



From the Principal

Once, when I was about seven, we had a class mass at school. Our parish priest was a rather crotchety old man, who probably was unimpressed that his sermon was going to fall on the inattentive ears of seven year olds. He used to give his sermon, and then ask the children questions to see who had been listening. I, naturally, had NOT been listening, and it was obvious that Father decided he was going to make an example out of me for not even pretending to listen! His first question was to me.... "Robyn, tell us what is an epistle?"

I thought for a moment and, to the shock and horror of my year two teacher I confidently replied, "the wife of an apostle!" Needless to say, my mother received a phone call that afternoon! I had forgotten all about that story until I was preparing for the newsletter this week.

I opened the readings for this Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Easter. I usually head straight for the Gospel to see what the message of the week might be, and to determine how I could weave this into my newsletter and make it interesting for you to read! But while I was skimming through, my eyes were drawn to the first line of the second reading. It was from the first epistle (or letter) of John. I was reminded of my past experience with the word, and I had a bit of a laugh.

But then I went back and read the first line again. "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." What a beautiful sentiment! Last night at the P&F meeting, Ben Ticehurst showed the parents who attended, the type of entry events that we stage to introduce students to a new learning cycle in RE. As it would with our students, it promoted discussion about the themes, misunderstandings, definitions, understandings, links to personal lives and so on. The new RE curriculum, introduced in some grades last year and implemented school wide in 2021, has at its core that we are people called to use our head, hearts and hands in our daily interactions with others. The emphasis however, is on the hands. What is it that we, as Christians, are called upon to do to build the



Kingdom of God here on earth? Each RE cycle ends with an action, or a call to service. Our Lenten theme this year was "Be More", a call to be satisfied with the things we have and instead, try to use actions to make our lives, and the lives of others, better. It was taken from the words of Oscar Romero "Aspire not to have more, but to be more". As we head towards the culmination of the Easter season, I encourage all of you to love in deed and truth. And maybe to listen to Father's sermon so you won't get caught out!

Covid advice

Covid restrictions have been eased further, and we are delighted to share the good news about some upcoming events with you.

International Day of Families and Open classrooms

We will be inviting families to join us on May 14th 2021, to celebrate International Day of Families. Families are invited to come on site during break two and share an afternoon tea picnic with their children. Following the picnic and play break, families are invited to visit classrooms to see some of the fabulous learning at St Finbar's. This will be the first of a return to open classrooms, and we are very excited to be able to have parents, grandparents and extended family onsite once again. Following this event, we will be publishing dates and times for individual Stage groups, who will be hosting literacy, numeracy and Religious Education open sessions as the Term progresses. Please note that a Skoolbag reminder will be sent prior to open class sessions.

Special Food Days

Special food days are returning! Keep your eyes peeled for directions to order a special food lunch, which will be served at break one. Snack foods will be available for the students to buy at break two. If you are unsure of the process for ordering a special food meal, please refer to the Skoolbag message that was sent out or contact the school office for advice.

Kindergarten 2022 Enrolment Interviews

Kindergarten 2022 enrolment interviews are happening over the next few weeks. If you require an enrolment package, please contact Mrs Beukers and she will provide you with everything you need. We are close to being at full capacity for Kindergarten 2022, so if you require an enrolment pack please collect one as soon as possible.



Meeting with Teachers

I was asked recently if parents are allowed to meet with teachers to discuss student progress. Whilst we endeavour to make contact with parents on a regular basis, and provide time to meet at family learning conferences in Term One and half yearly learning conferences In Term Two , we acknowledge that sometimes parents just need to talk to a teacher 1:1 about concerns or issues. If this happens, we encourage the parent to contact the school office on 4724 3600 or via the school email account stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au Your message will be directed to the pertinent person, and an appointment will be made.

Liturgy Coordinator

I am pleased to announce that Mr Michael Lo Cascio has been appointed Liturgy Coordinator for Term Two. We welcome Michael to the role and we know his creativity will be enhancing our masses and liturgies this term. Recruitment for an acting REC for the remainder of the year will occur shortly.

