



St Finbar's Primary School

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School Community Newsletter

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Dear Parents,

A Gospel Reflection from *Mark 4:26-34*

He also said, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, at once he starts to reap because the harvest has come. He also said, 'What can we say that the kingdom is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which, at the time of its sowing, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. Yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade. Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were by themselves.



Meditation: What can mustard seeds teach us about the kingdom of God? The tiny mustard seed literally grew to be a tree which attracted numerous birds because they loved the little black mustard seed it produced. God's kingdom works in a similar fashion. It starts from the smallest beginnings in the hearts of men and women who are receptive to God's word. And it works unseen and causes a transformation from within. Just as a seed has no power to change itself until it is planted in the ground, so we cannot change our lives to be like God until God gives us the power of his Holy Spirit. The Lord of the Universe is ever ready to transform us by the power of his Spirit. Are you ready to let God change you by his grace and power? The kingdom of God produces a transformation in those who receive the new life which Jesus Christ offers. When we yield to Jesus Christ, our lives are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Paul the Apostle says, "*we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us*" (2 Cor. 4:7). Do you believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit?
(Source: Catholic online)

Yours in Christ
Donna McFadzean

Faith, Truth, Knowledge

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DESK

What can parents do to help their children at school?

1. Have hopes, dreams and ambitions for your child.

Aspirations are hopes, dreams, aims or ambitions.

If you show your child that you believe in their potential and tell them that you know they can succeed, it can help your child build confidence, set higher expectations for themselves, and they can achieve better results at school.

2. Help your child to enjoy learning.

Children develop their attitudes and beliefs in their abilities from their parents.

Characteristics such as tenacity, persistence, planning and organisation and the important ability to ask for help are often qualities children model from their parents, not only in their years at school, but throughout their lives.

3. Talk with your child everyday about their day.

Children who talk openly with their parents about their day, such as what happens at school and current age appropriate events have better educational outcomes.

4. Read with your child.

Parents that read out loud regularly with their children help them to do better at school.

Reading with children is the best way to teach them how to read and to simply enjoy stories. Teach your child to love reading instead of focusing on teaching them the mechanics of how to read.

5. Get involved with your child's school and local community groups.

Research suggests that when schools, families and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and have positive attitudes toward school.

CAPTIVATE

Congratulations to following students on their wonderful performance last night when participating in the Captivate Choir at Blacktown. Lexie Toole, Isabelle Geelan, Bailey and Lara Heyman, Dasha and Daniel Tioukavkin, Mya Pockran, Declan Apps, George Walker, Nate Sammour, Paige Roberts, Margaret Foot, Darcy O'Callaghan, Olivia Rogers, Banjo Tucker, Isabella Gray, Savannah Buss, Kiera Price, Nathaniel Cariolato and Amity Buss. Riley McKenzie, Aidan Burns, Lachlan Toole and Alex Walker also performed in the combined orchestra.

The students were amazing not only in their participation, beautiful singing and playing but also in their behaviour. It was an extremely long day for all and the St Finbar's children never once stepped out line. They were a true credit to themselves, their parents and school community.

The students enjoyed being part of a large performance and in their words:

Lara Heyman: "I enjoyed the night as it was a new experience"

Dasha: "The songs were good."

Daniel: "The end song with all the percussion and high school students was amazing."

Bailey: "The teachers who taught us were great."

Nathaniel: "I liked the alto and sopranos parts in the songs"

Lexie: "I liked being able to see my parents in the audience"

Isabelle: "It was a long day, everyone had fun and the singing was awesome."

A big thank you to all the parents who were involved with delivering or picking up the children. We hope you all enjoyed the evening and look forward to another couple of performances to come! Thanks Mr Carroll, Mrs Stenning and Mrs Lewis for supporting this event.

NSW CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday the 12th of June Eloise (Year 3), Rachael (Year 5) and Finlay (Year 6) represented St Finbar's in the NSW Cross Country at Eastern Creek Raceway. They had a wonderful day and tried their very best.



State Cross Country

"On Friday the 12th of June, I went to State Cross Country at Eastern Creek Raceway Track and ran 2km. My race was at 10:00am. It was very cold to run but when I started to run I got warmer. I was very nervous to run in my race. The hardest part of the run was the start when everybody started to run because I got pushed back. When I started to get a bit further up the track I caught up to a lot of girls. I had a really fun day. By the time I got home I found out that I had come 29th.

So that was my experience in Cross Country!"

By Eloise (Year 3)

"On Friday the 12th of June I went to the State Cross Country. In the morning it was very cold. My race was at 10:20am, however they were running late so we started around 10:45am. I was pretty nervous at the start however when the race started I was fine. At the end they did not give us our place but mum and I figured out that I came about 26th. I had to run 2km, it was at Eastern Creek Raceway like last time for Diocesan. I had a lot of fun, I was very proud of myself and I think I did really well. Also Finlay and Eloise did really well in their races.

So that was my experience in Cross Country!!"

By Rachael (Year 5)

"On Friday the 12th of June I went to State Cross Country to compete in the under 12's, 3km race. It was a bit chilly on the day, so we went and found some seats in the Parramatta section. My race wasn't until 1:05pm. I was a bit nervous. The next few hours I spent watching races, eating, staying hydrated and buying clothes from the store (which had a massive and very slow line).

I started warming up at quarter to 1:00 because they were running 15 mins late. At 1:20pm I was called for marshalling, we didn't wait near as long as we did at diocesan and we got on the track a few minutes after we were called. Then at the start line the starter told us several things about the race then went shot the gun 'BANG'. Before the race I was nervous but once it had started I concentrated on my running, by the end of the straight run I started to feel a stitch. It got worse but they had a drink station and that made it a bit better, I sprinted to the finish line and congratulated the others. After a great race I went home placing 25th at State, I was very happy with how I ran.

