



Finley High School Newsletter

Principal: Mrs H McRae

Deputy Principal: Mrs P Jackson

24th August 2017

KEY DATES

August

- 28 – 30** Boys mentoring camp
30 Breakfast Club
Homework Centre at Finley
High School Library

September

- 5** Formal Assembly, 10:06am
in the school hall.
6 Breakfast Club
Homework Centre at Finley
High School Library,
Jerilderie St Joseph's and
Barooga Public School
8 Defence Force recruitment
presentation 1pm in the
MPR. Years 10-12.
11 – 15 Year Eleven half year Exams
18 – 22 Year Eleven VET
Workplacement
21 Year Twelve Formal
Assembly and Graduation
Dinner
22 Last day of Term Three

October

- 9** First day of Term Four
10 - 12 CSU Future Moves visit
11 Breakfast Club
18 Breakfast Club
25 Breakfast Club

November

- 1** Breakfast Club

Principal's Report

NAPLAN Results

2017 NAPLAN results are in and were mailed out to parents last week.

Across both Year Seven and Year Nine, many students achieved positive growth in their literacy and numeracy skills. If you would like to discuss your child's results with a teacher, or you have any concerns or queries about the results, please contact me at the school to discuss these.

NAPLAN Readiness Tests

As part of the transition to move NAPLAN from a paper based test to an online test, a schools readiness test will take place at Finley High School next week.

Students in Year Seven and Year Nine will complete online assessments in order to test the NAPLAN online platform. The results of these assessments will not be returned to the school for analysis. It is merely an opportunity for the students to practice the online format which will come into place in 2018 and ensure the technology will work.

Mrs Close, Ms Coates, Miss Scott and Mr Dolan will supervise the online assessments on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of next week.

If you do not wish your child to participate in this trial, please contact Ms Coates at the school.

Each student will do two assessments. The first will be a writing assessment and the second will be an omnibus test – assessing reading, comprehension and numeracy. Each test will take 1 hour.

Students will complete a survey question at the start and end of each assessment and will have the opportunity to change or review their answers before submitting.

Students are asked to bring a pair of earphones or ear plugs every day next week as some parts of the assessment may have audio components.

Please feel free to contact Ms Coates or Mrs Nicole Close if you have any questions.

School Plan – 2018-2020

I have organised to travel to each town during Weeks Eight and Nine of this term to speak with current and future parents about the future direction of the school for the next three years. I will be seeking feedback on strengths and weaknesses of our school and also what vision parents have for the

school in the next three years. This will form the basis of planning for the next three years. If any parent would like to be a part of the planning team, I would welcome them aboard. Planning is likely to take place in Term Four.

The visits will take place as follows:

Finley High School MPR	Wednesday 6 th September	4.30 – 5.30 pm
Jerilderie Public School library	Tuesday 12 th September	4.30 – 5.30pm
Berrigan Public School TBC	Wednesday 13 th September	4.30 – 5.30 pm
Tocumwal Public School TBC	Thursday 14 th September	4.30 – 5.30 pm

I would encourage all Finley High School parents and parents of students in Years Four, Five and Six of all of our feeder schools to attend one of these meetings to have a voice in the future direction of the school.

Finley High School parents unable to attend meetings in their local towns will be asked to complete a survey at the formal assembly in Week Eight.

Swan Shield

Congratulations to the Finley High School Swan Shield team who travelled to Sydney to compete in the preliminary state finals of the Swan Shield. The team convincingly defeated Kingscliff High School in the quarter final before beating Albury High school in a closely fought battle in the Semi-final.

Our boys will now travel to Albury on 19th September to face Billabong High School to determine the champion AFL team in the state-wide Swan Shield competition. We wish them every success.

Year Twelve

Year Twelve have completed their final assessment tasks this week, by sitting for their trial HSC examinations. For most of them, it was the first time they have had three hour examinations. It was great to hear that they were generally well prepared and committed to achieving their best. I encourage them to continue revising and practicing past papers in order to be thoroughly prepared for their HSC exams which commence in October.

