



# St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Newsletter | Term 4 Week 6 | 21 November 2019



From The Principal

## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

My grandmother was a remarkable woman. Her name was Mearl, and she lost her husband early in World War Two, when he was killed on the Kokoda trail in 1942. She was left alone and had to raise a two year old daughter by herself. It was a very difficult period in Australian history, with hardships faced every day. My grandmother, forced into the workplace to support

her little family, felt that she couldn't work full time and still raise her daughter to the best of her ability. So, her parents stepped in and raised my mother. My mum lived with her grandparents until she married my dad.

But the story I wanted to share with you was about when my dad wanted to propose to my mum. As the story goes, my grandmother didn't particularly like my dad and felt he wasn't the right person for her daughter to marry. Every time he would arrive at her house to ask for mum's hand in marriage, she would either hide inside with the curtains drawn, or she'd skip out the backdoor, through the gap in the fence (and, I might add, through a choko patch!) to hide out at her neighbour's house, until dad would eventually leave.

One day, my mum decided to visit Mearl, and she and dad plotted to ambush her! With both of them trapping her in her house, she had no choice but to say yes. Well, the rest, as they say, is history. Mearl eventually came to live with us in her later years, and she used to tell the proposal story with a chuckle and a shake of her head. She came to realise that my dad was the perfect person to marry my mother, and she often referred to dad as the best son in law ever. She should have had faith that things would



work out for the best.

In Mondays' Gospel we heard the story of the blind man sitting by the side of the road, begging. When Jesus approached he began to shout out, trying to get Jesus' attention. People told him to be quiet but he continued to call out to Jesus. Eventually, Jesus ordered that he be brought to Him and he asked the blind man what he wanted Jesus to do for him. The blind man replied "Lord, Let me see" (Luke 18:35-43). He was healed because his faith had saved him.

In our lives, we often get to a point that we feel we may have lost our way. We forget that all of our lives have already been mapped out before we were born. We forget that faith means to have complete trust and confidence in something or someone. We forget that God knows everything that will happen to us and that there is a reason for everything. The blind man had such a faith. He knew, deep down, that asking Jesus to "let him see" was the right thing to do. This man was a marginalised person, ignored and rebuked by others, but by reaching out with faith to Jesus, he was able to follow Jesus and give glory to God, and encourage others to do the same.

As we journey towards Advent, I ask that you keep all marginalised people in your prayers. We will be having a food hamper drive for St. Vincent DePaul in the coming weeks. I know you will give generously as we strive to help people less fortunate than ourselves. And in the words of Bon Jovi.... "You know you're gonna live through the rain, Lord you've got to keep the faith."

## Additional Transition Opportunities for 2020 Kindergarten Students

Our Kindergarten transition and parent meeting was a great success this year, with many parents praising the process, stating that they were very pleased with the information provided, while their children had the morning working and playing in Kindergarten. We are currently putting into place further transitions for Kindergarten 2020 students. Some students require additional time at school to ensure that they feel comfortable and relaxed in a school setting. The parents of these children have been contacted directly and transition times have been organised. However, we would like to invite any 2020 Kindergarten students the opportunity to participate in play sessions at St. Finbar's, alongside this year's Kindergarten students. The bookings for these additional transition sessions can be made online, and it will be an opportunity for six 2020 kindergarten students per day to visit and see what Learning Through Play is all about. Stay tuned for more information regarding this wonderful opportunity. I'd like to thank our Kindergarten staff and all who have worked tirelessly to ensure that all students transitioning to school in 2020 achieve success and are familiar with our school.



## Bushfire Updates

Last week was a rare occasion as the school was closed due to catastrophic fire conditions. It gave us a timely opportunity to review our bushfire procedures at St. Finbar's and I congratulate all of our students for participating in our evacuation drill in a sensible and serious manner. Our students are well aware that practising evacuations and lockdowns are a regular part of school life, and that these drills enable us to be prepared in case of an emergency situation. We will continue to practise these drills each term, and parents will be notified via Skoolbag when these drills have occurred.

## Sabbath Week

Next week is Week Seven in the term, and as usual we will be having a Sabbath Week. Traditionally, the word Sabbath means a period of time set aside for rest and worship. We hope that you and your children take this opportunity to rest and reconnect with each other. Please remember that the teachers also value this Sabbath time, so there will be no scheduled meetings and the students will not be bringing home any home learning (apart from readers) during Week Seven.

