



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 3 Week 10 | 26 September 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

The other day I had a moment of panic. I was pulled over on Mulgoa Road for a random breath test. I wasn't panicking about the reading I would give... I was on my way home from school! The panic came when the police officer requested my driver's licence and it wasn't to be found in the pocket of my wallet where it usually is. I felt myself go hot and cold... I need that identity. I needed a card that said I was who I stated to be, and that this could be verified. Luckily, and with a great deal of relief, I recalled that I moved my licence to my phone case the previous weekend, and I was

able to produce it and prove who I was to the officer. However, I know deep down that my identity doesn't really exist on a card. My identity has been formed over the years through my relationships that define and sustain me: my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my close friends, my children.... All of these have helped to shape me in ways that my driver's licence identification could ever contain.

This Sunday's Gospel involves Jesus asking His disciples "Who do you think I am?" (Lk 9:20) to which Peter replies "The Christ". Peter and the other disciples had been following Jesus for quite a while by this stage, and He had left an indelible mark on them. He had reshaped them to the point that they were committed to following Him, even to His death. Even though they were human, and often made errors and showed their human frailties, they had already been changed in a dramatic way. This got me thinking about who I would say Jesus is. What kind of a relationship do I have with Jesus that enables me to be identified as a catholic? Would I do whatever He asked me to? Would I follow Him, even in dark times? Would I trust Him in every situation?



When Jesus asks us "Who do you think I am?" He is also issuing us with an invitation... to stay close to Him, to immerse ourselves in His love, to spend time with His followers. This helps our identity to evolve and change and allows it to become perfectly entwined with His. We don't need a card to prove our identity, it's evident in our words and our actions.

Jesus you are the Christ. Help me to find my true self in Your love. Amen.

Confirming Enrolments for 2020

If you have decided that your child/ren will not be returning to St. Finbar's in 2020, I would request that you let me know as soon as possible. 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. I 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.

Confirmation Celebrations

Last Friday we celebrated our students who received the sacrament of Confirmation. Father Jolly joined myself and Mrs Brown, and together with our year five and six students, shared a short prayer and afternoon tea. I was impressed with the children's manners and the way they expressed a sense of gratitude, with many thanking us for celebrating with them. I ask you to keep these children in your prayers as they continue on their faith journey.





End of term Three

As the term draws to a close I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all our staff at St Finbar's. Their tireless dedication to educating our students is greatly appreciated. Thank you as well, to all our parents who have contributed to the life of St. Finbar's this term, through volunteering or supporting their children in various initiatives. I would like to wish all of our staff and families a safe and relaxing holiday break and we will see you again, ready to begin Term Four on Monday October 14 2019.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal

Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Mrs Donna Beukers Mr Ben Ticehurst	September 17	Concussion First Aid Course
Mrs Rebecca Southern Mr Ben Ticehurst	September 18	Extending Mathematics Understanding Lesson Observations and Feedback
Mrs Robyn Clarke	September 18	System's Leaders day
Mrs Robyn Clarke Mrs Leanne Brown Father Jolly Chacko	September 18	Principal, Priest and REC meeting





Dear Families,

One of the more significant changes created by the recent introduction of the Student Opal Card is the requirement for students to 'tap on' and 'tap off' when travelling to and from school on any school bus boarded in the course of their journey.

Opal data gathered by 'tap on' and 'tap off' is used to determine the demand for bus services. If students do not 'tap on' and 'tap off', lack of perceived patronage could lead to a review of the level of services

provided to your school.

With this in mind, we seek your assistance in reminding your children that tapping on and tapping off correctly is one of the conditions of using the Student Opal Card.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday break.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

Online Safety for Parents and Carers

As parents and carers you know your child better than anyone and have the best opportunity to support and guide them to have safer online experiences.

This guide covers some of the key online safety issues for young people and includes a range of practical tips and advice on what to do if things go wrong. You can also find a list of important services that can offer extra support.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice>



St Finbar's Day

Tomorrow we come together as a school and parish community, to celebrate the life of our patron Saint, Finbar.

St Finbar was a man who was known for his teaching skills and his healing abilities. He worked hard amongst the people in Ireland to spread the word and faith about our God.

