



## St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Newsletter | Term 3 Week 4 | 15 August 2019



From The Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week on Tuesday I was delighted to accompany Mrs Brown and the Year Six Mission team to the 2019 Education Mass and Mission Symposium. The mass was celebrated by Bishop Vincent, and he spoke to the children about the quest for love. He asked, "What is love? What does it mean to us as individuals?" The Gospel reading for Tuesday comes from the Gospel of Matthew, and in it, one of the disciples approached Jesus and asked Him, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" Jesus called a child over and placed this child in the midst of the crowd. He said to them that "unless

you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me." (Mtt 18:1-5)

On Tuesday it was evident where love was and what it meant to the students in the Parramatta Diocese. The love was shown for others in their fundraising initiatives, in their activities to promote social justice, and in their care for creation - the response to *Laudato Si*

As a principal I was greatly heartened to see that the youth of this generation are deeply concerned with sharing resources equitably, reducing waste and conserving resources for the future, and about the well-being of the homeless, the marginalised and the poor. Our students were amazed at many of the ideas presented and have come back to school, energised to continue the Mission work here at St. Finbar's. I'd also like to sincerely thank Dr and Mrs Walker for transporting our Mission team to and from the mass and for assisting with supervision. Your help was greatly appreciated.



Stay tuned for some great ideas from the St. Finbar's Mission team!

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal

## Slime at School

Please be aware that slime products, although a great deal of fun for students, are not always made of the same ingredients or quality as others. We have had several incidents where slime has discoloured school uniforms, carpet, desktops and so on, and this can prove costly to remedy, especially if school uniforms are damaged through staining. I would ask then, that slime be kept as a home activity and not brought to school. If a child has slime it will be removed and placed securely in a ziplock bag until it can be handed directly to a parent or caregiver. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## Sensory Garden

Our newest playground addition is almost ready for occupation! We have been watching the progress of the sensory garden this term with much excitement and anticipation. Recently, the brickwork was completed, the trampoline and water play features were installed, beautiful plants chosen for their texture and/or aroma were planted, and the quiet, reflection area has been cleared. As yet we are still unsure as to when it will be available for use, but we will have an open afternoon in the future so that parents and carers can come and see the fabulous facility, made possible by the generosity of CEDP.







## Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Mrs Robyn Clarke	12th August	Principal's Mentoring day
Mrs Robyn Clarke Mrs Ben Ticehurst Mrs Alison Maunder Mrs Leanne Brown Mrs Alicia Borg Mrs Carolyn Viera Ms Terese Collins Ms Kim Waldron Mr Chris Scanlan	12th August	Ann D Clark lecture featuring Father Frank Brennan
Mrs Liz Denham	14th August	Business Management Leadership Development PL
Mrs Robyn Clarke Mrs Leanne Brown Mrs Michelle Robinson	15th August	Team Teach - Aggression Management and Harm Minimisation PL



From the Assistant Principal

The internet provides a powerful resource for learning, as well as an efficient means of communication and time saving practices. Its use in the home can provide a number of specific benefits, including the development of independent learning and research skills, communication and collaboration and the ability to complete tasks that were previously very time consuming.

Despite the educational and social benefits of information and communication technologies, there are risks associated with their use, particularly for school age students. Many children and adolescents accessing the internet using a computer or another enabled device will be confronted with material that is disturbing or inappropriate. Although there are technological measures that can be adopted to minimise risks, the best strategy is to educate children as early as possible about the benefits and dangers



of using the internet. It is extremely important to instruct children about how to be 'street-smart', or perhaps a better term is 'net-smart', and to use the internet in a safe and responsible manner.

Whilst online children face the risk of exposure to material that is pornographic, sexually explicit or offensive, hateful or violent, or that encourages activities that are dangerous or illegal. Such materials can be accessed via apps or newsgroups, shared in peer-to-peer (P2P) networks, or sent via email or instant messaging services. Access of such material may occur inadvertently through searching for educational content about people, places or issues. Parents should be aware of safe searching techniques and advise students how to deal with unsolicited inappropriate material.

