



Finley High School Newsletter

Principal: Mr J Ward

Deputy Principal: Mrs P Jackson

12th March 2020

KEY DATES

March

- 13 Forensics Day
- 14 Numurkah Autumn Beef Classic
- 19 Open Boys & Girls Soccer (Deniliquin)
- 20 Visiting artist
Harmony Day activities
- 24 Lovebites (Yr 10)
- 25 MADD Full Day Dress Rehearsal
- 26 Formal Assembly 12:30pm
- 27 Open Boys & Girls Tennis (Barham)
- 30 Year 12 Half Yearly Exams begin

April

- 1-3 CHS Swimming Sydney
- 2 School photos
- 6 STOMP Trivia night
- 8 Parent/Carer – Teacher interviews (Yr7-12) 4-6pm
P&C Meeting 7pm

Principal's Report

I'm writing this week's edition of the newsletter from Canberra at the Step It Up Conference with Miss Sarah Infanti. Miss Infanti applied for this leadership opportunity and was successful with her application. We will be working together to continue to lead and improve learning outcomes for our students. In our quest to improve teaching and learning at Finley High School, I thought this would be an ideal time to share what other staff are doing to improve their practice, which in turn leads to growth in our students.

- Mrs Jackson, Mr Campbell and Mrs Baxter – Leading quality teaching rounds
- Mrs Jackson, Mrs McNaught and Ms Coates – Leading secondary writing
- Mr Campbell – High impact leadership project in numeracy
- Mrs Noble - Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluations (CESE)- Assessment for Complex Learners Trial.
- Mrs Singleton – Tier 1 program for School Administration Managers
- Mrs O'Bryan and Ms Coates – Stage 3/4 project with the Literacy Progressions
- Miss Infanti – Step it up program
- Mr Campbell and Mrs Coates - Best Start data for Year 7 teachers

Peer Support

Our peer support program continued this week and this

wonderful program would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of Jodi Brown and Miss Archinal.

Peer Support is a program that has been implemented as part of the school curriculum. Each week our trained Year 10 students facilitate an hour session to groups of Year 7 students. The program aims to teach young people practical life skills that help through times of adversity and change. It is an opportunity for our Year 10 volunteers to build on their leadership and communication skills at the same time reinforcing the importance of positive relationships and resilience when it comes to navigating high school and adolescence.



Top: Lara Willemsen, Lindsey Matheson, Ava Belling, Ryan Nelson, Luca Colombi

Bottom: Harvey Sneddon, Dan Eldridge

International Women's Day

This week celebrated women and their contribution to all walks of life. International Women's Day is a reminder to us to remember both the famous and not so famous women who have demonstrated courage, resilience and determination in forging their paths.

Mrs Baxter and the girls' mentoring roll call coordinated International Women's Day celebrations at Finley High School on Tuesday, 10 March 2020. Representatives from the roll call gave a presentation at assembly that discussed the theme and importance of International Women's Day. They also held a cake stall to raise money for the Australian National Committee for UN Women who raise funds to support gender equality through education and reduction in domestic violence against women and girls.

Deniliquin Show

It was a privilege to spend time with the staff and students who attended the recent Deniliquin Show. Their hard work was rewarded with many ribbons. Thank you to Mr and Mrs O'Hora, Mrs O'Leary, Mr Webb and Mr and Mrs Close for your time and dedication. The stewards at the show were extremely impressed by our students and the dairy, beef and sheep entries that we paraded. I tried hard to locate the Griffith girls who took part in the equestrian events, but I know they were out there doing a fantastic job.



Pictured: Harmonie Tidcombe, Hayley Palmer and Caitlin Griffiths with the Champion Ram of the Show

Swimming

Congratulations and good luck to the following students who have qualified to represent Riverina in Sydney at the NSW championships:

- Ava Belling
- Georgia Belling
- Angela Bonic
- Daniela Gargaro
- Dakota Pyle
- Chloe Rorato

Year 7 BBQ

We had a fantastic turn out of parents, staff and students at our Year 7 Welcome BBQ. Can I especially thank our year advisor Mrs Madeline Jackson for her organisation and Mr O'Leary, Jodi Brown and Mr Tessier who helped set up. I managed to get around to most of the parents and it was great to see all the positive conversations taking place.

Anti-Racism officer

Miss Archinal is Finley High School's anti-racism contact officer and it is her role to ensure students and staff conform with the NSW Department of Education anti-racism policy. We reject all forms of racism and are committed to the elimination of racial discrimination. If you have any concerns or need to speak to someone please contact Miss Archinal, Mrs Jackson or myself.

