



St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

Parish Administrator: Fr Jolly Chacko MS

School Community Newsletter

Edition 3 2nd March, 2016

Dear St Finbar's Community,

Catholic Schools Week

Next Monday at 9.00am we invite all parents, grandparents and family to attend our Prayer Assembly and Open Classrooms. This will be an opportunity to see what we focus on here **at St Finbar's: We are a faith community and we are a community of learners**. Enrolment forms for 2017 will also be available. Please let any of your friends and neighbours know about this opportunity to visit and to collect an enrolment package. You might like to let them know that in 2017 we will have a Before and After Care facility on site at St Finbar's. Over the next couple of weeks we will be providing school tours for the local preschool staff and families interested in joining our community in 2017.

National Young Leaders Day

Yesterday morning our School Captains, Mrs Berger and myself caught the 6:59am train to be at Allphones Arena in Olympic Park for the National Young Leaders Day. "The National Young Leaders Day" is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The Program consists of keynote talks, multimedia presentations and interactive learning that seeks a range of specific outcomes for young people who aspire to lead themselves & others well." Some of the speakers were Commissioner Andrew Scipione, Mr Ben Austin (Australia's most successful Paralympian in swimming) and Mr Scott Tweedie (ABC 3). The main message of the day was around doing the little things right, a very powerful message not only for our students but also for us as adults.

Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday last week a group of 24 students represented St Finbar's at the Nepean Zone held at Glenbrook Swimming Pool. It was a wonderful and exciting day. All of the children demonstrated excellent sportsmanship on the day and they were so encouraging of one another. A huge thank you to Mr Tucker, for being our Team Manager on the day and to Mr Ticehurst for assisting on the day. Congratulations to Nathaniel Cariolato, Hunter Kelly, Hannah Stanford, Eloise Lorking, Edward Chung and Phoebe Hinchcliffe for qualifying for the Diocesan Swimming Carnival, which was held on Friday 26th at Blacktown Swimming Pool.

Hunter Kelly was awarded Junior Boys Runner -Up at this event and will now go onto represent Parramatta Diocesan Swimming team who will compete at the NSW CPS Swimming Trials on Thursday 31st March at SOPAC, Homebush.

Cross Country

On Thursday 17th March Kinder to Year 6 will participate in the annual Cross Country Carnival. The Cross Country will be held at Glenbrook Park. It will be a wonderful day where the children can increase their fitness. If you are able to assist on the day please inform the office.

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Daily Attendance

It is important for all students to attend school each day. School attendance for the whole day is a legal requirement. I ask that any appointments etc, for your child are made outside of school hours which is between 8.57am—3.10pm. Unless there is an urgent matter requiring your child to leave school early, we require a written request to the Principal in advance of the leave.

SCHOOL ABSENCES

When your child is absent, on their return to school please send a note explaining the reason. It is a requirement of roll marking that all absences, both whole day and part day, are explained by a parent/carer in writing. These notes should be received by the student's teacher within 3 days, or the absence is recorded as unexplained absence. Notes should be written and signed by the parent/carer and should be dated.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Student Attendance Guidelines EVERY DAY COUNTS

The CEDP Attendance Guidelines are based on current legislative requirements, research on attendance and best practice.

1. Children's attendance affects academic achievement and their overall wellbeing. There is **NO safe threshold of absence – EVERY DAY COUNTS.**
2. School attendance patterns are established early in a child's schooling – research shows Year 1 attendance is a predictor of future attendance patterns.
3. The effects of school absenteeism accumulate over time and affect children's development now and into the future.
4. Sporadic absences can affect academic achievement as much as absences over consecutive days.
5. Daily punctuality is important. The early part of each day is critical. Important learning is scheduled during this time when children are rested and receptive. Key concepts are built up in this time.
6. We all need to work together with our children's best interests in mind to ensure that students are at school every day and that they are well enough to attend – they only get one go at this part of their education and every day counts.

Trivia Night

Friday, 1st April night is our Trivia Night. Would you like to book a table? Come and join in the fun. There will be a raffle and other games on the night with some wonderful prizes to win thanks to the support of our local community. More details will follow soon. This night will support Miss Lynch attending World Youth Day in Poland later in the year.

Transition to High School

During Term we have our local high schools come to introduce themselves and visit our Stage 3 students. This is the beginning of transition for our students as they finish their Primary years. We will be having a visit from St Columba's and St Dominic's over the next week.

NAPLAN Parent Information Evening /Writing Workshop and P and F Meeting

To help disseminate the information about NAPLAN and answer your questions, we will be holding an information evening for parents before our next P and F Meeting. We will also be presenting a workshop on assisting your child with writing. WHEN: Wednesday 16 March 2016 TIME: 7.00pm WHERE: Learning Centre. All parents are welcome to attend.

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What is NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a National Assessment program in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. It is held in May each year and is completed by students in Years 3,5,7,and 9. The results of the tests will provide information to schools about what each students can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against national minimum standards. The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 10-12 May 2016.

