



Mrs. Robyn Clarke
Principal

From the Principal

When my grandson Luka was born, the whole family downloaded an app called Family Album. My daughter and son-in-law regularly post photos of Luka, showing everyone how much he is changing on a daily basis. I can't believe he has only been in this world for two weeks and already he has grown so much!

During our recent Kindergarten interviews for 2022, I was struck by how many parents remarked that they couldn't believe it was time for their child to start school, and wondered aloud where had THAT time gone? When you have children, time is a fleeting concept, and before you know it they are independent and all we wish is that time could slow down!

I was researching the Gospel reading for this Sunday, and realised that this Sunday, we hear the parable of the mustard seed. A mustard seed is one of the tiniest seeds, yet when I was in the Holy Land on pilgrimage, I saw a mustard tree that was only ten years old and it was huge! Imagine a tiny seed being able to grow into a huge tree in such a relatively short period of time? Jesus used the mustard seed as an analogy for the Kingdom of God. He was trying to explain to his disciples that the Kingdom of God (the Catholic faith) at THAT exact time in history, was a tiny thing, and that it was up to the disciples to ensure that this kingdom was able to grow and flourish. Then we fast forward to today, and the Kingdom of God spreads all over the world. Last week, during our Sabbath week period, I asked people to focus on servitude to others. By doing something selfless for someone else, we are ensuring that the Kingdom of God on earth continues to flourish and grow. I was so excited to see photos of our children being of service to others that I wanted to share a couple with you here.



Let us pray:

God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Staff Professional learning

Tomorrow the staff of St. Finbar's will be participating in professional learning, led by staff from Team-Teach. It is recognised as good practice that all staff who are likely to use physical interventions in the course of their work should receive clear guidance and appropriate training.

- Occupational Health and Safety Legislation requires employers to provide clear guidance and training to reduce risk where risk is foreseeable.
- All staff who may need to hold or move a child or vulnerable adult should have been trained.
- Team-Teach training is designed to help employers and employees who have a duty of care to fulfil that duty.
- Team-Teach has been developed to meet the specific needs of a wide range of disabilities as well as for those displaying behavioural and/or emotional difficulties, and has been used in a wide variety of child settings and in an increasing number of adult settings.

Just a reminder that all staff will be involved in the professional learning tomorrow, and **there will be no supervision for students at school.**





100 Days of Continuous Schooling

Next Tuesday, Kindergarten are very excited to celebrate their first 100 days of school. With Covid causing interruptions to our learning last year, it's a blessing to know that this year the learning has continued and is worth celebrating. Our Kinders will come to school dressed as a 100 year old, and participate in activities related to the number 100. Stay tuned for our Facebook updates, sharing activities and photos of Kindergarten's fabulous day!



Family Learning Conferences

Our family learning conferences are a great opportunity for you to meet, either face to face or in person, with your child's teacher. We are aware that time for these conferences are limited, so if you require a longer interview after your initial meeting, please contact the school office and a time will be arranged. Due to time restrictions and the end of term nearing, parents who choose not to attend, or for some reason, miss their time slot will not be able to reschedule a meeting for later on. Thank you for understanding, and for making time to celebrate your child's achievements at St. Finbar's this year.

Enjoy your long weekend, and stay safe if travelling!

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal

Tell Them From Me Survey - Have Your Say

You may already know that St Finbar's is participating in the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) online surveys for students, teachers and parents and carers. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta values your input into our community: we strongly encourage all families to have their say.

Please see [attached communication](#) from Mr Greg B Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL, Executive Director encouraging families to have their say.

The survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The survey allows students and parents to give their thoughts and feedback in open-ended question responses.

Information about how to access the survey has been sent out via Skoolbag app.



Mr. Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Today, you would have received your child's Semester 1 Report. This report will provide feedback using the A-E grading scale, out RE learning scale and information about your child's learning and behaviour characteristics.

Use this report as an opportunity to discuss your child's successes and areas of development. It is important to frame your conversation around what things you have done well and what things we can work towards improving. The balance of the

conversation should maintain a 80% positive focus and 20% critical goal setting.

Earlier this term, we also surveyed families about their interest in attending a range of parent seminars that looked at:

- Discipline Without Damage - Dr Vanessa Lapointe
- 10 Things Every Parent Needs to Know - Dr Justin Coulson
- Raising Your Child in a Digital World - Dr Kristy Goodwin
- Dear Little Boys: Giving Boys a Great Start - Maggie Dent

We had a great response and we will now be hosting four nights over Terms 3 and 4 to share these video presentations with you.

They will take place on a Tuesday evening during Weeks 3 and 8 of each term. They will commence at 6:30pm and conclude at 8pm and be hosted onsite. Information will be shared in advance of each session, so that families can make the appropriate arrangements to be able to attend.

Our first presentation will be on Tuesday 27 July. The details are below.

Enjoy your long weekend.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



About Justin

Dr Justin Coulson is one of Australia's most respected parenting speakers, authors, and researchers. He is an Honorary Fellow at the Centre for Positive Psychology at the University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education and a consultant to the Federal Government's Office of the Children's e-Safety Commissioner. He acts in an advisory capacity to well-known organisations including Beyond Blue, the Raising Children Network, Life

Education, Intel Security, and the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. He has authored multiple peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and written a number of popular books and e-books about parenting and happiness. In addition, Justin writes a weekly parenting advice column for Sydney's Daily Telegraph, appears regularly on TV and is the parenting expert at kidspot.com.au – Australia's #1 parenting website.



