



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 1 Week 6 | 7 March 2019



From The Principal

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This term has been a very busy one so far. I'm sure I am not the only one who can't believe we are halfway through the term already! The children have settled into the routines of school and the staff have been absolutely wonderful at helping the students to adjust to new teachers and new learnings. In my wanderings around the classrooms, I have been trying to get to know as many names of students in a short period of time and talking to the students about their learning has shown me how engaged the

students are in what's happening in the classroom. Everyone is busy, busy, busy!

And speaking of being busy.....

You may have heard of some of the following terms: time-starved, time-poor, time scarcity, time poverty, time famine, time pressure, leisure gap, cult of busyness, harried, overwork culture, and overscheduled.

We feel like we're "pressed for time," that there's "not enough time in the day," and that we are "running out of time."

But, our amount of time hasn't changed. We still get 24 hours in every day. Many modern conveniences (e.g. washer/dryer, dishwasher, etc) have significantly shaved off hours of weekly household chores. The average working week has not significantly increased over the past decade. So, what's really going on?



Are we actually busier than ever before? Or, do we just *feel* busier? Has our relationship with time changed?

In this world of busyness, sometimes it's important to stop, take a breath and rest.

At St. Finbar's we have decided to introduce the concept of Sabbath Week.

Traditionally, Sabbath means 'rest' and we can read about it in Exodus 20:8-11.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

Exodus makes a clear connection between the Sabbath day and the day on which God the Creator rested. Therefore, in week seven this term we will experience a week of rest. There will not be any scheduled meetings for staff, and students will be given a week without home learning tasks. What this DOES mean is that families will have some time to be together without the pressures of extracurricular work. We would sincerely hope that families might spend their 'rest' time together in pursuit of some spiritual formation. Some ideas for Sabbath week might be:

- Visit the Church for a quiet prayer time one afternoon after school
- Connect with another family and make a time to socialise and play together
- Visit someone from the parish who might be lonely or unwell
- Read about a charitable organisation and pledge action in some way
- Consider Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* encyclical and make a conscious effort to conserve energy and resources in some way this week, eg: limit online time, have a family games night instead of watching tv, see who can recycle the most items in a week
- Find time for meditation and relaxation
- Read the scripture together as a family
- Attend one or more mass times

I hope that our whole community may find some rest and renewal in week seven this term, and that we take this opportunity as a time to slow down our lives and to rediscover the joy and wonder that God's world gives us.

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





CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Last Sunday we celebrated the launch of Catholic School's Week for 2019. Catholic schools play a pivotal part in the education of Australians. Without Catholic schools there would not be enough educational facilities for all children in Australia. Like all Australian schools, Catholic schools are accountable to governments and their local communities for meeting all the teaching and learning requirements of the state. They also have distinctive goals and features which derive from a core of philosophical and theological truths which are central to their character and mission. They are highly regarded by the Australian community.

Why do we have Catholic Schools?

Catholic schools:

- contribute to the Church's mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ;
- offer the Catholic community and the people of Australia an educational foundation for life to the full, meaning the full development of the person - intellectually, spiritually, physically, morally and emotionally;
 - fulfil parents' rights in a democratic, free society to choose the schooling for their children which reflects their own values, beliefs and hopes as Australians; and
- have proven over successive generations that they contribute significantly to the development of the Australian community.

Who Catholic Schools are for?

- Catholic children who, through baptism, have a right to an education in the Catholic faith in a Catholic school.
- Parents and guardians who wish to entrust their children's future to Catholic schools because of their explicit goals and acknowledged educational quality.

What is distinctive about Catholic Schools?

- Promoting a particular view of the person, the community, the nation and the world, centred on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Challenging students to find, through God, meaning and value in their lives.
- Forming an integral part of a church community in which all generations live, worship and grow together.
- Critiquing our culture, and challenging community values, as an integral part of their Gospel mission.
- Aiming to be welcoming and reflective communities whose most distinctive sign is the discernment of God's presence and their spiritual life.
- Espousing values which unite Australia by promoting a citizenship infused by a commitment to social justice.
- Encouraging students to develop an international perspective on their own country and how their country can identify and respond justly to its international obligations.



- Developing a sense of historical perspective by reflecting on the development of societies and cultures over time, a story of human frailty but of continual efforts to live the Gospel message.
- Giving priority to educating the spiritually and financially poor and being their advocates.

