



St Finbar's Primary School

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School Principal: Ms Donna McFadzean

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School Community Newsletter

Edition 20

2nd December, 2015

Dear St Finbar's Community

It is hard to believe that the year is almost at its end! Where has the time gone? As a school we are preparing for the new year and reflecting on our many achievements of 2015. It is fitting that the Church is also liturgically situated in the very same state of being. The liturgical name given to this season is Advent. This Sunday we heard the word from Luke's Gospel:

Luke 21:25-28

25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. **26** People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. **27** At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **28** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Dianne Bergant CSS provides us with great wonderings in the following reflection: The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stages for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. Each reading depicts a dimension of suffering that was often brought on by the people themselves. The promises are assurances that the end of their suffering was in sight. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope.

The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest.

What is expected of those who receive the promise? An Advent way of life exhorts us to 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ'. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.

(Source :<http://liturgyhelp.com.au/>)

I have had the pleasure of reading every child's report over the last week and I am so proud of all their achievements. As a staff we have been collecting end of year data and we are excited by the learning growth shown. In most cases, the children have exceeded our expectations. The reason that we can celebrate these achievements is because of the strong bond between the school and the home. When learning is valued and there are clear lines of communication between the home and the school, learning growth occurs. Another contributing factor has been the work and dedication of all staff. The staff have been engaged in numerous professional development opportunities, particularly in reading

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and the number domain in Numeracy and the fruits of their labour are evident. We should appreciate their contributions and level of professionalism. The school can not run smoothly without the support of all staff. We thank the office staff, grounds staff and learning support staff for their many hours of work. We also wish Majeed all the best with his future as he ends his traineeship at St Finbar's. Majeed is a dynamic, thoughtful and knowledgeable member of our IT team.

We welcome two new staff members to our team: Mr Ben Ticehurst and Miss Breanna Baxter. Ben comes with a wealth of experience from both high school and primary teaching. He has recently worked at Marist Brothers Eastwood and St Patrick's College Strathfield, where he has lead learning and been responsible for whole school curriculum development. Breeana is a graduate from the Conservatorium of Music. Her teaching experience includes SCEGGS at Darlinghurst, International Grammar School and Ravenswood Girls School. We look forward to working with both Ben and Breanna in 2016 and I know that you will make them feel welcome.

We have a number of celebrations happening over the remainder of the term. Please ensure you check the calendar in this newsletter so that you are aware of these events. We have also sent out earlier in the week an expression of interest for Years 3 to 6 to compete in the 2016 Dancefever Challenge. We only received an invitation to this event last Friday so that is why there is late notice regarding this event. Although we may or may not attend this event this year, if there is sufficient interest we can certainly include this in our 2016 events. All students **K to 6 will showcase their great dancing on Friday 11th December at 9.15am in the Primary Playground.** Dance is a compulsory component of both the PDHPE and Creative and Practical Arts syllabus, not only in NSW but throughout Australia. This area of learning plays a significant role in the development of the child.

I hope you all received your invitation to our **Year of Mercy Mass on Tuesday 8th December 2015 in the St Finbar's church at 7.30pm.** This is a school event and we would appreciate maximum support with attendance at this mass.

On Wednesday, 9th December 2015, all children will be involved in a promotion afternoon. They will be introduced to their teachers for 2016 at this time. I know this is an exciting part of the year for many of us, including the teachers.

Take care of yourselves and your families at this busy part of the year. Go gently where possible and enjoy the season of Advent.

Yours in Christ
Donna McFadzean

URGENT ATTENTION

Could families of students in Grades K-5 who **are not** returning in 2016 to please notify the school office **in writing as soon as possible.** Your attention to this matter would be much appreciated as the implications regarding staffing and resourcing by the Catholic Education Office stem from accurate enrolment numbers. Thank you for your co-operation.

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St Finbar's Junior Paramedics
By the Media team

On the 18th of November, St Finbar's had a special guest come to talk to stage 2 and stage 3 about the DRSAB system. Mrs Cheryl Lynch visited the school to deliver St John's Ambulance "First Aid in Schools" Program. Mrs Lynch taught them how to treat an unconscious person and how to put a bandage on someone that's injured.

We interviewed some students that attended the event and asked them what they learnt on the day. Year 6 student, Sofia told us what "DRSAB" stands for: check for **D**anger, see if they are **R**esponding, **S**end for help if they are unconscious, make sure their **A**irway is free and if they are **B**reathing."

The students also learnt about calling 000. Year 5 student, Daniel said you need to tell them what street you're on and what phone number you are calling from.

