



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 3 Week 6 | 29 August 2019



From The Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

My dad had a unique way of getting us kids excited about going to mass on a Sunday. Once a month he would announce that it was "Mystery Mass" day. This meant that we had no idea where we were going to attend mass, but we knew that it would involve a journey, lots of clues and guesses from us kids, and brunch afterwards in (to us, anyway) some exciting and possibly exotic place! One of my favourite "Mystery Masses" was when we would go into the city and worship at St. Mary's Cathedral. So, last weekend I was in Bathurst for a family weekend away, and we were

reminded of our "Mystery Mass" tours. When we went to mass on Sunday, we didn't know anyone, the priest was a stranger and we were definitely going to brunch afterwards! It was so lovely to meet new people and to share a little of ourselves with them, and them with us. Father gave a terrific sermon, which got me thinking about the recent theme over the past few weeks, namely how to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. This week we learned about the "narrow gate" and as Father told us, *NO PAIN, NO GAIN!* His explanation for this statement was quite enlightening. Basically, without putting in the hard yards in terms of our own spirituality, then entering the Kingdom of God, entering the narrow gate, may prove a bit tricky! It's not enough to rely upon ourselves, to make sure we attend mass, but we need Jesus to show us the way through the narrow gate into the Kingdom of Heaven. If we are too focused on ourselves, we will never be fit enough to squeeze through that narrow gate. We need to be inspired by Jesus, who worked with the marginalised, and realise that everyone deserves a place at the Lord's banquet table... not just those that help themselves! So take some time to help someone else this week... a kind smile, a friendly gesture, a shared cuppa....

These are the little building blocks that help us to become spiritually fit and able to pass through that gate.



Lord, I do desire to enter the narrow gate. I choose to follow Your gentle voice, leading me to Heaven. Help me to remain humble in life, shedding all that leads me to rely upon myself. May I rely only upon You, dear Lord, and trust You in all things. Amen

Voice of Youth

Last Monday I had the privilege of seeing three of our Year Six students present their speeches at the Voice of Youth Competition, held at St. Thomas Aquinas Primary school, Springwood. Our students performed with great poise and dignity and I am pleased to inform that Ann Walker came second, with a terrific speech called 'Get Involved' - an appeal to the youth of the Catholic Church to have a say and be involved in the changing Church of today. Ava O'Leary presented her speech on 'Human Rights', and she appealed to the audience to recognise the marginalised in our society and to act upon it in some small way. Euan Reece gave a speech entitled 'Deforestation', citing the damaging effect of over foresting and clearing on the world. Ann, Ava and Euan were a credit to St. Finbar's and were a true representation of the opinions and concerns of today's youth. Thank you to the teachers, Stage Three students and parents who also attended to support our students.





Sabbath Week

Each term, in week 7, the school pauses from the busyness of life to allow the students and families a brief respite from the daily routine that we all appear to be locked into. Sabbath encourages students and their families to have some respite from home learning and other meetings. Please feel free to use this time as an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate. Spend some time with family or friends, visit someone you haven't seen in a while, make a new friendship and have a play-date after school, visit the church for some quiet prayer reflection during the week. Enjoy Sabbath Week!

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal





Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Mrs Robyn Clarke	August 19	Wholesome Relationship Development versus Sexual Grooming - Safeguarding workshop
Mrs Leanne Brown	August 23	RE Formation Day
Mrs Robyn Clarke	August 27	System Leader's Breakfast Meeting Staffing Dashboard Meeting
Mrs Leanne Brown Mrs Alicia Borg Miss Georgia Hutchins Ms Kim Waldron	August 27	Play Matters - Investigative Play for Preschool to Year Two
Mrs Robyn Clarke	August 28	Flourish
Mrs Leanne Brown	September 2-3	REC Retreat
Mrs Robyn Clarke	September 5	Principal's Association Meeting



In Hattie's Visible Learning Meta Data Analysis, he studied what aspects of a school have the greatest impact on student learning.

If you were asked to review this list of nine factors on student learning, how would you rank them? Which ones would you say have the highest or lowest impact on learning?

Expectations; Mastery Learning; Homework; Challenge of Goals; Feedback; Aims & Policies of the School; Ability Grouping; Student Collaboration; Teacher-Student Relationships.



So before you think of your answer, does this statement from Hattie change or help you with your order? All children can learn when they focus on mastering tasks in a collaborative environment, which includes high levels of cooperation between classmates, with focused teacher feedback that is both frequent and diagnostic.

