



# St Finbar's Primary School

Levy Street, Glenbrook, 2773 P.O. Box 187, Glenbrook, 2773

Phone: 4739 1796 Fax: 4739 8153

[www.stfinbarsglenbrook.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stfinbarsglenbrook.catholic.edu.au)

School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

Parish Administrator: Fr Porathur Joy MS

School Community Newsletter

Edition 3

4<sup>th</sup> March, 2015

Dear St Finbar's Community,

You may have noticed over the last couple of weeks that we have had a number of Staff attending Professional Development. I know myself that I was at a meeting every day for two weeks. I just want to apologise for not informing parents of when teachers were to be absent. I am going to try and inform parents in future of when staff will not be in class. I do want to reassure you that while your child's teacher is not in class, we do try to maintain routines. The class teacher will leave work for the casual teacher to complete and there are clear lines of communication between the casual teacher and the class teacher so that learning outcomes for all students are met.

As a school we have also just completed case management meetings. This means that the Leadership Team, Support Staff and Classroom Teachers have met and collected data on every child in the school and recorded this on a whole school data base. The information that we have collected includes their MAI's (maths assessments), reading levels and skills, notes taken at our meet and greet as well as information collected over the previous year on your child. We are now at the stage where we are designing more specific intervention. This may take the form of an enrichment program that Mrs Southern - Gale will be facilitating in co-operation with Mrs Wasson. We are exploring the idea of this being a Science focus. We have registered for external competitions in Mathematics and English. The Learning Centre has been up and running effectively, meeting the Literacy needs of all students. We are about to commence some individual programs in reading for some students who are operating beyond the Stage expectations. We will be using the Maker Model and Tony Ryan's Thinking Keys (these are models that are designed to develop critical thinking skills in gifted students).

We are making every effort to ensure that the learning needs of all students are being met. This is a big challenge and very time consuming but as a team of professionals we see this as a vital part of our work as Catholic educators. At times we make mistakes. If you feel that we have overlooked something regarding your child, I hope you feel welcome to contact in the first instance your child's classroom teacher. I also like to be informed about each and every child at my school. I see myself as a learner and I am always open to conversations and to listen to your concerns. Together we can and do make a difference.

Yours in Christ,  
Donna McFadzean

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### **Boys are influenced by their home environments**

When literacy is seen as a social practice it is possible to acknowledge that boys arrive at school with a broad knowledge of the social uses of literacy within their own homes and communities eg. storytelling, letter writing, use of calendars, shopping lists etc. Parents and the home play an important role in the development of literacy skills.

There are many forms of literacy, each with specific purposes and contexts in which they are used. This includes many non-traditional and multiliteracies, such as map and diagram reading, and use of manuals for construction and repair work.

It is therefore important to acknowledge the vital role that both mothers and fathers play in modelling literacy-based activities.

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## WHAT TEACHERS WANT PARENTS TO KNOW ABOUT READING!

One of the biggest issues that is often brought to the teacher by a parent of a 5-8 year old child is the concern about what reading level their child is at. Many parents worry that their child is significantly below another child in their class or not moving up levels as fast as they should. The first thing that teachers want to shout from the rooftops is:

**"Parents, stop obsessing over reading levels!"**

A reading level (whether it be a number, colour or letter, depending on the book) indicates to the teacher what type of reader the child is. A child could be a beginner reader, emergent (developing) reader or an independent reader. As a parent, it is important not to show your child your interest in the number, colour or letter but focus on the reading skills that your child is developing.

The book that comes home should be easy for your child. Reading at home should be an opportunity for your child to practise a smooth clear reading voice. Reading for them at home needs to be enjoyable and not a time for struggling and arguing. Parents are encouraged to ask lots of questions while their child is reading to check that they understand the story line or facts of the text.

