



The Evangelist

The St John's Primary School Newsletter
Wednesday 1st March 2017 Term 1 Week 6

Dear Parents / Carers

Today we celebrated **Ash Wednesday**. During our liturgy black crosses were marked on our foreheads to signify the start of the Lenten Season. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of the distribution of ashes upon the forehead's of Christians.

The ashes are meant to remind Christians about human mortality, while also showing the individual's desire for repentance and spiritual cleansing. As the priest or minister puts the ash on the body he, or she, says "Remember that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return" (Genesis 3:19) or "Repent, and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

At school the students will be learning more about Lenten practices and how as Christians what they are asked to do during this season. As we know Lent is the season of Christian preparation for the celebration of Easter and is a time of spiritual growth. The focus is not to be on one's self, but one's relationship with God. During Lent many Christians / Catholics uphold the church traditions of fasting, acts of charity and alms giving. *Today we should give some thought to what we will do this Lenten season to deepen our relationship with God.*



Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual event and involves the communities of all 590 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. The main aim of CSW is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools across the State. CSW will provide an opportunity for Catholic schools to showcase what is done every day in our schools and invite our community in to experience teaching and learning at its best.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

St Johns will be holding an 'Open Morning' next Wednesday 8th March. Below you will find a program for our 'Open Morning'. The focus for our classroom activities will be on an aspect of our literacy goal - developing word consciousness and showcasing our new technology. Please come and join with us for our 'Open Morning.' Please refer to the program below:

Your children and teachers would love to showcase their learning.

Open Morning Program

9.15 Liturgy of the Word to be held in the hall

9.35 Assembly sharing our learning (each stage to share)

10.00 am Open Classrooms – literacy activities focusing on enriching vocabulary and the use of technology in the classroom

Student / parent sharing work-conference. Parents are encouraged to provide written feedback on their child's work book

11.00 Recess: Parent / children share morning Tea

Afternoon Dismissal I would like to thank our community for your support in ensuring that St John's maintains an orderly dismissal of students at the end of the school day. The changes we made to our dismissal procedures highlights our view that safety and wellbeing of all our students is paramount at St John's.

On 21st and 23rd of February we held our **parent information sessions** to inform parents / carers about curriculum matters, class routines and organisational details. The meetings were well attended, thank you for making the time to take up this opportunity to learn more about your child's school year.

This week we welcome **Mrs Deanne Hearnden as the financial secretary of St John's**. Mrs Hearnden has extensive finance and administration experience in diocesan schools. Mrs Hearnden will be a great asset to our community

Stage 3 learning space will be receiving a refurbishment this year. The planning stage has now started. This project is part of the CEDP marketing strategy for St John's. We are very excited about this refurbishment project. The children will be involved in the design and in selecting some of the furniture. We will be investigating the use of mobile and modular furniture to create 21st century learning spaces. Over the coming weeks members of our learning community will be visiting other schools in our diocese as part of our investigation. We will keep you posted of any developments in this area.

On Monday evening the **Parents and Friends Community held its Annual General Meeting**. In keeping with the constitution, the election of the executive committee was held. The existing executive members vacated their positions and the election for a new committee then took place. Unfortunately, we were not able to fill all the positions. A separate letter will be sent home presently in regards to forming a St John's Parents and Friends Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Teresa Chiddo, Dianna Peter, Marika Hartz, Melissa Spence, Marianne Finadri, Melinda Adamcewicz, Pauline Boltjes and Jessica Stone** for their commitment throughout 2016 to St John's Community. Without their dedication, hard work and support it would have been difficult to host a number of our events.

*God Bless,
Patricia*

At school we are interested in your child's

Well being and happiness

Engagement with learning in the classroom

Social and emotional development

The single most important thing you can do to support all of these areas is ensure they attend Every Day

every learner
every day 



A huge thank you to the St John's community for their combined effort in raising \$135.00 at the Pancake Day Morning Tea.

A SPECIAL thank you to Pauline Boltjes for purchasing all the ingredients from our local Woolworths Store at Schofields.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to our dedicated volunteers that cooked and served on the day. Thank you to all the students and staff of St John's who purchased pancakes and raised money for **Caritas Australia** and got to eat a delicious treat at the same time.

WE MAY BE A SMALL SCHOOL BUT WE CERTAINLY HAVE BIG HEARTS.

P & F NEWS

The P & F AGM was held on
Monday 27th February.

The Executive Committee of 2016
stepped down from their rolls of
President, Vice President and
Treasurer.

The executive committee would like to express
there thanks to all parents, carers and friends
for their support throughout 2016. With your
support we were able to have a successful year
together.