We celebrated Catholic schools week this year by attending the St Finbar's parish mass at 9:30am on Sunday March 3. Our educators were very generous in opening up classrooms to allow parents, parishioners and the local community to have a look at our beautiful and purpose designed, functionable learning spaces. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the P&F who supplied and served a lovely morning tea. We also hosted open classrooms last Tuesday, March 5 at 10:00am. We had a great turn out of parents, grandparents and friends who came along to view learning in action at St. Finbar's. Thank you to all who helped make Catholic Schools week a wonderful celebration.





ASH WEDNESDAY

We commemorated the beginning of the season of Lent with a beautiful Ash Wednesday Mass. The children were very reverent when receiving their ashes, and Father reminded them that Lent is a time for fasting, for alms giving and for penance and prayer. While abstinence from meat is only applicable to those between the ages of 14 and 60, it is still important that our students understand that Lent is a time for sacrificing something, whether it is a donation to Caritas, participating in the sacrament of penance, giving something up that might be difficult (eg. Technology for a period of time, a special food they enjoy), or taking something on that might be challenging (befriending someone new, forgiving someone). The Religious Education curriculum will teach the students more about the season of Lent and the implications for their lives. Thank you to Mrs Brown for coordinating such a reverent and meaningful mass, and of course, to Fr Jolly for his leadership and inspirational message.

A message from Pope Francis



PLAYGROUND CHANGES

After school dismissal is a challenging time for educators at St. Finbar's. It can be quite the task to keep an eye on who has already been picked up, who needs to go to bus lines and who needs to wait for their lift home. The students are very good at moving to the correct area for dismissal, but I have noticed lately that quite a few students have been playing on the synthetic grass and play equipment. While this may seem harmless, it has resulted in several students nearly missing buses. Children are encouraged to move directly to their pick up or bus area when they reach the lower playground. We discourage students from playing on the synthetic grass and play equipment after school as teachers are busy with dismissal and bus duty and cannot supervise them adequately. If children are playing here, it is the parents' responsibility to provide vigilant supervision at all times. Thank you for your attention to this matter, as we want everyone at St. Finbar's to be safe.



FURNITURE FOR SALE

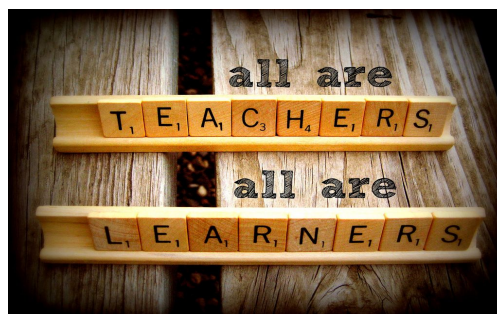
Due to the recent refurbishments, we have a surplus of good quality and attractive children's furniture from classrooms that are no longer needed at St. Finbar's. If you would like to take any desks or chairs for a study nook, or for personal use at home, please contact the front office. The cost will be a "paper money" donation. Meanwhile, we are researching ways we can dispose of the excess furniture ethically and responsibly, so that others less fortunate may benefit from them. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal



Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Robyn Clarke	12th March	Principal's Coaching, Mentoring and Reconnector Program
Leanne Brown	15th March	REC Formation Day
Robyn Clarke, Rebecca Southern & Carolyn Viera	18th-20th March	Project Based Learning Foundations Academy Training





At the end of each newsletter article I write the words, 'Let your light shine'. It is a phrase from Matthew's Gospel, where Matthew shares the story of the lamp on the table.

"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:15-16

I share the following story and prayer with you this week, as a reflection for us to think about how we share our talents with one another.

Late one afternoon the composer Beethoven visited a shoemaker. Standing in the shop, waiting to have his shoes mended, Beethoven heard some music being played on a piano in the back room of the shop. Beethoven smiled, knowing that the music was one of his own compositions. "It's my daughter who's playing", said the shoemaker, "but she can't play very well because she is blind and has to play from memory."

"May I play the piano for your daughter? I am a musician myself," asked Beethoven. "Certainly", said the shoemaker, not knowing who his customer was. Beethoven slowly rehearsed the music with the girl, and they began to practice other pieces he had written (although the girl was not aware that her teacher was, in fact, the composer). The time went quickly, and Beethoven didn't realise that hours had passed. Then he noticed the way that the moonlight had begun to stream its gentle light through the window of the room.

