Dear Parents,

This week we had Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday celebrations during the morning and I would like to thank all of the parents who assisted with the preparation of food for the children. Particular thanks to everyone for observing our updated anaphylaxis policy which now includes fish. The reason fish has been included on the banned list is that the smell of any fish products will cause a severe anaphylactic reaction in a student in our care. I would like to thank all families for their understanding in this matter.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lent preparation time towards Easter. As Fr. Ian mentioned in Mass it is a time for everyone to not only consider ‘giving up’ some type of treat, but it is also a time for us to ‘take on’ something new such as: helping others or contributing to the project compassion collections.

It was wonderful to see the commitment from families at the start of year school mass last Friday and the following welcome picnic on the school grounds. I would like to acknowledge the attendance of our hardworking staff, their dedication to our learning community is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to the Year 1 families who organised the event.

Enrolments for 2017 have now opened and I would urge all families who have siblings beginning next year to ensure the enrolment forms are in no later than the end of February. This will allow us to ascertain how many places we will have for new families. We will be holding Open Days on Wednesday 16th March – 9:30am – 11:00am and Tuesday 22nd March – 12:00pm – 1:30pm. Current families and new families are invited to attend.

Thank you to Miss Hill for organising our cyber safety evening on Wednesday night. It was a very informative session that all parents in attendance found very useful in helping to keep our children safe when on the internet. Thanks also to Mr. Rodrigues and Mr. Daniell for assisting on the night.

We held our first board meeting on Tuesday evening and I am incredibly excited about the new directions we will be heading in in the coming years. Having the support and guidance of the parents in this forum is invaluable in assisting me in making decisions that affect the running of our school. Special thanks to Matt Malone for taking on the role of chairperson this year.

There have been a few necessary changes to the Sacrament calendar for 2016 – in particular First Eucharist. I do apologise for the late change to the date. Please see further in this newsletter for current information. Please note that all sacramental dates are now locked in for the year. Please note that the Year 3 Reconciliation parent/child evening is on Tuesday 16th February.

Next week our Year 6 students will be going on camp to Campaspe Downs. Thank you to the school staff who are attending camp – Mrs. D’Rozario, Miss Durie, Mr. Rodrigues and Mrs. Hepples (Emma). This also gives us the opportunity to roll out our new school app which can be located with the following information:

We will be using the app to share information/photos of the children at the camp. Please note that the app is a ‘members only’ site and only St. Finbar’s people will be able to access the information.

Peace and Blessings,

Mr Pat Berlingerri
Principal
COMING HOME TODAY:
Every child, all years Friendship List
Eldest child, years F – 4 Catholic Education
Every girl, year 4 – 6 OLSH Open Day flyer

EMAIL ATTACHMENT/ LINK

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS:

Term One Accounts are due and payable by Friday 19th February 2016

Thank you to the many families who have returned their payment plan forms to the office.

All parents are under a contractual agreement to make sure their fees are ALWAYS up to date. Prompt payment is expected if paying by the term with all accounts due on the following dates:

- Term 1 Account due ~ Friday 19th February 2016
- Term 2 Accounts due ~ Friday 29th April 2016
- Term 3 Accounts due ~ Friday 29th July 2016

Any queries please call the office. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties at any time, please ring the office to make an appointment with Mr. Pat Berlingeri as soon as possible. Thank you.

TERM 1 UPCOMING ASSEMBLIES:

Monday 15th February – Year 4A
Monday 22nd February – Year 1J
Monday 29th February – Year 6A
Monday 7th March – Year 2A
Monday 14th March – LABOUR DAY
Monday 21st March – NO ASSEMBLY

All parents are warmly welcomed to attend our weekly assemblies.

Assembly every Monday at 2:40pm. Please arrive on time to avoid disappointment.

