



# St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

Parish Administrator: Fr Jolly Chacko MS

School Community Newsletter

Edition 12 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2015

Dear St Finbar's Community

It is wonderful to be back at St Finbar's after being on leave for the last two weeks. I thank the staff for all preparations they have made to begin the new school term and congratulate all the students on their focussed learning after returning from holidays. I also thank Mr Sergio Rosato who visited classes and teachers on a daily basis to ensure all learning needs were addressed. Thank you also to Mr Mark Geerligs who was also present during my leave for the majority of Week Two. This is indeed a generous act and I greatly appreciate their support.



The Gospel proclaimed last Sunday was that of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. What is the key message for us as Catholics?

The answers can be found in the following commentary presented by Ed Morrissey

" In this miracle Jesus wasn't saying that we don't have to work and plan for our own sustenance. We are called to feed others as well as feeding ourselves, to clothe others as well as ourselves, and so on. But giving in to anxiety and despair paralyzes us so that we can't do *any* of those tasks. We have no faith, we have no hope, and then we have no will or strength to act. Every potential action is preceded with fear, the fear produces hesitation, the hesitation becomes a stall, and so on. We don't feed the multitudes, and eventually we can't deal with our personal responsibilities, either. Instead, Jesus calls us to rely on Him, to put our trust in Him, especially when it comes doing His work. We may look at the poverty and inhumanity of this world and want to give up.

*How can we possibly feed the world with just a few loaves of bread and what we've gathered for the local foodshelf? How can we clothe the world from just a few hand-me-downs? How can we evangelize the Good News in a world obsessed with materialism and hate? We cannot, on our own, do those tasks, especially not with the meagre offerings we bring. But Jesus Christ takes those offerings, blesses them, and multiplies them in ways we cannot comprehend nor even see — especially if our anxiety and despair has closed our eyes and our hearts to Him."*



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Over Term Three and Four, our Year 3 to 6 teachers will be attending a CEDP four day professional learning course on “Reading 3 to 6”. We are fortunate to have such dedicated teachers who see themselves as learners and strive to meet the individual needs of all students. By attending this professional development as a collaborative team it ensures that we are providing a consistent, contemporary approach to our teaching while providing time for us to reflect on our current pedagogy and make changes where we deem necessary.

During this week the Year 6 students have been preparing for the Voice of Youth. The students have done an amazing job preparing and presenting speeches on a variety of topics. We thank the Stage 3 staff for their work with the students and also Mrs Wye, Mr Rodgers and Dr Walker who assisted with the judging of the finalist who would represent St Flinbar’s. Students will be attending the first round of the Voice of Youth at St Finbar’s on Tuesday 11th August .Finalists from neighbouring Mountains schools from Katoomba, Lawson and Springwood will also present to all Stage 3 students on this day.

Yours In Christ  
Donna McFadzean

### **FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK**

How to assist children with bullying.

Bullying is something that most of us experience at some stage in our lives. It is important for parents to assist children identify and voice their concerns.

Parents can provide strategies for their children to become assertive. Not aggressive but assertive! This may include teaching your child to become in control of their feelings by using techniques such as breathing in and out. Your child can then make choices of how they are going to act in a certain situation.

Of course there is the chance that our child is the bully. If your child is displaying bullying behaviour it is important to address this as soon as possible. Speaking with your child is vital to find out what is happening. If your child is bullying others, strategies will be needed for your child in how to deal with responses to meet their needs. Maybe it is a social problem and therefore strategies on how to be accepted and included would be better. If you notice that your child may be a cause for some bullying problems, the school may be able to help.

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## **ST FINBAR'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS 2015**

As part of our celebrations for our Feast Day this year we have invited singer song-writer Andrew Chinn to help us celebrate. We use many of Andrew's songs in class, during prayer and most of our school Masses. Andrew has regularly toured schools and parishes around Australia, New Zealand and North America. His concerts and workshops are celebrations of faith and fun through singing, actions and comedy. The children are encouraged to be active participants, rather than spectators.

In lieu of an end of year concert which is always a busy time for families, we are holding an **evening concert** after the children's workshops during the day on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September**.

