



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 1 Week 6 | 5 March 2020



From The Principal

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Wednesday we attended Mass for Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey for the next six weeks, and at Mass, Fr Jolly called us to think about our lives and ways that we have rejected God's love and turned away from him.

I was talking to my mum this week, and she told me a story that I had never heard before. Apparently, she was not happy about having to attend Ash Wednesday Mass when she was about seven years old. Why should she have to go on a Wednesday? Wasn't every Sunday enough? So she hid in the toilets at school while the rest of her class went off to Mass. Unfortunately, as most children are prone to do, she didn't quite think her plan through. She suddenly realised that Sister Mary Agnes would notice that she didn't attend Mass because she didn't have any ashes on her forehead! So, being as resourceful as a seven year old could be, she snuck out of the toilet and made a beeline for the incinerator. She knelt down and scraped some of the soot off the bottom of the metal container and created a sign of the cross on her forehead! She waited, crouching behind the incinerator until her class came marching back from Mass and silently joined the rear of the line. However, Sister Mary Agnes did indeed notice she was missing from Mass and questioned her afterwards about her deception. It was a great learning point for my mother, and looking back, we giggled about how funny the whole escapade was!

This is a great example of giving into temptation though, and our Gospel last Sunday retold the story of Jesus' Temptation in the Desert. Jesus was hungry and exhausted, and it would have been very easy to give into the Devil's temptations to save himself. However, Jesus held firm with blind faith. He never lost



trust in His Father's love for Him, and he succeeded in beating temptation. He knew exactly what God wanted Him to do, and as distasteful as that task was, Jesus held fast to God's will and God's promises. So this Lent, when you are tempted, and in our human frailty we all are tempted from time to time, don't fall for it! Stay strong, and know that God loves us in all our forms, saints and sinners, and that forgiveness is just a heartbeat away... Although, I'm sure Sister Mary Agnes fought hard to find forgiveness for a naughty seven year old!

Lord, strengthen me with your grace this Lent so that I can overcome any temptation. Amen

Family Learning Conferences

Last week I was delighted to see how many parents and children attended our Family Learning Conferences. This was a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher personally, and to give them any pertinent information about your child that will help our staff in their interactions and relationship building with them. If for any reason you missed a scheduled appointment, or there were no suitable times for you to meet, please email the office at stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au and we can reschedule another time for you, or alternatively, conduct a phone discussion.

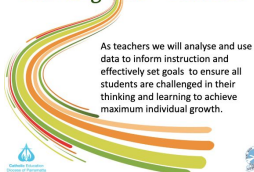
Catholic Schools Week

Last Sunday we had a very successful open classroom morning after 9:30am mass. Parents looking to enrol their children in 2021 were very impressed with our facilities and the opportunities that we provide for the existing St Finbar's children. We also held open classrooms on Tuesday, and many parents took the opportunity to come and see the children's learning in action. If you know someone who missed our Sunday open classrooms and tour, but would like to see our facilities with a view to enrolment, please encourage them to contact the school office for a prospectus and to book in an open tour session.

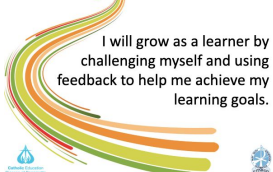
Teaching Educators 2020

This year we are fortunate to have three teaching educators from CEDP working with our staff to further our professional learning. These specialist staff work with teachers on our learning goals, so that we can assist our students to achieve their learning goals. We welcome Ms Tammy Roosen - Mathematics K-2 Sequences, Ms Noreen Keane - Literacy, focusing on reading strategies, and Ms Kelly Jawerth to support staff with the Science and technology curriculum.

Learning Goal - Teachers



Learning Goal - Students



Formation Goal - Teachers



Formation Goal - Students





Sabbath Week

Next week will be Week Seven of Term One. Once again we will be celebrating Sabbath Week.... A time for reconnecting with family and friends, a week free from home learning and school meetings. If you have any urgent communication matters please email the school office and information will be forwarded on to the relevant person. Take this time as a gift, and try to spend some time with your children engaging in quality time, connecting with friends, visiting the Church or praying together.



