



# Finley High School Newsletter

Principal: Mrs H McRae

Deputy Principal: Mr P Velikans

12<sup>th</sup> March 2015

## KEY DATES

### March

- 12** Open Boys and Girls Soccer
- 16** Year Six Forensics Day
- 17** Legal Studies Excursion
- 18** Formal Assembly 10:06am in the school hall
- 19** School Photos
- 23** Photo catch-up day  
Tennis and Lawn Bowls
- 25** Cross Country
- 27-31** Preliminary Final Exams
- 30** Under 15's Boys and Girls Soccer in Hay

### April

- 1** Girls AFL Trials  
Berrigan Shire Employment Expo
- 2** Youth Day  
Last day of Term One
- 20** Staff Development Day
- 21** Students return to school
- 27-29** Year Ten Exams
- 30** Year Ten Careers Day Out in Shepparton

### May

- 4** Immunisations  
Years Seven, Eleven and Twelve boys and girls.
- 5** Open boys and girls football
- 7-8** Tertiary Tour
- 11** Athletics Carnival
- 12-15** NAPLAN

## Principal's Report

Term one continues to fly by and much has happened in the last two weeks both in the classroom and out of it. Year Seven have had their first round of immunisation for the year; Years Eleven and Twelve have had their interim reports delivered to report to parents on how they are preparing for their learning for the HSC; Zone Swimming and Regional Swimming Carnivals have taken place as well as the Open Boys and Girls Touch competition. With four weeks of school to go before the holidays, we will certainly have earned a rest.

## Swimming

Over thirty students, led by Mr O'Leary, travelled to Leeton on Friday to participate in the Riverina Regional Swimming Carnival. All swimmers swam their best and brought credit to themselves and their school. The Senior Boys and Girls relay teams qualified to represent the Riverina at the State Carnival at the end of term. They were Alex O'Leary, Michael McRae, Ryan Twemlow and Tom Burns for the boys and Ashleigh O'Leary, Chloe O'Bryan, Rachael Barnes and Jorja Daniel for the girls. We wish them well in their preparation for the State carnival.

## P&C

I would like to thank and congratulate the P&C and the Hospitality staff and students, on the fabulous food they prepared and served for the St. Joseph's Primary School 100 year anniversary dinner on Saturday. Catering for well over 200 people takes a lot of organisation and team work and the people involved did an amazing job. Special thanks go to the young students who assisted in serving the food so promptly to those attending. They were Paige and Skye Nash, Marcus and Damon Anderson and Natasha Jones. The school and the P&C appreciate the efforts of these young people and all who helped out to make the evening a success.

The two main office bearers voted in at last night's AGM are Paul Jones, President and Suzanne Robertson, Treasurer. There were no nominations for the secretaries position.

This week, the school is undergoing some major upgrades to the computer network. This will mean that staff and student portal access will change. Staff have been briefed on the changes, and students will be shown the changes as they become apparent. This should mean that the school will be technologically prepared to implement a "Bring Your Own Device" program into the school in the near future. The upgrade this week has caused some disruption to the use of technology, but if all things go well, the upgrade should be complete by Friday.

### **SPACE Learning Centre**

Preparation for the opening of the Finley High School Learning Centre **Specialising in Achieving, Connecting and Excelling** is well under way. Anne Braybon and Amanda Street have been working alongside Wendy Coates to provide a space in the school where students can get help with assignment work, learn study skills, organisational skills and complete enrichment learning activities. A letter is attached to this newsletter giving parents the choice of their child "opting out" of using the centre if referred. I urge all parents to encourage their students to utilise this service whenever they can to maximise their achievements at school. The SPACE centre, located in the library, will become an integral part of moving our school forward in the future.

### **School Improvement Plan**

Veronica McNaught, Vanessa Bush and I travelled to Albury in the last fortnight to spend a day moving our plan forward. We were successful in pulling together all the ideas collected from parents, students and staff to develop a plan to improve Wellbeing at the school. Over the coming weeks, writing teams will meet again to further develop strategies around improving teaching and learning in the school. If you are interested in being a part of these writing teams, please do not hesitate in contacting me at the school.

