



# St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

Parish Administrator: Fr Jolly Chacko MS

School Community Newsletter

Edition 13 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

Dear St Finbar's Community

Last Friday we farewelled Mr David Pospischil who will be on leave from St Finbar's for the remainder of 2015. Mrs Wasson and Mrs Borg will replace Mr Pospischil in Year Two for the remainder of the year. On Monday, the Stage 1 Team and myself met to program for the remainder of the term and discussed the learning needs of all students in Stage 1. It is wonderful to be part of such a dynamic, professional team of teachers who could articulate the needs of each student and plan differentiated tasks to meet the needs of each student.

Mr Stephen Cauchi (currently Assistant Principal at Mary MacKillop) will be joining our staff from week 6. Stephen is a qualified EMU specialist teacher who will complement the work we have begun this year in the area of Mathematics under the leadership of Mrs Stenning. He is also a Learning Support Teacher with a wealth of knowledge in differentiating the curriculum, this will also be beneficial to our school. Stephen will be working across the school in Mathematics as well as helping to build our teaching capacity. We welcome him to St Finbar's and I am sure you will make yourself known to him when you see him around the school. I thank those parents who have supported the school in the necessary staffing changes. Change can be difficult but I can assure you that the learning needs of the students influence every staffing decision that we make.

We also farewell Mrs Jemima McLeod as she prepares for the birth of her third child. We wish Jemima and her family all the best. Mrs Miller will be teaching In Year 6 with Mrs Southern-Gale for the remainder of the year.

Our Learning Centre has been transformed this week into an underwater adventure land. It is just amazing. Thank you to our very talented staff who worked together as a team to produce such a stimulating experience for our students. Thank you also to the families who have already made purchases. All profits made will go directly back into resources for reciprocal reading.

This week St Finbar's hosted the Blue Mountains Cluster Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition. We are also offering an opportunity for students in Year 2 to Year 6 to participate in the 2015 ICAS Mathematics Assessment. The children will be entertained by a special Book Week Performance incursion.

Congratulation to all 34 of our students who attended the Penrith/Mountains Zone Athletics carnival last Friday. We have a number of students who will be representing St Finbar's at the Diocesan Carnival. Well done Amity Buss, Finlay McAuley, Bradley Holmes, Alexander Peel, Hannah Stanford and Ashton Van Putten. Our amazing Boys 4 x 100 relay team also made it through. Thank you Miss Brew and Mrs Van Putten for training the children. Thank you also to Miss Brew, Miss Lynch and Mrs Morgan who assisted with supervision on the day.

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*

The Feast of the Assumption is celebrated this Saturday. We will gather as a school community on Monday 17 August 2015 at 9.15am to celebrate this feast. We hope that you can join us in celebrating the Eucharist on this day in the church.

There is a special food day this Friday. Thank you to Erin Kelly and her team who always do an amazing job organising this event. It will not be a mufti-day as we had a mufti-day last week.

Yours in Christ  
Donna McFadzean

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### **From The Assistant Principal's Desk**

I wanted to share my gratitude to the St Finbar's community for the best wishes given to me. The support and love shown has been humbling and amazing. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.  
David Pospischil

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### **STAGE THREE GOLD FIELD EXCURSION**

Star and Sofia

On the 4th of June 2015, Stage Three went on their excursion to Bathurst Goldfields. It was a day full of fun and learning. We had to get up very early because the bus left at 7:30. There were lots of hands on activities, not to mention the two hour bus trip (where a couple kids threw up).

The first thing we did when we got there was eat our recess so we had enough fuel until lunch. We started our gold learning experience by going into a pretend olden day mine shaft, where the lighting was very dim without our new and fancy electric lights. The only source of light in those days were candles made from lard, which is animal fat. Then off we tramped to the museum. There our tour guide Trevor, showed us many amazing things including a replica of the mine shaft, a photo of the largest gold nugget in Australia, gold leaf, real gold coins (sovereign coins) and mining tools.

Now, moving to the outside world we see a few more things before heading towards a replica Blacksmith's shop. At the Blacksmith's, we forged a poker for our school which is now on display in the office. (Here is a photo of Star and Eddie hard at work, pumping the bellows.)



