



# St Finbar's Primary School Newsletter

**Be Safe Be Respectful Be A Learner**

## Dates To Remember

- 16 November  
P & F Meeting  
Lapstone Hotel  
7pm
- 17 November  
Swimming Carnival
- 24 November  
Kinder Orientation
- 25 November  
School Disco
- 28 November  
7pm COOSH  
Meeting - Parish  
Hall
- 9 December  
Reports go home  
Sydney Thunder  
Cricket Team  
visiting
- 12 December  
12pm Year 6  
Graduation Mass  
6.30pm Year 6  
Farewell Dinner
- 14 December  
Christmas  
Celebration
- 16 December  
Last Day of School  
for Students

Dear St Finbar's Community,

## Closing of Holy Doors in Year of Mercy

Our Diocesan Way of Mercy pilgrimage concluded on Sunday 13 November with a ceremony at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta. The ceremony commenced with the arrival of the Cross and Relics and Way of Mercy procession at 4.30pm. Mrs Stenning and Miss Lynch represented our school at this special ceremony.

At the 6pm Mass, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv closed the Cathedral's Holy Door.

The Holy Doors in our Diocese were also closed at the Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa, the Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville, and Our Lady of Czestochowa Chapel, Marayong. The Year of Mercy will end on the Solemnity of Christ the King on 20 November when Pope Francis will close the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica.



## Listening skills worth having

I recently read an article by Stephen R. Covey. He points out that "Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply."

(Source: Stephen R. Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change*). This professional reading made me stop and think about listening to others and how important this is to learn from a young age.

Having awesome listening skills will [make people trust and like you more](#). Good listeners ask questions, and respect people's right to disagree, but they also [know when to get help](#) with a problem. Everyone can [learn to be a good listener](#).

## Contact Us

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Fr Jolly Chacko

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46 Levy Street

Glenbrook NSW 2773

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### This can help with:

- Making friends
- Helping people out
- Learning to communicate better
- Solving arguments



### Why listen?

Listening isn't just the part of communication where you take breaths. There's a massive upside to having sound listening skills. You can help your friends, and people will be more likely to trust what you say.

### How to be an expert listener:

#### Let them talk

If someone's telling you something difficult or important for them, don't cut over them with a story about yourself, even if it's relevant. Let them finish and try to work out what it means to them.

#### Don't judge

If someone comes to you with a problem, try to be a friend without saying things that might damage them. Work through whatever they're dealing with and suggest options rather than passing judgement.

#### Let someone disagree

If someone comes to you for help and you listen to them, tell them what you'd do or give them advice, that's great. But that advice may not work, or they might not agree with what you say. And that's okay, let them do that.

#### Ask good questions

What are good questions? Open questions that let the speaker go anywhere. Instead of asking "yes/no"-style questions, think about "how does that work" or "tell me about...".

#### Show them you're listening

People will trust you more if they can see you're listening to them. Ask questions about what they're saying, and put it back to them in different words to see if you've gotten it right.

#### Body language

Having open, relaxed body language – facing a person, not too close, and making occasional eye contact – will make whoever's talking to you more comfortable.

#### Know when to get help

If someone's got problems you can't solve (or maybe even don't want to hear about), try to put them onto someone who can help them deal with it. If you want, you could offer to go with them for support.

(Source: <http://au.reachout.com/Listening-skills-worth-having>)



Find us on:  
**facebook®**



**Skoolbag**  
Download our  
school app

## Remembrance Day

Last Friday, November 11, was Remembrance Day. We gathered as a school community to acknowledge the day that the First World War ended and we remembered those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. During our prayer ceremony we reflected on all those who are suffered as a result of war. We also prayed as a community for peace in our world.

Thank you to Stage 3 for facilitating this reflective experience.



*St Finbar's  
Remembrance  
Day  
Ceremony  
2016*



## Students Not Returning for 2017

The school is currently interviewing families for enrolment for 2017. Places are limited in some grades. To enable the school to plan appropriately we would appreciate families of students in Grades K-5 who are not returning in 2017 to please notify the school in writing as soon as possible. Your timely attention to this matter would be much appreciated as the implications regarding staffing and resourcing by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Office stem from accurate enrolment numbers.



## School Opal Card

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) provides eligible school students with free or subsidised travel on public transport between home and school, on trains, buses, ferries and long distance coach services.

Many students will automatically receive a School Opal card for the 2017 school year. However you will need to complete a form online at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students) if:

- Applying for an SSTS Opal Card for the first time
- Enrolling in Kindergarten
- Progressing from Year 2 to Year 3
- Progressing from Year 6 to Year 7
- Changing name, school and/or address
- Requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation.