**REMINDER THAT PARENTS/CARERS ARE NOT
PERMITTED TO PARK IN THE STAFF CAR PARK
WHEN THEY DROP OFF OR PICK UP THEIR
CHILD/CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.**

**THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS IS
PARAMOUNT AND WE APPRECIATE
YOUR CO OPERATION REGARDING
THIS MATTER**

WHAT'S COMING UP

1st March	Ash Wednesday
1st March	Book Fair Open today
3rd March	Halogen Youth Leadership Conference
3rd March	Welcome BBQ 5pm
6th March	Y6 visit to SJP2
6th-10th March	8/3/17 Open Morning Catholic Schools Week
8th March	Book Fair Open today
2nd April	OPEN DAY

AFTERNOON PICK-UP

If you are unable to pick-up your child at afternoon dismissal, please ensure that the person nominated to collect your child is listed on your child's school records to do so on your behalf.

Signed notification needs to be received by the school office prior to your child being permitted to leave the school grounds.

***The safety of all our children is paramount
and we thank you for your cooperation.***

PANCAKE DAY AT ST JOHN'S



AWARDS Week 4 Term 1**Values Award****FREEDOM**

Chelsea Wilson ES1, Pippa Wood Stage 1,
Imogen Talbot-Woodford Stage 2,
Jazmin Taylor Stage 3

Merit Award**Week 4**

Jamie Hartz ES1, Cooper Stone & Amelia
Makin Stage 1, Aaron Sciberras & Joseph
Calleija Stage 2, Seth Rogers &
Jenella Mendoza Stage 3

Principal Award**Week 4**

Mersadiez Syme ES1, Xygelle Aguila Stage 1,
Marcella Galati Stage 2, Vito Galati Stage 3

Week 5 Values Award**HONESTY & TRUSTWORTHINESS**

Austyn Murray ES1, Sophia Maggio Stage 1,
Chanelle Xerri Stage 2, Ryan Park Stage 3

Merit Award**Week 5**

Breanna Xerri ES1, Jacob Sinka & Shaun
Tolmie Stage 1, Hayden Jones & Imogen
Talbot-Woodford Stage 2, Claudine Eckersley
& Isabelle McIntyre Stage 3

Principal Award**Week 5**

Jelena Filipovic ES1, Talara Sciberras Stage 1,
Tallara Spence Stage 2,
Page Williams Stage 3

Congratulations!!!!



*Ryan Bentley 23rd Feb,
Jacob Beazley 23rd Feb,
Lucas Beazley 23rd Feb,
Chelsea Peter 18th Feb,
Emilia Keating 18th Feb,
Jacob Camilleri 22nd Feb,*

Change to After School Dismissal

To ensure an orderly dismissal of students at the end of the school day we have made changes to our dismissal procedures. Please note the following:

Class teachers will accompany their students to the blue area in front of the hall at 2.50pm;

Students will assemble in class groups facing the undercroft;

All parents are asked to wait in the undercroft area. Parents are asked NOT to gather near the ES1 room or the Stage 1 room;

The teacher on parent pick up duty will dismiss students (from the blue area) when parents arrive to pick up their child / children;

Once parents / carers have collected their children they are asked to move away from the undercroft area. Students must then remain with parent / carer; Children going to after school care will assemble in a separate line to be collected by an OOSH staff member; Children going home by bus will be supervised by the teacher on bus duty.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

*IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL
PARENTS/CARERS TO ADVISE
THE SCHOOL OFFICE IN WRITING
OF ANY CHANGES/UPDATES TO
PARENT/CARERS AND
EMERGENCY CONTACTS
TELEPHONE/MOBILE NUMBERS*

*It is imperative that the
school is able to get in contact
with each and every child's
emergency*

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL PARENTS/ CARERS

Over the Counter Medication

Over the counter medication including analgesics or homeopathic preparations cannot be administered by school staff unless a written request (Request to Administer Medication Form) is received from the student's parent/carers and is accompanied by written advice from a medical practitioner with the medication in the original labelled container. The exception is reliever puffers for the emergency treatment of asthma.

LATE ARRIVALS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS/CARERS

**THE GATE NEAR THE KISS AND DROP AREA WILL BE CLOSED BY THE
TEACHER ON DUTY AT THE CONCLUSION OF KISS AND DROP DAILY**

***IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER THE BELL AT 8.50am YOU WILL NEED TO USE THE INTERCOM TO GAIN
ENTRY AND MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD TO THE OFFICE TO COMPLETE A LATE ARRIVAL/
PARTIAL ABSENCE FORM, YOUR CHILD WILL BE GIVEN A LATE ARRIVAL PASS TO HAND TO
THEIR CLASS TEACHER TO CONFIRM THAT A PARTIAL ABSENCE HAS BEEN***



Building Child Safe Communities

Important Information for Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering. The opportunities provided to students are greatly enhanced by the contribution of volunteers. All volunteers will need to complete the **Undertaking for Volunteers' Form and Training Module** online before they can volunteer at St John's, please use the link below.

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/home>

Step 1: Complete 'Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers' Form

You will need to complete a Volunteers Form for **each location** that you volunteer. A notification of your successful completion of the form will be sent via e-mail to the volunteering location and also to your email address.

Step 2: Complete the online training module

It is a system requirement that the online training module be completed by all volunteers commencing at any of our locations and the training needs to be completed every second year.

- Open the module by clicking the **Start** link below.
- Read through the presentation.

