



From the Principal

This week we participated in a liturgy for Ash Wednesday, which we observe as the first day of the season of Lent. Our Stage Two students and their teachers prepared and delivered a very reflective liturgy, and after talking to some of the children afterwards, it became apparent that a lot was learned from their experience yesterday. They talked to me about fasting, about giving things away to others and about praying each day. Fasting is often a difficult concept for

children to understand. While we might abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, we can fast in other ways rather than solely food fasting. I was reading an article lately that talked about other ways we can fast.

Fast from Noise – How often do we have background noise accompanying us? We hear it as we drive, maybe while doing housework, even at the shopping centre. Silence can be a rare gift, and in the silence we can open ourselves up to God's words to us.

Fast from Gossip – Pope Francis was quoted as saying *"It is so rotten, gossip. At the beginning it is like candy. But at the end, it fills the heart with bitterness."* These days, with social media, harmful gossip and bullying can go viral in minutes. When we fast from gossip, we can focus on our own words and try to ensure they are kind, loving and empathetic.

Fast from Excuses – There is a saying: excuses are like belly buttons – everyone has one! Excuses hold us back from taking risks and growing as a person. It's okay to have a go and mess up. Remember the scripture *"With God, all things are possible."* (Mt 19:26)



Each newsletter during Lent I will add a few more fasting suggestions. Hopefully you can try one or two and see if it makes a difference to your lives and the lives of others around you.

Lord, help me to treat others as you would, and turn my fast into a feast that I can share with others. Amen

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal



From the Assistant Principal

At our first staff professional learning meeting this year, we all came together to talk about numeracy and what numeracy looks like in our school and classrooms.

Over the last 3 years, we have invested significant time into redeveloping our understanding of how to best teach mathematics. It is a great privilege to be able to share with the community our statement on what numeracy at St Finbar's looks like.

Our tagline, "Embracing Yet", emphasises our focus on maintaining a growth mindset and viewing challenges and mistakes as opportunities for growth.

Stage Information Night – Recordings Available

Whole School information Night Presentation

[Part 1](#) | [Part 2](#) | [Part 3](#) | [Part 4](#) | [Part 5](#)

Stage Q&A Sessions

[Kinder](#) | [Stage 1](#) | [Stage 2](#) | [Stage 3](#)

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal





NUMERACY @ ST FINBAR'S

EMBRACING YET

Our Numeracy Learning Cycles will:

- Be characterised by challenge and growth
- Use time bound targeted warm ups or tune ins
- Use pre assessment, known as Shown Me What You Know, that will provide formative data
- Use data to drive feedback and goal setting using student voice
- Use low floor and high ceiling learning task that provide experience before instruction
- Allow students to reflect on their growth and set goals for their next steps
- Be supported by a classroom Maths Wall that displays Learning Intentions & Success Criteria, anchor charts and vocabulary, using student voice
- Use assessment as learning during rich tasks and reflections
- Use post assessment, known as Shown Me What You Know, to track growth and achievement
- Track student growth and achievement, in Stages 2 and 3, using the Visible Learning Tool

Our Numeracy Block

1. Warm Up

- Consists of Number based activities that are targeted
- Connected to student need or relate to the learning cycle
- Tune-Ins, which lead into the rich task
- Are time bound
- Partner or small group tasks
- All students engaged for the entire warm up
- Learners will use abstract, visual or modelled representations and may represent thinking using Think Boards
- Goal oriented and differentiated

2. Rich Task

- Low Floor / High Ceiling Tasks
- Experience proceeds instruction
- Provides challenge and students have a go first
- Allows learners to sit in the 'zone of confusion' and encourage the power of yet
- Enabling and extending prompts
- Elicits learners reasoning and thinking
- Check in with learners solutions so that teachers can reflect on strategies at the point of need
- Each lesson builds upon the previous learning. It could be the same task or different

- Teachers use student learning to determine if learners need surface, deep or transfer level learning
- Use classroom Maths Walls to provide vocabulary and anchor charts that support the learning

3. Reflection

- Can happen at any time / conducted multiple times / may be at any point in the lesson
- Small groups or whole class
- Fishbowl.
- Uses student work samples
- Clarify, celebrate work, communicating, reasoning, rationalising, summarising.
- Gauge understanding / conjecture
- Teachers play skeptic
- Uses Talk Moves or Number Talks
- Self and peer assessment
- Reflect on Success Criteria
- Goal setting - look at the next steps
- Assessing different approaches to the task
- Record student work
- Build anchor charts with student voice
- Build surface knowledge



ASH WEDNESDAY

Yesterday our students, teachers and parents gathered together to begin Lent with Ash Wednesday. Our prayers and reflections focused on how we can 'Be More' for others.

Lent is a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, and students dramatised Jesus' Gospel message; that they should not do these things to show off or gloat about it to their friends. Instead, to take the time to pray, fast and give to others, and do it because they know they are doing the right thing for others and by God.