Beethoven returned home. He couldn't get to sleep, but thought of how the girl was disabled by blindness, struggling to do her best, whilst others took sight and talents for granted. He thought of the great joy that music brought her, and he remembered the room in which they had played the music, and the way in which the moonlight streamed through the open window. He knew that whilst he could see the moonlight, she could not. Beethoven got out of bed and started to play the piano, expressing his feelings through music.

What he produced is thought by many to be one of the most touching pieces of music. In memory of the girl, he called this new piece "[The Moonlight Sonata](#)". It was in this week, in 1802, the music of Beethoven's "[Moonlight Sonata](#)" was published.



Let us pray:

Lord, you have watched me grow in my mother's womb, and I know that you love all that you have made. Help me to transform my difficulties and disabilities into opportunities for growth. Shine the light of your Spirit on me that I may grow as the person you are calling me to be. Inspire me to develop the talents you have given me for the benefit and the service of those people you have placed in my life. May each of us become a blessing for others.

Amen.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



Opening School Mass

On Monday 25th March we celebrated our Opening School Mass. It was a special mass where we welcomed our Kindergarten students, new families and teachers to our school community.

Thank you to our families and friends who were able to join us and to our students who participated through prayer and song. We look forward to celebrating our special feast days and masses with you throughout the year.

Shrove Tuesday

A big **THANK YOU** to our P&F who worked so hard to distribute pancakes to the children on Shrove Tuesday. Your support is greatly appreciated.



We are also very proud of Jackson Smith and Quentin Lynch (Yr 2), along with their friends, who worked hard to collect the empty poppers to recycle at the return and earn station. The money they received was donated to the Caritas Project Compassion appeal.



Project Compassion

During our Ash Wednesday Mass we launched our participation in the Caritas 2019 Project Compassion Appeal and distributed a collection box and poster for each class and a collection box was sent home with each family. If all money could be returned to the school office by Wednesday 10th April (Week 11, Term 1) so we can pass the money on to Caritas. Alternatively, you can take your Project Compassion box to St Finbar's Parish Mass on Palm Sunday (14th April) or make a donation by calling 1800 024 413 or www.caritas.org.au

Let us pray,

**Creator God,
You are our constant hope!
In the season of Lent, you call us to prayer,
fasting and love of those most marginalised.
As a community of faith and courage,
Let our gifts to Project Compassion be symbols
of hope and solidarity with one human family.
Accompany us as we journey with Jesus to
bring 'good news' to all creation and
ready our hearts to work for the common good
of all your people.
We ask this in Jesus' name,
Amen.**



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.

Year 2	Year 1	Kinder	Year 3	Year 4
12th March Week 7	19th March Week 8	26th March Week 9	2nd April Week 10	9th April Week 11

Altar Server Program

If your child would like to join the St Finbar's altar server program, please fill out the attached [Junior Altar Server](#) note and return to the school office as soon as possible.

Fr Jolly and Peter McMahon will spend some time teaching the children about the role of altar serving and show them what to do during masses. At the conclusion of the training, your child will be placed on a roster to serve both the school and the parish masses.



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

Easter Liturgy - Thursday 11th April

Yours in Faith

Leanne Brown
Religious Education Coordinator

Dates To Remember

Friday 8 March

Billionaire Boy Performance
Riverside Theatre
Years 3 - 6

Thursday 14 March

Parramatta Diocesan Netball
Trials - Hawkesbury Indoor
Stadium 11:30am

Tuesday 2 April

9am Parish Mass Year 3

Monday 11 March

Stage 3 Overnight Camp
Teen Ranch

Tuesday 19 March

9am Parish Mass Year 1

Thursday 4 April

St Finbar's Cross Country

Tuesday 12 March

9am Parish Mass Year 2

Friday 29 March

Hot Cross Buns
Hosted by Year 6

Friday 5 April

Second Hand Uniform Sale
8:45 morning playground area

[View School Calendar](#)



Congratulations Award Recipients

Be a Learner

Edward Walker
Eli Kelly
Hans Lau
Kate Budge
Angus Dawson
Zara Lewis
Eloise Howard
Jerry Nightingale
James Docker
Jackson Smith
Bruce Boyall
Quentin Lynch

