



Mrs. Robyn Clarke
Principal

From the Principal

What a wonderful feeling it was this week to welcome back all of our Primary students to on-site learning. Each Stage worked on a week-long project to enable the students to make connections, build relationships and learn how to communicate and cooperate as a team, after working solo for such a long period of time. The children have really enjoyed some of the challenges, and there were plenty of opportunities for students to re-connect, enjoy the fresh air and engage in exercise between learning. Parents may have breathed a sigh of relief when students returned to school, but so did we! Working remotely was a challenge for all of us, but the staff at

St. Finbar's went above and beyond to ensure that quality learning continued. I'd also like to acknowledge the work of parents, as the standard of work we were regularly getting was of a high quality. In my visits to classrooms this week (I only visit one Stage per day to ensure that we are not crossing cohorts) I have been amazed and delighted to note the children's progress with their reading, writing and mathematical knowledge. Congratulations, parents! You managed to juggle learning from home, your own work and the mental and physical well-being of your children extremely well, and for this I am very grateful.

Next Monday, we celebrate the feast of All Saints. The Gospel reading for the day is the Beatitudes, one of the most beautiful pieces of writing ever written. I remind you of these beautiful words:

Happy are the poor in spirit: for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Happy are those who are sad: for they will be comforted.

Happy are the gentle: for the earth will be their heritage.

Happy are those whose heart's desire is for righteousness: for they will have their desire.



*Happy are those who have mercy: for they will be given mercy.
Happy are the clean in heart: for they will see God.
Happy are the peacemakers: for they will be named sons of God.
Happy are those who are attacked on account of righteousness: for the kingdom of heaven will be theirs.
Happy are you when men give you a bad name, and are cruel to you, and say all evil things against you falsely, because of me.
Be glad and full of joy; for great is your reward in heaven*

(Matthew 5:1-12)

Tuesday November 2nd is a day of remembrance for All Souls who have passed from this world. The staff and students will be participating in an All Saints Day liturgy in their classrooms on Monday, and on Tuesday, remembering and praying for family members and loved ones who have died.

Lord, when I leave this world, help me to have lived a life of grace and love and song. Enable and encourage me to be a person who practises kindness, gentleness and humility. Give me strength to keep before me the love of God and love of family, and help me to tread lightly on the world. Amen

Covid Safety Precautions

Please remember, it is vitally important to contact the school if any member of your family has either contracted covid, or has been identified as a close contact.

If your child is unwell and exhibiting any symptoms such as runny nose, sore throat, temperature, they will need to remain at home. Covid testing is recommended, and the student will be able to return to school after a negative test result is emailed to stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au

If a parent chooses not to have their child tested for covid, then a medical certificate from a doctor is required to be shown prior to the student returning to school. In this case, they must isolate for fourteen days and be symptom free for three days prior to returning to school.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation, as we work together to ensure the safety of our students.

School Uniform

Understandably, children have grown during the lockdown period, and some uniform items might not fit any longer! In this instance, because we only have six weeks of school left, we will overlook some breaches of uniform, based on individual cases eg: the cost of replacing school shoes at this late stage



of the year. If your child is wearing an item that is not a school uniform item, please send in an email or a note and we will ensure that a uniform note is not sent home. This does not mean that children can pick and choose what they wear to school. Alternative shoes must be mainly black. Some year six students have lost hats over lock down, and they have been advised that they may wear a plain navy blue hat, easily purchased from Big W, Kmart or Best and Less for the remainder of the year to avoid the cost of a hat for seven weeks wear.

You can access the full list of uniform items [here](#). Uniforms can be ordered from [The School Locker](#). We have a selection of uniform sizes available to try on here at school, under covid safety procedures, as unfortunately, we have been advised that the School Locker cannot arrange a pop-up shop for us this year. If you require information in regards to sizing, please contact the office on 4724 3600.