Tuesday 10 May	Wednesday 11 May	Thursday 12 May
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Writing	Reading	Numeracy

Mufti Day

We will be holding a **Mufti Day on Monday 14th March**. Students are invited to wear appropriate clothing and footwear to school on this day. We ask that students donate an easter egg on this day. The eggs will be used as prizes for our easter raffle. The P and F thank you for your support of this event.

Yours in Christ,
Donna McFadzean
Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At our assembly earlier in the week, Year 5 presented the **‘Parable of the Sower’**. It was a powerful reminder of how lucky we are that God has let us fall on such rich, good soil. I encouraged the children to pray a prayer of thanks for the good soil in which God has planted us all. We again think of the strength and effectiveness that comes from parents, church and school being united in our mission to ‘grow saints’. A special congratulations to



those students who received awards for: Being Safe; Being Respectful; Being Learners and Living out the Gospel in Daily Life. A massive thank you to our school leaders from Year 6 and 5 who helped to set up and run our assembly – your help and professionalism was outstanding!

Thank you to those families who were able to attend the St Finbar’s Community BBQ on Sunday, it was such a blessing to share that time in both Mass and then after around the BBQ. The children

had plenty of fun playing with their friends and throwing water balloons at their parents. Thank you to the P & F for encouraging us to stay connected.

Thank you also goes to those members of our school community who attended last week's P & F Meeting. There were some familiar faces and also some new faces and plenty of energy and enthusiasm. We discussed the suggestion of there being a brief parent workshop before all P & F Meetings in the future, in order to keep you informed of current thinking and practises occurring in our classrooms. We really encourage you to join us at these events so that you can get a clearer picture of what is going on in your child's classroom and why it is happening that way. Of course we would then love for you to stay for the P & F Meeting afterwards, to find other ways you can contribute to our school community.

For your information:

- Please encourage your child to continue wearing their hat to and from school and during break times. I have heard many children over the last week say: "My dad/mum forgot to pack my hat!" to which I respond: "But they don't come to school!" So please use this as an opportunity to develop responsibility and independence within our children by asking them the question: "Have you packed your bag? Do you have your hat?" in the morning or night before.
- Our next P & F Meeting will be Wednesday the 16th of March starting at 7pm with a parent workshop on "How to write with my child" at 7pm and the P & F Meeting commencing at 7.30 to 8.30pm. **ALL** welcome!

God Bless,
Lisa Samojlowicz
Assistant Principal

Get Active – Eat Healthily

Great reasons to be active for children and parents

- ✓ boosts confidence
- ✓ improves fitness
- ✓ makes bones and muscles stronger
- ✓ improves posture
- ✓ helps maintain a healthy weight
- ✓ lowers the risk of heart disease
- ✓ reduces stress
- ✓ improves sleep
- ✓ reduces the risk of cancer
- ✓ improves self confidence
- ✓ teaches you new skills
- ✓ develops better motor skills
- ✓ makes a person happier with their body
- ✓ lower risk of disease including heart disease and cancer later in life.



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SCHOOL FEES

School Fees have now been issued and are due next Monday, 7 March. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to school fees or do not receive an invoice in the mail, please do not hesitate to contact me in the office on Tuesday's / Wednesday's or Thursday's. Thank you for support.

Mrs Denham – Finance Secretary

Zone Swimming Results 2016

Congratulations to the following Swimming Squad members: *Ben Boyer, Mia Burns, Nathaniel Cariolato, Edward Chung, Ashlee Cremona, Lachlan Cremona, Phoebe Hinchliffe, Scarlett Jurd, Hunter Kelly, Eloise Lorking, Alana Mackenzie, Zoe McKenzie, Andy Rogers, Nate Sammour, Joshua Simone, Hannah Stanford, Alexander Walker, Ann Walker, Nicholas Weinmann, Holly Wye*

Everyone had fun and our squad was very competitive. More importantly they were excellent ambassadors for St Finbar's showing fantastic manners and accepting all results with an air of "I tried my best!" Many students were extremely close to making the top four in their events.

The following children gained selection selected to represent Nepean Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival to be held on Friday 26th February. Due to his results Hunter Kelly was also the Zone Junior Male Age Champion

Nathaniel Cariolato (Male 10 years 50m Freestyle (3rd), Male Junior 200m IM (3rd))

Hunter Kelly (Male 10 years 50m Freestyle (2nd), Male Junior 50m Backstroke (1st), Male Junior 50m Breaststroke (2nd), Male Junior 50m Butterfly (2nd), Male Junior 200m IM (1st))

Hannah Stanford (Female 12 Years 50m Freestyle (1st), Female Senior 50m Breaststroke (2nd))

Eloise Lorking (Female Junior 50m Backstroke (4th))

Edward Chung (Male Senior 50m Backstroke (3rd), Male Senior 50m Butterfly (4th))

Phoebe Hinchliffe (Female Junior 200m (3rd))

Further Swimming News

At the Diocesan Swimming Carnival our students continued to display excellent sportsmanship and were again very competitive in the water.

Congratulations go once again to Hunter Kelly who was named Junior Aged Male Swimming Champion (Runner-up).

His results have also seen him gain selection to the Parramatta Diocesan Swim Squad which will be competing at the NSWCPSS Swimming Trials on Thursday 31st March at SOPAC, Homebush.

