



Newsletter | Term 4 Week 8 | 23 November 2021



Mrs. Robyn Clarke  
Principal

## From the Principal

Last Saturday night, my whole family went out for dinner for the first time since June this year. It was wonderful to actually eat out in a restaurant, being served by wait staff, and enjoying a lovely meal with great conversation. The restaurant was filled with other families, and the noise level was loud and joyous. When families come together to share a meal, stories are told, there is an opportunity to learn more about the people you are with and there is a chance that you might even get some good advice from the people around you about a problem you may have.

This Sunday is the beginning of the new Liturgical calendar for our church. It is the first Sunday of Advent, and we move into Year C. I think out of all the church years, Year C is my favourite year of the Liturgical calendar as it focuses heavily on the Gospels of St Luke. Luke was a doctor and a highly intelligent man. He wrote his gospel in Greek. He also has the "food" theme running through his gospel. Jesus, according to Luke, often sought out people to dine with. During the sharing of a meal together, Jesus often brings about a change of mind or heart with the person he is dining with. Take the story of Zacchaeus - a small man who climbed a sycamore tree to get a better look at Jesus as he passed by. People were shocked that Jesus asked Zacchaeus if he could share a meal at his house. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and regularly cheated people to increase his own wealth. After eating and talking together, Zacchaeus vowed to return all the money he had cheated out of people, and sell off half his goods to help others. What a conversion!

As you begin your Advent journey this Sunday, try to think of ways that you can change, just like Zacchaeus did. It might be a conversion of thought or action, or it might be a way that you can help someone else out.

### **We pray:**

*Lord Jesus,*

*Help me to make changes in my life so that you have more room in my heart and in my life. Amen*



## Covid Updates

We are ensuring that all Public Health orders are being followed at St. Finbar's. Regular cleaning and sanitising of learning areas is still happening, and students are encouraged to use soap and water or hand sanitiser after each play or bathroom break. Please remember that if your child is presenting with any covid symptoms (runny nose, cough, temperature, shortness of breath etc), they must be tested and isolate until a negative result comes back. **We must see the negative result before the child can return to school.** If you do not wish your child to have a covid test, a medical certificate will be necessary, and students must isolate for fourteen days, and be three days symptom free before returning to school. The medical certificate will need to be forwarded to [stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au) prior to your child's return.

If any member of your family receives a positive result to a covid test, we need to be notified immediately so our Covid Response Plan can be implemented.

Thank you for your cooperation.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke  
Principal



## From the Assistant Principal

On Wednesday of Week 10, you will receive your child's Semester 2 Learning Report via the Compass Portal. This report contains information about your child's achievement, effort and application and their behaviour under our framework of being a safe, respectful learner. Due to the home learning period, this report will only contain feedback on your child's academic performance in Religious Education, English and Mathematics.

In addition to the school report, parents of students in Years 2 – 6 will also receive a copy of their child's ACER Reading and Numeracy Assessments. These assessments take place in all schools in our diocese, to help leaders, teachers and students track growth and performance using a national norm referenced test.

As these reports are quite different to our school reports, I wanted to have an opportunity to explain to you how to read these reports and provide parents and students with an opportunity to transform this information into knowledge and ultimately into constructive action.



You can access a youtube clip [here](#) of me explaining how to read the PAT Reading and PAT Maths Reports. You can also find out more information about the ACER PAT Tests [here](#).

If you would like to discuss aspects of your child's report, parents can contact the office after the distribution of the reports, to make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher in week 11.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst  
Assistant Principal

## From the RE Coordinator



The term 'Advent' comes from the Latin term 'Adventus' meaning 'arrival' or 'to come'. Our new church year, and the beginning of Advent is this Sunday. It is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Saviour. Throughout Advent we begin to think more about others, our friends, families and our broader communities, our love for God and be thankful for what they bring to us in our lives.

In Advent, we use the colour purple within our classroom and sacred spaces. This is a symbol of forgiveness and reflection

The wreath is a symbol of continuous life. The greenery and its circular shape recognise that God's love for us does not end.

