



## St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Newsletter | Term 1 Week 4 | 21 February 2019



From The Principal

At assembly on Monday morning I referenced the Gospel reading from Sunday and showed the children some gold coins. The Gospel was from Luke and included the following passage:

***"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is now yours.***

***Blessed are you who are hungry, for you will be satisfied.***

***Blessed are you who are now weeping,***

***For you will laugh.***

***Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you....rejoice and leap for joy on that day!***

***Behold, your reward will be great in heaven."* Lk 6:17, 20-26.**

I explained to the students that Jesus was not asking them to give up money, food or laughter, but to be mindful of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. The real treasure that Jesus was talking about is the treasure we receive from building relationships with each other. It is important to recognise that the Kingdom of God can be found here on earth as well as in Heaven, and that by being aware of those who are doing it a bit tough, who might need a smile or a friendly word, who might need a shoulder to cry on, we are entering into that Kingdom. So my challenge to the children of St. Finbar's this week was to be mindful of each other and to try to bring a little piece of the Kingdom to our school, through our words and actions.

Christ's peace be with you. Have a wonderful week ahead.

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal



### **P&F Welcome BBQ**

What a fabulous night we had here in the grounds of the school. It was such a pleasure to meet so many new families and to be welcomed in turn by our established families. The food was plentiful, and the company was delightful. And, apart from a little lightning and thunder towards the end, it was, by all accounts, a perfect night. Thank you to the P&F for spending hours organising activities and cooking the barbecue, and to the wonderful staff of St. Finbar's who stayed to meet new families and reconnect with old friends.

### **Parent Information Session**

Last Tuesday night we held our annual parent information night. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to be involved in the learning at St. Finbar's and to learn more about how and why we do things the way we do. As I said in my address, having so many parents attend the evening showed me how invested the community is in providing quality learning and teaching to the students. Some vital information was also given at the classroom information sessions, so if you were unable to attend please contact your child's teacher to receive the information pack that was handed out on the night.

### **Family Learning Conferences**

This week at St. Finbar's we began Family Learning Conferences. These meetings play an important role in building the relationship and the partnership between home and school. If you have not already booked a time and a day, please access School Interviews online and secure a time to meet with your child's teacher(s), or alternatively, contact the school office to reserve a time.

### **Facilities update**

I am sure that everyone is aware of the building works that occurred over the Christmas break. This involved a complete refit of the Early Stage One classroom and necessitated a move in classrooms for Stages One and Three, plus a relocation of the art and drama room. The interior work is nearing completion in Kindergarten, and we are just awaiting the final fit out for the bathroom area, and pinboards to be placed around the room. Last week there was a meeting between the builder, architect, myself and Kindergarten staff to discuss the type of environment that we require for the sensory garden. The photos show that excavation work has already begun, and the slab and poured concrete areas will be established soon. The garden will try to encompass the already beautiful bush area by reusing as much bush rock and plants as we can, whilst creating a functional learning and play space, equipped with outdoor sinks, water play features, specific sensory equipment and gardening areas. I appreciate all for being so supportive and accommodating while this work continues.





# St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE



## Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is a time for us to celebrate the diversity of attending a Catholic school. This year it will be happening from March 3 – 8 2019. We invite all our families to attend mass on Sunday March 3, and afterwards for morning tea and a tour of the school and grounds.

Alternatively, we will be opening our classes on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 10:00 – 11:00 (week six). Please come along and celebrate catholic schools with us at one, or both, of these events.



## Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Robyn Clarke	12 February 2019	System Leader's Breakfast Meeting
Leanne Brown Robyn Clarke	13 February 2019	Introduction to the RE curriculum
Liz Denham	15 February 2019	Business Managers Leadership Development Program
Liz Denham	26 February 2019	Promaster Training
Robyn Clarke, Ben Ticehurst Jemima McLeod, Leanne Brown Alicia Borg, Georgia Hutchins, Kim Waldron	27 February 2019	Numeracy K-2 Sequencing PL





At the start of each school year, teachers across K-6 conduct a Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) with every child. The Mathematics Assessment Interview is one part of our whole school approach to Numeracy.

**So, why do we use the MAI?**

The Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI) is a clinical interview with an associated research based framework of growth points that describe key stages in the learning of 4 Number domains in mathematics. The 4 number domains consist of Counting, Place Value, Addition and Subtraction and Multiplication and Division.

