



# St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Newsletter | Term 2 Week 10 | 2 July 2020



From The Principal

## From the Principal

Everyone makes mistakes. I've made a few in my time, and I'm sure that you are able to admit the same. One of the most humiliating mistakes I made as a child was during a school Mass. Father used the homily time to question us on our knowledge of religion, and when he asked the question "What is an epistle?" my hand shot up. I was busting to show Father that I knew the answer. Turns out "the wife of an apostle" was NOT the correct answer! I was asked to leave the church as Father believed I was being a smarty pants – which I wasn't. I really believed that I knew the right answer!

Mistakes are how we learn and grow, changing ourselves for the better because of what we have learned from our mistakes. Just recently, I was reading about a famous astronomer, Percival Lowell, who in 1908 announced that he had identified a series of moving red canals on the surface of the planet Mars. He was widely acclaimed for his discovery; however, it wasn't until 1997 that his claims were proven false. The spacecraft "Pathfinder" landed on Mars in 1997 and proved that there were no moving red canals at all. It turns out that Lowell had a rare eye disease, now known as Lowell's disease, where Percival was able to see the red veins in his own eyeballs. Yet, because he was so famous, no one dare to contradict him.

At St Finbar's, sometimes things go wrong for students, and they make mistakes. We see this as an opportunity for growth, not as an act that requires punishment or humiliation. We encourage all of our students to look at mistakes in their lessons or their behaviour as an opportunity for examining the mistakes



and learning from it. To enable us to do this, all students have to feel safe and supported by staff, other students and the community. This week one of the Gospel stories told us about St Thomas and his inability to believe unless he saw it for himself. Big mistake! But Jesus, in His gentle way, reminded Thomas to have faith. One of my favourite authors, Neil Gaiman, wrote, "I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something." So, next time we make a mistake, let's hope we can be challenged to grow and change from the person we were and emerge as the person we are meant to be.

***Let us pray: God our Father, I can think of mistakes I have made and the attitude that I have sometimes had that was not solution focussed. Help me to realise that I don't know it all and no longer need others, but to recognise that I have true friends around me who are willing to point me in the right direction. Help me to apologise when things go wrong, and be ready to forgive others who may have hurt me. May I grow in wisdom each day. Amen.***

## Staffing changes for the remainder of 2020

Next term there will be some staffing at St Finbar's for the remainder of the year. Mrs Amber Baines will be replacing Mrs Natalie Platt as she commences maternity leave. Mrs Baines will work in Stage Two each Wednesday and in Stage One each Friday. We wish Mrs Platt every happiness as she, her husband Graham and son Luke welcome a new family member. We welcome Mrs Baines and know her time at St Finbar's will be a happy one.

Some of our School Learning Support Officers will have their roles adjusted. Please see the changes below:

**Ms Louise Corby** - Stage Three Monday and Tuesday, Stage One on Wednesday and Stage Two Thursday and Friday

**Ms Therese Sammut** - Stage Two Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Ms Sammut will temporarily reduce her days due to study commitments.

**Ms Jo Leone** - Ms Leone will be supporting Stage One Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**Mrs Fran Pietersma** - Mrs Pietersma will be supporting Stage One and Stage Two on Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Pietersma is reducing her hours due to personal commitments.

All other SLSO days and times will remain as they have been for Terms One and Two.

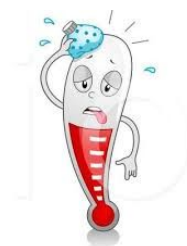
I have also advertised a three day per week temporary position which will begin at the start of Term Three to support students with special needs at St Finbar's. I will announce this appointment as soon as we have interviewed eligible staff.



## Students presenting with an Illness at School

We understand that many of our parents are returning to work onsite, and we acknowledge the challenges that this brings. However, if your child presents at school with a temperature or any cold and flu like symptoms we have been advised to contact parents so that they can collect their child and take them home.