During Advent, we use four candles, three purple and one rose coloured. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The purple candles symbolise the prayer, penance, sacrifices and good works that are undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). The third Sunday is a time for joy as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Advent brings our community together. It is a time to celebrate and be thankful for what we have, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.





## First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Some of the students in our St Finbar's community have celebrated the Sacrament of their First Holy Communion and Confirmation in our parish. In the Eucharist, we move beyond the divine concept of the body and blood of Christ and recognise the role in a physical form through the bread and wine. During Confirmation, we are blessed with chrism oil and are confirmed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Our Confirmation reminds us of our role in fulfilling the mission of Jesus.

Congratulations to these children who have celebrated their First Holy Communion:

- |              |            |             |               |
|--------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| - Harrison B | - Kai E    | - Quentin L | - Lilly K     |
| - Sofia C    | - Amber G  | - Mali C    | - Francesco M |
| - Matthew C  | - Eloise H | - Rachel M  | - Luc N       |
| - William M  | - Eli K    | - Eoghan M  | - Alexander N |
| - Isla B     | - Sophia K | - Edward M  | - Zoe W       |
| - Ashton D   | - Sofia L  | - Liam M    | - Alexander S |
| - Zoe T      | - Noah P   |             |               |

Congratulations to the following people who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- |             |            |                 |             |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| - Alyssa M  | - Darcy W  | - Gus B         | - Samuel C  |
| - Abigail S | - Edmund C | - Wentworth D-W | - Michael M |
| - Eamonn A  | - Sam A    | - Lara C        | - Hailey C  |

## St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

This year for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, we are having another fun Christmas Colours Day! Students are able to wear Christmas colours or outfits to school.

We ask that students bring in 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.

If families would like to donate gift cards for places like Coles, Woolworths or Bunnings, these can also be included in the hampers.



Yours in Christ,

Michael Lo Cascio  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator



## Uniform Concerns

### Uniforms

By now all students are expected to be wearing their full Summer uniform. You can access the uniform requirements [here](#). Obviously, due to the lateness of the year we would not expect parents to renew outgrown school shoes, but other school uniform requirements need to be met.

Unfortunately we are seeing students wearing incorrect and odd socks, half summer-half winter uniform, incorrect jumpers, jackets and sports shorts. We understand this is a busy time of year, however, we need to see that our standards are met and have the students wearing the correct uniform.

Haircuts are also something that need attending to. Please ensure your child has their hair done in a neat and tidy manner. Hair that is below shoulder length needs to be tied back, this is for both girls and boys. Guidelines for haircuts can be found in the uniform requirements.

## 2022 School Calendar

Do you like to be organised like us?

The 2022 School Calendar has been uploaded to our school google calendar. You can access the calendar via the link on Skoolbag or the direct link [here](#).

## Swimming Carnival

Please remember to register your child for the swimming carnival, if they wish to trial for the 2022 Zone Carnival. We are only able to conduct the carnival with a maximum of 50 participants and staff.

Under these conditions, we will only be taking competitive swimmers who wish to trial for the 2022 Zone Swimming Carnival.

Only children who are turning 8 in 2022 or will be over 8 years of age will be able to attend. Students in Year 6 will not attend.

Parents and family members will not be able to access the venue on the day, as the school is required to have exclusive access to the main pool area for the 50 participants and staff.

To register, please access the St Finbar's page on Skoolbag and click on eForms.



## School Fees

Please be advised that unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Principal or myself, 2021 fees are now overdue.

If you are leaving St Finbar's at the end of 2021 and have not finalised your fees account as yet, or if you are having difficulties with the payment of your school fees, I encourage you to contact me to discuss payment options. The Catholic Education Office is committed to supporting families experiencing genuine financial hardship. All conversations remain strictly confidential.

Thanking you

Mrs Denham

## Compass Parent Portal

Access to your child's Report at the end of Term will be via the Compass Parent Portal. It is a good time to check that you can access your account via the portal.

The [instruction booklet is linked](#) if you have any problem navigating the app.

