



St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

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School Community Newsletter

Edition 11 15th July, 2015

Dear Parents and students,

Welcome back to school for Term 3. The students have settled in well after their holiday break.

The last day of last term we held our school athletics carnival. It was a great day and the weather was kind to us. A huge thank you to Miss Brew for coordinating this day. Thank you also to all of our parents who helped on the day. It was a great success.

This Friday our Year 6 students will be organising a hot chocolate with milk to raise money for Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Street. This is a great initiative to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Further information is below.

We look forward to working with you this term.

BUNNINGS BARBEQUE

We will be holding a barbeque at Bunnings Penrith on Mulgoa Road at the Harvey Norman Complex on 10th October. At this stage we need a volunteer to coordinate this. We will need helpers on the day so please see when you would be available to help. A note will be sent home in the next few weeks for you to nominate a time to help. If you are willing to coordinate this, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

This Friday, Year 6 will be selling Hot Chocolate with milk to raise money for Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Street. A Gold Coin donation is required to purchase a Hot Chocolate for a worthy cause. Father Chris Riley has provided a mission for homeless people and has provided opportunities for struggling people to gain self respect which has led to a better life.

Faith, Truth, Knowledge

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Emotions are now part of the parenting and educational mainstream!

The recently released movie *Inside Out* gives life to emotions in a fun, accessible way. It's a wonderful demonstration of why we must put emotional intelligence front and centre in our parenting and teaching. The quickest pathway to happiness and success is the acceptance and recognition of feelings.

This is not a new idea. Over 2,000 years ago Socrates reminded his Greek compatriots, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

Current day muse Dr. Marc Brackett director of the Yale Centre for Emotional Intelligence is more expansive. He says, "Emotions matter as they drive learning, decision-making, creativity, relationships and health."

This is not to say that we ignore children's poor behaviour, neglect to set limits or not ask anything of them when they've experienced hardship at school. Accepting and recognising emotions is an added layer in our interactions with kids, which may well be the missing link for building cooperation, connection and resilience.

Emotions are messy. They can be loud. They can be hidden. They so often interrupt our well-organised schedules. "What do you mean you're sad? We're off to watch a movie. It's a happy time!" Emotions are hard to control and difficult to see. Like slippery eels swimming in a dam, you know that they are down there somewhere but it's hard to figure just what they are doing.

When you console and contain the hurt of primary school aged child who throws himself at your feet howling that everyone hates him, you are doing emotional labour.

Staring down a teenager who looks you straight in the eye while spitting out "I hate you!" because you've denied their request to go out, is hard emotional labour. Parents do emotional labour all the time. That's one of the reasons parenting teens can be so draining.

Accepting kids' emotions means we need to listen to them. We need to be mindful of their feelings as well as their behaviours and thoughts, which is what most parents and teachers are conditioned to do. We've built a broad vocabulary around behavior management featuring terms such as 'consequences', 'limits and boundaries' and 'time out' to name a few. And as the perennial 'To smack or not to smack' question shows we are very willing to have debates about behaviour management methods, but discussions about emotional management are few and far between.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the next round of participants to successfully complete the PRC! Isobel Reece and Edward (Eddie) Walker (Kinder), James Donnelly (Year 1), Euan Reece (Year 2), Christopher Martland (Year 3) and Millie De Mattia (Year 4).

You have just over four weeks left to complete the challenge. Remember **you must complete your online Student Reading Record by 21 August 2015 (11:59 pm) to complete the Challenge.**

Stage Three where are you? Stay tuned for exciting news regarding Book Week!

The Feast Day of St Finbar



Our Parish will be celebrating it's feast day on Sunday 27th September. All families, cousins, grandparents, aunties, uncles are invited to celebrate this day with us.

The day begins with Mass at 9.30am. This will be followed by a BBQ, games and dancing in the school grounds.

Come and celebrate with our community.

Please complete the RSVP for catering purposes.

RSVP for Parish Feast Day celebration – please return by 11th September

We would love to attend the Parish Feast Day celebrations on Sunday 27th September.

Family Name: _____

Number of people attending: _____

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Our school will be celebrating this special day with a Mass on Monday 17th August at 9.15am.

All parents, carers, grandparents, aunties, uncles are welcome to celebrate with us.

Children's Choir

All children at St Finbar's school are invited to join the Parish Children's choir.

This choir meets every Thursday afternoon for rehearsal, and sings at rostered Masses during the year. Some of our children are already members of this choir and do an amazing job of leading the singing at these Masses. If your child loves singing and understands how to make a commitment to a group, this is the perfect opportunity. Please contact Mrs Stenning for more information.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS COMING TO OUR SCHOOL!

A Scholastic Book Fair is a lively and fun event that enables children, parents, teachers and community members to purchase quality books and classroom materials at reasonable prices, while earning free books for our school.