The history of St Finbar's parish is linked closely with that of the first railway, which was brought over the Blue Mountains. The hundreds of men working on the railway, wanted a Catholic education for their children. The Sisters of St Joseph saw the need for a school too.

In 1912 a Church was built in Levy Street. This church is known today as 'The Father Barlow Room'. As a lot of the working people were from Ireland, the Church was then named 'St Finbar's Church'.

The Sisters of St Joseph taught the children in the small church during the week.

When the railway was completed, most of the workers left with their children, as did the Sisters. It wasn't until 1955, the school was reopened and the Sisters of St Joseph continued educating children from the area.

It is thanks to those early settlers that we today have St Finbar as our special saint, to watch over us as we go about our daily learning and faith formation.

Celebration Update

The forecast for tomorrow is looking good with blue skies and sunshine. Motiv8Sports have included some water activities, therefore we ask that students pack a small **towel** and a **spare shirt** in their bags, just in case they get too wet and would like to get changed. Please ensure that both the towel and shirt are clearly labelled with their name. The spare shirt does not have to be the colour of their team.

A big thank you to the P & F for their continued support and to all the parents who have volunteered to help serve lunch tomorrow. We appreciate your time and assistance. We look forward to a fun day.



ST FINBAR'S DAY OUTLINE

Friday 27th September, 2019

9.15am	Mass
10.30am	Picnic Morning Tea
11.00am	Opening Ceremony
11.10am	Mega Session #1
12.50pm	Pizza Lunch
1.25pm	Mega Session #2
2.35pm	Closing Ceremony

Please ensure your child has a **water bottle**, **hat** and is wearing **sunscreen** and **enclosed sport shoes**. Please no singlet tops.

TEAM COLOURS

TRUE BLUE CREW	GREEN & GOLD ARMY	LEGENDARY LIFESAVERS	GLENBROOK GIANTS
Blue & White	Green & Yellow	Red & Yellow	Orange & Black

Please do not go out and buy clothes, but look through the wardrobe, dress up drawer or even borrow from a friend!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

A look ahead at Term 4:

Year 6	Year 1 & 2	Year 5	Kindergarten	Year 3	Year 4
22nd October Week 2	29th October Week 3	5th November Week 4	19th November Week 6	26th November Week 7	3rd December Week 8

Dates for your diary for Term 4



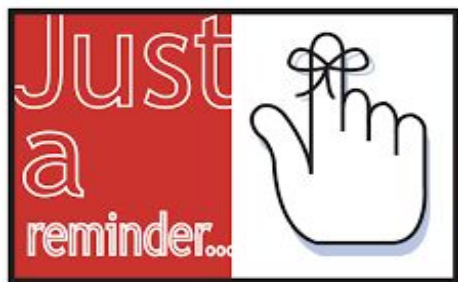
- **All Saints Day Mass** Thursday 31st October 2019 9.15am
- **Remembrance Day Service** Monday 11th November 10.45am
- **St Finbar's Christmas Concert** Monday 9th December 6.00pm
- **Year 6 Graduation & End of Year Mass** Monday 16th December 9.15am

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown
Acting Religious Education Coordinator



Important Reminders



- **If you are leaving St Finbar's at the end of 2019**, this is a reminder that you will need to inform us in writing preferably by Friday 27 September to avoid being invoiced for Term 1 Fees in 2020. Your response will also enable us to offer places to families seeking enrolment.

- Over the holidays, **check your child's school uniform items** to make sure they are clearly labelled. If they have brought something home that doesn't belong to them, we are happy to return it to its correct owner.

- 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.

- **The last day of Term 3 is Friday 27 September. The first day of Term 4 is Monday 14 October.**



Sensory Garden Update

We are pleased to announce that the Sensory Garden is almost complete and will be fully operational upon our return to school in Term 4.

