



From the Principal

I love shopping. Especially shoe shopping, as the staff of St Finbar's would tell you. There's no better feeling than buying a new pair of shoes, or unwrapping and hanging up a new outfit when you get home. Shopping is also a necessity, as it is vitally important to keep a hungry family fed. Shopping can be stressful at times, especially trying to buy groceries with tired or fretful little ones. I remember one of my children, frantically trying to stop his sister asking me to buy them something. His frustration grew so that he exploded and

yelled at her, "Don't you know by now that if you ask, mummy won't get either of us anything!" Seeing as I had never said that before, I was amused and astonished at his perception. And, of course, we all remember the frustration we felt this time last year when we were faced with toilet paper shortages!

This week's Gospel is a very interesting story about Jesus confronting the marketeers and the money lenders who had set up shop inside and in front of the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was very angry in this story, and used a whip to drive out the animals for sale, and tipped over the tables with the different currency for exchange. But what was it that made him this angry?

In these times, people travelled from all over the country to reach Jerusalem for the Passover. The shopkeepers and the money exchangers were totally taking advantage of these travellers, who needed to purchase an animal for sacrifice at Passover, and the coins in the correct currency for their financial contribution to the temple. So not only were these traders charging highway robbery prices, they were also blocking the temple to those who wished to worship. No wonder Jesus was angry!

So what can we take from this story? Firstly, it's important to remember not to take advantage of anyone. Whether it's asking someone we know can't say no to do a task for us, just because we don't want to do it. Maybe it's taking advantage of someone by leaving a cup on the sink when the dishwasher is empty (I hope my children are reading this!). Secondly, we should be upstanders and not accept when we see someone taking advantage of another person. Jesus stood up to the



shopkeepers in no uncertain terms, and we should have the courage to do the same. So, what happened next in the story? Everyone gaped in silence. People stood still, looking to see what was going to happen next. What happened next was the lame, the blind, the children, the women, all those who had been cheated or marginalised by others came forward to Jesus to acknowledge him as the Messiah. It may be that when we take a courageous stand for righteousness, some will recognize and appreciate that stand. The world is full of downtrodden people who are looking for someone to stand up for them. If we don't do it, who will?

Let us pray:

God of mystery, you lead us on life's journey to places of sacred encounter. Here your presence transforms our lives to see the wonders of your glory. Open our ears, that we might hear your voice calling us to follow Jesus, our way, our truth and our life. Amen

NAPLAN

Due to Covid-19, NAPLAN was not offered to students in Years Five and Three as is customary. In 2021, NAPLAN returns. Please use the link below for information about NAPLAN and your child's participation.

Please note that we make special consideration for students with particular learning needs, and further information will be available for parents of these students in the near future.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support>



Changes to Afternoon Dismissal

As of next week, we are going to trial a different pick up method in the afternoons. The double gates will be opened and parents/carers will be able to enter the school grounds. All parents/carers must adhere to strict social distancing guidelines of 1.5m and must leave the playground immediately after collecting your children. The playground grass and climbing equipment areas are off limits to all after school.

Teachers will take their class to the steps and sit them down. As Teachers see parents/carers, they will "High Five" the child and direct them to walk over to you. If you require to speak with your child's teacher, please contact the school office and you will be contacted as soon as it is possible. The afternoon dismissal is not a time for exchanging information, as teachers are actively on duty at this time to ensure that duty of care is being shown.



This is also a good opportunity to remind parents, if your child is going home with another family or a different relative/friend is picking them up, please send an email to the school office stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone to notify us on 47243600. This is extremely important for the safety of all students. Thank you for your ongoing support of these changes.

Please note that the morning "Kiss and Go" system will remain in place for the near future.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal



Mr. Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Yesterday, I was reminiscing about the rules we had in place as children growing up. When you came home from school or were out on the weekends at friends houses, there was always one rule we were told: You have to come home when the street lights come on. This rule felt like the rule every young person had. It was almost unwritten.

