



St Finbar's Primary School Newsletter

Be Safe Be Respectful Be A Learner

Dates To Remember

17 July

Staff Development Day

18 July

Students First Day of Term 3

31 July

Milo T20 Blast Comp
Yrs 3-6 Selected
Students only

31 July

Week 3 Assembly –
Stage 3 – Parish Hall
2:10pm

Contact Us

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Dear St Finbar's Community,

We are at the end of another term of learning. I have had the opportunity to look at the reports of all students and talked to teachers about the progress of students. It is indeed a time for great celebration and also of reflection on where to from here. Every opportunity is an opportunity to learn and grow and this is central to how we approach learning at St Finbar's.

So how have we been learning and expanding our horizons this term?

- Mrs Platt attended a Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands
- Staff attended Professional Learning on Spelling/ 3 Senses of Scripture/ First Aid/CPR
- We participated in the Glenbrook Community ANZAC Day March
- Mrs Southern has attended EMU training sessions
- CAPTIVATE
- Cross - Country
- Write -a - book - in - a - day
- Mystery Box Writing
- Grandparents Mass
- Mother's Day Mass and morning tea
- NAPLAN
- St Vincent De Paul Blanket Day/Muffi
- Special Food Days
- Soccer Gala Days
- Bingo Night
- Pentecost Mass
- Reconciliation
- Writers Festival excursion
- Writing PLC with St Nicholas of Myra and OLOW Emu Plains
- Project Based Learning
- School Photo Day
- Whole School Assemblies
- Glenbrook Lagoon Environmental Experience
- Stage 3 Bathurst Goldfields Excursion
- Mrs Baines attending Reading Recovery training
- Japanese Incursion
- P and F Forums on Quality Schools Survey



I would like to acknowledge all members of our staff. Each and every day, all members of staff work together as a team to ensure that our students have a love of learning and are stimulated and challenged. I would like to thank you as parents for supporting us with this great responsibility. When a child can see that both the school and home can work in partnership, they can see that education is something to be valued.

At the end of this term, we farewell Margaret Rivas (Parish Secretary). Margaret has made the decision to retire. I would like to thank Margaret for all the support she has given the school and parish during her many years of service. We are going to miss you. May God bless you on your new journey.

At our P and F Meeting on 6th September 2017 at 6.30pm - 8.00pm, we will be having a guest speaker talk about "Mental Toughness and Resilience". Further details will be given closer to the event. I encourage all parents to consider attending this seminar hosted by CEDP. This event has been organised in response to parent feedback via P and F meetings and also in our Quality Schools Survey. I know as a parent myself, that I am looking forward to this event.



I hope you manage to have some time to relax over the school holidays with your family. Thank you again for your ongoing support of the school.

Yours In Christ,

Donna McFadzean

Principal



From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As Semester 1 comes to an end, we are provided with an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past and the next steps for the new term ahead. A key component to achieve these next steps is the ability to set specific, measurable and achievable goals, in consultation with each other (student and parent, student and teacher, parent and teacher)



In the 2007 study completed by Jeff Wiesman, the majority of the students surveyed believed that they were most motivated in school when they set goals or if they were intrinsically driven to achieve in the classroom. It is therefore crucial that all students set learning goals for the term ahead. That their recent school report and the descriptive feedback provided at the Family Learning Conferences enable you to discuss with your child their strengths and weaknesses and motivation to improve.

As teachers and parents we need to be aware of the key drivers of student motivation.

The key influences are:

- Intrinsic motivation. Two major influences on students' intrinsic motivation is their individual interest, which is their desire to learn certain concepts, and situational interest, which are environmental factors that generate interest. This basically means what subjects they are learning, is it at the right level, and the school.
- Promoting goal-oriented behaviours. Teachers and parents need to help students set personal goals, both short-term and long-term, that are measurable, specific, and challenging. When teachers and parents support goal achievement, research indicates that they will positively affect student motivation and their sense of self-efficacy.
- Setting social goals in hopes of gaining the respect of others and to achieve a sense of belonging.
- Peer relationships. Those who spend more time with students of the same mindset, will see motivation and performance increase (Strauch 2003).
- Students with a high sense of self-efficacy generate increased levels of achievement, effort, and persistence to complete difficult tasks. Self-efficacy beliefs also positively correlate with student learning.

Finally, one of the biggest contributors towards increased student motivation is the opportunity for student choice, decision-making, and responsibility. So, never forget about the importance of having positive conversations with your child about how they can take ownership and responsibility to improve their learning. What practices and learning attitudes they will choose to implement to assist their performance. Sometimes mistakes will happen and achievements will be deflating. The critical aspect is how our students come out of it. How they can find motivation to help them discover their personal best.

Luceat Lux Vestra,

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

Attendance

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.parrs.catholic.edu.au/everylearnereveryday
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Our School Attendance Rate

95.1%

Fantastic Attendance !

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

How can you promote a healthy attendance culture in your school?
Visit www.parrs.catholic.edu.au/everylearnereveryday
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ATTENDANCE : Number 1 school in the Diocese. Thank you to all families and students who have acknowledged that their attendance at school each day has a positive impact on their learning.

