



From the Assistant Principal

In 2019, all primary schools will implement the new Science Syllabus. This syllabus, like the History and Geography Syllabus implemented in 2017, has inquiry based learning at its center. Inquiry based learning is founded on pedagogical practices that put the student at the centre. It is a method of learning that also forms parts of our Literacy and Numeracy Block and Religious Education program at St Finbar's.

You will hear these words, next year, quite often. Surface, Deep and Transfer. These words will be a central part of our learning focus in 2019 and provide a framework that ensures each child is being challenged to move from surface level knowledge, to a deeper understanding where their knowledge and skills can be transferred to different situations. The transition between surface, deep and transfer learning is an essential driver of inquiry based learning.

So what is inquiry based learning?

Six characteristics of inquiry based learning are:

1. Students learn by being actively engaged and reflecting on experience;
2. Students learn by building on what they already know;
3. Students develop higher order thinking through guidance at critical points in the learning process;
4. Students' development occurs in a sequence of stages;
5. Students have different ways of learning;
6. Students learn through social interaction with others.

John Dewey described learning as an active individual process, not something done to someone but rather something that a person does. Learning takes place through a combination of acting and reflecting on the experience and its consequences, what Dewey called reflective experience or reflective thinking. This is highly personal and individual. Dewey particularly emphasized hands-on learning as opposed to authoritarian methods in teaching and considered that the experience of the learner and critical inquiry were essential to meaningful learning. He believed that education must engage with and enlarge experience, enlist natural curiosity, be directed towards the investigation of matters of interest,



and fulfill and enrich the current lives of students to ensure they are well prepared for the path ahead.

Like Dewey, Jerome Bruner's research and writing confirms that people are actively involved in making sense of the world rather than passive receivers of information. Bruner believes that it is not enough to merely gather information; rather, learning involves "going beyond the information given" (surface learning) to creating products of mind (transfer learning).

I look forward to the learning journey that lays ahead with great enthusiasm and look forward to travelling this path together next year.

Christmas Concert Reminder

This Monday we will be celebrating the season of Advent with our annual christmas concert. This year's concert, which is a compulsory school event, will be lead by our Year 6 class and feature our school band and children from all year groups.

Semester 2 Reports

At the end of Week 9, each child will receive their Semester 2 Report. I encourage each family to use this report to celebrate their child's achievements and set goals for areas of growth in 2019. If you wish to meet with your child's teacher to discuss the report, please contact the school office to make an appointment in Week 10.

Have a safe, happy and holy Christmas and enjoy your time together with friends and family over this most wonderful time of the year.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

NEW DATE FOR SWIMMING CARNIVAL - Tuesday 18 December.
A new permission note will need to be completed, one per child.



Sacrament of Holy Communion

End of Year/Graduation Mass

Please note that the time for the End of Year/Graduation Mass has been changed this year to **9.15am** on Monday 17th December. We would love our families to join us to celebrate this special occasion.

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert is fast approaching. The students have been practising their singing and Year 6 have been fine tuning their performance skills.

Please arrive at the parish hall between **6-6.15pm**, so that the students names can be marked off by their teachers and we are ready to start promptly at **6.30pm**. If you know your child will not be able to attend on the night, we would appreciate you letting their teacher know as soon as possible.

Below is the list of costumes for each grade.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD CONCERT

2018

Grade	Country	Costumes
Kindergarten	Malawi - Africa	Wise Men Robes
Year 1	Australia	Summer Theme with Christmas Hat or Decoration. Get Creative!
Year 2	China	Plain, bright coloured (not fluoro) Yellow, Red or Orange T-Shirts and black or white shorts.
Year 3	USA	Denim shorts/pants/skirt and Christmas t-shirt or red or green t-shirt
Year 4	Poland	Dark skirts/ trousers/ shorts, white shirt (children carry a star, made in class) School to provide a red sash
Year 5	Eire – Ireland	Green t-shirt, white, black or denim shorts/skirt
Year 6	Cast Members	Specified Costume



Thank You to our Parent Helpers

A very big **thank you** to a number of Mums who helped to make a new set of Christmas Nativity Costumes. It's very exciting to have these wonderful resources for our school. Without the help of our parents, resources like this could not be made. We sincerely appreciate all your time and effort.



Helpers Wanted

If anyone is able to assist with some simple sewing over the Christmas break please email Mrs Leanne Brown (lbaranowski@parra.catholic.edu.au). We would like to tidy up the hems on some cloths we use for RE.



Christmas Eve at St Finbar's Parish

Fr Jolly would like to invite all our students to attend the **7pm Vigil Mass** on Christmas Eve. He would like the students to dress up as part of the nativity - shepherds, kings, angels etc. The children will process in with Fr Jolly. They will also be asked to put a candle (battery operated candle, provided by the parish) in front of the manger after communion.

