Dear Parents and Friends,

This weekend our Parish mass was focused on the story of the Good Shepherd and the belief that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and he leads us to follow him in our daily lives. In the Gospel from Mark Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep." Later in the Gospel, Jesus also says "There are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well." When speaking about this reading, Fr. Martin spoke about a shepherd as not being someone aloof from their flock or someone who leads from afar. A good shepherd is actively caring, compassionate and connected to the flock. Martin went on to provide several examples of people who show they are good shepherds in their daily lives, who make a difference for others whether few or many, just like the young man did for the starfish in this reflection. May we continue to be people who remain connected, compassionate and caring.

**Tournament of Minds 2012**

This year we have an exciting opportunity to participate in Tournament of Minds. This is a problem solving program for teams of students. The teams are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from a particular discipline. These disciplines are applied technology, language literature, maths engineering and social sciences. This program is for students with a passion for learning and problem solving who can demonstrate their skills in an exciting, vibrant and public way. Thousands of students from all over Australia participate in Tournament of Minds. The project aims to develop diverse skills, enterprise, time management and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment. Bek Doyle will be our school facilitator and will help guide the students through the process. Our initial involvement will be through Bek working with the teachers and students from grade 3-6 this Friday and next Thursday to investigate the many skills and talents that are involved. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

**Long Service Leave**

Many teachers across our Diocese have been requested to use some of their accumulated long service leave. During Term 2 and 3 some of our staff will be taking this time. To begin Helene Cahill will be on leave from the 14th to the 25th of May. During this time Bek Doyle will be taking the reins of the Year 5/6 group.

**Combined School & Parish Fete**

Don’t forget the fete is approaching fast and I hope everyone has locked the 20th of May away as a day of fun to be had at school. There will be a need for many to lend a hand. Please have a think about taking on your child’s class secretary role. **If you are donating lambs for the spinning wheel they need to be into the sale by the 13th May.**

**Project Compassion Boxes**

Could all families please send in their project compassion boxes as soon as possible please. We need to collect and send off our donations. Thank you to all families for supporting our fundraising efforts.

**Staff Development Day**

Each year schools are allocated a number of staff development days to allow staff to work together on any identified programs or projects for our school. Please note in your diaries that the Monday the 28th of May will be a pupil free day.

Yours in Christ,

Veronica Braybon
Hello Everyone,
Well done to everyone who went to the Diocesan Cross Country and tried their best. Our school won the Division 4 and got a shiny trophy. Well done to Lily Sharp who came 1st in her race and Will Sexton who came 3rd in his race. Good luck in Sydney.

On Thursday the Paul Kelly cup is on and a bunch of year 5/6 boys are going to Deniliquin to play football and if the team is good enough they will go to Sydney.

Active After Schools is starting up again on Wednesdays. This term they are doing baseball and softball.

By Stephanie & Kayden:)
Active After Schools Community

After School Activities will kick off next Wednesday the 9th of May. Permission notes have been sent home with students who are keen to join in this term and these notes need to be returned by next Monday (so that numbers can be finalised). After School Activities start straight after school with a healthy afternoon tea and they finish at 5pm each week. This term students will be participating in all kinds of fun games and activities relating to Baseball/Softball/Tee Ball including plenty of throwing, catching, hitting and running. Students of all ages are welcome to join in and activities are modified to cater for all ability levels to ensure that each student is actively involved, engaged and mostly importantly, having a lot of fun.

Renée Steward ~ Sports Co-ordinator

Year 5/6 Confirmation Commitment Mass

Our Year 5/6 class will begin preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation later this term. To celebrate the beginning of this special time in their spiritual lives the children will make their commitment at the parish Mass held on Sunday the 26th of May at 10:15am. This Mass will be led by the students and will focus on their willingness and readiness to open themselves to receiving the Holy Spirit in their lives. During this time they will learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These include...

Toody Braybon (Religious Education Coordinator)
Last Friday the 27th of April 32 students travelled to Holbrook to participate in the Diocesan Cross Country. Schools from across the Wagga Wagga Diocese including Albury, Griffith, Narrandera, Wagga, Tumbarumba, Corowa and Leeton to name a few, competed on the day.