TERM 1 UPCOMING EVENTS:

February
Fri 12 Year 6 Speaking with Power incursion
Mon 15 Year 6 Camp to Campaspe Downs
Tue 16 Year 3 Reconciliation Information night
Wed 17 No school for Foundation students only
Fri 19 Year 6 Speaking with Power incursion
Mon 22 Swimming training – relevant students
Tue 23 Year 6 Speaking with Power incursion
Parents & Friends Meeting 7pm
Wed 24 No school for Foundation students only
Thu 25 Dendy District Swimming Carnival – relevant students
Fri 26 Year 6 Speaking with Power incursion

March
Sat 5 First Eucharist Commitment Mass 6pm
Sun 6 First Eucharist Commitment Mass
9am or 11am
Tue 8 Reconciliation Mass 6.30pm – Year 3
Wed 9 Year 4 Eucharist Parent/child night
7pm
Thu 10 School Closure Day – all students
Fri 11 School Closure Day – all students
Division Swimming Carnival – relevant students
Mon 14 Labour Day Public Holiday
Catholic Education Week
Tue 15 Year 3 Camp Mount Morton
Wed 16 Foundation Open Day 12pm to 1.30pm
Thu 17 St Patrick’s Day Mass – relevant Year 6
Students
Fri 18 Dendy Soccer Lightning Premiership – Year 6 relevant students
Mon 21 Interhouse Athletics Carnival
Tue 22 Foundation Open Day 9.30am – 11am
Thu 24 SMR Swimming Carnival – relevant students
School Liturgy 9am
Last day of term – students dismissed at 2pm
Fri 25 Good Friday
Sun 27 Easter Sunday

***STAR OF THE WEEK***
FG ~ Angus S, FI ~ Jackson C
Year 1H ~ Jacob P, Year 1J ~ William K
Year 2A ~ Sienna M, Year 2G ~ Ryen T
Year 3K ~ Claudia R, Year 3M ~ James L
Year 4A ~ Luca E, Year 4H ~ Michael N
Year 5L ~ Charlotte V, Year 5W ~ Lily A
Year 6A ~ Charlotte R, Year 6D ~ Sophie H
Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF): School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors; excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum. CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is: • $125 for primary school students.

HOW TO APPLY: Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/cset CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Monday 29 February 2016

Knitting Club
Knitting is a fun activity that will be taught every Thursday at lunch time. All children from grade 2 upwards can learn, and create beautiful things.

- The school will be making knitted blankets made from squares for KOGO (charity) so there will be wool and needles provided for children who just want to have a go, but not start their own project.
- If your child would like to start a project please bring in some wool (see attached sheet that gives suggestions). Unless your child is a good knitter please buy only 8ply and above wool please.
- Kids can bring in their own craft to work on and we can help if needed

Please call me if you have any queries Eva: 0413 388 918
Some of the projects that children made in 2015

Other projects children can make in 2016, or bring in a pattern you want to make. Projects sheets available at the Knitting Club.
This weekend we celebrate the first Sunday of Lent, which we began yesterday, when all received the ashes to remind us of our mortality and further challenge us to reflect on the things that really matter. This week’s gospel from Luke highlights how easy it can be to be caught up in the temptations of this world, and shows us through Jesus’ actions how we can resist … perhaps this week we can reflect on our own ‘temptations’ and find ways to balance the energy we expend on our physical and material domain, with our mental and spiritual domain …

Pope Francis has asked us to live this jubilee year in light of the Lord’s words: “Merciful like the Father”. This season of Lent is our gift to achieve this mystery of mercy. As we journey to Jerusalem with Jesus through these days and weeks of Lent may we open ourselves to the mercy of our God so that we might become mercy for our sisters and brothers everywhere.

Each year at St Finbar’s we are involved in Project Compassion – where we are called to do three simple steps each day: Reflect, Act and Pray. Our daily whole school Christian meditation is helping us to reflect and pray for our loved ones and those in the world less fortunate than us …. Our new Social Justice leaders Sebastian and Alice will lead us to understand more about the theme for Project Compassion this year - Learning More, Creating Change. A meaningful action we can take is to start collecting for Project Compassion, remembering the words of our Pope: Education is an act of Hope (Pope Francis, 2016)

Lent is also a time when we look at ways we can restore relationships – with our friends, family and God. Our Year 3 students are exploring this theme as they prepare for their reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation later this term.

A reminder of the Reconciliation Parent/Child night next Tuesday 16th February at 7pm for all Year 3 students and their parents.

