



# St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

Parish Administrator: Fr Jolly Chacko MS

School Community Newsletter

Edition 16 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

Dear St Finbar's Community,

Welcome back to Term 4 2015, where has the year gone? I trust that you were able to find some time as a family to relax over the holiday break. I had a wonderful time visiting Floriade and Bowral with my family, enjoying the wonders of nature as well as high tea and a trip to the day spa!

While some of you were enjoying an extra day with your family on Tuesday, the staff have been hard at work analysing our SMART data and setting directions and goals for 2016. We had so much to celebrate with our NAPLAN.

The table below reflects the work that all teachers and students have been doing across Literacy and Numeracy over the past year and a half. This table provides percentages on children who are below minimum standards (bottom two bands in NAPLAN). The School - represents St Finbar's, the State means the whole of NSW. The 3 represents Year 3, The 5 represents Year 5 and the 7 represents our children who have left St Finbar's last year.

Years	3 School	3 State	5 School	5 State	7 School	7 State
Reading	0%	6%	0%	6%	0%	4%
Writing	0%	4%	5%	7%	0%	12%
Spelling	0%	6%	0%	6%	0%	8%
Grammar & Punctuation	0%	6%	5%	8%	0%	9%
Numeracy	0%	6%	0%	5%	0%	3%

These results are outstanding. While we are pleased with our results we want to be on a cycle of continued improvement. We have identified some specific areas within Reading, Writing and Numeracy which we want to address in 2016.

These include;

**Writing:** We want to address sentence structure and paragraphing. We want students to be able to produce grammatically correct, structurally sound and meaningful sentences. We aim to develop compound and complex sentences in our writing that show control over a range of different structures( quality, quantity and variety)

**Reading:** We have identified the need to refine cohesion in reading. This means being able to link ideas back to early parts of a text. We would achieve this through exploring vocabulary and extending our summarising and scanning skills when reading.

**Numeracy:**The staff identified the need to expand the strategies that can be used to solve a problem in Numeracy. This would be achieved by exploring rich, open - ended tasks that have a number of possible ways to solve the problem.

We concluded last term with an enjoyable concert presented by Andrew Chinn and the very talented students from St Finbar's. I am sure that those who attended this event were amazed with the range and quality of talent we have at St Finbar's. Andrew Chinn is also such an amazing, vibrant and spiritual performer. We thank Andrew for sharing his talents with us and spreading the message of the Gospel through song and movement.

Yours In Christ,

Donna McFadzean  
Principal

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### MISSION SUNDAY PRAYER CARD

World **Mission Sunday** is a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the **missionary** movement. It is celebrated on the third **Sunday** of October every year. This year, 18<sup>th</sup> October. It was created by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as the day of prayer for **missions**.

To mark this day as a significant event for our prayers, each family will receive a prayer card. The card contains a "Prayer for the Synod on the Family", which can be prayed in each household daily throughout October.

Peace be with you.

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### READING AT ST FINBAR'S

Over the coming weeks the teachers will be working with the students to build their capacity to summarise a variety of texts. Summarising is a strategy that assists students in comprehending what they read.

A summary is a shortened version of the original text which includes all the main ideas and important details and is structurally similar to the original text.

It is one of the most difficult strategies to master and one of the hardest to teach.

Effective teaching of summarising requires multiple modelling sessions and many opportunities for students to practise. However, it is worth persisting with, as it is an extremely useful strategy for students to master as they go on to study at higher levels.

When we ask students to summarise, we often find that they copy out big chunks of text, include unimportant details, or write too much or too little. Students need explicit teaching in order to become proficient at summarising. They need to be able to:

- identify the main idea/s
- use key information
- take notes
- retell a shortened version of the text in their own words

What is the difference between retelling and summarising?

Retelling and summarising are related but not exactly the same.

Retelling is orally restating what the student remembers of the text. It is the beginning stage of summarising and is an important informal assessment tool, particularly for younger students. It requires that students reprocess the text, thinking about the sequence of ideas/events and their importance. Retelling has many benefits for both the student and teacher.

For the student, it:

- provides an opportunity to share what they have read
- reinforces the structure of the text type or genre that is being retold
- provides practice in sequencing the text
- develops oral language skills
- provides variety from being asked questions.

