



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 2 Week 8 | 18 June 2020



From the Principal

During the covid-19 period I, along with many others, became quite the home cook! Baking and cooking challenging dishes became family time in my household. There's something about food that brings a family together, whether it's enjoying a home baked scone or laughing over a quiche recipe that went disastrously wrong (my kids called it "quiche soup!") In my house, so many stories are shared around the dinner table or whilst cooking in the kitchen, and I relish and look forward to more of these times.

While we were cooking up a storm at home, I started to think about those that weren't as fortunate as we were. I remember once getting into trouble at school for saying that I was "starving". The Sister who overheard me proceeded to give me a stern talking to about what it really means to be starving. Going without food for an extended period of time is a horrible thing. The longer that someone goes without nourishment, the weaker they become. It would feel as if life was slowly being drained from the body.

Last Sunday, the Gospel made it quite clear that Jesus' Body and Blood are just as vital to us as food and drink are. Without the nourishment of the Eucharist, God's life in us can slowly drain away. I recall reading an article about an extraordinary man by the name of Father Walter Ciszek. He was imprisoned in a Siberian Labor camp, and during extremely harsh and freezing conditions he would make an effort every day at noon to make the bread of life available to his fellow prisoners. The prisoners came to depend on the Body and Blood of Christ to keep them alive as they were on the meagre rations doled out to them by the prison guards. The Eucharist was one of the most important forms of nourishment for them. Jesus was the living bread that came down from heaven and Jesus told us that "whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give you is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6: 51)





I hope that we can be filled with gratitude as we reflect on the generosity of a God who offered his life and himself to us in the Eucharist.

Jesus, thank you for the life you give me in your Body and Blood. Amen

Family Learning Conferences

Family Learning Conferences will take place via zoom meetings this week. I would like to thank all the parents who gave up their time to share some vital information about your child's learning via the Google Form that was shared with you. The family learning conferences are a time for you to discuss any concerns about your child's learning, and to celebrate the achievements made while learning from home. There will also be an opportunity for your child to set some goals around their learning for the remainder of the year. The Semester One reports will be shared with you in Term Three, Week One.

Kiss and Go Zone

The morning drop off procedures have been a great success! Please continue to drive up to the staff member who will assist your children to alight if necessary. Remember to keep school bags inside the car for a quick and easy exit from the vehicle. If you need to park to remove bags etc, please park on the opposite side of King Street or in the King Street church car park adjacent to the synthetic grass area. Thank you to everyone who has been following the guidelines and making our job so much easier. Afternoon procedures will continue until we are advised otherwise.

Week Nine Assembly

We have been advised that we can now begin to hold our Monday morning assemblies, provided that they last less than fifteen minutes. It was a joy to gather together to pray and sing the National Anthem this week. Our whole school assemblies are still subject to restrictions. Therefore, our week nine assembly, where we present Academic Achievement awards for Semester One, will be streamed via our Youtube channel. The location will be outdoors so that parents of students who are receiving an academic award can attend. They will be notified prior to the assembly, and we will accommodate these parents by placing seats in ways that observe a continuation of social distancing. Students will watch the assembly at the same time, and those receiving awards will be allowed to leave the room to collect them.



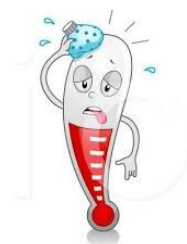


Students presenting with an Illness at School

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.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal

Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Mrs Leanne Brown Mrs Donna Beukers	10th June	Social Media Schools Training
Mr Ben Ticehurst Mrs Rebecca Southern Mrs Leanne Brown Mrs Jo Shean	15th June 22nd June	RE Curriculum Planning Day
Ms Terese Collins Mrs Leanne Brown Mr Ben Ticehurst Mrs Robyn Clarke Ms Kim Waldron Ms Georgia Hutchins	17th June	EMC3 Mathematical Sequences planning



Countdown to the Compass Parent Portal | T Minus 7 Days

Next week, families should start receiving invitations to log in to the Compass Parent Portal. Invitations are scheduled to be sent on Thursday 25 June and will come from the CEDP Office.

What does Compass do for me?