Sensory gardens are designed for the purpose of heightening awareness of an individual's feeling of sensory input, as well as their interactions with their surrounding environment. Our Sensory Garden will act as an alternative learning space that provides all students with a stimulating yet calming environment

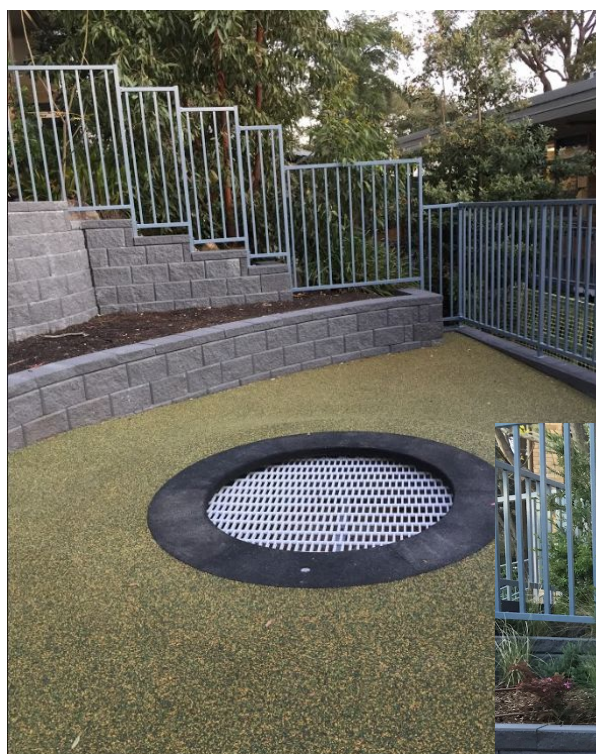


that facilitates regulation, attention and learning.

The garden features a xylophone, a trampoline, a sandpit with a functional water feature, swinging chairs, a vegetable garden, and an outdoor blackboard, all of which engage the senses and have numerous therapeutic benefits. We look forward to incorporating the new space into our daily routines.

A formal opening and blessing with Fr Jolly will be held in Term 4.

Mrs Borg



**EXCITING
NEWS!**

**SO
MUCH
FUN**





Dates To Remember

Friday 27 September St Finbar Feast Day Celebrations Last Day of Term 3	Wednesday 30 October Basketball Gala Day	Friday 8 November Kinder 2020 Orientation 9:15am
Monday 14 October First Day of Term 4	Thursday 31 October 9:15am - All Saints Mass Stage 2	Friday 8 November Bush Dance in the evening
Thursday 17 October Open Tour For new enrolment enquiries 2:10pm	Monday 4 November Open Tour For new enrolment enquiries 9:30am	Monday 11 November Remembrance Day Prayer Service 10:45am
View School Calendar		

School Fees

School fees were due – Wednesday 28 August 2019

If you have paid your School Fees account, Thank you.

If your account is still outstanding could you please contact me by phone on 4724 3600 or via email finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au to discuss payment options.

Thank you

Mrs Denham





Strings Tuition

Expression of Interest for Co-Curricular String Lessons for 2020 - Years 3 to 6 only.

At St Finbar's we offer group strings tuition to Years 3 to 6 with our own highly professional specialist teachers. We are seeking expressions of interest for our 2020 classes.

Lessons are available in groups of 4 to 6. Cost per student per term for a 30 minute lesson each week (minimum of 8 lessons per term) is \$110.00. Tuition Fees will be charged to your School Fee Account.



If your child is interested in attending these classes please complete the attached [form](#) as soon as possible and return it to the school office. We need to have an idea of the number of students interested in Strings lessons before the end of Term.

Thank you
Mrs Denham

Extended Leave Applications for Students

As you know it is very important that children attend school every day. Quite often leave is requested by parents for various reasons. While we understand that this may be necessary sometimes, it is not encouraged as every school day is important for every child.

If you intend taking your child out of school for **five days or more** you must make a formal application in writing to the Principal and fill out an application for extended leave which is available from the school office. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and could depend on circumstances such as the intention for the leave, your child's attendance, and the impact the leave may have on your child's academic progress.

These regulations are in place to make sure that your child achieves to his/her full potential and we know you will understand the reasoning behind them.

Thank you for your understanding. Please contact the office if you require Leave Forms.



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Enrolments for 2020 are now open. If you have younger children ready to start school, now is the time. 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.





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.



NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook

A new edition of the NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook is now available online. A resource for all parents, carers and teachers proudly brought to you by NSW Police Legacy. Download the latest edition via this [link](#) and discuss the safety content with your children or students today.





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**SAVE THE DATE - FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER
2019**