After the excitement of the Blacksmith's Workshop, we moved on to look at the life of the Chinese diggers during gold rush times. We learnt that the Chinese worked all together, where as the Englishmen worked in small groups or individually. The Englishmen loathed the Chinese because of their luck, wealth and because they found twice as much gold as the English did and the English thought it belonged to them.

The next thing we did was panning. This was lots of fun and several people found gold flakes. Luckily no one got too wet! However, a few people dropped their pan in the water (which was freezing!) and had to find it by sticking their arms in all the way to their elbows. Although a few struck rich by finding a one or more flakes of gold and others imagined they were lucky, in total the panning experience was a load of fun!



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Next we had our lunch (because we were starving) and we went off to learn about and experience the early settlers' life. We learnt about the sort of house they lived in, which wasn't big, only one or two rooms if they were lucky. The father would go gold mining every day except Sunday as this was the Sabbath rest day. The mother would stay home to cook, clean and do other chores like caring for the animals. Some women would try to earn some extra money for the family by taking in the laundry of other people. The kids were expected to help out too. On Sunday, the mother didn't have much of a rest, although after how hard her week was, she thought she was having it easy. It was off to Church, then home to start cooking over the fire and getting ready for another busy week. I wouldn't like to be a woman in those days!

We made mud bricks, with mud and straw. We shaped it with a frame and wooden planks, then left it to dry in the sun. It would have taken an awfully long time to make a house this way. We also played some early settlement games such as: tug of war, dirt bowls and horse shoe quoits.



(Here are some stage 3 kids playing tug of war). We made damper, which is also known as "bush bread," a dough that only consists of flour and water. We cooked it on sticks over the campfire and ate it with Cocky's Joy (golden syrup). We finished off our day with afternoon tea and the gift shop. Stage Three had an absolutely, wonderful day full of learning and adventures!

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### **Nepean Athletics Zone Carnival Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

Last Friday 34 students from St Finbar's participated in the Nepean Athletics Zone carnival at Blacktown Sports Park, at Rooty Hill. All students performed exceptionally well and it was good to see the great sportsmanship of our students at the end of races.

Special congratulations to the Senior Boys relay team, Alexander Peel (100m, 200m), Finlay McAuley (800m), Bradley Holmes and Ashton Van Putten (100m, 200m, Long Jump), Amity Buss (Discus, Shot Put) and Hannah Stanford (100m, 200m, Long Jump) who will be representing Nepean at the Diocesan Athletics Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August. We wish all competitors good luck.

Two of St Finbar's students achieved fantastic overall results on the day. Congratulations to Hannah Stanford who received Runner Up Age Champion and Ashton Van Putten who received Age Champion. Miss Brew

As I arrived in my car at the Athletics centre I had butterflies in my stomach, I was pretty nervous. I was warming up when I heard an announcement for the relay races. After that the day went pretty quickly. I competed in the 100m race and placed first with a time of 14.36 seconds. After that I did my long jump and placed first with 3.84m for my longest jump. Next I ran in the 200m race and came first with a time of 31.45 seconds. I also took part in shot put. It wasn't long after that I realised it was time to run in the 100m and 200m finals.

On your marks, get set, GO. I pushed off and was SPRINTING my heart out. I finished third in both finals and I was exhausted but really proud.

At the end of the day I was announced the 11 year old runner up age champion. I was overjoyed. It was my first trophy and I was sooo happy!!! It was an awesome day and my parents were so proud of me. I can't wait for the Parramatta diocesan Carnival.

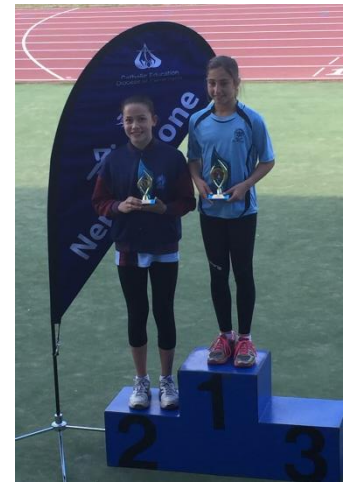
**By Hannah Stanford (11 Years Girl Runner Up Age Champion)**

Friday was a great experience to meet new people and compete against them. I went into the 100m, 200m, Long Jump and relay events. I made it through to the next carnival in all events. I came first in all my events. In the 100m I placed with a time of 13.08, 200m a time of 28.08 and in long jump 4.33m. I would also like to congratulate everybody else that participated and are going to the next level.

