20th March 2014

**From the Principal**

Today we have our first Formal Assembly for the year and it is wonderful to see a very large number of students receiving awards for a range of reasons. I continually keep emphasising to all of our students that they must come to school each day with a purpose. In the past year alone we have all seen very significant changes in our country as we compete in a global market. There are less and less jobs each day for those who are not skilled and every government, State and Federal, is facing very significant financial issues. Having a job is precious, it gives people a sense of purpose, and it gives us freedom to do things. To get a job, and one that you really enjoy, will take a lot of effort. Being highly literate, having quality numerical skills, having the ability to solve a range of problems, being able to think your way around situations, and having the skills to communicate well and get on well with the full range of people, will be absolutely essential. All of these skills can be learned and developed at school. So I urge all mums and dads and all students to really ‘get their head’ around why we have schooling and why we need to come to school each day with a clear purpose in mind.

**Building learning muscles** - What does this actually mean?

Students will have often heard our teachers talking about them building learning muscles. For the best part of the last nine months we have been working with all staff to look at a variety of ways that we can get students to build up a range of strategies/methods that they can use to help them to become better learners. We are trying to change the approach to learning from one where students just passively sit and receive information and ‘fill up their bucket of knowledge’, to one where they are actively able to find ways to develop their own knowledge and skills.
This is critical as we want all of our students to learn how to learn, and to have learning skills that they can use long after they leave school. Some simple things all students can do –

- Come to each class being prepared to be ‘switched on’ for the whole lesson
- Not be afraid to have a go at things that are hard and challenging
- Be prepared to try and work things out yourself and not be afraid to make errors
- Do not expect the teacher to simply provide all the answers, but rather wanting to find the answers yourself but with some assistance from your teacher
- Learn what to do ‘when you don’t know how to do things’
- Find ways that work for you to become a better learner – using your class time wisely, using your study time wisely, memory ‘tools’ that help you remember things, avoiding distractions, a ‘go to person’ when you need help, how to find information, where to find information, how to use your time better etc

By doing the above you are building your learning muscles that allow you to adapt to a range of different situations.

**East Timor Cultural Immersion**

They say a photo tells a thousand words – so below are a few examples the activities of our students on their recent trip. We will have more on this in the ensuing weeks. From every account it was an amazing journey, a challenging journey, and we all hope every single person that was involved has come back with a great appreciation of the important things in life.

![Image of East Timor Cultural Immersion](image)

Below: Aiden Murphy-Riddell and Dimity Sharp with students.
The Great ‘Bake Off’

This week we paired some of our Year Ten Food Technology students with a few more experienced chefs from the community for a ‘bake off’ that finished with a great afternoon tea for some of senior citizens at the Finley Library. To help out, some of senior Hospitality students also worked very hard to make some great ‘eats’. All of this was under the watchful eyes of our own great chefs Mrs McNamara and Miss Turner. Local identity Marjory Maxwell was the given the tough job of being the judge on the day and the winning duo were Sam Bauer from Year Ten and her mentor and partner Inara Fox from Berrigan. Marjory had a very tough job in deciding a winner as all eight teams did a great job and are to be congratulated on what was a wonderful initiative.
MADD (Music, acting, dance, drama –and a lot more) Night

Pencil in Wednesday night 9th April as something not to be missed. At present we have over 50 students who are working hard at a variety of dance performances, singing, musical items, drama presentations and some public speaking. We hope this is but the first of many such nights – a chance for students to showcase their talents and gain in their own levels of confidence to perform in front of an audience.

Where – Finley High School Hall
Date and Time – Wednesday 9th April 7pm - 9pm
Tickets – Available from the school -$5 (includes a light supper)

Above: students rehearsing their performances.

Phone issues

Can I once again please reaffirm the school policy on mobile phones –

1. We actively discourage students from bringing their mobile phones or media players to school.
2. If students bring them to school they become their responsibility and not the responsibility of the school
3. Students must have phones and other media players turned off at all times during class time – under no circumstances can they interfere with teaching and learning

In this regard we urge parents not to ring or text students at school on their phones. If you need to contact them urgently please ring the office and we will get a message to them promptly.

Students who are repeat offenders will have their phone confiscated and face the prospect of significant disciplinary action should they not comply with these most reasonable requests.

Bernie Roebuck
Principal
### Whole School Assessment Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Student Research Task</td>
<td>Mr D Bird</td>
<td>8/04/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>9C PD/H/PE</td>
<td>In class test</td>
<td>Miss Downey</td>
<td>8/04/14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Canteen Roster

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

- **March**  
  21 J Walliss  
  24 M Read  
  25 F Aull  
  26 L Whiley, J Hawkins  
  27 L Bryce  
  28 T Clarke  
  31 A Bergmans  

- **April**  
  1 S Robinson  
  2 N Curtin  
  3 C Moloney  
  4 J Coombs, J Loughman

### Finley High School P&C Meeting

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014**  
7pm in the staff common room.

**Finley High School P&C** meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the staff common room. We look forward to seeing you there.

### MADD NIGHT

**Music, Acting, Dance, Drama and a whole lot more!**

**Finley High School Hall**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 7pm - 9pm**  
**Tickets are available from Finley High School Pay Office for $5**  
(includes a light supper)
**Community Announcements**

_Tocumwal Mother’s Day Classic_  

The MDC is happening again in Tocumwal on Sunday 11th May at the Tocumwal Football Oval. Online registrations will be available soon at http://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/events/regional.

Come along and spend the morning with family and friends for a walk or run along the beautiful Tocumwal foreshore.

Stay for a coffee and a piece of cake or even a sausage sizzle and face painting.

Dress up in PINK to show your support for cancer research and possibly win a prize.

If your family, group or business would like to donate a small prize for the day, maybe in memory of someone special who has fought the cancer battle, please contact Anita Hunter (0419550096) during March. Please be sure to include the name of the family or group donating the prize so it may be acknowledged on the day. More details will be forthcoming as the event gets closer.

If you would like to be involved in assisting with the organization of the event please contact Anita Hunter on 0419550096. We look forward to making 2014 an even more memorable event than 2013.
10am start
$20ad $12sen $10ch family tickets
Register online or
9am on day

Participate • Volunteer • Fundraise
Come along for a great family day,
music and fun kids activities

4km walk/run, 8km run
Tocumwal Football Oval, Morris St

SUNDAY 11 MAY 2014
Walk or run for breast cancer research

mothersdayclassic.com.au