



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 1 Week 4 | 20 February 2020



From The Principal

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next Wednesday we experience Ash Wednesday, one of the most important dates in our church's liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which

God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. One of the Gospel readings for the week was from Mark. In this Gospel, Jesus told the crowd that 'whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.' (Mk 8:34) Jesus makes a very strong point. If we want to follow Him we need to follow His example... not just with our words but with our actions. With the season of Lent beginning next week, let's remember that during Lent we undergo change, and we become renewed through sacrifice, alms giving and prayer. If we want to put our faith into action then this is the perfect time to think about some practical ways we can exercise our faith, and help it to grow by our actions.

This week Mrs Brown and Mrs Borg attended a FIAT meeting to develop a plan to bring FIAT to St Finbar's. FIAT stands for Faith in Action Team. This group of students, led by Mrs Borg and Mrs Brown will be looking for ways that they can follow in the footsteps of Jesus in practical ways. More information will be available after this initial team meeting, and we look forward to helping our students to live out their faith through their actions.



We pray:

Jesus, teach me how to live out more fully the truths I believe about you. Amen.

Our Learning Goals

This year we are focusing on two goals. At our parent meeting last week these goals were shared and unpacked with the parents who attended. I am including them here for those unable to make the parent evening.

Learning Goal for Teachers:

As teachers, we will analyse and use data to inform instruction and effectively set goals to ensure that students are challenged in their thinking and learning to achieve maximum individual growth.

Learning Goal for Students:

I will grow as a learner by challenging myself and using feedback to help me achieve my learning goals



Formation Goal for Teachers

We will engage with the four elements of prayer in our Church, through deep engagement and inquiry, so that we can grow as active participants in our faith community.

Formation Goal for Students

I can use different types of prayer forms to communicate with God.

These student goals have been put up in every learning space at St. Finbar's and are referred to often.

Uniform Policy

The St Finbar's [school uniform](#) is one that was agreed upon by parents through consultation in 2018. While we are still within a two year changeover period, the expectation is that children are dressed in the expected school uniform each day. I have noticed that some children are not wearing correct sport shoes, and I have seen some converse style shoes being worn. These are not healthy for children to be running and playing sport in as they do not have an arch. Flat styled sport shoes can cause harm to small feet, ankles and knees, so I ask you to please ensure that all sports footwear is supportive.



This year will be the last year that students will be able to wear the old style sports shirt and shorts, with an exception to Stage 3 students. Hats are compulsory for all students each day. If a student does not have a hat, they will be asked to sit off the playground in the shade. Compulsory school hats are available for purchase from [The School Locker](#). There is an option to have your order delivered to school with free shipping.

On Tuesday 3 March The School Locker will be having a Pop Up Shop on site at St Finbar's in the COSHC Room. This will be from 8:45am to 10:30am. This is a great opportunity to try uniforms on your children and purchase on the day. The School Locker will have EFTPOS facilities only.

With all uniform items, we ask that you clearly label them with your child's name.

Road Safety

With the inclement weather over the past few weeks it has been noted that some parents have been dropping students off on the opposite side of the road to the school gates. This practice is extremely dangerous, especially in Levy Street, where there is no designated crossing, and cars can appear very quickly over the hill. If your child needs to cross the road in King Street please ensure that the crossing is being utilised. Otherwise, in Levy Street, please walk your children safely to the school gates or park on the same side of the school. Your assistance in this matter is very much appreciated, as we are concerned about the safety of our children, and strive to make school a safe and supportive place.



Toys at School

From time to time children bring toys to school that might be deemed inappropriate, either because of the cost of replacing the toy should it be damaged or because of its distractibility and concerns about safe play. Often these toys generate a lot of excitement in the playground and problems can arise over taking turns and who is allowed to play with it. Sometimes parents are unaware that these toys have been packed in school bags. If we determine that a toy is unsuitable for use in the playground the toys will be taken to the office area and handed over to a parent at the end of the day, or at the parent's convenience. This would include electronic toys such as Nintendo Switch gaming consoles, portable PSP consoles, robotics, ipods, drones, remote control cars and so on. If you are unsure as to whether a toy is suitable for school please contact the school office for clarification.



