

# FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*Teaching, learning and achieving in a safe and caring community*



Acting Principal: H McRae BA.Dip.Ed  
Acting Deputy Principal: A Oddie BA.Dip.Ed

Tocumwal Street FINLEY NSW 2713  
Phone: 03 5883 1344 Fax: 03 5883 2396

[www.finley-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.finley-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

18<sup>th</sup> February 2010

## KEY DATES

### February

- 24 Zone swimming  
24-28 Canberra Show

### March

- 1 Canberra Show  
Riverina Basketball Trials  
4 P & C Meeting, 8pm in the school library, or  
Jerilderie Public School  
5 Riverina Swimming  
19 School Photos  
22 Year Twelve half yearly exams commence  
29 CHS Swimming  
Photo call back  
30 CHS Swimming  
31 Parent Teacher Night

### April

- 1 Last day of Term One  
P & C Meeting, 8pm in the school library, or  
Jerilderie Public School

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### Principal's Report:

Welcome to Week Four. The past two weeks have been very busy with the Year Seven excursion, swimming carnival and the annual 'Mower Pull' Competition against Ouyen at the tractor pull on Saturday. All these events were very successful thanks to the enthusiasm of students, staff and parents.

### **Year Seven Excursion**

Year Seven students spent three very busy days at Howman's gap during Week Two. The predicted wet weather held off to ensure the students could participate in a range of outdoor activities. When the buses returned at 5pm on Thursday, ninety weary students and eight teachers got off looking very tired but very happy. Thank you to Miss Burgess for organising this important excursion and to Mr Martin, Ms Schneller, Mr Chittick, Ms Archinal, Mr

O'Leary, Mr Davis, Ms Read and Mr Twemlow for going along to supervise.

## Swimming Carnival

The wet weather held off last Thursday to allow us to enjoy the 2010 swimming carnival. Students participation was excellent this year and the carnival flowed very smoothly to finish on time.



Above: A student competing in a race.



Above: Students competing in the 'all in race' Years Seven to Nine.



Above: Tuppal House patrons doing their war cry. Tuppal were the war cry winners.

Final house points for the day were:

Murray	840
Coree	818
Tuppal	766
Finley	657

Age Champions were:

### Girls

12yrs	Georgina Mohr-Clarke
13yrs	Chelsea McDonald
14yrs	Bethany Orro
15yrs	Shawna Maxwell
16yrs	Rebekah Orro
17yrs	Rhiannan Maxwell

### Boys

12yrs	Jim Sutherland
13yrs	Alex O'Leary
14yrs	Aiden Murphy-Riddell
15yrs	Michael Whiley
16yrs	Kial Crowe
17yrs	Ashley Kable and Rhys Portbury

I would like to thank Mr Tooke and the PE staff for organising this years' carnival and all the teachers who helped on the day. I would also like to congratulate all students on their behaviour and participation at the pool.

## **Tractor Pull**

This years Year Ten Automotive class competed against Ouyen at the 2010 Tractor Pull on Saturday afternoon. This was the first chance for the boys to ride the mowers, modified by last years class, in competition.

All the boys represented the school with distinction. I was impressed to see them working as a team to help each other and teach new drivers what to do. Congratulations, Finley High School retained the trophy.

Thanks to Mr Renn who spent the afternoon photographing the events and Joe Cottam, Woody and Anne McQueen-Thompson for the endless time and efforts they give to the boys.

## **Year Seven BBQ**

The welcome to Year Seven family BBQ was held on Monday. Over 100 parents, students, siblings and staff attended to meet each other and to meet the staff over a sausage sizzle. Thank you to Miss Burgess for your organisation.

## **Finley High School P & C Golf Day**

The Golf Day for 2010 will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March. A two person ambrose event, the day will commence at 12 noon with a shot gun start. I encourage you to form a team and put your name down at the Golf Club (phone 03 5883 1360) or the high school. The cost is \$15 and includes a BBQ lunch and soft drink. All proceeds will go to help the P & C purchase resources for the school.

