

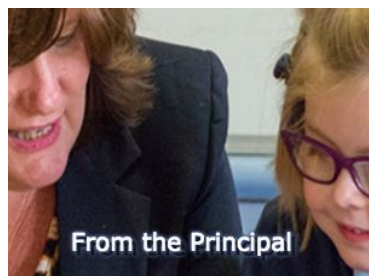


St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 3 Week 8 | 13 September 2018



From the Principal

Dear St Finbar's Community

We are almost at the end of another productive term of learning and exploring. Our St Finbar's Day celebrations on the last day of the term will be a fitting way to celebrate the achievements of all students.

You would have noticed that our new playground is almost finished (a retaining wall is the remaining task to be completed in this area and that should be completed this week). The children are enjoying the new area for sport and are excited to be able to use these facilities each morning. It is wonderful to see the children using the running track, play equipment, basketball courts and soccer fields. We have new equipment arriving very soon to complete this project.

Mr Ticehurst will be going on long service at the end of this week until the end of the term. We hope that he has a well deserved break with his beautiful family. Mrs Alison Maunder will be Acting Assistant Principal, Mrs Jo Shean will be our Leader of Learning and Mrs Alicia Borg will also taking on a Coordinator position. We thank these teachers for taking on these areas of Leadership. During the first week of next term, Mr Ben Ticehurst will be Acting Principal as I will be at Holy Family at Luddenham.

Yours in Christ

Donna McFadzean
Principal



One year's growth for one year's learning. This is the catchphrase that changed the narrative for teachers. That student achievement is important, but it should not be the measure of success. Growth is the measure of success, as it clearly links to personal bests and highlights the importance of tracking success against yourself and not the cohort.

Everyday, I am lucky enough to visit learning spaces blessed with teachers that personalise the learning to help students strive for their personal best and help them to achieve one year's growth and beyond.

I am lucky enough to see learners challenge themselves and climb through the learning pit to find success on the other side. To witness them grow emotionally, socially, spiritually and academically. So, this week I write to the learners and thank them for the wonderful growth we see each day, week, month and term in your class.

To Kinder, I love seeing you challenge yourself when you investigate problems in Mathematics. You amaze your teachers with your thinking and how you develop new and efficient strategies. I love seeing how the quality of your writing is improving. Your literacy skills are developing each day and you have grown so much this year.

To Year 1, I love that you use thinking time to plan your writing. I can see how your use of visual images help you create new and imaginative ideas. I can see how your writing has grown this year, as you challenge yourself to try out new words and improve your vocabulary.

To Year 2, I love that your investigations in Science this term meant that you had to learn from your mistakes. That when you developed your solutions to solve the problem, you understood what needed to change to improve the result. It highlighted the cyclical nature of learning and that when we learn something new, we evaluate our understanding and deepen our knowledge.

To Year 3, I love that you can self-reflect on your learning. That you can identify your learning goals and monitor where you need to go next. You are not afraid to climb through the learning pit and along the way stop and reflect on what feedback you have been given, so that you can apply what you know to new scenarios.

To Year 4, effective learners are ones that work together. I love that you have demonstrated incredible growth with your ability to work as an effective team. This term, you shown that when you work together you can achieve incredible results. In History, you had 3 hours to create a living timeline of aboriginal history. To see what you could do, together, in 3 hours highlighted how much you have grown to be effective, cooperative, interdependent learners.

To Year 5, mindset is a critical component of being a successful learner. I love that you approach every learning experience with a growth mindset. I see how you challenge yourselves and one another to



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deepen your thinking in Mathematics. You ask your classmates to convince each other that their solutions are correct, as you play the skeptic to help them deepen their thinking and understanding.

To Year 6, I love that you can be critical thinkers. In Geography, you have been asked to plan a town that is sustainable, liveable and productive. To watch you solve a real-world problem, where you have had to develop new surface knowledge and then deepen this knowledge by creating physical, scale models of your town. The growth we have seen, in you, during this project tells us that you are active, invested learners.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your learning journey.

I would also like to inform the community that I will be on long service leave during Weeks 9 and 10 of Term 3. I look forward to seeing you all in Term 4.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

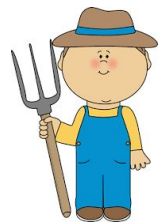


As a way of igniting our mission units in Term 4 we will be hosting a '**dress up as a farmer**' day to coincide with our school bush dance. We ask that students bring in non-perishable items, including toiletries, to donate to the farmers in need.