If any child is tested for Covid-19 please inform the school. Parents of any child tested for Covid-19 will need to provide the school with proof of the negative result before the child can return to school. For all other illnesses normal procedures apply. This includes a Doctors Certificate if the child is absent for three days or more.



At the moment we are seeing many children with various respiratory illnesses as is usual for this time of year.

The safety of all children and staff at St Finbar's is essential, so I thank you for your ongoing support.

## In Conclusion...

As this quite tricky term draws to a close I would like to firstly thank our tirelessly hard working teachers and staff for their resilience and flexibility during the covid lockdown period, and appreciate the changes and associated challenges that a sudden return to full time classes onsite demanded. Secondly, to our parents, grandparents and carers who shared the burden of the learning from home period with our teaching staff. We appreciate and applaud the job you did, and wish you all a restful and enjoyable holiday break with your children. And finally, I'd like to thank our students who rose to the challenge of learning from home, attending zoom meetings and dealing with social implications around returning to school. I am very proud of all of you, and I hope you have a wonderful, well deserved holiday.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal

## Teachers as Learners

| Name            | Date                | Professional Learning                  |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| Mrs Alicia Borg | Wednesday 24th June | Faith In Action cluster meeting (zoom) |





It's 12:30 a.m. I've struggled for the last hour to go to sleep. But, I can't. Yet again, I am tossing and turning, unable to shut down my brain. Why? Because I am worried about our students. Concerned. I'm so stressed that I can only think to write down what I really want to say — the real truth I've been needing to say — and vow to myself that I will let my students hear what I really think tomorrow.

This is what students really need to hear:

First, you need to know right now that I care about you. In fact, I care about you more than you may care about yourself. And I care not just about your achievements or your growth, but about you as a person. And, because I care, I need to be honest with you. Do I have permission to be honest with you — both in what I say and how I say it?

Here's the thing: I lose sleep because of you. Every week.

Before I tell you why, you should understand the truth about school. You see, the main event of school is not academic achievement. It never has been. It never will be. And, if you find someone who is passionate in claiming that it is about achievement, that person is lying to him or herself and may genuinely believe that lie. Yes, fractions, persuasive writing, Geography, the suitability of materials - all are important and worth knowing. But they are not the MAIN event.

The main event is learning. Not just learning new knowledge or skills, but learning how to deal with the harshness of life when it gets difficult — how to overcome problems as simple as a forgotten hat, to obnoxious peers, to gossip, to people doubting you, to asking for help in the face of self-doubt, to pushing yourself to concentrate when a million other thoughts and temptations are fingertips away.

It is your resilience in conquering the main event — adversity — that truly prepares you for life after school. Because, mark my words, school is not the most challenging time you will have in life. You will face far greater challenges than these. Sure, you will have times more amazing than you can imagine, but you will also confront incomparable tragedy, frustration, and fear in the years to come.

But, you shouldn't be worried about the fact that you will face great adversities. You should be worried because you could be setting yourself up to fail at overcoming them. Here's the real reason I lose hours of sleep worrying about you: You are failing the main event of school. You are quitting too quickly. I am not going to let you quit! You might not think you have, but quitting wears many masks.

For some, you quit by throwing the day away and not even trying to write a sentence or an answer to a maths problem because you think it doesn't matter or you can't or there's no point. But it does matter. What you write is not the main event. The fact that you do take charge of our own fear and doubt in order to write when you are challenged — THAT is the main event.



Some of you quit by moving slowly after the eating bell and being late to class. Being punctual to fit the mold of the classroom is not the main event of showing up. The main event is delaying your temptation and investing in your own intelligence — understanding that sometimes short-term pain creates long-term gain and that great people make sacrifices for a greater good.

For others, you quit by being rude and disrespectful to your peers and adults. Adults who ask you to focus on your learning but you want to defend your choice. Bowing to authority is not the main event. The main event is learning how to problem solve maturely, not letting your judgement be tainted by the stains of emotion.