Please avail yourself of the opportunity to visit the new improved Sacred Space that has been set up in the corridor outside the Year 1 classroom … a quiet time to reflect and pray this Lent… A possible prayer for this week: Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble…

St Finbar’s School RE Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>5 Feb @ 5pm</td>
<td>Beginning of Year &amp; Commissioning Mass</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Feb @ 9am</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass – Years 2 -6 attending</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Feb 16 Feb @ 7pm</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday – Junior School Liturgy &amp; distribution of ashes Year 3 Reconciliation Parent/child night</td>
<td>Classrooms Classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekend of 5/6 March</td>
<td>First Eucharist Commitment masses</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Year 3 Second Rite of Reconciliation</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Year 4 Eucharist Parent/child night</td>
<td>Classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Holy Week Liturgies – Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Holy Week Liturgies – Holy Thursday &amp; Good Friday</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Families of St Finbar’s,

As we approach the end of our third week of term it is great to see how well our children have settled into their new classes for 2016. Children have been able to establish new friendships as well as renew old ones. A huge focus in the area of Student Wellbeing this year will be in providing opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and be able to contribute to some of the decision making in our school.

Our year six leaders have been chosen and are proudly wearing their badges. They will have many opportunities throughout the year to demonstrate their organizational skills; working with their teachers and other children to help make St Finbar’s a truly great school. Students from other year levels have also been chosen as SRC members and will ensure that the voices of all students from Foundation to Year 5 are heard.

As many of you will know St Finbar’s began introducing KidsMatter as part of its commitment to the wellbeing of every member of the community. We will continue to keep you informed of developments in this area as it provides an important framework for our approach to student wellbeing.

“KidsMatter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children.”

St Finbar’s has, over many years, developed policies and procedures to ensure our children feel safe, respected and able to learn in a positive and supportive environment. To continue maintaining St Finbar’s as a school which promotes the wellbeing of each member of the community we will be reviewing all aspects of our student wellbeing programs including discipline and behaviour management procedures. St Finbar’s will continue to promote a restorative approach to dealing with issues arising between members of the community to ensure that positive relationships are maintained and individuals are, at all times, made aware of the consequences of their choices and actions. It is hoped that students in particular will be given the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing development and improvement of our school policies and procedures.
St Finbar’s School Rules and Fair Consequences

(Our school rules and consequences will be reviewed and updated throughout the year to ensure they remain effective and relevant to our student’s needs.)

ONPSYCH PSYCHOLOGIST IS NOW AVAILABLE: OnPsych Psychologist is available for children who are presenting with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. This service is completely covered by Medicare. Please visit onpsych.com.au for a short video highlighting the help they can provide. To access this service please speak to Mr Nigel Rodrigues ~ Deputy Principal who will provide you with details on how to refer your child.

CURRICULUM NEWS

SPORTS REPORT~ Mrs Tania Thompson

TERM 1 SPORT DATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 25th February</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival (relevant Yr 3-6 students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11th March</td>
<td>Division Swimming Carnival (relevant Yr3-6 students) Note: School closure day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th March</td>
<td>Soccer Lightning Premiership Interschool tournament (relevant Yr 6 students only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
<td>Whole School Inter House Athletics Carnival - Sandringham Athletics Track, 9-3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>SMR (Southern Metropolitan Region) Swimming Carnival (only relevant students)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Change of date for our Yr 3-6 Inter House Cross Country: NOW Monday 18th April (not Mon 2nd May)

CONGRATS TO ALL YR. 3-6 SWIM TRIAL PARTICIPANTS

A sterling effort from our 55+ keen swimmers who hit the water and swam their little hearts out at our 2 mornings of Yr. 3-6 District Selection Swim trials at GESAC last week. The early rises, drizzle rain on the Wedn, pre-race nerves, younger siblings with parents encouraging our swimmers and supportive staff to help run the trials; were just some of the highlights of the two sessions.

Heat times have now been compared and our swim team has been selected and notified to all who trialled. Many thanks again to all parents/guardians for bringing your child to the trials and to the students; well done on your fine efforts!

Our team of 34 swimmers are now preparing themselves to represent the school at our Dendy District Swim Carnival at Oakleigh Pool on Thursday 25th February. Here they’ll race against other students within their age group from the 9 other schools within our Dendy District. Well done Team - we know you’ll try your best and represent the school very well.
Year 6 Cushions

During celebration week the Year 6 leaders have been creating their own cushions for meditation and other purposes. They had two fantastic helpers, Karen Revill and her mum Barbara, who came in and helped a great deal for them.

