



St Finbar's Primary School

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School Community Newsletter

Edition 7 6th May, 2015

Dear St Finbar's Community,

Last Sunday's Gospel reading was taken from the Gospel according to John. In this Gospel we hear ...

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

Some background information on this reading:

Jesus says he is the "true vine." He means "true" in the sense of "authentic." In the Old Testament, the vine frequently characterised Israel as the representative people of God under the Mosaic covenant. But the emphasis in all those passages is on the vine's failure to produce good fruit for God, and God's response of judgment against it. In contrast to Israel's failure to reflect God's character and represent God well, Jesus is the authentic vine, the one who will bear good fruit for God the Father, and thus fulfill mankind's, and Israel's, obligations to God. People who are faithful to God and trust in the Messiah-Saviour whom God sent will become part of that true vine as the representative people of God in this New Covenant era.

Reflection: If believers are branches of the vine that is Christ, what is the source of our life and vitality? Can we have true life apart from Christ? Can we be fruitful for God apart from Christ? What do you think about the relative importance of our own efforts to accomplish things compared to the importance of remaining closely

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connected with Christ? Should this change how you approach daily life? how you approach helping others or serving in church?

(This reflection was part of our weekly staff memo. Each week, as a staff, we reflect on the Gospel reading. Mrs Wasson provided the reflection this week).

Over the last fortnight we have been working on our comprehension data wall. The staff have completed running records on all students and then used the NSW Literacy Continuum (Comprehension Clusters) to determine where each student in their class is performing and where they need to go to next. I want to congratulate the staff on their dedication to this task. This work has been shared with our Executive Director of Schools, Greg Whitby, during his visit to our school today.

Tuesday 12 May through to Thursday 14 May students from year 3 and year 5 will be sitting NAPLAN. The children are well prepared for this assessment.

As a school community, we participated in our "Yellow Ribbon Day". Mrs Frazer and her team of workers provided us with a day of fun but also a day where we deepened our awareness of Safer Australian Roads And Highways. It was wonderful to see the involvement of all the community in this event. Thank you to those who supported this day via donations, Special Food Day and also the effort that went into the box cars and billy carts!

You would have noticed that the damaged equipment has been removed - it should take approximately eight weeks for the equipment to be installed.

Our working bee had to be postponed due to the weather last Sunday. The new date for this will be **Saturday 13 June from 8am**. We appreciate any support you can give on this day - even half an hour.

This Sunday is Mother's Day. I wish all Mums a great day and thank you for everything you do. I hope your day is filled with lots of hugs and kisses. We pray for those of us who have lost their Mums. We know they are with us in spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Donna McFadzean

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FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DESK

How To Inspire Reluctant Writers

In a research paper conducted by Paul Gardner, teachers identified a range of characteristics that were common to reluctant writers. Although we think of children who struggle with literacy belonging to this group, reluctant writers are found right across the developmental spectrum of any classroom or group.

A reluctant writer may:

- * be good at telling stories orally but has difficulty putting ideas on paper independently.
- * be a perfectionist, therefore fear of getting it wrong prevents writing.
- * lack ideas due to insufficient experiences either in their life or their knowledge of reading and stories.
- * find writing a physical struggle – poor fine motor control/pencil control.
- * find spelling difficult which then impedes writing.
- * have internalised a view of writing as a set of grammar and language rules rather than a creative process.
- * have difficulty remembering what s/he is writing about (memory be an issue).
- * be unable to build upon their writing.
- * quickly start and finish their writing but do not develop ideas so the plot is often superficial.
- * prefer to play it safe with their writing and is reluctant to take risks.

READING AT ST FINBAR'S

Over the past couple of weeks, the children at St Finbar's have been working on the comprehension strategy known as *self-monitoring*.

Self-monitoring supports comprehension by giving the reader control over the reading process. Before reading, they might clarify their purpose for reading and preview the text. During reading, they monitor their understanding, perhaps adjusting their reading speed to fit the difficulty level of the text and using 'fix up' strategies to deal with any comprehension problems they may have. After reading, they can monitor their understanding of what they have read.

Language we use when self-monitoring

- *I'm not sure what _____ means.*
- *I don't get that paragraph.*
- *The author mentions John Davies on Chapter Two, but I can't remember much about him. I think I'll go back and read it aloud slowly and see if that helps.*
- *I've lost my concentration. I'd better go back and reread that page.*
- *I'm going to try and create a picture in my mind to help me understand that bit.*

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

CROSS COUNTRY – EASTERN CREEK

Congratulations to all the students who competed at the Diocesan Cross Country yesterday at Eastern Creek Raceway. All the students performed exceptionally well on a difficult course. Well done to Eloise Lorking who was Age Champion for the Western Division 8/9 years Girls, Finlay McAuley who was runner up Age Champion 12 years Boys and Rachel Doughty who came 4th in the 10 years Girls. These students will compete at the Inter Diocesan in June. Congratulations everyone and thank you to the parents for their on going support.

