

FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Teaching, learning and achieving in a safe and caring community



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4th March 2010

KEY DATES

March

- 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

CONTENTS:

- Key Dates
- Principal's Report
 - District Swimming
 - Lions Youth of the Year
 - TVET Courses
 - Canberra Show
 - Max Potential
 - Laptops
 - P & C Meeting
 - Parent Teacher Evening
- Attendance
- Parent Teacher Interview Session 1 – Years Seven to Twelve
- Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- Safe Shoe Policy

- Raising Confident Children
- Yanco Camp for Agriculture Students
- Canteen Roster
- Whole School Assessment Due Dates
- Community Announcements
- Canteen Helpers Needed (attached)

Principal's Report

Welcome to Week Six. The school continues to be busy with shows, carnivals, sport and classes in full swing.

District Swimming

Over forty students travelled to Deniliquin last Wednesday for the district swimming carnival. Finley High School was the largest team there and achieved outstanding results across all age groups.



Above: Isabella Westwood diving into the pool.



Above: Dylan Henery participating in a race.



Above: The top four placings in a race.

This Friday will see approximately thirty students travel to Leeton for the Riverina Regional Carnival. We wish them well.

I would like to thank Mr Tooke for his efforts as team manager and the many parents who took students to the carnival.

Lions Youth of the Year

The local Lions Youth of the Year Competitions have been held over the past few weeks. This competition is held by the Lions Club in each town. Students who enter must prepare a five minute speech on a topic of their choice and then address the Lions members on impromptu questions.

I would like to congratulate all students who entered in each town and recognise the following students as winners.

Finley	Stacy Wright
Oaklands	Alleshia Killick
Tocumwal	Elizabeth Haynes
Berrigan	Hannah Nichols
Jerilderie	Rhys Portbury



Above: Phillip Purtell, Caitlin Marcus, Hannah Nichols and Olivia Congdon (winner of public speaking).

These students will now compete in Finley on the 14th March against winners from Hay and Moulamein. The winner will then go on to compete at the next level in Berrigan on the 28th March. Good luck to all competing students.

TVET Courses

After much uncertainty, TAFE have finally secured a teacher to teach Hairdressing to students who have elected to study it in Years Ten and Eleven. The classes will start on Wednesday the 10th March. A teacher from Lockhart will travel to Finley to deliver the course. I thank the students and parents involved for their patience and support while the organisational details of this course have been finalised.

Canberra Show

Last week sixteen students travelled with Mrs O'Leary and Mr Webb to the Canberra Show, taking with them pristine sheep and cattle. 'Devil' won the

Champion Bull and 'Ellie' won reserve junior champion. Jeremy Robertson came first in judging cattle and Charlotte Close achieved second for judging sheep. A Finley High School ewe was judged champion short wool sheep and supreme school sheep. Congratulations to Mrs O'Leary, Mr Webb and all the students in the show team for their continuing outstanding efforts.

Max Potential

Some Year Eleven students have taken up the Max Potential Challenge. This program develops leadership skills in students who work with mentors to achieve personal goals and complete a community project. I would like to thank the community members who have volunteered their time to be mentors to these young leaders. I wish the students and their mentors well with the program.

Laptops

Year Nine laptops will roll out to students early next term. A parent meeting will be held prior to their distribution to explain how they will be used and the responsibility of students in using them and looking after them.

P & C Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Finley High School P & C will be held this Thursday, 4th March at 7:30pm in the school Library. All parents are encouraged to attend and join the P & C to discuss issues which affect the operation of the school. Those parents living in Jerilderie can attend the meeting at Jerilderie Public School via Video Conference. I hope to meet a lot of new parents at this most important meeting.

Mrs H McRae
Acting Principal

Attendance

Hints and Tips No 1: Responsibilities

Parent/s or caregivers are required – by law – to provide a written or verbal explanation to the

principal within seven days of any absence as to why their child was not at school.

It is important that the school receives a written or verbal explanation because:

1. It is a parent's legal obligation to explain their child's absence within seven days.
2. It is a requirement that the school investigate all unexplained absences.
3. It avoids the school and the School Attendance Office from making unnecessary investigations.
4. It is the way the school knows that your child was legitimately absent and not truanting from school.

If you have any difficulties in providing a written explanation for your child's absence, please contact your school principal.

Mrs Close
Pay Office

Parent Teacher Interview Session 1 – Years Seven to Twelve

The first session for the year will be held in the school hall between 4pm and 7pm on Wednesday 31st March. Please mark this date in your diary and come and meet the 2010 teachers of your son/daughter. An information letter and booking form has been sent home with the students this week.

Parents are asked to discuss with their child times they are available to attend the evening. Students then take their booking sheet to each of their teachers to book a time suitable to their parents and teacher.

Spaces fill fast so parents are urged to encourage their child to make bookings as soon as possible. This is an excellent opportunity to chat with your child's teacher individually to discuss their progress.