### **Respectful Language**

At Finley High School we value the respect that students and staff have for themselves and all members of our community. Recently there has been an increase in the use of inappropriate language by students at school. As a school community we encourage students and staff to treat each other with courtesy and respect to create a safe learning environment. All staff will respond to the use of vulgar, inappropriate language by students through the level system and detentions. I encourage and ask for all parents and carers to speak to your children about the appropriate use of language at school and in the community. The use of vulgar language can reflect poorly on the individual, family, school and community.

I know all parents, students and staff take pride in the way they conduct themselves at all times and this is reflected in the respect they demonstrate to others every each day.

### **Tips on attendance and writing notes**

There has been much talk in the media recently about attendance at school. All students are required to attend school every day unless they are sick or have another pressing need which takes them away.

Rolls are marked by teachers every day, and that information is accessed by the DEC who gathers data across the state about attendance. When teachers mark the roll, an "a" is put against an absent student. The DEC attendance Policy states that:

**"Parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven school days to the school. An explanation for absence must be provided to the school within 7 days of the first day of any period of absence"**

When a note is brought in to explain the absence, it is recorded against the absence as “sick” if the child was sick or ‘leave” if the child had an appropriate reason for being absent eg. attending a funeral, specialist appointment etc. If a note gives no reason, it is deemed an unjustified or unexplained absence.

Should there be a record of many unexplained absences, the school may contact the parents to express their concern, identify the reason and offer support where necessary. Ongoing absences may be referred to the home school liaison officer to be followed up.

So, I encourage all parents to view attendance at school as a priority for their child’s learning, and if they do need to be absent from school, write a note for them to bring on their return with a reason for their absence.

Should you have any questions about this, please contact the school.

Helen McRae  
Principal

### **Visitors to the School**

We would like to remind all parents/carers and guests that if you are visiting the school you must sign in at the front office and be issued with an authorised pass before entering the grounds. The office staff will ensure that any messages, forgotten items, lunches etc. will be delivered to the students from the front office.

### **Winners of last week’s Kram Awards:**

I pod – Harrison John  
I tunes Vouchers – Li’i Vitale, Beth Velikans and Mollie McGrath  
Canteen Vouchers – Shane Jenkins and Oliver Smith  
Handballs – Nick Gray and Emma Alexander

Congratulations to all of those students and I encourage everyone to keep those Krams coming in.

### **MADDD.... Coming to you soon!!**

We are very excited to announce that the preparations for MADDD Night 2015 are well on their way!  
Last year Finley High School held their first ever Music, Art, Drama, Dance & Design (MADDD) Night. It was a great success, which gave many of our creative students an opportunity to plan, perform and best of all make new connections. The break was an opportunity to browse through the display of class work and projects whilst enjoying the catering from Food Technology. We are very proud of the hard work our students (and staff) put in and are extremely excited about bringing MADDD back in 2015.

We have a number of talented students rehearsing for their performances to showcase on the night and do hope you can come along for a night of entertainment!

The event will be held in Term Two Week Five, **Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>**.

Stay tuned, tickets will go on sale soon! We look forward to amazing you!

Our school is proud to be a 'Future Moves' partner school for 2015.

This is a program about helping students explore the future, what they might do and what they dream of doing. It is also about what it takes to get there, the role that higher education can play in their life in the future, and how to turn their aspirations into a reality.

Last year 'Future Moves' saw over 15,000 students in 75 partner schools across NSW and North-East Victoria.

Parents, carers, family and community play a vital role in helping young people explore their future. If you would like to know more, look at our website at <http://www.csu.edu.au/future-moves> and get involved when your child has in-school workshops, on-campus activities, or parents, carers and community workshops.

