



St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

Parish Administrator: Fr Jolly Chacko MS

School Community Newsletter

Edition 6 4th May, 2016

Dear St Finbar's Community

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you all managed to find some time to relax and spend some valuable time with your family and friends. As a community of believers, we are still in the "Easter Season" of the church year. Last Sunday we heard from the Gospel of John 14: 23-29:

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Whoever loves me will keep my word,

and my Father will love him,

and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;

yet the word you hear is not mine

but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you.

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit,

whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you everything

and remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you,

'I am going away and I will come back to you.'

If you loved me,

you would rejoice that I am going to the Father;

for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it happens,

so that when it happens you may believe."

One of the central messages of this Gospel is that it highlights that we are not alone: One of the great social and ethical problems of our time is isolation. Today approximately 25% of all adults live alone. Spouses, parents and children often live as virtual strangers to one another. This is unfortunate because we never need to be alone. Jesus can always be present to us. He shares with us his joy and replaces the burden of our guilt with the freedom of forgiveness. He takes our grief and turns it into joy. We need only allow Jesus into our lives to be rid of this loneliness. Oneness with Jesus is the greatest gift we can give our children, our friends, or those who see no purpose in life. We can help to bring people to unity with Jesus, a unity that will change their lives. As we celebrate this Last Supper, let us celebrate in a special way the price Jesus paid for our redemption. (Source: Catholics online)

ANZAC DAY

On 25 April this year (ANZAC Day) we commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the offensives of WW1 that took place on the fields of northern France. St Finbar's Community took part in the ANZAC Day march with other Glenbrook groups. Many of our students proudly wore their relative's medals. At the service that followed the march, we were reminded of The Battle of the Somme. Thank you to all the families who attended this important event.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

At our Staff Development Day on the first day of Term 2, the teachers worked collaboratively to form agreed practice statements for Religious Education, English and Mathematics. We reflected on the Parramatta Catholic Education's success criteria and aligned our daily school practices with this criteria. I would like to personally thank the staff for their dedication and professionalism, we celebrated the fact that our current practice is research based and reflects a contemporary pedagogy that addresses the needs of all students. We are so fortunate to have teachers who are learners themselves and who know every student in their Stage.



A Prayer for Mothers

As Mary was the model of prayer, of love, and of obedience to the will of God, by your grace
make mothers holy and rich with your gifts.

Bind families together in the bonds of peace and safety so that mothers will feel nurtured by
love.

May all mothers enjoy good health and spiritual well being to enable them to care for their
families.

(Source: Written by Bishop Kevin Manning, Parramatta Diocese).

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR'S VISIT



On Monday 2 May 2016 we had the directors from our local preschools visit St Finbar's. We engaged the directors in the three high yield strategies that we practice at St Finbar's. These strategies promote student growth. The 3 High Yield Strategies include Data Walls, Instructional Walks and Case Management.

Data walls provide great opportunities for teachers to have rich conversations about students' learning and identify areas of teacher learning required to further meet the needs of students and determines areas where student learning is progressing well or where intervention is required. The directors observed the data walls displayed at the school and took great interest in the formation and detail used towards student learning.

Instructional Walks are an important tool for the Leadership Team in gathering data to achieve 'finite precision' in their analysis of learning and teaching in the school, supporting capacity building and teacher growth with the purpose of improving student achievement. During an instructional walk, school leadership spent time briefly joining class lessons where they observe the teaching and learning and spend 3-5 minutes asking individual students 5 key questions: What am I learning? How am I doing? How do I know? How can I improve? Where do I go for help? The directors were impressed with the way the children could articulate their learning goals with reference to the learning intention and success criteria that was co-constructed by the teacher and children.

Case management, when used with the other two strategies, is known to be a proven strategy that strengthens the instructional capacity of every teacher as they put faces to data. This strategy is an internal support system for teachers to focus on their instruction and plan the implementation of alternative or new strategies for students who are not progressing in their learning. Case

management strategies, plans and ideas were shared with the specific intention that not one child will slip through the data cracks - with regular 20-30 minute meetings to examine and discuss specific students' progress, strengths and areas of need. The directors commented that this is very similar to the practice used at their centres.

As well as seeing many of their past students, the directors appreciated the time to see what happens in a primary school classroom. We have made a commitment to continue this dialogue and set up further visits between both communities.

Yours in Christ
Donna McFadzean
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends,

We hope you all had a relaxing holiday sharing some special times with your family and friends. The children have settled back in well and we welcome 2 new students to our community and we trust that they will soon learn how welcoming and supportive this wonderful community is.