## **P & C**

I would like to thank the P & C for their donation of \$17,000 to the school for the purchase of new equipment and resources for the school. Their donations have allowed us to purchase another Interactive White Board, shelving for the library and an air-conditioner, whiteboards, blinds and two stoves.

I encourage you all to support the P & C and their fundraising activities as it is the students at Finley High School who benefit from their generosity.

The next P & C meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm in the school library or via video conference at Jerilderie Public School.

## **National Centre for Equine Education**

Congratulations go to Renee Thompson (Year Twelve 2009) for being awarded the Most Outstanding Student of 2009 at the National Centre for Equine Education, Shepparton Campus. Renee completed Certificate II in Equine Industry studies as part of her Higher School Certificate last year. She was awarded this prestigious award for her high academic achievement, early entry into University, part-time employment within the equine industry and riding achievements at state interschool level. She can be proud of her achievements.



Above: Renee Thompson receiving her award.

## **Golden Anniversary of Finley High School**

2011 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Finley High School. Robyn Mott is keen to start organising a reunion and celebration of this historic event. If you are interested in being part of the committee organising the event, please contact Robyn.

H McRae  
Acting Principal

### **Uniform**

Starting this week, a Loss of Privileges list will be introduced to Finley High School.

This will be specifically for students who continually fail to wear correct school uniform or fail to provide a note from parents explaining why they are out of uniform.

If a student is detected out of uniform three times in 30 days, they will be placed on the Loss of Privileges list for one month. This time will restart every subsequent time the student is again detected out of uniform.

Privileges lost will include excursions not central to curriculum, sport excursions and trials, chess, debate, show excursions, school socials, or any other extra curricular activity.

So far this year, most students have been cooperative with uniform, but in particular there exists a group of boys who refuse to wear the correct coloured shoes. This will soon see them losing privileges.

If there are any parental concerns with this process, please feel free to contact me at school.

The process has been endorsed by the Finley High School P & C at a meeting earlier this month.

## **Behaviour**

Whilst most of the student body has settled well into their studies this year, a small group of students have not been doing the right thing. Students can assume that if they ignore teacher instructions, swear, bully students or become physically aggressive to other students, they will be dealt with.

Finley High School has a very notable reputation across the state as a good school. I would hope that the entire student body will take the responsibility to maintain this reputation.

A Oddie  
Acting Deputy Principal

### **Year Ten Students Get A Taste Of Mower Pulling!**

It was a rather timid group of Finley High School Year Ten Automotive students that met at the gate of this years Finley Apex Club Tractor Pulling event on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February. This nervousness was partly due to the fact that most of these students had only had their first drive of the mowers at Deniliquin TAFE the previous Wednesday. Nevertheless, once the machines turned up everyone busied themselves with the task of getting them prepared for the first mower pull event of 2010.

As always, the support from Woody and Joe Cottam from Berrigan was of an excellent standard. So much so that after a few friendly words from them our boys seemed a little more relaxed about what was in front of them.

Thanks must also be extended to Darcy Ewing, Shaun Braybon and Jeremy Congram of Year Eleven who generously gave up their time on the day to help flag marshall and guide the younger boys on the finer points of the sport.

After a lively welcome by our local award winner Joe Cottam, a drivers talk was given by Woody who explained to everyone how the sport works and most importantly, told everyone to have fun. Next came 'Scruitineering' in which all the boys were told to

show Woody how their mowers complied with the build rules for the sport. As with everything on the day, this was an important learning experience for all our automotive students.



Above: Some of our automotive students before competing in the event.



Above: Cody Heazlewood lifting the front wheels of "Boomer".

After 'Scrutineering' was completed (and making sure Nathan Binks and his Ouyen Team did not have any 'illegal' modifications to their mowers!!), everyone lined up for the start of proceedings.

Everything was going smoothly until Lachlan Forster showed the others how to get noticed with a spectacular wheel stand and excursion off the track.



Above: Lachlan Forster about to take Darcy Ewing for an excursion off the track.

Once everything was back in order the day proceeded without further incident. All members of the group performed well and deserved to be recognized for their participation on the day.