That was my experience at Cross Country!!! By Finlay (Year 6)

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our School Photos were taken last Monday. All children looked lovely in their winter uniform. Please note that our whole school photo will be taken early next term. A date is yet to be scheduled.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the latest group of children to complete the PRC. Looking over your reading lists, you are all reading a great range of books.

I did love Paper Planes that Hunter recommended I read! I am also looking forward to seeing the movie which my sons have told me is on DVD this week! It is a little sad in parts, but so uplifting in others. I know a lot of you have also read this story and enjoyed it very much. Funny thing is, there are actually two novels currently around called Paper Planes and both are quite different.

Premier's Reading Challenge finishers:

Bailey (Year 2), Hunter and Holly (Year 3) and Baden and Lochlann (Year 4).

Also a HUGE big thanks to Mrs Casha and Mrs Farnsworth for all their work with Book Club. This is a great way to pick up some pretty fantastic specials and even put things away for birthdays and Christmas. All your purchases actually help out the school as we receive credits to purchase new reading materials for your children.

We will only have one Book Club next term as we have the Book Fair. This is always a much anticipated event. We have a few surprises in store for you!! More on that next term.

Keep reading!

Rebecca Southern

PS: Keep those PRC Logins safe too!

HALF YEARLY REPORTS

Your child's half yearly report will be going home this Thursday 18th. Parent/teacher interview booking times close tonight (Wednesday) at 5pm.

You can book school interviews for the times that suit *your family*.

WORKING BEE

Thank you to the parents and children who came and assisted with the working bee last Saturday. We achieved a great deal. Thank you Mr Pospischil and Mr Sharp for co-ordinating this event.

CLEAN UP ST FINBAR'S DAY

We will be holding a "Clean Up St Finbar's" day on Thursday 25th June. The children are asked to come in appropriate clothing. You may wish to send gloves with your child on this day. Children will be involved in age appropriate tasks.

TERM AT A GLANCE

Week 9 June			17th	18th Reports sent home Peer Review Captive Performance (Nagle College)	19th Best of Showcase Performance (The Joan – Penrith)	20th	21st
Week 10 June	22nd Student/ Parent/ Teacher Interviews	23rd Student/ Parent/ Teacher Interviews	24th Student/ Parent/ Teacher Interviews	25th First Reconciliation	26th Athletics Carnival/Sausage Sizzle Last day of Term	27th	28th

SCHOOL RESUMES 13TH JULY

P&F Meetings for 2015 (Terms 3 and 4)

Tuesday 14 July 2015

Tuesday 11 August 2015

Tuesday 8 September 2015

Tuesday 13 October 2015

Tuesday 10 November 2015

Sacraments

4 September – Confirmation

21 and 22 November- First Communion



Skoolbag
Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students.



Jetstar Little Athletics NSW

Desire to Inspire School Visit Program

Enthusiastic, motivated, interesting and relevant!
"Emphasised the fun aspect of sport"
"It moved at a brisk pace with lots of show & tell"
"Great interaction with kids and large groups"
"Not hard to engage"
"Informative - very practical demonstrations"
Great emphasis on being one best out the best"

What is the Desire to Inspire program?
 Desire to Inspire is fast-paced, educational, fun, inspirational and motivational presentation to the school. The goal is to inspire and motivate kids to lead a healthy lifestyle and be active through the Little Athletics for your best attitude.

All presenters are accomplished public speakers that specialise in talking to large groups of school students. The 30-minute presentation is a mix of listening, humour practical demonstrations and active participation for the whole group. All we need is a area to present in (gym hall) and kids. No matter how large or small the school, Desire to Inspire will educate, entertain and motivate.

How do I become involved?
 It is very simple... All school visits are organised through your local Little Athletics Centre.

- The school must contact their local representative as indicated on the flyer
- There is no cost to the school. It is "FREE"
- The Desire to Inspire presentation is designed for all students.
- Visits occur in term 3. All the presenters are Sydney based and tour throughout NSW. Each centre is allocated their specific school visit date by the end of May. Schools will be informed shortly after for confirmation.

For more information...
www.littleathletics.com.au
 Ph: 9532 4511
 1300 451 226 (outside Sydney)
 Email: admin@laraw.com.au

For more information Contact:

Waratah Cottage is a warm, homely, welcoming space for parents/carers & their kids to spend time together and to have easier connection to parenting support & resources

HOUSE WARMING Open Day
 Thursday June 25
 Community Partners "open house"
 1.00pm-2.00pm

Come along and chat with the family support & counselling team from Gateway and find out more about the services that families can access at Waratah Cottage

Waratah Cottage
 27 Waratah Street, Katoomba
 (3 doors down from Katoomba CentralLink)
 For more information phone ENRICH on 47 82 5326

STRONGER FAMILIES ALLIANCE
 Afternoon Tea will be provided

Faith, Truth, Knowledge

St. Finbars Community Fete

CELEBRATING OUR 60TH YEAR!



With the cold weather with us, now is the time to clear out unwanted books. Please no encyclopaedias or torn or damaged books.

You might like to start checking cupboards, drawers for our Trash and Treasure.

Contact person: Tania

0423 623 489

**DATE: FRIDAY 30TH
OCTOBER, 2015.
4.00pm—8.00pm**

Rides:

**Giant slide
Disco show
Animal jungle
Mini pirate ship
Zorb balls
Bungy bounce**

Side show alley:

**Laughing clowns
Tin can alley
Hi striker**

Stalls:

**Kids 'n' kraft
Plants
Cakes
Books
Trash & treasure
Face painting
Chocolate wheel
Food/drink stalls
And lots, lots more...**

RAFFLE