Complete and submit quiz questions (this will take approximately 10 minutes).

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THE TRAINING MODULE YOU WILL ONLY NEED TO COMPLETE THE 'UNDERTAKING FOR VOLUNTEERS' FORM.

UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

LETTERS ARE SENT HOME TO
PARENTS/CARERS ON A REGULAR
BASIS REGARDING UNEXPLAINED
ABSENCES

THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS
REQUIRED URGENTLY AND NEEDS TO
BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE
If your child is absent from school it is
the Parent/Carers responsibility to
send to school with the child (on their
return) a written explanation of the
reason for absence and it also needs to
be signed by the Parent/Carer.
This is a legal requirement.



MORNING SUPERVISION

Before school supervision of
students commences at 8.20am.
Parents are asked not to drop off their
children at school prior to this time.
*This is for the safety of all our
students*

UNIFORM EXPECTATION

Thank you very much to our parents
for ensuring that your children
come to school in the correct full
school uniform and neatly
groomed.

Please note

- ◆ BLACK LEATHER SCHOOL SHOES
- ◆ JEWELLERY - STANDARD WATCHES (Boys & Girls)
- ◆ JEWELLERY - PLAIN STUD OR SLEEPERS EARRINGS
(Girls only)
- ◆ LONG HAIR MUST BE TIED BACK WITH REGU-
LATION (SCHOOL COLOURS) RIBBON, BAND
OR SCHOOL SCRUNCHIE AND EXTREME HAIR
STYLES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. THIS IN-
CLUDES STREAKS, HAIR COLOURING, LINES,
SHAVED CUTS, UNDER CUTS, RATS TAILS,
MULLET ETC.
- ◆ SPORTS SHOES MUST BE PREDOMINANTLY WHITE
WITH WHITE LACES NOT COLOURED.
- ◆ SPORTS SOCK ARE WHITE COVERING THE ANKLE
- ◆ GIRLS SOCKS ARE LIGHT BLUE and BOYS ARE GREY
WITH MAROON STRIPE (available at Lowes)
- ◆ NAIL POLISH is NOT PERMITTED
- ◆ SCHOOL HAT IS TO BE WORN OUTDOORS AT ALL
TIMES (St John's Primary School has a NO HAT NO
PLAY Policy)
- ◆ GIRLS AND BOYS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR
TIES WITH THE WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM
- ◆ GIRLS TAB TIES ARE AVAILABE FROM THE SCHOOL
OFFICE FOR \$5
- ◆ BOYS TIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE
SCHOOL OFFICE FOR \$17 large and \$15 small

Thank You for your co-operation



ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL RULES

Be a good learner

Be respectful

Be safe



SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking is done on Thursday

**Please send in your bank books via the
classroom office box.**



STAY IN THE LOOP NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

As you are aware we are able to send home newsletters either by email or a printed hard copy. Take a look at our website and you can subscribe to receive our fortnightly newsletter, event reminders and news

www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au



**Lunch orders are available on Monday's
and Friday's from Wildcats Café.**

Please write your child's name, class and order on a brown paper bag and enclose the correct money.

Children can then place their orders in the blue lunch order boxes located in the under-croft, near the student foyer.

**Orders need to be in the
boxes by 8.45am**

OPAL CARDS

If your child needs a **School Opal Card** and you haven't applied online yet, please call into the school office for a brochure with detailed instructions on how to apply. Once you apply, the forms you print out need to be sent into the school office for verification and then we forward them to Transport NSW who will then issue the Opal Card to your child.



Parent Pick-up

Parents/Carers are asked to please wait in the parent pick up area in the under-croft and

NOT TO CONGREGATE NEAR YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM OR IN THE AREA BETWEEN EARLY STAGE ONE AND STAGE ONE CLASSROOMS.

This is for the safety of all of our children. We appreciate your co-operation regarding this matter

ASSEMBLY

Whole School Assembly is held
FRIDAY'S AT 2.30PM

All Parent's/Carers/Family and Friends are most welcome to join our school community

SCHOOL START AND FINISH TIMES

School commences at 8:50 am and concludes at 2:50 pm

All children that arrive after the morning bell need to be accompanied by a Parent/Carer to the office to complete a late arrival form that needs to be signed by the Parent/Carer. This is a legal requirement and the child will be processed as an unexplained partial absence if the Parent/Carer does not attend the office with the child. Please have your child at school before 8:50am.



ST JOHN'S PLAYGROUP

Tuesday and Thursday
9:15—11:15 am

If you have children under 5 years old, why not bring them along each Tuesday or Thursday to Playgroup in the Church Hall. Mums, dads, grandparents and carers are all welcome. For further inquiries please contact Tina on 9627 7625 or the Parish Office on 9627 1176

School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone/PO Box 20, Riverstone, 2765
Tel: 9627 2588 Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Patricia Charlton

Office Hours 8.30 am—3.30pm

Call in for a School tour anytime

Parish

Cnr Garfield Rd & McCulloch St
Riverstone 2765.

Tel: 9627 1176 Email: stjohns10@bigpond

Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am & 9am