Anaphylaxis and Allergies

At St Finbar's there are several students and staff members with allergies and anaphylaxis, and in order to ensure that these children are safe at school we ask you to speak with your child about the dangers of food sharing. Students with allergies are ultimately responsible for ensuring that they do not ingest anything that could be potentially harmful. An anaphylaxis and allergy note will be sent home via Skoolbag next week with some great information for parents about managing allergies.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal

Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Mrs Robyn Clarke	19th February	Flourish Program Session 4
Mrs Donna Beukers	19th February	Creating Amazing Parent Experiences
Mrs Leanne Brown and Mrs Alicia Borg	20th February	Faith In Action planning meeting
Mrs Robyn Clarke, Mrs Leanne Brown and Mr Jonathan Tucker, Fr Jolly Chacko	28th February	System Leadership Ignition Gathering



MAI Feedback

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.

You can access an a support pack [here](#), which will describe for you what each Growth Point looks like and the path ahead for each Domain.



Challenging Drop Offs

From time-to-time, you can have a morning where the drop off at school turns into an emotional rollercoaster. Children can be in tears, and parents fluctuate between frustration and guilt. Leaving you wondering what to do or questioning, "Am I doing the right thing?" You feel guilty about leaving your child upset.

Sadly, parents can also feel like they are under the spotlight as they leave the playground. Feeling like all the other children are ready for the school day, but why not mine? Not exactly a stress-free start to the day for anyone involved!

Like most families, we had our own share of challenging drop-offs. My daughter spent Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 latching on to my wife's hand at each morning drop off. Everyday, my wife would give her a hug, a kiss, tell her that she loved her and to have a great day, and lovingly, but firmly, would hand her off to the teacher in the playground and walk.... No turning back.

At the conclusion of each day, her teacher would always say that she stopped crying within minutes and my daughter always ran out at the end of the day smiling and happy.

The key ingredient is Let them go (*Natkin, S. 2019. How to Manage Tearful Drop-Offs*)

It's tempting to stick around, hoping your child will stop crying. It's also tempting to sneak out, thinking that by doing so, it will be easier for your child. However, neither of these strategies work well. The long, drawn-out good-byes increase the anxiety in our children, and the quick ducking out plays into their greatest fears about being left. Instead, create a good-bye ritual with your child: Give those last hugs and kisses, and tell him you can't wait to see him after school. Then, follow through on your word and head out that gate.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



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.

CELEBRATING PARISH MASS

This year we have made some changes to our Parish Mass timetable. We will now be attending Mass with our parish community on Fridays. Students will be attending as a Stage, and we will endeavour to celebrate Mass twice a term.

Please note the date your child's class will be attending Mass this term. Mass begins at 9am. We warmly invite all parents, carers and family members to join us. Family members are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.



Stage Three	Stage Two	Stage One	Stage Three & Kinder	Stage Two
14th February Week 3	6th March Week 6	13th March Week 7	20th March Week 8	27th March Week 9



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Notes recently sent out via Skoolbag App, relevant links attached below:

- [Family Learning Conference Information and Booking Code](#)
- School Photo Envelopes



School Fees

School Fees for Term 1 2020 are **due Wednesday 18 March 2020** and will be posted shortly. If you do not receive your fee statement please contact the office prior to the due date so we can generate a copy for you.

Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 28 days of the date the school account statement is issued". If you need to discuss your school fee account, please contact me by phone on 4724 3600 or via email finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au

Thank you

Mrs Denham





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School Photos

Advanced Life Photography will be at St Finbar's on Tuesday 31 March for our school photo day. We ask that all students wear the full Summer school uniform on this day. Please mark this date in your calendars.

