



From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term Three. The last two terms have certainly been interesting, to say the least, but we have made some great discoveries. We have had to look at learning a little differently, make adjustments to learning and we had to get used to being back onsite, with all the challenges that this presented. I congratulate and commend our students who returned ready to learn and engage with their friends and teachers again. However, for some children, the transition back to school was a very different scenario. Being at home was safe and they could control what they were doing and learning. With a return to school came a sense of loss of this safety. We have seen this manifested through teary drop offs, separation anxiety and some challenging behaviours in class and on the playground. The staff at St. Finbar's have recognised the difficulties faced by some students and have risen to the challenge of managing behaviours, by constantly providing a safe and loving place where students are accepted for who they are. Last Sunday's Gospel told the story of the merchant who gave up looking for ordinary pearls, as he sought to find the pearl of great rarity and price. Jesus told this story to remind us that even when we are searching for something specific, sometimes we accidentally find something of far greater worth. All of our students are that rare pearl, and we cherish each and every one of them for who they are.



Welcome to New Staff

This term, we welcome two new staff members: Miss Rebekah Stopford who is working three days per week supporting our Stage Two students and teachers. Miss Stopford currently works at Bethany Catholic Primary school, Glenmore Park, and we are very fortunate to be able to engage her on Monday,



Tuesday and Friday of each week, until the end of the year. We also welcome Mrs Julie Wilson who will also be providing additional support in her role as a SLSO (school learning support officer) in Stage Two. We hope that Rebekah and Julie enjoy their time at St Finbar's.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Platt

During the holidays, Mrs Natalie Platt gave birth to her second child, a little boy called Matthew Kenny Platt. We wish Natalie and her husband Graham every joy on the birth of their little one. I'm sure big brother Luke is enjoying his new role as well!



Can you help the Parish?

St Finbar's Parish is currently searching for approximately 7,000 bricks to build the Columbarium. Any bricks are suitable, as the Columbarium will be rendered before completion. If you are able to donate any bricks please contact the Parish office on 4739 8928.

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.

ACARA Collection Student Background Data Notice:

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) collects data from schools to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA). CEDP is currently working to provide relevant details to the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. Data collected is de-identified of personal information.



Parents and caregivers must advise their school if they don't want their child's data included in this report by 28 August 2020.

Copies of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) Standard Collection Notice and Privacy Policy can be obtained from the school office.

NSW Parent Survey

Last week some exciting research conducted by the e-Lab and Dr John Molineux from Deakin University was shared with me. **They studied parent's perception of how they thought schools handled homeschooling during the COVID-19 shut down.** The analysis of over 1,000 parents with children attending NSW public primary schools from a diverse range of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds found the following:

- 91% of parents said they had a greater level of respect for teachers following the COVID-19 lockdown.
- 99.7% of parents were satisfied with the work of their child's teacher,
- 98.5% were satisfied with the communication they received from the school.
- 96.6% of parents felt supported by the school over that period period, and
- 86.8% reported that their child was moderately to highly engaged in learning during the COVID-19 home schooling.

This is an incredible result for primary schools in NSW and shows what an amazing job they did. Our staff at St. Finbar's worked incredibly hard to ensure that children were able to access learning from home, and our mid year Early Years Assessments showed that we were quite successful in ensuring that our children did not fall behind during the learning from home period. The feedback from our parents was positive overall, and I know how appreciative you were of the time and effort our staff invested in your children.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal



Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Mr Ben Ticehurst Mrs Alison Maunder Mrs Alicia Borg Mrs Leanne Brown	28 July, 2020	Growing Great Leaders
Mrs Alicia Borg	28 & 29 July 2020	EMU



I recently watched a video that popped up in my news feed by US Air Force Lieutenant General Jay Silveria. He addressed the community about a racial slur that was posted on a public message board on the campus.

His speech only went for 5 minutes. It was short and direct. He grabbed the audiences' attention by clearly stating what the problem was. He articulated that the solution needed a collective understanding and shared responsibility to resolve. He then celebrated the diverse environment that made up their base. He saw diversity as powerful. That it is the power of that diversity in their

community that will help bring everyone together to make a collective stance, as people from all walks of life.

He then won me over when he asked all the members of his community to stand forward and gather together; Cadets, coaching staff, faculty staff, service women and men. Everyone together. He then said, "The appropriate response to a horrible idea, is a better idea."

