

Newsletter | Term 3 Week 8 | 2 September 2021



From the Principal

Last week many of our students engaged in activities away from their devices as a celebration of our Sabbath Week. It was wonderful to see and hear about the activities students enjoyed, including meditation, games, dancing, yoga and trivia competitions. While this gave students a chance to step away from screens my hope is that it was helpful for all of our parents managing remote learning at home. Once again I thank you for all you are doing to support your children during this time.

I know last week gave our teachers an opportunity to plan together for

the coming weeks as well as taking some well deserved 'well-being' time for themselves. Many of our staff are working longer hours than they usually would, using different skills and technologies to enable and support students in this time. They are planning teaching, recording lessons, running Zooms, marking work and giving feedback, checking in with families through pastoral calls on a daily and weekly basis. Many of them aren doing this whilst managing their own children's home learning at home. On the days they are called into school for supervision, they need to support the students at school accessing their learning as well. I receive many emails and feedback from parents grateful for the support of our staff. Thank you for acknowledging the work that your child's teachers are doing to try to continue learning for your child.

As we go through these next two weeks of Remote Learning, we are all becoming more tired and restless and it is important to remember to take regular breaks from screens. At school we would implement brain breaks throughout the day and everyone needs these during remote learning as well. Please remember that if you have any questions or need our support in any way to contact the office or speak to your child's teacher.

This week I was guided to a book written by Pope Francis 'On Hope'. In this book, Pope Francis asks that we...

- 1. Trust that you are where you are meant to be in this moment
- 2. Don't give in to bitterness and despair



- 3. Concentrate on faith, hope and love
- 4. Maintain a connection to a community of hope
- 5. Have faith that God wants you to flourish
- 6. Don't brood self-indulgently
- 7. Attend to the whisperings of the spirit in your heart by turning towards others

Keeping hope alive takes patience: patience with ourselves, with others and with God. We need plenty of patience at the moment dealing with this pandemic, because patience is the mother of hope.

I know we all look forward to the end of this challenging time and hope for a time when we can safely come back together.

Return to School Road Map

We are currently working on our Back To School Plan for Term Four. It is important that we follow the advice of NSW Health to ensure that all children can return to a safe and supportive environment here at St Finbar's. When our plan has been finalised we will share the details with you. But, for now, the following information is important:

- Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two children will be considered ONE COHORT. This is because we work in Stage groupings. This cohort will return to school on Monday October 25th (Week Four).
- Stage Three children will return to school on November 1st (Week Five)
- Stage Two children will return to school on November 8th (Week Six)
- Students will return to full time attendance from their allocated date. Any parents who are hesitant to send their children back to school, please contact us and Mrs Clarke will be in touch to discuss options with you.
- We will work closely with families who have children with High Support Needs to ensure that their transition back to on-site schooling will be smooth and successful.

Please keep your eye out for a Skoolbag notification over the next week so that you will have all the information you need to ensure that we have a regulated transition back to school.



Father's Day

I'd like to wish all of our fathers, grandfathers, and father figures a wonderful day on Sunday. I hope you are impressed with the creativity of your children this year, as we were unable to host a Father's Day stall. I'd like to thank all those involved in organising these gifts this year, especially Laura Buggy and the P&F, and thank you to all our mums and carers who were able to utilise our contactless pick up. Enjoy family time this weekend and don't forget to send us your photos of your creative Father's Day gifts and celebrations! <u>Stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>



School Uniform Changeover

After Father's Day (this Sunday) children have the option of choosing to wear either their full Winter uniform or their full Summer uniform. It is expected that all students will return to school in Term Four in full Summer uniform. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled as our lost property is quite substantial. If you are missing uniform items and think they may have ended up in our lost property, please contact the office and we will try to locate the item for you. All of our lost property is currently being washed by one of our SLSO staff. Any items that have names on them will be returned to their owners.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Mrs Robyn Clarke Principal



From the Assistant Principal

Have you ever been caught in a situation where you have been so overwhelmed by the pressures of work, school, home life or a feeling of isolation or alienation from others that you have had a "melt down"? Like a boiler you had overheated and needed to perform spontaneous combustion. Publicly. Perhaps being in the middle of a pandemic, in lockdown for months, might contribute to that feeling.

