Dear Parents,

Congratulations to our school swim team who competed in the Dendy District swimming competition today. Special thanks to Mrs. Thompson for organising the training sessions and the team selections over the past few weeks. Thanks also to the staff who supported the students both at the training sessions and the competition day.

On the 8th of March the St. Finbar’s staff will be conducting emergency management training to ensure our legal requirements in this area are up to date. We will be holding a whole school evacuation drill on **Wednesday 9th of March**. Please have a chat with your child/ren about the need to have these drills and that there is no need for panic. Being prepared and knowing what to do in these situations is incredibly important for all community members. St. Finbar’s has not received any threatening phone calls to date, however we do need to be vigilant and prepared if the need arises.

There was recently an incident involving a local student from a neighbouring school in regards to ‘stranger danger.’ I would ask all parents to chat with their child/ren about being safe when coming to and leaving school, particularly if they ride or walk.

Thank you to the parents who attended the P & F meeting on Tuesday night. We had 30+ people present. It is reassuring to know we have such a dedicated group looking after our social and fundraising needs.

Early next term we will be conducting a St. Finbar’s parent survey. The content of this survey is being collated at the moment with the help of the school board members and St. Finbar’s staff. If you would like to have any input as to the types of questions you would like to see in this survey please contact a board member to discuss further. Board members names have been listed in previous newsletters. The survey will be emailed out early in Term 2.

A reminder again 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 of March - 9:30am – 11:00am and Tuesday 22nd March – 12:00pm – 1:30pm. Current families and new families are invited to attend.

A special welcome to our new community members in the John Ashe Playground. We have 2 new chickens who are a welcome addition to our sustainability program. Thanks to Mrs. Byrne for organising their arrival, and well done to our Year 6 Sustainability leaders Maja and Rafaela who will be coordinating the naming and looking after of our special guests.

Peace and Blessings,

Mr Pat Berlinger
Principal
TERM 1 UPCOMING EVENTS:

**February**
- 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 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
- School Liturgy 9am
- Last day of term – students dismissed at 2pm
- Fri 25: Good Friday
- Sun 27: Easter Sunday

TERM 1 UPCOMING ASSEMBLIES:

- 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.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS:

Term One Accounts are due and payable NOW!

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 NOW!
- 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.
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 CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Monday 29 February 2016

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**Lent is a special time giving us a to have a change of heart and to live from the choices of our hearts. We are at the half-way point of the Lenten journey. This week’s Gospel from Luke is about the loving care and patience of God. The parable of the owner of the vineyard tells of God’s infinite patience in dealing with the sinfulness of humans. We, in turn, should not look at the ‘wrongs’ of others but to our own need for repentance. Despite our failings, God will graciously allow us time to produce our best fruit.**

This week take some time to reflect on your choices and the direction in which you want your life to go. Choose while the choice is still possible. Time’s running out.

*There is a tough but fair Lenten message in the parable of the fig tree: before it is chopped down and reduced to dead wood, the tree is given one more chance to be fruitful. There is a ‘be warned’ side to this story and a ‘take heart’ aspect as well. Yes, be warned because every one of us has to be fruitful in our own way, and yes, take heart because God is on our side. What is the dead wood in your life and what needs nourishment? Artist Jenny Close*

This week the focus of Project Compassion is on Dominic in Papua New Guinea, who through the help of Caritas is helping the people in his village to overcome the problems of violence and gender inequality. Let us continue to pray for Dominic and the work he does with the support of Caritas …

*Please keep the Year 3 students in your prayers as they continue to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation very soon….*

The Year 4 students eagerly attend mass each week as they prepare to make their First Eucharist …. They will make their formal commitment in the next couple of weeks …

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**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
St Finbar’s Clubs
There are a number of lunchtime clubs now happening at St Finbar’s which provide even more opportunity for our children to work and play together in collaborative and interesting ways. Children have chosen a club to match their interests and as a way of developing friendships with other students outside their class. We really appreciate the enthusiasm and time given by each of the teachers leading the clubs to allow this valuable program to run.

