Dear Parents,

It was my absolute pleasure to attend camp this week with our Year 6 students and staff. I would like to congratulate the students on their behaviour and personally thank Mrs. D’Rozario, Miss Durie, Mrs. Hepples (Emma) and Mr. Rodrigues for their time away from their own families ensuring the children had an awesome time. Camp is an excellent time for staff to get to know the children better in a more relaxed and informal environment, as well as encouraging everyone to challenge themselves in activities that they would not normally consider. My personal challenge was to do the leap of faith activity which did not seem like a good idea half way up but I was happy I met my challenge and completed the activity! I am looking forward to the other year level camps this term and next.

St. Finbar’s has a Facebook page which we will be sharing generic information about what is happening at the school. You can find it easily if you type ‘St. Finbar’s’ into the Facebook search engine. Our site is easily identified by our school logo. I posted some group photos from camp which was well received by the parent community on this page. Please remember comments are well received but this site is for positive interaction only and we do not disclose locations of camps or student’s names at any time. Parents who do not follow these protocols will have their comments removed and repeat offenders may be banned from the site. The site is a public site and confidentiality of our community must be observed at all times. Any close up photos or identifying information about the children such as names etc. are on our Year level blog sites which I would encourage all parents to have a look at. These blog sites are password protected and for parent/school use only.

I would like to remind everyone that enrolments for 2017 are open and I would urge all families who have siblings beginning next year to ensure that 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.

The Year 6 students have been participating in a public speaking program that will assist them to understand the protocols and tips that aide in this very important life skill. I am looking forward to seeing the end of unit speeches which the parents will be invited to attend. The Year 5 students will be doing this program at the end of this year as a part of their leadership induction program and in preparation for their 2017 leadership roles.

Special thanks to Mrs. Kellar and the Year 3 Teachers – Mrs. Kelly and Miss McCurdy for the successful Reconciliation information evening this week. The feedback about this night has been incredibly positive.

A reminder that we have the Parents and Friends meeting next Tuesday 23rd February at 7pm in the library.

Peace and Blessings,

Mr Pat Berlingeri
Principal
COMING HOME TODAY:

EMAIL ATTACHMENT/ LINK

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS:  

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

Thank you to the many families who have returned their payment plan forms to the office. Please note that a NEW FORM must be completed EVERY year. We do not have the authority to roll over any plans from year to year. Thank you.

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 (tomorrow)
- 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 Berlinger as soon as possible. Thank you.

TERM 1 UPCOMING EVENTS:

**February**
- Fri 19  Year 6 Speaking with Power incursion
- Mon 22  Swimming training – relevant students
- Tue 23  Year 6 Speaking with Power incursion
- Wed 24  Parents & Friends Meeting 7pm
- Thu 25  No school for Foundation students only
- Fri 26  Term 1 Account due ~ Friday 19th February 2016 (tomorrow)

**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
- Mon 14  Labour Day Public Holiday
- Tue 15  Year 3 Camp Mount Evelyn
- 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
- Fri 25  Good Friday
- Sun 27  Easter Sunday

TERM 1 UPCOMING ASSEMBLIES:

- 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.

***STAR OF THE WEEK***

FG ~ Ruby M, FI ~ Ava Z
Year 1H ~ Will L, Year 1J~ Gabriella C
Year 2A ~ Emma S, Year 2G ~ Matteo S
Year 3K ~ Scarlett M, Year 3M ~ Helena P
Year 4A ~ Francesca C, Year 4H ~ Ursula C
Year 5L ~ Oliver N, Year 5W ~ Cillian H
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/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef) CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Monday 29 February 2016

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS ~ Mrs. June Kellar**

On this second Sunday of Lent we are taken up the mountain where Jesus takes Peter, John and James to pray - each step to the summit taking them further from their daily lives. This gospel relates the experience of a personal encounter with the divine. Jesus reveals his true identity to his chosen companions as well as his destiny, the ‘passing over’ of his death and resurrection by which his divinity will be revealed to all. Peter misunderstands and thinks the event on the mountain is the end of the story. As a Christian, we cannot simply remain on the mountain in contemplation of divinity, we must also take the earthly road of living the faith to its ultimate conclusion.

As we continue our Lenten Journey let us remember that Lent is a time we grow in holiness through our actions that reflect God's love. So let us Reflect, Act and Pray daily: Some ideas to get started:

**Reflect:** This gospel emphasises the need to withdraw for prayer. How important is quiet contemplation and prayer in my journey? Is it good for me to spend time with God? Do I enjoy being in God's presence? In what ways do I balance prayer and action in living my faith?