Swimming Carnival Congratulations

At Monday's assembly, our student leaders awarded the age champion and runner up medals from the 2019 swimming carnival. We congratulate the following children:

The Boy's Age Champions are:

Under 9

Bruce Boyall Joint Age Champion
Quentin Lynch Joint Age Champion

Under 10

Finnian McCann Age Champion
Jude Alderton Runner Up Age Champion

Under 11

Mitchell Cremona Age Champion
Michael Martland Runner Up Age Champion

Under 12

Hakopa Raukawa Age Champion
Joshua Simone Runner Up Age Champion

The Girl's Age Champions are:

Under 8

Zoe Taylor Age Champion
Sophie Pawlyk Runner Up Age Champion





Under 9

Mali Capuyan Age Champion
Sofia Lewis Runner Up Age Champion

Under 10

Maiya Edwards Age Champion
Matilda Howard Runner Up Age Champion

Under 11

Isobel Reece Age Champion
Ellie Taylor Runner Up Age Champion

Under 12

Katia Apps Age Champion
Zoe McKenzie Runner Up Age Champion



May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal

Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Leanne Brown	20th February	Faith in Action Cluster Meeting
Alicia Borg	20th February	Faith in Action Cluster Meeting
Ben Ticehurst and Alison Maunder	27th February	Teaching to Transfer
Robyn Clarke, Leanne Brown and Jonathan Tucker	28th February	System Leadership Ignition Day - New RE Curriculum
Robyn Clarke	4th March	Principal's Mentoring Day



A Good Night's Sleep - A Key to Success

For us to perform effectively, adults need a minimum of 8 hours sleep per night. For many busy parents the idea of 8 hours sleep a night sounds like a holiday. For your children, it is a necessity. School aged children should be having 9 (Year Six) to 11 (Kindergarten/Yr 1) hours sleep each night.

Obviously, the main reason we sleep is to re energize and recover our body, and mind, for the day ahead. However, sleep is actually part of the learning process. You could almost say that we sleep to learn.

While we are asleep, the brain is extremely active. It is during this time that the brain is consolidating the days learning. Your brain replays the day's information thousands of times and begins the process of making concrete pathways in your working memory. It is from this working memory that your brain starts to transfer knowledge to your short-term memory.

When your child wakes the next morning, from a good night's sleep, they will then be able to more easily recall the learning from the day prior. Through repetition of this information, they will then start to cement this understanding into their short-term memory. This pattern of learning then continues with the ultimate goal, the transfer of knowledge to long-term memory.

By losing sleep, you learn less. You can expect that your attention span will suffer, your working memory will diminish, your logical reasoning will be lower and your ability to apply the knowledge learnt from the day prior will be lost. Lack of sleep will ultimately impact overall cognition and eliminate the potential benefit of new learning, therefore decreasing the ability to learn and retain information.

A great example of the importance sleep has on learning, was evident when scientist, Dimitri Ivanovich Mendeleyev, discovered the Periodic Table. Mendeleyev came up with the idea in his sleep! Contemplating the nature of the universe while playing cards one evening, he fell asleep. When he awoke, he knew how all of the atoms in the universe were organized, and he promptly created his famous table. He put into practice the concept of, "let's sleep on it".

Sleep is just one aspect of a healthy pattern of learning. Students who push to stay up just that little bit longer are actually doing themselves a disservice.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



PROJECT COMPASSION

During our Ash Wednesday Mass we launched our participation in the Caritas 2020 Project Compassion Appeal. A collection box was sent home with each family.

Each year Caritas relies on the generosity of others to raise funds to help those less fortunate around the world. If you are able to donate, any money needs to be returned to the school office by Wednesday 8th 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 (12th April) or make a donation by calling 1800 024 413. Head to www.caritas.org.au for more information.