PROJECT COMPASSION

During our Ash Wednesday Liturgy we launched our participation in the Caritas 2021 Project Compassion Appeal. Our School Leaders are organising a Rice Guessing Competition for the students to be involved in, to raise money and awareness of the work Caritas does for people around the world. More information will be sent out via Skoolbag in the coming weeks.

A collection box was sent home with each family. If you are able to donate, all money needs to be returned to the school office by Monday 29th March (Week 10, Term 1) so we can pass the money on to Caritas. Alternatively, you can take your Project Compassion box to St Finbar's Parish Mass on Palm Sunday (28th March) or make a donation by calling 1800 024 413. Go to www.caritas.org.au for more information.





PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2021

St Finbar's Sacramental Program Information Evening will be held on **Monday 1st March** at **7.30pm**, in the Parish Hall. All parents who wish to enrol their child/ren in one of the Sacramental programs in 2021 will need to attend the meeting (children do not need to attend the information meeting). Dates and requirements for participation in each of the Sacramental journeys will be discussed and distributed at this meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the Sacramental Program, please contact the Parish Office on 4739 8928.

CELEBRATING PARISH MASS

Students will be celebrating Parish Mass on a Friday again this term. Students will attend as a Stage. Kindergarten will attend with their buddies commencing in Term Two (subject to change depending on COVID restrictions).



Please note the date your child's class will be attending Mass this term. Mass begins at 9am. We warmly invite all parent/carers and family members to join us. Family members are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass. Please note, masks are mandatory for adults in church.

Stage Three	Stage Two	Stage One
26th February Week 5	5th March Week 6	12th March Week 7

Strength, love and peace,

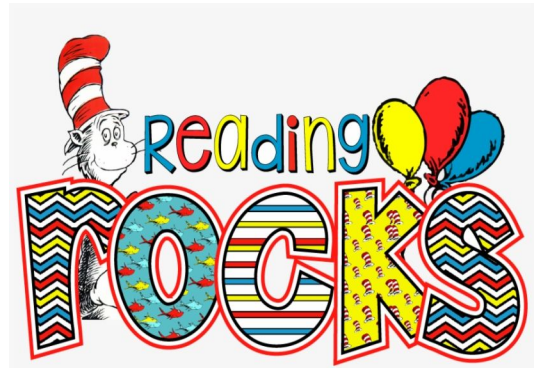
Leanne Brown
Religious Education Coordinator



Reading at Home

The students have had a wonderful start to 2021! We have enjoyed catching up with them all and hearing about their adventures over the summer holidays. It's lovely to see life go slowly back to normal.

One of the questions teachers are commonly asked is about homework. The most comprehensive research about homework shows that there is a limited correlation between homework and academic achievement for students in primary school. In fact, sending an already tired child home with homework can cause physical and emotional fatigue, as well as negative associations with school work. Also, we parents know the battles over homework all too well!



One request we make of all of our students for nightly "work" is to read (although of course, reading doesn't count as work, surely?) Studies prove again and again that reading volume (the amount of time spent reading) directly links to achievement. Just as an Olympic athlete dedicates enormous amounts of time to training for improvement, students need to read thousands of words every day to become more competent, and confident readers.

We ask our students to read for at least 20 minutes each night, either to a parent or to themselves. One way you can assist your child with their reading skills is to talk to them about the books they have read. This stimulates language development and helps to improve comprehension.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- * What did you notice in the illustrations?
- * What did you like about the book?
- * How did the book make you feel?
- * Does this book remind you of an experience you've had?
- * What parts of the story were your favourites?

Just choosing a couple of these questions each night makes it feel like a conversation, rather than a test. You can also ask these questions about books students are reading at school.

We are so appreciative of our St. Finbar's families and everything you do to support our learning here at school.


Happy reading!

Alison Maunder
Leader of Learning



Dates To Remember

Tuesday 23 February	Thursday 25 February	Friday 26 February
Family Learning Conferences (PM bookings)	Family Learning Conferences (AM bookings)	Parish Mass Stage 3 9am
Booking Link has been sent out on Skoolbag	Booking Link has been sent out on Skoolbag	

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.

School Fees

School Fees for Term 1 2021 are due Wednesday 17 March 2021. If you do not receive your fee statement please contact the office.

Fees are payable in accordance with the Diocesan School Fees Policy which states "all fees are due and payable within 28 days of the date the school account statement is issued". If you need to discuss your school fee account, please contact Mrs Denham in the office by phone on 4724 3600 or via email finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au



Please note that a term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.

Enrolments Open



Now Enrolling



Enrolments are now open for 2022. If you require an enrolment pack for your child, please do not hesitate to contact us in the office on 4724 3600 or drop us an email stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au and we can arrange a pack for you.

If you have family or friends that have a child ready for school, please pass on our details and let them know enrolments are now open. We have regular tours booked throughout the year. Due to limited places, tours need to be booked through the school office.

Enrolments for 2021 in grades K-6 are limited, however, we welcome your enquiry.



