



# St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Newsletter | Term 1 Week 2 | 7 February 2019



From The Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2019. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined the St. Finbar's community this year, and I am hoping that we are able to establish a strong partnership between your children and our school community, sustained by excellence in learning, trust, respect, honesty, integrity, justice and prayer.

I would also like to welcome new staff to St. Finbar's and we thank you for choosing us to share your talents and expertise in educating our students.

When our students walk through the gate each morning they are not just learners....they are the future. Each child is a creative thinker, a problem solver, and an innovator. They are the ones who will make a difference in our world and I am very excited to be a part of a community dedicated to to the education and development of each learner.

The Gospel reading for last Friday was the parable of the mustard seed. It is one of my favourites, and I shared some information with our students at assembly on Friday morning about this parable. The mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds in the plant world. It is so tiny that it is hard to see, even when it is resting in the palm of your hand. Jesus told his followers that once a mustard seed has been planted, and allowed to flourish and grow it

becomes one of the biggest trees on Earth. It's branches reach out really far so that all sorts of wildlife can live and shelter in the tree. Our students are like that tiny seed. They have been placed here at St. Finbar's, planted in learning and prayer, and the teachers and all the staff are dedicated to helping every child to be nourished. Nourished through excellence in teaching and learning, through meaningful liturgical



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celebrations, through outreach programs and helping others, and through positive social interactions and relationship building - All of these combine to help our children to grow into the best they can be.

So as we begin our new school year together, let us always remember that in St Finbar's time, he was known for gathering students around him, intent on providing a place of excellence in learning for all. Let's make 2019 a year of problem solving, innovation and creative thinking, but also a year when we can reach out to others less fortunate than ourselves, and show in our actions that we are children of Jesus and that our hearts and minds and bodies are ready to grow from a little seed to a mighty tree.

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal

We welcome the following staff to our St. Finbar's community:

Mrs Robyn Clarke - Principal  
Ms Kim Waldron - Kindergarten  
Mrs Carolyn Viera - Stage Two  
Mr Chris Scanlon - Stage Two on Friday  
Ms Taylor Laporte - Japanese  
Mrs Jo Neale, Miss Louise Corby and Mrs Therese Sammut - Student Learning Support Officers  
Ms Barbara Mulligan - School Counsellor  
Mr Quinn Tucker - IT Support

We pray that your time at St. Finbar's will be rewarding.

## St Finbar's School Prayer



*Holy St. Finbar, ask the Lord to bless our school we  
pray*

*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Lead us in God's  
sacred way.*

*May your spirit guide us in faith, truth and  
knowledge,*

*As we strive to be all that we can be*

*Serving our parish, school, community.*

*Amen.*



In Week 3, we will host our annual School Information Night. This night is designed to provide you with an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of our School Goals for 2019 and meet your child's 2019 teachers during a whole group discussion.

One common framework that underlines each of our goals this year is the importance of learners developing their skills and knowledge on three levels: surface level, deep level, and transfer level.

This framework is all about developing a learner's confidence, giving them the knowledge and skills to connect their learning to other ideas

and applying that information to various situations (McDowell, M. 2017).

The three levels of this framework can be described as:

**Surface Level:** Refers to a learner's ability to understand single or multiple ideas. They are building knowledge and skills about a particular topic.

**Deep Level:** Refers to a learner's ability to relate multiple ideas. Learners understand how to relate multiple skills and knowledge, built up on each other to understand specific ideas about a topic.

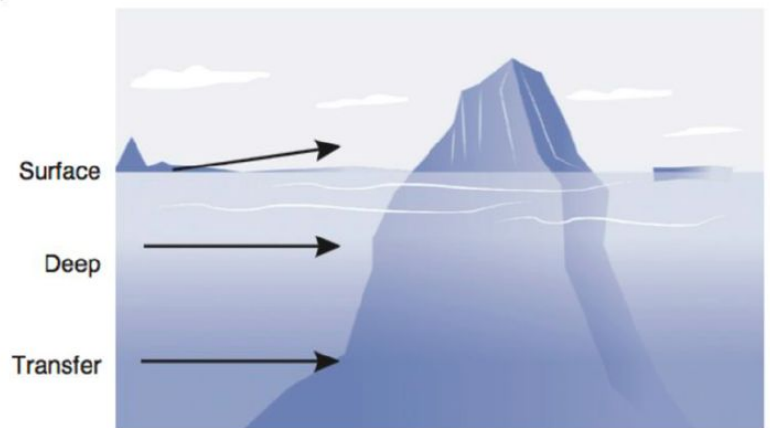
**Transfer Level:** Refers to a learner's ability to apply basic and complex understandings and skills to a new context. Learner's are able to link ideas in new ways to new contexts.