The last day for Year Twelve is Thursday 21st September when they will have their farewell assembly and their formal function at the RS Club.

Grit

I commend this link to you.

It is a Ted Talk on the importance of Grit – the power to not give up when the going gets tough. It is an important message for us all.

https://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_grit_the_power_of_passion_and_perseverance

Mrs Helen McRae
Principal

Annual Public Speaking Evening

This will be held in the Finley High School library on Wednesday 13th September. Any student from each year group is welcome to participate. Speeches can be from 3-5 minutes duration. Seniors who have prepared longer ones may still present them. Those who have participated in Lions Youth of the Year can use those speeches. Any speech that has been used for school, or any competition, can be used on the night. I'm sorry that it's the week of Year Eleven exams. If any Year Eleven student wants to participate, I can make sure you go first so that you can leave early, if you wish to do so.

All parents are welcome to attend, not just those whose children are delivering a speech. Supper will be provided.

Veronica McNaught
English Head Teacher

Market Day 11th August 2017

On Friday 11th August, Year Twelve Business Studies and Years Nine and Ten Commerce participated in Market Day. The students involved in these subjects held stalls at lunchtime for the student body to buy their products. Students mainly sold food items ranging from hot foods to sweet treats. Other students provided a competition for people to enter to win prizes. Some students made or purchased products to sell on the day.

Students had limited funds to start their business and learnt about the different aspects on starting up a business in preparing for the day.

All students were successful in breaking even and different groups varied in their profitability. All students and staff were given a token to vote for their favourite stall holder on the day.

Different products included:

- Sausages and spiders
- Cupcakes, cake pops and other sweet treats
- Dim sims
- Soft drinks and a head massaging device
- Cookies
- Guess the lolly jar competition and Giant handball game
- Wedges
- Lollies and chocolates
- Donuts
- Homework completion and target hitting competition
- Key rings
- Pancake parlour

Winners:

Most profitable stall holder went to the sausages and spiders which were prepared by Courtney Sexton, Julia Barlow and Jade O'Bryan.

People's Choice Award went to the Dim Sims which was prepared by Sophie Lostroh, Jessica Knight and Kate Sutherland.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the day and to the students involved for making the day the success that it was.

Miss Scott









Careers Report

It has been a busy time in the Careers Department of late.

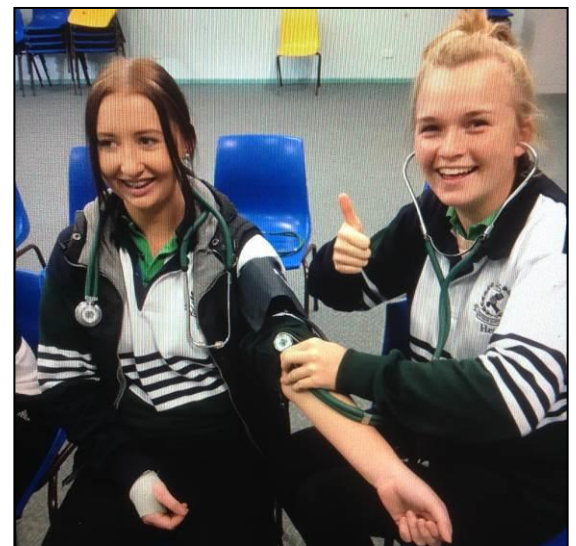
Thank you to all the families who came along to the Tertiary Information Evening. We hope that it created some discussions and provided some food for thought. Please feel free to follow up on anything with the Careers Staff. Following this week of exams Year Twelve students should be really knuckling down on their applications. Please note some things are already closing this week and next such as UOW Early Entry and LaTrobe ASPIRE Early Entry. Be sure you don't miss deadlines.

Year Nine students have been busy applying real world experiences to their careers lessons through their participation in the Real Game. Students have set themselves up in life, taken a job and met their neighbours in a street party. As we move into analysing our budgets some students will start to appreciate how sometimes what we want and what we can have can be poles apart. They have also discovered that all jobs have pros and cons and being happy with your career is about doing something we love and finding a balance between income and lifestyle that allows us to enjoy our life. Please ask your Year Nine students about what they are doing as part of the Real Game.