I see some of you quit by choosing not to take opportunities to work harder and achieve your personal best, no matter how far down you are. The main event is not getting a number or letter to tell you you are worthy. The main event is pulling yourself together and making hard choices and sacrifices when things seem impossible. It is finding hope in the hopeless, courage in the chasm, guts in the pit.

What you need to see is that every time you take the easy way out, you are building a habit of quitting. And it will limit your future and it will hinder your happiness, if you let it. Does our society care for quitters? You are either the muscle or the dirt. You either take resistance and grow stronger or blow in the wind and erode.

As long as you are in my life, I am not going to let quitting be easy for you. I am going to challenge you, confront you, push you, and coach you. You can whine. You can throw a tantrum. You can shout and swear and stomp and cry. And the next day, guess what? I will be here waiting — smiling and patient — to give you a fresh start. Because you are worth it.

So, do yourself a favour: Man up. Woman up. No more excuses. No more justifications. No blaming. No quitting. Just pick your head up. Rip the pods out of your ears. Grab the pencil and let's do this.

*Modified from What students really need to hear. By C. Mielke*

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal



### PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

If you wish to enrol your child for the 2020 Confirmation Program, please see the letter [attached](#) or contact the Parish Office on 4739 8928.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be on **Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September at 6pm**. The Preparation meetings will start on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August at 4.30pm in the Parish Hall.

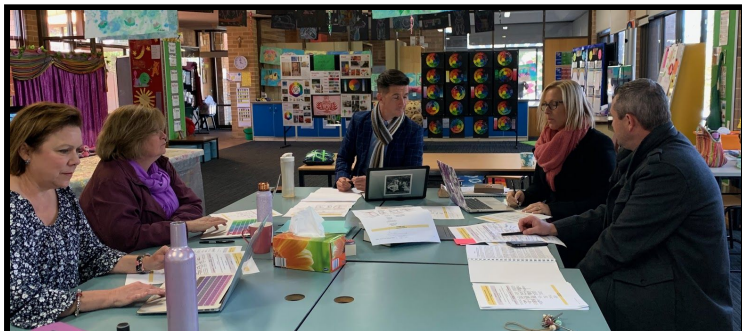
### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DRAFT NEW CURRICULUM

Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta has undergone much change in the last two years. Term 3 2020 marks the next step towards a new curriculum that will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for over 20 years.

The process of developing a new approach, currently known as the Draft New Curriculum, has been a collaboration with students, parents, teachers, clergy and system leaders. This innovative and ambitious project has led to the development of Learning Cycles (one per term), that apply scripture and tradition in a meaningful way to the contemporary life of young people. This endeavour supports our students to grow in faith and understanding through prayer, reason and action in daily life.

In Term 3, using experiential learning through student inquiry, students in Stage Two will engage with one Learning Cycle (unit of work) from the Draft New Curriculum. In preparation for the 2021 implementation, teachers are continuing to participate in extensive theological formation and professional learning.

This is an exciting opportunity for our faith community of St Finbar's to further exclaim our commitment to empowering all our young people to discover a meaningful and flourishing life.



We look forward to sharing this journey with you throughout the term and will keep you updated about opportunities that will extend the learning experience further for students and their families.

*Stage Two teachers, Mrs Brown and Mr Carroll, from the CEDP Mission Team, working together on next term's learning cycle.*



### CELEBRATING PARISH MASS

Next term we will be attending Parish Mass again on Friday mornings. Please note the date your child's class is scheduled to attend. 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             | Kindergarten             |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 31st July<br>Week 2 | 21st August<br>Week 5 | 28th August<br>Week 6 | 11th September<br>Week 8 |

