



St Finbar's Primary School Newsletter

Be Safe Be Respectful Be A Learner

Dates To Remember

19 June
Whole School Assembly
2:10pm in the Parish Hall

22 June
Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day

23 June
Sacred Heart Mass Grandparents Day
9:15am in the Church

23 June
Years 1-6 Reports sent home

26 – 30 June
Family Learning Conferences

29 June
Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day

30 June
St Finbar's Athletics Carnival – Glenbrook Oval

Dear St Finbar's Community,

At the end of next week you will receive your child's Half-Yearly School Report. The report format meets the Federal Government and Parramatta Diocesan requirements. All children in Years 1-6 are graded using a five grade scale – A,B,C,D,E, the scale summarising the standard (or quality) of achievement. This scale was developed to give parents insight into how well their child has achieved at the subjects studied by describing the depth of knowledge and understanding as well as the range of skills. Teachers decide which grade best matches the standard your child has achieved based on many pieces of work, assessments, and observations.

Children in Kindergarten are not graded using an A-E scale, but rather by their own level of development over the first year at school. The grades that we use are :

Kindergarten	Needs Support	Working Towards	Working At	Working Beyond	
	Experiencing Difficulty	Did OK !	Celebrate this Work	Beyond Expectations / Amazing Achievement	
Years 1 to 6	E	D	C	B	A
Reflects NESA Grading Scale	Elementary	Basic Achieve ment	Sound Achievem ent	High Achieveme nt	Excellent Achieveme nt
St Finbar's Descriptors	Experiencing Difficulty	Did OK !	Celebrate this Work	Beyond Expectations	Amazing Achievement
Effort		Improve ment Needed	Greater Application Required	Consistent	Enthusiastic and Conscientious

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<p>Look at this like a Drivers Licence</p>	<p>A person on their L Plates must always be accompanied by an experienced driver</p> 	<p>A person on their P Plates drives independently but is still learning and developing skills</p> 	<p>A person who has a full licence is independent to drive on their own without restrictions</p> 	<p>An Advanced Driver can navigate many obstacles and has extra skills</p> 	<p>A Formula One Driver strives for excellence - conquering one challenge and then moving on to the next and even bigger challenge.</p> 
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Another concept that is important to consider when you look at your child's report is "Staging". Staging refers to structure that the New South Wales Curriculum is set by, this is established by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). The curriculum is set in response to research that states that it typically takes a child 18 months to 2 years to master a learning outcome. Outcomes are introduced at the beginning of each "Stage" and consolidated for most children by the end of each "Stage".

Hence, children in Years 1, 3 and 5 (commencing Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3) typically would perform at a lower grade than children in Years 2, 4 and 6 (at the end of Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3). This is because those at the end of the Stage of learning have had 2 years to consolidate their understanding of the various learning outcomes. Our program of learning is therefore implemented over two years, which ensures no repetition of content while allowing ongoing practice of skills.

So what might this mean for your child?

This may mean for a child in Year 2 or 4 in 2016 that their 2017 grade seems to indicate that they are not performing at the same level as they did the previous year.

For example a child's standard of work in English at the end of Stage 2 (Year 4) in 2016 may have been assessed as a "B", yet at the end of Semester 1, (beginning of Stage 3 – 5), their standard of work in English may be assessed as a "D".

Be assured your child's work is not necessarily of a lesser standard. It is more likely to be that they are yet to master a particular outcome of learning that is new to them. As always, the level of your child's effort must also be considered when discussing the grade given to their standard of work.

At *St Finbar's* we have developed high expectations for our students' learning. While looking at your child's report, remember to refer to the statements of achievement that describe your child's level of success in each Key Learning Area. Also remember to pay attention to your child's work habits. You might like to keep the following four tips in mind when reading your child's report:

1. Look for strengths first. Focus on the strengths and celebrate these areas.
2. Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort needs attention, then they have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, speak to your child about how pleasing this is and how it has a positive impact on their learning.

3. Broaden your focus to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence their happiness and well-being.
4. Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

Should you have any questions or concerns about your child's report, please discuss this with your child's class teachers.

Yours In Christ,

Donna McFadzean

Principal

Staff Development Day and COSHC

Monday 17 July is a Pupil Free Day at St Finbar's. Staff will be using this day for Professional Development.

No supervision will be available by St Finbar's Staff on this day.

The onsite COSHC will be open this day.

Please phone Rebecca on 0419 332 512 to secure a place for your child / children.



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

94.0%

Keep up the great 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.

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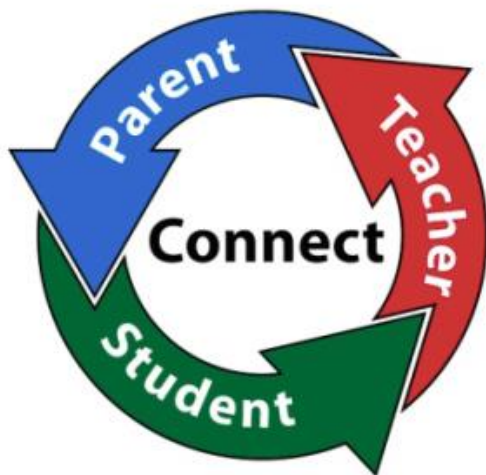
Captivate

We wish all our students that are participating in Captivate the best of luck for their performance tonight at Nagle College, Blacktown.



**Staff
Development
Day**

**Monday
17 July, 2017**



**26 June to
30 June
Family Learning
Conferences
Booking Code
Pbu6k**

REMINDER to Families :

ENROLMENTS for 2018

Enrolment interviews are well under way at St Finbar's for 2018. If you know a family member or friend that will have a child starting school in 2018, mention to them that we are open for enrolment. Enrolment forms can be collected from the school office and interviews and tours can be booked at the same time.



IMPORTANT CHANGE

NEW SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER



4724 3600



Happy June Birthdays

Quentin Lynch, James Borg, Millie De Mattia, Dominic Jackson,
Hailey Crameri, Angus Smith, Marco Santoro,
Christopher Gott, Clara Glinski, Theo Maunder, Izaak Shouha,
Flynn Alderton, Amber Goodlace

Parish News



Please pray for the soul of **VALE FATHER MAURICE MCNAMARA**, who died last Tuesday. Fr Mac retired here to Glenbrook in April 2008. He will be greatly missed by all at the many churches where he was Parish Priest. Most of all we will miss his humour, pastoral care and his humility. May God bless you Mac.

Father Mac's Funeral Mass was held at **Bede Polding College, Rifle Range Rd, Bligh Park** on Wednesday 14th June at 11.00am.

St Finbar's Playgroup

St Finbar's Playgroup/Parents and Carers Morning Tea 9:15-11:30 Wednesdays St Finbar's Parish Hall, Levy St.

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 a shared morning tea. Gold coin donation. Contact Gabrielle Lynch for any enquiries 0481 150022.

Community News

St Columba's Catholic College – Important Enrolment Information


A reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7, 2018 at St Columba's Catholic College are now due. For further information contact the Enrolment Secretary on 4754 8900.

PENRITH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CARNIVAL of the ANIMALS

Sunday 18 June 11.00am
Q Theatre Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre

Dress up as your favorite animal and come join the Carnival!



Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals
Vaughan Williams The Lark Ascending
Ravel Mother Goose Suite

GEORGE ELLIS conductor
MURRAY COOK narrator

TICKETS

Child (under 16)	\$24
Infant (under 2)	Free
Adult	\$30
Family (2+2)	\$88

Bookings www.thejoan.com.au or 02 4723 7600

Visit us at www.pso.org.au 