



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 4 Week 9

Thursday 2nd December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,



We are now in the Church Season of Advent. Advent means 'Coming in Latin. Its purpose is to prepare for and look forward to the coming of Christ at Christmas. The four weeks of Advent is a time of prayer and reflection; remembering the real meaning of Christmas. Hopefully, this year, we all have the opportunity for family and friends to be together to prepare for and celebrate this most holy and joyous event together. Through prayer we can enter into God's presence and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way he prepared history to receive the gift of His Son. I would like to advise that this year (again) we will be able to hold our traditional Christmas concert. Students and teachers will prepare a special Christmas message that will be shared with their families. On Friday 10th December the students and teacher of St John's will participate in a 'Christmas Colour Day' to mark the significant events of the Christmas Season. Further details will be sent home next week.



Announcement of Student School Captains for 2022

It is with great pleasure I announce St John's

Senior Student Leaders for 2022:

Sophia Maggio – School Captain

Jyugaad Aujla – School Captain

Pippa Wood - Student representative Council Leader

Jacob Bennett - Sports Captain

Ryan Bentley - Sports Captain

Lucas Beazley - Sports Captain

On behalf of the school community I congratulate these deserving students on being elected by their peers and teachers for this significant leadership role.

All leaders will be formally commissioned at the welcoming Mass in 2022.



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal



Every year we are humbled by the generosity of our families in their donations to our Christmas Appeal. I thank you for your donations of food items for our Christmas hampers. The baskets in each classroom and staffroom are quite full. We will continue to collect items, particularly Christmas treats to the end of Week 10. The hampers will be presented to St John's St Vincent de Paul member (Helena) to be distributed to those in need in our parish community in week 11.



Kindergarten 2022 Transition

It was a wonderful experience to welcome next year's kindergarten children to St John's last Wednesday as part of our transition program. Our transition program was modified again this year due to COVID safe protocols. However, we were able to have children in small groups visit their 2022 learning space and meet with their teachers. They all enjoyed their visit to big school.

God Bless, Patricia

SPORTS NEWS

Athletics Carnival Announcement

Congratulations to the following students who have received age champion for their effort in our Athletics Carnival in Term 2. Each of these students will be presented with a medallion next week to celebrate their achievement.

JNR BOYS - Giovanni Galati

JNR GIRLS - Breanna Xerri and Mia Alingasa

11yr BOYS - Ashton Goodwin and 11yr GIRLS - Danica Vaz

SNR BOYS - Naethan Joseph and SNR GIRLS - Amelia Bennett



From all your wonderful efforts with our track and field events it gives me great pleasure to announce the winning house for 2021 is.....

EAGLES



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Season of Advent

The First Sunday of Advent was on 28 November 2021. The season of Advent is a time of preparation and waiting for the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ. The symbols of advent are the advent wreath and candles.

The wreath is Circular - meaning without beginning or end. It symbolises God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Green of the Wreath symbolises Our hope of newness, renewal and eternal life.

The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles (3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white) which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world's Savior—from Adam and Eve to Jesus, whose birth was foretold in the Old Testament.

The Light from the Candles symbolises the Light of God that came into the world through Christ to bring newness, life and hope.

The first Candle that is lit is the prophets candle - purple in colour. This candle symbolises Hope reminding us that Jesus is coming.

Gospel reading Lk:21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.



Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sacrament of Communion

On the weekend of the 20th and 21st of November, students from Stage 2 received the Eucharist for the first time. As a community we pray that they will continue to be nourished spiritually by receiving the Eucharist regularly. The students who received the Sacrament were **Giovanni Galati, Manny DeGuzman, Jamie Hartz, Jelena Filipovic, Sienna Maggio, Elizabeth O'Neill, Breanna Xerri, Jacinta Bird, Kreios Luna, Gillean Eisma.**



Sacrament of Confirmation

On Tuesday 30th November, Students from Stage 3 received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is the last Sacrament of Initiation. At this Sacrament the students received the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit - **wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.** We pray that they will continue to use these gifts in their own lives and share these with others so that they can continue to bring the Church alive to all they meet. The students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation were **Sofia Maggio, Danica Vaz, Shaun Tolmie, Ryan Bentley and Xygelle Aguila.**





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

During this year of uncertainty, we pray that we will take the time out to prepare for the birth of our Saviour by spending time in prayer getting ourselves ready spirituality for his coming. We pray that we will be at peace with each other and think about those less fortunate than ourselves at this time. The students and teachers have been adding to our Christmas hampers for St. Vincent de Paul. Please keep the Christmas donations coming in.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kindness and support in my role as Religious Education Coordinator. I have really enjoyed my time at St John's working with such a great community who are very giving in every aspect of the word. Take care and I wish you all a blessed Christmas and new year.

Mrs Kim Roffmann Religious Education



DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS

Kiss and Drop-Morning

All parents and carers are required to use the 'kiss and drop' zone which is set up in the parish carpark for morning drop-off (A-Z FAMILIES)

For those parents/carers who prefer to walk their child/children to school or park in McCulloch or Wood Street and walk with their child/children you are required to bring the child/children to the front gate. This gate will be left open for students to enter. Parents/Carers are reminded students are only to enter the school site. Parents are not permitted to congregate in front of or near the school.

Student Pick-up – Afternoon (Parish Carpark) (L – Z families only)

1. Parents / carers are to park their vehicle in the parish carpark and proceed to the collection area by foot holding their family name tag. This area will be marked out with coloured witches' hats.
2. Teachers on duty will call for your child to move to the exit gate to meet their parent / carer. This gate is situated nearer the church. Your family name card must be displayed.
3. Once your child/children have been collected parents/carers are to return to their vehicle and exit the carpark immediately.

Please be advised that parents / carers are not permitted to congregate in the carpark and must maintain social distancing. It is strongly recommended that parents/carers wear masks as all our parents may not be fully vaccinated at this time.

Student Pick-up – Afternoon (Front Gate) (A – K families only)

1. Parents / carers are to park their vehicle in Woods Street and enter through the front gate.
Parents / carers do not need to use the QR code on entry.
2. Parents / carers are to assemble in the staff carpark in the designated area to collect their child/children. Your family name card must be displayed.

Please note that parents / carers must not congregate at the front of the school and physical distancing must be maintained. It is strongly recommended that parents/carers wear masks as all our parents may not be fully vaccinated at this time.

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