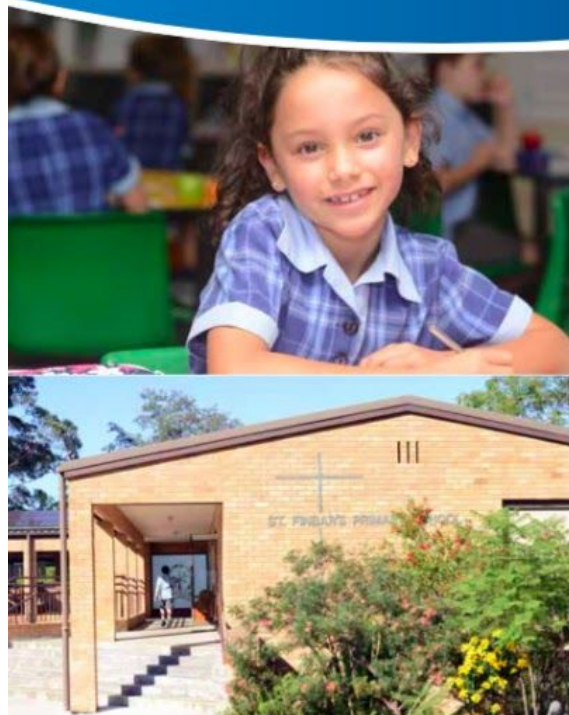




St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 1 Week 2 | 6 February 2020



From The Principal

From the Principal

Welcome back to a brand new year at St Finbar's! And a special welcome to all of our new families who have become a part of St Finbar's family. We hope you find a place of belonging, friendship and welcome here. We also welcome back all of our current families and hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable break over Summer.

The other night we had a huge thunderstorm. There was a lot of lightning and thunder, a little bit of rain, and it caused a blackout at my home. We raced to find matches and candles, as when we have blackouts they can last for quite a while where we live. Being in the dark for a period of time is interesting though. Your eyes eventually adjust to the gloom and half light of the candles and it is almost possible to move around normally, albeit slowly. You almost forget how much better it is to be in the light. So, when the lights came back on we all cheered, blew out the candles and went about our business with a quickened, energetic pace. At Mass this Sunday, we will listen to Mathew's Gospel about Jesus telling His disciples to be the "Light of the World". The idea of light chasing away the darkness is a powerful metaphor in the Gospels. Light is used to describe us and the way we are meant to live our lives as Catholics. Firstly, if we are to be the light of the world we have to share our faith. When we share our faith we spread light all around us. We create light in darkness for others. So as we begin our new school year, I ask each of you to let your light shine brightly.... in all you do at home and at school. Let us be bringers of light to the world.

Father, Help me to be a light that shows people Your love and mercy. Amen.



PBS4L Mascot



It was with great excitement that we launched our PBS4L Mascot last Thursday and Friday. The Possum was a gift from our Year Six students 2019, and will be a much treasured addition to St Finbar's. The Possum (as yet unnamed!) greeted the Years Three to Six students as they returned on Thursday, and again on Friday when the Infant's classes returned to school. Glitter and smiles were sprinkled everywhere as the Possum wished everyone at St Finbar's a Magical 2020. Keep your eyes peeled for the next surprise visit from our school mascot. For more photos, go to our Facebook page and follow us on https://www.facebook.com/SFGPrimarySchool/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel&eid=ARBSjqlAjOhLDm6B4WEM_hMgkPY3TUPwH_2V5s2CVONXNygJkpLhj2TFRcdH2l-ilrhXtG5Mttm9V0qS

Welcome to our new families for 2020

Kinder: Taitem Lipitz, Ethan Andres, Isaac Scott, Arlo Nicoara, William Thomas, Julian Gibson, Isaac Erickson, Rose Parish, George Cunningham, Connor Moses

Year 1: Flynn Powell

Year 2: Noah Parish, Marisol Perez De Arce

Year 5: Leia Agahari, Joaquin Perez De Arce

New staff for 2020

Ms Terese Collins, Mrs Laura Borg, Mrs Kristie Loughton, Mrs Veronica Lee, Mrs Denise Cupitt, Mrs Tracey Procter (Admin), Mr Yugant Gahlot (IT), Mr Jae McCarron (Counsellor)



Changes to Bells and Eating Times

The students have adapted well to the new routines on their return to school. The bell times for break one and two are signalled by a set of chimes. This means that the students go directly out to play for thirty minutes. At the end of play time some music plays, and the students know they have two minutes to move to their eating area. After Ten minutes of eating, the students hear another chime and are directed to their classes, totally refuelled and ready to learn. I asked some of the children what they thought of the changes...

Makenna (Yr 4)- "I think it is cool because sometimes we can bring meat and we know it won't go bad in the heat."

Lillian (Yr 4) - "It's good because we play first, then we get to relax and chill out while we eat. We aren't rushing it anymore."