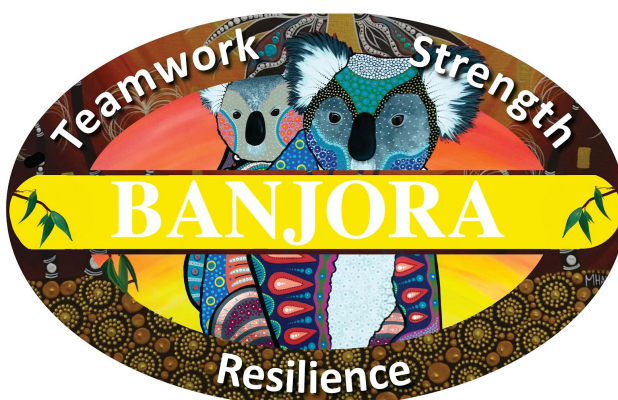
### DATES FOR THE DIARY Term 3 Whole School Masses/Liturgies

- St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Mass **Friday 7th August** 9.15am Week 3
- The Feast of the Assumption Mass **Friday 14th August** 9.15am Week 4
- Father's Day Breakfast and Liturgy **Friday 4th September** 9.15am (Breakfast from 8.30am) Week 7
- Feast of St Finbar Mass and Celebration Day **Friday 25th September** 9.15am Week 10

Strength, love and peace,

Leanne Brown  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Congratulations to Banjora (Yellow)  
Term Two House Cup Winners







## Compass Portal - Lodging Absent Notices



From Term 3, all attendance notes/explanations will be done via the Compass Portal. Attendance notes are added from the home screen of the app. If you have not entered the reason for your child's absence before 11am, you will receive a text message with a one time link. When you follow the link you will have the opportunity to explain their absence.

Partial absences can be entered through the parent portal also, for instance if you are arriving after an appointment or picking your child up early. However, please remember you must accompany your child to the office if they are arriving at school late.

If you enter an absence for Leave (Family Holiday) of five days or more, you must still complete an application for leave. These forms are available from the School Office.

After this Friday, the Skoolbag option to explain an absence will no longer be available.

## School Photos - Tuesday 21 July 2020

School Photography Date: **Tuesday 21 July, 2020**

**SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER CODE: AFL YED QLN**

SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER LINK FOR **STUDENT** PHOTOS:

<https://www.advancedimage.com.au/keycode/keycodefinder.aspx?keycode=AFLYEDQLN>

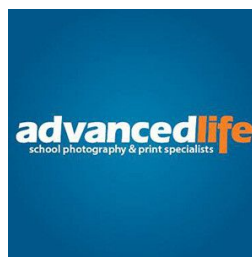
SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER LINK FOR **SIBLING** PHOTOS:

<https://www.advancedimage.com.au/PublicPortal/sibling.aspx?nbnhmHqgedA3c4Pg5UKWb8y+ceJwx6RC>

Dear Parents,

School photography day is coming up very soon. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link above. If you require a photo envelope, please enquire at the school office.

Full winter school uniform is to be worn on the day. No sports uniform, long sleeve or skivvy tops under shirts, scarves etc. please. For uniform guidelines, please [click here](#).







#### MORE IMPORTANT PHOTO DAY INFORMATION:

- School photos purchased online DO NOT require envelopes returned to school
- Don't forget to order your sibling photos now, if your school is offering sibling photos\*
- Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken
- \*Sibling photographs must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. A photograph will not be taken without an order. Sibling photographs can only be taken of children enrolled at the school.

If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your advancedlife experience, please contact us at: [www.advancedlife.com.au/contact](http://www.advancedlife.com.au/contact)

## Break Two Extra Curricular Activities



|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Monday:</b>    | PBS4L   |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>   | Choir<br>Craft / Drawing  |
| <b>Wednesday:</b> | Library open for reading and storytime<br>Craft / Drawing<br>PBS4L Support Lesson |
| <b>Thursday:</b>  | Computer Club   |
| <b>Friday:</b>    | Lego Club   |

## Lost Property

**Lost  
Property**



Lost property is located outside the office. The pile of jackets, jumpers, hats, drink bottles and the like is growing.

Please encourage your child to look after their belongings and ensure they are clearly labelled for a speedy return.