Students, parents and teachers love Book Fairs for a number of reasons, including:

- Generous commissions – every book sold at the Fair earns free books for our school
- The best range, hand selected books from over 60 publishers worldwide
- Affordable books to suit every reading level and interest
- An opportunity for children to see, touch and connect with books they want to read
- An exciting event that engages children and promotes literacy

Families can even donate a book to our school library!

The Book Fair will be set up in the Learning Centre and all classes will be given the opportunity to visit the display on August 7th. This is an opportunity for the students to see all the products available and for children to write up their "Wish List". During week 5 students and family members can visit the Learning Centre to purchase books. You will receive more information in the very near future.

Thanking you in anticipation for your support.

READING AT ST FINBAR'S!

Over the next 3 weeks we will be focusing on another very useful comprehension strategy called 'Making connections'.

Making connections is when students make links or associations between what they read and their prior knowledge.

Making meaningful connections helps students relate the text to their own prior knowledge. The more connections, the more likely the student is to comprehend the text. For example, if a student is reading a book about snorkelling and they have had that experience, they are more likely to make meaningful connections than a person who has not had that same experience. Making connections helps to deepen comprehension and create personal links with what is being read. These connections impact on a student's motivation to read.

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

BLUE MOUNTAINS YOUTH CHOIR for boys and girls 9-16 years, sponsored by Project Two 2015 'Wind in the Willows' Musical Director – Sarah Mann

A special event, involving the combined voices of Academy Singers, Warrimoo Chorale and Blue Mountains Youth Choir, with soloists, narrator and instrumental ensemble.

Dates of BMYC Workshops: Sunday 26 July 2.00pm - 4.30pm at Lawson Public School Hall, entry - Wilson Street, Sunday 2 August 2.00pm - 4.30pm at Lawson Public School Hall.

Bring a drink, a snack (no nuts) and a hat.

Combined Choirs Rehearsal: Monday 3 August 7.30pm at St. Finbar's Catholic Church, Levy Street, Glenbrook. Rehearsal and Performance: Sunday 9 August at St. Finbar's (Performance at 3pm, rehearsal time TBC)

For further information, including fees payable, go to www.academysingers.com.au - Youth Choir or phone 0418 602 690. Registration essential - applications close on Wednesday 22 July or earlier if all places filled. Register online, or contact us by email bmyc@academysingers.com.au to have a registration form posted to you.

SCHOOL FEES

Please note Term 3 School Fee accounts shall be sent out shortly. If you do not receive your statement in the mail please contact the office.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Denham in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays if you have any questions or concerns.

Term 3 Fees due **Monday 17 August 2015.**

Stage Three Bathurst Goldfields Excursion By Alexander Peel and Lachlan Toole

On Thursday the 4th of June, Stage 3 travelled to the Bathurst Goldfields to learn about the miners and life on the goldfields.

Stage 3 had to get up at the crack of dawn to be at school by 7:15 am. It was freezing. At 7:30 am we had to leave. We were on the bus for roughly 2 hours. On the bus we had some car sickness and chuck-ups, but all the same, we had fun and got to the Bathurst Goldfields in the end.

When we arrived at approximately 10:30 am we found a place to put our bags, stretched our legs and had some morning tea.



Shortly after, we entered the “deep dark gold mine” to see and experience what the miners would have. We learned that they used lard (animal fat) instead of wax for candles and that they used wood instead of iron in the roofs of mines. This meant that in the event of a cave in, the wood would creak, letting the miners know of the danger of a collapse. Iron doesn't make noise, so people couldn't escape.

Next, we went into a room that contained minerals, a map that had a route throughout the mines, the different tools early miners used and a replica of the largest specimen of gold. In this room we were told that the reason the NFL team, The San Francisco 49ers are called the 49ers is because the gold rush began in 1849.

Then we moved on to yet another room. We were told about the price of gold. One ounce of gold, the size of your pinkie, is worth \$1800! We were also we told many interesting facts on gold and life on the goldfields.



Then, we went to see the steam works. The best part (in my opinion) was the very loud horn to alert the miners.

After the steamworks we went to the blacksmith's. A blacksmith is a place where metals are moulded and shaped. There was a mechanism that was used to light a fire to heat the metal. When the metal is red hot it becomes malleable. A couple of us became blacksmith “apprentices” and got the opportunity to operate the machine!



Panning for gold!!! The majority of Stage 3 found this BY FAR the best part of the excursion. First, we were taught how pan for gold, then we grabbed our pans and raced over to the ponds and got started. Many of us “struck rich” and found a few tiny flakes of gold and many of us were unsuccessful, but still enjoyed it a lot!

After the gold panning we had lunch and got to have a bit of a run around!

Once we had eaten our lunch we saw a Chinese temple. We were told about the conflict between the English and the Chinese. The Chinese miners all worked together while the British worked in smaller groups or individually.