Applications must be made by a parent or legal guardian of the student. Applications are subject to eligibility criteria.

Reminder: Students must tap-on and tap-off for each journey to and from school, therefore they must have a current School Opal Card with them every time they travel.

## A Reminder for our school community, complaints and grievances

If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the Teacher/s, Assistant Principal and/or Principal, to identify your concern. It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience of our staff. If you would like to raise a concern, the Catholic Education Office has guidelines for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to handle complaints either informally or formally is available from the school office and/or within the Complaint Handling Guidelines. These documents can be accessed on the school website, Skoolbag App or system website.



Yours In Christ,

Donna McFadzean  
Principal

16 November	P & F Meeting 7:00pm at the Lapstone Hotel
17 November	Swimming Carnival
24 November	Kinder Orientation Second Hand Uniform Sale during Kinder Orientation
25 November	School Disco
28 November	7:00pm COOSH Meeting (Before and After School Care 2017) Parish Hall
9 December	Reports go home Sydney Thunder Cricket Team visiting
12 December	12:00pm Year 6 Graduation Mass 6:30pm Year 6 Farewell Dinner
14 December	Christmas Celebration
16 December	Last day of School for Students

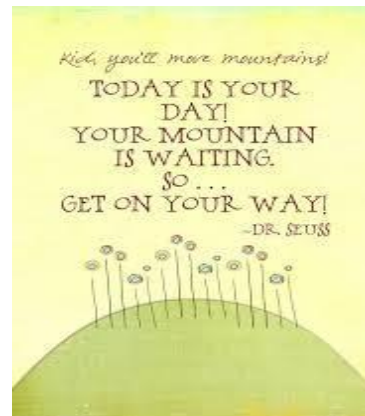




## FROM MRS SAMOJLOWICZ...

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to Week 6! We are now heading into the pointy end of the term and year. Of course the learning continues and teachers, as they have all year, are looking closely at the data and evidence they have collected on your child over this semester; in order to describe your child's strengths and next steps in their learning journey. It is at these times in particular, where we are given the explicit opportunity to celebrate the hard work that you, your child and their teacher have and are putting in across the semester. Feedback is an important part of our learning journey, as it highlights our strengths and most importantly identifies the challenges that lay before us. These challenges are not meant to be points of disappointment, but clear descriptors of our next steps in our own individual learning journeys. In order to grow and develop we need to be challenged!



### Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge:

Well it may seem that Mr Whitby has in fact copied my idea, in fact he was actually the first one to come up with this fabulous challenge. Luckily for our students, not only does he have access to better props and promotion capabilities, he also has a bigger prize budget! So :

How to enter: It's simple! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, piece of poetry, book, e-book or graphic novel. This year we have made the challenge easier to enter by removing the minimum number of books to read and provided students with more chances of winning a prize.

The more material a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of four iPad minis.

Entries open on 7 November 2016 and close at 5pm on 7 February 2017. Terms and Conditions can be found at [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)



## Pick Up Reminders:

Just a quick reminder that **no** child is allowed to leave the school grounds without an adult in the afternoon. Our students are required to wait inside the school grounds in the appropriate areas until their parent picks them up. Some of our children have been put in unsafe situations recently particularly at the Levy Street exit, so please remind your children that they are **NOT** to leave the school grounds until you come through the gate to pick them up.



A few notices and some reminders:

- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of November – K-6 Swimming Carnival
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of November – Kindergarten 2017 Orientation
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of November - P & F School Disco
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of November – COOSH Information Evening @ 7pm

God Bless,

Lisa Samojlowicz  
Assistant Principal



## **CONGRATULATIONS to our recent Award Recipients !**

Bethan Ankers, Riley Bennett, Samuel Caetan, Nathaniel Cariolato, Lahclan Cremona, April Darby, Sarah Darby, Nicola De La Mare, Wentworth Don-Wakefield, James Donnelly, Isabelle Geelan, Daniel Gibson, Bailey Heyman, Tarik Ismail, Hunter Kelly, Callan Loughman, Christopher Martland, Dylan Neumann, Ted Richards, Joshua Simone, Ellie Taylor, Lachlan Tickner, Alexander Walker, Edward Walker, Nicholas Weinmann, Ruby Wilson, Hamish McKenzie, Louis Pauling, Benjamin Boyer, Ella Boyer, Harriet Davis, Julian Dawes, Rachael Doughty, Maiya Edwards, Mitchell Hackett, Phoebe Hinchliffe, Finn Kelly, Lochlann Kelly, Eloise Lorking, Kian Loughman, Elias McCaffery, Bronagh McKeown, Kieran Niklaus, Ava O'Leary, Emma Patterson, Louis Pauling, Mya Pockran, Isobel Reece, Dasha Tioukavkin, Eden Turl, April Darby, Rachael Doughty, Xavier Gibson, Rosalie Good, Anthony Grima, Phoebe Hinchliffe, Dominic Jackson, Euan Reece, Louis Richards, George Walker, Holly Wye, Eamonn Apps, Mia Burns, Aidan Jackson, Scarlett Jurd, Isobel Reece.