As Dylan Wiliam (2011) writes, "As teachers, we are not interested in our students' ability to do what we have taught them to do. We are only interested in their ability to apply their newly acquired knowledge to a similar but different context."

I look forward to working with you this year and seeing you at our Information Night on Tuesday 12 February, commencing at 6pm.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal





### Opening School Mass

On Monday **25th February** at **9.15am** we will come together as a school community to celebrate the start of our new school year. We invite all our family and friends to join us in our celebrations.

### Sacramental Program Dates for 2019

St Finbar's Sacramental Program Information Evening is on **Monday the 4th of March 2019 at 7.30pm**. All parents who will have children participating in one of the Sacramental programs in 2019 will need to attend the meeting.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** - will be held on Saturday 1st June at 2.30pm. The preparation meetings will start on Saturday 4th May.

**Sacrament of Confirmation** - will be held on Sunday 1st September at 6.00pm with Fr Chris De Souza attending on the night. The preparation meetings will start on Saturday 27th July.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** - will be held on Sunday 24th of November during the 9.30am Mass. The Holy Communion preparation meetings will start on Saturday 19th October.

### Catholic Schools Week

Each year *Catholic Schools Week* provides our school, and all Catholic school communities, with an opportunity to celebrate 'who we are' and 'what we do'. It is about celebrating the strength and distinctiveness Catholic Schools have to offer. It is an opportunity for our school to showcase the wonderful learning that takes place each and every day.

We invite all our families to attend Parish Mass together at 9.30am on Sunday 3rd March. This celebration will continue with a school tour of our learning spaces for family members, friends and our local community to view our lovely facilities, resources and the fantastic learning here at St Finbar's.





### Celebrating Parish Mass

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.

Stage 3 Group A	Stage 3 Group B	Year 2	Year 1	Kinder	Year 3	Year 4
19th February Week 4	26th February Week 5	12th March Week 7	19th March Week 8	26th March Week 9	2nd April Week 10	9th April Week 11

### 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

- Opening School Mass **Monday 25th February** 9.15am Week 5
- Catholic Schools Week Mass **Sunday 3rd March** 9.30am. School Tour at 11am.
- Ash Wednesday Mass **6th March** 9.15am Week 6

As the Acting Religious Education Coordinator for 2019, I look forward to working, praying and celebrating together as a school community.

Yours in faith

Leanne Brown  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

## Student Banking - Dollarmite Savers

Information packs will be sent home today for any students wishing to join the Student Banking program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask in the office.

For our existing banking students : **PLEASE NOTE BANKING DAY HAS CHANGED**

**Student banking will now be done on a MONDAY**





## Dates To Remember

<p><b>Friday 8 February</b> P &amp; F Welcome BBQ 6pm - Levy Street entrance</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 12 February</b> Parent Information Night - 6pm</p>	<p><b>Friday 22 February</b> Diocesan Swimming Carnival</p>
<p><b>Monday 11 February</b> Whole School Assembly 2:10pm Parish Hall</p>	<p><b>Monday 18 February</b> Family Learning Conferences Week</p>	<p><b>Monday 25 February</b> Opening School Mass 9:15am</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 12 February</b>  Parish Mass 9am Stage 3 Group A</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 19 February</b> Parish Mass 9am Stage 3 Group B  <b>Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday 26 February</b>  Parish Mass 9am Year 4</p>

[View School Calendar](#)

## School Fees

School fee statements for the first instalment of school fees for 2019 will be mailed shortly. **The due date for payment is on or before Wednesday 20 March 2019.** If you do not receive your statement, please contact me on 4724 3600 to arrange for a copy to be sent home.