Expensive Electronic Equipment

Recently, some children have been bringing expensive electronic equipment and devices to school. We do not encourage this, as we cannot be responsible for any damage that might occur on the playground. Similarly, some children have been wearing watch devices that allow communication with parents during the school day. This is not only distracting for the child wearing the device, but for other children trying to focus on learning. If you need to urgently contact your child, it is better to call the school office. If your child brings a device or toy that is a distracting influence, it will be removed, stored in the office and returned to parents at the end of the school day. Smart watches and other communication devices fall under the mobile phone category, and all student mobile phones must be placed in the office each morning, and picked up at the end of the day.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal





Mr. Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

From the Assistant Principal

After 13 weeks of home learning, our community of learners are finally united once again. Despite the necessary restrictions that have been required to be put in place, it feels like "normal" is almost here.

I thought it would be a good opportunity to explain the purpose behind "cohorting" and the reasons behind the need to have student cohorts separated and in turn student arrival and pick up separated. The reason behind this also relates to why non essential visitors or parents are not able to be on site too.

The advice from NSW Health, Catholic Schools NSW and CEDP has been to ensure cohorting can be in place in all schools, where possible. The thinking behind this is to limit the disruption that could come from a positive case within a school community. Already, 20 NSW schools have closed this week from positive cases.

By Cohorting, we can immediately ascertain which staff and students would be close or casual contacts. Casual contacts can return to school far more quickly than close contacts. The reality of opening and closing schools when a positive case is found will become unsustainable, but we can ensure procedures are in place to limit the possible impact or disruption if it does occur. It is critically important that we all work together to ensure "cohorting" remains the standard practice at the moment.

The afternoon dismissal was one of my biggest concerns when planning our return to school roadmap, as this time is quite busy and can be susceptible to gathering. So far, the speed of dismissal has been fantastic and all students have been dismissed by the time the normal 3:10pm end of school day bell has rung. Parents and carers too, need to ensure they collect their children at the correct time and move straight to their vehicles. So far, things have been very smooth. Thank you.

We have had updates this week about how graduation might be able to happen and even a swimming carnival. We will let you know the details once they have all been released to us and the planning finalised.

Finally, I ask that, where possible, families limit early departures and late arrivals. The office staff are not able to let parents in and this extra work to collect students and escort them out to the gate is time consuming. Obviously there are times when this is necessary, but when it may not be necessary, please limit this disruption.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst | Assistant Principal



From the RE Coordinator

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matt 5: 3

Annually on November 1st and November 2nd, we celebrate and commemorate All Saints and All Souls day respectively. It is a chance for us to remember all those who have gone before us and the influences that they had on the way we live our lives today.

All Saints Day celebrates those who are in the Communion of Saints. It is a chance for us to recognise those who have been canonised and those who were not. It is important that we, as Catholics, are saints too! We can live the life that Jesus taught us, like so many that have gone before us have.

In our classes, we will be celebrating All Saints Day, with our theme being based on the fact that we can all be saints too. Our Gospel is based on the Beatitudes, a piece of scripture that is integral to our lives, and significant to the life that Jesus lived and taught his disciples to live too.

November 2nd is a time that we remember those that have gone before us. It is a time to be appreciative and to remember the significance of those people in our families, our friendship groups, and our communities.

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*

Yours in Christ,

Michael Lo Cascio
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Thank you to all the families that have finalised their 2021 School Fee account. If you are experiencing difficulty in paying your account, please do not hesitate to contact me via email finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone 4724 3600.

School
F E E S



Nepean Hospital | Emergency Dept Wellness Wall

You may remember at the end of last term we put out a call to donate artwork to Nepean Hospital Emergency Department. This was a small way of saying a very big thank you for their dedication and hard work. The Department certainly appreciates the support.

We received a lovely letter of thanks in return along with a photo of the wall. Great work everyone!