We asked Scarlett from year 4 why she thought they were being taught about bandages and calling Triple 0. Scarlett responded, "So if there is an emergency and there are no parents around you will know what to do."

The kids really enjoyed the day. Hunter from year 3 said his favourite part was putting his partner in the recovery position, even though it was a bit awkward.

Cheryl Lynch was a great first aid trainer. The kids picked up a lot of information for the future. Overall the day was great, highly useful and was enjoyed by everyone.



SCHOOL ROLL OVER

Our End of Year Roll Over date is the 14th December. No monies can be received and/or receipted at the school office after close of business 10th December. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

St Finbar's Swimming Carnival for 2015 was held at Glenbrook Pool. The day was a huge success with some future Olympians tearing up the pool in many events. All students competed throughout the day with smiles on their faces. The student's cheers for their friends were deafening and fun was had by all.

'Thank you' to the parents who came and supported the students, the children really appreciate it. A big Thank You to the parents who gave up their day to take on roles as timekeepers, marshals and recorders.

Our carnivals do not happen without parent involvement, and on behalf of the students of St Finbar's and myself, I would like to thank all parents who have helped throughout the year to ensure our carnivals have run smoothly and been a success.

Miss Brew



The Jubilee Year of Mercy

You would have received an invitation last Friday for our whole school Mass. This special event is to point our hearts and minds to the Jubilee Year of Mercy which is launched across the world on Tuesday 8th December – the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Pope Francis has proclaimed to the entire world an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

A magnificent prophetic gesture! He wants the whole Church (us) to gaze upon the face of Jesus and discover again the merciful heart of our Father God. He wants us to be so deeply touched by the mercy of Christ that we experience a profound change of heart. Then from this conversion we will be able *"to go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!"*

Our whole school Mass is an invitation to us all to enter into this change of heart. **Please join with all of our community at 7.30pm Tuesday 8th December.**



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – SEWERS AND FABRIC DONATIONS

We are hoping to find some volunteers who are able to sew some draw-string bags: one for each child in the school. The bags need to be approximately large enough to hold an A5 sized book. Fabric donations for this would also be much appreciated. Please complete the tear-off slip if you or a friend, grandma, aunty, neighbour is able to help us. The sewing can be done at home or school. Exact details of the size will be available to volunteers.

Many thanks for your support.

VOLUNTEER SEWERS AND FABRIC DONATIONS

I am able to assist with sewing draw-string bags for the children ☐

Name: _____

Child's class: _____

Mobile: _____

My neighbour/friend/grandma is able to assist: ☐

Name: _____

Mobile/Phone: _____

I am able to donate some fabric for draw-string bags: ☐

Name: _____

Child's class: _____

Mobile: _____

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 9 December	30	1 Dec 9.30am Year 4 Class Reconciliation	2	3	4 School Assembly	5	6
Week 10	7	8 Stage 3 Fun Day. 7.30pm Mass "Year of Mercy"	9 Semester 2 Reports	10	11	12	13
Week 11	14 End of Year Mass 12noon Year 6 Graduation Dinner 6pm	15	16 Students Last Day	17	18	19	20

SCHOOL BANKING

The last day for School Banking 2015 will be Tuesday 8th – Rewards ordered on that day will not be delivered till 2016. We thank you for support.

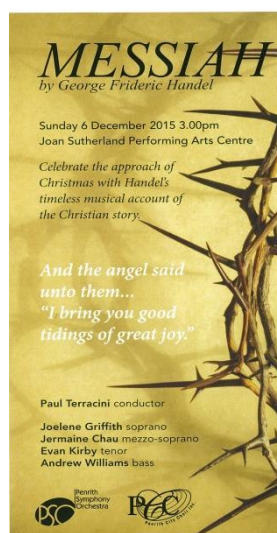
Dates to Remember

*** 16th December – Last day for Student

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

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

**PLEASE REFER TO THE BOOKING FORM PREVIOUSLY SENT HOME TO BOOK
ONLINE FOR THE MAI ASSESSMENTS**



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AN UPDATE FROM **TRISH DOYLE MP** YOUR STATE MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS NOV 2015

My Airport Concerns

I have long-held concerns about the impact on the Blue Mountains community resulting from a new airport at Badgerys Creek.

It's critically important that the NSW Government fights for adequate protections.

