



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 2 Week 4 | 21 May 2020



From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Someone commented the other day about how neat my handwriting is. It made me think about a time, long ago when I was in Year One. I was not very neat, and as a six year old, I am sure my handwriting skills were on par with most Year One students. My teacher was not very happy with my style of writing, and used punishment as a way to make me practice my handwriting. She pinned my writing book on to the back of my uniform and

I was instructed to leave it on there for the remainder of the day, so everyone could see how untidy my work was. In those days you didn't argue back! But my older sister told mum what had happened when she met us at the bus stop. She was furious! We were bundled into the car and she drove straight to the school to give the teacher a piece of her mind! I am pleased to report that no child was ever subjected to such humiliation ever again, and now it's the kind of story we laugh about in my family. My mum was never shy to speak her mind, especially in defense of her children.

We all have that one person in our lives who would "go into bat" for us. As a parent, I know I would stand up for my own children whenever they needed me to, and I'm sure you all feel the same way. So did Jesus. He promised to send us an Advocate, one to protect us and "go into bat" for us when things got tough. Last Sunday's Gospel recounted Jesus explaining the role of the Holy Spirit as our advocate, or as it is written in the Greek "parakletos" - which literally translates into "defense attorney". The Gospel reminds us that we are never alone and that whatever we have to endure, the Holy Spirit will be the one in our corner, to be our defense attorney and to ensure that we never forget just how loved we are. Every day of our lives, we should spend time listening for the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit and know that we are loved beyond all we could imagine.





***Spirit of Truth, help me to withstand every adversary and know that you are the one true advocate.
Amen***

The Learning Agenda

Well done to all our families who have continued learning online, as well as at school on their scheduled return day. It was a joy to see children face to face and we look forward to welcoming everyone back again this week for one day of school learning. The light at the end of the tunnel has well and truly been sighted now, and as of May 25th, all students are expected to return to school in a full time capacity. Social distancing and continued personal hygiene will remain in place at school. The curriculum will be pared back somewhat to ensure that Literacy, Numeracy and RE are the main focus, with other Key Learning Areas being integrated where possible. We understand and respect that some parents do not feel comfortable about sending their child/ren to school just yet, however, online learning will no longer be supported for any student staying at home after May 25th 2020 in the same format. Learning activities will be provided. Teachers will share some learning resources in hard copy or using google classroom for any students needing to remain at home. However, this will not be remote learning as students have currently been experiencing it. Students staying home because of parental wishes will be marked as either sick, on leave or unexplained absence. Please contact the school office via the usual channels if your child is unwell or staying home for leave purposes. If you are intending to keep your child/ren home for some or all of the week please contact the school via email at stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone on 4724 3600. We are also sending home a survey link via Skoolbag that we ask you to submit so we can gauge numbers of students returning and catching school buses.

Assessment and Reporting

The reporting process will be a little different this Semester. As you can appreciate, assessing student outcomes has been challenging whilst students are learning from home.

We, as a staff, have been exploring creative options for providing you with a Semester One report on your child's progress. One of the ways we intend to gather information is via a google form that we ask parents and students to complete together. You will need to complete one form per child. This google form will inform your child's report and assist teachers in gaining a greater understanding of the challenges and successes of learning remotely. We acknowledge that your child's engagement with and commitment towards home learning may have fluctuated at times, so we greatly value your input and observations based on your unique experience during this covid-19 lockdown period.

This google form can be accessed [here](#), and we ask that all forms are submitted by the end of week five.

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

For the time being we are going to continue the Kiss and Drop procedures in place. This will continue for all of next week at least, so please pull up to the King Street gate and wait in the queue for your child to be let out of the vehicle. It helps us greatly if your child has their bag on their lap or next to them to ensure that parents are not having to get out of their cars to retrieve bags from car boots. Obviously, with more



children attending school next week the process may be a little slower, so please consider arriving a little earlier. Supervision will begin at 8:30am and the gates will be closed at 9:00am. Any children arriving after this time will need to be taken to the Levy St entrance for a late sign in. As our students are unable to assemble in large groups we will not be holding morning assemblies. Children will be instructed to place their bags in a new location, on the other side of the double gates leading up to the Infant's playground (adjacent to the sandpit). Each grade will be clearly marked for easy identification, and once your child's bag has been deposited, the students return to the main basketball court/synthetic grass for usual supervision of play. Once the bell rings, students line up next to their bag and wait for their teacher to escort them to class.

The afternoon pick up will be a staggered event. Any parents with children in INFANTS ONLY we ask to arrive at 3:00pm for handover at the King Street gate. Parents picking up who have PRIMARY ONLY or PRIMARY and INFANTS siblings, please arrive at 3:10pm. Parking is readily available in King St., side streets, plus the carpark adjacent to the synthetic grass. We are hoping that this staggered approach will assist with traffic congestion and social distancing practices.

Thank you again for your ongoing patience and support of all we are doing to keep our families and community as safe as we can.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal

Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
All St Finbar's	May 19th	RoSH and Safeguarding modules
Leanne Brown	May 4th	Religious Education with Mark Smith



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

Next week we celebrate National Reconciliation Week (27th May- 3rd June). The theme **#InThisTogether2020** reminds us all, particularly within our current climate, that whether in a crisis or in reconciliation we are all **#InThis Together**.

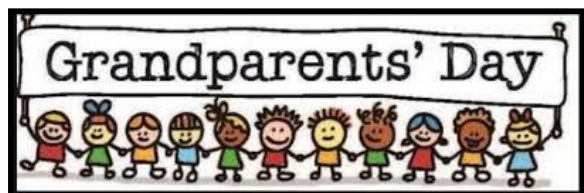
National Reconciliation Week is a time for us all to celebrate and build on positive and respectful relationships and connections between Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Within our curriculum, we provide opportunities for our children to deepen their knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, contributions and achievements.

