



From The Principal

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This morning at 5:45am my niece gave birth to a gorgeous baby boy. I was sent photos early this morning of the beaming and proud parents and grandparents, so thrilled to welcome him into their world. It made me think about all the things we say when a new baby arrives... we wish him or her good health, success, happiness and an easy journey throughout their life. You never hear new parents saying things like "I hope my child gets picked on at school", or "I hope my child experiences sadness in life." No

one ever wants that for their child!

In the Gospel last Sunday, which happened to be All Saints Day, we heard Jesus praying the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are eight blessings that Jesus gave during His Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes focus on something that you wouldn't want to wish on your child - sadness, shyness, persecution and so on. But these are the very characteristics that Jesus was blessing in the Gospel. Jesus doesn't want us to actively seek out persecution and sorrow, but He does want us to know that following Him may lead to some of these challenges in our life. Discipleship is often at odds with the world -

- In a world filled with resentment and vengeance, Jesus wants us to turn the other cheek and forgive
- In a world focussed on money, power and greed, Jesus wants us to focus on giving generously to others in whatever way we can
- In a world disrupted by wars and divisions, Jesus asks us to love our enemies and work for peace

Every saint throughout time has felt this tug of war between the world and the kingdom of God. They have struggled with the world's reality and felt at odds with what they know God wants them to do.



And this is why we celebrate them. They have survived difficult times with their faith intact. It's nice to know that all the saints in heaven pray for us all, so that one day we can be welcomed into heaven to take our place.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love. Amen

2020 Rotary Award

Last Tuesday evening, the Lower Blue Mountains Rotary Club presented one of our students, Ethan Cameron, with the Primary Schools Community Service Award for 2020. During his time at St. Finbar's, Ethan has consistently shown himself to have fulfilled the following criteria in his words and actions:



*Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER friendships?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

Ethan was awarded this certificate and a book voucher.

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, only Ethan's class teacher was allowed to attend, along with one parent. However, I congratulate Ethan on such a fabulous achievement and for being a terrific role model for the St. Finbar's students community. Thank you also to Mrs Jemima McLeod for attending with Ethan, and for her lovely words about him.

We would also like to thank the Lower Blue Mountains Rotary Club for their recognition and support of our students who live their lives in faith.

Cuppa with the Principal

With covid restrictions still ruling our lives, I have been very concerned over communication (or lack of) with parents. I know that teachers have managed to continue communicating with you, via Skoolbag, Google Classrooms or good old fashioned phone calls! However, I feel that I haven't had the chance to touch base with parents to see how they are going.



Over the next four weeks, I will be introducing "Cuppa with the Principal" sessions via zoom. The first session will take place on Friday November 13th (week five) , and sessions will continue each Friday from 10:30am until 11am, concluding Friday December 4th 2020 (week eight).

Anyone is welcome to attend one or any of these sessions. There is no need to book in a time or day... simply log in and join myself and other parents for a cup of tea or coffee, and a catch up. I look forward to meeting with anyone who would like to join in.

The zoom link can be found [here](#)

This will be an opportunity for a **social connection** between myself and parents. However, if you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact the office at any time, to request either a phone call or meeting with your child's teacher or a member of the Leadership team.

Kindergarten 2021 Zoom Parent Session

Yesterday we had our first ever "virtual orientation" session for parents of Kindergarten 2021. It was great to see the parents, even though it wasn't in person. Important information about schooling at St. Finbar's was shared and the parents had a lot of questions. The parents were able to meet the Leadership team and the Kindergarten teachers, Miss Hutchins and Ms Collins, were able to introduce themselves to the parent community. Next week, we welcome our Kinder 2021 students for their orientation session in the classroom, where they will participate in Learning Through Play.

2021 - A New Year at St Finbar's

Staffing for a school is never an easy task, and being a one stream, open learning school presents its own set of challenges. We are currently working out what our staffing will look like for 2021 and will publish this to you as soon as it has been finalised. Our students will still take part in a "promotions" afternoon, where they visit their next year's classroom and meet their teacher for 2021. This will occur on Thursday, December 10. **If your child/ren are not returning to St Finbar's in 2021, please see the article below for further information.**

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal



The Importance of Struggle

Most of us ask that very open question when we first see our child at the end of the day, "How was school today?"