**Act:** I will find five minutes each day to be alone with God.

**Pray:** God, help me to keep climbing the mountain of life. Show me the path of quiet solitude. Have you had the time to visit our Sacred Space yet?

Lent is also a time when we look at ways we can restore relationships – with our friends, family and God. The Reconciliation Parent/Child night last Tuesday 16th February was well attended and a meaningful way for parents and students to experience the four stages of Reconciliation – Admit; Say Sorry; Be FORgiven and Make Up. Please pray for these children as they continue to prepare to receive this sacrament of healing in a few weeks’ time.

**Dates to remember …**
- Saturday, 5th March @6pm – First Eucharist Commitment Mass OR
- Sunday, 6th March @ ANY mass 9am; 11am or 5pm - First Eucharist Commitment Mass
- Tuesday, 8th March - Year 3 Reconciliation
- Wednesday, 9th March – Year 4 Eucharist Parent/child night
Today we had our first SRC (Student Representative Council) meeting and I would like to congratulate the following children;


Each student has been chosen as the voice for their class and to represent all the students in our school. Our first job was to introduce ourselves and to share some ideas about the role of the SRC for 2016. Each child showed great confidence and a willingness to contribute their ideas. I know we will have a very successful year and that the SRC will be able to make some great contributions to improving our school in many ways. Each child will be talking to other children in their class and also to their parents to help generate some great ideas so that we can meet again to plan some actions for the future.

Update 1.
Positive school community is the first KidsMatter Primary component. In a positive school community, every face has a place, every voice is valued and everyone has something to contribute.

At St Finbar’s we believe that all children need to feel that school is a safe place where:

- people care about them
- their needs for support, respect and friendship are met
- they are able to get help to work out problems.

Social Emotional Learning

An integral part of St Finbar’s approach to student wellbeing is the promotion of Social Emotional Learning. I would like to share aspects of this important component of our curriculum throughout the year and hope that you can work with us to further develop the social emotional skills of each child.

“Schools play a pivotal role in providing students with the opportunity to gain greater social and emotional awareness and to practice interpersonal skills as they learn and grow. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) can help students develop the understanding, strategies and skills that support a positive sense of self, promote respectful relationships and build student capacity to recognise and manage their own emotions and make responsible decisions.”

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.
OUR DISTRICT SWIM TEAM!

Our District Swim team of 34 competitors are all fired up for our first Inter-school sporting event for the year; the Dendy District Swimming Carnival.

The Swim team will travel to Oakleigh Rec Pool next Thursday 25th February to compete against competitors from our nine other Dendy District schools. We wish them all the very best in their respective races and know they’ll represent our school to the best of their abilities! Good Luck Team!

Wishing Thomas J-S (6A) all the very best at the Beachside ‘Dendy’ Tennis tryouts tomorrow. Tom will travel to St. Patrick’s Murrumbeena to participate in a round-robin tournament against other 12/U Dendy District students. Good luck Tom!

Monday 21st March: Whole School Athletics Carnival.

*Parents* - In order to successfully run this carnival day we require the help from many of our wonderful parents. Please look at your diaries now & block out a half or full day if at all possible. Further info soon. 

**THANK YOU!**

OTHER SPORT NEWS:

- **Revised date:** Year 3-6 Inter House Cross Country: now Monday 18th April (not 2nd May)

- **SSV State Nominations for Hockey & Swimming:** any extremely talented Hockey players or Swimmers wishing to be considered for selection in the 2016 Victorian Swim Team or Hockey team, please go online & read all nomination requirements & processes now:
  - [https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/TeamVic/Pages/Hockey.aspx](https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/TeamVic/Pages/Hockey.aspx)

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE NEWS

*Bookings/Cancellations/Adjustments please call 9592 0994 directly.*

**Parents, please provide a broad rimmed or legionnaire sun hat and sunscreen for the OSHC program.**

**Emergency protocols**

In the upcoming week the OSHC will take part in a practice emergency drill where we will ring a bell and exit from the OSHC room and assemble on the steps of the drive-through. An attendance will be called and emergency protocols discussed with children. We will be particularly diligent with reminding children that if an evacuation was necessary, we would leave the school via Centre Rd and walk up the Nepean Hwy to Hurlingham Park OR via Wallen St onto the Nepean Hwy to Dendy Park. We plan to practise an evacuation and walk to one of the parks during the holiday program so to ensure children and staff are familiar with our emergency evacuation plan.
Homework at OSHC

Homework is an important part of learning, but sometimes parents find it hard to keep up with what needs to be done. We at the OSHC understand this and advocate that children do their homework within the duration of their stay at the service. Having said this sometime will be spent having snack, relaxing and playing as we believe that teaching children to “balance” their time with homework responsibilities is important.