Living Our Faith in Daily Life

Phoenix Eggins
Ava O'Leary
Taj Collins
Stacey Naude
Bruce Boyall
Dan Breen
Xavier Eggins
Aimee Woods



Be Safe

Lilly Kay
Hailey Crameri
Kaden Sammour
Grace Incorvil
Hakopa Raukawa
Sophia Lynch
Lilliana Hayek
Christopher Gott

Be Respectful

Ruby Wilson
Skye Greenem
Alexander Nilsson
Aidan Jackson
Alyssa McFadden
Erin Budge
Aria Den Hartog
Romeo Siciliano
Aimee Woods



Enrolments Open



Now Enrolling



St Finbar's have now commenced the enrolment process for 2020. 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 now open for enrolments.

Mid year enrolments for 2019 are available, please do not hesitate to enquire about spaces.

Enrolment packs are available at the school office. Drop in to see us or contact us on 4724 3600 and we will arrange to have a pack mailed out to you.

School Tours are also available on an arranged schedule.



House Logos

This term the Sports Committee have been developing logos for our House Colours. Most of us in the community were unaware of what the word for each house meant and that each word comes from the local Darug language. Below are the drafts of the logos so far.

At the assembly this week our PBS4L Leader, Flynn Alderton, shared these logos with the community and has asked the students to think about 3 keywords that they would add to the surround of the logo to encapsulate what their house stands for.





Important Announcements

School FEES

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.



Remember to hand in your Coles Stikeez if you are collecting them for the school. For more info visit : <https://colesstikeez.com.au/>



Remember to collect Woolworths Disney Words in your shop. The school can use these fun tools. <https://www.woolworths.com.au/shop/discover/words?icmpid=sm-hp-top:other:other:marketing>

PBS4L Focus

I will be careful of others around me.

From the Office

If you have not already done so, please remember to return the ICT Agreement forms for your children and also the Consent for Publication of Image form.

Thank you

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.



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.



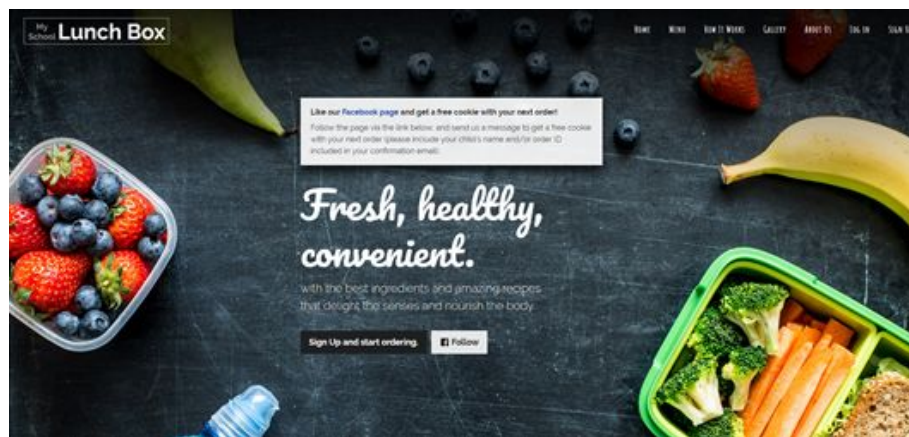
My School Lunchbox !

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

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

90-98 The Lakes Drive Glenmore Park

Enrolment packages can be obtained by
contacting the college on:

4737 5500

Follow us on  



McCarthy
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
EMU PLAINS

Contemporary
learning for life

OPEN DAY

Tuesday 19 March 2019

5:00-8:00pm

Principal presentation sessions at: 5.15pm 6.00pm 6.45pm

NOW ENROLLING FOR YEAR 7 TO 12



OPEN DAY 2019

Sunday 10 March

10am - 2pm

You are invited to join us for **Open Day** at Our Lady of Mercy College
Parramatta in 2019, our 130th anniversary year.

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au

Celebrating 130 years: Honouring the past, Serving the future

MERCY / COMPASSION / JUSTICE / DIGNITY / EXCELLENCE / HOSPITALITY / STEWARDSHIP / SERVICE