His words made me think about how we can often respond to problems in our day-to-day lives by focussing on the problem and not the solution. It is a hard mindset to change, shifting from a problem based approach to a solution based approach. It is easy to restate the problem and then ask someone else, what are you going to do about it? It is harder to say, I can see the problem. I can understand why. This is my "better idea" to move forward.

One "better idea" for us to consider is how we might be handling emotional outbursts in our role as parents. **Gateway Family Services** are offering a range of programs this term to assist with emotional coaching for children.

A range of sessions are available. Please click on the links to view details.

[Parenting Group](#)

[1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching AM](#) August

[1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching PM](#) August

[1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching AM](#) September

[1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching PM](#) September



Emotional coaching when parenting, for me anyway, is a relatively new approach, but It has been around for decades. I know my parents approach was to, most of the time, say, "suck it up!" or try and make a joke about the situation and dismiss it. I am sure they thought, this would make him tougher. More resilient. And I think I am..... But emotional coaching allows you to recognise your child's expression of emotion as a perfect moment for intimacy and teaching. It focuses on helping your child recognise what their emotions or emotional responses are and helping them think about the best ways to respond and deal with those feelings. It sits as a strategy amongst lots of other strategies we use as parents, including tough love from time-to-time, but it does lend itself to helping our children understand how to respond to emotional situations by letting them see how we respond in emotional situations by how we support them.

It is definitely worth a look.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



CELEBRATING PARISH & SCHOOL MASSES

In Week Ten's newsletter last term I put in an overview for Parish and School Masses during Term Three. Unfortunately due to Covid-19, we have again had to put a stop to attending these masses, until further notice from CEDP and NSW Health. Fr Jolly will instead come and celebrate prayer with the students, within their classrooms, in the coming weeks.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DRAFT NEW CURRICULUM - STAGE TWO UPDATE

Driving Question: Why do people sometimes do the wrong thing?

"The aim... is love that come from a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith"

1 Timothy 1:5

Stage Two launched their first Religious Education Inquiry Learning Cycle this term by each receiving an egg to take care of. The students were told that it was their responsibility to ensure the egg came to and from school each day, and remained in one piece.

The students have been keeping a diary on the choices in which they have made to ensure the safety of their eggs. In class, there have been great discussions around the consequences of not making the right choices, for example some students no longer have their egg at all!



When asked about how they were looking after their eggs, and what their egg meant to them, some responded with;

"I am like the mother hen and my egg is my baby." Bruce

"My egg is like my new friend and I have to take care of it." Matthew

"I had to put a bandaid on my egg when it cracked" Liam

"When I cracked my egg I realised I hadn't put it in a safe place, so I upgraded and put it in a safer place" Edward

As part of their inquiry, Stage Two students will further explore content around their free will to act or not act in responsible ways, how their words and actions have consequences and the role of an informed conscience. They will use Sacred Scripture and Catholic tradition to help them understand why people sometimes do the wrong thing.

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

Strength, love and peace,

Leanne Brown
Acting Religious Education Coordinator



Compass Portal - Lodging Absent Notices



All attendance notes/explanations are now to be done via the Compass Parent 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.

Break Two Extra Curricular Activities - Even More Choice



Monday Dance Group

Tuesday Gardening

Tuesday Choir

Tuesday Craft/Drawing

Wednesday Library

Wednesday Craft/Drawing

Wednesday PBS4L Lesson


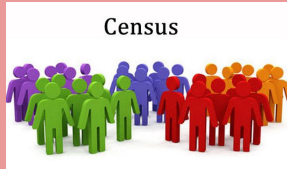
Thursday Computer Club

Friday Lego

Friday Library



Dates To Remember

<p>Monday 3 August 2:20pm Whole School Assembly</p> 	<p>Friday 7 August Census Day</p> <p>Privacy Notice is available here to all Parents</p> 
<p>Tuesday 4 August Launch of Book Week</p>	<p>Monday 10 August VoY Speeches commence</p>
<p>View School Calendar</p>	

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.





St. Finbar's Parish News

Our Parish is building Five small Columbariums to respond to the desire of a number of our parishioners for many years. In this regard, we would like to do it with the participation of the local community. We invite each of you to be part of this project. All you can do is to just bring the bricks that are left after building your house or sponsor few bricks and donate to the Parish. We will need about 7500 bricks to complete the project. Thank you for your help and support.