In this session we'll cover three core ideas:

1. First – we need to know there's something better than punishment – and that is understanding and listening.
2. Second – we need to know how to teach our kids to get along with one another.
3. Third – we need to know how to find and feel joy in our families.



This past week, Fr Joe spoke about the importance of belonging. Belonging is integral to our lives; we belong to our families, our school community, our sporting teams and we belong to our faith. No matter who we are or what we do, God forgives us and ensures that we feel a sense of belonging to him.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

We are so lucky to belong to such a giving community. On behalf of the St Finbar's Mission Team, I would like to thank each and every person who donated to the Vinnies Winter Appeal. We have collected over 100 bags worth of warm clothing and blankets to give to those in our community. The grade winners will be announced at assembly on Tuesday.



CELEBRATING PARISH MASS

Please note the date your child's class will be attending Parish Mass on a Friday next term. Mass begins at 9am. We warmly invite all parents, carers and family members to join us. Family members are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.

Stage One

18th June
Week 9

Yours in Faith,

Michael Lo Cascio
Liturgy Coordinator



Dates To Remember

Friday 11 June	Staff Development Day - No Students at school
Monday 14 June	Queens Birthday - Public Holiday
Tuesday 15 June	Kinder Celebrate 100 Days of School
	Academic Assembly - Whole School
	Family Learning Conferences (PM)
Thursday 17 June	Family Learning Conferences (PM)
Friday 18 June	9:15am - Parish Mass Stage 1
	Special Food Day - Pizza Orders to be placed via Qkr! App
Wednesday 23 June	Stag 2 Soccer Gala Day
Friday 25 June	St Finbar's Athletics Carnival Last day of Term 2

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.



Athletics Carnival Permission Forms

Two weeks ago, the Athletics Carnival information and permission form was sent out **via Skoolbag**. All families must complete a permission form for their child to be able to attend the carnival.

At present we have 78 forms submitted. With 180 children in the school, we still require over 100 forms to be completed.

Our Athletics Carnival will be held on the Friday of Week 10, at Glenbrook Oval, and begin at 9:15am.

Please complete the permission form, via the app, by Friday 11 June.



Athletics Carnival



Communications Recently Sent Home

Sent Electronically via Skoolbag

- Athletics Carnival Information and eForm permission note via Skoolbag

Sent Home

- School Photos



Awards

Being a Learner | Sofia, Liam, Patrick, William, Holly, Elizabeth, Sam, Vincent, Elsie, Skye, Sofia, Eloise, Liam, George

Being Respectful | Joe, Edmund, Daniel, Emmett, Alexander, Noah, Jessy, Julian

Being Safe | Bailey, Gabrielle, Matilda, Cooper, Finnian, Lucas, Kai, Rose

Living Faith in Daily Life | Skye, Noah, Makenna, Olivia, Zoe, Lucas

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is important, however, we understand children get sick and it is in their best interest and of those around them to keep them at home until they are well again.

If your child is away sick, please remember you are able to log on to the Compass Parent Portal and update their absence. If your child is away for three days or more, we ask that you provide us with a Doctors Certificate where possible.

Attached are some videos that have been put together by CEDP in relation to attendance. Take a moment to have a look. [Attendance Animation](#) [Parent Attendance Video](#)



Premiers Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

Congratulations to the seven children who have so far completed the 2021 PRC. You still have plenty of time to enter your books before the Challenge closes on Friday, 20th August 2021. Pull out your favourite blanket, curl up, get warm and start reading!



NSW Department of Education

2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Key dates for students in K-10:

Challenge opens
Monday March 1

Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday August 20

Artwork by Dr
Bronwyn Bancroft





St Finbar's Playgroup



St Finbar's Playgroup

Attention Parents/Grandparents/Carers

St Finbar's Playgroup for 0-5 year olds meets each Wednesday in the Parish Hall (Levy St) 9:15am till 11:30am during school term dates. Please bring a piece of fruit to share and a gold coin donation. Tea and coffee and morning tea provided. Please come and join us for a play and meet other families. For more information please contact Gabrielle Lynch on 0481150022.

A free mental health information session made possible with NSW Government. The investment is to help parents, carers, teachers and community members to understand warning signs, learn coping skills and build awareness of local services and pathways.

Hosted by headspace the Penrith session will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday 16 June 2021.

To register please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/penrith-nsw-parent-and-carer-mental-health-education-session-registration-150129755139?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



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.

[Sunday's First and Second Collections explained.](#)

Concerts return to St Finbar's. [Click here for more information.](#)



Formation Day at St Finbar's

Rev. Dr. John Frauenfelder: Liturgist and Deputy Principal of The Australian Institute of Theological Education, will facilitate a Liturgical-Spiritual Formation Day.

The topic will be: "How to participate actively in the Mass?"

Date: Saturday 26th June

Time: 10.30 am – 3.00 pm.

Light lunch will be provided. All are invited.

Current Covid-19 Guidelines for Church in The Barra