



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone
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Term 1 Week 10


Thursday 31st March 2022

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week Miss Murphy and I have started to meet with the children who will be enrolling in Kindergarten in 2023. Unfortunately we had to make the difficult decision to hold these meetings via zoom. It has been an absolute delight to meet with new families over zoom and to answer the questions they have about our beautiful school. I remember very clearly the day I went to my own son's kindergarten interview. I was so nervous, hoping that he would say and do the right things - knowing full well that this wasn't the purpose of the meeting. It is hard to believe that he is now in Year 12 and the interviews I am attending with him now are about his future once he finishes school. We have attended some open days and apprenticeship expos and I find it very hard to hold back and not ask the questions for him. I am sure all parents have the same feelings, whether their child is at the start of their school journey or at the end, it is still important to us that our children will feel safe and supported each day.

I know I speak for all the teachers when I say that it is important to us that your children are feeling happy and confident at school. This term has thrown us many challenges. We have faced school closures and covid exposures that have resulted in both staff and student absences. All of the staff, both teaching and ancillary staff, have done a fantastic job of trying to ensure continuity of learning for all the children. Last week we had a spot audit and the team commended the hard work that the staff have done to ensure outcomes were being met, despite the challenges faced this year.

Thank you very much to all of the amazing staff at St John's. 

We look forward to the opportunity for our families to join us next week as we share **Holy Week celebrations** with our community. This will start with our **Easter Hat parade** for all children on **Monday 4 April commencing at 10.15am**, followed by a picnic morning tea (weather permitting). We will then move onto our prayer liturgies to be held across the week. The times for these are outlined below. All are welcome to attend. We are encouraging the children to be reverent and respectful during these liturgies so as to make this time meaningful and prayerful. Your support and role modelling is appreciated.

As this is the last newsletter for this term I know that you will join me in wishing all of our staff a happy and holy Easter and a relaxing break. We hope with all of our hearts that next term we will be able to settle into the routines of school without the continued disruptions.

I would also like to thank all of our families for your support both for myself and for all of the staff this term. We appreciate that it has also been a difficult time for families, especially those who have faced weeks of isolation due to being household contacts. I pray that you have a safe and happy Easter break and that you are able to enjoy the company of family and friends. I will be travelling to Western Australia during the break to spend Easter with my family. Like many of you, we have not all been together for two and a half years, so it is a much anticipated time.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Wednesday 27 April.



May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear.

And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

— Author Unknown

Have a peaceful and blessed week

Jane Misek

Principal.



A Message from the Assistant Principal

EMC3 Sequences

Over the last few weeks, we have welcomed Mrs Kathryn Salkeld to St John's. Kathryn is a Numeracy Teacher Educator for Catholic Education- Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) and works to support the ongoing professional development of our staff. This year, our school has been fortunate to be chosen to begin working on a new professional learning project:

EMC3. EMC3 is a project funded by the Australian Research Council that explores the "impact of sequences of connected, cumulative, and challenging tasks, which build a trajectory of consolidated learning, on student learning and teacher knowledge.

The EMC3 project aims to enhance the cognitive and affective experiences of students when learning mathematics, with the intention of improving learning outcomes." (EMC3, 2022)

The body of research is evidence based, and the following highly qualified professionals have worked to develop a series of teaching sequences to connect, cumulate and challenge children in the area of Numeracy.

They include: Emeritus Professor Peter Sullivan (Monash University), Professor Janette Bobis (The University of Sydney), Dr Ann Downton (Monash University), Dr Sharyn Livy (Monash University) and Dr James Russo (Monash University)

More information about this research project can be found here: <https://www.emc3mathsteaching.com>

This week, under the guidance of Mrs Salkeld, staff began the EMC3 journey, initially familiarising themselves with the project, sequences and professional reading.

Over the coming weeks, we hope to implement our learning to support the ongoing learning outcomes for all children. This will also be the focus of our Staff Development Day on Tuesday 26 April.

Have a great week,

Miss Judith Murphy.





A Message from the Religious Education Coordinator

Holy Week Timetable

Next week, Week 11, the students at St John's will be remembering the events of Holy Week through whole school prayer. Parents are invited to join our community at any of the events listed in the timetable below.

Each of the events commences at approximately 9.00am.

Tuesday 5th April 9am - Palm Sunday - Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. **Led by Early Stage One.**

Wednesday 6th April 9am - Holy Thursday - Jesus washes his disciples feet, institutes the Eucharist and prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. **Led by Stage One.**

Friday 8th April 9am - Good Friday - The death and burial of Jesus. **Led by Stage 3.**

Friday 29th April 9am (Term 2 Week 1) - **Stage 2** will be leading the school in a celebration of Easter and Jesus' resurrection.

Project Compassion.

Thank you to students who have already returned their Project Compassion boxes. Boxes may be returned either this term or in Week 1 of Term 2.

Philip Margerison
Religious Education Coordinator.

From Our Leader of Learning

We continue to focus on the important part that *Reading* plays in the overall development of each child.

Sharing stories, talking and singing every day helps your child's development in many ways. Reading and sharing stories can:

- help your child get to know sounds, words and language, and develop early literacy skills
- learn to value books and stories
- spark your child's imagination and stimulate curiosity
- help develop your child's brain, ability to focus, concentration, social skills and communication skills
- help your child learn the difference between 'real' and 'make-believe'
- help your child understand new or frightening events, and the strong emotions that come with them
- help your child learn about the world, their own culture and other cultures.