The final session of the day was based on learning about the lives of the gold miners and their families. We saw one of the houses that the miners lived in with their families. The houses are commonly made out of mud bricks covered in clay. Most miners and their families were completely uneducated. The toilets they used were simply a wooden hut over a hole. This is why they called it a ‘long drop’ When it is roughly three quarters full they would fill it up, plant a fruit tree over it and move the hut to a new hole. Did you know that it was the miner's wives that made the house?

One of the activities we did was making damper. It is simple, the dough is made from flour and water, then put the dough on a stick, hold it over a fire and cook until golden. When it is cooked you can add ‘Cocky's Joy’ (golden syrup) inside for flavour. Then it is complete! It was delicious!

Another activity we did participated in was creating mud- bricks. It is a quick and easy (but messy!) process, using dirt, buckets of water and hay to make the mud-brick. Mix it up, pour it into a wooden frame and smooth it out. Now all that is left is for it dry!

The last activity was playing the games the miner’s children played on the goldfields! We got to play bowls, tug-of-war and ring toss with horse shoes.

We had finished all the activities for the day. Before we left, we had some afternoon tea, went to the gift shop and did our “psychological wees”. On the bus ride back we fortunately had no car sickness or chuck-ups. By the time we got back to school it was 6:00 and it was dark. We got our names marked off and we went home. We had lots of fun on the goldfields excursion. Thankyou to Mr.Tucker and Mrs.Southern Gale for organising the wonderful excursion!

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN

We are excited to be taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. You can help your school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 15 July and Tuesday 8 September 2015. These will be redeemed for educational resources for your school.

Simply pop them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and once it's completed, just bring it back school or drop it into the Collection Box at your local Woolies. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we'd like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for mathematics, English, science, art & crafts, through to sports gear, library supplies and more. We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program.

St Finbar's Primary, Glenbrook

Term 3 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 |
|----------|---|--|--|--|--|----------|--------|
| 1 JULY | 13 Jo Morgan begins prac block with Year 1 Melissa Fox begins prac with Year 2 Jennifer Lawrie begins prac with Year 4 | 14 Mrs Wasson at Reading Recovery 11:30 - 3:30pm P&F Meeting | 15 Staff Meeting: PBS4L | 16 Ms McFadzean & Mrs Wasson at leadership writing PLC at Cranebrook 3:45pm | 17 Yr 6 Hot Chocolate Day for Youth Off The Streets | 18 | 19 |
| 2 | 20 K-2 Reading, at Glendenning | 21 | 22 Leanne Port from Scholastic attending Staff Meeting | 23 Gala Soccer Day Jamison Park | 24 Special Food Day | 25 | 26 |
| 3 | 27 Whole School Photo | 28 Miss Lynch at EMU Mrs Wasson at Reading Recovery 11:30 - 3:30pm | 29 CPR Staff Meeting Kinder Cup Cake Day for CentaCare | 30 | 31 ASSEMBLY | 1 | 2 |
| 4 AUGUST | 3 3 - 6 Reading Meeting 8:30 - 4pm at St Patrick's, Blacktown | 4 3 - 6 Reading Meeting 8:30 - 4pm at St Patrick's, Blacktown | 5 QCS Staff Meeting | 6 Book Fair arriving! | 7 Whole School Mary MacKillop Presentation Students to write Wish List for Book Fair! Zone Athletics Carnival – Blacktown | 8 | 9 |
| 5 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |

Faith, Truth, Knowledge

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|-----------|--|---|---|---|--|----|------------------------|
| | BOOK WEEK!! Leanne Port from Scholastic here for Book Fair. BOOK FAIR OPEN!! | Voice of Youth. Mrs Wassson at Reading Recovery 11:30 - 3:30pm BOOK FAIR OPEN | Writing Staff Meeting at Corpus Christi at Cranebrook Book Week Performance BOOK FAIR OPEN | | Special Food Day | | |
| 6 | 17 | 18 | 19 Ms McFadzean and Mrs Wassson at Literacy leader's PLC at Sacred Heart, Mt Druitt 1 - 3:30pm | 20 | 21 Assumption of Mary ASSEMBLY Mrs Wassson at Catholic Values English 12:30 - 4pm AKC | 22 | 23 |
| 7 | 24 Miss Brew at Beginning Teacher's Retreat | 25 Netball Gala Day Penrith Miss Brew at Beginning Teacher's Retreat. Mrs Wassson at Reading Recovery 11:30 - 3:30pm | 26 | 27 Mrs Wassson at Reading Recovery | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 8 SEPT | 31 3 - 6 Reading Meeting 8:30 - 4pm at St Patrick's, Blacktown | 1 EMU Course-Miss Lynch at AKC | 2 | 3 | 4 Special Food Day Confirmation | 5 | 6 Father's Day! |
| 9 | 7 | 8 Mrs Wassson at Reading Recovery 11:30 - 3:30pm | 9 Netball Penrith Wet Weather Back Up Day | 10 | 11 ASSEMBLY | 12 | 13 |
| 10 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 11 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |

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