



Newsletter | Term 4 Week 6 | 19 November 2020



From The Principal

From the Principal

This week at assembly, I talked to our students about the parable of the talents. I showed them a clip from America's Got Talent about a young twelve year old Australian girl who travelled to the USA just to audition for the show. She appeared quite nervous as she answered the judges preliminary questions, but when the music started she trusted herself and began to sing and move with great joy. Her talent shone through and the audience and judges alike, jumped to their feet to dance along.

Everybody watching her was cheering and smiling with delight, and it was obvious that using her talent became a gift that she freely offered to her audience. And the audience were delighted!

Jesus spoke to his followers about the parable of the talents, but in this instance, a talent was a monetary device that, to the servants, represented about twenty years worth of wages to them. It was an extraordinary amount of money entrusted to each of the three servants by their master - one received five talents, one received three and the last received one. The first two servants engaged in trade and shared their talents around, managing to double the amount of money they started with. But the last servant buried his talent in the garden, and didn't share it with anyone. The master was angry with the last servant because he hid his talent and didn't share it around and create abundance.

It was easy to show the similarities between the two stories to our students, and we talked about how important it is to share the talents that God gives us. But as adults, we can look at this a little deeper. What if the talents were a representative of the extremely valuable gifts of mercy and love that God has lavished on us? We would then come to the realisation that these gifts multiply when we use them, not when we try to guard them and hide them from others. We have all been blessed with God's gifts of mercy and love. Each of us has the opportunity to open our hearts and hands to give them away to



people around us.

Let us pray:

Father, you have given me your precious gifts. Help me to multiply them by sharing them with others in my life. Amen.

Further Easing of COVID restrictions.... Hooray!

Last week we received the exciting news that we are allowed to go ahead with a Christmas concert this year, providing we adhere to covid protocols. Please read the following to familiarise yourself with the rules and we will be able to have a wonderful celebration for the end of the year.

- The venue will be **outside** on the basketball court and synthetic grass overflow.
- In case of inclement weather the concert will be **cancelled**. The children will perform their acts at a later date and parents can view the concert off site via youtube.
- All St Finbar's students will sit with their class on the stairs adjacent to Levy Street on arrival.
- Children will perform as a group using the stairs situated closest to Hare Street.
- As the children can be staggered on different stairs, singing is permissible, providing they all face the same direction.
- The audience must be 5m back from the performers.
- Audience will be directed to sit in family bubbles. Unfortunately we can only have **immediate family (mum and/or dad, siblings)** in attendance. Family bubbles must be 2m away from another family bubble.
- Parents may bring snacks or picnic food (no alcohol please) to share with each other, however there can be no sharing of food between family bubbles.
- If parents/carers need to access the bathroom, please ensure that proper social distancing and handwashing occurs. Students will be able to use the student toilets on the Infant's playground. Adults and toddlers will be directed to the Parish toilets located outside the hall.

P&F AGM

Last week I was very excited to send out a communication to you regarding the latest easing of covid restrictions. As of this week we are allowed to have the P&F meet onsite. Last Tuesday night we had the P&F AGM and a new committee was voted in. I congratulate all those parents who put their hands up for nomination and I am pleased to introduce your new P&F Executive committee for 2021. Thank you to all who attended the meeting in person or via zoom. Your tireless work to support our school is always appreciated. I would also like to especially thank our outgoing Executive Committee for their





work over the past three years to ensure that our community stays connected and our school is well supported. We farewell Michele O'Callaghan, Claire Lewis, Gabrielle Lynch, and Kate McCaffery.

We welcome,

President: Xanthie Scott
Vice-President: Jill Capuyan
Treasurer: Laura Buggy
Secretary: Gabrielle Parish

I know you will join with me in congratulating our new committee members, and welcoming some of our existing committee members in the same or changing role.



Cuppa with the Principal

With some 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 you are going.

Over the next three weeks, I will be holding "Cuppa with the Principal" sessions via zoom. The next session will take place on Friday November 20th (week six), and sessions will continue each Friday from 10:30am until 11am, concluding Friday December 4th 2020 (week eight). The session last week was very enjoyable!

