Welcome

Welcome back to all our students and families, as we begin a new and exciting school year, the final year of your child’s primary schooling. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities for learning, working together and building positive relationships. 2017 promises to be a fantastic year and our students have started it off full of enthusiasm.

We are very excited to see the leadership skills already on display in the Year 6 students as they go about leading the students of St Finbar’s. Already they have shown us that they are setting the bar high with motivating and leading their house teams in the War Cries Competition, helping out in the Family Craft Activities, organising and running the Mini Sports Carnival, and hosting assembly.

This term our focus is on setting the students up to be the best learners and leaders they can be, and building positive relationships with themselves, others and God.

We look forward to sharing many special times with your children throughout this year.

Celebration Week

As the final Celebration Week for our students comes to an end, we look back on the enjoyable activities that we’ve participated in - Footsteps Dance Workshop and Performance, House Meetings, Family Art and Craft, Open Morning, the Mini Sports Carnival and the exciting conclusion, the non-competitive Teachers and Parents versus the stunning talent of our Year 6 Leaders.
Our Year 6 Camp is in week 6 and the excitement has already begun! This year we are off to Forest Lodge Farm at Jack River, near Wilson’s Promontory. We leave at 9 am on Tuesday 7th March and return around 3.15 pm on Friday 10th March. This is an adventure camp which will be packed with fantastic activities designed to ‘excite, inspire and motivate’ our students to step out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves. Please ensure that you have completed the Care Monkey form with up-to-date information. Attached to this Care Monkey form is the list of what to bring, and what not to bring to camp! Please read it carefully! The students are very excited, yet naturally, at the same time, a little apprehensive, about going on camp. However, as we all know, they will certainly gain a great deal from this experience in many ways. If you have any concerns or queries about camp, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher to discuss these matters. Fingers crossed for good weather!

**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 Friday. Maths Mate will continue this year and will be due EVERY Friday (unless told otherwise). Homework will begin in Week 3.

**Faith Life**

During Faith Life sessions the children will explore, through scripture, the benefits of working together and belonging to a community. They will investigate different leadership styles and look closely at the leadership of Jesus, modelling these values as they develop their own leadership style. The children have been appointed to various leadership roles within the school. This offers each student the opportunity to lead in an area that they are passionate about to serve our school community. This is an empowering
NUMERACY

This term Numeracy will consist of Place Value, including the four operations using written and mental strategies, prime and composite numbers and problem solving. As part of our preparation for camp we will be revising our mapping and location skills.

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. Our writing will be focused on the 7 Steps to Writing Success to enhance the quality of student writing. As the leaders of the school the Year 6 students have the amazing opportunity to host assemblies each week, building their confidence when speaking to a large audience. A roster for Assembly roles has been organised, so please check with your child when they are participating in assembly this term. We’d love to see you at assemblies if you’re available.

Uniform and Specialists Days

As leaders of our school it is vital that all Year 6 Leaders are wearing correct uniform at all times. It is so important that they are wearing their uniforms with pride and modelling to the younger children the high standards that we uphold here at St Finbar’s School. A reminder that nail polish, makeup and jewellery are not to be worn to school. Earrings must be plain sleepers or studs.

Please note that Sport Uniform is to be worn on Thursdays and Fridays, for both 6D and 6H, as these are our sports days. Other Specialist Days are: 6D 6H
Tuesday - Italian
Wednesday - Visual Art
Thursday - PE and Music
Tuesday - Visual Art
Wednesday - Italian
Thursday - Music and PE

---

**Important Dates**

February 8 - Parent Information Night
February 9 & 10 - Swimming Trials @ GESAC
February 14 & 16 - Parent Teacher Chats
February 14, 15 & 16 - Musical Auditions
February 15 & 20 - Swimming Training @ GESAC
February 27 - Dendy Swimming Carnival GESAC
February 28 - Shrove Tuesday
March 1 - Ash Wednesday Mass
March 7-10 - Forest Lodge Farm Camp
March 10 - Division Swimming Carnival
March 13 & 14 - School Closure Days
March 14 - I See, I Care, Day 1
March 17 - St Patrick’s Day Mass
March 24 - School Athletics Carnival Day
March 30 - Yr 6 Dendy Lightning Premiership Soccer
March 31 - Last Day of Term 1 (1.50pm finish), Mass at 9.15am and Walkathon

---

We look forward to another busy term full of challenges and opportunities. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns or questions. We can be contacted via email:

jhowell@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au
adurie@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au

Kind Regards,

Jo & Alysha