Appropriate Behaviour

Unfortunately, in our society and in schools we have some individuals who choose to defy what most value as expected behaviour. Rules and expectations are in place for our safety and to ensure we function in a civil manner. Finley High School is the fifth school I have worked at and we have very few students who exhibit poor behaviour. However it is timely to remind everyone that we follow a behaviour code set by the Department of Education that states *NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone*. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students. I have provided a link to this code as a timely reminder to all of what is expected: <https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/behaviourcode.pdf>

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Respectful Responsible Learners

Each week we have had a PBL focus and have seen a large number of students rewarded through our ticket system. which led to Year 7 being rewarded with the mid term whole year group BBQ in week 5.

Our weekly focuses have included; wearing the correct uniform and packing the correct sports uniform, bringing all equipment, speaking respectfully and using appropriate communication, completing tasks, following instructions and ensuring good time management.

In the following weeks we will be rewarding students who strive to be a good learner by revising work and completing homework and assessments to their best ability.

Congratulation to all our students who continue to embrace PBL. Each week a student from each year group is rewarded with a \$5 canteen voucher. We look forward to seeing if Year 7 can uphold top of the ladder for the rest of the term.

The PBL Team look forward to another great term. We will be looking at more signage for the school and continuing our focus weeks with rewards.

Pictured top: Week 3 PBL winners – Adam Casanova, Oscar Gilham, Rory Knight, Gabby Taylor-Tran, Courtney Lunn, Caitlin Griffiths

Picture middle: Week 5 PBL winners – Max Roe, Faith Vidler

Pictured bottom : Week 7 PBL winners – Mikayla Simpson, Rosie Steel, Sophie Griffiths, Brooke Whelan, Ben Neessen



LoveBites

On Tuesday 24th March our Year 10 students will be participating in the LoveBites Program. It is an interactive workshop discussing current social issues around healthy relationships, with a focus on domestic and family violence and sexual assault. We are fortunate enough to have local trained community professionals volunteer their time to facilitate the program, alongside myself and our School Counsellor, Karen Andrews. We have run the program in previous years and believe it delivers a vital message to students about keeping themselves and others safe.

The day is split into 3 sections; sexual assault, domestic violence and creative arts. Students are asked to create a piece of work of their choice in the final session that depicts what they have learnt from the day. It is a great way to work collaboratively to share a strong message on positive and healthy relationships.

Jodi Brown
Student Support Officer

NSW Open Girls Cricket Championships

Last month, Niamh Mason was given the chance to play for the Riverina in the NSW CHS cricket championships in Bathurst. It was 4 days of cricket, which consisted of four 20/20 games, followed by a 50 over game then a 40 over game on the last day. The team lost each of the short games, but was victorious in the two longer matches. Niamh's confidence grew with each game and she became an integral part of the team taking two wickets for 13 runs in two overs in one game. In the last game she took three wickets for four runs in 3.3 overs (including two maidens). The tournament was a great opportunity to play with cricketers from around the state and to watch some top level players, like Stella Campbell, perform on the field.



The Truth Project – Year 10, 11 & 12

On Tuesday 10th March Finley High School senior students participated in workshops with the Truth Project group. In the workshops students heard personal stories from presenters of how they overcame adversities to find successful and meaningful careers where they were following their passions. In today's society it's difficult for high school students to decide what they want to do with their lives. There are countless post-school options to choose from meaning young people are requiring more guidance than ever to make positive decisions about their future. The Truth Project endeavoured to empower Finley High School students to create their own version of success in order to encourage a more positive post-school journey.

Some of the take home messages were:

- That students should find their why and follow it.
- This why should be something which they are passionate about.
- They should not let barriers of past experiences and expectations etc be barriers for their future success.
- They spoke about the fact that our life journey is not linear but rather speckled with ups and downs where at times we move forwards and others backwards but that each of these present opportunities for those who are prepared to put themselves out there.
- They encouraged students to use the PIGS can fly acronym to determine their Passions, Intrinsic motivations, Goals and Skills as they embark on the final stages of high school and face the challenges of post-school life.
- One final quote they left one group with was

"You can follow the path or you can go where there's no path and leave a trail".

Hopefully these workshops left students with some food for thought as to how they will now approach their Year 13 beyond school.