Students aged 8, 9 and 10 ran the 2km course while the 11 and 12 year olds ran the 3km course. There were 60+ students in each race, all vying for a place in the top 8. Students who place in the top 8 are eligible to compete in the MacKillop Cross Country, held in Sydney in June.

A huge congratulations to Lily Sharp who won the 8/9 girls 2km race! Lily maintained a steady pace throughout the race and had a large lead going into the final 200m to win comfortably. By the end of the race Lily still looked like she had a reserve of energy and bounded over to the finish line to cheer on the rest of her school mates as they finished the race. An amazing achievement Lily, well done.

Congratulations also to Will Sexton who placed 3rd in the 8/9 boys 2km race. Will was in a pack of about 12 runners coming into the final 200m and managed to muster enough energy to burst forward and overtake 7 other students on his way to third place. Fantastic effort Will.

Lily and Will now head to Sydney on the 15th of June to participate in the MacKillop Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country Trials. We wish them the best of luck.

At the completion of the day individual certificates were given out to the students who finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd and the six Division winners were also announced. Congratulations to St Joseph’s Finley- Division 4 winners! A real team effort.

Well done to all 32 students who participated on the day and represented our school beautifully. A big thank you to all of the parents and friends who were able to come along and cheer on the students and also to Ashley and Naomi Haynes for manning our school checkpoint. Its fantastic to have such supportive and enthusiastic members of our school community.

By: Renee Steward ~ Sports Coordinator
It was great to see so many of the students gathered together last Wednesday to participate in the Finley ANZAC Day ceremony. The children looked fantastic in their winter uniforms showing all there pride they take in themselves as well as their school. Throughout the march and the ceremony our boys and girls clearly understood the reverence and respect that the day deserves as they listened and participated to the best of their ability. I was approached by a Vietnam veteran at the conclusion of the formalities and told how impressed he was by the respect our children demonstrated, it was great to have such positive and affirming feedback. Well done to you all.
School Diary:

MAY:
Thurs 3rd ~ Paul Kelly Cup ~ Year 5/6 ~ Deniliquin
Tues 8th ~ Council and P&F Meetings ~ 7pm & 8pm
Wed 9th ~ F H School Info Evening ~ Year 6/7 ~ 5-6:30pm
Friday 11th May ~ Catholic Schools Week
Deanery Mass ~ 10:15am ~ Finley
15th-17th ~ NAPLAN ~ Year 3 & 5
Sun 20th ~ Combined School & Parish Fete
Sun 20th ~ Year 5/6 Confirmation
Commitment Mass ~ 10:15am
Tues 22nd ~ ICAS Computer Test
Mon 28th ~ Pupil Free Day ~ Staff Development Day

JUNE:
Fri 1st ~ Year 3/4 School Mass ~ 10:15am
Wed 6th ~ ICAS Science Test
Wed 6th ~ 7:30pm ~ Parent Information Evening ~ Confirmation
Fri 15th ~ Year K/1/2 School Mass ~ 10:15am
Mon 18th ~ ICAS Writing Test
Tues 19th ~ ICAS Spelling Test
Fri 29th ~ Year 5/6 Mass ~ 10:15am
Fri 29th ~ End of Term 2

JULY:
Tues 31st ~ ICAS English Test

AUGUST:
Sat 4th/Sun 5th ~ Sacrament of Confirmation ~ Year 5/6
Tues 14th ~ ICAS Mathematics Test

Also at the Farmers' market this weekend... As part of Fire Safety Week, Finley’s Fire and Rescue NSW will be at this Saturday’s Farmers’ Market. They will be bringing along their fire truck; information about Fire Safety and smoke alarms. There will also be some giveaways. They are more than happy to give tours of the fire truck to anyone interested. What a great opportunity for anyone interested in becoming a fireman.

Making Jesus Real Day

Last Thursday the Year 5 and 6 students joined together for the day to focus on their “Making Jesus Real” program. They were joined for the day by Catherine McNamara who works with the Centacare organisation based in Finley.

