



St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

Parish Administrator: Fr Jolly Chacko MS

School Community Newsletter

Edition 18 4th November, 2015

Dear St Finbar's Community

This past Sunday we celebrated All Saints Day and on Monday we celebrated All Souls Day. What does that mean to us as Catholics living in 2015? The homily given by Fr David, my Parish Priest at Oran Park answered this question for me and he did so by retelling this story.

A teacher wanted her students to learn more about the Saints so she took her students on an excursion to the cathedral to study the stained-glass windows featuring Mary, Joseph and other Saints. She showed the children the baptismal font and explained that this is like the front door to the church as this is where we welcome new members into God's house. The children were a bit confused at first but on reflection they understood the symbolism associated with this explanation.

The next feature that the class explored was the altar. The children discussed that this symbolised the Last Supper and Jesus gathering with the disciples on Holy Thursday. After exploring a few other features of the cathedral the class approached the beautiful stained glass windows.

The teacher asked if the children knew who the saint was and they answered correctly. The next response from a student was the one that really impressed the teacher and in fact taught the teacher a lesson - a student replied 'A saint is a person that allows God's light to shine through them'. "Wow" was the teacher's response, "Yes that is exactly right, a saint is someone who allows Christ's light to shine through them". Fr David went on to explain that it doesn't matter how old or young a person is, we all are saints and have the privilege as Catholics to allow Christ's light to shine through us just as that witnessed by the children at the cathedral. How have I allowed Christ's Light to shine through me this week? Do I shine my light with everyone or just those who I choose to associate with? Do I encourage my children to let their light shine in their interactions with other children? The big lesson in all of this is also that we are **all** saints each and every day both with our strengths and failings.

This homily had a profound impact on me and I hope that in some way this may have challenged your thinking and presented a challenge for us all in our daily lives.

We have been fortunate enough to celebrate yet another exciting fete last Friday evening. This event required hours of preparation. We sincerely thank all those involved in this organisation under the leadership of Tania De La Mare. Thank you to all members of the community who supported by volunteering time and resources.

We have received notification from Mr Pospischil that he will not be returning to St Finbar's next year. We thank him for all that he has contributed to the St Finbar's Community and wish him well for his future. We will formally farewell David at the end of year mass.

We have appointed a new Assistant Principal who will commence next year. We congratulate Mrs Lisa Samojlowicz on her appointment. Lisa is a passionate, instructional leader with a wealth of

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experience. Lisa is currently employed at St Michael's Blacktown. We look forward to welcoming Lisa to St Finbar's.

We will also be farewelling Miss Brew who will be taking up a teaching position at St Michael's Blacktown. Miss Brew is an amazing teacher and we are going to miss her enthusiasm and professional approach to her teaching. We wish her well for her future.

Yours in Christ

Ms Donna McFadzean

NOVEMBER: MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

During the month of November we remember all the souls who have gone to heaven. We pray for our love ones who are no longer with us. We especially remember the De Mattia family and the Hazelton Families on their recent loss.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them.
And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

PIRLS

PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) is an assessment of reading comprehension that has been monitoring trends in student achievement at five-year intervals since 2001. PIRLS represents the worldwide standard for reading comprehension of students at the Grade 4 level.

Every five years, PIRLS provides internationally comparative data about how well children from different countries read after four years of primary schooling. PIRLS also provides extensive information about home supports for literacy and school environments for teaching and learning. Reading literacy is the foundation for student academic success and personal growth, and PIRLS is a valuable vehicle for studying whether new or revised educational policies impact achievement. PIRLS 2016 will be the fourth assessment since 2001, providing trends in reading achievement over a 15-year period. A total of 55 countries from around the world participate in this assessment.

Our Year 4 students will take part in this assessment tomorrow. It will begin at 9:15am and we wish them all the very best.

Kerrie Wasson (Leader of learning/ Reading recovery teacher)

MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING

The answer to the problem in the last newsletter: 41 marbles

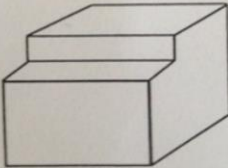
This week's challenge:

Time: 7 minutes

Joshua has a cube with dimensions of $4 \times 4 \times 4$ units. A block with dimensions of $4 \times 1 \times 1$ units has been removed from one edge as shown.

