



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

Ph: (02) 9854 3200

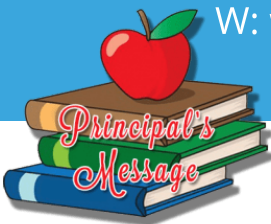
E: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

W: www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 Week 7

Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,



It certainly has been a very different school term with so many restrictions placed on school activities due to Covid - 19. However, our students are settling well into the routines of school life and our teaching and learning programs continue to engage our students in their learning. During Friday sport lessons students are participating in non-contact sport activities and some recess and lunchtime playground games have been re-introduced. Government and CEDP safe health practices are adhered to and children are continually reminded to wash and sanitise their hands. We have sufficient supplies of personal hygiene products throughout the school. Please be assured that we take our 'duty of care' very seriously and will continue to take a cautious approach in all we do.

It was heartening to hear on the weekend that New Zealand is for now Covid free and all restrictions (with the exception of international travel) have been lifted. Hopefully, we can make the same announcement in Australia in the near future. How wonderful that would be!

We all have to do our part to bring this about ... we must remain patient and follow our government's guidelines.



You're welcome, though it may not be possible to visit the school in person right now, we're still here to help. If you would like to discuss your child's learning or wellbeing, learn more about financial assistance available to families or other ways we can support your family, you're welcome to contact us on 98543200 or email us at riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au.

School Attendance

every learner
every day ☒

School Attendance plays a critical role in enhancing the lives of students in school. Every day of attendance adds to a student's academic achievement and success at school.

Schools in partnership with parents and carers are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents and carers are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff as part of their duty of care play a vital role in promoting daily attendance, recording and monitoring absences and preventing the establishment of absenteeism. A shared approach to school attendance between students, parents and carers, schools, system learning and CEDP will maximise the opportunity for every learner every day. In keeping with legislative and CEDP/school policies and procedures attendance rates for all students will continue to be closely monitored at St John's. Please refer to this week's attendance levels for K - 6, the target level for all schools in the Parramatta Diocese is above 90% attendance rate.

All Students need to arrive at school on time before the 8.50am morning bell and be picked-up at 2.50pm

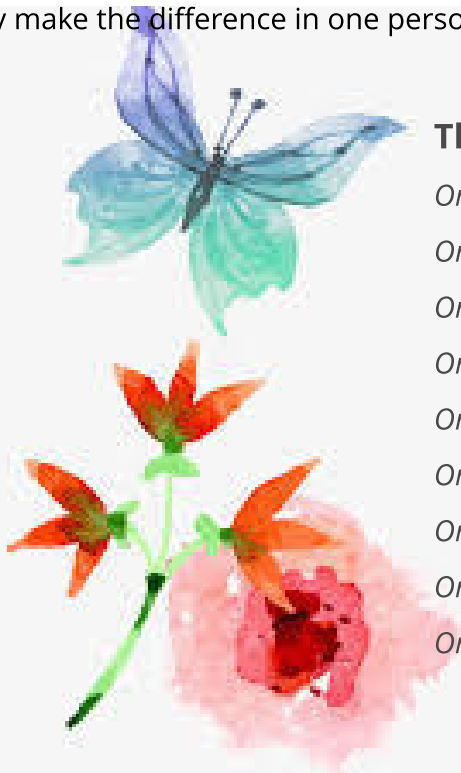


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On Wednesday the 27th May at 11.00 am our students took part in the **National Story Time** initiative. All schools in New Zealand and Australia are invited to participate in this annual reading event. This year our students participated in this story telling in their own classrooms because of physical distancing restrictions. Our students enjoyed Lucinda Gifford's book, 'Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas.' We used the Story Box Library video collection for the reading of this story. Emma Watkins from the Wiggles read this special story. (Whitney and Britney are two gorgeous chooks, Fluffy and silky with stunning good looks. Dora is perplexed about where her chooks go each night. Little does she know, they are Whitney and Britney, Chicken Divas!) Students and staff enjoyed this story time and some of our staff really got involved in the story as evidenced by these photos.