The MAI is used across primary schools in the diocese, to assess the needs of each student in the 4 number domains. This data enables us to target our teaching and intervention to cater for the needs of each student.

The Mathematics Assessment Interview provides insights into children's current mathematical thinking. It is a tool that can be matched to professional knowledge about the expected course and rate of children's learning. The growth point framework is a research based learning trajectory that teachers can use to establish where students are and where to next. They are major checkpoints in children's mathematical thinking and use of strategies.

Growth points are useful because they help us:

- Understand how children learn;
- Assess and monitor children's growth in understanding;
- Identify children who are at risk;
- Identify your child's stage of number sense development;
- Plan & target teaching so that teachers can identify the experiences that will most effectively help children achieve the next growth point in their mathematical learning.

As you are the most important partner in your child's learning, it is imperative that you receive information about what your child was able to demonstrate in the interview and where to next.

Next week, each family will receive an email that provides you with feedback about your child's development in the 4 Number domains. This feedback will outline what your child is currently able to do and where to next. I trust you will find this feedback valuable and assist you in targeting these areas of growth with your child.

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.

### 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. Open classroom from 11am.
- Ash Wednesday Mass **6th March** 9.15am Week 6

Yours in faith

Leanne Brown  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

## Student Banking - Dollarmite Savers

**Student banking is now processed on a MONDAY**



## Congratulations to our Diocesan Swimmers





## Dates To Remember

<b>Friday 22 February</b>  Diocesan Swimming Carnival Blacktown	<b>Sunday 3 March</b>  <b>9am</b> Parish Mass and Morning Tea followed by a tour of the school.	<b>Wednesday 6 March</b>  <b>9:15am</b> Ash Wednesday Mass Whole School All family members welcome
<b>Monday 25 February</b>  <b>9:15am</b> Opening School Mass in the Church All family members welcome	<b>Monday 4 March</b>  <b>7:30pm</b> St Finbar's Sacramental Program	<b>Monday 11 March</b>  Stage 3 Camp - Teen Ranch
<b>Tuesday 26 February</b>  <b>9am</b> Parish Mass Year 4	<b>Tuesday 5 March</b>  10:30am Community Prayer Circle  Shrove Tuesday : Pancakes at Recess	<b>Monday 11 March</b>  11:30am Parramatta Diocesan Netball Trials Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium
<a href="#">View School Calendar</a>		

## Pat Cummins - Ex St Finbar's Student

We congratulate Pat Cummins an Ex St Finbar's Student and now an accomplished Australian Cricketer on being awarded the 2019 Allan Border Medal and recently becoming the number one bowler in the world.







**St Finbar's Primary School**  
*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*

## Congratulations Award Recipients Living Our Faith in Our Daily Lives

### Being a Learner



### Being Respectful



### Being Safe





## Important Announcements



Attached is a link to some important information on Bus Safety and Awareness. It would be valuable to spend some time going through these safety guidelines with your children to make them aware.

[Click here for more information](#)



Please remind your children when catching the bus both to and from school to TAP ON and TAP OFF with their Opal cards.



By doing so, this provides accurate data to ensure there is enough room on each bus to transport the children safely. If children do not tap on and off, potentially bus routes could change or be cancelled due to lack of numbers.

There has been a delay with the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta sending out 2019 School Fee Statements.

We have been assured that they are working to correct the problem and all families should receive school fee statements in the mail shortly.

Thank you for your patience.



*School*  
F E E S



## PBS4L Focus

I will be careful of others around me.

## From the Office

Please remember to check all labelling on your child's belongings each week. This makes it easier to return things when found.

It is also a good idea for students not to bring treasured belongings to school in case they are misplaced or damaged.