Picture bottom: Sebina, Pheobe, Isabella, Lachie, Georgia, Thomas, Scott (Truth Project)

1976-1981 Class Reunion

FHS was proud to host the class of 1976-1981 on Saturday 7th March for a school tour as part of the group's reunion weekend. Ex-students had fun visiting old classrooms and verandas which inspired much fun reminiscing. They were also very impressed with the modernisation of many areas in the school and how beautifully presented the grounds and gardens are (thanks Brian O'Hora and Gaye Maxwell). Aileen Begbie, Sue Jarrott and Jenny Philpot produced an excellent display in the school Library of memorabilia for the group to enjoy. This was the largest year group to ever go through FHS starting in Year 7 with 181 students in six classes.

Research Field Day

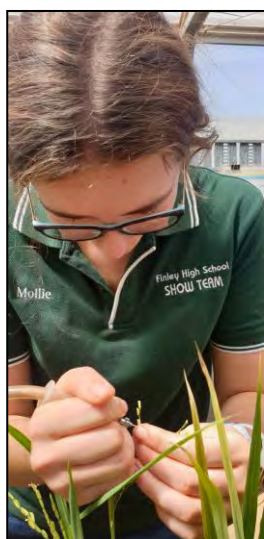
On Tuesday seven Finley High School students joined 81 students from schools across the Riverina to attend the *Research for a changing climate* field day at The Yanco Research Institute. The students rotated through eight sessions

1. Drones and imaging, Lidar, Green Seekers
2. Cotton agronomy
3. Pests and diseases of cotton
4. Weeds
5. Rice breeding and quality
6. Plant breeding
7. Precision agriculture equipment
8. Fruit fly factory

These sessions were very interesting and relevant to the Agriculture Syllabus. At the moment we are completing our elective *Farming for the 21st Century* and so many aspects were relatable to this unit of work. We looked at the cotton grown on our Farm Case Study farm so we were able to increase the depth of our understanding of this crop. Rice is so relevant to our area and it was really interesting to learn about the aspects of plant breeding and research. We will be looking at these aspects of agriculture when we study plants.

All presenters gave an introduction to themselves and spoke about their career pathways, which were all very interesting and varied. This demonstrated two things to the students, namely, that there is always a way to achieve your dream and that many people experience career changes throughout their working life.

We had a great day and would like to extend our thanks to Ian Mason who assisted to transport students to this event.



Left: Shiane Mason and Niamh Mason examine the adapted cotton harvester

Centre: Nicola Denny studies a white fly nymph

Right: Mollie McGrath extracts pollen from rice pannicles

Indigenous Cultural Awareness Day with Wandana

On Tuesday 3rd March, the whole student body had the unique opportunity to learn and participate in activities to build our knowledge of Australia's Indigenous culture.

Kelly and Isaac from Wandana began the day with a whole school assembly where an Acknowledgement of Country and sweeping ceremony took place. Throughout the day students learnt about a variety of artefacts and painted a journey stone.

Students also had the opportunity to paint and add to a canvas mural which told the unique story of Finley High School. The mural is currently in the process of being framed and will be displayed in the library for all students to enjoy.



Basketball - Open Boys & Girls Gala Day

On Friday 6th March our open boys and girls travelled to the brand new Deniliquin stadium to compete in a Gala Day against Deniliquin, Barham, Tooleybuc, Hay and Balranald. Both teams played some great basketball. Unfortunately we came up against some tough opposition and therefore didn't come away as overall winners on the day. All games were played with enthusiasm and effort. A particular highlight for the day was when the boys played against a much younger and smaller Balranald team. The game was played in a fun spirit with both teams trading dunk shots and long three's.

The girls team played four games and were fortunate enough to win a game against Hay. Unfortunately, the girls were outclassed in other games against Deniliquin, Tooleybuc and Barham. Regardless, the girls had a wonderful day and showed incredible sports(wo)manship. Ruby Russell was our starring scorer for the day. Shianne Mason and Shae Fennell showed some good aggression and were a little perplexed with the fouls system of basketball! Well done girls, you represented Finley High School with pride.



Open Boys Team – Glen Dilulo, Thomas Loomes, Jalen Ogilvie, Ben Neessen, Lachie Osborne, Jacob Boyd, Nick Arnold.

Open Girls Team - Pictured: Back Row L-R: Shianne Mason, Courtney Lunn and Karla Nicholls. Front row L-R: Shelby-Lea Hislop, Taylor Simpson, Mackenzie Hannan, Ruby Russell and Shae Fennell.

Year 11 Work Studies

Year 11 Work Studies students have been participating in Work Shadowing around the school as part of the practical component of the course "My Working Life". Students have engaged in work such as office administration, commercial kitchen, special support, food preparation, filing and data entry and art room preparation. These students have made a positive start to this program which involves work skills, communication and practical application, prior to Work Shadowing outside the school in the future.