## PBS4L and BOUNCE BACK Update



All students have been focusing on *“being safe”* and *being in the right place at the right time and doing the right thing*.

We have discussed our three agreements when in our play spaces, learning spaces, as well as being safe when walking to the school office, canteen, library, toilet, art room and music room. Our school agreements can be shown in all areas of life. The use of a consistent language at home and school is a fantastic strategy to reinforce positive behaviour. Some talking points, which use the language of our school agreements, are outlined below. These talking points provide a link between the agreements within the school and home settings.

### Safe

- How can we be safe when leaving the school each afternoon?
- How can we be safe when moving around the school?
- Am I in the right place at the right time and doing the right thing?

### **BOUNCE BACK!**

What can you do to help your child develop and live by good values?

Give your child positive feedback when they act honestly (e.g. when they tell the truth, own up to what they have done, avoid the temptation to keep something that belongs to someone else, and when they try to identify who owns something they have found that doesn't belong to them).

Play age-appropriate board and card games with your children. This provides an opportunity for you to reinforce playing fairly by following the rules of a game and not cheating. Playing games with your children also provides an opportunity for them to practise social skills such as being a good winner and loser.

Help them to develop kindness and a sense of fairness towards others who are less fortunate than themselves. Model for them some ways to support others who are in need.

Encourage your child to appreciate and return the kindnesses and favours they receive from others.

Present different people's points of view when talking problems through with your child. This helps them gain a sense of what's fair for everyone involved.

Give your child regular chores and give them positive feedback when they do these without being reminded. Stress that people will trust and respect you more when you behave responsibly.

Model cooperative behaviours for your child by working with them on a project (e.g. building a model) or task (e.g. tidying up the garage). Comment on how and why things went well (e.g. you both did a good share of the work, each did the part they were good at and each respected what the other person did).

Provide opportunities for your child to socialise with their extended family, neighbours and friends, and participate in community groups such as clubs and sporting teams. Emphasise the importance of being friendly and accepting differences in people and discuss with your child how they might do this in each situation. Show them by example too.

Never give up! Sometimes there is a 'sleeping effect' and values that your child didn't seem to 'take up' at an earlier age pop up in their behaviour when they are older.

***The Bounce Back program will be taught alongside our PBS4L program teaching the children how to be act and be resilient in various situations throughout the day.***

***At St Finbar's we agree to Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner.***

# St Finbar's Awards Structure

Awards are distributed at each Whole School Assembly. There are four categories; Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner and Living Our Faith in Daily Life.

- Awarded for accumulated St Finbars Assembly Awards
- St Finbars Bronze Award (5 St Finbars Assembly Awards)
- St Finbars Silver Award (10 St Finbars Assembly Awards)
- St Finbars Gold Award - Morning Tea each term (15 St Finbars Awards)
- Assembly Award Folder - complete St Finbars Award Student Tracking Card



## General Information and Reminders...

**Lost Property** : Recently we have accumulated some lost property items. They are located in the office and consist of a ring, a watch and a necklace. If your child has misplaced an item like this, please ask them to come in to the office to check. We discourage children from bringing items of value to school, to avoid disappointment if they are accidentally broken or lost.

**Change of Contact Details** : As we are approaching the end of the year it is important that our records for each student are up to date prior to our system rollover. To ensure our data is accurate, we would ask that you take a moment to complete the attached Change of Details form, **only if you have changed your phone number/s, address, email address or emergency contacts recently**. Thank you for your assistance, it is greatly appreciated.





## Happy Birthday for November!

Oscar (Yr3), Finnian (K), Axeli (K), Callan (K), Makenna (K),  
Matilda (K), Ruby (Yr1), Max (Yr4), Edward (Yr6),  
James-Pierre (Yr6), Nicholas (Yr6), Lachlan (Yr6),  
Cooper (Yr2), Elias (Yr2), Ellie (Yr1), Zachary (Yr3),  
Thomas (Yr5), Connor (Yr5), Isabelle (Yr5)

## St Finbar's Playgroup...

**St Finbar's Playgroup/Parents and Carers Morning Tea**  
**9:15-11:30 Wednesdays St Finbar's Parish Centre Levy Street**

All welcome for a play and cup of tea/coffee. Meet local families in a relaxed and warm environment. Come for just an hour or stay longer and bring a piece of fruit for children to share. Morning tea provided for adults. Gold coin donation.