Reading matters at St Finbar's

Over a few days in the first week back at school, some teacher's from our community, Donna and myself attended some very powerful professional learning around Reading in the 3-6 classroom. We spoke about the importance of having authentic conversations about text, that take the students beyond the literal meaning of a text. We read to gain meaning, not just to 'decode'! We would love for you to reflect on how you talk to your children about what they reading - do you have authentic conversations? Some authentic questions and prompts are:

- What do you think the author wants us to think?
- How would the story be different if another character was telling it?
- How does the author show his point of view? Do you agree?
- What do you think was the most important thing that happened? Why?
- What was something that confused you or that you wondered about?
- How did you feel about what happened in the story? What made you feel that way?
- Are you like any of the characters?
- Did you agree with what (character's name) did? Why?
- What do you think will happen next? What do you think (character's name) will do? What would you do in the same situation?
- Is there someone in the book you'd like to talk to? What would you say? What makes you want to say that?



We know and understand that "Oral language is the foundation for the complex literacy skills that are critical to a child's success in today's knowledge society." (Capacity Building Series April 2011). Therefore what can we do at school and you do at home, to develop your child's understanding of text as well as their ability to converse deeply about texts they read? Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions about ways you can help your child at home with their reading.

Naplan - Years 3 & 5

We wish our Year 3 & 5 students luck next week during NAPLAN. Please make sure your children get plenty of sleep each night and feel relaxed and excited about the opportunity to show their skills and understanding of Literacy and Numeracy!

The dates for NAPLAN 2016 are:

	Tuesday 10th May	Wednesday 11th May	Thursday 12th 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

A few notices and some reminders:

- There will be a **Parent Workshop on 'Maths Warm Ups'** before the next P & F Meeting, next Wednesday the 18th of May at 7pm in the Learning Centre - ALL welcome! The P & F Meeting will then run from 7.30pm-8.30pm.
- Thank you to all the Mum's, Grandma's, and motherly figures that joined us for Mass this week to celebrate Mother's Day. The children were beautiful and enjoyed celebrating their wonderful mums. Thanks to Stage 2 & Mrs Stenning and all the teachers for their preparation of the children and the Mass.
- Don't forget we have our **Week 3 Whole School Assembly** next Monday the 9th of May at 2.10pm in the Church Hall. All welcome. Stage 1 will be presenting!
- We congratulate all our Cross Country competitors for their efforts and results in the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival at Eastern Creek this week. Well Done! Thank you also to the parents who helped and to Mr Tucker and Mr Ticehurst for ensuring the children had a great day! A special congratulations to the following students who have made it to the next stage: Eloise Lorking (1st), April Darby (3rd), Neve Burns (5th), Rachael Doughty (6th). Well Done!





- A heads up that we will be again participating in '**Yellow Ribbon Day**' along with '**Walk Safely to school Day**' on Friday the 20th of May. Keep your eye out for further information coming home soon. Keeping our kids safe on the roads is very important to us!



Wishing all the mother's, grandmother's and mother figures of our community of St Finbar's a very Happy Mother's Day this coming Sunday. May you be spoilt by all who love you!

God Bless,

Lisa Samojlowicz
Assistant Principal



Please note the change of date for your calendar.

Grandparents/Sacred Heart Mass date has changed to Wednesday 1st June at 9.15am.

PENTECOST SUNDAY INVITATION.

St Finbar's parish invites parishioners and people who were baptised, received First Communion and Confirmation in the parish to attend the 9:30am Eucharistic celebration on 15th May to celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. There will be special prayers invoking the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Come and join the community and celebrate the feast of Pentecost with us. Special music at this Mass will be led by the Youth.

Dear Parents, Students and Teacher. Thank you very much for all the beautiful plants you have brought to make our Mercy Prayer garden nice. Now we invite everyone to become part of the praying community.


"Jesus says let children come to me". Bring your children closer to God. Fr Jolly


CHILDREN' CHOIR

Once again, I'd like to invite children from Years 2 to 5 to join this Parish Choir that very much needs new members. Half the present choir is in Year 6 and they leave at the end of 2016. Unless, we get a good response of at least 10 this little choir will discontinue next year.

What does this choir involve?

We practice after school till 4.30pm every Thursday during the school term. Apart from learning how to sing, read music, breathe correctly, and experience the joy that being in a choir brings, the group eats and plays together first. There is not cost involved, usually on the 4th Sunday each month at the 9.30am mass they lead the singing. Clare, a piano teacher and myself a retired teacher with a love of liturgical music, hope the children's song will continue to grace St Finbar's Church. Thank you. Mary Lopez. Contact: jvlopez08@bidpond.com