We would like to thank Karen and Barbara enormously for their much needed assistance. Each Year 6 student personally designed their cushions with leadership quotes, name and year 2016.

They each bought an 18x18 cushion with two different designed pieces of fabric. They first had to cut their fabric, next they put their design of lettering to be hot glued or ironed by Karen and Mrs. D'Rozario.

The students accessorised their fabrics with letters, patterns, buttons and a whole lot more. Projects were a complete success and have provided something for them to cherish forever.

Congratulations to both Maxwell P (6A) & Denzell P (6D) who have recently been selected in the VJBL (Victorian Junior Basketball League) State Performance Program. The boys will attend this program for 6 months; involving 26 state-based training sessions with State and National coaches; aiming to prepare the athletes for Victorian State Teams for National competitions. Well done boys; we hope you enjoy this wonderful opportunity!
Parents, please provide a broad rimmed or legionnaire sun hat and sunscreen for the OSHC program

Child care benefit and child care rebate

With new families now using the OSHC service it is important that correct and up to date information is documented on the enrolment record. All families are entitled to a 50% rebate (Child Care Rebate) of the fees however this means families must contact the Department of Human Services - Centrelink on 13 61 50 or visit the DHS website at www.humanservices.gov.au

Families must ensure that they have recently been assessed for CCB by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The amount of CCB received depends on the family income, the number of children who are attending approved care and the type of approved care used. Just because families have a Customer Reference Number (CRN) issued by DHS for another payment like Parenting Payment or Family Tax Benefit doesn’t automatically mean families can receive CCB and CCR. CCR is a different type of payment to CCB and family income is not considered. Families need to ask DHS to be assessed for CCB so that they can receive both payments or just CCR. The DHS will provide you with a letter that contains CRNs (customer reference numbers) and confirms whether families are eligible for CCB and/or CCR.

For more information please click on the link below:
Tips for getting your child care payments right -Parent Responsibilities

Creating a nurturing environment-Wellbeing

The OSHC is a child focused environment.

Child-focused practice has two essential components:
• The practice is based around a child-centred belief that every child or young person has the right to a safe passage through childhood and the right to grow in an environment free from harm.
• The child’s needs and welfare are the primary concern and the primary focus of practice.

The following chart indicates Educator practices at the OSHC that promote a nurturing environment that ultimately achieves wellbeing. In simple terms we’d like children to feel that the OSHC “is a space to be me”. This is extremely important at this stage of the year as Foundation children are transitioning into school and the OSHC.
What a great start to the year we have had!
There was a great turn out to the welcome picnic last Friday Night. We were very lucky to get such a perfect evening to get together.

The evening would not have been possible without the help of all the staff. Also a special thank you to Beck Myers, Alex Cochlan, Michelle Nash, Amanda Attana and Emily Husband for all their hard work in organising the entertainment and icy poles.

Tuesday was Shrove Tuesday and all the children had the chance to enjoy pancakes in class. They are always a big hit! Thanks to all the parents who were able to help out I am sure it was appreciated.

REMINDER: The Parents and Friends first meeting for the year will be held Tuesday 23rd February at 7pm in the library. It would be great to see you there!

PARISH NEWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13-14 February</th>
<th>Altar Servers/Helpers</th>
<th>Readers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>M Birkensleigh</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Counters</td>
<td>J Cahill, T McClelland &amp; J Sheahan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Reese &amp; Aidan</td>
<td>M Devlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Eden</td>
<td>M Hefferman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>Lauren &amp; Sarah</td>
<td>McConnell family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children’s Liturgy
Come along to Children’s Liturgy this Sunday at 9am Mass. Children are escorted with the teacher to the Marian Room where they will hear the Gospel in a simple way and enjoy a craft activity. They will be invited to bring up the gifts and return to their family for the celebration of the Eucharist. All welcome.