Parents voice concerns about their child staying on a level for a long time. Teachers need a child to be secure (very competent) at a level before moving on. Being secure means that their reading voice is smooth and fluent, they can read a variety of texts at that level, have a variety of reading strategies they use to work out unknown words

independently and they have great comprehension of the text. Children need to be exposed to both fiction and non-fiction books at each level. Non-fiction books tend to be harder for children as the vocabulary is more demanding. Lots of exposure to non-fiction texts will help your child increase their vocabulary. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me as I am more than happy to answer any of your questions.

Mrs Kerrie Wasson  
(Leader of Learning/Reading Recovery teacher)

### **NEWS FROM THE LRC**

Library borrowing has commenced.  
Please remember your library bags as they help to protect our precious books. If your child forgets their books on their allocated borrowing day they are welcome to visit the Library and borrow during the second half of lunchtime on Wednesday.

### **Library Monitors**

I would like to welcome our six new Library Monitors for the year: Sofia Santoro, Star Sanchez, Daniel Gibbeson, Lachlan Farnsworth, Hamish Ayres and Alexander Peel. They are all excited and keen to help out.

### **Premier's Reading Challenge**

Invitations to join the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge for 2015 have gone out to all students. This is a great way to read quality literature and be rewarded for it. It officially begins on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, and you can begin recording books and adding them to your reading log after that date. If your child has been involved in the challenge before, their login details and password are the same as last year.

### **Book Club - Advanced Notice**

Our first Book Club will be coming out in the next few weeks. Please note that Book Club payments can now only be made by credit card or cheque. **No Cash.** Keep an eye out for the new look brochures!

Happy Reading!  
Mrs Baines

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## SCHOOL FEES

Parents, thank you for your commitment to support your child's Catholic Education through School Fees.

Due date for Term 1 Fees - **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015.**

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Denham if you are experiencing difficulties meeting this commitment.

Please note that if you are paying via BPay or Auspost please allow a couple of extra days for payment to appear into the school's account. Sometimes if payment is made on the due date or a couple of days after you may receive a reminder as to receipting for BPay only occurs on Tues/Wed/Thurs.

Thank you

Mrs. Denham

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Practices are every Thursday during the school term. Children come straight after school, have a drink and something to eat, and play till 3.30pm when they begin their singing practice in the Church. We finish at 4.30pm.

This choir leads the singing at the 9.30am Mass every fourth Sunday of the month. We have children from Grades 2 to 6 and would love to increase our numbers. Last year we had 22 boys and girls.

Claire Brown plays the keyboard for the children every Thursday and at Mass on the fourth Sunday. So if your child loves to sing (in tune preferably) just come along on Thursday or you can ring me, Mary Lopez, on 47 544955, for further information. We would love to see you.

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**CABARET FOR CAMBODIA -FUNDRAISER** for the Cambodian Bush School at Siem Reap. The Bush School is supported by Winmalee Lions & St Finbars Social Justice Group. There will be live performances, raffles, lucky door prizes and fabulous prizes, (including a mid-week escape holiday). It's being held on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015 from 7.30 pm till 10 pm, at St Finbar's Hall, Levy Street Glenbrook. Cost is \$20 p/p or \$40 per family (or donation), & includes supper and door prizes. BYO drinks & nibbles. For info, Contact Doug on the mobile 0403 303 943, or 4701 5459, or just turn up on the night (about 7.15pm).**

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**CARMELITE RETREATS** March 7, day retreat Presenter: Fr Greg Homeming, OCD

Cost: \$20 Where: 247 St Andrews road, Varroville, NSW, 2566

Contact: Ph: 02 8795 3400, email: [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com)

[www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)

Registration: 900am - 1015am Retreat: 1020am - 400pm.

Tea and coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch.

Pick-ups from Minto station: 930am and 1000am

## PRINCIPAL SCHOOL WEAR

Opening hours for Principal School Wear 2/66 Springwood Avenue, Springwood 4751 3157

9am - 5pm Tuesday and Thursday and 9am - 12.30 Saturdays

23<sup>rd</sup> February - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015

4<sup>th</sup> May - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015

19<sup>th</sup> October - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

30<sup>th</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015

21<sup>st</sup> September - 17<sup>th</sup> October

Closed from 22<sup>nd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> June

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## HEAD BANDS AND ELASTICS

These items are available in the school colours at the school office. For \$12 you receive a head band and a pack of 4 elastics.

