



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 1 Week 8

Wednesday 18th March 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I share this reflection with you to ponder during these difficult times.

We can Make It Through Anything

Life is full of surprises - some good and some not so good.

When our world gets turned upside down, do not despair.

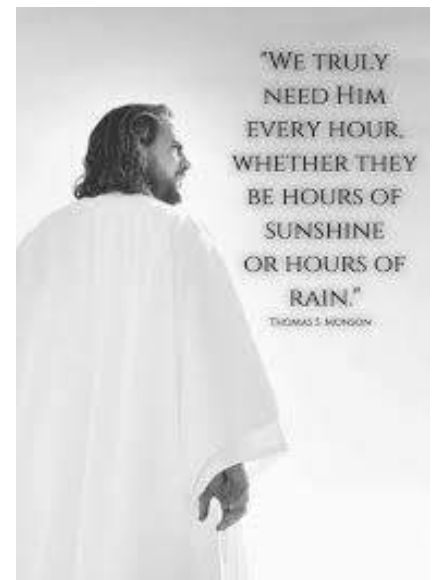
Try to look at what we are going through as a challenge rather than a struggle, as a time to develop patience, and as an opportunity to gain confidence in ourselves.

Realise that we can choose our attitude even if we can't alter our circumstance. Put our opinions and feelings in perspective.

Don't let them cause us to give up.

Do something for ourselves to inspire courage and tenacity. Allow our life experiences to teach us what we want to know so we can move on. Don't be afraid.

Remember... just as there are clearer skies and brighter days after a hard rain, the stormy weather in our lives will not stay. Life hurts sometimes, but we can make the best of any situation. In difficult times, we can find ways to handle disappointment, we can learn valuable lessons, and we can discover strengths to empower us. Life has its seasons, and we can make it through anything.



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

The Australian Government announced new advice as part of its response to the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The new advice is:

- that 'non-essential' events with more than 500 people should not take place
 - avoid overseas travel unless it is essential
- Those arriving in Australia from overseas are required to self-isolate for two weeks

Other than where there is a case of COVID-19 confirmed, schools remain open.

The Executive Director of Education, Greg Whitby is continually providing all Catholic schools in the diocese of Parramatta with information about CEDP's response to COVID-19 (coronavirus). At this point in time all schools have been directed to take specific actions.



Actions being implemented at St John's

- School activities that would bring members of the public and family members to the school will be discontinued until further notice (e.g. parent-teacher conferences, Open Days / Nights, school tours)
 - All offsite Professional Learning activities for staff are cancelled until further notice
 - ANZAC Day march cancelled
 - St John's advertised School Community Group meeting scheduled for 26th March has been postponed to further notice
 - Teachers and CEDP teacher educators will develop learning resources for home use

A parent information guide will also be developed to support student learning at home (if needed)

- Social distancing is being encouraged, this includes avoiding handshakes, hugs and other forms of incidental social contact. Students will not have contact with other students during the Dance Fever Program (hand holding during partner dances)
 - All major sports activities and events are temporarily ceased
- All school excursions will be cancelled until further notice, including overnight excursions
 - Snack Shack will be closed until further notice, however lunch orders will be taken
 - School uniform shop will be closed until further notice
 - School assembly cancelled until further notice
- Wherever possible technology will be used for communication – Skoolbag, Facebook, digital newsletter
 - Holy Week celebrations for students and staff only
 - Regular and rigorous washing of hands with soap is being encouraged
- Safe and healthy practices around sneezing, blowing of the nose and disposal of tissues has been reinforced
 - Safe practice posters have been installed in classrooms
 - Soap products and paper towels available in all learning spaces

Parents and carers are asked to keep your child at home if they are unwell or show signs of being unwell. The health and safety of our community is our priority.

The CEDP has advised that further information will be provided to schools as it becomes available.

Detailed information about COVID-19 is available on the World Health Organisation website.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together in response to this important issue.

God Bless Patricia



CROSS COUNTRY

A great day was had by all, thank you to all our Parent/Carer Volunteers





SAY CHEESE!



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

St John's Primary Riverstone

School Photography Date: 8/05/2020 (NOTE NEW DATE)

SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER CODE: TMX EXY KJ8

SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER LINK:

<https://www.advancedimage.com.au/keycode/keycodefinder.aspx?keycode=TMXEXYKJ8>

Dear Parents and Carers,

School photography day is coming up very soon. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link above or by using the envelope provided.