Choir with Mrs D’Rozario – Tuesday
Coding Club with Ms Hill & Ms Garnaut – Wednesday
Library Club with Mrs Howell – Thursday
Knitting Club with Mrs Ward – Thursday
Construction Club with Mr Daniell – Friday

Next week I will visit each of the clubs to take some pictures of the children in action to share with you all.

STUDENT LEADERS:
Leadership will be a big focus at St Finbar’s in 2016 and it is great to witness this in action at our School Assemblies each Monday. Whilst they will take on the organising and running of the assembly opportunities will be there, each week, for other students to share their work through the class presentations. On Monday Year 1J surprised us all with their confidence and great reading skills as they shared some of the things they have been learning in class.

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.

Back to School asthma spike: Every year there is a well-documented rise in asthma flare-ups and hospitalisations when students return to school after the Christmas break. Asthma Australia has information for parents of students with asthma to help them prepare for school. Asthma Australia’s website and social media provide the latest information, including a checklist of what to do to help your child and a survey to complete to determine the impacts for parents/carers.

Asthma Australia recommends that you talk to school staff about your child’s asthma and the school’s medication policy, provide an Asthma Plan from the doctor and supply a spare reliever puffer and spacer for your child’s use at school.
Sports Report ~ Mrs Tania Thompson

Tomorrow our swim team jump aboard the bus at 8.20am to head to Oakleigh Recreation Pool to compete in the District Swimming carnival against our 9 other Dendy schools. We wish them all the very best in their both their individual races and team relays. Mr Anderson & Miss Durie will be accompanying the team on the bus & at the pool.

A special thank you goes to our swim coach; Andrew who has helped the team over a couple of training sessions at GESAC. The team and staff would also like to say a Huge Thank You to the lovely P&F parents, Daniela and Jenni, who kindly put on the team brekky for all members on Monday morning – thank you!!! From the feedback given at our team meeting this week, all students looovved their pastries!

***********************************************************************
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!

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Other Sport News:

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

- SSV State Nominations for Rugby: any extremely talented Rugby players wishing to be considered for selection in the 2016 Victorian NRL Rugby 12&U team, please email Tania Thompson (tthompson@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au) by March 1st.

Sustainability Report ~ Mrs Jane Byrne

The John Ashe also has two Belgian D’Uccles chickens in our beautiful Chicken Pen that was donated from Bunnings last year and kindly installed by Eddy Porter – Groundsman. Our two Environment Captains, Rafaela F and Maja C are the chicken monitors and will be running a competition for names for the chickens.

Year two students harvesting corn from the John Ashe Garden.

Knitters Required:
The school knitting club needs additional knitters to help complete a blanket project for KOGO (Knit one, give one). They are a Melbourne based knitting charity that supplies knitted items for 80 different organisations, including crisis accommodation, homeless services and outreach missions. We are making simple knitted rectangles, which will be sewn together to complete a blanket. KOGO has donated some wool and needles to the school.

Additional donations of 8ply and 4.5 mm needles are very welcome. We have several teachers and students involved but we need some additional help to complete a blanket for this winter. (Needles/wool and simple instructions are available from the office). Knit at home or you are welcome at the knitting club, Thursdays in the library at 11.15am.
What is happening in Year 1H?

In Maths we are learning about place value and how numbers are made using tens and ones.

Here, Dean, Jaysha and Spencer have modelled a number using bundles of icy-pole sticks to represent the Tens part of the number and individual sticks to represent the Ones part of the number.

In Year 1 we are working towards learning the names of all staff members at St Finbar’s. At the moment we are writing a description of one staff member each. We chose some questions to ask a staff member and interviewed them. We then used the answers from our interview questions to write a description of our staff member.

Elijah is interviewing Sally, Joe is interviewing Mrs. Young and Isabella is interviewing Miss McCurdy.

Our CAFE Reading program is already established and the Year 1s are learning how to improve their Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and to Expand our vocabulary.

Zoe, Isabella, Jonah and Samuel’s Daily 5 activity is Listen to Reading - they are listening to the story of The Three Little Pigs.

Zara’s Daily 5 activity is Word Work - she is sequencing a set of words into a sentence that makes sense.
Parents, please provide a broad rimmed or legionnaire sun hat and sunscreen for the OSHC program.