## LET'S TALK... GRANDPARENTING WITH KATHIE O'CONNOR. Please be welcomed

to join in conversation with Kathie O'Connor, Children's Play Therapist and GRANDPARENT! This will be a chance to get together (in an informal space) with others to discuss and share the rewards and challenges of being a grandparent.

\*FREE WHEN: Wednesday, March 18 WHERE: ENRICH, 14 Oak St, Katoomba TIME: 11am-12.30pm (morning tea will be provided) To book please call on 47 82 5326 or email Kathie at [kathie.oconnor@connect.asn.au](mailto:kathie.oconnor@connect.asn.au) ENRICH provides families living in the Blue Mountains with free counselling, art therapy, children's play therapy, information & referrals, support and education, groups and programs that strengthen and support relationships in families so that children can grow and thrive. To find out more about Gateway Family Services groups, services and programs call us on 47 39 5963 (Blaxland centre) 47 82 5326 (Katoomba centre) [www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](http://www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au) Gateway Family Enrichment Project.

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**"Let's Make Art Together"** A free art space for kids and their parents/carers space @ Enrich. 14 Oak St, Katoomba CC BY 2.0 Bruce McKay/ickr.com Bookings essential Call Sally at Enrich,

ph 4782 5326 Leave a phone number and your preferred session. Have fun and be creative with your kids! Join us in Katoomba for FREE morning or after school art activities. All materials are provided. We even clean up the mess! Sessions start on Monday 9th March but you are welcome to join us any time.

**"Make it Happen" Workshop Monday 9th March 2015 . 10am - 12.30pm** Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Award winning feminine empowerment coach Shemiran Ibrahim presents a free workshop around this year's International Women's Day theme "Make it Happen". This workshop will cover the basics of personal power as a woman, that becomes the foundation upon which you can create anything in your life and 'make it happen' for you in a more balanced, easeful and joyful way on a day to day basis! Body awareness is key to connecting with your feminine power, and Shemiran will also facilitate a fun intro to the healing dance of Middle Eastern women that helps you embody the principles taught on the day. Bring a scarf to wrap around your hips! Spaces limited. Morning tea & Childcare provided. Bookings essential. Call 4754 4050 to reserve your space. Hosted for the community by: Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc. 62 White Cross Road, Winmalee NSW 2777

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**"Make it Happen" In Your Business**

**Workshop Monday 16th March 2015 . 6pm - 8pm Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre** Award winning feminine empowerment coach Shemiran Ibrahim presents a free workshop around this year's International Women's Day theme "Make it Happen". This workshop will cover the basics of personal power as a woman in business, that becomes the foundation upon which you can 'make it happen' for you in a more balanced, easeful and joyful way on a day to day basis! Body awareness is key to connecting with your feminine power, and Shemiran will also facilitate a fun intro to the healing dance of Middle Eastern women that helps you embody the principles taught on the day. Bring a scarf to wrap around your hips! Spaces limited. Light supper provided. Bookings essential. Call 4754 4050 to reserve your space. Hosted for the community by: Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc. 62 White Cross Road, Winmalee NSW 2777



## TERM AT A GLANCE

6 March	Assembly Stage 2 (9.15am in Parish Hall) Special Food Day Ms Wasson and Mr Pospischil at Child Protection PF
9 March	Cate Munro attending meeting with staff about Positive Behaviours for Student Learning
9 - 15 March	Catholic Schools Week
10 March	Distributing water bottles
11 March	CEDP Leaders visiting our school to look at our Strategic Plan and goals for 2015. They are also visiting classrooms to observe
15 March	Open Day: Mass at 9.30 followed by open classrooms, performances and student lead tutorials. Please come, invite your relatives and neighbours to see what we have on offer at St Finbar's