Pictured right: Year Nine students Connor Smith, Niamh Mason, Nicholas Lunn and Kayla Smith participating in the real game.

We have the Defence Force coming to visit on Friday 8th of September and we encourage you to discuss this with your students if they are interested in joining the Defence Forces, and encourage them to go along.

Late last term we had a visit from Hutcheon and Pearce to discuss their apprenticeship program. We hope interested students have followed up on this visit. We also had Engage University do a workshop with interested students on Allied Health fields. Students measured heart rates and blood pressures, listened to bowel sounds, made plaster splints for their fingers and used ultra violet lighting to look at hygiene through hand washing. Students applied a cream with a dye in it to represent bacteria which glowed under the UV lights. They washed their hands to remove the cream / bacteria and then used the lights to see how clean their hands were. There were some truly horrified faces at the parts they missed around their wrists, rings and in the finger joints and webbing.



Above: Mikayla Condon having her blood pressure and pulse rate checked by Hannah Heaney



Left: Molly McGrath measuring Georgia Lunn's blood pressure

Ag Plot

On Monday 28th August students will spend the day at the ag plot preparing their cattle for the Finley Show and Melbourne Royal Show. The cattle will be clipped by our good friend David Bolton. David is highly respected within the industry and has assisted us in many ways over a very long period of time. The students will be washing, grooming and parading the animals throughout the course of the day.

We would like to invite our many valued and loyal supporters and members of the public to come and see how this year's preparations are progressing, also see how our Shorthorns, crossbred cattle and Poll Dorsets are coming along. The farm will be open from 10am to 2.30pm. Light refreshments will be available.



Above: This cute little crossbred heifer by Inra 95 Spike (a composite bull) and out of Tippy (Limousin X Shorthorn) is destined for the Melbourne Royal Beef Carcase competition in 2018. At the moment she is gaining weight at an average of 1.66kg/day. Thanks to Agri-Gene for donating semen to our program.

Robyn O'Leary

Connect Program

The Connect Program is a peer support initiative designed to foster relationships between mainstream and supported students. Throughout the year a range of exciting, structured activities are organised to support social and interpersonal skills while establishing positive peer connections which are beneficial to all students involved and the wider school community.

This week Chloe from Yallambee ran a scavenger hunt. Students worked together in groups to collect a list of items including; something colourful, a chewed leaf, a pinecone and something you think is a treasure – while trying to be the first team to return. It was a great way for students to practice team work and wonderful to see everyone enjoy the activity.



Above: Kenielle Chellew, Kiarni Jones, Niamh Mason, Sophie Roe and Tyson Morris with the items they collected on the scavenger hunt.

Right: Lily Kernaghan, Sarah Haynes, Sarah Orro and Michelle Jenkins on the scavenger hunt.



Finley High School Waterwheel

With the schools Media Hub Team currently working on our annual school magazine, the Waterwheel, we are aware a large number of students have NOT returned their Media Consent Form giving consent/withdrawal of consent in regards to media permission.

We have recently sent emails to many families, published reminders and resent notes home. We are unable to publish any student photos, including official school photos, or their names without the consent from a parent or guardian.

When putting together the Waterwheel, utilising social media and publishing newsletters, it is important we are aware of any media consent given or withheld. This ensures that we appropriately celebrate the great things happening at our school whilst keeping our students safe.

If you have not yet notified the school as to whether your child/children have consent, or not, for 2017, please do so as soon as possible. At any time if circumstances change and you wish to withdraw or change your consent we ask you to please notify the school.

Many Thanks,

The Media Hub Team.

CANTEEN ROSTER

Canteen Contact and Number

Mrs Kaylene Dawe 5883 1105

....LADIES, please note 10am start....

August

25	K Litchfield, K Arnold
28	M Kleinschmidt
29	Suzanne Robertson
30	T Doohan
31	C Pitt, L Knight

September

1	T Jones, J Crowhurst
4	T Roe, D Jewell
5	C Alexander
6	K Steel
7	J Clark
8	C Lawton

Finley High School P&C Meeting

Wednesday 13th September 2017
7pm in the staff common room
(School Admin. Building).