The key issues a great number of Blue Mountains residents have raised with me include:

- The concentration of arriving flight paths over Springwood, Winmalee, Blaxland and Glenbrook
- The overflight of aircraft above World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Parks
- The risk to Sydney's drinking water catchment from overflying aircraft
- The lack of public transport links to Penrith, Parramatta and the Sydney CBD
- The inequity of the Western Sydney airport operating without an overnight curfew.

I encourage anyone who has concerns about the airport to contribute to the Environmental Impact Statement consultation process by completing the EIS submission on the back page of this Update.

Trish Doyle

Trish Doyle MP

State Member For Blue Mountains

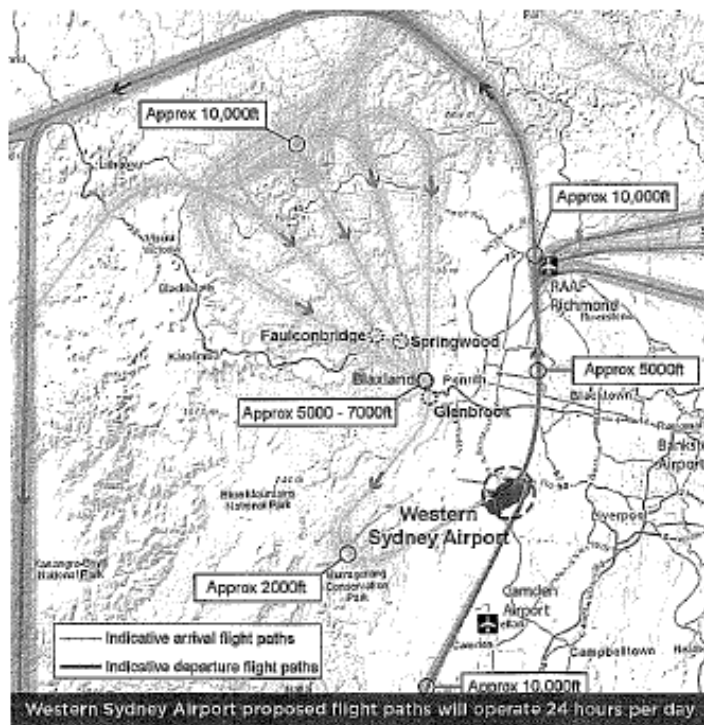
What is the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS is a statutory requirement for any major infrastructure project. It must contain details of all the impacts of the project on the local environment during and after construction.

The EIS for the Western Sydney Airport project at Badgerys Creek, will investigate and assess aircraft noise, flight paths, air quality, transport links and long term airport operation plans.

The EIS process is the only chance for Blue Mountains residents to tell the Baird and Turnbull Governments what they think of the project.

To make it easy for you and your family to share your concerns, I've provided a draft submission (back page). **Please complete and return it me by December 16.**



WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT EIS SUBMISSION: IMPACT ON THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I make the following submission to the Environmental Impact Statement public exhibition for the Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek.

I hold grave concern regarding:

- the ongoing status of the Blue Mountains National Park as a World Heritage area if arriving aircraft are funnelled over areas of pristine wilderness. Aircraft noise, fuel dumping and jet engine emissions are incompatible with the heritage values of the Blue Mountains National Park.
- the concentration of arriving flight paths over built-up areas of the lower Blue Mountains, over towns such as Springwood, Blaxland and Glenbrook. The EIS shows no communities outside the Blue Mountains sharing the incoming flight noise burden.
- the proposed arrival patterns under both 'Prefer 05 Operating Mode' and 'Prefer 23 Operating Mode' also force aircraft to overfly Sydney's drinking water catchment area. This presents an incontrovertible risk to Sydney's drinking water supply and must be avoided.
- the proposed Western Sydney Airport operating without a curfew. Kingsford Smith Airport operations are limited by a daily curfew but residents in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains will be forced to live with all-night aircraft noise.
- the lack of adequate rail links from the new airport to key urban centres such as Penrith or Parramatta, or to the Sydney CBD. Public transport links from any new airport are critical to prevent existing traffic congestion problems being exacerbated.

I also want addressed:

Yours sincerely,

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please send your completed Submission by Dec 16.

 **NO STAMP REQUIRED**

C/- TRISH DOYLE MP MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS
Reply Paid 88329 SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777

YOUR DETAILS

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

 MOBILE:



“

Thank you for completing and sending your Submission. Please don't hesitate to contact me or my office for help with any State matters.

TRISH DOYLE MP

You can also connect with me:



trishdoylempbluemtns

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WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT Important Community Information

The Australian Government released the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Western Sydney Airport, together with a draft Airport Plan, on 19 October 2015.