Your children don't have all the answers when it comes to the use of technology. They may know more about how to operate a computer or a mobile phone or upload a video on Youtube and have a social messaging account, but just because some adults may consider themselves a technological troglodyte, it doesn't mean that they have no place supervising children's use of technology. Adults have one thing that children don't have - life experience - which for most translates into wisdom. Adults know, for example, that things aren't always what they appear to be. They know that while most people in this world are decent and caring, there are a few who will take advantage of others and you can find these people on the Internet just as you would in "the real world".

Parents also need to know that taking away a child's online privileges could backfire by prompting him or her to go into stealth mode by finding hidden ways to get online. Even if you install an internet filter, children today can find another way to access inappropriate online content by bypassing the filter. Although for the majority, the filter will work as intended you need to be aware that the idea of a filter being a 'net nanny' is not accurate. The best filter is the parent or caregiver in the household monitoring what is on the screen. In addition, children using a laptop with wireless capabilities can leach onto someone else's wireless internet connection. Modern phones have web browsers and some even have special software for getting onto social networks and with this in mind you the parent or caregiver can not be looking over the shoulder all the time, which all leads to the fact that - regardless of what technology parents try to employ, the best filter is the one that runs in the young person's brain - not on a computer.

## **Guidelines for parents**

By taking responsibility for your children's online computer use, parents can greatly minimize any potential risks of being online. Make it a family rule to:

- If your child is young consider being with your child when he or she is on the Internet.
- Warn your child not to give out identifying information.
- Get to know the services your child uses.
- Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission.
- Remind your children to never respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable.
- Remember that everything you read online may not be true.



- Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children. Sit down together and create a family computer usage agreement.
- Consider using parental controls but know their limitations.
- Keep the computer in a family room rather than the child's bedroom. A computer in a child's bedroom does not have to be connected to the internet.
- Supervise and monitor the use of the internet with your family. If issues arise address them quickly and know who to report problems.
- Encourage and support your family with their use of the internet. Teach them to make right decisions and increase the levels of responsibility as children get older.
- Understand what a device does before you buy. Make sure any device you purchase is appropriate to the age and experience of your child.
- Become familiar with the mobile technologies your children use or are introduced to by their friends.
- Don't give your children mobile phones just for the sake of it – inform yourself of all the risks and benefits before making a decision. Don't use prepaid mobile phone accounts if you need to monitor usage or manage SMS addiction.
- Involve your children in decision-making about internet accounts, mobile phone services and price plans so that they share responsibility for the cost of their activities online.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal



### **Upcoming Father's Day Celebrations**

On Friday 30th August we will come together for a school liturgy, to honour and give thanks to God for all fathers, grandfathers and the men in our lives who love and care for us like fathers. Our liturgy will begin at 9.15am in the parish hall. Children will be able to sit with their families.

The P & F will be hosting a BBQ breakfast, commencing at 8.30am in the bottom playground, and our dad's will have the opportunity to play soccer with their children.

Following school tradition, students are encouraged to wear their favourite team jerseys on this special day.

We hope that you will be able to join us for the celebration.



### Justice League Winter Appeal

As part of the St Finbar's Social Justice program, the Justice League will be hosting a blanket/food drive over the next 2 weeks (Weeks 4 & 5).

We will be collecting the following items, as requested by St Vincent De Paul's Winter Appeal.

**Cereal, biscuits, noodles, muesli bars, tea and coffee, chips, fruit cups, cup-a-soup, crackers, milk (UHT), canned veggies, spaghetti, canned beans. As well as, new (or in excellent condition) sleeping bags, blankets, gloves, beanies and socks.**

This initiative reflects our commitment to creating a just society, and providing dignity and respect to people in need. So next time you are at the supermarket with your children, please add some of these items to your trolley, and help those in our community who are experiencing hardship.

Tubs will be placed in each classroom for students to place their donations.