Health
Nepean Blue Mountains
Local Health District

Nepean Hospital – Department of Emergency Medicine

5 October 2021

The Principal
St Finbars Catholic School
Levy Street
Glenbrook NSW 2773

Dear Management, Staff and wonderful Students

Thank you so much for thinking of us.

The messages of support from the staff and students have certainly made things easier for us.

Our ED staff are all working really hard in these challenging times and definitely appreciate your thoughtfulness expressed through your wonderful artwork.

We have created a "Wellness Wall" in our department and on this wall we have displayed your artwork so everyone will be able to enjoy your many creations.

Thanks again.

Thank you





Parish News

[Click this link to read The Parish Barra](#)

[Saturday Night Vigil Mass](#)

At present due to Covid, Parish Mass is live streamed.

Visit the [Parish website](#) to access all links.



Growing Resilient Communities

Providing on the ground support for Greater Blue Mountains, Northern NSW and Southern NSW



Support continues for communities impacted by bushfire and other natural disasters with our suite of Seasons for Growth and Stormbirds programs. Resilience NSW have funded dedicated Community Resilience Officers to work with trained Companions and local groups in three bushfire-impacted regions in NSW to support ongoing recovery, build resilience and enhance community preparedness for future adversity.

Community Resilience Officers

The Community Resilience Officers will work alongside trained Seasons for Growth and Stormbirds companions, schools and community organisations to implement the small group programs, workshops and seminars for children, young people, parents, carers and adults to best meet their needs. The Officers will work with whole communities as they come to understand the complex impacts of change, loss and grief experienced following the impacts of the bushfires and the ongoing impacts of flooding and Covid19.

We envisage and hope this initiative and ongoing support will build on the support provided to date and will continue to support the capacity and capability of the local communities to recover and respond to the bushfire events.

How we can support:

- Delivery of Stormbirds natural disaster program for children 6-14 years
- Delivery of Seasons for Growth change and loss education program for children and young people 6-18 years
- Workshops for professionals - change, loss, grief, impacts of disasters and other significant events on children and young people
- Seminars for parents/carers on how best to support children and young people following disasters and other significant life events
- Delivery of Seasons for Growth change and loss seminar for adults
- Ongoing support and sessions for trained program facilitators
- Develop a Community of Practice to support professionals.



Reach out to our Community Resilience Officers:

Greater Blue Mountains:

LGAs of Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Lithgow, Wallandilly

📧 lydia.vorona@goodgrief.org.au

Northern NSW:

LGAs Clarence Valley, Glenn Innes Severn, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield

📧 biba.honnet@goodgrief.org.au

Southern NSW:

LGAs Eurobodalla, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Shoalhaven, Snowy Monaro

📧 sandra.kay@goodgrief.org.au

For more information on the programs please visit or call

🌐 goodgrief.org.au

☎ 1300 379 569



Supporting Children Through Change and Uncertainty

Join the free online seminar for *Parents and Carers or Professionals* in the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Wollondilly Local Government Areas.

The last couple of years has brought many changes and losses for children, young people, and families all around Australia. There are so many questions about the impacts of the pandemic, natural disasters, and life changes such as bereavement, family separation and relocation - and how we can best support the children and young people in our lives.

Overview

Common questions:

- How can I talk about what is happening?
- What kind of reactions can I expect from my young person?
- How can I best support my young person?

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Consider the range of impacts the pandemic is having on young people
- Explore ways of managing reactions of young people
- Hear about some creative ways of providing support



Join Us

for this free online seminar to discuss helpful ways to support children and young people adversely affected by change and loss events.

For Professionals

Tuesday 2 November - 3.30 to 4.30pm

For Parents & Carers

Tuesday 2 November – 7 to 8pm

***Click the time to access bookings**

The Seasons for Growth suite of programs equip school and other professionals to support children and young people, parents/carers and other adults in sharing their experiences of change and loss in safe and creative ways, understand and attend to their feelings, and learn skills for adapting and recovering.

Get in touch

The MacKillop Institute,
Seasons for Growth Programs