This week I would like to share with you a poem that appeared in a newsletter a number of years ago. The power of one poem reminds us that we are 'called to make a difference' and how strong the power of one is. We may only make the difference in one person's life, but that is a start. It goes along way in building the Kingdom of God here on earth.



The Power of One

*One Song can spark a moment.
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest.
One bird can heralds a spring.
One smile begins a friendship.
One hand clasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea.
One word can frame the goal.
One sunbeam lights a room.*

*One candle wipes out the darkness.
One laugh can conquer gloom.
One step must start each journey.
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits.
One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom.
One heart can know what is true.
One life can make a difference.
(Author Unknown)*

God Bless Patricia



every learner every day








St John's Primary School Riverstone

School Attendance Level %



Scholastic Year

School Year Attendance Level %

Kindergarten	 83.2%
Year 1	 80.0%
Year 2	 74.1%
Year 3	 81.0%
Year 4	 87.8%
Year 5	 72.9%
Year 6	 80.0%

In NSW school attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must advise the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note or email the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school and complete an absent form at the office.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to attend a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness

Children need to arrive to school and class on time

Lateness to school or leaving early from school must be recorded as a partial absence.

EVERY LEARNER EVERY DAY



**ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL**

Supporting kids' confidence

The Beyond Blue website has some excellent tips and information for parents in this current time. Here is the link: [Beyond Blue](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/what-we-do/parenting)

This is from the section on supporting children to solve problems.

Solving problems

Life can throw all sorts of stuff at us, and effective problem-solving skills can mean the difference between being able to cope and feeling completely overwhelmed.

By learning to negotiate solutions to everyday problems and make decisions for themselves, your child will gradually become more independent and responsible. It also helps them feel confident and good about themselves, which is an important part of mental health and wellbeing.

You can support this process by practicing with your child, giving them space to figure things out themselves, and helping them reflect on what works and why.

This strategy works best when your child is feeling calm and relaxed. If they're very anxious or angry, help them to calm down first (quiet time, take some deep breaths) or leave problem-solving for another day when they are feeling calmer.

A strategy to try:

1. Kids don't always have the words to tell you how they feel or know exactly what the problem is. Finding a quiet space where they feel comfortable and relaxed may help them to start talking about it. Remember to step back and not jump in to solve the problem.

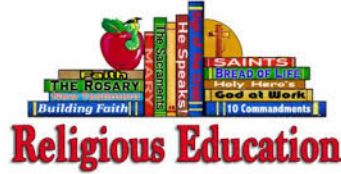
2. Find solutions and try them out:

Brainstorming two or three solutions is a good place to start – any more can be overwhelming. You can encourage their thinking with questions like “what do you think you/we could do?” With practice and support from others, they will gradually be able to come up with more of their own solutions. If they get stuck, you may need to make some suggestions in the beginning.

3. Check in : How did it go ?

Once you have both identified some options, you can decide together which one to try first. Work out a plan for how they will try out their solution. Do they need support from you, another child or a teacher? When will they get a chance to try it out – at home or in the playground? Once your child has tried the solution, check in with them as soon as possible. Did it work? If not, why not? What can they try next? Remember to give them lots of support and encouragement if the solution didn't work out. Sometimes we have the right solution, but need to practise it many times. Other times, we may need to return to step one to see if we correctly identified the issue.

Judith Murphy Assistant Principal



Feast of the Sacred Heart

On Friday 19 June we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is a special day in the Churches year. We remember that Jesus showed love to all people regardless of their race or wealth. Let us remember that in our daily lives we need to treat each other with the same respect that Jesus did.

Sacramental Program

At this point in time the Parish Based Sacramental program for Communion and Confirmation will be still going ahead. The classes will follow the social distance requirements. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be held this year as it physically cannot be run due to time constraints. The Sacrament of Communion will be late July/Early August. More details to follow. The parish is looking for a Sacramental Coordinator, if you are interested in running this program, please contact Melissa in the Parish Office 9627-1176.

Project Compassion Boxes

Thank you for your support with Project Compassion, please drop your project compassion boxes off to Melissa in the Parish office. Together we make a difference to people in the world who don't have as much as we do.



