



# 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 | Finley High School

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Newsletter Week 6, Term 4, 2021

## Key Dates

Date:	Event:
December 9	Presentation Day – Students Only
November 9 - December 3	HSC Exams
November 23	Year 6 Orientation Day
December 16	IBL (Interest Based Learning) Day – All Students
December 16	Last Day of Term 4 – All Students
December 17	Last Day Term 4 - Staff

## A word from Mr Ward

This week is the half way point of the term, even though some Covid restrictions are still in place we have managed to achieve so much. This week we were given the go ahead for school sports and interschool sports, assemblies outdoors, dancing and P & C meetings. It was wonderful to finally address the whole school in our quad, the first time since early August.

The HSC examinations started this week. I would like to wish all our students and the teachers who taught this year's HSC classes all the best. The following examinations took place in week one; English, Music and Modern History.

## Luncheons and Recognitions

Last week we held a breakfast for our annual World Teachers Day. It was wonderful to start the day with an egg and bacon roll and we were grateful for the recognition from all the non-teaching staff.

We also held a staff morning tea to acknowledge October as Breast Cancer Awareness month. It was great to see a number of staff put on some pink and do their little bit to support this wonderful cause.

This week we held a very successful luncheon and presentation for all the outgoing and incoming SRC, although it lacked the usual official ceremony status, it was well organised and I'm sure the students felt valued. I look forward to working with the incoming SRC members.

We also organised a special luncheon for the outgoing Year 12's and the staff who taught them. It was a wonderful opportunity to say a few words, wish the students all the best and present some special awards including their final reports.

All these events would not have been possible without the support and hard work of our staff, thank you to all those who have contributed in any way.

**Respectful, Responsible Learners**



## Remembrance Day

This week we reflected on Remembrance Day, to remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in war. We remember those who have served and those who continue to serve and the families who have been affected by war and peacekeeping operations. We paused for a minute's silence on the 11th at the 11th hour, whilst Miss Geeves and I took the captains and SRC to the Finley Memorial Park for the town Remembrance Day service. On Friday, Miss Geeves, myself and the school leaders are in Berrigan for the opening of the War Memorial wall. Thank you to all those students and staff who purchased a poppy and took time to remember.



## Congratulations to Taymyn Jones

Congratulations to Taymyn Jones who has successfully completed his Certificate II in Hospitality (Food and Beverage). Taymyn studied this externally with the wonderful assistance of the Finley Returned Services Club. Taymyn has completed all 13 units and is now qualified to work in many areas of the hospitality industry. This would not have been possible without the practical support Taymyn received from club staff. Special thanks must also go to his teacher mentor Mr Reuben Johnson who has guided and assisted Taymyn throughout the course. Drop into the RSC to see Taymyn in action.

## Congratulations to Sarah Bauer

It's wonderful to recognize our students and their achievements. Sarah Bauer has been offered a place in this year's Curious Minds program. Sarah's letter of congratulations stated that "we feel you've got what it takes to thrive in this brilliant program and so on behalf of the Australian Mathematics Trust and Australian Science Innovations, I have great pleasure in offering you a place in the 2021/2022 Curious Minds Program". Sarah will be one of 110 female secondary students who will come together for an exciting program of learning in biology, chemistry, earth and environmental science, engineering, digital technologies, mathematics, and physics. Sarah will hear talks from prominent women in STEM, engage in hands on supercharged sessions, undertake investigations, participate in communication workshops, STEM coaching sessions and, most importantly, grow in confidence and ability in a fun, supportive and encouraging environment. She will get a great head-start to further her studies in science and maths and forge friendships with like-minded students from around Australia. Sarah was referred by Miss Walker who acknowledged her endeavours to date, her commitment to her studies and her enthusiasm for STEM. Well done, Sarah.



## All the best Mrs Braybon

I would like to finish off by wishing Mrs Anne Braybon all the best as she heads into retirement. Anne came to Finley High School in 1978 and has taught on and off for over 40 years, she has seen 7 principals come and go, thousands of students and hundreds of teachers. I have never heard a bad word about Anne and her teaching ability and professionalism is outstanding. In my short time here, I have grown fond of Anne and the way she just wanted to do the best for the students. In 2019, Anne took 3 exceptional students under her wing and accelerated them in mathematics. One of these Year 10 students is sitting her HSC Maths examinations this year and I know this was the 'Everest' for Anne the final accomplishment in a wonderful career. We wish you all the best and on behalf of the thousands of students you taught we thank you for your service to education.

*Jeff Ward, Principal*

## Farewell Mrs Braybon

Anne arrived in Finley with a lot of hope and no idea. She was dropped off by the bus in the middle of town and was picked up by the principal at the time- who recognised her as a new teacher because of her youth and befuddled expression. She lived in teacher housing for a while before Peter swept her off her feet (as he would describe it) and her loathing of mice was solidified by the discovery of a nest inside her teacher housing couch. Pete came around with a cat to help solve the problem.