School closure days - Planned experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 10/3/16</th>
<th>Friday 11/3/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>FunCookingwithKids</em></td>
<td><em>FunCookingwithKids</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rocky Road 3 pm</td>
<td>Hipster Rabbit</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>FunArt4Kids</em></td>
<td>Taco 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>FunCookingwithKids</em></td>
<td>Bubble art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>FunArt4Kids</em></td>
<td>Pass the parcel</td>
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Helpful Hints for School Closure Days

BYO HEALTHY LUNCH, SNACKS (extra snacks) AND DRINK BOTTLE WITH WATER: where food is brought from home, the service encourages families to provide food that is consistent with the: Australian Government guidelines Get Up & Grow: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood, and/or Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents in Australia. We encourage parents to provide extra fruit and vegetables for afternoon snack and “sometimes foods” to be kept to a minimum. Store lunches in our fridge (chilled water is always available @ the service) Snack time 10.15am - Lunch 12.15pm.

Please note that the service aspires to be a nut free environment.

Anaphylaxis: Under regulations children who have been prescribed an adrenaline auto-injection device such as an EpiPen® must bring it to the service. Please note that the school office will be closed during the school closure days and as such OSHC staff cannot access the first aid room.

To ensure parents/guardians of the child/ren diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis are provided with a copy of the policy (r. 20(2A)), the service has now posted the policy on the school website. (Community tab; OSHC; Anaphylaxis policy)

Sunsmart Guidelines: NO HAT NO PLAY. We insist children wear a hat @ all times during outside play. We recommend broad rimmed or legionnaire hats. SPF 15+ sunscreen must be applied prior to the arrival of the program. Staff will record and assist with application at intervals throughout the day.

Extra Forms to complete if necessary: Medication form

Bookings/Cancellations/Adjustments please call 95920994 directly.

Administrative Procedures

The email is a form of communication that we do use however it is specifically dedicated for changing permanent bookings, making advanced bookings/cancellations (ie holiday program, school closure days), account queries, addressing special needs, incidents that need clarification, and the like. It is no guarantee that the email will be checked on a daily basis as administrative duties are addressed off site and away from the service as our priority lies with the active supervision of children, their development and wellbeing.

Clothing and footwear: comfortable and protective

Behaviour: Children are expected to follow the rules and practice positive behaviour, where a mutual respect between staff and children shall be fostered. If a child/rens behaviour is deemed unsatisfactory, behaviour management action will take place to positively change the behaviour (redirect to quieter activities) if unsatisfactory behaviour persists, then an incident record will be completed and parents/guardians notified. The Directress reserves the right to exclude the child/ren from participating in the program.

Electronic games are welcome although items bought from home are the children’s responsibility. St Finbar’s OSHC will not take responsibility for lost or broken games.

Kids on wheels - bring anything with wheels and a helmet for safety.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School Closure 8-6</th>
<th>$38</th>
<th>After rebate $19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Closure 1/2 day</td>
<td>$19</td>
<td>After Rebate $9.50</td>
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Please note: The service will be CLOSED Monday 14th March-Labour Day Holiday

Accounts

This is a friendly reminder to families that accounts must be settled within 7 days of receiving the invoice. Should accounts fall into arrears then it will jeopardise access to the program. Please note that frequent payments keep our OSHC program running efficiently. Thank you in advance.
FOUNDATION COCKTAIL PARTY:
Please join us for a relaxed and fun evening at our Cocktail Party and meet your fellow Foundation parents. Book the babysitter or grandparents for an 8pm start.

DATE: Saturday 5 March.
WHERE: Hotel Brighton 266 Bay Street Brighton, Upstairs in the cocktail lounge.
TIME: 8pm
COST: $25.00 per person
Dress is smart casual. Drink on arrival and light canapés. RSVP and payment to class reps Max, Jane, Kate or Aileen) or money in an envelope clearly marked ‘Foundation Cocktail Night’ to the office by Tuesday 1st March.

REMINDER: 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

PARISH NEWS

27-28 February

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Altar Servers/Helpers</th>
<th>Readers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>B Mateer, B Cosgriff &amp; K Reed</td>
<td>Volunteer needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td></td>
<td>I Jones &amp; L O’Reilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td></td>
<td>M Howse</td>
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<tr>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>Rose &amp; Lily</td>
<td>A Durbidge</td>
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Children’s Liturgy
As we continue to prepare for Easter, come and enjoy our Children’s Liturgy program as it continues 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.