Individual photo envelopes have been sent home with each child. If you would like a sibling envelope for your children, please collect one from the office or give us a call and we can send one home with your child.

Orders are once again placed online or you can send in an order envelope on the day. Payment and submission of orders online is the preferred method as we are unable to accept any photo payments through the school office.

The whole school photo is the generally the first photo of the day. Please try and have your children arrive at school promptly by 8:55am.

advancedlife
photography & print specialists

Now Enrolling for 2021

Enrolments are now open for 2021. If you require an enrolment pack for your child, please do not hesitate to contact us in the office on 4724 3600 or drop us an email stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au and we can arrange a pack for you.

If you have family or friends that have a child ready for school, please pass on our details and let them know enrolments are now open. We have regular tours booked throughout the year. Click here for the [tour dates](#)

Enrolments for 2020 in grades K-6 are limited, however, we welcome your enquiry.

Enrol Now
Discover Your Potential

St Finbar's Primary School Glenbrook
02 4724 3600 | stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au



Live Life Well @ School



This week we bring you a new addition to our newsletter. Live Life Well @ School is a program aimed at enhancing student healthy life choices. It is in alignment with the new PDHPE Curriculum and offers information and suggested activities that promote living life well at school. Why not try one of these activities this week?

Do an hour of physical activity everyday

Children need at least 60 minutes of activity each day. Children are not going enough physical activity while at school. Families can plan extra activity into lives to make up the difference.



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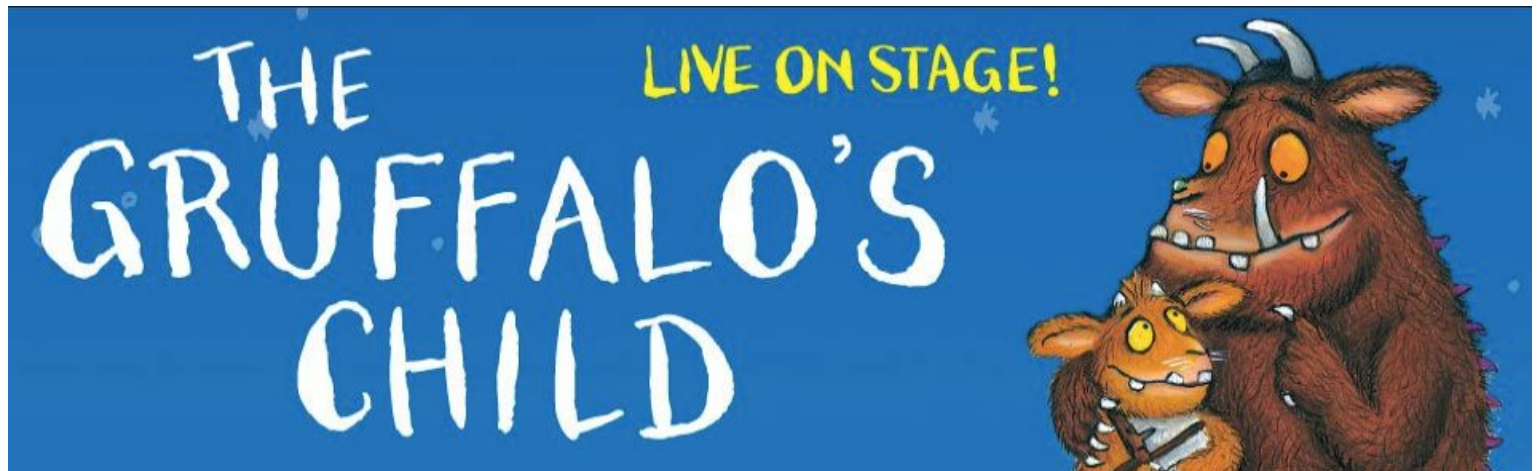
Rainy day activities



Keeping kids active and occupied during wet days can be challenging. Here are some active play ideas for children indoors:

- build a cubby house with sheets, chairs or cardboard boxes
- play hide and seek
- play basket softball and see how many times you can throw a foam ball into a washing basket - keep increasing the distance to make it more challenging
- have a dance competition or disco at home
- set a limit on the amount of time children spend in front of a screen (tv, device etc).





