



# The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

Ph: (02) 9854 3200

E: [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au)

## Term 1 Week 3

### Thursday 10th February 2022

#### ***A Message from the Principal***

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to the 2022 school year. It has been so wonderful to see all of our children back onsite and learning. I have been made to feel very welcome at St Johns by everyone, and it has been great to finally be here and meet the children. While school is not completely back to what we might consider normal, we are extremely grateful that we are able to all be back here together, even if together means that for the first few weeks we are staying in our Stage groups. Thank you to all of the staff who worked over the holidays to prepare for the children's return, creating welcoming and calm learning spaces. I know that they have many exciting learning experiences planned for the children throughout the term.

We extend a very special welcome to all of our new Kindergarten students. They have all settled very quickly into the routines of our school day. We look forward to working with each one of them as they grow in their learning and faith throughout the year.

We welcome our children who are new to other grades across the school. I have had the opportunity to meet many of them while out on duty this week and have assured them that I know how nervous you can feel when starting a new school. It has been heartwarming to see how everyone in our community has reached out to welcome them.

We also welcome our new Religious Education Coordinator Mr Phil Margerison. Mr Margerison comes to St John's with a wealth of experience from across the Parramatta Diocese and we look forward to working together throughout the year to enhance the learning, prayer and faith life of our school.

Finally I know I speak on behalf of all of our staff when I say that we are excited about working in partnership with each of you, our parents and carers, to ensure the very best outcomes for all of the children in our care. It is important that we are able to have trust in each other and that we each acknowledge the important role that we all play in building the educational and spiritual foundations for our children's future. If you have any questions or concerns at any time or if you feel that there is important information that could support your child at school please contact us via the school email address, [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Dear Lord,

*We pray for all of our children as they begin the school year,*

*Bless them with the joy and excitement of meeting new friends and experiencing new learning.*

*Help us to always work together to develop in our children a love of learning, a love of life and a love for each other.*

*Grant us, teachers, parents and carers, the wisdom, patience and energy to support them in the journey. Amen*

Wishing you a peaceful week,

Jane Misek





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## ***A Message from the Assistant Principal***

Welcome back to 2022. It has been fantastic to see the smiling faces of the children as they arrived at school last week. I have heard many parents and carers ask their children “what did you do today ?” after school.

Some children have an enthusiastic and long response while other students shrug their shoulders and find it hard to talk about their day. Talking and listening are important life long skills for children that take time and practice. The website <https://raisingchildren.net.au/> offers the following helpful tips to support parents/carers talking with their child about school.

### **Strategies for talking about school with your child**

‘How was school?’ is a big question. To answer, your child has to sum up a whole day, and that’s hard for children (and even adults!) to do.

You can just let your child know that you’re glad to see them, and talk about non-school topics for a while. Younger children will probably also like unpacking their bags and going through any notes before you ask about school.

Every afternoon or evening will be different. Even if your child usually likes to share their day with you, there’ll be days when they don’t want to talk. Sometimes it’s a matter of sensing your child’s mood and picking the right moment. Some days there might not be a right moment at all, and that’s OK.

Simple, positive and specific questions about parts of the day can get your child talking. It’s good to use questions that invite more than a ‘yes’, ‘no’ or ‘OK’ response.

For example:

- What’s the news from school today?
- What was fun?
- What did you like best at school today?
- What does your classroom look like at the moment?
- What did you do in class after recess?
- Who did you sit next to at lunchtime today?
- What subjects did you do today?



Talking with your child about the school day shows you’re interested in what’s going on in their life. This interest boosts your child’s mental health, happiness and wellbeing. It can also have a very positive effect on your child’s behaviour and achievement. It shows your child that you value school and education, which encourages them to value it too.

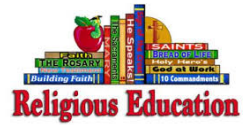
And talking about school issues – like school projects or friendship problems – is also a great chance for you to express your family values about things like teamwork, respect for self and others, friendships, relationships, problem-solving and so on. If your child is having problems at school , you are encouraged to contact their teacher.

When you’re in touch with your child’s feelings about school, you’re more likely to see problems before they get too big. This way the school staff, children and parents/carers can work on overcoming challenges together.

*Have a good week, Miss Judith Murphy.*



## ***A Message from the Religious Education Coordinator***



Dear Parents and Carers, I thought I would take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Phil Margerison and I am so pleased to join the community here at St John's. I have been teaching for 25 years and in that time I have been the Religious Education Coordinator at five schools as well as spending three years on the Mission team at the Catholic Education Office in Parramatta.

The faith development of the children of the Diocese has been a passion of mine and I hope to bring new learnings and opportunities to the children of this wonderful school. Having only been here for just over a week, I have not had the opportunity to meet many of your children but those I have met have been most welcoming.

### **Opening School Mass**

Next **Thursday 17th February 2022 at 11:30 am** we will be celebrating our Opening School Mass. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions, only Stage 3 students will be attending this Mass. At this Mass our student leaders will be installed and receive their leadership badges. Parents and Carers of Stage 3 students are invited to attend this Mass which will be celebrated in the Church. A separate note has been sent home regarding this. Please be assured that once restrictions are eased we will celebrate another Mass to welcome all of our children, families and teachers back to school.