(Envelopes will be sent home soon)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- School photos purchased online **DO NOT** require envelopes returned to school
- Don't forget to order your sibling photos now, if your school is offering sibling photos*
- **Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day**
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken
- Past years' photographs including sports, co-curricular and representative groups available at school's **advancedorder** site (follow the link above) and your child's **advancedyou** photo site

*Sibling photographs must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. A photograph will not be taken without an order. Sibling photographs can only be taken of children enrolled at the school. **Please note:** Sibling photographs are not offered at all schools.

advancedlife would like to express our appreciation to St John's Primary Riverstone for placing your trust in us. Please remember we offer a 100% money-back guarantee on our products, for your peace of mind, and are also here to resolve any issues you may experience to ensure your satisfaction. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your **advancedlife** experience, please contact us at: enquiries@advancedlife.com.au



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendar of Events

What's Coming Up

06-09 Apr

Holy Week (for students & staff only)

09th Apr

Last Day Term One

10th Apr

Good Friday

12th Apr

Easter Sunday

27th Apr

First Day Term Two (Students return in summer uniform)

08th May

WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY (NOTE NEW DATE)

11th May

Students wear winter uniform

Cashless Schools

This year CEDP has implemented new policies around the taking of payment within CEDP Schools and have asked that cash payments be eliminated

As a result we have incorporated most of the students regular planned activities for the year within the school based fees for 2020

While this doesn't apply to fundraising events, snack shack or our second hand uniform shop we ask that you pay for these items with the correct denominations whenever possible as change may not be available

EFTPOS facilities are available to parents and carers at the school office and over the phone (not available for snack shack purchases)

We thank you for your cooperation.



Helping Your child with Mental Maths calculations

Mental calculations that we carry out each day, we do in our heads. With some calculations we may use pen and paper or a calculator on our phones.

When we watch sport we carry out mental calculations on our heads. How many more points are needed to win ? Does our team have enough time left to score the winning points ?

Travelling, sharing a bill, shopping, playing sport or games all involve mental calculations.

So how do children do mental calculations?

Children begin by counting things they can see, and using objects to add and subtract. Through practice children begin to think of ways to add and subtract without having to use objects. One of the early ways in which children learn to add two numbers mentally is to start with the larger number and count on by ones to add the second number. As children begin to deal with larger numbers, they develop a range of ways other than counting by ones.

For example, to find the answer to $25 + 89$, children could :

- Make the 89 up to 90, then add 10 and then 14
- Add 20 and 80 to make 100, then add 9 and 5, then add 100 and 14
- Add 10 twice to 89 then add 5 more.

One of the interesting things about mental calculations is that we do not all think the same way.

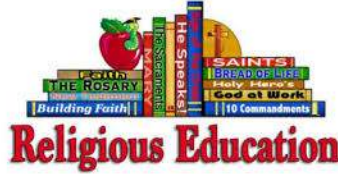
The NSW Mathematics curriculum contains working mathematically outcomes for each stage of learning. As part of these outcomes children learn about using a range of mental strategies when calculating as well as explaining how they worked out their answers to problems.

What can you do at home?

- Ask your child how he or she mentally worked out the answer to a question.
- Ask your child to work out how much change he or she will get when paying for an item at the shops.
- Encourage your child to estimate the cost of two items when shopping.

When playing games with two dice, replace dot dice with ones that have numbers on them.

Judith Murphy Assistant Principal



Lenten Reflection from the Diocese

"I only know that I was blind and now I see." John 9:25



Generous and gracious God, at times I can be blind to the path that You ask me to follow. Open my eyes so that they may reflect the goodness of Your love. Let my eyes feel with mercy and compassion. Let my eyes understand with wisdom and acceptance. Let my eyes be Your healing presence. Amen

Are we always open to what God wants of us?

Do we take the opportunity during this Lenten season to think about the choices we make and the effect they have on others?

Do we make the time to Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and turn back to God who is always there waiting for us.

I would like to take this opportunity in advance to thank you for your support with Project Compassion.

Even a small amount can make a difference in someone's life. We will collect the Project Compassion Boxes back in the last week of school on Monday 6 April 2020. If your project compassion box is already full you can return it and if you would like a second box, this can be given to you.