P&F 2016 - Off to a bang with water balloons!

G'day Parents & Friends of St Finbar's.

Our P&F met last week for the first time in 2016 and it was heart warming to see many new faces this year! I want to personally pay tribute to the leadership of Mark (Alex Yr 6, George Yr 4 & Ann Yr 3) over the past couple of years. Mark has guided the P&F with professionalism, wisdom and common sense. We thank you Mark.

I congratulate our executive committee for 2016 - Janette (Beth Yr 5) as Vice President, Jodie (Addison Yr 3) as Treasurer, Kylie (Jed Yr 3 & Gus K) as Secretary, Juliette (Phoebe Yr 4 & Lee Yr 1) as representative and liaison regarding Western Sydney Airport EIS and flight path policies, Nicole (Nicholas Yr 5 & Samuel Yr 3) and Jody

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(Lachlan Yr 4, Ashley Yr 3 & Mitchell Yr 1) for Mother's and Father's Day stalls.

I also wanted to thank everybody who helped out on Sunday morning at the P&F BBQ after Mass on Sunday and for all of you who came along. It was great to catch up with some old friends and meet new people. We had a good roll up for the morning and the highlight was Martin's water balloon contest - which saw teams of 2 fight it out for the honour of being able to throw and catch a water bomb for the longest distance!!

I also thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of taking on the role of President of the P&F this year, a role I am both honoured and excited to take on.

I encourage all of you to come along to our monthly P&F meetings - this is your opportunity to assist in the development of your kids' school environment, have your say and meet great people.

I look forward to seeing you all at next month's meeting or in the school yard at pick up or drop off time.

Have a great week. Kind Regards, Andrew Grima"

School Assembly Awards
Term 1 Week 6 Monday 29th February

<i>Be Safe</i>	<i>Be Respectful</i>	<i>Be a Learner</i>	<i>Living our Faith in Daily Life</i>
K Evie Walker	Maiya Edwards	Holly Clifford	
1 Michael Martland	Isobel Reece	Wentworth Don Wakefield	
2 Aiden Jackson	Elizabeth Gott	Cooper Monaco	
3. Ashlee Cremona	Alana Mackenzie	Xavier Gibson	
4. Eloise Lorking	Nathan Sammour	Savannah Buss	
5. Sophie Keast	Noah Phoebus	Isabelle Geelan	
6. Andy Rogers	Rachael Doughty	Amity Buss	James –Pierre Kersivien

St Columba's Catholic College

Wednesday 23rd March, 2016

Session 1:

4.00pm Tour of the facilities

5.00 - 5.30pm Address by the Principal

Session 2:

6.00pm Tour of the facilities

7.00 - 7.30pm Address by the Principal

- Tours will begin at 4.00 and 6.00pm sharp with visitors to view all of the College facilities.
- Prospectus and enrolment application forms will be available on the night.

Enquiries: Sandra O'Brien, Enrolments Secretary 4754 8907

St Columba's Catholic College 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood 2777

Phone: (02) 4754 1022 **Email:** stcolumbas@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.

Community Notices

Zany Yare is excited to announce our new Boys Only Circus class! Monday's 4 - 5:30pm beginning Term 2 2016. These classes include juggling, unicycle, stilt walking, trapeze, silks, acrobatics and much more! \$135 for a 10 week term. We have special trial classes running Monday 28th March and 4th of April - \$30 for two classes! For more info and bookings email info@zanyyare.com.au

CONCERT FOR CAMBODIA

Saturday 12th March 7-30 PM

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St Finbar's Hall, Levy Street, Glenbrook

This is a wonderful night of musical entertainment in support of The Bush School, Siem Reap, Cambodia. The school was founded by local Blue Mountains residents in 2010. It supports and educates some of the very poorest children in Asia. Your attendance will help guarantee the continuing success of the project.

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 6	29th Assembly 2.10pm – Parish Hall	March 1st	2nd	3rd	4th Dance Fever Gymnastics	5th	6th
Week 7	7th Catholic Schools Week Open Day 9.00 – 9.30 **Book Fair 7th -11th	8th	9th	10th	11th Dance Fever **School Disco	12th Concert for Cambodia	13th
Week 8	14th Easter Mufti Day	15th	16th Parent Workshop 7 7.30 P & F Meeting 7.30 – 8.30	17th Cross Country	18th	19th	20th

DATES IN ADVANCE

P & F Meetings

Staff Development Day Term 2 26th April 2016	16 th March
Staff Development Day Term 2 – 18th July, 2016	18 th May
	15 th June
Holy Week Liturgy 23 rd March 11.45am – 1.pm	20 th July
Whole School Photos 31 st March	17 th August
Divine Mercy Sunday Mass 3 rd April 10am (ALL children & families encouraged to attend	21 st September
Mother's Day Mass 4 th May 9.15am	19 th October
NAPLAN 10 th , 11 th , 12 th May	16 th November
Feast of the Sacred Heart 3 rd June – Mass 9.15am	
Athletics Carnival 24 th June	
Grandparents Day – 26 th July – Mass 9.15am	
Feast of the Assumption - Mass 9.15	
Father's Day 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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