



# St Finbar's Primary School Newsletter

**Be Safe Be Respectful Be A Learner**

## Dates To Remember

### 31 March

Muffi Day and Easter Egg Collection  
School Disco 4:30pm – 6pm in the Parish Hall

### 3 April

School Cross Country

### 6 April

Holy Week Liturgy – Stations of The Cross 11:30 Commences in the Church

### 7 April

Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day

## TERM 2

### 24 April

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**

### 25 April 2017

ANZAC Day March – Starts at Glenbrook Park 10am

## Contact Us

### School :

Phone: 4724 3600

Postal Address: P O Box 187

Glenbrook NSW 2773

Email:

stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au

**Parish : Fr Jolly Chacko**

**Address :**

46 Levy Street

Glenbrook NSW 2773

Phone: 4739 8928

Dear St Finbar's Community,

We are almost at the end of a very productive first term where we have demonstrated that at St Finbar's we are indeed *a faith and learning community*.

We have:

- celebrated beginning of the year Mass and Catholic Schools Week Liturgy
- Installed all our student leaders
- assessed all students in Numeracy and Literacy
- analysed all data
- met regularly in teams with leaders within our school and the Catholic Education Office to plan and implement appropriate teaching and learning for all students
- had weekly conversations between teachers and leaders about your children and their progress
- met with parents to outline the learning for 2017
- celebrated Catholic Schools Week - acknowledging all families and their connections with our school through our Family Crest Wall (currently displayed in the library)
- participated in Stage 2 and Stage 3 Project Based Learning (PBL) and welcomed visitors from Texas and from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta
- excursion to Sydney Symphony Orchestra Performance at Riverside
- Stage 3 incursion to launch their PBL
- commenced our Lenten journey through Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday celebrations and supported Project Compassion
- whole school assemblies led by the staff (Goldilocks and the Three Bears) to launch our whole school writing
- continued our teacher and leader professional learning to keep all staff members updated on current trends in teaching and learning - supported through Learning Walks and case management
- commenced our learning journey with the parents at our P and F Meeting
- paralympians visited and talked to our students about resilience
- students participated in regular PBS4L updates
- delivered quality teaching and learning daily



- participated with families in personalised planning and learning conferences
- attended CAPTIVATE rehearsal
- hosted a Professional Learning Community Twilight gathering with other schools in our cluster to enhance our work around writing
- participated in zone and regional swimming carnivals
- had ice-block days
- Participated in the Better Buddy Program
- Dance Fever Gymnastic Program
- MP Susan Templeman presented a new flag to our community
- Launched our Before and After School Care onsite
- Promoted Attendance

Thank you and congratulations to all, this is a wonderful community to belong to. I wish you all the peace and blessings of Lent and the Easter season,

Yours In Christ,

Donna McFadzean



## Holy Week

Holy Week is the most important week in the Church's year. It begins with Palm Sunday, on April the 9th, and concludes with Jesus' Resurrection on 16th April, Easter Sunday. The events of Holy Week recount the last week of Jesus' life.

On **Thursday, 6th April at 11.30am**, in our Parish Church, Kindergarten, Stage 1 and 2 will lead us in a reflection about Holy Thursday. The reflection will follow the story of Holy Week.



### PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY THURSDAY

At the conclusion of this reflection, Jesus will leave the church and lead the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. This will take place in the garden outside the church. Students from Kinder - Year 4 will then return to their classrooms and reflect in their journal about Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday. Parents and carers are welcome to attend their child's classroom and journal with them about the events we have just witnessed. This is an important time to quietly remember the significance of the Easter Season in our liturgical calendar.

## GOOD FRIDAY

After we have reflected on the events of Holy Thursday, Stage 3 will lead us through a contemplation of the events of Good Friday, the Stations of the Cross. The stations will be scattered throughout the school grounds and each stage will follow Jesus as he prepares for his final hour.

### EASTER SUNDAY - THE RESURRECTION

Stage 2 will lead us in reflection and celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on **Friday 28th April at 9.15am on the Infants Playground.**

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## Religious Education News from Mrs Platt

### Holy Lands Pilgrimage

Over the coming school holidays I will be joining a large group of fellow REC's on a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. I will be travelling to Jordan, Israel, Rome and Assisi and visiting sites such as Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, Mt Nebo, Nazareth, the Mt of the Beatitudes, Bethany, Bethlehem and Cana. The pilgrimage is the focal point of broader spiritual development that I will be undertaking across the year.