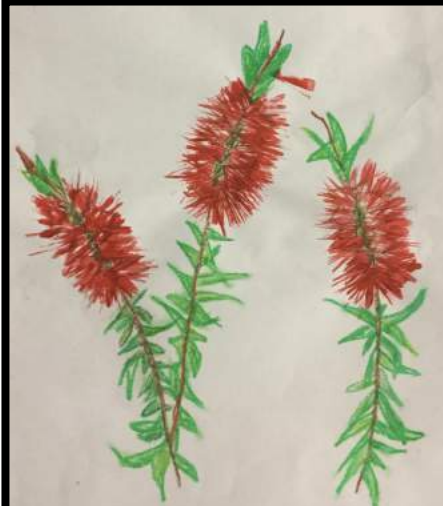
*God Bless
Kim Roffman REC*



STAGE THREE

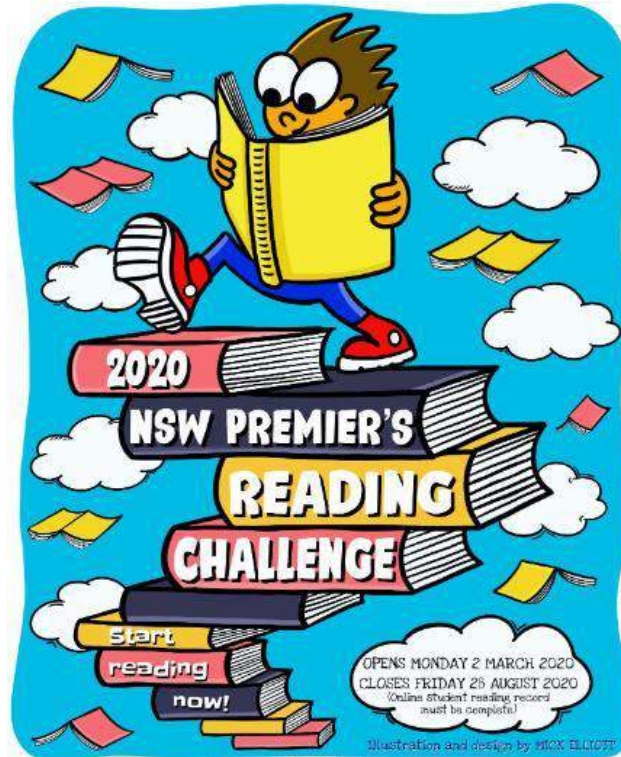
Creative Arts

Students from Stage 3 are learning to investigate Australian Identity through the natural environment, by drawing and painting a bottle brush to represent likeness of things in the world. To create the art work they used various techniques to complete the pictures. Students enjoyed these techniques, they painted the bottle brush on the school mural.





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www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



**OVERDUE
BOOKS NEED TO
BE RETURNED
ASAP**

**Back to the
LIBRARY!**



PLEASE!

Mrs Abbott



REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child needs to be administered medication at school (this includes any over the counter medications/creams), Parents/Carers are required to complete a '**Request to Administer Medication at School**' form completed and signed by the prescribing doctor (or a separate letter from the doctor can be submitted to the school office. The letter must state the child's name, class, type of medication, dose and the time it needs to be administered and be signed and dated by the doctor.

All medication must be in it's original labelled container.

'Request to Administer Medication at School' forms can be collected from the school office.

WE STILL HAVE A NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED THEIR UPDATED ASTHMA ACTION PLANS FOR 2020. THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE SENT INTO THE OFFICE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

PARENTS/CARERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT ALL MEDICATION IS KEPT IN DATE AND THE OFFICE HAS A READY SUPPLY AT ALL TIMES

Thank you for your continued support

ST JOHN'S

the  of the **COMMUNITY**



SCHOOL FEES

Accounts have now been generated and mailed out to all parents by CEDP. All 'Flexible Payment Plan' forms should have been returned to the CEDP by the 6th March 2020.

For Families not on a payment plan, Installment 1 fee's are due by 18th March 2020

Any questions or concerns please contact Natalie in the school office on 02 9854 3200

SCHOOL FEES SIBLING DISCOUNTS

RECONCILIATIONS TO EXTERNAL SIBLING DISCOUNTS ARE CONDUCTED BY CEDP. IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE IN REGARDS TO SIBLING DISCOUNTS PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD RESULT IN A INCREASE IN FEES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND YOUR CURRENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT MAY NOT COVER THE BALANCE OF YOUR ACCOUNT.

ADVICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF ENROLMENT

Please note that under the School Fees Policy as set out by the Catholic Education Office Parramatta:

"A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.

One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment, that is, the notice period of 10 weeks will be waived in this circumstance."



AWARDS

Values Award

Term 1 Weeks 5 & 6

Stewardship



Olivia Bickford ES1, Chloe Ord & Oliver Lopez Stage 1, Jelena Filipovic & Sofia Maggio
Stage 2, Amelia Bennett & Hope Gibson Stage 3

Merit Award

Isaac Rewi ES1, Abigail Yeo & Avi Menon Stage 1, Tristan Fletcher & Lucas Beazley
Stage 2, Alisha Xerri Stage 3

Principals Award

Rachel Song ES1, Sienna Kimes Stage 1, Danica Vaz Stage 2 & Angelia Bird Stage 3







every learner
every day 








St John's Primary School Riverstone

School Attendance Level %

 78.7 %

Scholastic Year

School Year Attendance Level %

Kindergarten	 81.3%
Year 1	 91.7%
Year 2	 67.2%
Year 3	 89.0%
Year 4	 84.6%
Year 5	 70.0%
Year 6	 67.8%

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



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 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.*



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 YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. Note, signed and dated sent with your child
2. Skoolbag app
3. Email the school at riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au
4. Telephone the school office on 02 9854 3200 (office staff must be able to verify the caller)

All explanations to the school must be provided within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence.

This is a legal requirement.

every learner
every day 

KISS AND DROP SAFETY TIPS

- Always drop-off at the designated drop-off zone and follow the schools procedures.
- Drivers must remain in their vehicles at all times.
- **Make sure all children exit the vehicle from the drivers side passenger door only, (door closest to the teacher on duty).**
- No student should be walking behind or in-front of their vehicle.
- Make sure the handbrake is applied when the vehicle is stationary.
- All children 12 years and under are not permitted to sit in the front seat of the vehicle unless the back seats are fully occupied.
- Avoid dangerous maneuvers such as u-turns and 3 point turns.
- All passengers under 7 must be in an approved child restraint.
- To ensure correct and safe installation of your child car seat, contact an Authorised Restraint Fitting Station.

THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY IS PARAMOUNT



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COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or principal, to find a resolution for your concern.

It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience for our staff.

If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly.

Information about how to lodge a complaint and a complaint form are available from the school office or in the Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures.

These documents can be accessed on the CEDP website
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

**SECONDHAND
UNIFORM SHOP
TRADING HOURS**
**CLOSED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**



**Lunch orders are
available on
Monday's and
Friday's from Sam's
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 RED lunch order baskets located in the under-croft.

Orders need to be in the boxes by 8.50am

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

*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 contacts at anytime***

*PLEASE FORWARD ANY CHANGES/UPDATES IN
WRITING TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE SO YOUR
CHILD RECORDS CAN BE AMENDED. YOU CAN
ALSO PICK-UP A FORM FROM THE SCHOOL
OFFICE*

Thank you for your support



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.



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

SkoolBag



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



The Evangelist

SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP

REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

MORNING DROP OFF

MORNING SUPERVISION COMMENCES AT 8.20 AM.

PARENTS AND CARERS ARE ASKED TO REMAIN WITH THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN UNTIL THIS TIME AND NOT TO LEAVE THEM UNATTENDED WAITING AT THE SCHOOL GATES.

WE ALSO ASK THAT PARENTS DO NOT PARK OR WALK THROUGH THE STAFF CAR PARK.

IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER THE MORNING BELL, PARENTS/CARERS MUST ACCOMPANY THEIR CHILD TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO SIGN THEM IN (STUDENTS NOT SIGNED IN BY A PARENT ARE CONSIDERED 'A PARTIAL UNEXPLAINED' AND THIS WILL BE REFLECTED ON THEIR SCHOOL REPORT)

AFTERNOON PICK UP

PARENTS ARE ASKED TO WAIT IN THE UNDER CROFT BETWEEN THE CANTEEN AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE TO COLLECT THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN FOR AFTERNOON PICK UP.

STUDENTS ARE DISMISSED FROM THE BLUE AREA IN FRONT OF THE HALL AT 2.50 PM.

IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WILL BE LATE FOR PICK UP.

IF WORK COMMITMENTS PREVENT YOU FROM PICKING YOUR CHILD UP ON TIME, PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE.

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

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