If you have forgotten the password, please try and reset it via the link prior to notifying us. Following that, if you cannot log in, please send us an email ([stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au)) with COMPASS PARENT PORTAL LOGIN in the subject line and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Library Books

Please have a look at home and see if you have any library books or home readers that need to be returned before the end of term. These are valued resources and it would be great if we can have all books back at school before the end of term.



## 2022 Parramatta Diocese Team Sport Trials Expression of Interest registration window open

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2022 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term One & Two in 2022. Students in Year 4 in 2022 MAY nominate for the sports of Basketball, Hockey, Softball, Tennis & Touch Football only.

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those students that MUST demonstrate an ABOVE AVERAGE ability, HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT or in particular sports demonstrate REPRESENTATIVE playing experience in their nominated sport. In most sports, students should have experience playing regular competition outside of school.

For further information and to access the Expression of Interest registration, please click [here](#).

## Parish News

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

[Saturday Night Vigil Mass](#)

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







## 2022 Return to School Dates

All staff will commence on Friday 28 January for a Staff Professional Learning Day.

From Monday 31 January, all students will commence their Mathematica Assessment Interviews (MAIs) and Early Years Assessment (EYA) interviews. These will commence on Monday 31 January and conclude for Kindergarten on Wednesday 2 February 2022.

The assessment interview dates and start dates, for your child's 2022 class, is outlined below:

### **Years 3-6**

- Monday 31 January: MAIs 8:30 – 3:00
- Tuesday 1 February; First Day of school for Year 3-6 children

### **Years 1-2**

- Monday 31 January: MAIs/EYA 8:30 – 3:00
- Tuesday 1 February: MAIs/EYA 8:30 – 3:00
- Wednesday 2 February: First Day of school for Year 1 – 2

### **Kindergarten**

- Monday 31 January: MAIs/EYA 8:30 – 3:00
- Tuesday 1 February: MAIs/EYA 8:30 – 3:00
- Wednesday 2 February: MAIs/EYA 8:30 – 3:00
- Thursday 3 February: First Day of school for Kindergarten 9:30 start

**Booking details for MAI / EYA interviews are as follows:**

### **To make a booking:**

- click on this link: <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/e7rs4> or
- go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use the booking code **e7rs4**

Please read the attached [letter](#) for further information.



## Scholastic Book Fair

St Finbar's is excited to host the 2021 Scholastic Book Fair. The Fair will take place from **Monday 29th November until Wednesday 1st December**.

To ensure this event complies with Covid procedures, unfortunately parents will not be allowed onsite to purchase books, as we have done in previous years.

St Finbar's is now a cashless school, meaning that students are no longer permitted to bring cash to school to purchase books. However, students will still be able to choose books from the Book Fair in a number of ways.

Your child will bring home a "wish list" on either Thursday or Friday of this week. Online purchases can be made via the [Scholastic site](#) (information on how to do this is on the wish list). Students can then simply take books home.

If you would like these purchases to be a Christmas surprise, simply email the school ([stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au)) with BOOKFAIR ORDER in the subject line and we can organise a click and collect of the books through the school office.

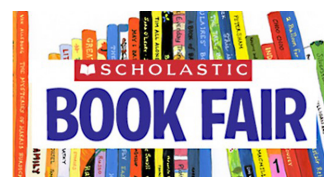
Alternatively, if you are happy for your child to select books and stationery up to a specific amount, you can simply add this specified amount using the schools Qkr! app (Instructions attached). Once we have received payment, your child can "shop" for books and/or accessories as normal.

At this stage, students are still not able to cross over classroom spaces, so purchasing will be done for each stage on one day only.

**Kindergarten/Stage One:** Monday, 29th November

**Stage Two:** Tuesday, 30th November

**Stage Three:** Wednesday, 1st December



The Book Fair is a wonderful way to promote a love of reading for your child, and they also make a great Christmas gift (please just let us know if you are purchasing as a surprise and we will organise a way to get the books to you via contactless pick-up). The Book Fair also provides St Finbar's with credit to buy book sets and library books for the students to use at school.

We are so grateful for your support.