This can be met with a grunt, good, ok, it's school, or some other very non committal response. However, sometimes you might get a blow-by-blow description... if you're lucky. It is in that response that you might hear your child say that they feel like they "don't get it" or "the teachers aren't helping me."

For me, this feedback is fantastic. Why? Because your children are being educated by professionals who are trained to use the latest brain research in their pedagogical approach, that emphasises the importance of struggle, to help your child achieve their potential. To achieve their maximum growth. To do this, children need to struggle. They need to not be rescued.

It is important to know that it is through the zone of confusion or the sweaty brain that neurons fire and new connections are made. Psychologist Jason Moser found that when we make a mistake, the brain has two potential responses.

The first, called an ERN response, is increased electrical activity in the brain when it experiences conflict between the correct response or an error. This increased activity occurs whether or not the person making the response knows if they have made an error or not. The second response, called Pe, is a signal reflecting conscious attention to mistakes.

In short, when you make a mistake your brain grows. When you solve a problem or task that is easy your brain stays the same.

If your child does give you feedback that makes you feel like they are floundering or not getting the attention they need. Don't worry. The teachers who you have entrusted to care for your child and help them learn and grow have got this.

They collect data that tells them where each child is and where they need to go next. They formatively assess and review their teaching programs to target their teaching to support each child's learning. They differentiate and extend learning tasks so that each child can access the learning and is challenged to grow. They provide surface knowledge when the learning tasks indicate that more direct instruction is needed. They provide new contexts and ways to apply learning when children need to be challenged to transfer their learning to new situations.

In my 22 years of teaching, I have never seen teachers work harder to help every single child achieve their personal best than I do at St Finbar's.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



MISSION DAY

Last Friday we celebrated our school Mission Day. Students came wearing their favourite sport/crazy socks, participated in a class liturgy, and

made a sock ball using recycled materials. Each class then had a soccer shootout, with their teachers as goalkeepers.

This experience helped students to understand how children in disadvantaged countries make do with materials they have access to, and play the popular sport of soccer on dirt ground, using hand made balls. The students had such a wonderful time creating the balls and playing with their peers.

As always, we were overwhelmed with the generosity of our students and thank you all very much for your kind donations. We raised **\$568.55** for Catholic Mission.

This year Catholic Mission's focus has been Cambodia and the life-saving care the church is providing to children with disabilities. The Arrupe Centre, in Cambodia, provides physical and educational opportunities and support to the children and their families, who would otherwise be disadvantaged due to their disabilities. The money we raised will help to support their efforts.



REMEMBRANCE DAY



Next Wednesday, students will observe a minute's silence as we acknowledge and remember all the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Students will participate, within their classrooms, in a zoom conference with ex-servicemen from Glenbrook RSL club who have volunteered their time to answer questions from the students about their service for our nation.



OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST - FR JOSEPH LAM

Father Joseph Lam, our new Parish Priest, will commence his work at St Finbar's Parish on Saturday 14th November, at the Vigil Mass.

Father Joseph Lam provided the parish with a bit of background information about himself. This excerpt was taken from the Parish bulletin 'The Barra'.

"I [Fr Joseph] was born in Saigon, Vietnam. After the ending of the US-Vietnam war, my family migrated to Germany. Having completed my schooling years in Bavaria (Germany), I first studied economics and philosophy and later theology in the US, Italy, Belgium and Germany. Having completed my doctorates in economics and theology, I was ordained a priest in Rome where I have served as professor, director of finance and secretary general. In Australia, I taught theology at the Broken Bay Institute, the Australian Catholic University, and the Catholic Institute of Sydney. I have written and edited seven books in German, French, Italian and English. I also regularly contribute articles to a number of international journals and lexica in theology, philosophy and patristics. Currently, I am a research member of an international research project in Patristics at the University of Wurzburg (Germany). Prior to my appointment to Glenbrook, I have served as academic and priest in Germany, Italy, Belgium and Kenya". Fr Joseph currently serves in the Greystanes parish."

We look forward to welcoming Fr Joseph to our school community next week when he joins the staff for morning tea, and will meet the students during special classroom visits.

Strength, love and peace,

Leanne Brown
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Are you leaving St Finbar's in 2021?



If you are intending on leaving St Finbar's at the end of 2020, you must inform us in writing. In order to avoid being charged Term One school fees, we require a terms notice.

Contact Details

If you have moved, changed your phone number or emergency contacts have changed, please email the office or log onto the Compass Parent Portal and amend your details. It is important that contact details for your child are kept up to date.