We will begin our evening with a family BBQ at 5.00pm followed by the concert at 6.00pm, in which all children will participate in their class items.

This will be a fun night to get together with our whole community. Please mark this date in your calendar.

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## **WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE**

As you already know World Youth Day is a significant event in the life of the Diocese. Those of us who have been fully involved in previous World Youth Days know the human and spiritual experiences that occur and have continued to grow in the time since.

The next World Youth Day is in Krakow, Poland in July 2016 and the Diocese is planning to support as many young people as possible who wish to go. The Diocese will carry out many initiatives to raise funds for our young pilgrims. As the main fundraiser, a raffle will be conducted with the 1st prize being a Toyota Yaris.

The funds from the raffle tickets at St Finbar's school will go towards sending our school pilgrim to Krakow for this amazing experience.

A book of raffle tickets will be sent home to each family with this week's newsletter. It would be wonderful if you could manage to sell these tickets. You are more than welcome to request further ticket booklets if you wish.

Many thanks in anticipation of your generous support.

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## **10 BENEFITS OF READING**

### **1. Kids who read often and widely get better at it.**

Practice makes perfect in almost everything we humans do and reading is no different from anything else.

### **2. Reading exercises our brains.**

Reading is a complex task for the human brain. It strengthens brain connections and actually builds new connections.

### **3. Reading improves concentration.**

Children have to sit still and quietly so they can focus on the story when they're reading. If they read regularly, they develop the ability to do this for longer periods.

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**4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.**

Through reading, children learn about people, places and events outside their own experience. They are exposed to ways of life, ideas and beliefs about the world. This learning is not only important for its own sake but also builds a store of background knowledge which helps younger children learn to read confidently and well.

**5. Reading improves a child's vocabulary and leads to more highly developed language skills.**

Children learn new words as they read. They absorb information and learn how to structure sentences and how to use words and language effectively.

**6. Reading develops a child's imagination.**

When we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. When we're engaged in a story, we're also imagining how the characters are feeling. We use our own experiences to imagine how we would feel in the same situation.

**7. Reading helps kids develop empathy.**

As we read we can't help but identify with the characters in the story so we feel what they feel.

**8. Children who read do better at school.**

Reading assists children in all subject areas. The more we read the more knowledgeable we become!

**9. Reading is a great form of entertainment.**

You'll never be lonely or bored if you have a book to read.

**10. Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind.** These days we seem to have forgotten how to relax and how to be silent. Constant movement, flashing lights and noise, which bombard our senses when we're watching TV, looking at a computer or playing an electronic game, are actually quite stressful for our brains.

**Reading is important, because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything. - Tomie dePaola**

**BOOK FAIR NEWS**

On Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> our Book Fair will arrive! The Learning Centre will be transformed into an underwater world full of books. Children will visit the Book Fair with their class on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> and will be given the opportunity to write their Wish List. Students take their Wish List home and parents can either fill out the form or visit during the opening times listed below.

**Book Fair Opening Times:**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August: 8:15am – 10am, 3:10 – 4pm

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August: 8:15am – 10am

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August: 8:15am – 10am

Students will also be allowed to purchase books during recess on these days.

We will also be running a poster competition. Students in Kinder and Stage 1 can create a poster about their favourite book. Students in Stage 2 and Stage 3 can create a poster that promotes the importance of reading. Posters are to be presented on an A4 piece of paper and must be handed to

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their class teacher by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August. Winners will be announced on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August. Prizes will consist of vouchers to be used at the Book Fair. Please note that this is not compulsory. Our goal this year is to collect as many rewards points as possible to go towards purchasing more readers for our school. The P&F have kindly offered to buy Series 1 of the Connectors and Into Connectors books but it is hoped that we can purchase Series 2 using points gained from our Book Fair. Remember the more books we sell the more reward points we receive for our school! Thank you for your support.

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

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Congratulations to the next round of participants to successfully complete the PRC! Lee (Kinder), Mhyumie (Year 1), James D (Year 2), Olivia (Year 3) and Andy (Year 5). You have just three 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? Please don't leave last minute problems to the last minute. Hopefully you will all have at least logged in and checked your passwords. If you have problems, send me a note.