^^ AWARD CONGRATULATIONS ^^

Kinder

Alexander

Year 1

Jude
Samuel
Charli
Holly
Lara
Elizabeth
Finnian
Nathan
Thomas
Abigail

Year 2

Angus
Milo
Ruby

Year 3

Zane
Daniel
Elizabeth
Alyssa
Rocco
Abaigeal

Year 4

Samuel
Bailey
Flynn
Anthony

Year 5

Noah
April
Lara
Max
Dominic
Eloise
Christopher
Darcy
Keira
Olivia
Nathan
George
Holly

Year 6

Beth
Neve
Isabelle
Baden
Thomas
Noah H
Hamish
Noah P
Jorja



Extra Curricular in Term 3

Next term, all students will be able to access 2 new extra-curricular opportunities during lunch break times. Mr Tucker will be running a computer coding club on Thursdays for students in Years 3-6. The Environmental Leaders will also be re-launching the Gardening Club on Wednesdays, with the support of Mr Ticehurst. The Gardening Club will be focusing on the development of 4 veggie gardens.

In addition to these new extra-curricular initiatives, the school will also be providing students with opportunities this term to participate in soccer, netball, touch football and cricket competitions.

As always Chess, Strings, Orchestra and Kids Zone will round out the many offerings available to our children.

Farewell and Goodluck

We would like to wish the Bragg Family all the very best as they relocate to the UK. We have enjoyed having you as part of our St Finbar's Family. May God bless you on your journey.

May God Bless You
ON YOUR JOURNEY

Religious Education News

Social Justice at St Finbar's

Last week we held our Pyjama Day and Blanket Collection to raise awareness of Social Justice and our call to love thy neighbour. Whilst we were warm and comfortable in our pyjamas, we were able to spend some time reflecting on those people who are not as fortunate as us and who are not able to spend these cold and wintery nights in warm conditions.

Thank you to everyone who donated coins and blankets on this day. We were able to raise \$232 and collect a large amount of blankets that we will give to the St Vincent De Paul Society. This is one way we can show kindness to our community.

Last Friday we came together as a community to celebrate the Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus and all of our grandparents and the special role they play in our lives. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this occasion. The children were very excited to have you spend the morning with us at church and in the classrooms.



I pray that you all have a relaxing break during the holiday period.

Yours in Faith,

Natalie Platt
REC

PBS4L and Bounceback – Skill Update

Looking on the bright side

If you think optimistically it means that you expect things to mostly turn out well and you focus on the positives rather than the negatives in a situation. It also means that you understand that setbacks and difficult times happen to everyone but that things get better after a while. Teaching your child to be optimistic will help them to be better equipped to 'bounce back' when they face difficulties, frustrations and problems. It means that when they are faced with a problem they will be more likely to look for solutions rather than giving up and not trying.

Key messages to communicate to your child about being optimistic

Look on the bright side.

This means being positive and expecting that things will work out well or get better. When you look on the bright side you believe that good things CAN happen and you don't give up easily.

It's good to be a positive tracker.

A positive tracker looks for and points out the good things in themselves, in others, and in what happens in their life. They are more fun to be with and others like them more and want to be their friend.

Look for the small good bits in the bad things that happen.

Sometimes things happen that you don't like. But you can usually find something good in the situation if you try. Sometimes the good thing is that it could have been worse. Sometimes the good thing is the lesson you learned from it. Sometimes a small good thing happened anyway even if the rest was bad.

Bad times don't last. Things get better.

When a bad thing happens in your life, it isn't forever. Bad times and bad feelings always go away again although sometimes it might take a bit of time for this to happen. Things will get better faster if you talk to your parents about what's worrying you.

It's important to stay hopeful when you have unhappy times.

You will get over unhappy times in your life more easily if you stay hopeful that good things will happen again and things will get better. If you stay hopeful then you don't give up.

Be thankful and grateful.

Being thankful for the nice things people do for you and the good things that happen in your life can help you to feel happier. Letting people know that you are thankful or grateful for how they have supported and cared about you also makes them feel happy too.

Good memories of things help you to bounce back.

When you are feeling sad because you have lost someone or something you love, it helps to remember some of the good times you shared with them to help you feel a bit better.

When one unhappy thing happens in your life it doesn't spoil everything else.

When one thing in your life goes wrong or you feel unhappy or worried, try to remember all the things that are still good in your life. It's just one thing that is going wrong for a while, not everything.

What can you do to help your child to look on the bright side?

Three Good Things in Your Day

At the dinner table, ask your child, 'What were three good things that happened for you today?' With younger children you can do this just before they go to sleep. If they can't think of anything ask them some prompting questions (e.g. Did you have any laughs? Did you enjoy being with anyone? What did you do well?).

The Positive Tracking Game

Challenge everyone in the family to identify the three best things about your family, your home, your holiday, your suburb, about being their age, about this time of the year etc.

Showing gratitude

Encourage your child to say thank you to someone who has done something nice for them (e.g. by sending a note or card, text, email or by ringing them).

Good memories

Help your child to make a photo album, slide show or little book of their favourite photos and to look at the photos to help them remember the good times when they need 'brightening up'.

Modelling

Let your child see and hear you using positive tracking, showing gratitude, saying 'things will get better soon' and expecting that good outcomes are possible.

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.



**Tuesday
18 July**