Jacqui O'Bryan and Sarah Infanti.

*Pictured (L-R): Billie Matheson
and Marlon Webster*



Thank you

To Finley High school,

I would like to express my thanks to the school, and especially to Tricia Jackson, for letting our 'FHS Year 7, 1976' reunion group have a private tour through the school last Saturday. It certainly evoked a lot of memories and stories of our time there and put a lot of smiles on our faces. We were all particularly touched by the thoughtful library display which was a highlight of the tour. I certainly have very fond memories of my time there and the fantastic staff that I had the pleasure and privilege to be taught by.

Please forward this on to Tricia - she was a fantastic tour guide and we are fortunate to have had her in our Year group. Many thanks Tricia!

Regards
Julie Ryan (nee Allridge)

P & C AGM

At the Finley High School P& C AGM last night, the following community members were elected to the committee. Thank you to all outgoing and incoming members for their commitment to our school. We especially thank David Marsden (outgoing Treasurer) who has been a member of our Executive for many years.

President	Paul Jones
Vice President	Peta Neessen Sasha Congram (Canteen Convenor)
Secretary	Anne Jones
Treasurer	Carmen Lawton

CANTEEN ROSTER

Canteen Contact and Number

0473 946 683

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

March

12 L Knight

13

16 J Orro

17 J Loughman

18 G Ferguson

19 K Steel

20

23 B Kennedy

24 M Kleinschmidt

25 J Chellew

26 S Macleod

27

Finley High School

Wednesday 8th April, 2020

at 7pm in the Staff Common Room

(Admin Building)

The P&C meet the second Wednesday
of the month.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

fhsbandcassociation@gmail.com



Schools, sporting clubs, youth groups, and other organisations involved in supporting young people up to the age of 25 years, can now apply for a Murrumbidgee Youth Community Grant to receive funding for activities aimed at building resilience and positive mental health and wellbeing.

The initiative is part of Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network's (MPHN), Federal Government Empowering Our Communities funding to support mental health and wellbeing in the region's drought affected communities.

The Murrumbidgee Youth Community Grants have two funding levels, up to \$1,500 where a simple 250-word overview of the activity and a basic budget is required to apply. The next level is for grants of more than \$1,500 and up to \$5,000, which will require a 500 word overview and a more detailed budget and quotes. Application to approval of funding should take no more than two weeks.

Grant applications close on Friday, 27 March 2020 or when funding is exhausted. All grant activities must be complete by 30 June 2020.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health emergency should call the Mental Health Line 1800 011 511, Lifeline 13 11 14 or call 000. Or to access the Head to Health website visit www.headtohealth.gov.au

For more information about the Murrumbidgee Youth Community Grants visit www.mphn.org.au or follow Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network on Facebook or Twitter.



RIVERINA WOMEN'S CRICKET



Riverina Trial

Sunday 29th March 2020

Warren Smith Cricket Nets - Bolton Park Wagga Wagga

10am to 3:30pm

For girls aged 11-19

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FV0OP3DG00lpOVhR8lp2wmCbnT_xhv9NjArUbw2VkepURjFFMUIGQjJlSUFMTdGS1JqYtc3WTRRUS4u



Once registered more informatin will be sent closer to the date.



1



Health Hub

FREE Health Checks for Children

9am – 5pm



Services

Teeth*

- Comprehensive oral exam and teeth clean, including fluoride treatment

Ears

- Thorough ear function and hearing assessment
- Individual reports provided

Speech

- Speech/language screenings to detect communication difficulties
- Recommendations for further assessment or speech therapy intervention if needed

Occupational therapy

- Assess fine motor coordination, gross motor and self-care skills to determine the need for further evaluation

Dates & Venues

Wed 15 April

Berkeley
CareSouth, 2 Matilda Way,
Berkeley

EARS, TEETH, OT & SPEECH

Thurs 16 April

Goulburn
CareSouth, 2/148 Sloane Street,
Goulburn
(Enter via Clinton Street)

EARS, TEETH, OT & SPEECH

Thurs 23 April

Deniliquin
344 Cressy Street,
Deniliquin.

TEETH, OT & SPEECH

Book online www.bookitlive.net/caresouth

For further information contact us on **1300 554 260**

or via email bookings@caresouth.org.au

EVERYDAY

CareSouth

* Free under the "Child Dental Benefits Schedule" which offers \$1000 per child over a two year period (must be in receipt of Family Tax Benefit A or a relevant Australian Government payment).