Rebecca Southern (Year 6)



### THE READING HOUR

With the Premier's Reading Challenge rapidly coming to a close, it could be a great opportunity to spend some quality time with your children and get some more books read with them. Australia has held the National Reading Hour every year since 2012. It all began with libraries, library associations and the Government investing time, money and resources to promote literacy in Australia. Ten minutes a day – an hour a week - is a small amount time that can reap tremendous rewards. It is also a great opportunity for a warm cuddle and a chance for some lovely down time. It really doesn't matter when you have your reading hour; this is just the 'official time'. The [love2read.org.au](http://love2read.org.au) site has a lot of links and ideas to help parents in the area of reading.



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## STAGE 2 SOCCER GALA DAY

Congratulations to the Stage 2 boys who represented our school at the Parramatta Diocese Soccer Gala Day in Penrith last week on Thursday. The boys played with a positive attitude and loved playing with their friends. They all showed great respect for the game and to the other teams. Our school community is very proud of you for giving it your best. Thank you to the parents who helped with transport and for the parents who supported the boys all day. Thank you to Mr Phoebus and Mr Welch for your support in training the boys and coaching the boys.

What I liked most about the Stage 2 Soccer Gala day was that St Finbar's worked well as a team and went out there and gave it their best shot. Also we all showed great sportsmanship. Thank you very much to Miss Brew and our two coaches for a fabulous day.

### From Noah Phoebus.

We played 8 games at Jamison Park. It was a fun day, there were two St Finbar's teams playing soccer. We tried our hardest and we went very well. We played fair and were good sports. Our coaches helped us a lot and trained us throughout the term at lunch time. We had a fantastic day. Thank you to the coaches and Miss Brew.



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**GLENBROOK LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE** Family, Fun & Fitness Season 2015/2016 Starts Late September Saturday Morning Competition Tiny Tots (4 as at Sept 30th) – \$80 U6 - \$100 U7-U17 - \$125 4 th+ Child Free Registrations: Glenbrook Oval Saturday August 29th & Sept 12th 9am-1pm Proof of Age for New Registrations. Registrations Online from August 1st. For any information or how to register please Visit Facebook or website. [www.glenbrooklac.org](http://www.glenbrooklac.org) Centre contact Matt Andrews 0438357478 or [man57757@gmail.com](mailto:man57757@gmail.com)

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## WEEKEND RETREAT: ALL IS GRACE

**Presenter: Fr Paul Maunder, OCD**

Where: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566

When: August 28 – 30 Cost: \$220 (concessions apply) Phone: 02 8795 3400

Email: [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com) [www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)

All is Grace: spiritual guidance in prayer, holiness and mission from the writings of St Therese of Lisieux.

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## GLENBROOK-BLAXLAND CRICKET CLUB

Wear the Baggy Blue! 2015/2016 Registration Days Saturday-Sunday, 1-2 August, 11am-1pm Saturday-Sunday, 8-9 August, 11am-1pm Glenbrook Oval (near the cricket nets, opposite the Bowling Club) Junior boys and girls Under 8s to Under 16s Free registration for Under 8s and Under 9s Senior players (over 16 years at 1 September 2015) Enquiries Juniors Seniors Craig Batty 0408 602 405 Peter Smith 0432 840 754 [juniors@gbcc.com.au](mailto:juniors@gbcc.com.au) [seniors@gbcc.com.au](mailto:seniors@gbcc.com.au) Or go to our website to register online from 30 July: [www.gbcc.com.au](http://www.gbcc.com.au)

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# 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

