



From The Principal

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I can't believe that 2020 is finally drawing to a close! What a year it has been...I think that everyone experienced some new learning this year, built resilience and became highly adaptable to change when needed. Thank you to all of our staff, students and families who have worked in partnership to ensure that St Finbar's was able to continue the learning successfully.

As we enter the third week of Advent it's a timely reminder that, as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ, to take some time for ourselves and our families. Cherish the time you have together and try not to let the stress of Christmas dinner, presents and shopping get to you!

I ask you to pray over the break for a safe and enjoyable holiday period for everyone, and I look forward to seeing you all again (hopefully onsite!) in the New Year.

### Please note the following dates for 2021:

January 27 - Staff return for professional learning

January 28 - MAI testing for K-6

January 29 - Years 3-6 return to school

February 1 - Years 1-2 return to school, Kindergarten commences at 9:30am.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke

### 5 WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HEART THIS ADVENT



- 1 Prepare room at the Inn**  
Make room in your heart for Jesus.
- 2 Clean out the cobwebs**  
After an Examination of Conscience, go to Confession.
- 3 Hang new curtains**  
"Decorate" your heart with joy and hope.
- 4 Get out the fine china and set the table**  
Let your attitude be one of enthusiastic expectation.
- 5 Open the front door and wait**  
Wait for Christ's arrival silently and in a spirit of prayer.

INFORMATION BY CATHOLICNEWSAGENCY.COM 





## St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*



Each year we farewell families who have children who have reached the end of their learning journey at St Finbar's. This year, however, we farewell a family who has had a special partnership with our school, for the last 53 years. This week sees the conclusion of a long-standing partnership between the Higgins and De La Mare families.

It was in 1967 when a young 5-year-old girl, Sharyn Higgins, commenced her first day of school at St Finbar's. Little did she know, but on that day she was laying down the first foundations of an historic partnership.

Sharyn, Michelle, Tania and Bradley Higgins, all commenced their first years of learning at St Finbar's. These are the children of Carmel and Frank Higgins. Sharyn's kindergarten classroom was the historic St Finbar's Church; the building we now refer to as the Fr Barlow Centre.



In 1970, many of the fathers of children who were enrolled in the school were part of the expansion of the school buildings. Not like us today, where we contribute financially to the building fund, the fathers of the children enrolled and members of the parish used their hands to contribute. Working alongside many of the other fathers, Frank Higgins helped lay the bricks and mix the mortar of the buildings that now house our learners today.

Out of the 10 grandchildren of Carmel and Frank, 5 have all attended St Finbar's over the years, Christopher, the son of Sharyn, Matthew, the eldest son of Michelle, and Patrick, Olivia and Nicola, the children of Tania and John De La Mare. Over this time, there was only one year out of the last 54 years where a member of this family has not been a part of our community.

In 1986, Carmel also commenced as a staff member at St Finbar's, in the role of Finance Secretary. After 19 years of service Carmel retired and left to hold the fort for the Higgins family line, was a young De La Mare, Tania's son Patrick who was concluding his first year of school.

Today, we farewell Nicola De La Mare, a member of the 2020 graduating class, and along with her we farewell the Higgins and De La Mare families, who conclude their 53 year partnership with St Finbar's. We know that their long standing connection with our parish will continue and despite their not being an enrolled student with these family ties at St Finbar's anymore, we know that our partnership together will continue through our strong school and parish connections.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal



## ST FINBAR'S PARISH CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL

Last year, many families from our school came together at our parish Christmas Eve Vigil to celebrate the joyous birth of Jesus. Students dressed as figures representative of the scene of the nativity, including angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph and the three wise men. We invite our students and families to do the same this Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve Vigil commences at **7pm** and students are asked to arrive in dress, and meet Mrs Brown at the doors of the church. Fr Joe has asked that the children process into Mass with him, and he would like some angels to carry baby Jesus to the crib.

Other parish Masses include; Midnight Mass, with carols commencing at 11.30pm. Christmas morning Mass at 8.30am. Parishioners are encouraged to wear masks to Mass.







## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

'Christmas on the Courts' was a great way to finish off what has been a very 'different' year. It was so lovely to have all our families back on site, and we thank everyone for adhering to the COVID safety rules. The excitement on the faces of our students as they performed, and the delight in their parents, was fantastic to see. We have missed that!

Wishing you all a very ..



*May the Blessings of  
Christmas be with you,  
May the Christ Child light  
your way,  
May God's holy angels  
guide you,  
And keep you safe each day.*

Strength, love and peace,

Leanne Brown

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

For more photos of our Christmas concert, Santa Hat Day, and many more events, please head to our Facebook page @SFGPrimarySchool



## Dates To Remember

<b>Wednesday 27 January 2021</b>	<b>Thursday 28 January 2021</b>	<b>Friday 29 January 2021</b>	<b>Monday 1 February 2021</b>
Staff Professional Learning Day	MAI / Literacy Testing K - 6	Years 3 - 6 Return to School MAI / Literacy Testing continues K - 2	K - 2 Return to School Kinder arrive at 9:30am

Our 2021 Calendar is now available. [View School Calendar](#). Use the  to add our calendar to your Google Calendar. It is also available on Skoolbag.

## The School Locker

To better service schools that have uniforms online, all St Finbar's stock will be moved to a new warehouse location in Wetherill Park. This is to ensure all orders are completed in a timely manner and are sent out correctly to families.

