



St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

Parish Administrator: Fr Jolly Chacko MS

School Community Newsletter

Edition 5 31st March, 2016

Dear Parents and Friends,

We hope you all had a peaceful and holy Easter long weekend and spent some time with family and friends reflecting on the great sacrifice Jesus made for us in His crucifixion and the love and mercy that is shared with us through His resurrection.

Every Child Counts at St Finbar's

Over the first few weeks of the school year, teachers have been collecting initial data on all of our students to assist them in the programming and planning of each and every child at St Finbar's. As a school we then construct data walls around Numeracy and Literacy so that all children can be tracked and monitored throughout the year.

Naplan - Years 3 & 5

Early next term our Years 3 and 5 students will participate in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) which is an annual assessment for all students in Australia.

All children at St Finbar's are well prepared for these external assessments through the high level of teaching and learning that happens from their very first day at school in Kindergarten. The children in Years 3 and 5 have already begun a more focused preparation of the types of questions they may see and are being exposed to the types of text they will see in the reading assessment.



How can you help your child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to encourage them to simply do the best they can on the day.

The dates for NAPLAN 2016 are:

	Tuesday 10 th May	Wednesday 11 th May	Thursday 12 th May
Year 3	Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 45 minutes	Numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 50 minutes	Numeracy 50 minutes

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If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher or myself.

A few notices and some reminders:

- We will be conducting **Open Days** over the next few weeks, in order to allow new families to come and experience the wonderful teaching and learning that goes on at St Finbar's. If you know of anyone looking to enrol their child now or in 2017, please share the following dates with them: Monday 4th April - 10-11am & 2-3pm (Term 1), Monday 2nd May - 9.30-10.30am & 2-3pm & Thursday 5th May, 9.30-10.30 & 2pm-3pm (Term 2).
- **Anzac Day** March and Wreath laying on Monday the 25th of April. ALL students are invited to participate in the parade, to represent the school community of St Finbar's. We will meet at Glenbrook Memorial Park at 10am. We will all then march and our School Captains will lay a wreath on our behalf.
- Students return to school in **Term 2 on Wednesday the 27th of April** as there is a Staff Development Day on the Tuesday.
- We had school photos today! A big thank you goes to all the parents and caregivers, as each one of our students looked very polished and photo ready - we can't wait to see the finished product.
- There will be a repeat of the Parent Workshop on 'Helping your child to Write' that was run before the last P & F Meeting, next Tuesday the 5th of April at 2.30pm in the Learning Centre - ALL welcome!
- An invitation to our End of Term Dance Fever Parent Presentation. On Friday the 8th of April we would love for you to come and watch a presentation of all the terrific things the students have been learning during their Gymnastics time with Dance Fever on a Friday. Times will be posted on Skoolbag early next week!
- We love to see you all at the St Finbar's Jubilee Mass, Sunday 3rd April at 9.30am. Followed by morning tea in the Parish Centre.
- Finally we thank you for your ongoing support this term and the trust you place in us to provide the best education we can for each and every child at our school. The amazing staff here at St Finbar's work diligently to prepare and deliver teaching and learning experiences that are engaging and differentiated, so that each and every one of our children can learn to the best of their abilities and we appreciate and value your support.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays with your families, keep reading and we look forward to working alongside you again next term.

God Bless,

Lisa Samojlowicz
Assistant Principal

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School Assembly Awards
Term 1 Week 9 21st March, 2016

<i>Be Safe</i>	<i>Be Respectful</i>	<i>Be a Learner</i>	<i>Living our Faith in Daily Life</i>
K Samuel Ambrosoli & Corbin Mackenzie	Eamonn Apps	Alyssa Moore	
1 Angus Bragg	Ava Lorking	Finn Kelly	Amelie Bohan
2 Nicole De La Mare	Ethan Cameron	Elias McCaffery	
3. Rosalie Good	Jed Berben & Lachlan Tickner	Tallulah-Belle Don Wakefield & Xavier Eggins	
4. Harriet Davis	Hunter Kelly	George Walker & Noah Bragg	
5. Cristian Barrios	Jorja Vermaak	Kate Tam	Millie de Mattia
6.	Will Callaghan	Alexander Walker & Nicholas Weinmann	

Get Active – Eat Healthily

Breakfast provides brain food

Eating breakfast each morning improves children’s learning, concentration, behaviour, overall nutrient intake, and establishes healthy eating patterns for life. Some quick breakfast options include:

- ✓ wholegrain cereals and reduced-fat milk
- ✓ baked beans on wholegrain toast and a glass of reduced-fat milk
- ✓ fruit smoothie and toast
- ✓ toast topped with cheese and sliced tomatoes
- ✓ egg on toast with a glass of reduced-fat milk
- ✓ wholemeal or wholegrain toast or fresh bread, with margarine spread plus a topping, such as tomato, reduced-fat cheese or baked beans
- ✓ reduced-fat yoghurt, fruit and raisin bread
- ✓ fruit salad and yoghurt.