## Principal's Awards For Growth Mindset Semester Two

The principal's award for growth mindset is given to one student in each class who believe their talents can be developed through hard work, good strategies, and input from others. They demonstrate self belief in all that they undertake in the classroom. This is because they worry less about looking smart and they put more energy into learning. They believe that their abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. They show a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. They work hard and persevere, and view challenges and failures as opportunities to improve their learning and skills.

They demonstrate problem solving, critical and creative thinking when generating and evaluating knowledge, ideas and possibilities. They communicate effectively in one-on-one situations and group settings, sets goals, interacts with others, and demonstrates a capacity to work independently and collaboratively. They respectfully listen, interact, discuss and pose questions and uses and applies feedback to improve their learning.

These awards will be distributed at our end of year mass on December 16th 2019. Parents of the students receiving this award will be notified beforehand as a courtesy.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal





## 2020 Staffing Announcement

	Principal	Mrs Robyn Clarke
	Assistant Principal	Mr Ben Ticehurst
	REC	Mrs Leanne Brown
	Leader of Learning	Mrs Alison Maunder
Early Stage 1	Kinder	Miss Georgia Hutchins / Ms Kim Waldron
Stage 1	Year 1	Ms Terese Collins / Mrs Alicia Borg
	Year 2	Mrs Leanne Brown
Stage 2	Year 3	Mrs Rebecca Southern
	Year 4	Mr Ben Ticehurst / Mrs Alison Maunder
Stage 3	Year 5	Mr Jonathan Tucker
	Year 6	Mrs Carolyn Viera / Mrs Jemima McLeod
	Diversity	Mrs Jo-Ann Shean
	Executive Release Years 2 & 4	Mrs Natalie Platt
	RFF teachers	Mrs Judy Frazer Mr Chris Komorowski Ms Taylor Laporte
	Student Learning Support Officers (SLSO's)	Mrs Michelle Robinson Mrs Fran Pietersma Mrs Sara Berger Mrs Veronica Lee Mrs Kristie Loughton Miss Therese Sammut Ms Louise Corby
	Administration	Mrs Donna Beukers Mrs Liz Denham Mrs Tracey Procter
	Maintenance	Mr Mat Sharp
	Counsellor	Mrs Barbara Mulligan
	IT Support	TBA



## Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Liz Denham	November 6	Business Managers Leadership Development Program
Robyn Clarke Ben Ticehurst Alicia Borg Georgia Hutchins Kim Waldron Terese Collins Leanne Brown	November 7	Numeracy K-2 Sequencing PL
Robyn Clarke Ben Ticehurst	November 13	Pastoral response to family/domestic violence
Donna Beukers Liz Denham	November 13	First Aid
Donna Beukers	November 20	Creating Amazing Parent Experiences
Leanne Brown	November 22	REC Formation Day 4



## Skoolbag Notes to Follow Up

Notes recently sent home via Skoolbag and Students:

- Kinder Excursion - NOW DUE
- Year 6 Fun Day - DUE ASAP
- Library Overdue Notices - DUE ASAP
- P&F Iceblock Survey - To be completed via Skoolbag app
- Swimming Carnival - eForm sent out via Skoolbag Thursday 21st November





## Confirming Enrolments for 2020



If you have decided that your child/ren will not be returning to St Finbar's in 2020, we request that you let the school office know as soon as possible. We note that ten weeks notice is required prior to departure in order to avoid being billed for Term 1, 2020 school fees.

We have a waiting list of students who are hoping to transfer to our school next year, and it would be good to arrange final class groupings before the end of the year.

Mrs Clarke would be happy to meet with any parents to discuss students transferring to another school in order to ensure a smooth transition process for them.



In Week 7 of Term 4, students in Year 5 will begin the process to select the new Leadership Cabinet for 2020.

The Student Leadership Cabinet, at St Finbar's, is expected to set the highest example in dress, attendance, conduct and involvement in school affairs. Their duties include assistance at school functions, of all kinds, and assisting with the presentations at assemblies. They are also assigned responsibilities connected to their particular portfolio.