Using Compass allows you to access up-to-date and meaningful information about our school and your child's progress. Compass includes many different features, including the ability to:

- Monitor your child's attendance, and enter an explanation for absence or lateness
- Update your family contact details
- View your child's awards and the school calendar
- Download and view your child's academic reports

Accessing Compass Portal

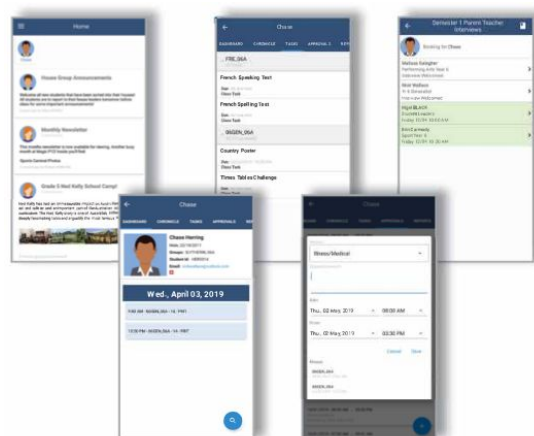
To log in you will require your unique family username and password. These details will be provided to you by our school. Upon first login, you will be required to change your password and confirm your email address and mobile phone number. These details may be used by our school for SMS, password recovery and email communication throughout the year.



You can download the Compass App on iOS and Android devices, simply search for 'Compass School Manager' in the store. A link will also be provided to access the portal via a browser.

Using the App you can:

- View the school news feed
- Receive push notifications
- View schedules/ timetables
- Add attendance notes and approvals
- View academic reports





Jimmy is marked absent as of 09:30 AM. Please add a note using the link below, or alternatively contact the school office (mpass.co/RxpWklIgIB) - Principal

We will continue to use Skoolbag for attendance explanations until the end of Term 2. From Term 3, all attendance notes/explanations will be done via the 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 onetime link. When you follow the link you will have the opportunity to explain their absence.

Extra information and guides are available [here](#).

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



Parish Sacrament Program

Due to Covid-19, the parish has had to cancel the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion program for this year, however with permission from the Bishop, the Sacrament of Confirmation will still be taking place.

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 20th of September** at **6pm**. The Preparation meetings will start on Saturday the 15th of August at 4.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Thank you for your generosity!

Last Friday, all the children and staff came to school wrapped up against the cold, in a wonderful array of different coloured scarves and beanies, in support of the St Vincent de paul COVID Winter Appeal.

We were overwhelmed with the generosity of our families and all the items which were brought in to support this very important cause. As was Penny from the Penrith S.V.D.P Hub, who came to collect the items which will be distributed to families in need within our local community. She wanted to pass on her gratitude, on behalf of the organisation, to all our St Finbar's families for your generous donations.



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-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au All conversations will remain strictly confidential.





School Photos - Change of Date - 21 July 2020



Save the date, book in the haircuts, put aside the best uniform, our school photos are happening!

Tuesday 21st of July is the day. All students are to wear full winter school uniform on this day.

advancedlife
photography & print specialists

All photo orders are to be done online. NO envelopes are to be handed to the photographers or the school office. [Click here](#) for the booking link to place your orders.

Payments that have already been made will be carried forward.

Break Two Extra Curricular Activities



Monday: PBS4L

Tuesday: Choir
Craft / Drawing

Wednesday: Library open for reading and storytime
Craft / Drawing

Thursday: Computer Club
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.



Uniform

All students are now required to wear their full winter school uniform. To view the school uniform policy [click here](#), to view the winter uniform [click here](#).

This week we have commenced our new process for uniform checks. If your child needs to wear an item of clothing that is not part of the St Finbar's uniform, please write a quick note or send a brief email to stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au so that we are aware of the situation. We understand there is a backorder on grey trousers at present with The School Locker and there are a few families waiting.

The number of students coming to the office to borrow an "office hat" at break times is increasing. As students become more aware we have a few hats to loan out, they are becoming less inclined to look for their own hat. Whilst we are happy to provide a few hats to borrow, there are also hygiene issues to consider. These hats are only washed at the end of each week.

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





Dates To Remember

Monday 22 June

2:10pm Whole School Assembly
Academic Achievement
Presentation



Tuesday 23 June

Kinder 2021 Enrolment
Interviews commence



Friday 3 July

Last day of Term 3



Tuesday 21 July, 2020



[View School Calendar](#)



Find us on
Facebook

We will be increasing the amount of Facebook posts we put up. Like our page, follow us and then like and share our posts for all your family and friends to see.





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.



Stop the spread

Practice good hygiene



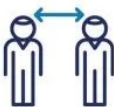
Wash your hands regularly

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