Anne has seen Finley High School change immensely over the years. She has been involved in nearly aspect of the school and her main focus has always been the students. Anne has assisted with presentation nights, maths competitions, run accelerated maths programs, helped develop the SPACE up in the library, coordinated with Aurora College to support students working through them and so, so much more.

Anne has worked at Finley High School through numerous staff, head teachers and principals and has remained constant. She's always said the only three kids who managed to get under her skin were her own. She's made an unfathomable difference to the students and staff she's worked with and there is never a bad word to say about Anne. We wish Anne all the best and hope she can enjoy this time outside, in the garden or with a good book.

## A few kind words in honour of Mrs Braybon.....(and some past student acknowledgements)

*'I observed a few lessons of Anne's last year and she is definitely a great teacher who knows her stuff'*

**Mr Maslen.**

When I first came to FHS I was very aware that being an experienced teacher can mean very little while the kids try you out and get to know you.

I cast around the staff for a couple of weeks looking to find someone who would help me navigate the school.

That person became Anne Braybon for me - she was a great help if I had any questions about connections, and wonderful to talk to about just the goings on in FHS.

By my second year I was okay, however, Anne remained for me a person of integrity and someone with whom I could chat and develop ideas without criticism.

Anne took on Year Advising and did a great job inducting her year group into the school (she looked after them for 4 years as her son was also in the year and she didn't want to cramp his style in year 11 and 12).

I took on the year after her and she supported and guided me through the process of transitioning them and settling them in. Again, a great role model - and I am very grateful to her for her invaluable assistance - that process was followed by many Year Advisors after us. I have always found Anne a woman of great integrity and one who has worked with students in a most professional manner.

Finally, we were having a conversation one day and Anne said something to me which stands true about her. We were talking about teachers/ the teaching profession/etc, and she said " in my opinion to be a good teacher you have to have three passions: 1. a passion for teaching; 2. a passion for your subject area; and 3. a passion for teenagers" - well in my opinion Anne has all three!

I for one - am going to miss her face/support/wisdom in this school!

**Ms Archinal**

*Anne taught my daughter, whom thought Anne was amazing.*

*Clever and knows the content.*

*Super organised and teaches students how to organise.*

*Brilliant at explaining how to do high level maths.*

*Helpful and available if students are prepared to work. Responds quickly.*

*Very caring about her students and their ongoing needs.*

**Thank you Anne**

**Mrs Marsden**



Dear Mrs Braybon,

Thank-you for  
being our teacher. You're the best! We figured  
that you've been our teacher for an average  
of 5 years working:  $\frac{6+5+4}{3} = 5$ . Wow!

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We think that you are the best Maths  
teacher in the whole, wide, world. Your wisdom  
has been imparted to us as individuals. This  
has left positive attributions to our individual  
ideologies. This has allowed us to affect the  
wider community as we proclaim the beauty and  
elegance of mathematics. Also, Every day is a  
maths fun day! Seriously, you've been a truly  
cherished maths teacher and mentor - to all of  
us!

All our love

Alison Lyndell & Leanna.

PS. You are our inspiration!

- 11 -

MRS. BRAYBON

- Mother of 3 Unit Maths Class '99

It is with a tinge of sadness we say, farewell to our teacher and friend,  
who came to our class in mid '98, our knowledge and lives to extend.

The obvious love of her duties shone through, her students now part of her life,  
always willing to help after school, then home to be Mother and wife.

A lady of patience personified, she could handle good humour and mirth,  
but ask her opinion of Big Jim Coroneos, you'll soon gauge her strength and her worth.

Laughter and lollipops often crept in but decorum was always maintained,  
Lukey and Matthew, though never stressed, would keep one and all entertained.  
Katrina and Thanuja would sometimes freak out and Jake would forget his own name,  
but Mrs. Braybon was always there, to help us all just the same.

Daniel developed his own style of study and weird though we think this to be,  
he found the addition of string on his finger, made him remember to always "add C".

A wonderful lady, our Mrs. Braybon, who blended her talents with Clare  
to find the most difficult questions to ask, (even Big Jim would despair).  
This neat and organised teacher of ours, would take up a shovel and pass  
on through her garden at 5a.m. to dig worms for her Junior class.

Now that's dedication you must agree, of a standard so rare and so high,  
it has been a privilege to be in her class, but sadly we now say "good-bye".

Our education must move on too, as we cast the die to success,  
and this we will do, secure in the knowledge, of the teacher we had was the best.