During the day the students worked together and with Renée, Helene and Catherine to identify the moments in their everyday lives that would be ‘God Moments’ moments where they see compassion, patience, inclusiveness and kindness shown by others. The students identified that this can be as simple as asking someone to join in, cheering up someone who is down or even holding the door open for others.

Canteen News

This Friday 4th May ~ Kirstie Chesworth & Tanya Bauer
Meal Deal ~ $4.00 ~ Roast Chicken Wrap with Lettuce, Cheese & Mayo and choice of drink

McNaughts
DRIVING INNOVATION

www.mcnaughts.com

Catholic Schools Week ~ CANTEEN

Friday the 11th of May we will be offering a meal deal as usual however to be prepared to the increase in student numbers we need orders in by Tuesday 8th May. Meal Deal ~ $4 ~ Pie, Choice of drink, Zooper Dooper.

Finley Farmers Market ~ This Saturday

Lots of excitement this Saturday ~ there will be some craft stalls, so it will be a great opportunity to buy something special for Mothers’ Day. There will also be demonstrations throughout the morning by Nemesis Glass. The demonstrations will be on lampworking ~ making glass beads, pendants and marbles. This is certainly something not to be missed. Nemesis Glass was recently part of the Autumn Art promotion in Shepparton.

A new addition to the market is Carissa Taylor who runs an environmentally friendly seedling stall. Everything on the stall is recyclable, even the seedling pots. Certainly this is something else not to be missed.

To cap off a great morning out there will also be special guest appearances by cast members of FADAMS, who will be promoting their upcoming production. It is going to be a great morning out.
Bringing Up Great Kids
A parenting program for building good relationships with children

When:
2 hours per week for 6 weeks

Dates:
Wednesday 9, 16, 23, 30 May and 6, 13 June 2012

Time:
9.30-11.30am

Where:
Finley. Library Meeting room, Murray St.

Cost:
Free
Includes participant workbook

Registration by 2nd May 2012

To register, or obtain further information, please contact:
Jannette or Bernadette
03 5883 4870 or
Mobile 0417 230 998

The ‘Bringing Up Great Kids’ Program helps parents to “Walk in their child’s shoes”.

Are you Happy as a parent or Overwhelmed?
This FUN, INTERACTIVE, DYNAMIC program will help you understand....

- Why you parent the way you do
- The messages you give and receive from your children
- How you communicate with each other
- Why children behave the way they do
- Discover ways to take care of yourself

Come and join us in “Bringing Up Great Kids”.

www.kidscount.com.au

The GREAT Kids Program has been developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation with the support of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
INFORMATION REQUIRED TO HELP DETERMINE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

PRIVACY NOTICE

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), to advise you that DEEWR has requested your child’s school to provide the following three pieces of information to DEEWR:

- Students’ residential addresses (not student names)
- Students’ level of education (primary or secondary)
- Students’ boarding school status (boarders or day students)

DEEWR is bound by the provisions of the Privacy Act 1988 (the Privacy Act). Section 14 of the Privacy Act contains the Information Privacy Principles, which prescribe the rules for handling personal information about individuals. DEEWR will not use or disclose the information provided by your child’s school other than in accordance with the Privacy Act.

Purpose of collection

DEEWR is collecting this personal information for the purpose of administering funding to non-government schools, and to determine payments of Australian Government assistance to non-government schools, including under relevant legislation such as the Schools Assistance Act 2008 (Cth). DEEWR will only use this information for this specific purpose.

Disclosure of information

The information provided by your child’s school may be disclosed by DEEWR to contractors working for DEEWR for the purposes of verifying the information. The contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

DEEWR may also provide this information to the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA will use this information in developing and evaluating Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) formulas and school values.

In other instances the information will not be disclosed without your consent, unless where authorised or required by law.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Notice please phone the DEEWR SES Funding helpline on 1800 677 027 (free call) or send an e-mail to: SAAMailbox@deewr.gov.au.
Junior Basketball  (up to yr 6)
Registration Thursday 3rd May
4 pm
At the Memorial Hall
(opposite Park)

Enq: Melanie  58831085

All welcome