As young boys in the local neighbourhood, riding bikes, skateboards, roller blades (oh yes, I bladed!) and walking up to the local "servo" was almost a daily right of passage. We would hang out at the half pipe, in the local park, go down to the BMX track and ride along the bike path that was adjacent to the canal. We would roam the local area on our mode of transport enjoying the freedom and mateship together. We would even ride in pairs like we were Sgt. Joseph Getraer and Officer Frank Poncherello from Chips.

One thing, however, is completely different to what the children of today have.... No mobile phone. Mrs Clarke reminded me that she could remember if you ever got caught out and had to ring home to say you were going to be home late, you could find the local pay phone, ring home without any money and if you screamed loud enough down the phone your parents would be able to just hear you on the other end. Of course, there were always reverse charges too.

What if you "stacked" your bike! You made the long walk home with blood running down your knee and grazes along your arms, whilst pushing home a bike with a broken chain. If the local hoods turned up at the skate park you took off, as fast as you could, to avoid being "rolled"! Great times.

Despite the pain, and despite the lack of connectivity, I feel like we had it better. Simpler.



It made me wonder about the impacts of life today on our children's creativity, activity and resilience. It feels like all the activities that happen after school are organised nowadays. Whether it is with local sporting clubs or parents organising playdates. Kids don't seem to either be out as much or clicking in their creative brains to explore the local world together. Then, there is the anxiety we, as their parents, bring to our kids asking us if they can walk up to the local shops or go to the skatepark on their own. We helicopter in because we are worried. We helicopter in because we have heard and seen the worst that can happen and want to protect our most precious people.

But..... Do we have the balance right? Do our actions sometimes impact the opportunities for our children to build resilience? Do our choices sometimes hinder our children being more creative? Being more active?

I do worry about our children's resilience. How they cope with challenges, distress and conflict.

I can remember being at the local BMX track watching a friend of mine ride his trail bike around. Clearly not a good choice! As I sat on the ground, with my legs stretched out in front of me, he was doing donuts on the dirt. As he entered his third spin he lost control and the motor bike ran over both of my legs. Whilst being in pain and seeing the tread from the wheel running up from my lower left shin to my upper right thigh, my first thought was my parents are going to kill me. But then I realised I had to check if my legs weren't broken? Tick. Can I walk? Tick. Can I make it the 1.5km journey home before the street lights come on? Tick. Can I wash the tread marks off when I get home and cover up the stupidity? Tick.

And here I am, 33 years later (I was 8 at the time), able to tell the story. Despite making a poor choice, I learnt from it. I was resilient. I overcame distress. I overcame the challenge.

I believe we can all be better for the mistakes we make, as long as we accept what it was that we had done to contribute to it. That we should focus on what our role was and address that, rather than blaming the kid on the trail bike. If you take responsibility for your actions and not deflect the reasons for your choices being because of what someone else did, then we become more resilient, better at managing distress and are able to overcome the challenges we will face week in and week out.

Own your mistakes, learn from them and become the best person you can be. And, if you do go out for a ride in the afternoon, make sure you are home before the streetlights come on.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal



CELEBRATING PARISH MASS

Last Friday, Stage Three celebrated Mass with our parish family and friends. It was great to have the students and community gathering together again, listening to the Word of God, and giving thanks.

Father Joe took the time to speak with the children about important prayers, rituals and symbols used throughout the Mass. The students were very engaged in the discussion. (If your child is in Stage Three, don't forget to ask them about their new learnings. You might learn something new too!)

We look forward to learning so much more through our engagement with Father Joe, as we continue to celebrate Mass together, and as he comes into our classrooms to be

with the students and teachers.

Stage Two will be celebrating Parish Mass this Friday. Mass begins at 9am. We warmly invite all parent/carers and family members to join us. Children are able to sit with their family members. Please note, masks are no longer mandatory, but advised, and parents must sign in using the QR codes provided.