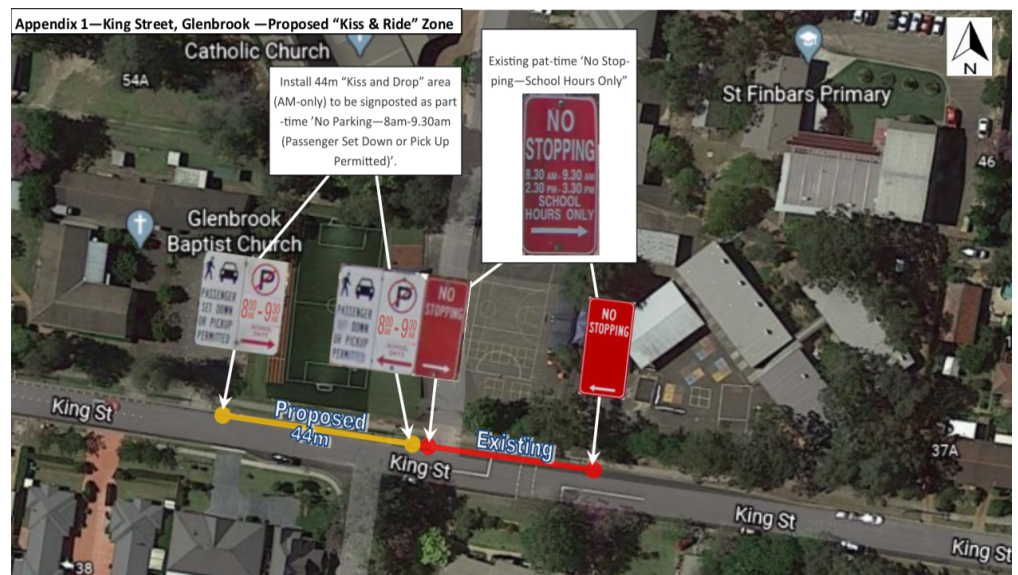
Kiss and Drop Zone Proposal

Back in Term 1, we approached the BMCC Local Traffic Committee about putting in place signage to facilitate a Kiss and Drop zone for the morning period.

Since the return of students, from the school lockdown period, we have been running a "Kiss and Drop Zone" in the mornings. It has proven to be very successful and the feedback from parents has been positive.

Our proposal, to have this area zoned permanently as a Kiss and Drop, has now been conditionally approved and needs to be sent to the Local Traffic Committee for consideration and review. If it is approved at this step, it will then go to a Council meeting to be ratified.

Thank you to Mrs Melanie Barlow who did the early groundwork, on our behalf, to start this process back at the end of last year.










School Zones and Safety

School zones are in operation. Please continue to help us keep your children and our St Finbar's Community safe.

SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES WHAT ARE YOU RISKING? *

FACT Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need **YOU** to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones.

 No Parking You have 2 minutes to drop-off or pick-up and must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.	PENALTY \$194 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	Pedestrian Crossings Do not stop or park on or near a marked crossing.	PENALTY \$464 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
 No Stopping You are not permitted to stop on a length of road with a no stopping sign.	PENALTY \$349 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	Driveways Do not stop on or across a driveway.	PENALTY \$349 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
 Bus Zone You must not stop your vehicle in a Bus Zone unless you are driving a public bus.	PENALTY \$349 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS	Intersections Do not stop on or within 20 metres of an intersection.	PENALTY \$464 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
 Mobile Phone Use Do not use a hand held mobile phone while driving.	MAX. PENALTY \$2200 + 5 DEMERIT POINTS	Parallel Parking Must parallel park in direction of travel unless signpost states otherwise.	PENALTY \$349 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
 School Zone Speeding Offences 40kmph is the speed limit. Children are vulnerable in school zones.	MAX. PENALTY \$3821 + 7 DEMERIT POINTS	Double Parking Do not double park in a school zone.	PENALTY \$349 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS
		Footpath and Nature Strip Do not stop on a footpath, nature strip or obstruct ramp or path access.	PENALTY \$349 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS

*Fines current as of July 2020. Fines and demerit points are subject to change.

blue mountain City Council