua Milburn (yr 8)

Congratulations to all participants in these events.

Veronica McNaught
English Head Teacher



Year 9 and 10 Spelling Winners



Year 7 & 8 Spelling Winners

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience commences on November 15th for two weeks.

Students have all but completed organising their placements and have taken home the Work Experience Package. This contains the arrangement forms, work experience diary, name tag and evaluation forms. A reminder checklist is also enclosed.

Placements have been arranged in local towns as well as Cobram, Albury, Shepparton, Wagga, Melbourne & beyond. Students will be contacted by staff during their placement and they can phone the school, Mrs O'Bryan or Mrs White at any time.

This week students are reminded to make a courtesy call to their employer to ask any questions they may have and also remind them of their starting date.

Good luck to all students in having an enjoyable experience in the world of work and thank you to parents and careers for supporting students through the process, as well as arranging travel and accommodation where required.

Students are reminded to return their diary and evaluations to the Careers staff at the completion of their placement and they will then receive a Work Experience Certificate.

Finally many thanks to the employers who have made the Work Experience program for 2010 possible and accessible to our Year 10 students.

Jacqui O'Bryan and Deb White.

Finley High School 50th Anniversary Reunion 8th and 9th October 2011

Reunion Meetings -
Last Monday of each month at 7.30 pm
in the school library

Check FHS website for details
www.finley-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Please come along

Where they are now?
Wanted
Names and addresses of past students, staff and
families from 1938 – 2010.
Contact : Email – finley50reunion@yahoo.com
Or Karen Peacock
64 Headford St, Finley 2713

CANTEEN ROSTER

Canteen Contact and Number
Mrs Kaylene Dawe 5883 1105
....LADIES, Please note 10am start....

November

12	T Clarke, J Congdon
15	A Lee, L Whiley
16	S Thompson, J Blackmore
17	L Bright, J Conn
18	C Milburn
19	S Weir, S Pearn
22	K McDonald, M Robertson
23	J Gillett
24	Jeanette Barlow
25	R Lockhart, L Bryce
26	L Horne

Whole School Assessment Due Dates

Year	Class	Assessment Task	Teacher	Due Date
Seven	PDHPE	Managing Risk Assessment	Ms Read	12/11/10

Community Announcements

Text Books for sale, Excel Texts in brand new condition:

- Preliminary Chemistry \$15
- Preliminary Maths Ext 1 \$15
- Preliminary Maths \$15
- Preliminary Physics \$15

- HSC English Advanced \$20
- The Crucible/ Belonging Textbook \$10
- HSC Mathematics and Study Cards \$20
- Revise in a month HSC Maths \$10
- HSC Physics Pocket Book \$5
- HSC Maths Ext 1 Pocket Book –Formula Book \$5
- HSC Physics \$15

Please call Hannah Nichols for more information on 5885 2664.

FOR SALE WK-3500 CASIO ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD

Keyboard contains 76 full size keys with piano setting, 50 drawbar organ tones, over 500 other various tones, and 140 rhythms. Also contains a built in floppy disk drive and smart media card slot to save/load various data. Internet compatibility allows you to download new sounds, patterns, songs, and keyboard settings from the Casio website.

In excellent condition and includes power adapter, quick-lock keyboard stand, music stand, sustain pedal, headphones, Casio accessory disk, and manual.

What a great Christmas present.

Price \$550.00

Contact Kate on 0429969363