## 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)

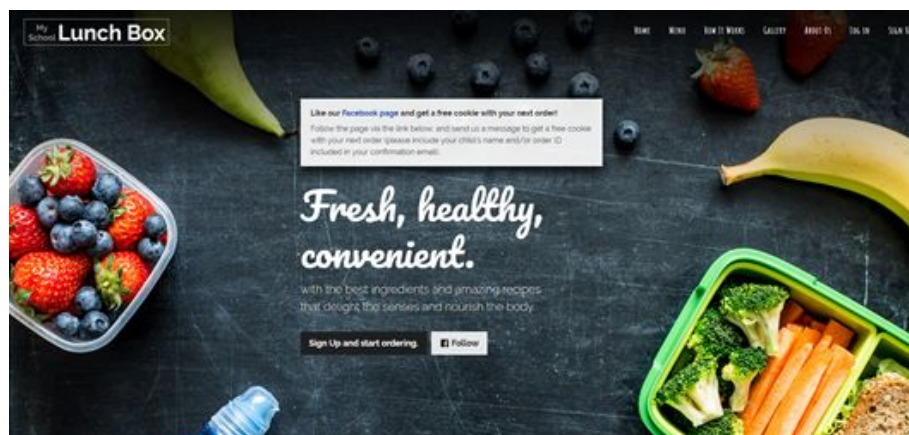
## My School Lunchbox !

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.





**St Finbar's Primary School**  
*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*

## 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

- 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](mailto:stcolumbas@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
Web: [www.stcolumbaspringwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stcolumbaspringwood.catholic.edu.au)

Bookings are not required.  
Please register at the College Library upon arrival.



### 2020 ENROLMENTS

FOR GIRLS YEARS 7-12

Open Night: Monday 11th March 2019  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

**CAROLINE  
CHISHOLM  
COLLEGE**

.....  
Come along and see for yourself why girls are  
so happy to learn at Caroline Chisholm College.  
.....

**Tours of the college: 5:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Principal's information sessions:**  
**6pm & 7pm**

Further information can be obtained on our  
website and Facebook pages.  
[www.cccglenmorepark.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cccglenmorepark.nsw.edu.au)

**90-98 The Lakes Drive Glenmore Park**  
Enrolment packages can be obtained by  
contacting the college on:  
**4737 5500**

Follow us on  



### St Dominic's College **Open Day 2019** Sunday, 3rd March

**You are invited to join us for our  
Annual Open Day at the College from  
10:00am to 2:30pm.**

**The morning session starts at  
10:00am, followed by a tour of the  
College at 10:30am.**

**The afternoon session starts  
at 12:30pm, followed by a tour  
of the College at 1:00pm.**

St Dominic's College  
54 - 94 Gascoigne Street Kingswood NSW 2747  
Ph: 02 4731 1933  
Email: [info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au)  
Website: [www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au)







**St Finbar's Primary School**  
*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*

## **McCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE - 75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains**

**Enrolling now - Open Evening: Tuesday 19 March 2019 - Time: 5.00pm to 8.00pm**

- Meet the Principal, staff and student leaders
  - Tours of the College facilities
  - Enrolment packages available
  - Presentations at 5.15pm, 6.00pm and 6.45pm
- Enquiries: 4728 8100

Like us on Facebook: McCarthyCC

Website: [www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au)

Click on the Brochure for more information.

**National Premier Disability Services Pty Ltd.**

**Personalised Individual Support**

Call Us: 02 9136 6045

**Enriching Peoples Lives**

enquiries@npdservices.com.au  
www.nationalpremierdisabilityservices.com.au

Suite 212  
28 Campbell Street  
Blacktown NSW 2148

**National Premier Disability Services**

**We Provide**

- Plan management
- Household tasks
- Assistive products
- Assist-travel/transport
- Assist with personal activities
- Daily tasks/shared living
- Group/centre activities
- Participate in the community
- Personal activities (high needs)

**ndis Official Provider**

enquiries@npdservices.com.au  
www.nationalpremierdisabilityservices.com.au

Suite 212  
28 Campbell Street  
Blacktown NSW 2148

**Parents Representative Council**  
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE

**PRC**  
Diocese of Parramatta  
Partners in Learning  
Partners in Faith

## HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE ANXIETY

Learn effective way to deal with child anxiety and positive behavior practices  
What can you do?  
How is the Catholic Education Department Parramatta (CEDP) helping?

Our guest speaker for the evening is:

### Anoushka Houseman

**Clinical Psychologist**  
Wellbeing Coordinator - Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP)

Register FREE now: [www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)  
(PRC AGM- will be held prior to guest speaker)  
**St Patrick's Primary School: 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown**  
Light supper and refreshments will be provided and  
a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

[www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au) | [@preparra](https://www.facebook.com/preparra) | [@preparra](https://twitter.com/preparra)

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSOR**  
**Floral Expressions**  
For details on the school fundraising program  
Call Charles Lukasik on 02 9683 1116