This is the order, with the ones in black indicating that they do not have a positive effect on student growth:

1. Feedback
2. Teacher-Student Relationships
3. Mastery Learning
4. Challenge of Goals
5. Student Collaboration
6. Expectations
7. Homework
8. Aims & Policies of the School
9. Ability Grouping

So, with feedback being number one, having nearly double the positive effect on student learning than the average, how do we ensure feedback is given?

As a guide, we will ensure:

- Quality feedback is given, not more feedback;
- Feedback is acted on, by targeting lessons to support gaps and scaffolding lessons for students to support mastery of learning;
- Students have a Growth Mindset. Students with a Growth Mindset welcome feedback and are more likely to use it to improve their performance;
- Oral feedback is much more effective than written;
- That students provide feedback to teachers. For example, through our Show Us What You Knows, teachers capture students' understanding, knowledge and skills before a learning sequence is commenced. Hattie tells us that the most powerful feedback is provided from the student to the teacher.

It is interesting to see ability grouping down the bottom. The research tells us that student learning is far greater when students work in mixed ability groups. Class ability grouping and within class ability grouping have a uniformly low impact on learning. It means we learn better from each other, when we all have different strengths and weaknesses: socially, emotionally, physically and academically.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



Mountains Live

Last Monday, our Stage 3 students supported our school finalists at the Voice of Youth Cluster Finals, along with St Canice's, Our Lady of Nativity and St Thomas Aquinas

students.

Following the Voice of Youth, all the students participated in the first ever 'Mountains Live' event at St Thomas Aquinas Church.

The event was an opportunity for our students to celebrate, witness and connect with each other in a fun, engaging spiritual gathering. The theme mirrored this year's Australian Catholic Youth Festival "Listen to what the Spirit is Saying".

The students also heard from St Columba's College School Captain, Mollie Bauerhuit and her experiences at this year's World Youth Day.

A big thanks to the Parramatta Catholic Youth Team who gave the children a Spirit filled afternoon of song and prayer.

Justice League Winter Appeal

A big THANK YOU from the Justice League for all the kind donations to our St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal. We were able to fill numerous tubs which will be distributed (by St Vincent De Paul) to families who are in need this winter.





To all our Dads, Stepdads, Grandfathers and Carers,

Wishing you all a wonderful Father's Day this weekend. May you be spoilt with love, kindness and cuddles. It's your special day where you are remembered for all the wonderful things you do for your children/families and the selfless love you share.

We hope you can join us tomorrow morning for a yummy breakfast (commencing at **8.30am**) and some soccer shootouts on the school field. Our school liturgy will follow at **9.15am** in the Parish Hall, to celebrate your special day.



REMINDER that students are encouraged to wear their favourite team jerseys on Friday.

Parish Mass every Tuesday

Throughout the term, each class joins St Finbar's parish community for Mass, on a Tuesday at 9am. Please note the date your child's class will be attending mass this term. We warmly invite all parents and parishioners to join us. Parents are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.

Year 6	Kindergarten	Year 3/4
3rd September Week 7	10th September Week 8	17th September Week 9

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.



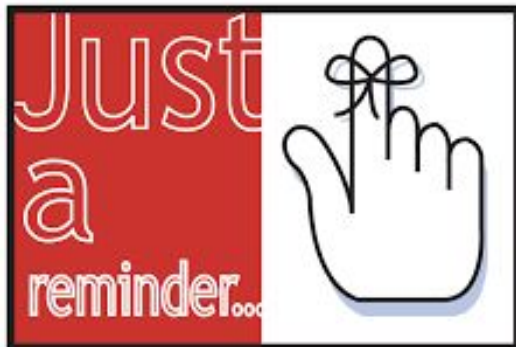
Dates for your diary

- **Friday 30th August** - Father's Day Breakfast and Liturgy commencing at 8.30am
- **Sunday 1st September** - Sacrament of Confirmation commencing at 6pm St Finbar's Parish
- **Friday 27th September** - Feast of St Finbar's Mass and Celebration Day commencing at 9.15am

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Important Reminders



- **Stage 2 Field Trip** Permission form is out on the Skoolbag App. Please complete this to give consent for your child to be able to attend.