Many places that I will be visiting are pivotal in the scriptures of the coming Passion narrative of Holy Week: the Garden of Gethsemane, the room of the Last Supper, the road of Palm Sunday, Calvary and Our Lord's tomb. I would like to take the school with me as much as I can. Please consider in these weeks of preparing for Holy Week any questions and wonderings that your children may have that I can take with me.



I plan to share my reflections with our school community through the school's Facebook page and when I get back. If you would like me to take a prayer with me to a particular place I invite you to write a personal prayer, pop it in an envelope and write the name of the place on the front. I will then take your prayers, both literally and figuratively, pray with your unopened envelope and leave it in an appropriate place at that sacred place.

As you can appreciate, I am very excited!

### Preparation for Mother's Day

We will come together as a school community to celebrate all mothers and mother figures on **Friday 12th May**.

In preparation for this I invite you to send in a photo of mums with their children that will be used on the day in a powerpoint during our Mass. If you are willing to share a photo could please send a copy of your photo to the school email address [stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au) by the end of the term please.

God Bless,

Natalie Platt  
REC

# A t t e n d a n c e

MON TUE WED THU FRI

**ON TIME, EVERY DAY**

Partial absences = missed learning. Let students know that every day counts by recognising punctuality, good and improved attendance.

every learner every day

How can you promote a healthy attendance culture in your school?  
Visit [www.parra.catholic.edu.au/everylearnereveryday](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/everylearnereveryday) to find out more.

every learner every day

Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

Our School Attendance Rate

# 93.2%

Keep up the great attendance!

**ATTEND TODAY**  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



MON TUE WED THU FRI

**EVERY DAY MATTERS**

Missing just two days a month from school amounts to four weeks of lost learning a year. That's a whole year of lost learning from Kindergarten to Year 10. Monitor attendance trends regularly to make sure absences aren't adding up.

MTWTF

every learner every day

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every learner every day

Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta



### **ANZAC DAY MARCH, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

The parade will form up in the Glenbrook Park, adjacent to the Park/Euroka Street intersection, at 10am and will march off at 10:20am to the Glenbrook War memorial, where the service will begin at 10:30am. Please fill in the note that was sent home last week if you would like to participate.

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

There will be no supervision for students on this day.



Project Compassion Boxes  
due in

**FRIDAY 31 MARCH**

We ask that all boxes please be  
**taken directly to the Parish Office.**



St Finbar's Students will showcase their Dance Fever talent on

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017**

Kinder : 2:10pm to 2:40pm

Stage 1 : 2:40pm to 3:10pm

Stage 2 : 12:10pm to 12:50pm

Stage 3 : 12:50pm to 1:30pm

The students are very excited to demonstrate what they have learnt in Term 1.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **REMINDER to Families :**

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 find a resolution for your concern.

It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience for our staff.

If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to lodge a complaint and a complaint form are available from the school office or in the Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures. These documents can be accessed on the school website

[www.stfinbarsglenbrook.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stfinbarsglenbrook.catholic.edu.au) or system website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)



## Monday 24 April 2017 - Staff Development Day

**COSHC** will be open at St Finbar's for the pupil free day on Monday 24 April. This will only be available for students who are already enrolled at COSHC and you must let Rebecca know in advance if you require your child to attend.

**If you would like to enrol your child so they are eligible to attend**, please phone COSHC on 0419 332 512 or call in to the school office where we have a small number of enrolment applications.

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### School Fees :

Thank you to the families who have paid their Term 1 school fee accounts or entered into a payment arrangement. Term 1 fees are now overdue. Please arrange payment as a matter of urgency or contact Liz Denham on 4724 3600. Liz is available to speak to on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's and is able to make a payment plan for you.

School Fee Reminder Notices have now been sent out. If you have returned a BPAY Flexible Payment Plan Form and have also received a Reminder Notice, please contact Liz on 4724 3600.