Quentin (Yr 3) - "There's more time to play now and eating lunch doesn't interfere with games."

Kaden (Yr 3) - I like it because we don't have to take lunch boxes on the playground, so I don't have to worry about it being safe. In the old days sometimes people trod on them and broke them."

Break One: 11:00 - 11:30 play time

11:30 - 11:40 eating time (main meal of the day)

Break Two: 1:30 - 2:00 play time

2:00 - 2:10 eating time (afternoon tea snack)

So far, all of the feedback from parents, teachers and children has been positive. Some parents have reported that they are not getting leftovers as frequently. Teachers have commented that the children are a lot more settled and ready to learn after the eating period, and are coming into the learning spaces ready to focus. I thank everyone for your support of this initiative and ask you to please let me know, via the office, if you have any other feedback.

Prayers for the Campbell Family

I would ask you to keep the Howard family (Matilda year four and Eloise year one) in your prayers following the tragic death of Mrs Howard's brother Tony over the holiday break. The family have established a Gofundme page to assist the Campbell family with ongoing medical costs for Mrs Campbell who was also seriously injured in the accident, and will need rehabilitation and therapy over many months to come. The fundraising will also help to support the three children of Tony and Bernice Campbell. If you would like to donate please follow the link. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/campbells-support>

*Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.*



New School Counsellor for 2020

At the end of 2019 we were advised that Mrs Barbara Mulligan would not be returning to St Finbar's in 2020. We thank her for the wonderful work she did with our children and for her contribution to the learning and well-being of the students at our school. We warmly welcome Mr Jae McCarron in this role for 2020 and hope he finds St Finbar's a wonderful place to belong. This counselling service is provided by CEDP and is at no cost to families. Should you feel your child requires counselling please speak to your child's teacher, who will organise referral forms.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal

Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Ben Ticehurst	31st Jan - 1st Feb	From Sensation to Function - a sensorimotor-affective treatment perspective

Skoolbag Notes to Follow Up

Notes recently sent out via Skoolbag App:

- Zone Swimming Carnival notes to selected students
- Information Evening details
- Family Learning Conference Information and Booking Code
- Curriculum Overview notes





A key part of our learning focus this year will be around challenge and risk. Challenging ourselves to climb through the learning pit and not be afraid to take the risks needed to learn from the mistakes made along the journey to build new connections in our brain.

This doesn't only apply to the learning in the classroom, but the physical, social and emotional challenges we, and your children, will face each day.

On Friday and Saturday, I joined Sheila Frick, an internationally renowned Occupational Therapist, and 75 other OTs for a practical 2-day, activity oriented workshop that provided a theoretical overview of sensorimotor integration and its impact on postural organization and the underpinnings of visual and auditory attention.

We were able to explore each of the sensory systems and their effect on arousal, the effect on regulation, and organisation of the functional movement patterns that support attention and learning.

I was able to participate in a learning lab that introduced a specific clinical observation tool that guides how an OT would develop a treatment plan. After the 2 days, I was able to leave with an understanding of treatment principles and practical activity suggestions that can be tailored to each individual and are appropriate for a variety of environments.

I can assure you that over the 2 days I experienced challenge and risk. Being the only teacher in the course had its challenges. Just trying to tune into some of the technical language used, which was second nature to everyone else, was just one; Being one of only three other males in the course of 75 participants also provided some risk and challenge, especially when we had to get out of our comfort zone with some of the activities.

It was a fabulous learning opportunity that has now empowered us to ensure we can support students in the school with sensory needs, but everyone else as well. Everyone can benefit from targeted activities that help develop focussed breathing, stability, attention, posture, movement, vision and auditory awareness, proprioception and interoception, and the development of our vestibular.

The phrase that started our course was, "We all want joy in our life. Being able to connect with ourselves and how we function and move in the world must help bring us more joy. Therefore everyone can benefit from the work we are doing."

Over the course of 2020 we will be developing some new spaces that will provide students with an area to "power up".

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal





OPENING SCHOOL MASS

On Monday **17th February** at **9.30am** we will come together as a school community to celebrate the start of our new school year. At Mass, we will welcome our new kindergarten children and the children who have commenced in other grades. We invite all our family and friends to join us in our celebrations.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES FOR 2020

St Finbar's Sacramental Program Information Evening will be held on **Monday 2nd of March** at **7.30pm**, in the Parish Hall. All parents who wish to enrol their child/ren in one of the Sacramental programs in 2020 will need to attend the meeting (children do not need to attend the information meeting).

Sacrament of Reconciliation - will be held on **Saturday 6th June** at 2.30pm. The preparation meetings will commence on Saturday 9th May.

Sacrament of Confirmation - will be held on **Sunday 20th September** at 6.00pm. The preparation meetings will commence on Saturday 15th August.

Sacrament of Holy Communion - will be held on **Sunday 22nd November** during the 9.30am Mass. The Holy Communion preparation meetings will commence on Saturday 17th October.