### THE PERFECT PEOPLE

A dystopian narrative by Sarah Bauer (9C)

*During the online learning period this year, Year 9 students wrote dystopian narratives to demonstrate their understanding of the 'Dystopian Worlds' unit studied in English throughout Term 3. To showcase some of the excellent stories received, the English Faculty wish to share some of these with you all...*

Zara is perfect, faultless, flawless. Mistakes mean failure. No one makes mistakes. No one fails.

She studies diligently, her grades nothing but perfect, pristine, passes. Her mother's sickness has recently worsened, distracting her from studying for 'The Exam'. If the All-Knowing Memory of Failure (AKMF) panel finds out about her mother's sickness she will be sent to the 'Failed Region', as those who are ill are of no use to society; genetic sickness is a mistake.

The AKMF was introduced in 2028 with the sole purpose of creating a perfect, mistake-free society, with no redemption. The government was tired of people wasting second chances; forgiveness had gone too far. People had surrendered to the fact they were a society of underachievers, conformists with a lack of morals, because people felt they could do or be whatever they wanted. Society was intoxicated with the belief in unlimited forgiveness and undoubtable absolution of one's indiscretions. The government had therefore implemented 'The Exam', a bi-annual, comprehensive assessment of character and intellectual ability, to ensure citizens were positive and progressive people. Today, those who

make mistakes are punished, considered 'failures' and banished, beyond the walls of the city, to an unsystematic, unruly and imperfect state — the 'Failed Region', sprawling with dissenters and their malfunctioning bodies, flawed IQs and careless ways. The perfect people look on from their glass castles, like aristocrats, mocking their carbonised brands. But they are only one mistake away from their demise.

Zara watches her mother mash the green herb into a paste with the cold stone pestle, another attempt at a natural remedy to treat her malady, found within a musty, partially disintegrated apothecary book. She recites parables and passages from the denounced Bible, from 'Jesus and the Blind Beggar' to the return of 'The Prodigal Son', citing the importance of reconciliation and the forgiveness of God, hoping she can instill its philosophies into Zara. Zara is confused by her mother's contentment, as she tries to mend her broken body, but her mother believes God's judgment is right and allows Him to guide her. Together they sit in the dim light of a wavering orange tongue.

Zara reluctantly leaves her mother's bedside to face up to 'The Exam', where not a single mistake is tolerated. She walks, her feet padding on the kilometres of endless strips of polished concrete separating the digital window displays. The AKMF slogan flashes erratically, "Mistakes are for the foolish, forgiveness is for the weak". The systemised and crime-free city feels dead, despite the thousands of unexpressive people roaming its veins.

The heart of the city, the AKMF department, keeps everything in rhythm, but lacks vivacity.

On a billboard she sees herself in the digital eyes of a girl representing the 'Failed Region': her pale skin, willowy limbs and the black concave waves of her hair are like a reflection, but her face is indelibly branded with the stamp of failure.

She stands briefly in front of the boom gate before the AKMF recognises her mistake-free status and clears her for entry. They methodically move into single file lines outside the examination portal. The cohort of soldier like youth remain silent, listening intently to the orders, their faces fixed and emotionless, hypnotised by the blue light illuminating each of their numb expressions. The bare white walls are staring with their beady steel eyes.

The highly-trained, unhappy professor reads the exam conditions and outcomes in a monotonous, ously robotic way. The array of cold, metal tables buzz from the reverberating call to begin, the supervisor's broad shoulders, square angular face and stiff expression frozen, as he starts his walk row by row.

The students analyse and compute their responses, pressure throbbing their minds, failure being the worst thing in the world. Their perfectly mechanical brains, each carbon-copies of the other; gears, chains, bearings and fasteners operating in impeccable unison. Zara scans and analyses each question, her heart fluttering slightly out of rhythm. But she reminds herself, she has sat millions of similar exams and passed every single one, 100%. Six hours vaporise, the students transfixed on their screens. The scores are revealed. Zara's palms are

moist with perspiration, her lips pressed tightly together, her eyes unfocused glowing dark red amongst the sea of blue irises. She squeezes her eyes closed, hoping they are fooling her. She thinks of her mother, of her future. Her eyes well up, but she gulps down the emotions, a part of her wants to scream, the other wants to cry...

99% the screen yells. You made a mistake, it growls. You are a failure, it roars. The walls shuffle towards her and she feels the eyes on her shoulder and the tight grip of the AKMF police escorting her from the portal. She is scanned again as she leaves, the machine releasing a strident beep. She is marked with a black, ragged brand on the side of her face.