The Leadership Portfolios are:

- 1 Mission Leader
- 1 Academic Leader
- 1 PBS4L Leader
- 1 Environment Leader

Candidates are also expected to have an exemplary record of behaviour over the previous 12 months and to be making satisfactory academic progress.

To provide all students with the opportunity to experience special roles of responsibility, all students in the Senior Class can nominate for one or more of the following special areas of responsibility.

- Sport and Carnival Committee
- Environment and Stewardship Committee
- Assemblies, Special Events and Public Relations Committee
- Mission and Social Justice Committee



Leaders and Committee Members will be appointed by the Principal. Please note that leaders will be appointed by not only the voting process, but also by their qualities of leadership and exemplary standards of being safe, respectful learners. The Cabinet may therefore not necessarily be gender balanced.

### **Voting Process**

Each student in Years 4 – 6 will complete an online voting form. Once the voting process has been completed, these votes will be tabulated. Additional votes are given to each student for any school awards they may have received. This will mean additional votes will be allocated to students for each Being Respectful, Being Safe, Being a Learner or Living their Faith in Daily Life award.

These results will then be provided to the School Executive, who will meet to review the list of nominees. The results are then furnished to the Principal, who in-turn appoints the portfolio leaders and committee members.

The induction ceremony for the new School Leaders will be held at the end of Term 4, in conjunction with the celebration of the graduating class.

I know that you will join with me in prayer, as the Senior Class of 2020 commences this important process.

Lord God,

You call us to life in all its fullness, following the path set out by Jesus your Son. As we reflect on his leadership as Servant, we ask you to deepen our desire to imitate his example. May our exercise of the gifts you have given us a faithful reflection of his presence at work in our community. May the Holy Spirit be upon us, as we reflect on the gifts of each other and seek your wisdom to guide our hand.

We ask this prayer, in the name of Jesus, Your Son.

Amen.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal







### Mission Day 2019

On Tuesday we celebrated our Mission Day. It was a very successful morning with Stage One presenting their handmade cards and messages for the homeless at our school liturgy. Followed by Kindergarten re-enacting the scripture stories they explored throughout their mission unit. Stage Two performed their reader's theatre, with special messages about giving to others. While Stage Three showcased their website creating talents, presenting the information they had gathered about Ghana. All the students did a marvellous job, but most importantly, they showed how when you give a little, you can make a **BIG DIFFERENCE** to those in need.

Our *Mission Globe* was filled with gold and silver coins. It was so lovely to hear the stories from the students explaining how the coins were from their money boxes that they had emptied to give to Catholic Mission. The coins have been counted and **we raised \$705.35**.



Thank you to all the parents who were able to come and take part in our morning celebrations, and to the children for their hard work and kind donations.

### Christmas Concert

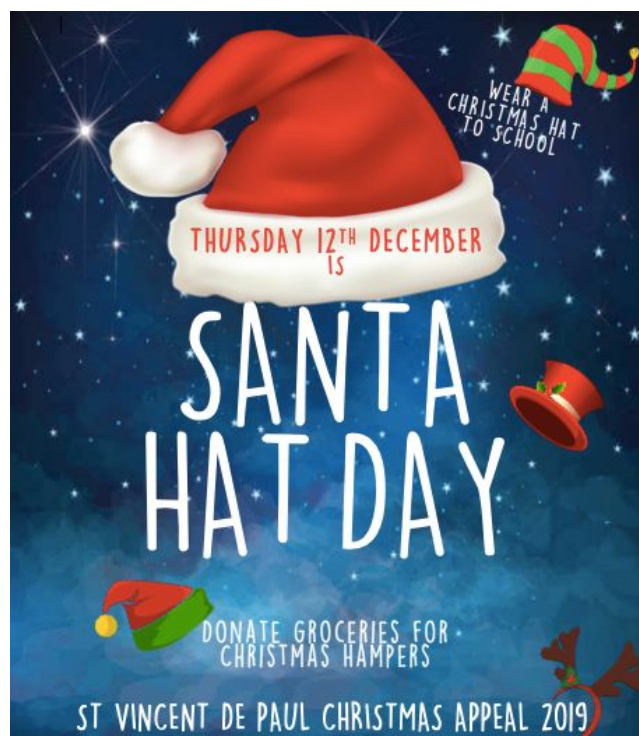
Christmas is fast approaching and we are starting to get organised for our whole school Christmas performance. A note will be sent out today via Skoolbag with all the details.