Parent Testimonial

I was really pleased to see the invitation for 'A Cuppa with the Principal' on Skoolbag last week. Not only was it an opportunity to pause my own work for half an hour and have a cup of coffee (like many, I have been working from home most of this year since the onset of COVID-19), but it was also a chance to have chat with Mrs Clarke and catch up on things at our school. I miss the playground chats with the parents and teachers and the chance to 'get a feel' for what's going on more generally at school. While we are kept regularly informed about various events at school, it's not the same as a face-to-face catch up or those impromptu conversations. What I really enjoyed though, was just having a chat to Mrs Clarke more generally about 'off school' topics and getting to know her a bit more as a person. We both share a love of jacarandas and it was interesting to compare our experiences of work this year, me with home working and Robyn with most of the year spent back at school. Sometimes, with us all so busy in our own lives and our circumstances, our default position is to slide into the roles we take on as parent/teacher or parent/principal in this school environment, so we can forget there are actual people behind these roles (on both counts) and it was great to share a bit more of myself and learn more about Mrs Clarke, just as people. I'll definitely be zooming in again soon for this weekly catch-up! Thanks Robyn.



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.

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



At our assembly on Monday, our 2020 Student Leaders shared their reflections of their year, their learning journey at St Finbars and the advice for the leaders of 2021. I wanted to share with you what their message was to the community.

Zara - Environment Leader

As you know Year 6 has been creating a garden, outside the staffroom. We have been working really hard to create it. Other Year 6 classes have left gifts like our new flags for the anthem, the thinking man water feature at the front gate, and the statue of Jesus outside the Barlow Room. This year was different. We didn't purchase a gift to leave the school. We built a gift all by ourselves. We have worked together to make something extraordinary. Something extraordinary for you.

For our leaders in 2021, the current class of year 5, my advice to you is work together and you build something amazing. It might not be a garden. It might not even be something physical. It could be an



impression you leave. At the start of the year you might be a bit nervous and cautious of what you can do. But I'm telling you; just have fun. Don't be all tense. Because, if you're all tense you won't get any work done.



And remember, you have been chosen for this. So, for our future school leaders, do your best and all that is all that you need.

I have chosen this scripture because we need to care about the environment and the environment is a part of God's creation.

We want you to learn and socialise in our garden to remember what the hands of God can do for each other.

Aiden - Academic Leader

Looking back at St Finbars I have had a wonderful time here, my favourite year being kindy because of our teacher and the buddies we had. So, when we got buddies 7 years later it felt like my journey here was coming full circle. While I cant wait for next year I will miss this school, and while this year has been very different we should take it as a learning experience.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6"

This scripture passage means that we need to not be scared or anxious, but to have faith in the Lord to help us through everything. We need to ask him for guidance when we need help, he will always walk with us.

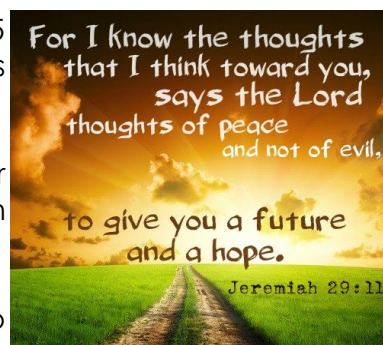
My final message to our community is to look at every situation with a positive outlook and learn from everything you can, especially your mistakes, because that is how we grow.

Grace - Mission Leader

This year at St Finbar's has been amazing! It's hard to think that we only have 5 weeks left, although I am so excited for high school. I am going to miss everyone at St Finbar's.

In Kindy we had the best teacher ever, Ms Lynch. I remember doing a weather chart where we would dress up this person to show what the weather was on the day.

This year has been weird for all of us at school. We learnt at home and had to struggle with our parents trying to teach us. One of my struggles was when my mum tried to teach me SPAG, which is a way to learn about grammar. You know, Adjectives, Verbs etc; now that was a struggle.





I want to leave you with this message. We are a community. We should be there for each other. If someone is sitting alone Invite them to play. If someone looks sad ask them, "are you okay" "do you want to talk." Be there for one another.

Zane - PBS4L Leader

Positive Behavior Support 4 Learning means

1. Be positive inside and outside of school
2. Always challenge yourself to learn at school
3. Strive for your personal best in anything and everything
4. Do this for yourself and for each other.

I love this school. It has taught me so much with my learning. Physically and mentally.

I have made so many new friends and I will never forget what this school has done for me.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

The scripture that I have chosen to share with you means Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. What Jesus is trying to say to us, that living life with truth in our hearts is how you should live each day and that Jesus is the way and if you follow him you will be granted the gift of heaven. By following Jesus we can become the best we can be.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DRAFT NEW CURRICULUM UPDATE KINDERGARTEN:

Kindergarten is well underway on their inquiry into where God the Father is present in their lives. A common theme of uniqueness and talents have been showcased within their learning experiences, through art works, unpacking of Scripture (Ephesians 4:4-6), even using the analogy of baking a cake! Kindergarten discovered that just like making a cake, if they didn't add the milk (themselves), God's cake (family) would be incomplete.