# IMPORTANT CHANGE NEW SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER



# 4724 3600



A few things you will need to do :

- Update our number in your phones, so you know if we are ringing you, especially in the case of an emergency
- Share our new number with family and friends that are listed as emergency contacts for your children
- Check with other parents that they are aware of the change, in case they have missed the alerts

# PBS4L and Bounce Back Update !

## What can you do to help your child?

Use the appropriate BOUNCE BACK! statement whenever you see the opportunity. □□Consider displaying the statements on the fridge or somewhere prominent so they serve as a useful prompt for your child (and the rest of the family!).

Don't over-protect your child from the normal challenges that all children have at different ages (e.g. walking to school, looking after their own things, packing their own lunch). Start by giving your child small age-appropriate challenges that require small responsibilities. Using small steps moves them towards becoming more independent and competent. Don't do things for them without checking that they are capable of doing it for themselves.

Encourage your child to talk about what's troubling them and help them to find solutions. Encourage them to talk about how they are feeling and what they are thinking about the problem. Then help them to think about different solutions.

Gently challenge self-defeating talk (e.g. I can't do this, I'm hopeless, dumb, useless) and helpless behaviour (giving up easily, expecting others to do things for them). Suggest they use helpful thinking instead (e.g. I made a mistake but everyone makes mistakes).

Don't fight all your child's battles. Children need to experience some difficult times so they learn how to bounce back.

Model effective solving of problems that are age appropriate for your child by talking 'out loud'. Review different solutions to a problem and the possible good or bad consequences of the different solutions.

Avoid offering 'quick fixes' or 'feel good' options when things get tough. Rather than distracting them with a movie or treats, let them sit with the bad feelings, knowing that you care that they are hurting, but that it is something they have to deal with, not escape from.

Help your child to take responsibility for what happens. When something doesn't work out for them, draw up a pie chart with them of:

- – How much was due to me?
- – How much was due to others?
- – How much was bad luck and circumstances (i.e. being in the wrong place at the wrong time)? Also encourage them to consider the situation from the other person's viewpoint.

When something bad happens for your child, help them to keep things in perspective by asking them:

- – Does this really matter? Are you getting upset over very little?
- – On a scale from 1 to 10, how important is this to you?
- – What's the worst thing that can happen? Do you think you can handle that?

Encourage them to think about the parts of your life that are still exactly the same and still really good (e.g. they lost a friend but they still have other friends in their team, in the street to play with, their school work is going well, nothing has changed at home).

These questions help your child to stop catastrophising and stop getting too upset over things that will get better or improve in time.

**At St Finbar's we agree to be safe, be respectful and be a learner.**

**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.**

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## Community News

### **Grace & Silence Retreat Day for Young Women (17 to 30 years), 8th April, 2017 OR 10th June, 2017**

Open your soul and allow God to speak to your heart.

9.00 am - 4.30 pm for General Retreat Day

9.30 am - 4.30 pm for Vocation Discernment to Marriage & Family, Single Life or Consecrated Life.

Cost: \$30 includes morning tea, warm lunch, afternoon tea and materials

To register or for more information contact Sr M Julie - [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com) or phone: 0408 738 334

**Stations of the Cross - Good Friday, 14th April at 10am** Pray and walk the Stations of the Cross from the Valley to the Shrine at Mount Schoenstatt. Bring your family and church group to reflect together on Jesus's journey, on the way to His Cross. Please arrive early as the walk to the valley can take 5-10 minutes. For further information please call 02 4773 8338 or email: [info@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:info@schoenstatt.org.au)

### **Time for Us - to go on a date - An Evening for Married Couples to Dance, Dine and Pray**

**Saturday 29th April OR Saturday 3rd June** An opportunity for couples to foster their relationship. The evening will unfold with a short input on male leadership followed by a lesson in ballroom dancing, fine dining and prayer. The evening commences at 5pm and concludes 10pm, Investment: \$150 per couple. To register or for more information contact Sr M Julie - [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com) or phone: 0408 738 334

### **Time for Us to prepare our Hearts for marriage - Weekend for Engaged Couples 9th - 11 June OR 6th - 8th June**

These weekends aim to compliment pre-marriage courses to allow engaged couples to prepare their hearts so that they may give a total, free and faithful "YES" to their future spouses and contribute towards a fruitful marriage. The inputs and times of prayer and silent reflection will foster the preparation of your heart so that you may be a gift to your spouse and receive your spouse as a gift. Investment: \$200 per person (includes accommodation, all meals, linen and materials. To register or for more information contact Sr M Julie - [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com) or phone: 0408 738 334

### **Discover Retreat for Young Women (18-35) - 5th to 7th May OR 21st to 23rd July, 2017**

A self-discovery weekend on identity and personality, dignity, womanhood, personal ideal, vocation and mission. Friday, 7.30 pm to Sunday 5 pm, Student \$170, employed \$200.