DRESS AS A FARMER DAY

Friday 14th September

Non-perishable item donations



THANK YOU

Celebrating Father's Day

Thank you to all our dad's who were able to make our Father's Day celebrations in week 6. A **BIG thank you** to our P & F and all the helpers who cooked the BBQ and ensured all our fathers and children were fed. Without your continued support, events like this could not happen.



Bishop of Parramatta Student Excellence Awards



Last Thursday, three of our school leaders had the privilege of representing St Finbar's at the Bishop of Parramatta Student Excellence Awards ceremony. Held at St Patrick's Cathedral, the evening began with Vespers, before the presentation of the awards.

Most Ref Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv presented 30 secondary school students, who give witness to their Catholic faith, as well as other areas of achievement, their award of excellence.

This was a great opportunity, for our students, to witness the contributions that many of the students in our Diocese make to their faith and their journey as active and involved citizens.

Karala, India - Muffi Day

Thank you for all your support last Friday. Our school raised **\$222.65** for Fr Jolly to send to India, to help those affected by the floods. Stage 3 presented Father Jolly with the donation and he sends his sincere thanks to each and every one of you.



Please keep this devastated community in your prayers.

Justice League Term Update

This term the Justice league has been working on creating a crest. The crest will feature a selection of images and words, illustrated and chosen by the students, that represent the ideals of justice, freedom, dignity and equality. Contributions are welcome from all students and once the drafts have been completed, they will be reviewed and a decision made regarding the final product.

Parish Mass every Tuesday

Throughout the term each class joins the St Finbar's Parish community for Mass on a Tuesday at 9am. **Year 4** will be going to Mass on **Tuesday 18th September**. We invite all parents and parishioners to join us. Parents are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.



Junior Altar Server Reminder

A reminder to our Junior Altar Servers to check your roster to see if you are serving at the next Parish Mass. A roster is also on display in the COSHC window.

Dates for your diary



- **Friday 28th September** - Celebrating St Finbar's Feast Day commencing at 9.15am



FEAST DAY OF ST FINBAR *Celebrations*

Dear Families,

Please join our St Finbar's Primary School community in celebrating the feast day of our patron saint, St Finbar.

FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2018

We will begin our day with Mass at 9.15am

followed by a picnic morning tea on our playground.

All the students will then participate in rounds of fun, team building physical activities in which you are welcome to stay and watch.

Don't forget to bring your picnic blanket, BYO picnic food, hats and sunscreen.

Yours in Faith

Leanne Brown

Acting Religious Education Coordinator



Attendance

Our School Attendance rate

89.5%

Class Attendance Rates

K	87.6%
1	91.8%
2	77.8%
3	85.7%
4	95.9%
5	96.7%
6	89.5%

School Photos - Term 4

SCHOOL PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN ON - **TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2018**



School photographs are scheduled to be taken by **advancedlife on Tuesday 16 October 2018**. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school's unique code **AFL YED QLN**. Portrait and group package orders are due by photo day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photo day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please direct them via email to enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

**ORDER NOW go to www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code
AFL YED QLN**



Dates To Remember

Friday 14 September

* Dress as a Farmer Day

* **6pm - 9pm** Bush Dance



Tuesday 18 September

Parish Mass Year 4 9am

Wednesday 19 September

Voice of Youth Grand Final

Monday 24 September

Open Tour - NEW Enrolments
9:30am

Wednesday 26 September

Stage 1 Excursion - Arms Inn
Museum at Emu Plains

Monday 17 September

Week 9 Whole School Assembly -
2pm Stage 1 in the Parish Hall

Friday 21 September

Special Food Day
- Hosted by Kinder

Friday 28 September

St Finbar's Feast Day Celebrations
LAST DAY of Term 3

[View School Calendar](#)

Summer Uniform

Due to the recent change in temperature, students are now able to wear their summer uniform until the end of Term 3.

Term 4 all students are to wear full summer uniform.



School Opal Card Reminder

All students who travel by bus to/from school are reminded to bring your School Opal Card to school EVERY day and to tap on and off **each time** you get on and off the bus. This process enables student numbers on each bus to be recorded. Travel to/from school by bus is free for students in Kindergarten to Year 2 and also for students in Year 3 to 6 (Primary students) depending on distance from school.

If your child has lost their School Opal Card or needs their details updated, please go online to www.transportnsw.info/school-students

If you wish to apply for a School Opal Card for your child, please also go to www.transportnsw.info/school-students





Thank You

Thank you to Mrs Alderton, Mrs McKenzie, Mr Donnelly, Mr McFadden and Amy Quye (COSHC Coordinator) for coaching and managing our Stage 2 touch football teams at last week's Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day

From the Office

School Fee Accounts for Term 3 were due on 29 August. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your account or have a query in regards to your account, please contact Mrs Denham in the office Tuesday - Friday.