Sacramental Program
If you know anyone whose children do not attend the parish primary school but who may like to enrol their children in the Sacramental Program at St Finbar’s please ask them to contact the parish office. The dates for this year:
- First Reconciliation (year 3) will be held in term 2, lessons will begin in April;
- Confirmation (year 6) will be held 27 or 29 July, lessons will begin in term 2;
- First Eucharist (year 4) will be held in October, lessons will begin in term 3.
Holy Week and Easter at St Finbar’s

Palm Sunday 19th -20th March - normal Mass times.
Holy Thursday 24th March – Mass at 7.00pm.

Good Friday 25th March
Stations of the Cross - 9.45am
Good Friday Service -3.00pm

Easter Vigil Sat 26th March – Mass at 7.00pm
Easter Sunday 27th March – Mass at 9.00am & 11.00am

We are seeking 4 to 6 large palm branches for church decorations, and branches of cyrus or similar for sharing on Palm Sunday. Please contact the parish office of Fr Ian if you can help with either of these.

Help is also needed at all Holy Week and Easter Services this year, please write your name on the list in the foyer if you can help with reading, running the data projector, collecting, special Minister, Altar Serving. Thank you.
Parish Roster & March 4 Sun Lent / Year C

6.00pm
9.00am
11.00am
5.00pm

Lectors
J McNernie
Rod Watson / Tonia Flanagan
Rosemary West / Helen Evans
Doyle family

Special Ministers
Clare Sabatino
Pauline Bourke / John Mason
Jenny Reiche

Altar Servers
Oliver, Felix & Sam
Vienna & Audrey
Oli D & Will

Data Projector
Sabatino
Coopers
Leo

Counters
M Phipps, P Rodis & M Malone

Readings
First Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12
Second Reading: 2 Cor 16: 17-21

Communion Antiphon
The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Entrance Antiphon
My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues me from the snare, Tum to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

28 February 2016
3rd Sunday of Lent

There was a terrible disaster when a building fell down killing eighteen people. Some said, ‘Oh, those killed must have been sinners, they or their parents.’ Jesus repudiates that notion: ‘No, it wasn’t for anything they did.’ It was clear to Jesus that they were the victims of poor construction and conditions at SloMo. Look at the builder.

Responsibility needs to be brought home to those who would otherwise hide behind a religious ideology, or the sheer self-interest of evading blame for a situation. To identify those really responsible may well require major changes to the way society is organised. Does it all seem too difficult? Jesus helps us with a metaphor: You are like a fig tree which may not be bearing much fruit just now, but, I am a terrific gardener: I will water you, dig around you, make sure you are well nourished so that you will bear the fruits I desire. Our Lord does that by watering us with the waters of baptism; pruning us, especially during Lent; nourishing us with the bread of life in Holy Communion. We might pause at various times during Lent to allow Our Lord to garden us so that he may create a heavenly botanical garden, a new Eden, of the whole of humanity. © Fr Michael Tate

Anniversaries: Bob Comben, Mon Brasier, Bill Trewhella, Bernard Marron and Frank Pierre.
Some of their names will be read out each week in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Parish News
Palm Branches We are seeking 4 to 6 large palm branches for Palm Sunday church decorations, and branches of cyrus trees, or similar, to share on Palm Sunday, 20th March. Please contact Fr Ian or the parish office if you can assist with either of these.

Sacramental Program If your child does not attend the parish primary school and you would like them to celebrate the Sacraments of First Reconciliation (yr 3), First Eucharist (yr 4) and Confirmation (yr 6), please contact the parish office to enrol them in the program, BrightonEast@cam.org.au or 9593 2122.

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? One of our activities is to work for a few hours in the Vinnies shop in Hampton – just once every couple of months. There are a variety of things that are done – ranging from sorting through donated goods, pricing items, re-stocking shelves and the like; no particular skills required – but much satisfaction to be gained! To find out more call Philip McNernie 0423 109-506

Children's Liturgy
Come and join Children's Liturgy this Sunday 28th February at 9am Mass in the Marian Room.