



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 3

Wednesday 9th February 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,



Next Wednesday (17th February) the students will participate in St John's Ash Wednesday liturgy. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church's season of Lent. The season of Lent lasts for forty days and ends with the season of Easter, the most important time in the Church's year.

Lent is a special time of penance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving for Catholics.

Through **penance** we have the opportunity to think about the choices that we make and when we participate in the Sacrament of Penance we seek forgiveness for our wrongdoings.

Through **prayer** we prepare for Easter and Jesus' Resurrection by taking time out of our lives to talk to and become closer to God; to enrich our relationship.

When we **fast** we are reminded of the many people in the world that live without enough food for good health, and live without adequate clothing and shelter.

By giving **alms** (money, food or other donations) we show our commitment to justice and take real action to make life better for our brothers and sisters who need our help.

The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us that we are truly human and we do make mistakes. We are called to repent, to turn away from selfishness and to turn to the promise of new life. When we gather we ask for forgiveness for our weaknesses and we pray for the strength to become better and more compassionate people.

Shrove Tuesday also known as Pancake Day, is observed the day before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the last day on which those who observe Lent can enjoy richer foods before abstaining from them if they choose to. Next Tuesday our children will have the opportunity to observe Shrove Tuesday by partaking in some pancakes at recess. Parents / carers are asked to return the Pancake pre-order form along with money (50 cents for 2 pancakes) that was sent home yesterday.

Beginning of Year Mass

St John's Beginning of Year Mass will take place on Wednesday 17th February. As we are required to adhere to the COVID safe plan for Churches we will be restricting the number of participants at the Mass to Stage 3, Stage 2 and SRC representatives from each class. As it is tradition that our student leaders are inducted into their leadership role we are inviting their parents / guardians to be part of the commissioning ceremony. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite other members of our school community.



Welcome Liturgy for Kindergarten

Welcome to
Kindergarten!

As we are not permitted to welcome our Kindergarten children to St John's community during our Beginning of Year Mass a special liturgy is being planned. Details will be published at a later date.



St John's Snack Shack - Mrs Belinda Murray (Snack Shack Coordinator) would like to have your support in providing a valuable service to our students. We need your help; we need parents and caregivers to volunteer to work in our snack shack. I refer you to Belinda's letter that was sent home on Monday and ask you to complete the volunteer form and return it to school. All volunteers must complete the 'Undertaking form and Training Module' a help sheet was also sent home on Monday. Visit <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>

Family Name Cards for Parent Pick-up

Please look for your Family Name Card that will be coming home today.

Parents and Carers are asked to please use this card when they pick-up their child/children in the afternoon.

Please use this card so the teacher on duty can clearly see your family name when you are waiting in the pick-up area.

Your support is very much appreciated to ensure a smooth pick-up process, thank you.

CYBERBULLYING WEBINAR

I would like to remind parents and carers that the CEDP webinar sessions on cyberbullying commences this week

eSafety's parent guide to cyberbullying and online drama

- Wednesday 10 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 10 February 7.30 to 8.30 pm
- Monday 15 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm
- Monday 22 March 12.30 to 1.30 pm

This live webinar will include case studies, research and targeted advice so you can support the young people in your life to have safe, enjoyable online experiences. All sessions are delivered by the eSafety Commission's expert educators.

What you need to do

Please register for the course via the eSafety Commissions website via the following link:

- February 2020 - March 2020 sessions - [link to register](#) or via <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>

I encourage all our parents / carers to take advantage of this opportunity.

God Bless Patricia



AT ST JOHN'S

To begin our Learning Journey in 2021 at St John's we are focusing on

Growing Our Brains and developing a Growth Mindset

We are all learning to become more **positive, persistent and capable** learners.

We invite all of our community to join in this focus with us.

The following guide will help you to support your children at home and reinforce the learning at school.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO A GROWTH MINDSET

*Your brain is like a muscle. When you learn, your brain grows.
The feeling of it being hard is the feeling of your brain growing!*



PRAISE



FOR:

- EFFORT
- STRATEGIES
- PROGRESS
- HARD WORK
- PERSISTENCE

- RISING TO A CHALLENGE
- LEARNING FROM A MISTAKE

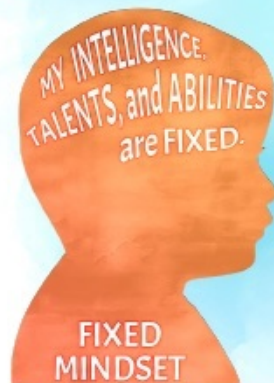
NOT FOR

- TALENT
- BEING SMART
- BORN GIFTED
- FIXED ABILITIES
- NOT MAKING MISTAKES

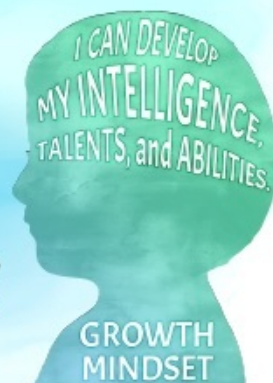
THE POWER OF "YET" SAY

- "YOU CAN'T DO IT YET."
- "YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET."
- "IF YOU LEARN AND PRACTICE, YOU WILL!"

BRAINS can GROW



VS



FAILURES AND MISTAKES = LEARNING

SAY

- "MISTAKES HELP YOU IMPROVE."
- "YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES."
- "LET'S SEE WHAT OTHER STRATEGIES YOU CAN TRY."

RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN MINDSET

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR OWN THINKING AND THE MESSAGES YOU SEND WITH YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.



ASK

- "WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY THAT MADE YOU THINK HARD?"
- "WHAT NEW STRATEGIES DID YOU TRY?"
- "WHAT MISTAKE DID YOU MAKE THAT TAUGHT YOU SOMETHING?"
- "WHAT DID YOU TRY THAT WAS HARD TODAY?"



SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP TERM 1

MORNING SUPERVISION COMMENCES AT 8.20 AM and AFTERNOON PICK-UP IS AT 2.50 PM

PARENTS AND CARERS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR AFTERNOON PICK-UP

PARENTS / CARERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARK OR WALK THROUGH THE STAFF CAR PARK

Drop off and pick up areas (A - K) - (L - Z) maintained

A - K students are to be dropped off and picked up at the Front Gate (McCulloch Street) and L - Z Back Gate (Parish Carpark)

Any students that arrive late will need to be dropped off at the pedestrian gate on McCulloch Street and signed in by their parent/carer (A partial absence will be recorded)

STRICTLY NO ACCESS THROUGH THE TOP GATE (PARISH CAR PARK) BETWEEN 8.50am and 2.50pm

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