### **Riverina Region Secondary Swimming**

Finley High school sent forty swimmers to compete in the 2015 Riverina Region Secondary swimming Carnival. It was a cool start to the day with the air temperature of only 13 degrees making the pool at 26 feel like a warm bath! All our swimmers performed well with quite a few personal bests on the day. Our 17 year old boys and girls were both able to qualify to race in Sydney in the state Finals of the 4 by 50m freestyle. These will be held on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March at the Sydney Olympic Swimming Centre in Homebush. In the boys team are Alex O'Leary, Ryan Twemlow, Michael McRae, and Tom Burns. The 17 year old girls team has Ashleigh O'Leary, Rachael Barnes, Chloe O'Bryan and Jorja Daniel. I would like to thank all of our swimmers and their parents for the huge effort that they put in over our short swimming season. They have done exceptionally well and deserve our praise and respect for a job well done. Good luck in Sydney!



Above L-R: Chloe O'Bryan, Jorja Daniel, Rachael Barnes and Ashleigh O'Leary.





Above L-R: Tom Burns, Michael McRae, Ryan Twemlow and Alex O'Leary

### **Deniliquin Show**

Finley High School students attended the Deniliquin show on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March. They prepared and showed eleven of the schools Shorthorn Cattle and eight Poll Dorset sheep. Fourteen students travelled to Deniliquin early in the morning to be ready for a 9am start to judging.

Darcy Webb, Zac Barlow and Mitch A'Vard did a fantastic job preparing and showing our sheep. They had a great day and enjoyed working with the other exhibitors.

The cattle achieved a string of excellent results culminating with Pearl, a 4 year old cow with her third calf, Kai, at foot being named supreme exhibit of the show

James McCaw led Kai a 7 month old bull who was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in his class and went on to be reserve champion bull.

In the under 15 paraders competition, Hayley Doohan was placed 1<sup>st</sup>, Stephanie Wright 2<sup>nd</sup> and Katie Archer 3<sup>rd</sup>. We also had some lovely chocolate cake to celebrate Katie's birthday.

In the over 15 paraders competition, Ashleigh O'Leary was placed 1<sup>st</sup>, Darcy Webb 2<sup>nd</sup> and Karly McCormack 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A big thank you goes to David Marsden for transporting our stock and students to the show and assisting on the day.





Above: James McCaw with Kai

### **Finley High School Dairy Show Team at Deniliquin Show**

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015, we took five students and five heifers to the Deniliquin Show. Team members were Rachael Barnes showing Cullen Braxton Sally; Rosie Archer showing Lochgelly Park Asterix Jennifer; Christopher Wright showing Homelands Equinox Sarah; Emily Lock showing Lochgelly Park Benjamin Bronte – Red; and Shirralee Connors showing Lochgelly Park Braxton Peggi.

Class One: Nine entries, Bronte placed 3<sup>rd</sup> with a terrific job on the halter by Emily Lock.

Class Two: Nine entries, Sally placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, Peggi placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

Class Four: Six entries, Sarah placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jennifer placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sarah, being led by Christopher Wright, was sashed Reserve Senior Champion Heifer.





Above: Chris Wright with Sarah

Below: Rachael Barnes, Shirralee Connors and Emily Lock.







Above: Rosie Archer with Sue.

Everyone had a truly lovely day, Finley High School beef, sheep and dairy teams were very supportive of each other with lots of encouragement with whoever was in the ring.

Brian and I would like to thank the parents who came along. Mitch Flemming for giving his time and very positive comments he offered the students, I am sure they will gain from them.

Thanks also to Anthony Michael and his daughter Isobell for all the organizing they did, and lastly a huge thank you to Rachael Barnes and Rosie Archer, these girls put in huge efforts with the younger students, they are both a credit to themselves.

Jenny O'Hora.

### **Open Touch Football**

On Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, Finley High School hosted the Southern Riverina Open Touch Football Carnival. Teams from Deniliquin and Hay came to compete for the title as well.