The following day, two loudspeakers announce their arrival to the 'Failed Region', the security car navigating the unkempt tracks. They are ushered onto the street, faces surrounding them, despite their brand, emanating an unanticipated warmth. They doff their coats as they stumble into the chaotic, dilapidated abode. Zara has never cried before, for what was there to cry about in a perfect world. Her tears dampen the sheets, her eyes swelling and her nose red. She cries in relief. Zara's mother embraces her, caressing the soft skin of her face, tucking her stray dark curls behind her ear. Zara's eyes look unsteadily up towards her mother's forgiving face. Her mother whispers. "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Beyond the walls of the 'Failed Region', the people walk, insecure, emotionally isolated and purposeless. But Zara is perfectly flawed.

## Farewell & Good Luck to our Class of 2021!



I hope your dreams take you...  
to the corners of your smiles,  
to the highest of your hopes,  
to the windows of your opportunities,  
and to the most special places  
your heart has ever known."



Congratulations to this Years Annual Year 12 Awards:



**Rose Chamberlain & Jemma Coombs** – Lucas McCaw Award for  
Generosity & consideration of others

**Sydnee Matthews** – Kirsty Callaghan Quiet Achiever Award

**Marlon Webster** – Gemma Chaplin Award

**Cassandra Renneberg** – Application & Endeavour Award

**Emma Vidler** - Year Advisor Award

**Respectful, Responsible Learners**

## Science

### Chicken Wing Dissection

Year 7 Science have been doing chicken wing dissections. The students were investigating muscles, bones and ligaments and how they work together to enable movement.



## Elevate Study Skills

### Elevate Study Skills Parent Sessions

We're excited to announce that parents of Finley High School have exclusive access to Elevate Education's Parent Webinar Series for Term 4, 2021. Elevate works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series you will learn how to better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school.

The next webinar on the topic of Exam Preparation is taking place on Wednesday 10th November at 7pm (AEDT).

Registration is essential and is free for parents of Finley High School.

You can register by clicking here. [https://get.elevatecoaching.info/au/register?state=AUS%20-%20NSW&schoools=Finley%20High%20School&promoformat=Schoolemailtemplate&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=179079258&hsenc=p2ANqtz-](https://get.elevatecoaching.info/au/register?state=AUS%20-%20NSW&schoools=Finley%20High%20School&promoformat=Schoolemailtemplate&utm_medium=email&hsmi=179079258&hsenc=p2ANqtz-mlHXWEaMcyj0KzzJWBuWYRPGfMPGGGf9GiiasOevA2eXepo9hUlv2QvT0Vp8ih8QBEkeHtrX6bT5upMAmB_mqjZwozj_BRaln_e-tbl5vhnq4pAk4&utm_content=179079258&utm_source=hs_email)

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### [Webinar Registration | AU](#)

Join the exclusive webinar series where we will show you – as parents – the crucial study skills your child needs and how you can reinforce that at home.

[get.elevatecoaching.info](https://get.elevatecoaching.info)

The webinar is run live online from 7pm – 8pm (AEDT) where the presenter will share Elevate's key research and skills, and will conduct a live Q&A so you can ask them questions directly.

Should you have questions or would like to contact Elevate directly, their details are listed below.

📞 1300 667 945

✉️ [auscoaching@elevateeducation.com](mailto:auscoaching@elevateeducation.com)

## Canteen Roster

### CANTEEN & UNIFORM SHOP

Contact - 0473 946 683

**The Canteen/Uniform Shop is open from**

**8.30am – 2.30pm Monday to Friday**

#### November

15 D.Jewell

16

17 M.Close

18

19 B.Belling

22 C.Rorato

23

24 W.Doolan

25

26 Roz Lockhart

If you cannot fill your rostered day or you swap please notify the canteen on the phone number above. Thank you.

**Finley Pool is opening this weekend!**



**Saturday 13 November from 2pm**

**Get the sunscreen out and get down to the local pool.**

**Get your season ticket at a discounted price  
this weekend only!**

**Family Season Pass                      \$180 (\$20 discount this weekend only)**

**Single Season Pass                      \$95 (\$10 discount this weekend only)**

**Day entry \$5 for all patrons including school students**

***Royal Lifesaving NSW Holiday Swim Program***

**2 x 5 day sessions. Week 1 or Week 2.**

**Times will be 2pm to 4pm and 4pm to 6pm**

**WEEK 1 Monday 10/1/21 to Friday 14/1/21**

**WEEK 2 Monday 17/1/21 to Friday 21/1/21**

**All enquiries to email or check out the website**

**Email: [swimandsurvive@royalnsw.com.au](mailto:swimandsurvive@royalnsw.com.au)**

**Website: [drowningprevention.org.au/swimvac](http://drowningprevention.org.au/swimvac)**

**All enquiries please contact Bruce Ferry on 0429 400 085**

**Conditions for entry: Covid19 rules apply**

**Proof of vaccination certificates are required to be shown for  
inspection before entry will be permitted.**