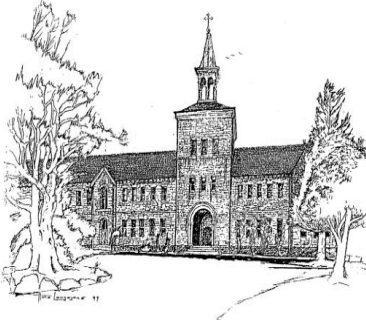

www.kenyaaid.org



HAVE FUN AND HELP A FELLOW TEACHER!
 Join Kenya Aid for a fun night of trivia and help us raise funds to pay teachers in Western Kenya.
WHEN: Saturday 21 May 2016
WHERE: Springwood Sports Club
COST: \$15 per person

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE SEE

For more information please contact Roger Snaith
 0412 135 572 - roger@kenyaaid.org



Lazy Drive
www.lazydrive.com
 Friday 6th May, 2016
 The Main Quad
 St Columba's Catholic College
 From 7pm
 \$10 per person (Adults only)
 Tickets at the door
 BYO – Everything: picnic rugs, chairs, food, drinks, dancing shoes!
 World Youth Day Fundraiser

MUSIC ON THE LAWN

MUZYKA na trawniku

Music on the Lawn World Youth Day Fundraiser at St Columba's Catholic College

Friday 6th May from 7pm

Music provided by "Lazy Drive" – band made up of teachers from our Diocese.

BYO chairs/picnic rugs/food and drink

Great prizes involving dinner and accommodation to be won on the night.

Cost: \$10 per person (Adults only event) – tickets purchased on the night.

Enquiries: St Columba's office – 02 4754 1022

If weather not suitable on the night, the event will be transferred to St. Thomas Aquinas Primary school hall

Annual Marian Pilgrimage

22nd May 2016



PROGRAM

- 10.00 AM WELCOME
- Sacrament of Confessions available
- 10.30 AM Solemn High Mass
- 2.00 PM
- Eucharistic Procession with four altars from the Valley with Final Benediction at the Shrine
 - Alternative Program with the Anointing of the Sick and Elderly at the Shrine


LUNCH - Hot food, tea & coffee available or BYO
OUTDOOR EVENT: PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS & RUGS

CHILDREN are encouraged to come dressed in white with a basket of petals for the procession

Venue: Mount Schoenstatt
 230 Fairlight Road MULGOA NSW
 Inquiries: Ph 02 4773 8338
 Email: info@schoenstatt.org.au www.schoenstatt.org.au

Discover
 RETREAT
 for young women (18-35)

A self-knowledge weekend on identity and personality, dignity, womanhood, personal ideal, vocation and mission.


www.schoenstatt.org.au

13-15 MAY

from Friday 7:30pm to Sunday 5pm

At Mount Schoenstatt
 A Place of Grace!
 230 fairlight road
 Mulgoa

Price (all included)
 early birds (up to 1st May):
 student: \$160
 employed: \$180
 after 1st May:
 student: \$180
 employed: \$200
 sponsorships available

REGISTRATION
 ESSENTIAL

Contact:
 Sr M. Julie Bracar
 m: 0408 738 334
 e: juliebracar@gmail.com

"GIVE ME A DRINK" (Jn 4:7) – CHARITY and MERCY

Reflection Day for Women—7th May

Looking for some quiet time in this Year of Mercy to reflect on the gifts of the Merciful Father? Then this day is FOR YOU!!

A Presentation by Sr. M. Isabell Naumann on this topic will form part of the program for this day

When: Saturday 7th May, 2016
 9.30am – 3.30pm

Where: Mount Schoenstatt,
 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa

Cost: \$25 (includes morning & afternoon tea)
 BYO lunch



Bookings: info@schoenstatt.org.au
 OR 47738338

St Finbar's Primary, Glenbrook

Term 2 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 2	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th Open Day School Tours 9.30 – 10am	6 th	7 th	8 th Mother's Day
Week 3	9 th Whole School Assembly 2.10pm Stage 1 presenting	10 th NAPLAN Language Conventions & Writing – Yrs 3 & 5	11 th NAPLAN Reading Yrs 3 & 5	12 th NAPLAN Numeracy Yrs 3 & 5	13 th	14 th	15 th

DATES IN ADVANCE

P & F Meetings

DATES IN ADVANCE	P & F Meetings
Staff Development Day Term 2 – 18 th July, 2016	Parent Workshop on 'Maths Warm Up' 18 th May 7pm
Staff Development Day Term 3 18 th & 19 th December	15 th June 7pm
	20 th July 7pm
School Open Day Tours May 5 th 9.30am – 10.30am 2pm – 3pm	17 th August 7pm
	21 st September 7pm
	19 th October 7pm
NAPLAN 10 th , 11 th , 12 th May	16 th November 7pm
Yellow Ribbon Day & Walk Safely to School Day 20 th May	
Canberra Excursion Yr 5 & 6 26 th & 27 th May	
Feast of the Sacred Heart and Grandparents Day Mass NB Wednesday 1st June – Mass 9.15am Followed by Open Class Room	
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	
Last day of School for Children 16 th December 2016	