The boys had a big win in their first game against Deniliquin and played some great running touch football lead by young guns Luke Moore and Connor Thornton.

The girls had the first of their two game play of with Deniliquin after the boys game and picked up straight where the boys left off. With some sublime skills on show the girls put an impressive score on Deniliquin and won their first game.



The boys final game was against heavyweights of the competition, Hay High School. Unfortunately Hay's experience in touch football was too hard for the boys to overcome and they went down in a hard fought match. The boys played extremely well and made Hay work for their win.

In the final play-off game for the girls against Deniliquin they continued their dominance over their cross town rivals. Some more attractive play from the girls led to them having another convincing win and qualifying for the next round of competition!

The students all conducted themselves really well and represented their school exceptionally and Mr Cleal and Mrs Fisher are extremely pleased with how well they played and behaved on the day.

### Library News

Scholastic book club catalogues are available in the library.

Chess Club – Come and play on Friday at lunchtime. Try out for the school team. 1<sup>st</sup> game is against Corowa in the next couple of weeks.

The senior debating team is travelling to Albury High School on Thursday, to debate on the topic of education. We wish them well.

## CANTEEN ROSTER

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

### March

13	T Clarke, S Congram
16	L Whiley
17	S Robinson, T Roe
18	B Agosta
19	L Bryce
20	K Litchfield
23	W Cleve, J Crowhurst
24	C Alexander, J Cameron
25	N Curtin
26	J Orro
27	C Moloney

## Finley High School P&C

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
7pm in the staff common room.

The P&C meet every second  
Wednesday of the month.  
Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Helpers Needed

The P&C is catering for the Finley Cricket Club Presentation Dinner at the clubrooms on Saturday 28th March. We will require helpers on the night, also donation of slices would be appreciated. If any parents can assist please contact Suzanne Robertson on: 0358859229 or 0417405107

# *Community Announcements*

## **Finley Public School 'Country Fete'**

Finley Public School 'Country Fete' will be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. Apple bobbing, card making, cake stall, leather work by our talented Kitty Lawton, Best Dressed 'Country' Lady, Gentleman, Lad and Lass, gumboot throwing competition. Whip cracking demonstrations at 5pm and 6:15pm. Presentation of Best Dressed 'Country' personel at 6:30pm. 7pm feature riders, Finley Public School Principal and Mr Dane Maxwell, are going to challenge each other on the Mechanical Bull. The mechanical bull will be available from 4:30pm for you to have a go, costing only \$5. Canteen and BBQ available for tea.

## **Free Dental Treatment**

For all children 0 to 18 years old. All you need is a Medicare card. To register for treatment at Deniliquin or Berrigan Dental Clinic please phone 1800 45 00 46. 1<sup>st</sup> visit recommended at 2yrs of age, Dental teams no longer visit schools for check-ups so call 1800450046 for all inquiries or appointments.

## **Jerilderie Arts and Talents Society Inc**

Jerilderie Arts and Talents Society Inc is seeking out all talented people to come and join our variety showcase evening in Jerilderie on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2015. We are looking for singers, Dancers, actors, comedians, people who play musical instruments, individuals, duets and groups any talents any age you do not have to be professional just come and give it a go.... If you have any questions or would like more information please contact me as follows. Kylie Pitt 0400 319 084 or [charmingkylie@gmail.com](mailto:charmingkylie@gmail.com)

## **Free National Youth Week Event**

Rumble in the Gums is a FREE event to be held in National Youth Week on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. The event will be held at Federation Park (Cobram Skate Park) in Cobram from 11am to 5pm. The day will feature a number of great attractions to cater for all ages including; live music featuring young local talent, kids rides, face painting, petting zoo, mechanical bull ride, skate workshop, street art demo, market stalls and food stalls. Come along to this fun and affordable day out and celebrate the young people in our communities. For more information on this event just search 'Rumble in the Gums' online and be listening to STARFM leading up to the event.