Performances of note included Gordon Pyle, Nathan Morton, Lachlan Forster, Sam Manks, Callam Campbell and Adrian Montgomery while James Barrett, Kial Crowe, Zac Davis and Peter Marcus deserve a mention for their consistent effort throughout the day.

Once all the competing was over, all our boys were presented a medal by Mrs McRae in her first official 'outing' for the year as acting principal.

A reminder that this project could not be run without the generous support of businesses and community members in our local area. On this note if anyone has an old ride-on mower (especially with Briggs and Stratton motors) that they do not need and is in a suitable condition to rebuild for this type of event, please get in touch with Anne Freestone at Deniliquin TAFE Automotive or alternatively contact Mr Renn at the School.

Well done boys. I am looking forward to a successful year in Mower Pulling.

Mr J Renn

## School Vaccination Program 2010

This year the following vaccines will be offered:

### *HPV Vaccine*

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the name given to a group of viruses. Two particular types of HPV are responsible for causing up to 80% of cervical cancers in Australia. Vaccination eliminates these 80% of viruses.

All females in Year Seven will be offered the vaccination over a three dose course.

### *Hepatitis B Vaccine*

This will be a two dose course given six months apart offered to all Year Seven students.

### *Varicella Vaccine*

This vaccine is a single dose offered to all Year Seven students. If your child has had Chicken Pox it is not necessary to have this vaccine, so please do not return this consent form if vaccination is not needed.

### *Boostrix (DTPA)*

This vaccine is a single dose offered to all Year Seven and Year Ten students. It is essential for maintaining immunity to diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (Whooping Cough) in adults.

Further information and consent forms will be sent home with your child closer to the immunisation dates. It is important you return the consent forms within five days so your child's requested vaccine can be ordered.

Mrs M Richardson  
Finley Vaccination Nurse  
Finley Health Service

## **Parenting an Adolescent – A Life Altering Journey (A note from Parent Line)**

Parenting adolescents is an interesting journey for many parents. Not only are we faced with rapid changes in children but also in family dynamics and communication within the family. It's not always

easy to keep up whilst parenting adolescents. One thing is for certain, it is not usually an easy ride through calm waters, more like a rollercoaster ride through rapids!

Adolescents bring with them change. To raise an adolescent means change is imminent. We are often forced to look at a lot of things about ourselves as parents and people during this process. We need to change the way we communicate, the way we make decisions, our role in our children's lives and also deal with the loss and grief of the childhood phase being over. This is all part of parenting adolescents and moving on to parenting young adults.

As we often so graphically see (through their mistakes and blunders) adolescents have not mastered all their developmental tasks as yet. They are striving towards independence, learning about developing relationships and intimacy with others, finding a way of belonging in their world and working out who they are and what they believe in. At the same time their brains are developing in such a way that for a period of time their frontal lobes have almost shut down whilst other parts of their brains are developing at a rapid rate. This means often adolescents strive for independence, external relationships and identity development whilst their problem solving capacity is reduced. Not easy for them nor their parents!

It is hard to watch our children learn life's lessons through experience. A helpful way of viewing these "lessons" is to view them as opportunities for development and growth but with a strong safety net underneath to catch them when they fall. The opportunities for growth don't just happen for our children but also for us. Raising an adolescent inevitably means we have to review our relationships with them and others, as well as our communication styles and sometimes even our values and beliefs. Raising an adolescent well will challenge us and change us.

Whilst this is happening it is helpful to reflect on our role as parents. The big picture vision for us as parents, is that we are here to raise children who

grow into happy, healthy, independent, contributing young adults. Every adolescent needs to master a range of tasks associated with “growing up”. These include socialisation (how to get on with a wide range of people); belonging (feeling like they have a purpose and place); safety (physical, emotional and psychological); mastery of skills (life skills); acceptance (feeling like they are accepted despite their differences); relationships (learning how to be close to other human beings); leisure (how to have fun in a safe and fulfilling way); learning (how to learn from life’s ups and downs) and confidence (gained from mastery and experience in these tasks).