Dates To Remember

Friday 6 November Kinder 2021 Uniform Fittings	Monday 9 November Kinder 2021 Orientation Week Begins	Wednesday 17 November <u>P & F AGM</u> Via <u>Zoom</u> 6:30pm	Friday 20 November Yellow Ribbon Day NRMA Road Safety Awareness (In Class Activities)
View School Calendar			

Awards

Being Safe | Christian Simpson, Abigail Stanford, Arlo Nicoara, Bronagh McKeown, Eoghan McKenna, Alexander Moutsos

Be A Learner | Elyse Crameri, Samuel Ambrosoli, William Thomas, Michael Martland, Amelie Bohan, Joaquin Pereze De Arce, Ava Lorking, Cooper Monaco, Lilly Kay, Eli Kelly, Olivia Caetan, Kai Evans, James Borg, Aris Barlow

Being Respectful | Isaac Erickson, Isaac Scott, Matilda Howard, Leia Agahari, Adele Taylor, Aidan Jackson, Alexander Simpson, Rachel Martland, Mali Capuyan, Isaac Fisher

Living Our Faith in Daily Life | Isobel Reece, Ellie Taylor, Matilda Maunder, Skye Greenem, Darcy Waring, Oscar Borg



School Fees

School fees due – Friday 18 December 2020

If you have paid your School Fees account, Thank you. If you need to discuss your school fee account, please contact me by phone on 4724 3600 or via email

finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au





PBS4L - Our Aim

Positive and effective behaviour management is one of our schools priorities alongside our Mission and Learning Goals for each cycle. With the implementation of PBS4L we aim:

- To produce positive outcomes for both students and teachers by creating positive learning environments that maximise learning time.
- To identify shared beliefs within the St Finbar's School Community concerning the way we facilitate behaviour management.
- To ensure that all members of the St Finbar's Primary School Community are aware of the expectations regarding behaviour and the accepted processes used to deal with behaviour management.
- To ensure staff consistency when dealing with student behaviour.
- To have a transparent process where all students, parents and teachers have a common understanding of what is expected behaviour.
- To teach students who demonstrate social learning errors more appropriate ways of behaving.
- To be able to intervene earlier when developing problems occur.
- To be more proactive than reactive in behaviour management strategies.

ALL AREAS

PBS4L Expectations

I am SAFE

- I will move calmly and safely.
- I will keep my hands and feet to myself.
- I will use equipment properly.
- I am in the right place at the right time.
- I am aware of others.

I am RESPECTFUL

- I will respect myself and others.
- I will care for people and property.
- I will listen attentively and follow instructions.
- I use a friendly voice and kind, polite words.
- I will work cooperatively.
- I will keep my classroom and playground environment tidy.

I am a LEARNER

- I will always strive for my personal best.
- I will be a role model for others.
- I will be a problem-solver.



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.



Covid-19 Guidelines for Church

WEARING OF FACE MASKS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED IN CHURCHES

√ *The Parramatta Diocese is therefore officially recommending that all worshippers in the Diocese of Parramatta wear a mask to Mass. This would be as people arrive on parish grounds, during Mass and afterwards as they leave. During Communion, the mask may be removed, but it should be in place at all other times.*

√ *Priests, cantors and readers who cannot wear a mask to conduct their duties at Mass, must always observe appropriate social distancing.*

√ *We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern.*

- By Public Health Order, it is now a condition of entry that all attending churches are requested to provide information for contact tracing and recording purposes.
- Parishioners attending Mass must now also be asked to confirm that they are not unwell; not experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms; do not have a temperature; have not been in contact with anyone suspected of or having covid-19.

If anyone thinks their answer is 'yes' to any of these questions, they are asked not to come to the church that day.

- **Our Church capacity is limited to 100 persons; our hall 50; meeting room to 12; and the parish office, to just 2 persons.**
- NSW Health also remind those of us over 70, or any with an underlying illness, wherever possible, we should avoid crowded spaces - where 1.5 metre physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- The Diocese has also sent a reminder that:
 1. the current dispensation from Bishop Vincent applies – releasing all Catholics from fulfilling their Sunday obligations of attending Mass; and
 2. details pertaining to pre-recorded and/or live-streaming online Masses can be found on the Diocesan website - <https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19>