In order for this to happen, there are a few things which need to occur; Firstly, The School Locker need to turn off our online shop for 1-2 weeks, while stock is counted, packed up & moved to the new location. We will be doing this from the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

When the online shop is turned off, this also means that uniform will no longer be available at the Liverpool store.

**At St Finbars we now have a complete range of sizes for all uniform items. These are available to try on via the school office. Please try where possible to phone us or email to make an appointment for fittings. This will mean you no longer have to travel to Liverpool if you are unsure of sizing, however, you will need to then order online.**

Our school uniform will no longer be available at the Liverpool store after the 16th December and our stock will be unavailable online as of the 16th December for 1-2 weeks.

From January 2021, the best way for your families to contact us will be via our new email address – [wetherillpark@theschoollocker.com.au](mailto:wetherillpark@theschoollocker.com.au)





## PBS4L Reward Day



On Monday of Week 10, the students celebrated a semester of exemplary behaviour with a Waterslide Fun Day. The Year 6 students christened the slides after their graduation mass and did so with a big splash! Each class then continued to visit the slides throughout the day.

All of the students enjoyed the light hearted refresh of the Slide 'n Splash, whilst the more daring amongst us enjoyed the challenge of climbing the Mammoth Mountain Drop, and relished (or relinquished) the chance to hurtle themselves down a slightly scary descent.

The students are to be congratulated on earning 5300 possum tokens this semester. Their determination to be safe and respectful learners, every day, is a testament to their ever growing strength of character.

## Year 6 Graduation

This week, Year Six participated in their end-of-year celebrations together. Fortunately, changes to Covid restrictions meant that students were able to enjoy their Graduation Mass with parents and grandparents. Many families were able to meet Father Joe, and Year Six conducted themselves with maturity and respect. Father Joe gave an inspirational homily (using a stepladder!) where he advised students to look to the horizon, and to aim high.

Later that night, students and staff gathered for the graduation dinner. Luckily, the students' stylish outfits and hairstyles survived the torrential rain! A big thank you to our lovely Year Five mums who provided us all with a delicious hot dinner, with lots of treats afterward. Staff were treated to a talent show, which included music, magic, a comedy skit and even some very accurate impersonations of the St Finbar's teachers!



# St Finbar's Primary School

*Faith, Truth, Knowledge*

We congratulate Year Six on their graduation. We have enjoyed watching this group of students come together as a community and become friends to all. We wish them all the very best for high school and beyond.







## Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following swimmers:

### Girls

Under 8	Brigid Hassett	Joint Age Champion
	Zoe Wilson	Joint Age Champion
Under 9	Sofia Cavanagh	Age Champion
	Lilly Kay	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 10	Mali Capuyan	Age Champion
	Sofia Lewis	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 11	Matilda Howard	Age Champion
	Maiya Edwards	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 12	Isobel Reece	Age Champion
	Leia Agahari	Runner Up Age Champion



### Boys

Under 8	Alexander Simpson	Age Champion
	Marley Boyall	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 9	Eoghan McKenna	Joint Age Champion
	Luc Nillson	Joint Age Champion
Under 10	Quentin Lynch	Age Champion
	Bruce Boyall	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 11	Jude Alderton	Age Champion
	Finnian McCann	Runner Up Age Champion
Under 12	Mitchell Cremona	Age Champion
	Daniel Engelbrecht	Age Champion
SWD	Joe Engelbrecht	Runner Up Age Champion







## 2021 MAI / EYA Interview Bookings

Commencing on **Thursday 28 January to Friday 29 January 2021**, students will be required to book an interview time to meet with their 2021 teacher. These interviews will provide teachers with important information about your child's level of understanding in numeracy and for students in Kindergarten to Year 1, literacy.

The dates for Kindergarten, Year 1 & 2, and Years 3 – 6 are varied, so please [click here](#) for further information that will need to be taken into consideration.

These are student only appointments and parents are not required to attend. Due to current COVID restrictions, parents can only enter the school grounds and wait at the office area. A waiting area will be provided, if you wish to wait on site. Parents must ensure they are only on site for the allocated time. If you do go off site, please ensure you return for the finishing time.

To make a booking, please go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use the booking code **e7rs4**

Bookings are now open and will close on Thursday, 21 January, 2021.

## Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge

These summer holidays, I am again launching my Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging all students to read, read, read!

Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, a piece of poetry, book, e-book or animated novel.



Taking part in the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is easy! Students just need to read something they enjoy and tell us in 50 words or less why they loved it. The more a student reads, the more times they can enter the reading challenge and the more chances they have of winning one of two Chromebooks or one of 30 runner-up gift vouchers to the value of \$30. Students can enter [online](#) by visiting the CEDP website.

**Entries open on 23 November 2020 and close at 5:00pm on 1 February 2021.** Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#).



## 2021 School Start Dates

Thursday 28th January	MAI   EYA Testing Day
Friday 29th January	MAI   EYA Testing Day
<b>Friday 29th January</b>	<b>Years 3 – 6 Commence classes 8:57am</b>
<b>Monday 1st February</b>	<b>Years 1 – 2 Commence classes 8:57am</b>
<b>Monday 1st February</b>	<b>Kinder Commence classes 9:30am</b>

To make a booking for MAI | EYA Interviews, please go to  
[www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use

**Booking Code e7rs4**

More information regarding these dates can be found [here](#).  
Bookings will be closed off on Thursday 21 January, 2021.