Stage Two	Stage One
5th March Week 6	12th March Week 7

Strength, love and peace,

Leanne Brown
Religious Education Coordinator



Teachers as Learners

Name	Date	Professional Learning
Robyn Clarke	9th February	System Leaders Meeting
Robyn Clarke, Jo Shean, Alicia Borg, Leanne Brown, Rebekah Stopford, Georgia Hutchins, Terese Collins,	15th February	Anita Collins Music in Literacy Learning
Robyn Clarke, Ben Ticehurst, Fran Pietersma	23rd February	Senior First Aid
Robyn Clarke	2nd March	System Leaders Meeting
All Staff	2nd March	Emergency Care
Ben Ticehurst	3rd March	Presentor: CEDP Schools - Developing Semester School reports
Ben Ticehurst	3rd March	Assistant Principal's Network Leadership Meeting





Dates To Remember

Friday 5 March	9am Parish Mass Stage 2
Tuesday 9 March	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Friday 12 March	9am Parish Mass Stage 1
Monday 15 March	Stage 3 Camp Teen Ranch
Tuesday 16 March	Stage 3 Camp Teen Ranch
Monday 22 March	Woolworths Cricket Blast Glenbrook Oval 2:15pm Whole School Assembly
Wednesday 24 March	St Finbar's Cross Country
Tuesday 30 March	School Photo Day

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.

From The Student Cabinet



We can all be proud to attend such a beautiful school. In order to keep our school beautiful, we need to remember to clean up and place any waste in the bins provided.

Ice block day is one of those days we all enjoy. This is a good time for us to remember to place the ice block wrappers in the bins. We need to keep looking after our school and the environment.

Thank you for keeping our school beautiful and clean.

Amelie

Mission leader

Hailey

Environmental Leader

"We can do this St. Finbars."