RECONCILIATION

There is a Reconciliation Parent Meeting for children aged 8 and 9 years of age in the Parish Hall on Monday, 11th May at 7.30pm. For further enquiries, please phone Gabe Treble on 0450 119 037.

NEWS FROM MRS DENHAM

School Fees for Term 2 have now been issued. Please note due date: Monday 25th May 2015. If you do not receive an invoice in the mail please do not hesitate to contact me.

- **Refund of payment for 60th Anniversary Items** - You may have received a cheque in the mail in regards to the refund of payment for 60th Anniversary Aprons/Tea Towels. May I ask that you present your cheque **ASAP** to your bank for reconciliation purposes. Thank you for your help with this matter.

Thanking you,

Mrs Denham
Finance Secretary

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

A **reminder** that the Mother's Day Stall will be held this Thursday, 7th may in the morning between 9am and 11am in the Father Barlow Centre. The children will visit in class groups and will be able to purchase gifts ranging in price from \$1 to \$5. Each child is welcome to purchase two gifts for their Mum, Nanna, Grandma or that special someone. Children need only bring a maximum of \$10.

If you would like to help on the day please feel free to join us at 9am in the Father Barlow Room. Toddlers welcome.

MOTHER'S DAY LITURGY AND MORNING TEA

There will be a Mother's Day Liturgy this Friday in the Parish Hall at 9.15am followed by Morning Tea. Hope you can all join us for this celebration. Toddlers are welcome.

THIS MONTH'S FAITH AT WORK DWF APPEAL

The Diocesan Works Fund Appeal with the theme "Faith at Work" is being held this month. The appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as a Diocesan family to support ministries and services that no single individual or parish can offer. For example, it supports catechists who teach the faith in state schools, seminarians who are preparing for the priesthood, young adults working in youth ministry, prison and hospital chaplaincy, pre-marriage education through CatholicCare. Visit the website to see how your donation can make a difference : www.faithatwork.org.au

Schools get ready for the 2015 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

What is the AEDC?

In early 2015, our school, along with thousands of others across the country, will begin preparations for the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). Since 2009, results from the AEDC have helped communities, schools and governments plan services and target support for children and families where it is needed most.

The AEDC measures childhood development in children during their first year of full-time school to establish a national picture of health and wellbeing. Teachers are trained to assess children individually, but the final results are reported as groups of anonymous children at school, community, state/territory and national levels.

Census results are already being used to help young children and families in a range of ways: communities providing new playgrounds and parental services, schools seeing improved student performance through new literacy programmes and governments using results as evidence to develop more targeted policies for children.

Aside from the usefulness of the data for helping communities, teachers have also noticed practical benefits in the classroom. Some said that completing the AEDC made them more aware of the needs of individual children and the class as a whole. Others reported that the census results helped in their planning for transitions to school and in developing class programs.

To find out how other communities are using census results to help children and families visit the [AEDC website](http://www.aedc.gov.au/schools/school-stories) at www.aedc.gov.au/schools/school-stories.

Community News

Turning to God (week-long guided retreat)

When: May 11 – May 17
Presenters: Fr Aloysius Rego, OCD and Fr Gerard Moran, OCD.
Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566
Contact: Ph: 02 8795 3400, email: retreats@carmelite.com
Cost: \$660 (concessions apply)

Conversion is at the heart of the gospel message; how do we enter on this path?

Icon Painting

When: May 8 – May 10. Cost: \$600 (concessions available) Presenter: Anna Prifti
Interested in Byzantine Iconography? Come and paint your own. No prior experience required.

St Columba's Catholic College: Enrolment applications are now due for parents/caregivers who would like to enrol their child into St Columba's Catholic College for Year 7 in 2016. Further information is available on the college website www.stcolumbasspringwood or by calling the enrolment secretary on 4754 1022.

Blaxland High School: Invites you to a Choral Concert in the Performance Arts Centre Thursday July 30th Matinee Commencing at 1.30pm \$2.00 Admission – 7pm \$10 Adults, \$5 students/concession.

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### Term 2 2015

|                            |                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 2015</b>            |                                                                                                                                                 |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | <b>Mother's Day Stall</b><br>ACU Yr 3 Students<br>Donna McFadzean at Marketing PD CEDP 8.30am - 10am                                            |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>     | Mother's Day Liturgy 9.15am in Parish Hall followed by Morning Tea Assembly (Whole School contribute an item)<br>ACU Yr 1 Students              |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>    | Mother's Day                                                                                                                                    |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>    | Leadership Team Meetings<br>TE (Numeracy)                                                                                                       |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>   | NAPLAN<br>Language Conventions and Writing<br>Year 2 Parish Mass 9am<br>Kerrie Wasson at Reading Recovery (12:30 - 3:30)<br>P and F Meeting 7pm |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> | Staff Meeting<br>Maths<br>NAPLAN - Reading                                                                                                      |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Responsible Pet Education Program (K-2)<br>ACU Yr 3 Students<br>NAPLAN - Numeracy                                                               |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>    | ACU Yr 1 Students                                                                                                                               |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>    | Ascension of the Lord                                                                                                                           |



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