STAGE ONE:

Stage One students have asked lots of great questions, as they explore ways they can care for God's creation. Being caretakers of the land, and one another can be hard, but by using our own strengths,



relationships and Scripture, the students are developing a deeper understanding about their responsibility to care for our common home.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT | MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER

It has been a very difficult year, and we are very excited that we now get to have a Christmas concert!

More details will follow, as each class prepares to perform a Christmas carol for all our families.

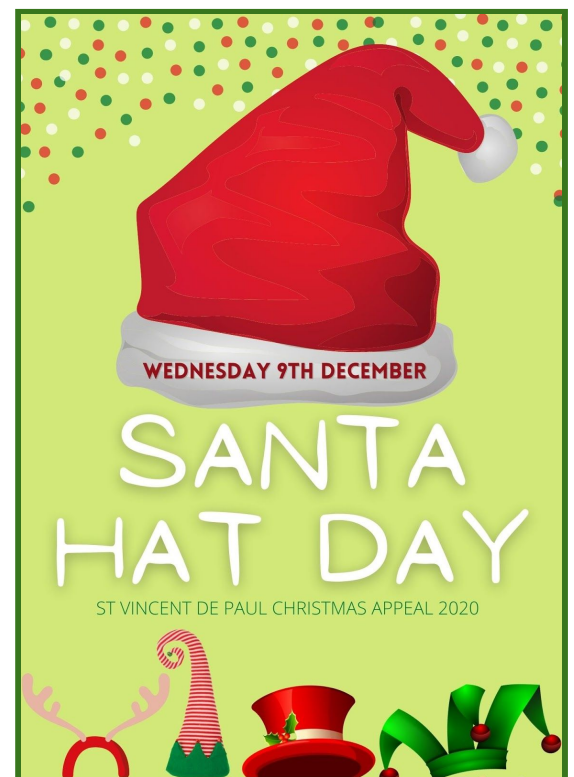
Please refer to Mrs Clarke's newsletter article above for all the additional details. We will keep you updated should any changes need to be made.

SANTA HAT DAY | WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER

This year for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, we are having another fun **Santa Hat Day!**

Students are able to wear a santa hat, reindeer antlers and elf hats to school.

We ask that students bring in a non perishable item/s to add to our Christmas hampers. Each grade has been allocated suggested items so the hampers can be made full of goodies which will help make this joyful season brighter for those in need.





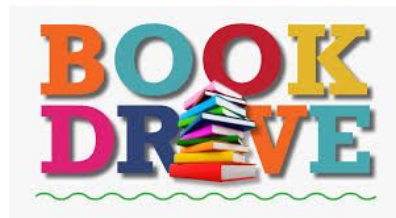


FAITH IN ACTION

This term the FIAT group has decided to run two initiatives to support people in need, in our local communities.

Book Drive

We are asking for donations of clean and undamaged books that are no longer needed in your homes. The books will be donated to the Save the Children organisation who will distribute and sell the books through their charity store.



Food Preparation

Students in Stage Three will be making sandwiches to support several not for profit organisations in the Penrith and Hawkesbury areas. We will prepare the food at school and then deliver it to Helping Hands at Windsor, and Mamma Lanna's at Penrith, for distribution in their food programs.



We look forward to your support in these endeavours.

The FIAT team and Mrs Borg

Dates To Remember

Friday 20 November Yellow Ribbon Day NRMA Road Safety Awareness (In Class Activities)	Monday 23 November Student Leadership Voting Process Commences	Friday 4 December Year 6 AMF Bowling Day Out	Monday 7 December Christmas Concert 6pm - 7:30pm
Thursday 10 December 2021 Class Promotion Afternoon	Friday 11 December Semester 2 Reports Distributed	Monday 14 December End of Year Mass Year 6 9:15am	Tuesday 15 December Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 16 December END OF TERM 4			
View School Calendar			



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 and use the booking code **e7rs4**

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

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.

Change of 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.



Year 6 Gift to the School

Fundraising:

This year, Year 6 had a Hotdog and Muffin Day to raise money so we could build a garden for our School Community. The most amazing thing is that Year 6 had to organise the whole day, from calculating what was needed to start with to then making the hotdogs for people that ordered. Thank you to all who participated.

Before the building started

The area was just dirt and lots of weeds with no purpose, but that was going to change! We had to clean out the area as there were a lot of leaves, bark and weeds. Just cleaning it out made the area look a lot different.



Our planning ideas

Before we did the transformation

This was a big project and was sure going to have blood, sweat and tears involved in getting this task completed. We started planning last term and chose to include a native garden, a succulent garden, and really wanted it to be a calm space for students. We were all super excited to actually start the build in Week 4 this term.