Mrs M Rowe
Co-ordinator

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Finley High School has worked closely in the past with the Youth Careers Services Local Community Partnership based in Deniliquin. Recently the Federal Government called tenders to renew contracts for Local Community Partnerships. We are now under a new Local Community Partnership called Murray Industry and Community Employment Partnership (M.I.C.E.E.P.) based in Albury. Mrs Marg Bull, based in Deniliquin, is still our Workplacement Co-ordinator as she has been in the past. This week we have asked all Year Eleven students studying Hospitality, Metals and Engineering and Primary Industries to nominate a workplace that they would like to work at in Week Eleven of Term Two from 28th June to 2nd July. Mrs Bull will contact the nominated employers and students will be notified at a later date of that placement. This will be Week One (thirty five hours) of the compulsory seventy hours of workplacement in the VET courses.

Mrs M Rowe
VET Co-ordinator

Safe Shoe Policy

A huge thank you to parents and carers for embracing our requirements under WorkCover New South Wales. Your support is really appreciated. It has made this transition run smoothly enabling the students to participate in practical sessions.

Raising Confident Children

The following is taken from a newsletter distributed by Michael Grose. I thought it had some great points that we probably have all heard before, but are good to be reminded of. In this article, Michael outlines ten ways to build confidence in kids.

The power of parents to shape a child is enormous. As a parent, you are in the prime position to mirror back to kids how they see themselves. You do this through your messages, your expectations and how you treat your child.

Confident kids are more likely to make the most of their potential as they'll extend themselves both socially and learning-wise. Failure does not reflect on them personally. Fears and anxieties, while present, do not stop them from trying new activities. So how can you develop real and lasting sense of confidence in your kids? In the forthcoming newsletters I will display the ten points.

1. **Model confident mindsets:** Kids need to hear what a confident mindset sounds like. Do not put yourself down if you make a mistake. For example, if something goes wrong, is throwing things and swearing a positive way of dealing with it? Instead make sure that your thinking and actions, reflect that mistakes are acceptable and part of learning.
2. **Encourage kids to look on the bright side.** Optimism is catching and helps kids overcome their fears. Help kids set their antennae to look for the good, something positive in any situation.
3. **Help them understand self-talk.** That little voice inside their head can talk them up or down. **Low confidence kids use a great deal of negative self-talk.** Get kids to listen to their self-talk and help them work out alternative messages that help them rather than hold them back. For example, instead of 'I am hopeless at netball', 'my passing and catching skills are good, but I just need to improve my footwork'.

Mrs D Sexton
Behaviour Support

Yanco Camp for Agriculture Students

Forty Finley High School students with an interest in agriculture will have an amazing experience next week when they attend a specifically designed course Murrumbidgee Rural Studies Centre at Yanco.

This course has been funded by a Next Gen Farmers Grant from the Australian Government's Department of Forestry and Fisheries received by Youth Career Services. Student travel and accommodation costs

are met by this grant. Staff attending will be Mrs Robyn O'Leary and Mr Gary Webb.

Students will be involved in leadership and team building activities, career planning and personal goal setting sessions together with practical activities in specific agricultural research fields. A special highlight will be a full-day field trip to Rockdale Feedlot, NSW Fisheries practical workshop, Manildra Flour Mill and Forests NSW nurseries.

Industry mentors will speak with students about their personal career paths, opportunities available with agricultural industries within the Riverina and natural resource management.

Each evening students will be engaged in a range of activities relating to leadership development, electronic communication and stock management planning.

Following the week of activities, students will be reporting to their peers, the general community and industry specific groups so that information and experiences gained will be appreciated by a range of age groups and rural industries within the Finley region.

The camp is designed to show students there are many career opportunities within agriculture despite the current drought conditions, limited water allocations and the costs involved with the purchase of land and machinery.

Finley High School P&C Annual General Meeting

Thursday 4th March 2010

7:30pm

**School Library
or via Video Conference at
Jerilderie Public School**

CANTEEN ROSTER

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

March

4	K Carlon, M McCaw
5	K Babington, F Aull
8	K McDonald, W Cleve
9	S Robinson, J Carmichael
10	G Reynoldson, J Petzke
11	J McAllister, G Ferguson
12	J Middlebrook
15	R Howard, A Bergmans
16	S Ham, N Curtin
17	P van Beek, M Richardson
18	K Litchfield, D Thomas
19	T Clarke, H Braybon

Whole School Assessment Due Dates

Year	Class	Assessment Task	Teacher	Due Date
Seven	French	Cultural Studies Research Project	Miss Neilan	25/03/2010

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.

Computer Bookkeeping using Quickbooks or MYOB

Monday 6pm to 9pm

Advanced Digital Camera

Thursday 6pm to 9pm

Certificate 3 Children's Services

Wednesday 9:30am to 2pm
Or Thursday 5pm to 8pm

Apply First Aid

6th March, 8:30am to 5pm, \$150.

Hearing Test Clinic

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

Brain Health

Lions Club of Jerilderie and Centacare are offering a unique opportunity to hear a presentation by leading Melbourne clinical and counselling psychologist, Professor Don Jefferys AM. Professor Jefferys will discuss all aspects of 'Brain Health' including how looking after the brain necessitates thought, action and sustained effort – strategies worthwhile if we are to have a fulfilling life.

Venue: Jerilderie Civic Centre

Time/Date: 6pm Sunday 7th March 2010

Cost: Free

At the end of the presentation, Professor Jefferys will answer questions. For more information please contact Mal Murdoch on 03 5886 0430 or Wendy Toole on 03 5883 4870.