Altar Serving
As the children in year 3 and 4 begin their preparations for their First Reconciliation and Eucharist this year, consider helping them to strengthen their connection with the church by becoming an Altar Server. New children will be assisted by someone experienced, on a roster basis, just one Sunday a month, at a Mass time which suits you. For more information contact the parish office on 9593 2122 or BrightonEast@cam.org.au
STAR OF THE SEA ENROLMENTS: There has been a change to enrolment information for Star of the Sea College. We have moved to electronic Prospectus and forms and they are available from our website: www.star@starmelb.catholic.edu.au under the heading Enrolment. Commencing this year prospective parents need to visit our website in order to complete their application for 2017. They can also request hard copies of the Prospectus and Application Form for Year 7 in 2017. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 9596 6099 or via email aquilina@starmelb.catholic.edu.au.

College Tour to be held on Saturday 13 February, 2016 at Star of the Sea College commencing at 9.30am with a brief presentation from the Principal and current students. Following the formalities, tours will be conducted in small groups. Bookings are not required.

Friday 26 February 2016 Applications for Year 7, 2017 close
March 2016 Enrolment interviews hosted for all Year 7, 2017 applicants
Friday 22 April 2016 Offers of places to prospective Year 7, 2017 students are posted
Friday 6th May 2016 Final date for acceptance of offers made.

2016 De La Salle College tour details:
Friday 12 February 2:00pm Wednesday 24 February 9:15am
Friday 18 March 2:00pm Wednesday 4 May 9:15am
Friday 3 June 2:00pm Wednesday 27 July 9:15am
Friday 19 August 2:00pm Wednesday 7 September 9:15am
Friday 21 October 2:00pm Wednesday 16 November 9:15am
The wilderness, or desert, is the sort of Messiah that he was to be: the all conquering, powerful Messiah that the people expected; or the servant to the poor who will be tortured and put to death. Jesus is tempted to use his power to make his task easier or to display his authority to others. Had he chosen to do this, surely it would have been easier to get people’s attention – and that was the temptation: to take the easier path or stick to the more difficult path.

The episode of the temptations is a clear indicator of the humanity of Jesus – he experienced doubt, uncertainty and fear just as we do. If the gospel intended to emphasise the divinity of Jesus, none of these temptations would have been an issue. We are told that Jesus was indeed tempted, not just pestered by the devil. The opportunities laid before Jesus were actually tempting to him. They challenged his resolve. They made Jesus question the sort of Messiah that he was to be: the all-conquering, powerful Messiah that the people expected; or the servant to the poor who will be tortured and put to death. Jesus is tempted to use his power to make his task easier or to display his authority to others. Had he chosen to do this, surely it would have been easier to get people’s attention – and that was the temptation: to take the easier path or stick to the more subtle, more personal, more difficult path. © Greg Suter

Recent deaths: Fr John Spillane

Anniversaries: Emilia Dial, Danilo Carlos, Val and Mim Cumlin, Rosa Liberati, Giuseppe Fazio and Tom Thynne.


Some of their names will be read out each week in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Parish News

Lenten Discussion Groups began this week. We are grateful to the people who are opening their homes to host 3 groups this year. There are still places available, please phone the parish office on Tuesday to find a group.

Lost and Found A set of keys, including car keys, was handed into the Parish Office recently. Please contact us on 9593 2122 to claim them.

Platters and Bowls Thank you to all those who helped us celebrate Fr Malcolm’s farewell BBQ. Plates and bowls left after the function have been placed in the Marian Room for collection.

Saint Vincent de Paul

Have you ever thought about joining the Saint Vincent de Paul Society? We do a variety of different things in the community – perhaps there is something that will appeal to you? Last week I mentioned volunteering in the shop. Another one of our activities is a weekly bread run – with people rostered on about once a month; we distribute bread and other bakery items to various individuals and families in the community. To find out more call Philip McNerney 0423 109 506

14 February 2016

1st Sunday of Lent

The wilderness, or desert, is used repeatedly throughout the Bible as a place of special encounter with God and preparation for a new direction or a new ministry. The 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness immediately followed his baptism in the Jordan where his status as the beloved of God was confirmed. He is led by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness for a period of fasting, prayer and preparation before entering into his public ministry. In fact, the event that immediately follows this passage is the episode in Nazareth where Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and declares the intent of his ministry. It is presented as if, having spent his time in preparation and overcoming the temptations before him, Jesus strode out of the wilderness and laid out what he had decided.

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