I am not in any way advocating that we should always give vent to our emotions; if we want to participate in any community, we have to abide by its behavioral conventions and learn how to adapt ourselves. On the other hand I believe that if a situation becomes too much for us to bear, either emotionally or psychologically, then we have to make ourselves (as well as others) aware of it. By such means, a community can learn to accommodate itself to the individuals within it, and thereby perpetuate a two-way process involving individuals and their communities that lies at the heart of adaptation as we understand it. The concept of R U Ok Day, which takes place next week, highlights the importance of this. The importance of that two-way process of talking and listening to each other, even when you may not be aware of how the other is feeling.

In a book published by Paul Ashwin et. al. (2015), Reflective Teaching in Higher Education, I became more aware of this notion of reflective learning. The book makes some highly sensible proposals towards a reflective model. Who we are, emotionally and intellectually, is key to our reflective practices.



A truly mindful person understands that the self is continually evolving in response to different stimuli, both internal and external. The difficulty lies in trying to make sense of such stimuli through reflection, and adapting oneself as a result.

Our story must continually evolve to accommodate the outcomes of these reflective processes. You should not feel any sense of "shame" or "inappropriateness" in talking about any ordeals you are experiencing. The process of reflecting on the ordeal; being more mindful of your emotions helps you to make sense of them.

Everyone – educators, parents and learners alike – should be aware of their own adaptive potential by becoming more mindful of themselves and others around them, as well as understanding the positive aspects of "letting go" sometimes. In that way we can come to understand one another better and participate in a mutual learning experience – which is what education is really all about.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst Assistant Principal



From the RE Coordinator

This Sunday we celebrate those males in our lives who support and love us. Father's Day is a special day to recognise the importance of our fathers in our lives. Although, we also see the importance of the father figures that play such a role too. Our brothers, grandfathers, uncles and so many others play a supportive and guiding role, shaping who we are as people.

St Joseph is the patron saint of fatherhood, and he himself demonstrated first hand the significance of a father in a child's life. In Randy Hain's book about St Joseph, he stated that there were five

key attributes to St Joseph's life:

- St. Joseph was obedient.
- St. Joseph was selfless.
- St. Joseph led by example.
- St. Joseph was a worker.
- St. Joseph was a leader.



These five attributes can connect so well with our own lives, and highlight the significance of the role that our father figures play. This Sunday is a chance to give thanks for our fathers, and during these times a chance to acknowledge the role they play in our lives.

Wishing all the fathers in our St Finbar's community a Happy Father's Day!

Yours in Christ,

Michael Lo Cascio Acting Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Covid-19 Pandemic - We understand that this is affecting many of our families in terms of work situation and loss of income. Please do not hesitate to contact us as there are many ways we can provide support to families. All conversations will remain strictly confidential. We can be contacted by phone on 4724 3600 or via email <u>finb-glbrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>





2022 Enrolments

Our enrolments for Kinder 2022 are now being finalised. We are conducting the last few interviews via Zoom this week.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unsure at this stage what our Orientation process will look like. However, we are feeling hopeful that we will be able to welcome the children on site in some capacity during Term Four.

If you know someone who is still looking to enrol their child for Kinder in 2022, please pass on our details to them and we would be happy to send them an enrolment pack. There are some vacancies in other grades from years 1 - 6, these are subject to availability on enquiry.

Leaving St Finbar's in 2021?

A reminder that families need to inform us in writing by Friday 17 September, if they will be leaving St Finbar's at the end of the 2021 school year.

We understand some families may not have confirmation by this date, however, if there is a chance that you will be moving at the end of the year, please email us <u>stfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au</u> to advise us of the possibility.

If it is certain you will be leaving St Finbar's, please email us prior to 17 September to avoid any additional school fees for Term One 2022.

As part of the departure process, we require written confirmation from the new school that your child will be attending.





Welcome





Congratulations to the Wilson family on the safe arrival of baby Harry. Perfect timing being born last week during Sabbath week. Baby brother to Zoe in year three and Oliver in year one. Best wishes to you all and welcome to the St Finbar's Community Harry!

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 <u>Parish website</u> to access all links.