God of all peoples and nations,
As you accompany us on our Lenten journey,
may our fasting strengthen our commitment
to live in solidarity,
our almsgiving be an act of justice,
and our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.
Awaken our hearts and minds
that we may be one human family
as we all go further together.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things, with great love." (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

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

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

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

- School Photo Envelopes - SIBLING photo envelopes available at the office
- 2020 Collection Notice



School Fees

School Fees for Term 1 2020 have been mailed and are **due Wednesday 18 March 2020**. If you have not received 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.

advancedlife
photography & print specialists

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.

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



Fundamental movement skills

There is evidence that children with poor fundamental movement skills such as jumping, skipping, leaping, kicking, throwing and catching are less likely to be active. Give your kids a head start and help teach them these skills.



Easy ways to add physical activity to your day:

- ✓ walk to the store, the school or the playground instead of using the car
- ✓ allow time for children to play outdoors
- ✓ park the car away from the shops
- ✓ get off the bus one stop earlier
- ✓ don't use the remote control
- ✓ plant a veggie garden
- ✓ take the stairs instead of escalators or lifts
- ✓ schedule regular time each week for your family to be physically active together
- ✓ limit television time to no more than two hours per day or 14 hours a week.



Road Safety Awareness

Always be aware of where you pull up to drop your children off, where you are parked, familiarise yourself with the school crossing to help educate the children. Please also remember to keep our neighbours driveways clear.





From the PBS4L Leader - Zane Alderton



Role Models are the Key to a Safe Playground

This week I want to share with you how positive behaviour can be shown around the school.

I have been keeping an eye out for when safe, respectful behaviours have been shown by the students of St Finbar's. I witnessed a great example when a Year Six student helped a student in Kindergarten.

Year Six were playing soccer and a Kindergarten student walked past the soccer goal, as all the balls were being kicked. Rocco told everyone to stop and wait until he had walked past and was at a safe distance from the cracking shots.

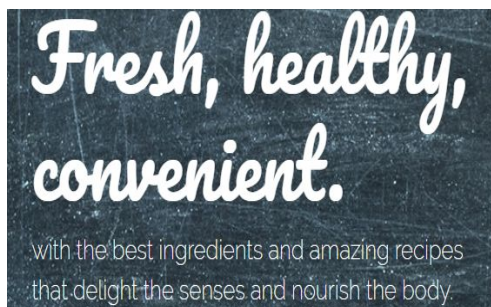
Rocco has been an awesome role model for others, showing students how we can be safe on the playground. Make sure you receive your Possum Token from Mr Ticehurst.

My School Lunchbox - Every Tuesday



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 6 March 9am Parish Mass - Stage Two	Friday 20 March 9am Parish Mass Kinder and Stage Three	Friday 27 March 9am Parish Mass Stage Two Reconciliation Stage Three
Monday 9 March Stage 3 Overnight Camp Vision Valley	Saturday 21 March World Downs Syndrome Day	Tuesday 31 March School Photo Day
Friday 13 March 9am Parish Mass - Stage One	Monday 23 March 2:10pm Whole School Assembly Parish Hall	

[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.





every learner every day ☒

When is sick too sick for school



If I am sick please call the school or write me a note to let the school know why I am not at school.

Send me to school if ...	Keep me home if ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ I have the symptoms of a cold or hayfever✓ I have a sprain, strain or pain and I can function (walk, talk and eat)✓ If I have asthma, diabetes, epilepsy etc - school personnel are trained to manage my condition. Talk to the school about my health plan✓ I haven't vomited or had diarrhoea for 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ I have a temperature higher than 37 degrees✓ I am vomiting or have diarrhoea✓ My eyes are red, and crusty (conjunctivitis)✓ I have influenza (flu) - combination fever, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and headaches✓ I have the symptoms of an infectious disease. Go to NSW Health - A-Z of infectious diseases for more information

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

Absences

If your child is absent from school, please submit absentee eForm via the Skoolbag App. A phone call to the office or an email is sufficient, however, an eForm is preferred.