We thank you in advance for your contribution to this important cause.



### Education Mass

On Tuesday, our Mission leaders had the privilege of representing St Finbar's at the Diocesan Education Mass. Held at St Patrick's Cathedral, the day began with Mass celebrated by Most Ref Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, before visiting 'Mission Stalls' set up by other schools within the diocese, showcasing the Mission work carried out by their school.



This was a great opportunity for our students to witness the contributions that many of the schools in our Diocese make to the mission of the Church.





## Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation preparation will continue on Saturday 17th August at 4.30pm. Rehearsal session will be on Sunday 25th August at 3.00pm at St Finbar's Church.

We keep in our prayers the children who have been preparing with their families to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will be celebrating this Sacrament for the first time on Sunday 1st September at 6pm. All are welcome to attend and support the students in their faith journey.



**ETHAN CAMERON † ZARA LEWIS † JACK AMBROSOLI † ALYSSA McFADDEN †  
COOPER MONACO † KATIA APPS † ABAIGEAL McCANN † MHYUMIE MURRAY †  
AIDAN JACKSON † MITCHELL HACKETT † MATILDA GEELAN † SAMUEL CASHA † JED BERBEN  
† JACK McCFADDEN † KEIRA VERMAAK † JULIAN DAWES † OSCAR WARING**

*May the Holy Spirit dwell in your heart and keep you strong, faithful,  
and joyful in your lifelong walk with the Lord †*

## 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 1	Year 6	Kindergarten	Year 3/4
27th August Week 6	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 Church
- **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

## ACARA Collection Student Background Data Notice

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) collects data from schools to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA). CEDP is currently working to provide relevant details to the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. **Data collected is de-identified of personal information.**

Parents and caregivers must advise their school if they don't want their child's data included in this report by **30 August 2019**.

Copies of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) Standard Collection Notice and Privacy Policy can be obtained from the school office.

## Parent Representative Council

Building young people to face modern day challenges. FREE Seminar 26 August 6:30pm at St Andrew's Primary, Marayong. [Brochure Attached](#).





## Awards Congratulations

<b>Kinder</b> Patrick Stein Oscar Borg Eva Hetherington Lucy Tindall Marley Boyall Gabrielle Connell Brigid Hassett	<b>Year1</b> Eoghan mckennz Stacey Naude Sophie Pawlyk	<b>Year 2</b>  Jackson Smith Oscar Harrison Quentin Lynch	<b>Year3</b>  Holly Clifford Charli Butler Nathan Penny Alyssa Moore Evie Walker
<b>Year 4</b>  Ruby Shouha Ellie Taylor Jacob Shouha Briar-Rose Wade Hailey Crameri	<b>Year 5</b> Katia Apps Matilda Maunder Elias McCaffery Rocco Siciliano Zoe Mckenzie Ethan Cameron Nicola De La Mare Alyssa McFadden James naude Grace Incorvil	<b>Year 6</b> Hugo Bastoli Tallulah-Belle Don-Walkefield Tarik Ismail Ava O'Leary Addison Farnsworth	
<div> <b>Bronze Awards</b>  Elijah Baird  Jessy Burgess  James Borg  Mali Capuyan  Lillian Bastoli  Alana Callaghan  Edmund Cameron  Elizabeth Elliott  Taj Collins  Amelie Bohan  Samuel Caetan  Dan Breen  Jed Berben </div> <div> <b>Silver Awards</b>  Charli Butler  Katia Apps  Ethan Cameron </div>			



## Book Week

In Week Five of this term, St Finbar's will celebrate Book Week. On **Tuesday, 20th August** we will host our annual Book Parade Character Day. All students (as well as little brothers and sisters, mums and dads) are invited to dress as a favourite book character.

Parents and families are invited to join us for the parade, which will commence at **9am** on the infants playground.

Happy reading!