**School  
F E E S**

Catholic Education Diocese, Parramatta, is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship. If you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, you are encouraged to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with either myself or the Principal to discuss payment options. Your situation will be treated with care and confidentiality and an appropriate payment arrangement will be made for you. Please note that as part of this process you may be required to complete an Application for School Fees Assistance Form so that the school is aware of your current financial situation. Please be assured of complete confidentiality with regards to any information you are asked to provide.

Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made regarding the payment of your account it will be assumed that full payment will be made on or before the due date. Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 30 days of the date the school account statement is issued". Outstanding accounts will be forwarded to Catholic Education Diocese, Parramatta, for actioning. If you need to discuss any issues regarding the school fees, please contact me by phone on 4724 3600 or by email [edenham@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:edenham@parra.catholic.edu.au) School fees can be paid by Bpay, Postbillpay, cash, Direct Debit, EFTPOS, credit card or cheque. [Please click here to view the 2019 School Fees Schedule.](#)

Thank you

Mrs Denham - Finance Secretary



## How do our School Awards Work?

### Level 1 - PBS4L Token

- Given out free and frequently
- All staff use every day
- Students collect tokens and keep until end of the day
- Tokens are collected and placed in designated class Token Zone that contributes to a Class Reward
- One token from each House colour will be drawn each week for an individual award.
- Ideas for Class Rewards: technology afternoon, games afternoon, sports afternoon, movie afternoon, class party. Students will collaborate with teachers to design their reward list.
- Token rewards stand on their own- they do not cash in for Assembly Awards etc.



### Level 2 - St Finbar's Assembly Awards

- Awards: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner, Living our Faith in daily Life
- Awarded at each assembly (Week 3, 6 and 9 of each term)
- Each class teacher will hand out a minimum of three awards at each assembly (Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner Award)
- Student Learning Support and Specialist Teachers will also provide awards for each assembly.
- Living our Faith in Daily Life awards would be given out for extra curricular activities ie. ANZAC march.
- The class teacher, in our student database, will track the students awarded St Finbar's Assembly Awards.



### Level 3 - Special Awards

- Awarded for accumulated St Finbar's Assembly Awards
- St Finbar's Bronze Award (5 St Finbar's Assembly Awards)
- St Finbar's Silver Award (10 St Finbar's Assembly Awards)
- St Finbar's Gold Award - Morning Tea each term (15 St Finbar's Awards)





## PBS4L Focus

I will always strive for my personal best.

## From the Office

The School Locker have advised they are up to date with their orders. The only items that are not in stock as yet are the winter uniforms.

If you have not received your delivery yet, please contact The School Locker direct on 02 8796 2100.

## 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.

Plenary Council Public Forum - [Click here for more information](#)

## St Finbar's Playgroup



### 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.





## St Finbar's Netball Club – Register Now!

St Finbar's Netball Club is a part of the Blue Mountains Netball Association. Whilst the club in its early years was run by the school, it is now an independent organisation that continues the great history of St Finbar's students and Lower Blue Mountains children playing netball in the BMNA. The club is currently taking registrations for the winter 2019 season. This is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club and every Junior player will be gifted a Club Jacket this year.

Registration Links - Please follow these links to MyNetball:

**NetSetGo link (NetSetGo was previously known as Netta)**

<https://netball.resultsvault.com/common/pages/reg/welcome.aspx?type=6&id=45590&entityid=43316>

**Junior (10+), Senior, PWD & Non-player link;**

<https://netball.resultsvault.com/common/pages/reg/welcome.aspx?type=1&id=21700&entityid=43316>

Our Fees are:

Junior \$185, Senior \$215, PWD \$155.