When a student has been absent for three or more days, we are required to phone and check on the reason for their absence. By sending in the absentee form, this will keep their attendance up to date rather than unexplained.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

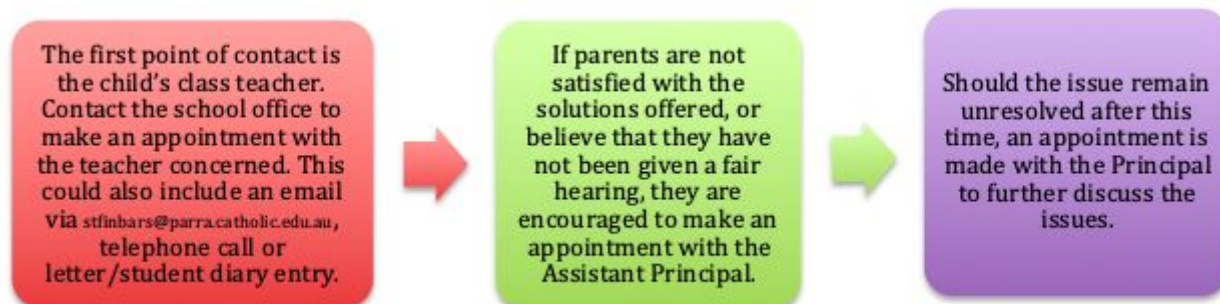


Complaints Handling Procedures

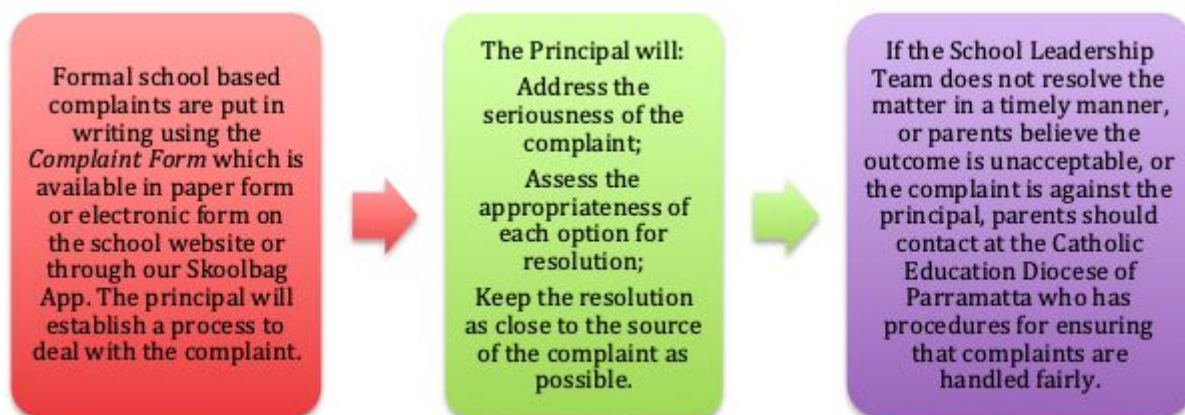
NESA requires all schools to publicise their complaint handling procedures. This is to ensure that parents and other community members know where to go to get information, how to make a complaint, how the complaint will be handled and how the outcome will be communicated to them.

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](#).



St Finbar's Primary School
Faith, Truth, Knowledge

Community Notices

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



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



St Finbar's Primary School
Faith, Truth, Knowledge

**PALM SUNDAY
PEACE RALLY AND MARCH**

**Welcome
Refugees**

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
MOST REV. VINCENT LONG
(CATHOLIC BISHOP OF PARRAMATTA)
CRAIG FOSTER (FOOTBALL LEGEND)

2PM SUNDAY 5 APRIL
BELMORE PARK (NEAR CENTRAL STATION)
MARCH TO VICTORIA PARK

JUSTICE, PEACE, UNITY
NAURU AND PNG: END THE TORTURE
PERMANENT PROTECTION AND FAMILY REUNION