Excursion Kinder, Year One, Year Two

Dear Parents,

On Thursday 5th March, all students in Kindergarten - Year Two will attend an excursion to the theatre to watch a performance of "The Gruffalo's Child" based on the book of the same name by Julia Donaldson. One wild and windy night the Gruffalo's Child ignores her father's warnings about the Big Bad Mouse and tiptoes out into the deep dark wood. After all, the Big Bad Mouse does not really exist...does he?

Travel to and from the venue will be by bus. Students will enjoy a picnic lunch in the park prior to the excursion.

Please pack your child's hat, a drink bottle and lunch in a small backpack or reusable shopping bag. Lunches may be easier to manage if they are packed loose (eg in cling film), rather than in large lunch boxes. Students will eat their recess upon their return to school.

Thank you,

Alison Maunder
Leader of Learning



From the PBS4L Leader - Zane Alderton



Last newsletter I introduced myself and told you what PBS4L means to me and what it stands for. This week I asked the students what PBS4L means to them.

To ascertain what the learners at St Finbar's know about PBS4L, I asked 21 children from Kindy to Year 6 and this is what some of them had to say:

Kindy: Walking safely in the classroom and in the playground

Year 1: To respect nature [plants and trees]

Year 2: Having a clean environment

Year 3: Following the teachers rules

Year 4: Striving for your personal best

Year 5: To have a growth mindset in and out of the classroom

Year 6: To listen to your peers and give critical feedback to your friends and people you don't know

Everyone was right when they answered that question and they came up with some awesome ideas .

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

My School Lunchbox - Change of Day

Previously on a Wednesday we have had My School Lunchbox deliver delicious, fresh lunches to students. Commencing next week **the day will be changing to a Tuesday**. This will ensure that the students receive their order to eat at Break 1 time.

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 Tuesday 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.





Dates To Remember

Friday 21 February P & F Welcome BBQ 6pm on the grass area King Street	Wednesday 26 February 9am Ash Wednesday Mass	Tuesday 3 March 8:45am - 10:30am The School Locker POP UP SHOP at St Finbar's
Tuesday 25 February Shrove Tuesday Pancakes at School	Sunday 1 March 9:30am Parish Mass Opening Catholic Schools Week 11am Open School Tour	Thursday 5 March K-2 Theatre Excursion The Gruffalo's Child
Tuesday 25 February Family Learning Conferences commence 3:30pm to 7pm (and Thursday 7:30am to 9am) Click Here for Information	Monday 2 March 11am Open School Tour	Tuesday 31 March School Photo Day
View School Calendar		

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.