It would be lovely to share this special celebration as a school and parish community.

Dates for your diary

- **Monday 10th December** - Whole School Christmas Concert **6pm** for a **6.30pm** start
- **Monday 17th December** - Year 6 Graduation and End of Year Mass
PLEASE NOTE: The time for this Mass has changed to 9.15am this year.

Yours in Faith

Leanne Brown
Religious Education Coordinator



Attendance

"Our Goal is 90%! Make every last day count!"

Our School Attendance rate

88.2%

Class Attendance Rates

92.1% K

79.7% 1

85.2% 2

85.0% 3

96.9% 4

93.3% 5

84.3% 6

Dates To Remember

Friday 7 December

Year 6 Day Out - Treetops
Adventure Grose River Park

Tuesday 11 December

9am Parish Mass - Year 1

Monday 17 December

9:15am End of Year Mass

6pm Yr 6 Graduation Dinner

Monday 10 December

* 2:10pm Whole School
Assembly/Concert Rehearsal

* **6pm** Christmas Concert

Thursday 13 December

2019 Class Promotion

Friday 14 December

Semester 2 Reports distributed

Tuesday 18 December

SWIMMING CARNIVAL - NEW DATE

Wednesday 19 December

Last Day for Students

[View School Calendar](#)

Important Dates
and **INFORMATION**



IMPORTANT : Administration Notices for End of Year

- If your child/children will be leaving St Finbar's at the end of this year and you have not notified us, now is the time to do so. This excludes our Year 6 Students.
- No payments will be accepted after Friday 14 December. This is both cash and eftpos payments.
- **From the start of 2019 NO school hats will be sold through the school office.** All hats will need to be purchased online through our new uniform supplier. It may be a good idea to have a spare hat on hand in case your child misplaces theirs at any stage.
- Music Tuition notes need to be returned no later than Friday 7 December to the Office. Unfortunately after this date, no forms can be accepted.
- During the holiday break, it is a good time to have medical plans updated for your child. This could be for Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Allergies or any other medical condition. If you obtain an updated plan during the holidays, please remember to send in a colour copy to the school office at the start of Term 1, 2019.
- The last student banking day will be Tuesday 11 December. Thank you for your support of this program throughout the year.



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Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge

Dear Families

We are all very excited about the impending school holidays! As the students begin reflecting on the meaning of Christmas, our learning in the classrooms continues until the final day of the year.

Students who read daily are more likely to succeed in later life. As a result, we encourage all of our students to participate in the Summer Reading Challenge offered by our Executive Director, Greg Whitby. To participate, students simply need to read a book and tell the team (in 50 words or less) why they loved it. Students can enter as many times as they like! Up for grabs are four iPad minis.



Entries are already open and they close on the 5th of February, 2019. Students can enter, and find more details on the following website: <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/summer-reading-challenge>

Happy reading and happy holidays!

The School Locker

The School Locker has a Student Advantage program. Once you register it will allow you to shop and access Student Advantage pricing online.

A parent flyer is attached to this [link](#) with instructions on how to activate your Student Advantage Number.

Have you joined the Student Advantage Program?
Sign up online today!

Students from our Partner Schools are invited to join the Student Advantage Program. Membership provides benefits for your family and your school.

- ✓ Get Student Advantage pricing when you shop on The School Locker website.
- ✓ Register exclusive Student Advantage offers including discounts and bonuses on all our product categories.
- ✓ Generate revenue for your school every time you shop at any of The School Locker stores including online.

Follow these simple steps to activate your free Student Advantage membership.

1. Visit theschoollocker.com.au/customer/account/
2. Create your account or login if you already have one.
3. Generate your unique Student Advantage number.

Your Student Advantage number will be linked to your account and you will be able to view Student Advantage pricing instantly. Alternatively, our friendly staff will be happy to help you set up your Student Advantage membership next time you visit one of The School Locker stores.

Join the Student Advantage Program online today!
Visit theschoollocker.com.au/customer/account/

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For assistance with online orders
please call 1800 826 155 or email
service@theschoollocker.com.au

The School Locker
Liverpool
The Grove HomeMaker Centre
2-20 Orange Grove Road
Liverpool NSW
Mon - Wed, Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm
Thu 9:00am - 7:00pm
Sat - Sun 10:00am - 4:00pm

the
School Locker



Change of Details for 2019

If your child/children will not be returning to St Finbar's in 2019, now is the time to notify us. We have an exit form that needs to be completed prior to our end of year rollover. It is important that you notify us in writing of your intention so that you will not be billed for school fees for 2019. Please phone the office if you wish for a form to be sent home.