To register or for more information contact Sr M Julie - [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com) or phone: 0408 738 334

### **Annual Marian pilgrimage - All Welcome - Sunday, 21st May 2017 "The Shrine - Oasis of Faith, Hope and Love**

10 am: Welcome, confession available before Holy Mass in the Family Hall. 10.30 am: Pontifical High Mass with Most Rev. Vincent Long OFM, Conv. DD, Official launch for the 50th Anniversary of the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine. Re-commissioning of Pilgrim Mother Coordinators.

2.00 pm: Eucharistic Procession with four alters from the Valley to the Shrine, finishing with Final Benediction.

Alternative program-Anointing of the Sick & Elderly at the Shrine. LUNCH: Hot Food, Tea & Coffee available - or BYO. This is an outdoor event, please bring your own chairs & Rugs. Children are encouraged to come dressed in white with a basket of petals for the procession.

For further information contact: [pilgrimmother@bigpond.com](mailto:pilgrimmother@bigpond.com) or phone 02 4773 8338.



## 2017 Storytelling Competition for students in Yrs 5 & 6

Hosted by Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW)



**Do you like telling stories? Can you capture and entertain an audience? If the answer is YES, then enter our Storytelling Competition for the chance to win a great prize?**

**1st prize: \$150, 2nd prize: \$100, 3rd prize: \$50  
AND**

- **Storytelling Competition finalists** will be invited to share the stage with professional storytellers and perform their stories to a family concert audience at the NSW Storytelling Guild One Day Conference on June 17th 2017

**When: closing date Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Conditions of entry: [www.storytellersnsw.org.au](http://www.storytellersnsw.org.au)

**Competition enquiries to:**

Christine Carlton, President, Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW) Inc. [nswstory2@gmail.com](mailto:nswstory2@gmail.com)

If you would like to find out more information about the 2017 Storyteller Competition, please click on the following links:

- Home page of the NING (<http://national-partnership.ning.com/>) or
- the Storytellers website ([www.storytellersnsw.org.au](http://www.storytellersnsw.org.au))

We look forward to seeing some of our CEDP students performing their stories at the NSW Storytelling Guild's Conference on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Kids in the park



Sydney's largest school holiday program returns this autumn school holidays! There are 50+ fun-filled activities to keep kids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or under \$25, making it affordable to discover Sydney's most exciting playground this holidays.

Archery – School Holiday Programs  
All Day Holiday Recreational Program  
Science and writing workshops  
Gymnastics  
Circus Skills & Flying Trapeze

ARTEXPRESS at the Armory  
Mythical Creatures Egg Hunt  
Sport & adventure camps  
Space Racing for Kids  
....and lots more

Full details at [www.kidsinthepark.com.au](http://www.kidsinthepark.com.au)

It would be greatly appreciated if you could include the above activities in your school newsletter.

Kind regards

Sydney Olympic Park Team



## CAMP WALLABY 2 DAY CAMP WALLABY SYDNEY NORTH WEST

**Meet the Wallabies!  
Train along side them  
& get their autograph**

**Venue:** Napean Rugby Park,  
126 Andrews Rd, Penrith.  
**Date:** 11-12 April, 2017  
**Time:** 9.00am – 3.00pm

- All 6-16 year old boys and girls are welcome
- 2 day camp to develop rugby skills
- Contact and non-contact programs available
- ARU accredited coaches
- Great awards and prizes
- Before and after care available

**Price: \$220 per person (inc GST)**

**Register Online: [campwallaby.com.au](http://campwallaby.com.au)**  
(Click on Upcoming Camps)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kate O'Sullivan // [info@campwallaby.com.au](mailto:info@campwallaby.com.au) // 0407 023 949

[@campwallabyHQ](https://www.facebook.com/campwallabyHQ) [@campwallaby](https://www.instagram.com/campwallaby) [@campwallaby](https://www.facebook.com/campwallaby)