For the teacher, it:

- is a valuable informal assessment tool that requires little preparation.

In order to summarise, the students must attend closely to the text and be able to include information that gives the essence of the text.

Mrs Kerrie Wasson  
(Leader of Learning)

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## MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING

The answer to the problem in the last newsletter: 55

### ***This week's challenge:***

"A frog hops along a number line starting at the number 0. On each hop to the right he moves 3 units and on each hop to the left he moves 2 units.

Each hop to the right is followed by a hop to the left. Every hop, regardless of direction takes 1 second.

If the frog's hop is to the right, how many seconds will it take before he lands on the number 12 for the first time?

*Solution next newsletter*

## EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS ...

### BUNNINGS BBQ - SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2015

BBQ at South Penrith Bunning's (Wolseley Street, the one near Harvey Norman). We need your HELP ! We will be starting at 6am at St Finbar's to pick everything up and meeting at Bunning's at 7am to set up. The BBQ will be finishing up between 4 and 5pm.

We would really appreciate an hour or two of your time. Volunteers need to be 15 years or older and must wear enclosed shoes. Please find attached form to be returned to school by Friday

### 60TH ANNIVERSARY - MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2015

We are all eagerly awaiting our big 60th Anniversary celebration of Monday 12 October 2015. We hope as many people as possible can come to our Mass at 9.30am. Mass will be followed by morning tea and then the blessing of our new wall. Classrooms will be open for all to visit and our day will conclude with a "St Finbar's Has Talent" show in the afternoon. You are invited to attend the whole day or drop in for a short period of time. If you are coming during the lunch break please feel to bring a picnic lunch to share with your children.

All students are required to wear their correct Summer uniform on this day. No Sport uniforms please.

Many hours of preparation have gone into this day, it is going to be a day that will last in our memories for a long time. The children have been creating some amazing artwork that will be exhibited on the day.

### DANCE FEVER

Our students will start their Dance Fever program this Friday and it will continue for each Friday of this term. Students are required to wear their sports uniform every Friday. I encourage all parents to explore the website for an insight into the activities your children will be involved in. <http://www.dancefever.net/>. We will arrange a session for parents to come and watch the skills and dances that the children have learnt throughout the term.

### KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION DAY

Kinder Orientation day is to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, Children from 9.30 to 12.30 in the Learning Centre and Parents in the Fr Barlow Centre 9.30 to 11am.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### POST SEPARATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

CCSS Solo Parent Services is offering its seven week Post Separation Recovery Program. This has proven to be an excellent Program that guides and supports those whose marriage or long-term partnership has ended. **Commencing:** 21<sup>nd</sup> October for 7 Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm - 9.45pm. **Venue:** Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown. **Cost:** \$80.00 **Registration Essential:** Eileen or Rita on 99330205 or [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

# 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
<b>Week 1 October</b>		<b>6 Oct</b> Staff Development Day	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser	<b>11</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>12</b> St Finbars 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations	<b>13</b> 9am Year 4 Parish Mass 9.30am Year 6 Fr Jolly class visit	<b>14</b> NSWPSSA Athletics Day 1	<b>15</b> NSWPSSA Athletics Day 2	<b>16</b> Mission Mass REC/Principal/ Student Leaders	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9am Year 2 Parish Mass 9.30am Year 4 Fr Jolly class visit	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> SCHOOL FETE	<b>31</b>	<b>1 Nov</b>
<b>Week 5 November</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9am Year 1 Parish Mass 9.30am Year 3 Fr Jolly class visit	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9am Kindy Parish Mass 9.30am Year 2 Fr Jolly class visit	<b>11</b> 10.50am Remembrance Day Prayer Stage 3	<b>12</b> 9.30am Kinder Orientation	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9.30am Year 5 Class Reconciliation	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9.30am Year 3 Class Reconciliation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Week 10 December</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1 Dec</b> 9.30am Year 4 Class	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

		Reconciliation					
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Stage 3 Fun Day	<b>9</b> Semester 2 Reports	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>14</b> End of Year Mass 6pm Year 6 Graduation Dinner	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Students Last Day	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>