A helpful way for parents to view the challenges they face it to assess:

- Which of these tasks is my child trying to master?
- What learning is in there for him/her?
- What can he/she learn from natural consequences?
- How does he/she usually learn?
- Can I help him/her learn further about this?

It is important to understand that mistakes and challenges are normal and are part of helping the adolescent child develop and learn. How we communicate this learning is of vital importance. At Parent Line we have a range of strategies that we discuss with parents about how to communicate effectively about the things that matter.

To discuss these kinds of issues or any parenting issue, call the Parent Line Team on 1300 130 052 for free individualised counselling.

### **Willis Ed Personal Accident Policy**

The Willis Ed Personal Accident Policy offers two options for school age children providing worldwide protection 24 hours a day, all year, and not just for school hours and linked activities as supplied by many competitors.

Highlights of the Willis Ed Scheme are

- Worldwide cover, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.
- Economical protection and broad coverage.

- Nil dollar deductibles and low waiting periods.
- Optional cover for reimbursement of school fees resulting from student’s injury of illness.
- Kidnap, ransom and extortion included.
- Non-Medicare Medical and Dental benefits (except where prohibited by law).
- Emergency transport
- School fees reimbursement (following accidental death of pupil’s benefactor)
- Cover includes students involved in school organised activities for two school terms prior to commencement at the school and two school terms after they officially leave the school in Year Twelve.
- Expenses covered up to 24 months from date of accident.

For more information please contact Steve Calcroft on (02) 9285 4083.

## **CANTEEN ROSTER**

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

### **February**

- 19** C Kennedy, L Jackson
- 22** A Bergmans, C Moloney
- 23** F Aull, M Doyle
- 24** L Bright, J Conn
- 25** G Ferguson, K Carlon
- 26** D Williams, T Clarke

### **March**

- 1** D McLean, S Pearn
- 2** N Raleigh, M Robertson
- 3** Jeanette Barlow
- 4** V Boshier, M McCaw
- 5** K Babington

Volunteers are needed to assist for canteen duty, please contact Kaylene at the canteen.

# Community Announcements

## **TAFE NSW Riverina Institute – Finley Campus**

The following courses still have vacancies. If you are interested in enrolling in one of the courses listed below please contact Kelly or Nola on (03) 5883 9700.

<i>Computing for beginners</i>	Thursday 5pm to 8pm
<i>Computer Bookkeeping using Quickbooks or MYOB</i>	Monday 6pm to 9pm
<i>Advanced Digital Camera</i>	Thursday 6pm to 9pm
<i>Certificate 2, 3 and 4 in Business</i>	Flexible delivery Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9:15am to 3pm Or Thursday 5pm to 8pm
<i>Certificate 3 Children's Services</i>	Wednesday 9:30am to 2pm Or Thursday 5pm to 8pm

## **Hearing Test Clinic**

There will be a hearing test clinic at Finley Community Health on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Bookings to be made at Tocumwal Community Health on (03) 5874 2166.

## **"In The Bin" Short Film Festival**

On Friday night (February 19), the South West Arts and Youth Development Committee will be conducting the "In the Bin" short film festival at the Tocumwal foreshore from 7:30pm. The screenings will be free, and BBQ food and drinks will be available for purchase. It should be a good night and the Youth Development Committee would appreciate your support.

## **Finley High School Basketball Registration**

Basketball registration day will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February from 5pm to 6pm in the Memorial Hall. Cost is \$30 per child or \$70 for three or more children. Payment on registration day would be greatly appreciated.

## **Parenting Workshop**

Presented by Intereach. Surviving your adolescents – how to manage and let go of your 13 – 18 year olds. A free three session program to teach you effective and well researched ways to better manage these turbulent years. This program is designed to assist parents and caregivers by learning what is normal adolescent behaviour, how to manage teenage risk-taking, ways to improve your relationship, communication, adolescent safety and much more. These workshops will take place on Wednesdays 24/2, 3/3 and 10/3 at the Intereach Office in Murray Street Finley at 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Numbers are limited so register early. For more information and bookings contact Libby Barker on (03) 5881 5287.