We discuss with children the benefits of completing their homework earlier in the day as they won’t be as tired and there is an opportunity to ask staff for help. Staff will help children think through tasks which supports their learning, but also teach them skills for thinking i.e. coaching them towards coming up with their own answers, giving prompts, asking questions, and praising the child for effort, not just for succeeding. This shows children how to learn, and think for themselves and makes it more likely that they will succeed. (Kids Matter: Scaffolding children’s learning). Another benefit is that there are opportunities to “do homework with friends”. This provides for peer collaborative interactions.(peer scaffolding.) This means children helping other children with the activities in a social context. Children interpret, organize, and use information from the environment, and use the knowledge they gain from these actions to acquire skills to successfully complete homework tasks. Children’s feedback has been that they think this approach by far makes “homework fun!”

Finding a quiet time at the service for those that need it may be a challenge but there are “lulls” and this is when staff are mindful and will prompt children to begin homework. Should parents wish to have their children complete their homework at the service then please speak to Melissa. The child/ren will need to be part of the discussions as together we establish expectations and time limits.

School closure days

Please note that the service will be open both Thursday 10/3/2016 and Friday 11/3/2016 from 8am - 6pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Full Fee</th>
<th>50% rebate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Closure Day</td>
<td>8-6pm</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Closure half Day</td>
<td>Any 5 hours of the day</td>
<td>$19</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities are yet to be determined however will be posted in next week’s newsletter. For bookings please email melissa.asmar1@gmail.com The service will be CLOSED Monday 14th March-Labour Day Holiday.

Accounts

Accounts are now out and due in full within seven days. Please check your accounts and should you have any queries please email melissa.asmar1@gmail.com The accounts cover 1/2/16- 13/2/16.

Accounts are now emailed directly to a dedicated family email. If an email is not available then accounts are distributed via the office and are handed to children by their class room teacher. If you do not receive your account please contact Melissa. Cash is NOT to be left at the office but handed directly to staff where a receipt will be issued. Other methods of payment is via cheque or the most preferred way is via a direct transfer to the St Finbar’s OSHC bank account (St Finbars Outside School Hours Care BSB: 083 347A/c: 55055 9263. Please include your surname and child’s name in the Ref area). It’s important that payments are made every 2 weeks (when invoices are received) to avoid large accounts and also frequent payments keep our OSHC program running efficiently. Thank you in advance.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS:

Tuesdays 1st & 15th March – 9am – 9.30am.

Reminder – order forms are available from the office or they can be downloaded via the school website. Orders can be left at the office and will be filled and returned to your eldest child’s classroom.

Year 4 Coffee Morning
Friday 26th February
9am at Olie & Ari, 133/135 Were Street Brighton
Hope to see you there. Year 4 Class Reps
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. First term dates: Feb 21 & 28, March 20.

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

Brighton Children’s Choir
The Brighton Children’s Choir is currently looking for primary school aged children who show great potential and enthusiasm for singing to join us in 2016. Rehearsing from 2-3pm on Saturday afternoons at St Andrew’s in Brighton, the choir is a great place for children to develop the foundations of a strong singing technique, as well as invaluable music literacy skills through the internationally acclaimed Voice for Life music education program. Here’s what some of the parents have to say about the BCC:

“Brighton Children’s Choir has taught my daughters important skills such as team work, concentration, self-confidence, listening and discipline, all while having great fun singing in the choir.”

*Although our daughter was a part of BCC for only a few months before successfully auditioning for the St Andrew’s Choir, we were very impressed with the structure and calibre of both choir rehearsals and private tutoring. Please visit us at www.brightonchildrenschoir.org or email brightonchildrenschoir@gmail.com to find out more!

COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE Parent Information Night
How do I raise a Resilient Child? - The 32 emotional and social skills involved in building resilience at any age
Wednesday 16 March at 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Location: Rosstrevor Hall, Brighton Grammar Old Middle School, entrance off Allee St, opposite the new Middle School and the Girrawheen Chapel
Presenter: Melissa Anderson – Director of SHINE Academy for Girls and LONGFORD & FRASER for boys, resilience coach, counsellor, pharmacist
Cost: Nil. A gold coin donation to a selected charity is welcomed.
Bookings: 9592 4948
Faithful
John Smith
Howard Byrne
Prosser, Craig To
Annalisa Zii
Burge
Lisa Tonna
Adrienne O’Meara
Judy Burke
Senn

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with transformation of th
God?
Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person,
material
Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' body was transfigured. This was no
the Christian belief.
person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven?
21
Children's Liturgy
3
We do a variety of different things in the community
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 McInerney 0423 109-506

21 February 2016
2nd Sunday of Lent
One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person? What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief.

Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' body was transfigured. This was no out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory.

That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, bodysoul. That is our ultimate destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dizzying bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.

Fr Michael Tait

Recent deaths: Yna Carmel Spotiswood and Mary Delahunty.

Anniversaries: Peter Vuong Van Tran, Justin McCarthy, Michael Bernard Senn, Dr Theajub and William Crawford.


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

Parish News
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.

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 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 McInerney 0423 109-506

Children’s Liturgy
Come and join Children’s Liturgy this Sunday 21st February at 9am Mass in the Marian Room.

Entrance Antiphon
Of you my heart has spoken: seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Parish Calendar:
9 Feb to 17 Mar Lenten Discussion Groups,
8 Mar Anointing of the Sick Mass at 11.30am (no 9am Mass), followed by lunch in the Marian Room.

Community News
St James College East Bentleigh
A Smaller School with Big Results
ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 7, 2017 CLOSE 26 FEBRUARY 2016. COLLEGE TOURS FOR TERM 1: 15, 19 & 26 February, 4 & 8 March 9.15am – 10.30am. Bookings essential. Call 9575 8100 or email registrar@sjcbe.catholic.edu.au

Grand Organ Master Series at St Andrew's Brighton:
Sunday 6 March at 6 pm Spectacular music on the mighty War Memorial Organ with nearly 3,000 pipes. This month, Thomas Heywood performs music including Rossini's famous Overture to the Thieving Magpie, Verdi's Overture to Nabucco and much more. All welcome. Admission at the door includes program. Adult $30 / Conc $25 / U18 FREE. Enquiries: office@standrewsbrighton.org.uk Tel: St Andrew's Parish Office 03 9592 1240

The Brighton Children's Choir is currently looking for primary school aged children who show great potential and enthusiasm for singing to join us in 2016. Rehearsing from 2-3pm on Saturday afternoons at St Andrew's in Brighton, the choir is a great place for children to develop the foundations of a strong singing technique, as well as invaluable music literacy skills through the internationally acclaimed Voice for Life music education program.

Here's what some of the parents have to say about the BCC:
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"Although our daughter was a part of BCC for a few months before successfully auditioning for the St Andrew's Choir, we were very impressed with the structure and calibre of both choir rehearsals and private tutoring."
Please visit us at www.brightonchildrenschoir.org or email brightonchildrenschoir@gmail.com to find out more!

Opening for more children to join the Thieving Magpie, Verdi's Overture to Nabucco and much more. All welcome. Admission at the door includes program. Adult $30 / Conc $25 / U18 FREE. Enquiries: office@standrewsbrighton.org.uk Tel: St Andrew's Parish Office 03 9592 1240

Parish Contacts
Please feel free to contact any of these people if you would like to become more involved in Parish Life.

Rosters for Lectors, Collectors and Special Ministers at Mass Paul Dunagan 9592 2463

Counting Roster
New Volunteers please call Parish Office

Children’s Liturgy
Parish Office 9593 2122

Altar Serving Parish Office 9593 2122
Church Flowers and Linnen Rita Maguire 9592 4159
Church Decoration Jim Sinclair 9598 9541
Senior’s Group Sue Sharly 9592 7229 and Joan Hamilton 9592 2498
Music Joy Conheady 9596 2643

Lent/Advent Prayer Groups Parish Office 9593 2122

Sacramental Enquiries (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation) Parish Office 9593 2122

Chair of Parish Pastoral Group
Tony Grant 0412 559 211
St Vincent de Paul
Members/Volunteers: Philip McInerney: 0412 109 506 Assistance Hotline: 1300 305 330 (Mon to Fri - 10am – 3pm)

Tennis Club www.stfrancistennisclubbrighton.com.au

Netball Club www.stfransnetballclub.com.au
Basketball Club www.scalpers.com.au

Next Parish Pastoral Group meeting: 25 Feb 2016
Children's Liturgy dates (9am Mass): Feb 21 & 28, March 20