| WEEK        | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------|--|---|---|---|--|----------|--------|
| 3           |  |   |   | 30  | 31<br>ASSEMBLY   | 1        | 2      |
| 4<br>AUGUST | 3<br><br>3 - 6<br>Reading<br>Meeting<br>8:30 - 4pm<br>at St<br>Patrick's,<br>Blacktown                             | 4<br><br>3 - 6<br>Reading<br>Meeting<br>8:30 - 4pm<br>at St<br>Patrick's,<br>Blacktown  | 5<br><br>QCS Staff<br>Meeting   | 6<br><br>Book Fair<br>arriving!                   | 7<br><br>Whole School<br>Mary<br>MacKillop<br>Presentation<br><br>Students to<br>write Wish<br>List for Book<br>Fair!<br><br>Zone Athletics<br>Carnival –<br>Blacktown | 8        | 9      |
| 5           | 10<br>BOOK<br>WEEK!!<br><br>Leanne Port<br>from<br>Scholastic<br>here for<br>Book Fair.<br><br>BOOK FAIR<br>OPEN!! | 11<br>Voice of<br>Youth 10am<br><br>Mrs<br>Wasson at<br>Reading<br>Recovery<br>11:30 -<br>3:30pm<br>BOOK FAIR<br>OPEN                                 | 12<br><br>Writing Staff<br>Meeting at<br>Corpus Christi<br>at Cranebrook<br><br>Book Week<br>Performance<br>BOOK FAIR<br>OPEN | 13  | 14<br>Special Food<br>Day  | 15       | 16     |
| 6           | 17   | 18  | 19<br>Ms McFadzean<br>and Mrs<br>Wasson at<br>Literacy<br>leader's PLC at<br>Sacred Heart,<br>Mt Druitt 1 -<br>3:30pm         | 20  | 21<br>Assumption<br>of Mary<br><br>ASSEMBLY<br>Mrs Wasson<br>at Catholic<br>Values<br>English 12:30<br>- 4pm AKC   | 22       | 23     |
| 7           | 24<br><br>Miss Brew<br>at<br>Beginning<br>Teacher's<br>Retreat   | 25<br>Netball Gala<br>Day Penrith.<br>Miss Brew at<br>Beginning<br>Teacher's<br>Retreat.<br>Mrs Wasson<br>at Reading<br>Recovery<br>11:30 -<br>3:30pm | 26  | 27<br><br>Mrs<br>Wasson at<br>Reading<br>Recovery | 28   | 29       | 30     |

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|           |   |   |  |   |  |    |                       |
|-----------|---|---|--|---|--|----|-----------------------|
| 8<br>SEPT | 31<br>3 - 6<br>Reading<br>Meeting<br>8:30 - 4pm<br>at St<br>Patrick's,<br>Blacktown | 1<br>EMU<br>Course-<br>Miss Lynch<br>at AKC                       | 2  | 3   | 4<br>Special Food<br>Day<br><br>Confirmation | 5  | 6<br>Father's<br>Day! |
| 9         | 7   | 8<br>Mrs<br>Wasson at<br>Reading<br>Recovery<br>11:30 -<br>3:30pm | 9<br>Netball Penrith<br>Wet Weather<br>Back Up Day | 10  | 11<br>ASSEMBLY                               | 12 | 13                    |
| 10        | 14  | 15  | 16   | 17<br>School<br>Concert<br>5pm BBQ<br>followed<br>by Concert<br>6pm | 18   | 19 | 20                    |

**Help!** Brendan and Matthew  
**Computer Experts**  
BrendanandMatthewIT@gmail.com

**What to do**  
Send us a detailed email of your issue and your information. We will reply within 24 hours of your email regarding a service call.

**Pricing:**  
- \$25 callout fee  
- \$99 IT issue is fixed  
- No extra charges excluding callout fee if issue is not fixed

**The IT Pros**

Brendan • Matthew  
brendanandmatthewIT@gmail.com  
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**PLAY CRICKET THIS SUMMER**

Wear the **BAGGY BLUE**  
**GLENBROOK-BLAXLAND CC**

Senior Cricket  
1st Grade to 10th Grade

Junior Cricket  
Ages 8-16

All Girls Cricket  
Breakers Junior League

Former Glenbrook-Blaxland  
Cricket Club Players

**Registration Days**  
Saturday and Sunday  
1st, 2nd, 8th & 9th August  
11am — 1pm  
Glenbrook Oval  
Hare St, Glenbrook

Visit the website for more information: [www.gbcc.com.au](http://www.gbcc.com.au)

**Computer Experts**

**What to do:** Send a detailed email of your issue and information to [BrendanandMatthewIT@gmail.com](mailto:BrendanandMatthewIT@gmail.com) we will reply within 24hrs

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