While building the garden

The Garden included a lot of hard work and commitment. We all worked amazingly together and have pride in creating this beautiful space for our school to use. We believe our garden looks absolutely outstanding!



After major transformation.

We still need to complete the astro turf
and do a little more to have it completed.



Thank You:

All Year 6 students wrote letters to members of our community.

Louis wrote his letter to **Lower Mountains Landscaping Supplies**.

Thank you to LMLS! You really helped us to complete our garden with a \$300 voucher.

The sandstone edge looks great, and you were a huge part of making the Garden what it is now.



Thank you to all the parents that came to help us with the garden. You gave us a real head start and we couldn't have done it without you. Also a huge thank you for all the donations including time, ideas, funds, plants, vouchers, soft drinks and food that everyone gave us. Thank you to all that helped in any way.



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](#).



Thank You from the Dawson Family

To the parents, staff & all the members of the St Finbar's Primary School community,

Thank you all so very much for all the kindness & support you provided myself & my children with after the unexpected passing of my husband, Lincoln Dawson. It has been an incredibly sad time for Angus, Lucy & myself but we have found a lot of comfort & solace in all the support & love we have received from the St Finbar's School community.

Thank you all so much.

Yours sincerely Sarah, Angus & Lucy Dawson

Thank You
So Much

Please continue to keep Sarah, Angus and Lucy in your prayers.



Compass Notifications

Occasionally you may receive an email from Compass notifying you that your child will be receiving an award. These emails are generated when a staff member enters award data in Compass. Your child will then receive the award at the next assembly.

There has been some confusion around the time frame that the emails are being received. If a teacher enters the awards a week before or a day before assembly, that is when the email will come through to you.

If you have any questions in regards to this or any other Compass queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Attached here is the [quick reference guide](#) if you need a refresher.





Awards

Being Safe | Oliver Wilson, Juliette, Lynch, Rhys Loughman, Rhea Sharma, Alexander Nilsson, Bruce Boyall, Amber Goodlace

Be A Learner | Daniel Fisher, Taitem Lipitz, Noah Parish, Sofia Lewis, Harrison Bohan, Liam Katsantonis, Abigail Stanford, Edmund Cameron, Elizabeth Elliott, Taj Collins, Josh Shouha, Sam Caetan, Wentworth Don-Wakefield, Katia Apps, Louis Pauling, Grace Smythe, Ethan Andres, Patrick Stein

Being Respectful | Jack Kay, Eloise Howard, Emma Seaman, Edward McCaffery, Liam McFadden, Cooper Kay, Ruby Shouha, Ruby Wilson, Rocco Siciliano

Living Our Faith in Daily Life | Allira Manning, Rose Parish, Sophia Lynch, Aiden Fisher, Eloise Scott, Stella Wilson, Briar-Rose Wade, Nicola De La Mare, Grace Incorvil

Bronze Awards | **Rose Parish, Edward McCaffery, Sofia Lewis, Alexander Nilsson, Eloise Scott, Stella Wilson, Ruby Shouha, Briar-rose Wade**



Swimming Carnival - Tuesday 15 December

Families are reminded to complete the Swimming Carnival Permission Form on Skoolbag. Every family will need to complete a permission form for their children to be able to attend.

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to assist on the day. As mentioned in the letter sent out last Thursday, only parents who are a part of our Covid Safe Plan (Parent volunteers) are able to attend.



Volunteers

Michele O'Callaghan Claire Lewis Xanthie Scott Bianca Alderton Ginny Spence Alison Howard Meredith Hetherington	Gabrielle Parish Florence Moutsos Johann Engelbrecht Emma McKenna Jody Cremona Laura Buggy Emma Andres	Victoria Good Michelle Wilson Annissa Nilsson Terence Capuyan Daniel Lynch
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Details about the roles for volunteers will be emailed directly to them in the coming weeks.



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



End of Year Payments

Due to end of year procedures, we will be unable to accept any payments after Tuesday 8th December. All receipting will be closed off on the afternoon of the 8th.

School Opal Cards

Applications for the 2021 School Opal Card are now open.

A new or updated application for school travel passes is only needed when a student is:

- applying for a school travel pass for the first time;
- requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (eg joint custody);
- changing school or campus;
- changing home address;
- receiving an expiry notification;
- repeating a school year;
- changing their name or requesting a new transport operator.



This means students who are progressing to Year 3 and Year 7 only need to reapply if they are changing circumstances.

To apply or update your child's details visit www.transportnsw.info/school-students.

Applications need to be submitted before the end of Term 4. School Opal Cards will be mailed out to the student's nominated postal address from January 2021.

If you don't have access to the internet, phone 131 500 for assistance.



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.

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

- 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>