Click on this [link](#) for more details.

We look forward to celebrating this special time of year with all our families.

### Santa Hat Day

This year for our St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal, we are having a fun Santa Hat Day!







Students are able to wear a santa hat, reindeer antlers and elf hats to school.

We ask that students bring in a non perishable item to add to our Christmas hampers. Each grade has been allocated suggested items so we can make up the Christmas hampers, full of goodies which will help make this joyful season brighter for those in need.

[Click here](#) to view the note for more details. This note will also be sent home via Skoolbag.

### **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 3	Year 4
26th November Week 7	3rd December Week 8

### **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**



- St Finbar's Parish **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** Sunday 24th November 9.30am
- **St Finbar's Christmas Concert** Monday 9th December 6.00pm
- **Year 6 Graduation & End of Year Mass** Monday 16th December 9.15am
- **St Finbar's Parish Christmas Eve Vigil** Tuesday 24th December 6pm (Children to come dressed up as figures representative of the scene of the nativity)

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown  
Religious Education Coordinator



## Important Reminders



- **Check your Skoolbag App.** If you are having trouble with it, try refreshing the app by uninstalling and re-installing. Check your notification settings in the app and on your phone. You will find we are sending more information home via Skoolbag rather than paper notes. It is important that your Skoolbag app is working efficiently so that you don't miss any key information.

- **Remember** to check your child has a hat and a water bottle each day. If your child is allergic to sunscreen please let us know.

- Please check your child's belongings when they come home each day to ensure they have not picked up a hat or jacket that does not belong to them. We have a situation at present where families are losing brand new hats and jackets that have been clearly labelled.

## Dio Gymnastics Competition

Our girls performed admirably on the day, they looked stunning in their new leotards.

We thank the girls that represented St Finbar's.





## Dates To Remember

<b>Sunday 24 November</b> Sacrament of Holy Communion 9:30am	<b>Friday 6 December</b> Year 6 Tree Tops Adventure Day Out	<b>Friday 13 December</b> Semester 2 Reports Distributed
<b>Tuesday 26 November</b> Parish Mass 9am Year 3	<b>Monday 9 December</b> Christmas Concert 6pm	<b>Monday 16 December</b> End of Year Mass 9:15am Year 6 Graduation Dinner 6pm
<b>Thursday 5 December</b> Open Tour for New Enrolments 2pm	<b>Thursday 12 December</b> 2020 Class Promotion Afternoon	<b>Tuesday 17 December</b> School Swimming Carnival <b>Wednesday 18 December</b> Last day of School for 2019

[View School Calendar](#)

## Strings Tuition

**Students in Years 3 to 6 only.**

Reminder - If your child would like to enrol in our Music Tuition program for next year please return permission note by tomorrow, Friday 22 November.

This will enable the tuition fees to be billed to your 2020 school fees account.

Thank you  
Mrs Denham







## Congratulations Award Recipients

Allrounder	Living Our Faith in Daily Life	Be Safe	Be Respectful
Ann Walker Alexander Simpson Angus Smith Edward Walker Ellie Taylor Josh Shouha Briar-Rose Wade Adele Taylor Rocco Siciliano	Eloise Howard Rhys Loughman Stacey-Lee Naude Quentin Lynch Kian Loughman Amelia Naude 	Alexander Moutsos Gabrielle Connell Isla Buggy Oscar Harrison Lara Crameri Ava Lorking	Jordan Butler Alexander Simpson Elijah Baird Rachita Pathak Ruby Shouha Sam Caetan Matilda Geelan Gus Berben Evie Walker
Be A Learner			
William Moore Lucy Tindall Lilliana Hayek Lucas Fisher Alexander Nilsson Alana Callaghan Gus Berben Alyssa Moore Eamonn Apps Amelie Bohan Amber Goodlace	Phoenix Eggins Isobel Reece Ruby Wilson Xavier Eggins Julian Dawes James Docker Bailey Clifford Tallulah-Belle Aris Barlow Charli Butler		



## 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

### 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.

From Weeks 6 - 9, Miss Hutchins and Ms Waldron will be attending the playgroup sessions to meet and engage with incoming students. The teachers look forward to being involved in the community aspect of St Finbar's parish.

