Welcome

Welcome to a mammoth year ahead in Year 5!
As we begin a new and exciting school year, we extend a warm welcome to Xavier Cooray, Siena Micari and their families, as they become part of the St. Finbar’s School community. 2017 promises to be a great year and we have started it off full of enthusiasm. There will be many opportunities for learning, working together and building positive relationships. In this newsletter you will find all you need to know about this term and the year ahead!

Celebration Week

Celebration week was a HUGE success this year!
Students participated in the Footsteps Dance Workshop and Performance, House Meetings, Family Art and Craft, Open Morning, the Mini Sports Carnival plus much more. It has been great to see each and every student put their best foot forward and start the new year with lots of energy!

Specialists & Uniform

In Year 5 we expect all students to be wearing the correct uniform with pride. A reminder that nail polish, makeup and jewellery are not to be worn to school. Earrings must be plain sleepers or studs.
Please refer to the table below for Sports Uniform days.

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**Homework**

Homework will continue to be on a fortnightly basis. It will be given out on a Monday and will be due in to school on Friday of the following week. St Finbar’s Homework Policy requires parents to be responsible for checking and correcting their child’s homework and the teacher is to sight and sign once this has been done. Your child’s diary is an important tool of communication and will also be used as a homework planner, to help the children manage their time in preparation for Secondary School. It is also a requirement that the students **read every day** and that this is recorded in their diary and signed by a parent. **Diaries are to be brought to school every day.** Maths Mate will continue this year and will be due EVERY Friday (unless told otherwise). Homework will begin in Week 3. [Here](#) is a link to an article advocating reading aloud to children, even after they can read independently.

**Seesaw**

We are excited to be using Seesaw once again this year as a way for the students to document their learning and as a form of communication between home and school. Soon you will receive instructions for loading the Seesaw Parent App onto your phone or iPad, which will connect you to your own child’s Seesaw portfolio. You can choose to set notifications to let you know each time your child uploads something to Seesaw, and you can ‘like’ or comment on the piece of work.

**Faith Life**

In Year 5, students are introduced to Making Jesus Real (MJR) program. This program enables students to have a real sense that God is present within them, and they can live the Spirit of Jesus through their everyday actions in life. It focuses on values and attitudes, as well as spirituality.

Our Inquiry unit for Term 1 is called **“Saving Superman”**. In this unit students will undertake two tasks:

**Task 1:** Create a rescue device using recycled material that can be powered by a Sphero Ball.
**Task 2:** Using the Tickle App program your device so that it can avoid obstacles, collect and return superman safely home.

The students will be required to keep a record of their failures and success through a learning/coding journal, using the Book Creator App. Snapshots of design, code and thinking should be recorded throughout the unit.

This unit will integrate many areas of the Victorian Curriculum, including:
Maths

In Term 1 there will be a strong focus on the Number and Algebra strand of the Mathematics curriculum.

- **Addition and Subtraction**: Focusing on strategies for mental maths, as well as revision of algorithm
- **Multiplication and Division**: Focusing on strategies for mental maths, as well as revision of algorithm
- **Fractions, Decimals and percentages**

The students will be expected to be fluent with their basic facts in multiplication (times tables) as well as basic facts in addition and subtraction. There will be an emphasis on explaining the strategies that are used to solve problems, recognising that there is more than one method to solve a given problem but encouraging the use of the most efficient method.

We will also undertake some more challenging problems, which will be based on Peter Sullivan’s (Monash University) work on Rich and Challenging Tasks.

Literacy

This term in Literacy we will continue to build upon our reading comprehension, writing and speaking and listening skills. We will be using various tools and strategies, such as small focused groups, literature circles, Cars and Stars strategies, as well as individual student conferences to further develop our CAFE reading and comprehension goals. The students will continue to build on the skills developed in Writing, through structured lessons using the Seven Steps of Successful Writing.

In Term 1 our class novel will be *Wonder*, which will generate much discussion and will tie in with the Personal and Social aspects of the Victorian Curriculum. If you have a copy of Wonder at home (or are able to get hold of a copy) please send it into school for your child to use.

ICT Use

Students will be regularly revisiting the Acceptable Usage agreement that they signed in January through Care Monkey. Any breaches of the policy will be taken seriously and will generally result in loss of Chromebook/Internet access.
Key Events 2017

Camp
Our Year 5 Camp will be held at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat. Please note the dates in your diaries: **Monday 17th July - Wednesday 19th July.**
As this falls on the first 3 days of term, all correspondence will be sent out towards the end of term 2. The Sovereign Hill Camp is a fantastic opportunity for the students to learn about the rich history of the Australian gold rush, whilst having a fun and rewarding time with their fellow students.

Class Masses
This year, there will be two Year 5 masses. The first will be held on **Sunday 26th March at 5pm.** The second will be held in Term 4 and will correspond with the Leadership Week activities that each student will participate in. It is an expectation that all students will attend both of these Masses.

Mayflower
As part of developing social justice awareness, at some stage this year the students will undertake a program in conjunction with the Mayflower Retirement Home. This is an opportunity for the students to be involved in the local community as well as learning skills across many curriculum areas. More details to follow!

Interschool Sports
During Term 2 our Year 5 and Year 6 students participate in a weekly Winter Sport Interschool Football and Netball competition against other District schools. The students enjoy this opportunity to meet and interact with other local school students whom they may meet as they move onto Secondary school. Each student will have a choice of which sport they wish to play. Full sport uniform will be required on these days. Football players will require school football socks and a mouthguard. A football jumper will be given to each student involved, this must be returned upon completion of the competition.

NAPLAN
NAPLAN testing will take place **9th - 11th May.**

Term 1 Dates
February 8- Parent Information Night
February 14 & 16 - Parent Teacher Chats
February 27 - Dendy Swimming Carnival GESAC
February 28 - Shrove Tuesday
March 1 - Ash Wednesday Mass
March 10 - Division Swimming Carnival
March 13 & 14 - School Closure Days
March 17 - St Patrick’s Day Mass
March 24 - School Athletics Carnival Day
March 31 - Last Day of Term 1 (1.50pm finish), Mass at 9.15am and Walkathon