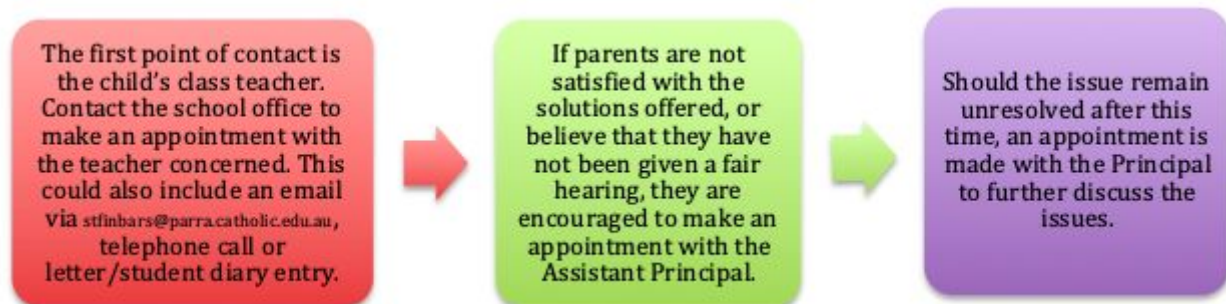


Complaints Handling Procedures

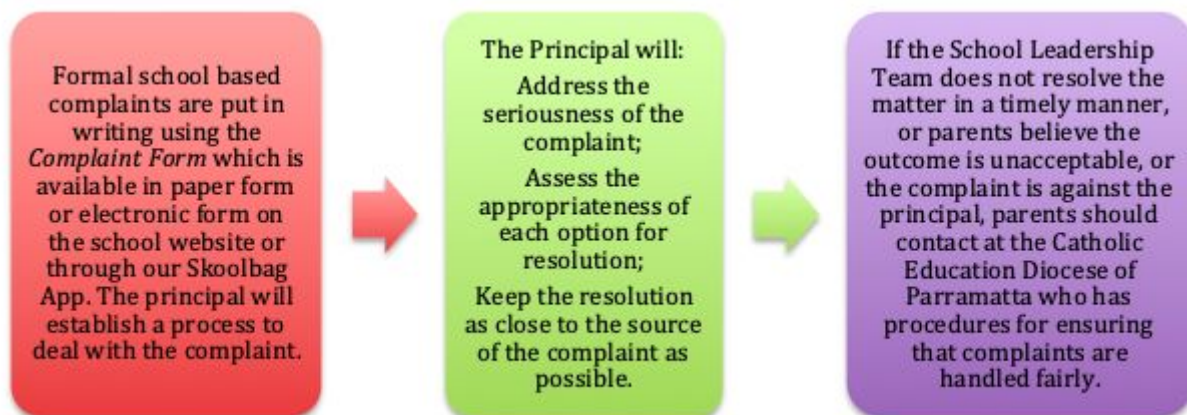
NESA requires all schools to publicise their complaint handling procedures. This is to ensure that parents and other community members know where to go to get information, how to make a complaint, how the complaint will be handled and how the outcome will be communicated to them.

An overview of the process is graphically represented below.

The recommended procedure to be followed by parents for informal complaints



The recommended procedure to be followed by parents for formal complaints



You can view the CEDP Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures [here](#).



Community Notices

- [Link to Gateway Family Services - Parenting Program Summary](#)
- [Catholic Education Office - Parents Representatives Council - Term 1 Flyer](#)

St Finbar's (Glenbrook) Netball Club

We are currently finalising our teams for the 2020 Winter Season are looking for players in the following age groups:

Under 8's (for children who are turning 7 or 8 in 2020) – we have room for up to 3 players

Under 10's (for children who are turning 10 in 2020) – we have room for up to 5 players

Under 12's (for children who are turning 11 or 12 in 2020) – we have room for up to 2 players

For more information please contact our Club President, Janette Ankers, on 0438 672 040 or email secretarysfnc@gmail.com

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.stcolumbaspringwood.catholic.edu.au



St Finbar's Primary School
Faith, Truth, Knowledge



OPEN DAY

Sunday, 8 March 2020

10.00am – 2.00pm

You are warmly invited to join us for Open Day 2020.

Principal's Welcome at 10.00am and 12.00pm

Bookings can be made by visiting the College website www.olmc.nsw.edu.au

A work of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta since 1889



YEAR 7, 2022
ENROLMENT
INFORMATION
EVENING
Tuesday, 24 March

MERCY

COMPASSION

JUSTICE

DIGNITY

EXCELLENCE

HOSPITALITY

STEWARDSHIP

SERVICE

PENOLA
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Co-educational Year 7 -12
75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains

Enrolling now for all year groups 2021

Open Evening Tuesday 10 March 2020

5.00pm to 8.00pm

- ◇ Meet the Principal, staff and student leaders
- ◇ Tours of the College facilities
- ◇ Enrolment packages available
- ◇ Principal Presentations

Enquiries: 4728 8100

Website: www.penolaemuplains.catholic.edu.au

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