## Dates To Remember

<b>Friday 16 August</b> Special Food Day	<b>Thursday 22 August</b> Diocesan Athletics Carnival Blacktown	<b>Wednesday 28 August</b> Netball Gala Day
<b>Tuesday 20 August</b> Book Fair Character Parade	<b>Friday 23 August</b> Father's Day Stall	<b>Thursday 29 August</b> 2:00pm Open Tour for New Enrolments
<b>Tuesday 20 August</b> <b>Wednesday 21 August</b> Book Fair	<b>Monday 26 August</b> Stage 3 Voice of Youth Mountains Cluster Finals	<b>Friday 30 August</b> 8:30am Father's Day Breakfast and Liturgy

[View School Calendar](#)



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## School Fees

School Fees for Term 3 are 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](mailto:finb-glbfees@parra.catholic.edu.au)



Thank you

Mrs Denham

**Enrol Now**  
**Discover Your Potential**

**St Finbar's Primary School Glenbrook**  
**02 4724 3600 | [stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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.





## 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.



## Mobile Phone Devices and Bike and Scooter Policy

Over the course of this year, we have noticed an increased number of students riding bikes and scooters to school, as well as students bringing a mobile phone device to school. To help ensure families have clarity around our expectations and students are aware of safe practices when riding to school or using a mobile phone device, the following 2 policies have been created.

- [Bicycle and Scooter Policy](#)
- [Mobile Phone Device Acceptable Use Policy](#)

Students in Years 5 and 6 have had a discussion session with Mr Ticehurst about the Mobile Phone Device Policy and all students that ride to school will have an opportunity to be briefed on the Bike and Scooter Policy on Friday.

## Announcements and Services

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

Raising Kinship Support - Springwood Neighbourhood Centre - [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 0481150022.

MON TUE WED THU FRI

every learner every day ☒

**ABSENCES ADD UP!**

FEBRUARY 2 DAYS A MONTH = NOVEMBER 4 WEEKS A YEAR = MISSING MORE THAN 1 YEAR OF LEARNING IN 12 YEARS

**DID YOU KNOW**

1 IN 6 PRIMARY STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

**WHAT PARENTS CAN DO**

- ✓ **BE FIRM.** Send your child to school every day unless they are sick
- ✓ Develop good sleep and morning routines
- ✓ Schedule appointments after school
- ✓ Avoid taking holidays during term time

**EACH DAY MISSED:**

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

**GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY**

Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life

**SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP**

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.



**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL**

Bishop of Parramatta

Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150

PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ [bishop@parracatholic.org](mailto:bishop@parracatholic.org)

🌐 [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org)

7 August 2019

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We believe that all human beings are made in the image of God and that all human beings matter.

The Church maintains the vigorous defence of the dignity of the human person. This includes the protection of life from conception to natural death.

I have been closely following this abortion debate as it has unfolded in our parliament and across the public sphere. I join my voice with my brother bishops and many people of goodwill across many faiths who are alarmed at the newly-proposed NSW abortion legislation.

It is not enough to argue that this legislation is simply about "decriminalising abortion." What's at stake is far more complex and goes to the heart of a healthy society. As human beings, we all have a responsibility to care for each other.

Pope Francis reminds us bluntly: "It is not right to kill a human being, regardless of how small it is, to solve a problem."

Whilst we affirm the sacredness of all life, the Church as a community of faith, hope and love stands by pregnant women to offer them support. That is why, closely linked to protection of the unborn is the ongoing care of women who are pregnant, especially those in difficult personal circumstances.

Our legislators and community need to provide more practical care and compassion to women facing these decisions.

In our diocese, our CatholicCare services offers a comprehensive pregnancy-related service for women and families that are expecting a baby. We want to help women in these complex situations.

Being born into this wondrous planet of ours is a blessing. May each of us, given this precious gift, never forget to pray with the Psalmist: "You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother's womb. For so many marvels I thank you; a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders." Psalms 139.

This is an ongoing critical issue where the Church will continue to speak prophetically.

Yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv**  
Bishop of Parramatta