The Blue Mountains community is strongly encouraged to have a look at the draft EIS & Airport Plan and have your say before submissions close on Friday 18 December 2015.



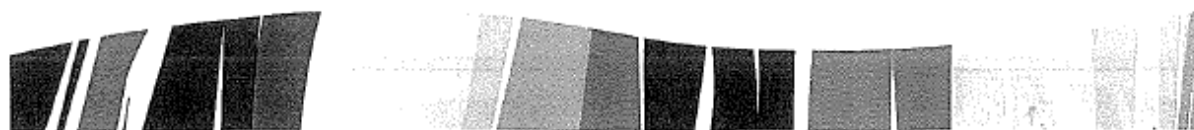
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Be informed and Have Your Say!

1. Visit the Australian Government website www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au to view the draft EIS & Airport Plan.
2. Visit www.clearbluesky.info to stay up to date with the latest community & Council information.
3. Join the Council and community Facebook pages to stay up to date: Blue Mountains City Council / Fair Go for the Mountains / Residents Against Western Sydney / No BCA Badger's Creek Airport.
4. Attend the Environmental Defender's Office workshop on Sunday 6 December at Mid Mountains Community Centre, New St Lawson 2pm-5pm.
5. Attend the Australian Govt. Community Information Session on Wednesday 9 December at Glenbrook School of Arts Hall 4pm-7pm.
6. Attend the Extraordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 15 December at the Springwood Community Hub 7:30pm.
7. Inform the Federal Member for Macquarie of your views at louise.markus.mp@aph.gov.au
8. Make a submission to the Australian Government. Submissions close Friday 18 December 2015. See westernsydneyairport.gov.au/resources/deis/submissions.aspx for how to make a submission.

WHAT IS COUNCIL DOING?

- Requesting an extension to the public exhibition period to allow a minimum of 90 days
- Requesting further community information sessions and community engagement by the Australian Government
- Seeking an urgent meeting of the Mayor / Deputy Mayor with Prime Minister, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull; Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Warren Truss MP and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development; and Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Greg Hunt.
- Reviewing the EIS and impacts on the Blue Mountains
- Participating in an independent review of the EIS with Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
- Preparing a submission to the EIS
- Holding an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 15 December 2015 at the Springwood Community Hub to consider Council's submission on the EIS. Public are welcome and encouraged to attend.



WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT

Important Community Information

Find out more, get your questions answered and Have Your Say on the draft EIS & Airport Plan.

For such a significant proposal affecting the liveability of the Lower Mountains & Western Sydney for the next Century....

you may like to consider asking WHY:

- the draft EIS doesn't offer certainty on key issues such as aircraft noise, flight paths, traffic, transport, and the environment?
- are the flight paths concentrated over the lower mountains residential area?
- aircraft noise isn't evenly spread across Western Sydney?
- was the draft EIS so rushed, prepared in just 8 months, for such a complex project?
- are there no limits on noise impacts of airport operations?
- are residential impacts not discussed or mitigation measures not quantified?
- these flight paths were chosen and other flight path options were not considered or modelled in the draft EIS?
- are impacts on the World Heritage Area not considered in greater detail?
- doesn't a curfew apply to Western Sydney Airport?
- what homes, schools, child care centres and nursing homes are eligible for roof sound insulation and double glazing windows as compensation for the noise impacts?
- the raw data, on which conclusions are based, was not made available to the independent review team commissioned by 11 Western Sydney councils?
- the draft EIS did not always adhere to EIS Guidelines, did not conform to best practice in many areas, lacked detailed modelling and contained information gaps for many key assumptions?
- the Western Sydney Airport is considered in isolation, not real world conditions?
- the draft EIS provides no assessment of the material impacts of aircraft noise on communities and families and as a result can't offer specific mitigation measures or noise limitations that must be adhered to – precisely what an EIS should do?
- no detailed modelling of traffic and transport was conducted for this project as is common practice for other projects such as the WestConnex, North West Rail Link and South West Rail Link?
- claims being made by the Australian Government about economic generation and job creation have not been explicitly tested in the draft EIS?
- the EIS' conclusion that there would be low noise impact on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is not adequately justified and does not consider the value of the natural soundscape to the community, and the region's significant tourism economy?
- social determinants of health have not been considered. For example equitable access to employment and impacts on the amenity of local communities because of traffic generation associated with the airport and the surrounding enterprise precinct?
- the EIS assumes a rail service supporting the airport at some point in time but does not indicate when, nor does it consider the cumulative adverse effects (access and amenity) to local communities without the rail line being built?