**Contact Gabrielle Lynch for any enquiries 0481 150 022.**

The Playgroup is seeking donations of used working toys appropriate for 0-5yr olds. These can be dropped off at the Parish Centre Wednesday to Friday in office hours. See Margaret in the office.



We are looking for toddler trikes, scooters, toys appropriate for babies, dolls and accessories, toy kitchenware and shopping items, cars and trains and tracks, balls, instruments, figurines (ie little people/octonauts), duplo or mega blocks, books, dinosaurs, farm animals, dress ups and tunnels/tents. Your contribution would be gratefully received. Any excess toys will be donated to Vinnies.

## Principal School Wear – New Opening Hours

Opening hours for Principal School Wear for 2017 are as follows :

We will be closed  
for the weeks of  
26<sup>th</sup> June -  
10<sup>th</sup> July.

**Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm, and Sat 9am – 12.30pm.**

5<sup>th</sup> Jan – 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

17<sup>th</sup> April- 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017

2<sup>nd</sup> Oct – 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017

**9am to 5pm Tuesday & Thursday and 9am to 12.30pm on Saturdays on the following dates:**

20<sup>nd</sup> Feb – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017

8<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017

16<sup>th</sup> Oct – 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017

## Parish News...

Preparation for the *Sacrament of Holy Communion* will continue each Saturday and Sunday. The Saturday session commences at 4.30pm and the Sunday session commences at 10.45am in the Parish Hall. Please note that one or both parents are required at each weekly session.

First Holy Communion will be on the weekend of 19th & 20th November, the Feast of Christ The King at the Vigil and 9.30am Masses.



St Finbar's Parish ~ Gingerbread night ~ Saturday, 10 December ~

Sessions: 4.15pm – 5.30pm Family session  
6.45pm – 8.30pm No children (BYO drinks & nibbles)

Cost: \$40 per kit (includes house, icing, presentation board cellophane, ribbon and a variety of lollies to get you started) **Enquiries: Janette Ankers – 47394745 or 0438 672 040**

### Parish Children's Choir

Soon seven Year Six members of this choir will move on to High School, leaving just six enthusiastic children remaining. For next year we will need more singers to at least replace the Year Sixers who have been in this choir since Year Three.

What's involved ? Well, we meet straight after school 3.15, outside the Church for a play and some food. From 3.30 to 4.30pm, we prepare the music for the 9.30am Mass once a month on the fourth Sunday. This choir leads the singing. It's a great opportunity for them to experience the joy that comes when singing together God's Praises.

Come, see and hear this little group on Sunday 27th November 9.30 Mass and perhaps your child may like to join us.

**Enquiries Mary Lopez 47 544955.**

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

### Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards

The Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards recognise those citizens who have a consistent record of excellence, who have made outstanding achievements in their field and have contributed in a significant way to the Blue Mountains community.

Nominations are now being sought for Blue Mountains residents of excellence from all backgrounds and fields of endeavour including community service, humanitarian, business, science and technology, arts and entertainment, sport, education and environment.

Categories include: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Sportsperson of the Year.

**Nominations Close Friday 25 November 2016**

Nominate online at <http://bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/ausday>

# every day counts

Information courtesy of the Queensland Department of Education and Training



## MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It's important that children are at school all day, every day

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Ok reasons to stay home from school



sick



natural disaster



It's **NOT OK** to skip school to shop, sleep in, finish an assignment, go on holidays

## EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Missing even **1 day** can make a difference

1 day off school each fortnight

=

Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

Each day's learning builds on what has been learnt before



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten  
It's where good habits begin



## ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

each  
**1%**  
increase  
in student  
attendance

may relate to  
**2-3**  
NAPLAN  
scale score  
points\*

\*based on historical data



## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Get involved  
in your child's  
school

Promote the  
importance  
of school

Get to know  
the teacher

Go to  
school  
events

Read the  
school  
newsletter

Be organised  
at home

Supervise  
homework

Ask about  
your child's  
day

Volunteer  
to help  
at school



## Change of Contact Details

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Student/s Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Family name : \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Father's Details :</u></b>	
Name :	
Address :	
Home Phone :	
Mobile :	
Work Phone :	
Email Address :	
<b><u>Mother's Details :</u></b>	
Name :	
Address :	
Home Phone :	
Mobile :	
Work Phone :	
Email Address :	

Changes to Emergency Contacts etc : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Entered / Changed in FACES - Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Initials : \_\_\_\_\_