Serve breakfast with a glass of water or milk to get children hydrated.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL

This year’s Mother’s Day Stall will be held the second week back in Term 2 on Wednesday 4th of May at 11.30am after the Mother’s Day Mass. Children will visit the stall in class groups and have a chance to purchase two gifts for Mum, Grandma or someone special to them. Prices will range from \$1 to \$5. If there are more gifts still available after all classes have visited the stall then children are welcome to come back at lunch and make further purchases. We ask that children bring no more than a total of \$10 each to school. We also welcome any Parents or Carers that might like to come along and help serve the children on the day. Toddlers are welcome.

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BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM: INFORMATION SESSION

CCSS Solo Parent Services is commencing a Bereavement Support Program for men or women who have suffered the death of their spouse or partner. It will be held on Tuesday fortnights commencing on 05th April, with an Information session and Overview of the Program. The Program will run fortnightly until Tuesday 12th July. Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm. Venue: CCSS 38 Prince St, Blacktown. Cost: \$5.00 per session.

For further information / Registration Essential: Call Rita on 8822 2222 or Email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

CCSS Solo Parent Services "Stepping Beyond" Support Group, is held on the last Tuesday of each month for those going through a separation or divorce. **Next Gathering: 29th March Venue:** CCSS centre, 38 Prince St, Blacktown. **Time:** 7.30 – 9.30. **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita Ph. 8822 2222 or soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

The Scorchers are again running a school holiday clinic for primary students

Scorchers Holiday Clinic: Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th April 2016, 9am to 3pm. \$50.00 for two days or \$30.00 for one day. To register please contact Springwood & Districts Basketball Association on **4739 8999** or Email scorchers1@bigpond.com



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

WARATAH COTTAGE - 27 WARATAH STREET, KATOOMBA
A cosy place for families to drop in to play, create and chat together.

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS 10am-12.30pm	THURSDAYS 2pm-4.30
11 th and 18 th APRIL 2pm – 3pm. SOUL GROOVE KIDS - FREE! Creative Dancing for Parents & Kids - All ages welcome! BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!	April 5 – Papier Mache craft April 12 – Hand massage for parents and craft for kids April 19 – Crafty Collage fun April 26 – Painting 'n' craft	April 7 – Aromatherapy April 14 – Papier Mache craft April 21 – Hand massage for parents and craft for kids April 28 – Crafty Collage fun



For bookings or enquiries about activities at Waratah Cottage phone ENRICH on 4782 5326

See our website for more details: www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au or Like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/waratahcottagekatoomba



Penrith City Choir
presents
Birds, Beasts and Bugs
A concert for the young - and the young at heart.

Chirruping crickets, laughing kookaburras, mayhem in the barnyard and some very jealous cats.

Come and explore vocal music from four centuries with pianist, Jane Andino, guest singers and instrumentalists

Lucy McAlary, conductor.

A 30 minute concert designed for children and their families, including audience involvement.

Two performances at 3pm and 4.30pm
Saturday 2 April 2016

Penrith Public School.
Entry via Doonmore Street, Penrith

Adults \$5, children free with accompanying adult.

St Finbar's Primary, Glenbrook

Term 1 at a Glance

We live by our School Motto:

Living our faith in daily life,
Seeking truth in our relationships
and building our knowledge

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 10					WYD Trivia Night 7.30 – Parish Hall		Parish Jubilee Mass 9.30am
Week 11	4 th	5 th Parent Workshop 2.30pm Learning Centre – “Helping your Child Write”	6 th	7 th Captivate Rehearsal 10.30am	8 th Stg 3 Touch Gala Day Jamison Pk South Penrith Dance Fever parent Presentation Times TBA		

*** School Resumes 27th April – Winter Uniforms

DATES IN ADVANCE

P & F Meetings

Staff Development Day Term 2 26 th April 2016	
Staff Development Day Term 2 – 18 th July, 2016	18 th May
Staff Development Day Term 3 18 th & 19 th December	15 th June
Last day of School for Children 16 th December	20 th July
Divine Mercy Sunday Mass 3 rd April 10am (ALL children & families encouraged to attend	17 th August
School Open Day Tours April 4 th 10am- 11am 2pm – 3pm	21 st September 19 th October
ANZAC DAY 25 th April – March & Wreath Laying 10am Glenbrook Memorial Park	16 th November
School Open Day Tours May 2 nd 9.30am – 10.30am 2pm – 3pm	
Mother's Day Mass 4 th May 9.15am – followed by Mother's Day Stall	
NAPLAN 10 th , 11 th , 12 th May	
Feast of the Sacred Heart and Grandparents Day Mass 3 rd June – Mass 9.15am	
Athletics Carnival 24 th June	
Feast of the Assumption -15 th August - Mass 9.15	
Father's Day - Friday 2 nd September - Mass 9.15	
Confirmation – Wednesday 7 th September	
St Finbar's Day Wednesday 21 st September 2pm- 3.10pm	
Whole School Swimming Carnival 17 th November	
Feast of Christ the King – First Holy Communion 20 th November	
School Disco 25 th November	
All Saints Day 1 st November	
Year 6 Graduation Mass – 12 th December 12pm	

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