All conversations are strictly confidential.

Parish News

[Click this link to read The Parish Barra](#)

Sunday Masses:

Vigil - 5.30pm Saturday evening
7.30am & 9.30am Sunday morning
6pm Family/Youth - First and Third Sunday evenings (except Jan)

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9am
Tuesday: 9am
Wednesday: 8am
Thursday: 9am
(except third Thursday - see Anointing Mass)
Friday: 9am
Saturday: 9am

Reconciliation: Saturday evening - 4.45 - 5.15pm, or any time on request

Rosary in Honour of Our Lady: Usually after Wednesday morning Mass.

Anointing Mass: Usually third Thursday of the month at 10am (except January)

Adoration & Benediction: Usually after Friday morning Mass.



Lost Property

At present there are a large number of students losing hats and jackets. Please remember to check the labelling on your child's clothing regularly to ensure it is clearly visible. We are also coming across drink bottles and lunch boxes.

The lost property sits outside the canteen for a couple of weeks until it is then disposed of or put into second hand uniforms. As you can appreciate, lost property starts to look untidy when it continues to pile up. No lost property is kept in the school office.





Community News

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre - September Retreats

Where: [247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566](#) Ph: 8795 3400
retreats@carmelite.com www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Icon painting at Mt Carmel - September: 14 - 16

Cost: \$600 (concessions apply)
Icon Painting at Mount Carmel
Presenter: Anna Prifti

Working with our shadow using Carl Jung and St John of the Cross - September: 14 - 16

Cost: \$250 (concessions apply)
Working with our shadow using Carl Jung and St John of the Cross
Presenter: Anne Donald
"And all who are free, tell me a thousand graceful things of you..." - Spiritual Canticle of St. John of the Cross

Deep into the thicket - September: 28 - 30

Cost: \$250 (concessions apply)
Deep into the thicket
Presenter: Sr Nory Ordiz, CM
St John of the Cross is our guide in the journey of love which calls us to enter deeply into God's fullness

School Holiday Activities

[Family Fun Day at NSW Parliament House, Friday 12 October](#)

[Springwood Children's Centre - October Holidays Workshops](#)

[Hunter Valley Gardens - September / October Workshops for Kids](#)

KIDS
SCHOOL
HOLIDAY
IDEAS!



Keeping Kids In Mind



For parents experiencing conflict after separation

Parents love their children and want the best for them. However, after separation, parenting often gets much tougher.

Keeping Kids in Mind is a 5 week course for separated parents who are experiencing on-going conflict.

This course examines issues such as:

- Grief and Loss after separation
- The Hidden World of Children
- Rebuilding Resilience
- Bridging the Gap
- Looking Back, Moving Forward



All participants must register their interest in attending the course and participate in an interview prior to the course.

Where: Springwood Drop-In Centre, Macquarie Rd

When: 5 Wednesdays from 17 October - 14 November, 6pm-8.30pm

Bookings: are essential, please call (02) 8843 2530

Cost: \$100 for all sessions, includes handbook. Concessions available.

"Keeping Kids in Mind" is facilitated by qualified and experienced educators and counsellors. A Certificate of Attendance is issued on completion of the course.



Springwood Drop-In Centre
Shop 3, 163 Macquarie Rd, Springwood
Phone: 8843 2530

facebook.com/catholiccarebm

KEEPING KIDS IN MIND © CatholicCare Sydney | Centacare Broken Bay | CatholicCare Parramatta | CatholicCare Wollongong





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Changes to the SkoolBag App

Instructions for parents

Notifications

Once you login, you will be able to personalise your group and notification preferences. All recent, unseen notifications can be found by clicking the bell icon in the top right corner of the app.



Groups

Notices sent to the whole school will still appear in the 'Home' section. However, information published to Content Groups will appear in the Groups Tab. You can modify your Group Subscriptions at any time.



SkoolBag App

Some parents have recently informed us that they are having difficulties accessing the SkoolBag App.

The developers have instructed us to inform parents, that are having issues, to uninstall the SkoolBag App on their device and download it again from the App Store or Google Play.

Instructions on how to install the app on Apple Android and Windows Smart Devices can be found [here](#).

A newly designed SkoolBag App will also be available to schools shortly. Information about these changes can be found [here](#). We will let you know when this new version becomes available.