If you have any questions regarding the Sacramental Program, please contact the Parish Office on 4739 8928.

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 1st March**. This celebration will continue with open classrooms for family members, friends and our local community to view our lovely facilities, resources and the fantastic learning here at St Finbar's.





DATES TO REMEMBER

- Opening School Mass **Monday 17th February** 9.30am Week 4
- Ash Wednesday Mass **26th February** 9.15am Week 5
- Catholic Schools Week Mass **Sunday 1st March** 9.30am. Open classrooms from 11am.

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown
Religious Education Coordinator

What to do if your Child is Absent

Please read the attached [Facts Sheet - Explanation of Absences](#) to understand what you need to do if your child is away from school. At St Finbar's we prefer you to send through an explanation via the Skoolbag App, this can be accessed under eForms.

If you are looking at taking your child out of school for an extended holiday and it is five days or more, you will need to request Leave Forms from the office. These forms need to be signed and approved by the Principal.



From the PBS4L Leader - Zane Alderton

Hi, my name is Zane Alderton and I am the new PBS4L Leader.

I will be helping the school and its PBS4L program by encouraging safe playground behaviour and coming up with ideas to promote our PBS4L program.

Do you know what PBS4L means? For me, it means to respect the teachers, and each other, listen, to have a positive learning space and a safe and respectful playground.

Next issue, I will be asking the students what PBS4L means to them. PBS4L stands for.

Positive **B**ehaviour **S**upport **4** **L**earning



School Information Evening - Tuesday 11 February

On Tuesday night, 11 February, the school will be holding its annual Information Evening.

This evening is designed to give you the opportunity to meet your child's teachers and support staff, understand class routines, clarify methods of communication and learning platforms that occur in your child's classroom and to gain an understanding about the key goals and themes for our school year.

The structure for the evening will be as follows:

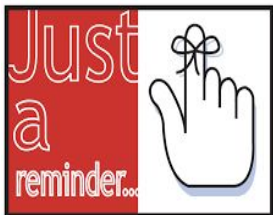
- Kinder and Stage 2 families: 6pm - 6:25pm in learning spaces
- All families to attend Whole School Presentation: 6:30pm - 7:00pm in the Parish Hall
- Stage 1 and Stage 3 families: 7:05pm - 7:30pm in learning spaces

We look forward to seeing you all there.

mark  your **Calendar**



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. Our main form of communication is via Skoolbag and Email.
- **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. Make sure these items are clearly labelled so they can be returned if lost.



Dates To Remember

Friday 7 February 6pm - 8pm P & F Welcome BBQ	Monday 17 February 9:15am Opening School Mass	Tuesday 25 February Family Learning Conferences 3:30pm to 7pm Click Here for Information
Monday 10 February 2pm Whole School Assembly Parish Hall	Tuesday 18 February Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival	Wednesday 26 February 9am Ash Wednesday Mass Family Learning Conferences 7:30am to 9am Click Here for Information
Tuesday 11 February Parent Information Evening Click Here for Session Times	Tuesday 25 February Shrove Tuesday Pancakes at School	Sunday 1 March 9:30am Parish Mass Opening Catholic Schools Week Open School Tour following Parish Mass
View School Calendar		

My School Lunchbox

Each Wednesday we have My School Lunchbox deliver delicious, fresh lunches to students. If you don't feel like making lunches, if you are short on bread or just want to give the children a treat, check out the [My School Lunchbox Website](#).

This service is only available on a Wednesday at St Finbar's and the children will get to eat their meal at break 1. The school has no involvement in the ordering process or the collection of money. It is all ordered and paid online by parents.

Like our [Facebook page](#) and get a free cookie with your next order!

Follow the page via the link below, and send us a message to get a free cookie with your next order (please include your child's name and/or order ID included in your confirmation email).

*Fresh, healthy,
convenient.*

with the best ingredients and amazing recipes
that delight the senses and nourish the body.

Sign Up and start ordering.

Follow



School Office and Parish News

From The Office

Reminder: Check your child's jackets, jumpers, hats to ensure they are labelled and that they have their own belongings, not someone else's.

Label all items clearly.

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.



- [Link to Gateway Family Services - Parenting Program Summary](#)

St Columba's Information Evening - Year 7, 2021
Information Evening. For more details, [click here](#).

ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE – YEAR 7, 2021 INFORMATION EVENING



Tuesday 25th February 2020

Bookings are not required, upon arrival please register at the College Library

Session 1:

3.15pm - Register for tour
3.30pm – 4.00pm: Address by the College Principal
4.00pm - 5.00pm - Tour of facilities

Session 2:

5.15pm - Register for Tour
5.30pm – 6.00pm: Address by the College Principal
6.00pm - 7.00pm - Tour of facilities

Tours will begin at 4.00pm and 6.00pm *sharp* to enable visitors to view all the College facilities.

Prospectus and enrolment applications will be available on the night.

Inquiries: Mrs Sandra O'Brien (Enrolment 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