Bishop's response to Mark Latham's Bill

You may be aware that there has been some public discussion about Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP)'s response to the NSW Legislative Council's inquiry into the *Education Legislation Amendment Bill* (Introduced by Hon Mark Latham, NSW leader of One Nation Party).

Bishop Vincent has shared with the Diocese of Parramatta community his response to this public discussion, making very clear that CEDP's decision to oppose the Bill was guided both by our strong Catholic faith and teachings, and concern for the wellbeing of our students and their families.

I share this [letter](#) with you.

AEDC – Australian Early Development Census

The AEDC is an Australian Government initiative. It has been conducted nationally every three years since 2009, with more than 95% of schools in Australia participating. It is essentially a national progress measure of early development in students in their first year of school, and collects data relating to five key areas of early childhood development:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge

The results measure if a child is developmentally on track, at risk or vulnerable in each domain.



Children do not need to be present and our kindergarten teachers enter the data into the database. The data collection takes place between May 3rd 2021 and June 25th 2021. Our school will be completing the data collection on Thursday May 27th 2021. There is an opportunity for parents to [opt out](#) of the data collection process, and we will be sending details of how to do this, plus an information sheet for parents via Skoolbag. However, our school's participation in the AEDC helps us to build a more complete picture of the health, well-being and development of the students of St Finbar's.

Your child's inclusion in the data collection ensures that we can better support children and families in our community. Please call the school office if you require any further information on 4724 3600 or email the office stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au

Uniform Issues

I understand that parents are becoming frustrated with the uniform shop and what appears to be irregularities between uniform items, eg: dress shape is not the same as originally chosen, the change of material for the boy's shirt, the slow speed in acquiring tailored, winter-weight navy trousers for the girls to wear. We have arranged a meeting (May 5th) with the School Locker representatives to try to resolve all of these issues as best we can, as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, we still have second hand uniform items for sale in our pop-up shop. Please refer to Skoolbag for details of the next pop-up shop for quality used uniforms.

If you do have any specific feedback about the sizing of items or quality issues, please submit your feedback [here](#).

Fundraising for Neurofibromatosis

Libby is a student at St Finbar's who is living with Neurofibromatosis. You can read [Libby's story here](#).

To support Libby and her family, we will be having a fundraiser event for the [Flicker of Hope Foundation](#). Children living with this disability are superheroes, so we encourage all our students and staff to dress up as a superhero on May 17th (week 5) and bring in a gold coin donation for this worthy cause. We thank you for your support.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke
Principal





Mr. Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

From the Assistant Principal

From time-to-time, families take leave during the school term. It is our preference that family leave is restricted to gazetted holiday periods. This is to ensure that the maximum amount of learning time is able to be accessed by all students each year.

However, parents or carers may approach the school to seek permission for extended leave for their child to travel during a school term. Extended leave is considered to be 5 or more days during the school term for the purpose of a family holiday, family

business, bereavement or other reasons.

Parents or carers must complete and submit an Application for Extended Leave prior to commencing leave OR apply for extended leave in writing to the principal directly.

With the introduction of the Compass App, parents have the ability to easily submit the reason for your child's absence. If you are planning leave that is 5 days or more, you can enter this leave via the Compass App, however, this should only occur once an Application for Extended Leave has been approved.

The introduction of the Compass App has seen a significant increase in parents providing explained absences for their child when they are sick or have an explained absence. It has been a great improvement and has helped streamline the time that was previously used by the Office Staff to manually enter these in and significantly reduced the number of Unexplained Absences that we previously have had to report in our annual compliance checks.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS



[Click here to view the video](#)



ANZAC DAY

On Monday, we came together, as a school community, to commemorate those who have served in the Armed Forces. ANZAC Day is a special occasion and for our school community it was the first time that we were able to come together, with an open invitation to all members of our school, to gather in prayer in over 12 months.

I would like to graciously thank Mr Richard Van der Snoek, who provided a great insight into the significance of ANZAC Day to a member of our Armed Forces. ANZAC Day is a great way to recognise the sacrifices that soldiers made for us, similar to the sacrifice that Jesus made through Easter.



MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST AND MASS

On Friday 7th May, our school community will be holding a Mass, to honour and give thanks to all the mothers, grandmothers, and all the special women in our lives who love and care for us like mothers. Mass will begin at 9:15 in the Parish Church. The P & F will be hosting a lovely breakfast before Mass, commencing at 8.30am.

We hope you will be able to join us for this special celebration.

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 Two	Stage One	Kinder & Stage Three	Stage Two	Stage One
30th April Week 2	21st May Week 5	28th May Week 6	4th June Week 7	18th June Week 9



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR | TERM TWO

Friday 7th May | Mother's Day Breakfast 8.15 am and Mass 9.15am


Friday 14th May | International Day of Families Picnic Lunch and Prayer 1.30pm

Yours in Faith,

Michael Lo Cascio
Liturgy Coordinator

Dates To Remember

Friday 30th April 9:30am	Stage 2 attending Parish Mass
Monday 3 May 2:15pm	Whole School Assembly. Click here to register.
Monday 3 May 2:45pm	Second Hand Uniform Sale outside Canteen under the COLA. New uniforms will be available for try on only in the Office.
Tuesday 4 May	Diocesan Cross Country, Eastern Creek
Wednesday 5 May 8:45am	Second Hand Uniform Sale outside Canteen under the COLA. New uniforms will be available for try on only in the Office.
Friday 7 May 8:30am	Mother's Day Breakfast followed by Mass
Friday 7 May	Special Food Day. Details here.

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.



Winter School Uniform

Term Two will see the students transition into Winter uniform. Given the weather is still quite unpredictable, students are allowed to wear either Summer or Winter uniform up until Mother's Day. This means by week four, all students must be wearing Winter Uniform.

If you are unsure of what the Winter uniform is, follow this [link](#) to our website. All orders are placed online, via the [School Locker](#). Delivery is free if delivered to the school. However, we do not recommend this over the holidays.

Samples sizes for all uniform items are available in the school office. Please phone us to arrange a suitable time to try uniforms on.

Enrolments Open



Calling all Siblings! Is your child 5 or turning 5?

If you require an enrolment pack for your child, now is the time to see us. 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.

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. Tours can be booked through the school office. [Click here](#) to submit your Expression of Interest and we will contact you.

Enrol Now
Discover Your Potential

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

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



School Fees

School Fees for Term 2 2021 have now been issued and are **due Wednesday 26 May 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 me by phone on 4724 3600 or via email finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au

Thank you

Mrs Denham



Second Hand Uniform Sale

With the easing of restrictions, the day has finally arrived that we can have a real second hand uniform sale! Thank you to Gabrielle Lynch who has been a driving force in fulfilling uniform requests for our families. We are very grateful.

There will be two sale times next week, these will both be held under the COLA outside the Canteen. Please enter via the COSHC gate on King Street. Please scan the QR code provided at the uniform stall. Hand sanitiser will also be provided.

Monday 3rd of May 2:45pm to 3:15pm and

Wednesday 5th of May 8:45am to 9:15am



EFTPOS facilities will be available at the school office. We can take payment over the phone if this is more convenient. If you are paying by cash, please have small notes on hand.

If you are wanting to look at sizing for **NEW** uniforms which are purchased through [The School Locker](#), these will be made available at the same time in the office. We only have sample sizes of new uniforms, we do not stock the uniforms for sale. All uniform purchases from The School Locker must be made online. And remember if you select delivery to school, there is no delivery fee.



Understanding Your Child's Plan

A BETTER START PROGRAM INITIATIVE



For further information on Caring for a Child with a Disability, [click here](#) or for more information on knowing your child's NDIS plan, [click here](#).

P & F Welcome BBQ

REMINDER

P & F Welcome BBQ

Friday 30 April from 5:30pm

Everyone is welcome and it is a good opportunity to meet with other families.

RSVP via the skoolbag app.



Staff Development Day

Friday 11th of June is a Staff Development Day. Staff will be at Professional Learning day. There will be no supervision for students on this day.

Please take this opportunity to make arrangements for your child's supervision for 11th of June.





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.

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.](#)



Current Covid-19 Guidelines for Church in The Barra