By looking at books and reading to and with your child as well as talking about books with them, you can be a good model for using language and books. *Reading stories with children has benefits for grown-ups too.* It is a special time which helps to build your relationship with your child.

Pauline Berry
Leader of Learning.





Staff Development Days 2022

TERM ONE - Friday 28th January and Monday 31st January 2022

TERM TWO - Tuesday 26th April 2022

TERM THREE - TBC

TERM FOUR- Monday 19th December and Tuesday 20th December 2022



Term Dates - Students return for Term 2 on Wednesday 27th April 2022. As the weather can still be warm in May, next term students may return in either their full winter uniform or full summer uniform. All students must wear full winter uniform from Monday 16th May 2022 (Term 2 Week 4)

School Fees - School Fees have now been issued via mail from the Catholic Education Office. Please contact Miss Natalie Hurst (school finance officer) should you wish to discuss your fees or make a payment plan.

Communication from School - To keep up to date with the latest news and important announcements parents and carers are advised to install the skoolbag app on your mobile devices. Subscribers are reminded to select the class/classes their children are in this year to receive specific notifications for that particular class. This needs to be updated at the beginning of each year to ensure you are receiving the notifications for your child/children's class. General notifications are received by all subscribers. For more information visit skoolbag.com.au

Qkr! Preferred Payment Method - Moving forward our school will be cashless, please refer to the instructions on Skoolbag on how to download the Qkr! App to make school purchases. If you require assistance please contact the school office, thank you.

Lunch Orders - Children are able to place a lunch order on Monday's & Friday's. Please write your child's name, stage and order on a lunch bag with the correct money enclosed.

Second hand Uniform Shop - The uniform shop will open on Wednesday 4th May 2022 from 8.30am (Term 2 Week 2)

Enrolling Now for 2023



If you have a child ready to start school next year, now is the time to submit your application and supporting documents. Visit our website www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au to download the forms.

ENROL > ENROL NOW > DOWNLOAD ENROLMENT FORM A, CONSENT FORM B & NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION FORM C.

We encourage families with siblings at the school to submit their application as soon as possible to secure a position. Enrollments close on Thursday 31st March 2022.

Completed applications and supporting documents can be emailed to riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au or dropped off at the school office. Original copies of all supporting documentation will need to be verified.



School Photo Day POSTPONED to Monday 20th June 2022

School Photo Day - All online payments will be transferred to the new date. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link below or by returning the order envelope with your payment to our photographer on school photo day. **NEW** Advancedlife now offers Latitude Pay! To take advantage of LatitudePay and split the cost of your order into 10 small easy payments, simply order your school photos online as usual, set up a Latitude Pay account in just a few clicks and pay no interest or fees when you pay according to your payment schedule; it's that easy.

3 easy ways to purchase:

LatitudePay– Using the link below, set up an account during the online order process and split your payments across 10 weeks with no interest or fees, if you pay on time.

Visa, MasterCard or PayPal.

Cash– complete the envelope supplied and return it to our photographer on photo day.

Or visit: www.advancedlife.com.au

And enter online order code: TMX EXY KJ8

Work Health and Safety Reminders

Building Child Safe Communities

Undertaking Form and Training Module for Volunteers

At St John's we see parents as partners in your child's educational experience. Parents are encouraged to become involved in our school in a variety of ways such as canteen helpers, coaches of sporting teams, supporting classroom learning, providing general assistance around the school and much much more.

We are looking forward to being able to welcome Parents and Carers back onto our school site and invite you to complete the Undertaking Form and Training Module for Volunteers by visiting: <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>

Go to **About Us/Building Child Safe Communities**



COVID 19 Back to School Safety

A reminder that if your child tests positive to COVID-19, it's important to let the school know as soon as possible and to notify NSW Health through the Service NSW App. For safety, schools will also be monitoring students' health and asking families to collect students who display COVID-19 symptoms. If they display any symptoms they should take a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or a PCR test. If the test is negative but symptoms continue, your child **MUST** stay home and take another RAT or PCR test in 24 hours. Please note that if there is a case of COVID-19 in your child's class, year or other grouping, your child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms, in line with NSW Health advice.

What if someone at home has COVID-19? If there is a case of COVID-19 in your household, it's important that all family members follow the close contact rules and self-isolate for seven days. Please let the school know of the absence and when it is expected they will be able to return.

2022 St John's Parish Riverstone Youth Group

All school-aged children and their parents are invited to attend a get-together for the Youth Group. Fun activities for both children their parents. You are most welcome to bring a friend.

6pm in the Church Hall on these Fridays: 18 Mar, 22 Apr, May 20, 17 Jun, 19 Aug, 16 Sept, 21 Oct and 18 Nov (Christmas Party)





Driving and parking safely in and around school

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and vehicles outside the school. That's why you need to take extra care in 40km/h school zones.

- **Park safely and legally, even if it means walking further to the school gate. Parking signs are planned with children's safety in mind.**
- **Slow down to 40km/h in the school zone and stay aware of crossings.**
- **Always park and turn legally around the school.**
- **Never double park as it puts children at risk.**
- **Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous.**
- **Never park in a bus zone or in the school bus bay.**
- **Make sure your children use the Safety Door (rear footpath side door) to get in and out of the car.**
- **At a supervised crossing, observe the directions of the school crossing supervisor.**
- **Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child – they will learn from you.**



Remember to always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways. Don't park across the school driveway or the entrance to the school car park. It's always a good idea to use the drop off and pick up area suggested by your school. This will help keep all children as safe as possible during the busiest times of the school day.

School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765

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www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Jane Misek

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