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Parents and Carers,



To keep up to date on the latest news and important announcements we strongly advise that all parents install the SkoolBag app on their mobile devices.

During these very uncertain times it is imperative that you are able to receive the latest most up to date information straight to your mobile phone anytime/anywhere.

Please see the instructions on the next page and if you have any questions or concerns please contact the school on

Telephone: 02 9854 3200

or

Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

Subscribe to our fortnightly newsletter at: www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Don't forget to follow us on FACEBOOK



*We are all in this together and we
thank you for your support and cooperation*



How to install the SkoolBag app

instructions for parents and community

1. Get your favourite mobile device
2. Open the App Store/Play Store
3. Search for "SkoolBag"
4. Download the free app
5. Open the app and add your school(s)

for Apple users



Download on the
App Store

for Android users



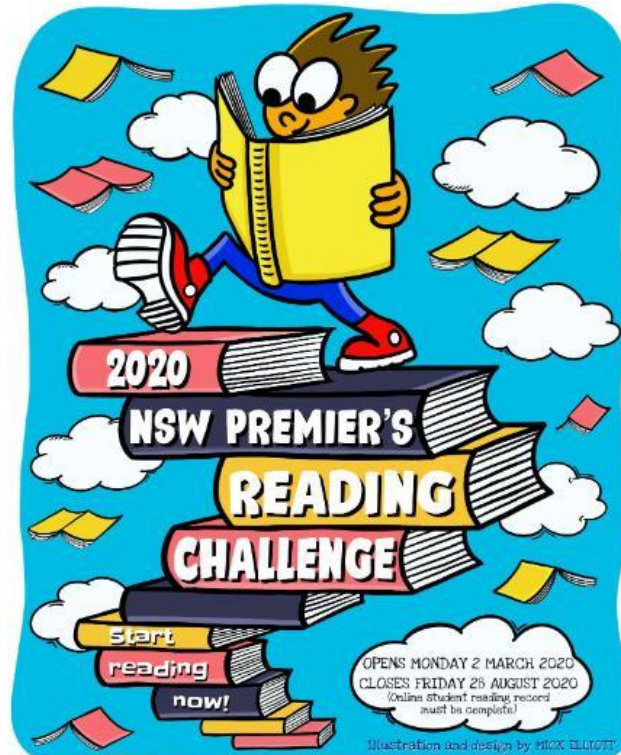
GET IT ON
Google Play

for more info visit skoolbag.com.au





The Evangelist



www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



**OVERDUE
BOOKS NEED TO
BE RETURNED
ASAP**

**Back to the
LIBRARY!**



PLEASE!

Mrs Abbott



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SCHOOL OPAL CARDS FOR BUS TRAVEL

**ALL STUDENTS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL BY BUS
ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A VALID OPAL CARD**



(either a School or Child/Youth Opal Card)

Please remind your child/children to

TAP ON and TAP OFF



every time they get on and off the bus

For more information and to apply for a School Opal Card call 131 500 or apply online at www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/



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

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



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ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC COLLEGE

YEARS 7~10 - SCHOFIELDS CAMPUS - 85 HAMBLEDON RD, SCHOFIELDS

YEARS 11~12 - NIRIMBA CAMPUS - NIRIMBA EDUCATION PRECINCT, EASTERN RD, QUAKERS HILL



ENROLLING NOW FOR 2021 - ALL WELCOME!



WE'RE ALL ABOUT LEARNING AT STJP II WE CAN OFFER YOU A DYNAMIC AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

CONTACT MRS FAY LOVETT FOR ALL ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES - 92087205

NON-CATHOLIC STUDENTS ARE VERY WELCOME & FEE SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED.

WWW.STJOHNPAL2.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU



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STAY IN THE LOOP SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Take a look at our website and you can
subscribe to receive our fortnightly
newsletter, event reminders and news

www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765

Tel: 9854 3200 Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Patricia Charlton

Office Hours 8.30am - 3.30pm

Parish

Cnr Garfield Rd & McCulloch St

Riverstone 2765 Tel: 9627 2276

Email: stjohns10@bigpond

Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am & 9am