## Award - Congratulations



Kinder:  
**Oliver Wilson**  
Year One:  
**Lucy Tindall**  
Year Two:  
**Eoghan McKenna**  
Year Three:  
**Mali Capuyan**  
Year Four:  
**Maiya Edwards**  
Year Five:  
**Ruby Wilson\***  
Year Six:  
**Alyssa McFadden**

\*Ruby was absent on the day and will be presented with her award at the beginning of Term 3.

***Congratulations to our Semester One Academic Award Recipients***  
***These students have received a Principal's Award for***  
***Growth Mindset & Learning Habits***

*Congratulations!*





## Congratulations Award Recipients

|  |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Be a Learner</b><br>Erin Budge<br>Ethan Cameron<br>Mhyumie Murray<br>Holly Clifford<br>Gus Berben<br>Evie Walker<br>Frank McKeown<br>Rocco Siciliano<br>Amelie Bohan<br>Joaquin Perez De Arce<br>Hamish Buggy<br>Rose Parish<br>Eloise Howard<br>Hugh Penny | <b>Be a Learner Cont'd..</b><br>Sofia Cavanagh<br>Francesco Macri<br>Mali Capuyan<br>Isla Reece<br>Lillian Bastoli<br>Jude Alderton<br>Amber Goodlace<br>Isobel Reece<br>Leia Agahari<br>Zane Alderton<br>Matilda Maunder<br>Juliette Lynch<br>Isaac Fisher | <b>Living Our Faith in Daily Life</b><br>Mali Capuyan<br>Matilda Maunder<br>Zara Lewis<br>Leia Agahari<br>Gabrielle Connell<br> | <b>Be Safe</b><br>Ava Lorking<br>Kian Loughman<br>Isaac Scott<br>Lucas Crameri | <b>Be Respectful</b><br>Amber Goodlace<br>Ellie Taylor<br>Ethan<br>Andres<br>Tyler De Vincentis<br>Philippa Walker |
| <b>Silver Awards</b><br>Quentin Lynch, Amelie Bohan, Amber Goodlace,<br>Phoenix Eggins, Isobel Reece, Ava Lorking, Matilda Maunder, Grace Incorvill  |   |  |  |  |

## Uniform

Uniform checks have now commenced. If your child needs to wear an item of clothing that is not part of the St Finbar's uniform, please write a short note or send a brief email to [stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au) so that we are aware of the situation.

### Lost Property

Lost property is getting out of control. The box is located outside the office on the bench.

Unfortunately parents are phoning up to advise of their child's lost jacket, jumper or hat, that it can't be found in the box and is clearly labelled. We ask that you check your child's belongings regularly to ensure that it is their own property that they are bringing home. Hopefully term three we will have more success in returning items to their owners.





**St Finbar's Primary School**  
*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*

## 2021 Enrolments

### ENROLMENTS EXTENDED

**The enrolment period has been extended for 2021 applications.**

**Positions are available for Kindergarten  
Enquire for availability in Years One to Six**

**If you require an enrolment pack for your child  
please contact the school office.**

**Email | [stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au)**

**Phone | 4724 3600**

## Dates To Remember

**Friday 3 July**  
**Last day of Term 3**



**Tuesday 21 July**



**Monday 20 July**  
**All students return for Term Three**



**Friday 24 July**  
**Semester One  
Reports Distributed**



[View School Calendar](#)



## School Office and Parish News

### Reminders

- Log in to the new Compass Parent Portal to complete absentee notes
- Label all belongings. Lost property is overflowing outside the office.

### 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.



## Stop the spread

### Practice good hygiene



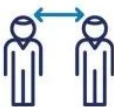
#### **Wash your hands regularly**

Spend 20 seconds washing with soap and water or use hand sanitiser



#### **Cover your nose and mouth**

Cough and sneeze into your elbow



#### **Avoid close contact**

Keep your distance from those with cold or flu-like symptoms



#### **Stay home if you are sick**