Emily Gough

Cobram Youth Foundation





## The SpACE

Specialising in Achieving, Connecting and Excelling

Dear parents/caregivers,

Finley High School is establishing a learning environment, The SpACE, to allow students to be positively supported in their learning. The SpACE will provide students with teacher-led support to complete assessment and in-class tasks, development of organisational and study skills, alongside extension and enrichment tasks.

The SpACE is available to ALL students at Finley High School and will cater to the diverse learning needs and styles within our school community.

Students will be referred by classroom teachers, Year Advisors and can also request, with teacher support, time in the SpACE themselves.

Students will be withdrawn from the specific subject that requires assistance to attend the SpACE.

If you DO NOT want your child withdrawn from class to attend the SpACE please return the slip below.

Please feel free to contact Anne Braybon or Amanda Street for further information on how the SpACE can assist your child.

Many thanks,

Anne Braybon & Amanda Street

03 5883 1344

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I DO NOT give my child permission to be withdrawn from class to attend the SpACE.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/caregiver's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Tell Them From Me

## Student Feedback Survey

### Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

#### What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students.

The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

#### What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey will ask students questions about:

Participation in Sports	Homework Behaviour	Expectations for Success
Positive Learning Climate	Participation in Clubs	Behaviour at School
Experiences of being Bullied	Truancy	Sense of Belonging
Interest and Motivation	Effective Learning Time	Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE
Positive Relationships	Effort	Teaching Relevance
Feelings of worry or sadness	Valuing school outcomes	Skills and learning challenge
Teaching Rigour	Advocacy at school	Advocacy outside school
Positive Teacher-Student Relations		

#### How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open for all NSW government schools to participate in at no cost to them. Your school has taken up this offer.

#### How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

#### What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

#### Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.



## Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the Department's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide analysis. Individual students' data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publication.

## What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders may use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school.

CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the Department, including performance data. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE's analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department's continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

## Can all school students participate in the survey?

Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

## When will the *Tell Them From Me* survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools between Monday 9 March and Thursday 2 April 2015 (Weeks 7-10 of Term 1).

## What is the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE)?

CESE is part of the Department of Education and Communities. It has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in NSW.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all education sectors.

## What is The Learning Bar and what is their role?

The Learning Bar is an international education company, with offices in Australia and Canada, that specialises in school surveys and student assessments. They have been contracted by the Department to run the surveys for NSW public schools. Its survey, *Tell Them From Me*, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada's ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years.

The Learning Bar has conducted surveys in Australia before, with schools helping to adapt surveys, ensuring they are appropriate to an Australian context. For purely administrative purposes, The Learning Bar will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than The Learning Bar and CESE researchers within the Department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about The Learning Bar is available at: [www.thelearningbar.com](http://www.thelearningbar.com).



### Contact Details

For more information about the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, please contact us:

 [cese@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cese@det.nsw.edu.au)

 [www.cese.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cese.nsw.gov.au)

# Epilepsy Awareness Webinar



**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – 5.30pm**

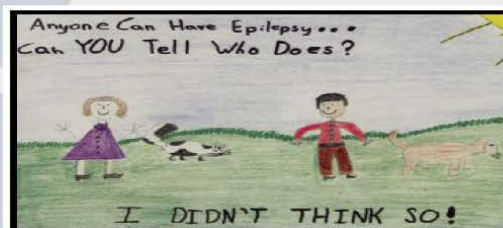
*Come along to this FREE session and learn more about this condition, have your questions answered by the experts.*

- What is epilepsy?
- Diagnosis and treatment
- How to recognise different seizure types
- Safety and first aid
- Behaviour and seizure triggers.

Presented by: **Epilepsy Action Australia**  
**Nurse Educator**

**Where:** Finley Bowling Club  
Murray Street  
**FINLEY**

**RSVP:** [Fran.Hatty@gsahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Fran.Hatty@gsahs.health.nsw.gov.au)



**Health**  
Murrumbidgee  
Local Health District