During this week, teachers will discuss with the students the significance of NRW, the challenges and inequality faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over the years, and how we can help our country move forward, so we collectively can build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, history and culture.

A display will also be placed in the office window with information and artwork, completed by some of our St Finbar's students, to acknowledge this important week.

GRANDPARENTS DAY UPDATE



Due to the restrictions currently in place we are unable to celebrate our annual Grandparents Day at the end of Term Two. We are hopeful we can reschedule a new date in Term Three and will keep you posted.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL COVID-19 WINTER APPEAL

Each year our St Finbar's Social Justice group, the *Justice League*, hosts a blanket/food drive for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Due to our current circumstances, the Justice League have not met for some time, however as a school community we would still like to show our support to this selfless charity.



On **Friday 12th June** (Wk 7) we will have a SCARF and BEANIE day. Children will wear their SCHOOL SPORT UNIFORM and are encouraged to wear a scarf and beanie of their choice. We ask that items are donated to give to the St Vincent de Paul Covid-19 Winter Appeal.

We will be collecting the following items, as requested by St Vincent De Paul Penrith Community Hub COVID Winter Appeal.

GENERAL ITEMS (new or in <u>excellent</u> condition)	NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS
Blankets Sleeping bags Beanies Scarves Gloves Socks Men's toiletries Towels (bath and hand)	Tuna Pasta Sauce UHT milk Fruit cups Noodle cups 2 minute noodles Cereal Biscuits Crackers Coffee (jars) Coffee Hot chocolate sachets (All food must have individual packaging)

initiative reflects our commitment to creating a just society, and providing dignity and respect to people in need. So next time you are at the supermarket with your children, please add some of these items to your trolley, and help those in our community who are experiencing hardship, particularly during these uncertain times.



We thank you in advance for your contribution to this important cause.

Strength, love and peace,

Leanne Brown
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Covid-19 Pandemic - We understand that this is affecting many of our families in terms of work situation and loss of income. For Fee Relief information and procedures to apply for Fee Relief can be accessed by clicking this [LINK](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us as there are many ways we can provide support to families. We can be contacted by phone on 4724 3600 or via email finb-glbfees@parra.catholic.edu.au All conversations will remain strictly confidential.



School Photos - Change of Date - 21 July 2020



Unfortunately due to Covid-19 circumstances and social distancing guidelines, we have been advised that our school photo date has now been changed to **21 July, 2020**. Please stay tuned for further information throughout the term in regards to photo day.

Payments that have already been made will be carried forward.





Award Congratulations



Over the past two weeks we have held St Finbar's Assembly LIVE. We have had so much fun bringing these to you and also taken great joy in seeing the amount of awards children are receiving.

Congratulations to all students who received an award! Remember to come to the office and see Mrs Clarke when you are at school next to collect your award.



School Lunchbox - Change of Day

As you would be aware, school lunches were put on hold due to Covid-19. In Term One, our lunch day was a Tuesday. Due to changes in schedules of our supplier, we will now have lunch orders available on Wednesday's only.

Please note the change of day to a Wednesday. As per usual procedures, orders are to be placed by 8am on a Wednesday morning. All orders will be delivered to school by 11am in time for the children to eat at Break One.

[Click here](#) for the link to the My School Lunchbox website for fresh menu items and instructions on how to place your orders. Thank you for your understanding with this change in routine.



Winter Uniform

From Monday 25th May, students will return to school for face to face learning. All students are required to wear their full winter school uniform. To view the school uniform policy [click here](#), to view the winter uniform [click here](#).

Please make sure all jackets, jumpers, vests and hats are clearly labelled with your child's name. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office.



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Second Hand Uniform Sale

A second hand uniform sale will be held tomorrow, **Friday 22 May at 2:15pm**. The stall will be held outside the office. Entry will be via the Levy Street gate and we ask that parents line up and follow social distancing guidelines. Parents are not to gather around the tables. EFTPOS will be available at the office, if using cash please have small denominations. Hand Sanitiser will be provided.

Students will still need to be picked up from the King Street entry.

Thank you for your support.



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

Phone | 4724 3600

Applications are now being processed for Kinder 2021 and other grades where positions may be available. If you have enrolment papers, we would ask that you return the completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.



At this stage we are anticipating the scheduling of enrolment interviews for weeks nine and ten of this term. We will be in contact with all applicants in the coming weeks to book a time.



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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.

We welcome all enquiries.

Enrol Now
Discover Your Potential

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

Dates To Remember

Monday 25 May, 2020

All Students may return to school



CHANGE OF DATE
Tuesday 21 July, 2020

School Photo Day



[View School Calendar](#)



School Office and Parish News

Reminders

A reminder that enrolment applications for **Year 7, 2021 at St Columba's Catholic College** are now open.

For further information contact the Enrolment Secretary, Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 8900 or 4754 8907.

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.



Creative Youth Competition

share how you use your strengths when facing challenges and send us your original work e.g. video, song, poem, art etc

entry form: springwood@ccss.org.au

**FOR 10-18 YEAR OLDS
IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
MORE INFO: (02) 8843 2545**

**1st \$200
2nd \$100
& 3rd \$50**

place prizes in 3 age groups will be gift vouchers to a local shop of winner's choice

**SUBMIT
ENTRIES BY
JUNE 30**

 CatholicCare
PROVIDING CARE
AND THE BLUE MOUNTAINS



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 ...

- ✓ 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

Keep me home if ...

- ✓ 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