St Finbar's Primary School
Faith, Truth, Knowledge

Enrol Now
Discover Your Potential

St Finbar's Primary School Glenbrook
02 4724 3600 | stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au

Labelling of Items

Please make sure your child's belongings are always clearly labelled in case they are misplaced.

Staff assist students to look for their lost property and whilst staff are always happy to help, it is time consuming. If you can make sure your child's hats, jackets, lunchboxes and other items are clearly labelled with their name. Show your child where you have written it, so they know where to look and what the labelling looks like. This makes it easier to locate and return the belongings.



Second Hand Uniforms

If you would like any uniform items, please email a list of the items and sizes you would like to stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au which will then be forwarded to Gabrielle Lynch for processing. We will endeavour to fill your order based on supply and reply via email. Once you have received your reply, items will be left in the office for you to consider and purchase if you choose to.

Please complete the [order form](#) attached to view items and prices.

Donations | We also welcome donations of pre loved uniforms in good condition.

All donations can be dropped into the school office between 8:30am – 3:30pm daily. Unfortunately we are unable to accept any of the old uniform items ie. old style sports shirt, girls winter pinafore, boys long sleeve shirts.





PBS4L

Every Wednesday, I meet with students that have found something over the previous week difficult to manage. This is because they have not been safe, respectful or a learner.

During this time, I conduct a lesson with the students that focuses on the school expectation that was broken. We talk about how we can learn from this experience to make a better choice next time and role play different scenarios to help them practice.

If your child attends one of these extra lessons, you will receive a note explaining the purpose of our lesson and some detail about the reason why they were asked to attend.

Each lesson follows the structure outlined below.

Please remember that the purpose of our time together during these lessons is to learn from their choices and what they can do next time to ensure they are being safe, respectful and a learner. It is not a punishment.



PBS4L Lesson



A direct instruction format recommended:

- **Review** of previous skill
- **Teach** the skill (TELL)
- **Demonstrate** the skill (SHOW, MODEL)
- Students **practise** the skill (GUIDED PRACTISE)
- Positive and corrective **feedback**
- **More practise and feedback** (INDEPENDENT PRACTICE)
- **Practise** skill in relevant settings (GENERALISATION)



Supporting Diverse Learning in Catholic Schools A Parents Guide

This [link](#) will take you to the website where you are able to download the Parent Guide. It is a useful resource.



Supporting Diverse Learning in Catholic Schools – NSW/ACT
A Guide by Parents for Parents

Parents and carers can access this resource by visiting

www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/students-with-diverse-learning-needs



You can view, download and print:

- The entire booklet
- Individual sections of the booklet
- The templates from the Appendices

(02) 9287 1514 | office@ccsp.catholic.edu.au | www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au



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.



Please read the Parish Barra for current Covid-19 Guidelines for Church

EXCITING NEWS - St Finbar's Mens Breakfast

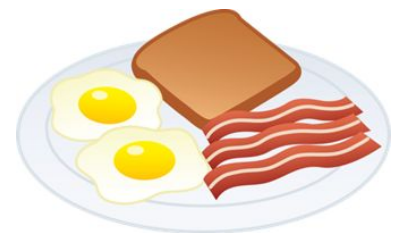
Date - Saturday 6th March 2021 | Time - 7:30 am - 9:00 am | Venue - Parish hall

The parish is holding another Men's breakfast as an opportunity for parishioners and the community to meet and get to know one another.

This invitation is open to all male parishioners and any of their sons, grandsons, neighbours and friends.

For catering purposes we will need to confirm numbers by Sunday 28th Feb 2021.
Please add your name to the list on the warden's table.

Any questions please contact the organisers:
Carl Moll 0417 471 137 or
John De Mattia 4739 6775





St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge

CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE | BOOK YOUR SCHOOL TOUR NOW

Limited places are available for school tours on 8 - 10 March. Visit our Eventbrite booking page to secure your tickets.

<https://cccopentours2021.eventbrite.com.au>

Parents and students in Year 5 & 6 are invited to tour our facilities and hear from our students why girls flourish here. See our brand new facilities and have all your questions answered.



ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE
2021 OPEN DAY
SUNDAY, 7 MARCH
BOOK ONLINE FOR YOUR GUIDED TOUR
College tours will commence at 9.30am
ONLINE BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au
PLACES LIMITED
THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR SON
54-94 Gascoigne Street,
Kingswood NSW 2747.
All enrolment enquiries: phone 02 4731 1933
or email info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au
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COVID SAFE



St Finbar's Primary School
Faith, Truth, Knowledge

ENROLMENTS 2022 & 2023 NOW OPEN

9 March 2021
Open Night
5-8pm

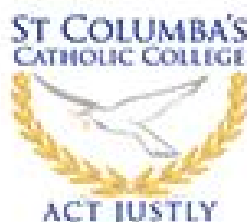
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P: 02 4728 8100



**ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**
SPRINGWOOD

ENROLLING NOW

School, tours are now available. Find out what St Columba's Catholic College offers your child.
[LEARN MORE](#)

[Contact the College for](#) more information on Enrolments and Tours.