Also if you have moved house recently or will be moving, we require a change of details form to be completed. Change of details can also be made through the Skoolbag App.

It is important to keep your contact information up to date at all times in case of emergency.



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.



Community News

CLAIMING the DATE 10TH FEBRUARY 2019 at 2pm
and "Have your say about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia"
at Mavis Wood Hall , Mid Mountains Community Centre. EVERYONE is welcome.

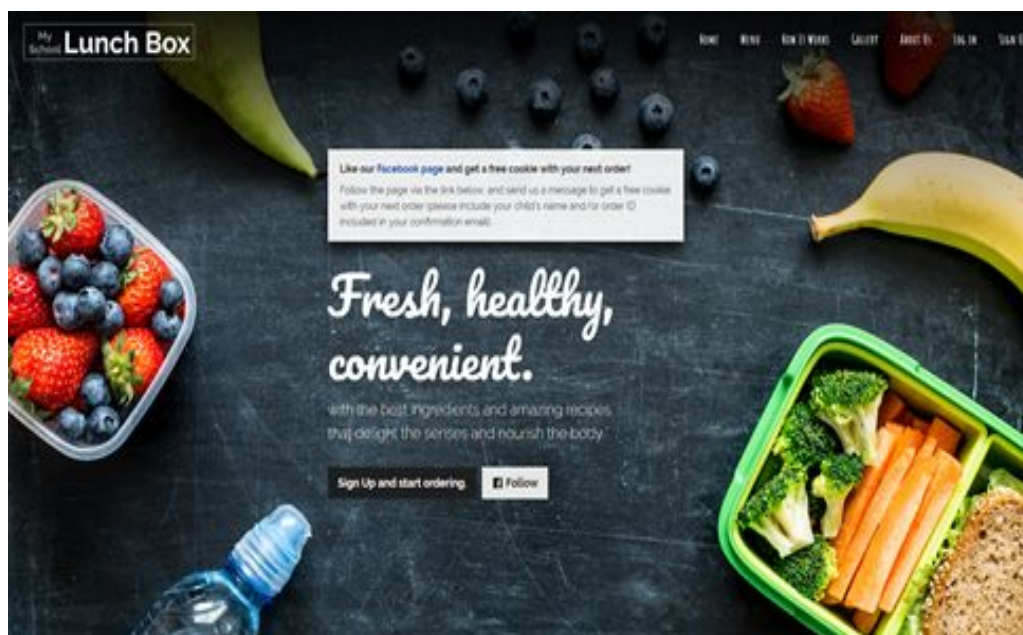
Springwood Children's Centre - Holiday Workshops. [Art](#) and [Maths](#) flyers attached to links.

[Blue Mountains Council Guide to Services and Activities for Children and Families](#)

Western Sydney University have Counselling services available over the Christmas holiday period for anyone that may need them.

Flyers and information are attached to this link. [Flyer 1](#) and [Flyer 2](#)

My School Lunchbox



My School Lunchbox is available for you to order online and is delivered to school each Wednesday.

The system enables you to order and pay online, the lunch for your child will then be delivered to St Finbar's in time for lunch. There are so many healthy options available.



5 Easy Steps to Staying Informed SkoolBag

SkoolBag is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minute notices, newsletters and all your school's communications.

1. Download SkoolBag

Search SkoolBag in the Apple App or Google Play Store, download the FREE app:

SkoolBag: School Communication



2. Create an Account

Follow the prompts to create your account in seconds.

3. Add your School

Type your school's name and press enter. Tap the plus icon to add.



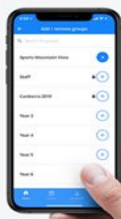
4. Allow Notifications

Ensure you Allow SkoolBag to send you push notifications when prompted.



5. Subscribe to Groups

Select Year Groups / Sports Teams to appear in your feed.



SkoolBag

SkoolBag has recently been updated.

Please update your App so that you have the most current version.

This will ensure you receive important communications from St Finbar's and provide an easier way for you to stay connected with other schools your family may attend.

As well as receiving updates, the App has the function for you to be able to enter Student Absences, Change of Details and access to the School Calendar.

2018 Chess Competition

Congratulations to all the students who participated in our first in-school knockout chess competition.

Students participated in 2 categories. Infants (K-2) and Primary (3-6)

Congratulations

Jude Alderton - Infants Champion
Harrison Bohan - Infants Runner Up
Michael Gibbeson - Primary Champion
Christopher Gott - Primary Runner Up

Thank you Mr Evans for supporting our chess players in 2018