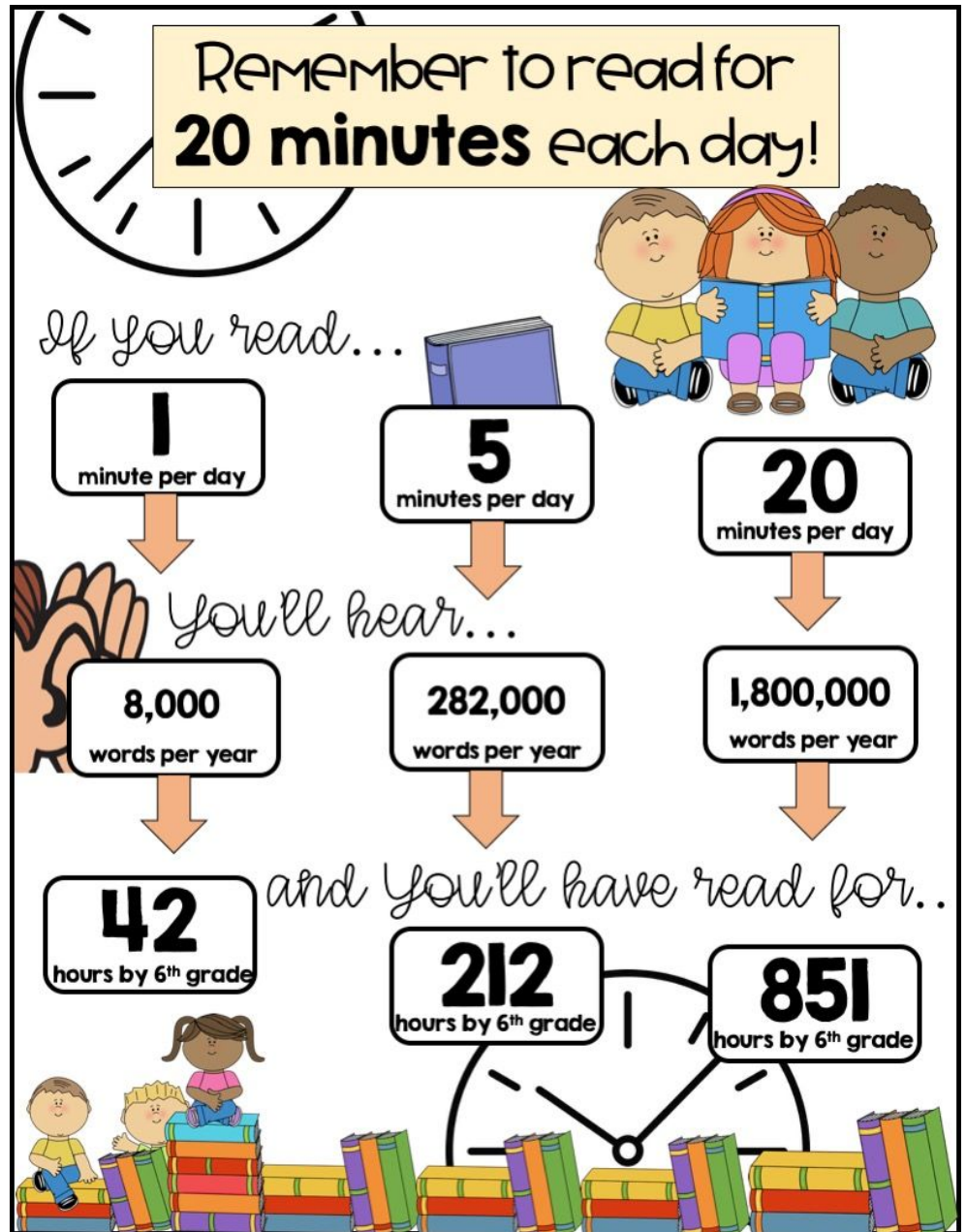


Reading at Home

Readers are Winners!

Congratulations to **Isla** from Year Four!

Isla recently won a \$30 voucher in the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge.





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



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 send us an email stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au and we can arrange a pack for you.

Now Enrolling



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. [Click here](#) to submit your Expression of Interest and we will contact you.

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

Enrolment Packs

Enrolment packs are also available for high schools. If you require high school enrolment forms for:

Penola Catholic College
St Columba's College
Caroline Chisholm College
St Dominic's College

please do not hesitate to call us or drop into the office.

Enrol Now
Discover Your Potential

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

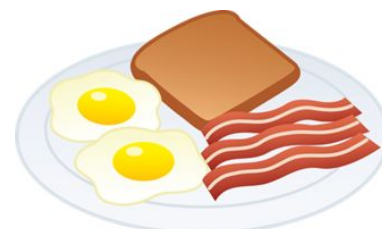
This invitation is open to all male parishioners and any of their sons, grandsons, neighbours and friends.

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



..... *Social*
Women's Cricket
Fun, friendly, fast and easy as!

LOWER MOUNTAINS

Every Friday From 5th March until the 9th April
5:30pm-7:00pm @ Glenbrook Park, Glenbrook

Come and Try Night: 5th March @ 5:30pm

No previous cricket experience or skills required!

Register as a team, individual or small group (2-5 people)

Ages 16+ (6-8 players per team)

Enquiries: Jessica Daniels / 0424 140 602 / jessica_daniels@hotmail.com.au

Round up your friends, get outside and get moving in 2021!

Register @ <https://www.playcricket.com.au/club-finder/club-details?id=29402>



#SocialCricket



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

NSW PARENT/CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP



Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

This online workshop is for parents, full-time carers and grandparents. Join other families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership.

During the online workshops, we will cover three topics:

- diversity of autism
- understanding behaviour
- working together with your child's school

Location:

 New South Wales
via zoom online

Date:

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Time

Wed 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (AEDT)

http://



For more information and to register, visit www.positivepartnerships.com.au
or contact Laura Owens lauraowens@autismspectrum.org.au