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Boys Age Champi



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**BOOK FAIR NEWS**

Thank you for supporting St Finbar’s Book Fair!

We sold over \$6,000 worth of books which converts to a huge amount of reward points for our school.

A huge thank you to families who donated money towards school readers. If you would like to donate a school reader it is not too late. Just send \$10 in an envelope labelled “Book Fair Donation” and your family name. Thank you.

Mrs Wasson

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**SCHOOL FEES**

‘Parents, thank you for your commitment to support your child’s Catholic Education through School Fees.’

Due date for Term 3 Fees – **Monday 17 August 2015.**

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Denham if you are experiencing difficulties meeting this commitment.

Please note that if you are paying via BPay or Auspost please allow a couple of extra days for payment to appear into the School's Account. Sometimes if payment is made on the due date or a couple of days after you may receive a reminder due to receipting for BPay only occurs on Tues/Wed/Thurs. Thank you. Mrs. Denham

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## **STRING LESSONS**

Please note that String Lesson tuition fees were due last Friday 7 August 2015.

The cost for these lessons for the term is \$100.00. If you have not already paid please pay ASAP as we are required to pay our tutors before the end of term.

If your child does not wish to continue with the lessons our tutors require a note confirming this.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me in the office on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursdays. Thank you. Mrs Denham

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## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

### **Helen Minol's Retirement Celebrations**

We would love it if you could join the Our Lady of the Rosary School community at one or both of the events we are holding to celebrate Helen's remarkable achievement of 50 years teaching at OLR and to wish her well for her retirement.

#### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

Liturgy at the school at 2.00pm followed by afternoon tea.

#### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

6.00pm Mass at the Church followed by a 'Back to OLR Reunion Experience' and supper at the school.

RSVP before Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 to: [olorstmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olorstmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Please indicate which event/s you will be attending.

Please provide names of adults/children attending for catering purposes.

Please spread the word by telling your friends and sending it out on social media so we can get as many past students/staff and friends of Helen's attending.

At the Saturday evening celebration there will be a guest book for you to sign and we will be collecting donations to assist with the cost of the book, gifts and events.

(We suggest a donation of \$5.00 per person which would be greatly appreciated)

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**GOSPEL CONCERT "SPIRIT OF JOY"** Presented in association with the "Sydney Sacred Music Festival" [www.sydneysacredmusicfestival.org](http://www.sydneysacredmusicfestival.org)

DATE/TIME: Saturday, 5th September 2015, 3pm to 5.30pm

AIM To bring people of all religious traditions together to feel the joy of God, through spiritually uplifting/upbeat music & song. Come share the joy!

LOCATION: Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa NSW 2745

Enquiries: [manager@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:manager@schoenstatt.org.au) Phone: 02 4773 8338 Ext: 236

Accommodation available-contact above number.

**St Finbar's Primary, Glenbrook**

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*

## Term 3 at a Glance

WEEK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5	10 <b>BOOK WEEK!!</b>	11 <b>BOOK FAIR OPEN</b>	12 Writing Staff Meeting at Corpus Christi at Cranebrook  Book Week Performance <b>BOOK FAIR OPEN</b>	13  Parent Focus Group 9.15am – Student Focus group 11.30am	14  Special Food Day	15  Feast of the Assumption	16
6	17 Whole School Mass – for the Feast of the Assumption 9.15am	18	19 Ms McFadzean and Mrs Wasson at Literacy leader's PLC at Sacred Heart, Mt Druitt 1 - 3:30pm	20	21 Assumption of Mary  ASSEMBLY Mrs Wasson 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 Wasson at Reading Recovery 11:30 - 3:30pm	26	27  Mrs Wasson 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 Wasson 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  School	18	19	20

				Concert 5pm BBQ followed by Concert 6pm			
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