Registrar – Jody Cremona 0416 115 975 or [cremonadj@bigpond.com](mailto:cremonadj@bigpond.com)

President – Janette Ankers 0438 672 040 or [jankers@tpg.com.au](mailto:jankers@tpg.com.au)

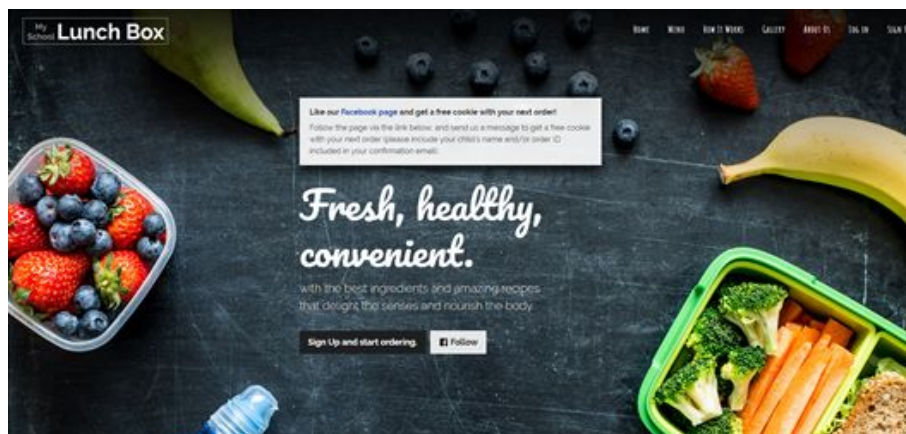
## My School Lunchbox !

This service is available to our students each Wednesday.

The lunches are all fresh and homemade, delivered to St Finbar's in time for lunch.

[Click here to set up an account.](#)

If you have an existing account, please be sure to amend your child's class for 2019.





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# Safer Internet Day 2019 | Tuesday 5 February

Together for a better internet

RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • REASONING • RESILIENCE

**Safer Internet Day** raises awareness about the positive role of digital technology and explores ways we can all contribute to creating a better, safer internet. Coordinated by the Office of the eSafety Commissioner in Australia and celebrated in over 130 countries, this year's Safer Internet Day theme is **'Together for a better internet'**.

Parents are encouraged to get involved and support our young people in developing the critical skills required to successfully navigate the online world. These skills take time to develop but they can help us in all areas of life - online and off. We like to call them the 4Rs...

**Respect** - I treat myself and others the way I like to be treated

**Responsibility** - I am accountable for my actions and I take a stand when I feel something is wrong

**Reasoning** - I question what is real

**Resilience** - I get back up from tough situations

Help spread the word about creating a safer, more positive internet—start a conversation with your child about which of the 4Rs of online safety is most important to them and how can they help build a better internet for everyone.

This year, as part of the wider celebration of Safer Internet Day, we encourage all of our parents, students and teachers to review their privacy settings associated with their social media accounts and adjust as necessary to ensure our own personal safety and privacy.



Use the [Privacy Checkup](#) to review and adjust your settings to make sure you're sharing with who you want. You might also want to review photos and posts that someone has tagged you in. If you don't like something you're tagged in, you can [remove the tag](#) or [ask the person who tagged you to remove the post](#).



Anyone can view your profile and posts on Instagram. You can make your posts [private](#) so that only followers you approve can see them. If your posts are set to private, only your approved followers will see them on hashtag or location pages. You might also want to check that you actually know your [followers](#) in real life.



Configure your Snapchat profile to only receive messages from users on your [My Friends list](#) and to control who you share your stories with. This might be a good opportunity to review your *MyFriends* list to ensure that you have only people who you know in real life. You might also want to check that [SnapMap](#), a location-based service is disabled for your own personal safety and privacy.

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner's [iParent](#) portal is packed with resources to help you address online safety with your children.

## High School Open Day



# ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## Year 7, 2020 Information Evening

**Wednesday 27th February, 2019**

**Session 1:**

3.15pm Register for tour  
3.30pm Tour of the facilities  
4.30 - 5.00pm Address by the Principal

**Session 2:**

5.15pm Register for tour  
5.30pm Tour of the facilities  
6.30 - 7.00pm Address by the Principal

Bookings are not required.

Please register at the College Library upon arrival.

- Tours will begin at 3.30 and 5.30pm *sharp* to enable visitors to view all of the College facilities.
- Prospectus and enrolment application forms will be available on the night.

Enquiries: Sandra O'Brien, Enrolments Secretary 4754 8907

St Columba's Catholic College 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood 2777  
Phone: (02) 4754 8900 Email: stcolumbas@parra.catholic.edu.au  
Web: www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.au