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

fhsbandcassociation@gmail.com

FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

“HOMEWORK CENTRE ON THE ROAD”

Finley High School's
“Homework Centre on the Road”
is an opportunity for students in Years 5 to 12 from all local schools
to attend supervised homework sessions
where they are able to complete homework tasks
while being supported by high school and primary school teaching staff.

VENUES

Wednesday 26th July - Berrigan Public School and Tocumwal Sacred Heart

Wednesday 9th August - Jerilderie Public School and Barooga Public School

Wednesday 23rd August - Berrigan St Columba's and Tocumwal Public School

Wednesday 6th September - Jerilderie St Joseph's and Barooga Public School

4pm – 5pm

Afternoon tea provided

Offered by FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Supported by YOUR *Primary Schools*

Respectful. Responsible Learners

Finley High School P&C Finley Bowling Club Raffle

**Friday 15th September from 6pm
at the Finley Bowling Club**

The P&C, on behalf of Finley High School, has its annual community fundraiser at the Finley Bowling Club on Friday, 15th of September.

We are asking if you would please donate items
suitable for use as prizes for the raffle.

Please leave any items you wish to donate at the front office.

It would be great to see as many families as possible come along on the night
and have a bit fun with the raffle and enjoy a meal at the Finley Bowling Club.



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

Celebrate 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 Officer 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.



Missing school leaves gaps in your education

Celebrate Attendance

Hints and Tips No. 2: Teaching good habits



It is important for parents to make attending school a priority.

Allowing children days off for birthdays, to look after younger children, to go shopping, to keep you company or because they were tired from a late night, not only sends the wrong message to your child, it is also against the law.

Children who get used to having days off school for these kinds of reasons develop an attitude that their attendance at school is not very important. This can become a big issue as a child gets older.

Teach your children that being on time is important. Children that are often late to school miss the part of the school day when the teacher explains new activities. The beginning of the day is also when many students are freshest and can concentrate better.

Students that are late on a regular basis may become the target for comment by other students and often as a result isolate themselves from their peers.



Missing school leaves gaps in your education

Celebrate Attendance

Hints and Tips No. 3: Writing notes



Parents or caregivers are required by law to provide an explanation to the principal to say why their child was absent from school.

A note of explanation should contain:

1. Date that the note was written;
2. Child's name;
3. Days/dates the child was absent from school;
4. The reason the child was absent;
5. The signature of the child's parent or caregiver.

If more than one child from the same family has been absent a separate note for each child should be written.

A note should be brought to school on the first day the student returns to school after an absence. Your school is required to investigate all unexplained absences (where a child has been absent and no explanation has been received) within two days.

Did your child give the note to their teacher? This can sometimes be a problem with younger children.



Missing school leaves gaps in your education

JERILDERIE TOWN



Saturday 16TH September 2017.

Site fees \$30 – includes advertising & signs.

For application forms contact Janine A'Vard
0428577304 kjavard@bigpond.com

A local fundraiser for the Timor Leste Immersion Program 2018. 10 Finley High Students are raising money for their in country costs & to purchase goods for donation to schools & medical clinics.

FINLEY LITTLE ATHLETICS



LITTLE ATHLETICS WILL BE STARTING AGAIN IN THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST AND WE ARE INVITING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO COME ALONG AND JOIN US.

REGISTRATION: Registration nights will be held on Friday 18th August at 5pm & Friday 25th August at 5pm.

There is a 2 week trial for any new athletes to see if they like it.

WHERE: Finley Rec Reserve

Competition is held every Friday night at 5.30pm sharp .
Coaching is available at no cost every Monday & Wednesday afternoon for any interested kids .

All children must be accompanied by a parent

For more information please call;

Pat Kelly: 0475917443

Ken Gardiner: 03 58833440, 0408215271

Rick Gardiner: 03 58833106, 0438852677