- **Movie Night Fundraiser** hosted by Year 6 is on Saturday 21 September. The reply form is out on Skoolbag App. Please complete the form if attending but also remember to send your payment in to the office with details clearly marked on the envelope.

- **If you will be leaving St Finbar's School at the end of 2019**, we require one Terms notice of your departure and exit forms will need to be completed. This is to prevent you being billed for the next Terms school fees. Please keep this in mind and notify us as soon as you are aware of your arrangements. This excludes Year 6 Graduates.



Dates To Remember

Friday 30 August 8:30am Father's Day Breakfast and Liturgy	Thursday 5 September ICAS Testing - Science	Wednesday 11 September Stage 2 - Field Trip The Rocks, Sydney
Monday 2 September 2:10pm Whole School Assembly Everyone Welcome	Friday 6 September Special Food Day Year 1 Hosting	Thursday 12 September ICAS - Spelling Bee
Tuesday 3 September 9am Parish Mass Year 6	Tuesday 10 September 9am Parish Mass Kinder ICAS Testing - Writing	Friday 13 September Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day
View School Calendar		

School Fees

School Fees for Term 3 were due **Wednesday 28 August 2019** and will be posted shortly. If you do not receive your fee statement please contact the office.

Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 28 days of the date the school account statement is issued". If you need to discuss your school fee account, please contact me by phone on 4724 3600 or via email finb-glbfees@parra.catholic.edu.au

Thank you

Mrs Denham





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Diocean Athletes



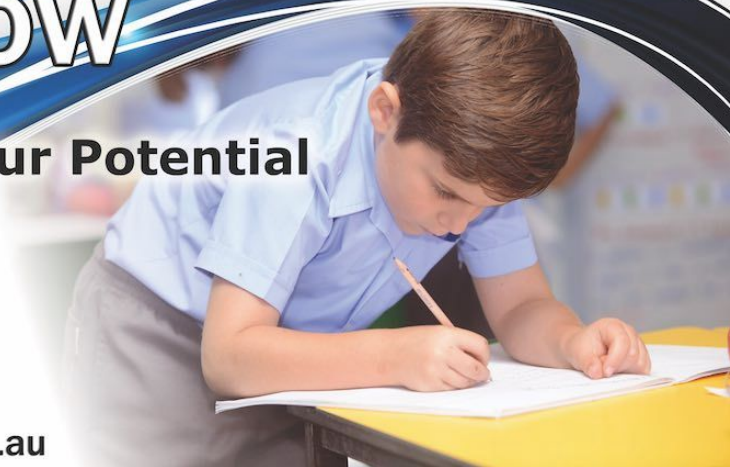
Congratulations to Charli Butler, Abigail Stanford, Ava Lorking (absent from photo), Nicola De La Mare, Ava O'Leary and Addison Farnsworth who all made it through to the Dioscean Athletics Carnival held last Friday.



Enrol Now

Discover Your Potential

St Finbar's Primary School Glenbrook
02 4724 3600 | stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au



Enrolments for 2020 are now open. If you have younger children ready to start school, now is the time to collect the enrolment pack. Spread the word, let family and friends know that we are open for enrolments. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on 4724 3600.

School Tours are also available. [Click here](#) to view the dates and times.



Sensory Obstacle Course

Last Thursday Mr Sharp and Mr Ticehurst constructed our new Sensory Obstacle Course.



Check out [Facebook](#) for a video of the completed course.

School Office and Parish News

From The Office

Reminder: When returning permission notes for an event, please send money in with the note if applicable.

Reminder: Check your child's jackets, jumpers, hats to ensure they are labelled and that they have their own belongings, not someone else's.

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.





Announcements and Services

Catholic Care - Solo Parenting Services and dealing with the Legal System. [Brochure attached.](#)

Raising Kinship Support - Springwood Neighbourhood Centre - [Brochure attached](#)

Blue Mountains City Council - Threatened Species Day Event Saturday 7 September - [Brochure attached](#)



St Finbar's Playgroup

Attention Parents/Grandparents/Carers

St Finbar's Playgroup for 0-5 year olds meets each Wednesday in the Parish Hall (Levy St) 9:15am till 11:30am during school term dates. Please bring a piece of fruit to share and a gold coin donation. Tea and coffee and morning tea provided. Please come and join us for a play and meet other families. For more information please contact Gabrielle Lynch on 0481 150022.

Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day
just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

He/she just missing,	That equals ..	Which is ...	and over 13 years of schooling that's ...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years