Joshua decides to paint the outside of this solid.

What area (in square units) will he paint?



Solution next newsletter

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Sensei's Corner

Year 2 and Year 3 have been enjoying learning the names of fruit in Japanese. Thank you to the Parents who have bought their children a "Nashi" pear and a "Fuji" apple to try. There have been many great discussions in class on whether the "Nashi" pear tastes like an apple or a pear. I was so proud of all Year 3 students who completed their Japanese "Cultural Show & Tell" speeches with an accompanying poster last Monday. The speeches showed a great deal of research and the students delivered the speeches with great enthusiasm and confidence. We also had a variety of topic themes which included Sumo, Japanese food, Hello Kitty, My Neighbour Totoro movie, Japanese homes, Shinkansen Bullet train, etc. Well done Year 3! Here are a few photos of the Year 3 speeches: Reminder: Year 2 students have their Fruit poster assessment due this Monday, 9th November 2015. Each student will present their poster to the class next week. Thank you for your continued support. Kind regards Miller Sensei



FETE NEWS

If there are any outstanding invoices from the Fete could you please have them to the school office by Thursday 5th so the final figures can be calculated.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Kindergarten Orientation Day is to be held Thursday 12th November commencing 9.30am for the children in the Kinder Classroom and parents in the Learning Centre. Children are asked to bring their own morning tea. Morning tea for parents will be provided.

CAPTIVATE

Congratulations to all students who performed at the Strings Concert at Mary Mackillop on Tuesday night. We are all so proud of you. The Captivate Orchestra will be performing on Sunday afternoon at 3pm in the St Finbar's Church. Hope you can join us.



THANK YOU

Our Halloween Special Food Day was one of our most successful this year with nearly 150 lunch orders! Thanks for all the delicious and creative treats dropped in at the canteen for recess from parents/grandparents/carers. We really appreciate your ongoing support. Only two special food days left for this year - 20 November and 11 December so be sure to mark these dates on your calendar!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on November 16, 2015 the last tour of the year.

Tour the College and discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team.

The College is now enrolling for 2017. Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au to reserve your place or contact the Registrar 8838 1222 to discuss how your daughter can be a Mercy Girl.

CELEBRATING DESIGN: ARTISAN MARKETS

Saturday, 14 November, 9.00-4.00pm

Springwood High School, Grose Rd, Faulconbridge

Celebrating Design is an ARTISAN MARKET event with handcrafted work by over 30 talented craftspeople from the Blue Mountains and beyond. An ideal opportunity to purchase beautiful, handcrafted wares direct from the designers. Silks, scents, hats, bags, ceramics, jewellery and more... Café throughout the day to help you relax and enjoy. Entry: Gold coin donation to the School Information: 4751 9261 / springwoodartshow@gmail.com / Facebook 'Celebrating Design Springwood'

St Finbar's Primary, Glenbrook

Term 4 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
Week 5 November	2	3 9am Year 1 Parish Mass 9.30am Year 3 Fr Jolly class visit	4	5	6 Orientation Day for Yr 6 at St Columbus Springwood	7	8 3.00 - 4.30 Captive strings @ St Finbar's Church
Week 6	9	10 9am Kindy Parish Mass 9.30am Year 2 Fr Jolly class visit	11 10.50am Remembrance Day Prayer Stage 3	12 9.30am Kinder Orientation	13	14	15
Week 7	16	17 9.30am Year 5 Class Reconciliation	18	19 SWIMMING Trials Glenbrook Pool 9am- 12noon	20 Special Food Day	21	22 First Holy Communion
Week 8	23	24 9.30am Year 3 Class Reconciliation	25	26	27 School Disco	28	29
Week 9 December	30	1 Dec 9.30am Year 4 Class Reconciliation	2	3	4	5	6
Week 10	7	8 Stage 3 Fun Day	9 Semester 2 Reports	10	11 Special Food Day	12	13
Week 11	14 End of Year Mass 6pm Year 6 Graduation Dinner	15	16 Students Last Day	17	18	19	20

Dates to Remember

*** 16th December – Last day for Student

*** 27th & 28th January, 2016 – MAI assessments for Students

***29th January 2016 – First day for ALL Students

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