### **Parish Sacramental Program for 2022**

Finally, a reminder for those who have children in Stage 2 and Stage 3. Last week we sent home, and posted on Skoolbag, details of the **Parish Sacramental Program for 2022**. If you did not get the details, please contact me through the school office and I will arrange for your child to be provided with the information. Please note: enrolment forms for the Sacramental Program are only available by talking to Father after weekend Masses, this is something different from previous years.

*Philip Margerison REC.*

## ***A Message from the Leader of Learning***

### ***Beginning Year Assessments***



At the start of each year students undertake a number of beginning year Assessments including the **MAI (Mathematics Assessment Interview)** in Years 1-6 and the **Best Start Assessment** in ES1.

These assessments are one on one interviews between the class teacher and each child and provide teachers with a valuable opportunity to get to know the children in their class and collect important data.

The data collected provides insight into what the students know and areas that they find challenging so that the teaching and learning can be tailored to the needs of the children.

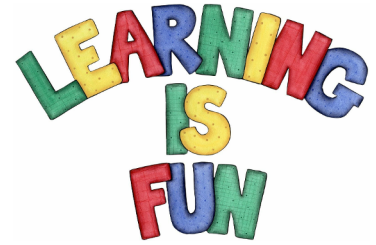
As with all assessments they are just one part of the information that teachers use to assist them in providing the best possible program of learning for each child.

Teachers assess in a variety of ways and the collection of data is an integral and ongoing process throughout the year.



Teachers use assessment for a variety of purposes, they:

- assess student learning
- provide feedback to students on their learning
- make consistent and comparable judgement
- interpret student data
- report on student achievement.



"High quality student assessment supports teachers to monitor student progress and inform next steps, determine the effectiveness of chosen teaching strategies – both for learning and engagement – and to measure student understanding of a unit of work (Stronge 2002)."

*Pauline Berry,  
Leader of Learning.*



## **SCHOOL PHOTO DAY DATE MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2022**

It's School Photo time again at St John's.

Tomorrow students will be bringing home an envelope from Advance Life School Photography; the order envelope is printed with our school's name, a unique 9 digit code to our school, photography date and a reminder to parents when the orders close. Please look out for the note and school photo order envelope coming home with your child/children tomorrow.

## **SWIMMING CARNIVAL - Students 8 Years and over**

Please remember to return the note sent home on the 1st February 2022 if your child is a confident and competitive swimmer and has a letter from their swim school with their most recent times or current swimming level. Please note that this is swimming at a highly competitive level and students need to be able to confidently swim 50 metres and start on the diving block.

Submissions need to be return by this Friday 11th February 2022



## **SPORTS DAY**

Students are required to wear their sports uniform on Friday's. This term all children are participating in the Dance Fever program.

## **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. For more information visit [skoolbag.com.au](http://skoolbag.com.au)

## **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 money enclosed.



## 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](http://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](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au) or dropped off at the school office. Original copies of all supporting documentation will need to be verified.

## OPEN DAY

Wednesday 9th March 2022

9.30am - 10.30am and 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Please register your expression of interest to attend the Open Day by visiting our website and completing the online form at [www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au)

## RAT KITS WEEKS 4 & 5

Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping all the members of our community safe.

RAT KITS will be coming home with your children today. Please continue to administer these on Monday's & Wednesday's as recommended.

### **COVID - 19 Symptoms and Testing**

Any student or staff member who is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and asked to get tested immediately and self-isolate until a negative result is received. Staff and students who receive a positive rapid antigen or PCR test result must let the office know as soon as possible, and follow NSW Health advice. Positive RAT results must be registered on the Service NSW Website or Service NSW App .

We will regularly communicate to parents about the presence and impact of COVID-19 in our community and will inform parents with details of any impacted year groups or cohorts.

If your child is in isolation for seven days because a member of the family has tested positive, the school is here to support your child's learning. You have access to the learning resources provided by Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta which is specific to each grade.

<https://remotelearning.parra.catholic.edu.au/home> You can also email the school for extra support at [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au) During this period of isolation, we also encourage our children to read on a daily basis. Children who have tested positive for Covid-19 are encouraged to rest and focus on their recovery.





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## DROP-OFF & PICK-UP OF STUDENTS

As parents are unable to come onto school grounds, contactless drop off and pick up will continue for all children in Years K-6 until further notice. The procedures for this are outlined below.

### **Morning Drop Off for Students**

All parents and carers of students in Years K-6 are required to use the 'kiss and drop' zone which is set up in the parish car park for morning drop-off. Parents/carers must remain in their car at all times. Please note that there is no parking in the parish car park for morning drop off. If you wish to park and walk your child to the school gate, please park in McCulloch or Wood Street. Parents/carers who prefer to walk with their child/children to school are asked to use the front gate. This gate will be open for students to enter and will be supervised by a staff member. Parents/Carers are reminded that only students are to enter the school site. We also ask that Parents please not congregate in front of, or near the school.

### **Afternoon Pick-up A - K families only - Front Gate 1**

Parents / carers are asked to please 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.

### **Afternoon Pick-up L - Z families only - Parish Car Park Gate 3**

1. Parents/carers are to park their vehicle in the parish carpark and proceed to the collection area with their family name card. 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 remember to use your family name card in order to make it easier for staff on duty to identify you.

### **Kindergarten Afternoon Pick-up A-Z families - Parish Car Park Gate 3 until further notice.**

*We kindly ask that Parents/Carers do not congregate at the front of the school or in the Parish Carpark in the afternoons following pick up and that physical distancing (2 sqm distance) is maintained.*

## **School**

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765

Tel: 9854 3200 Email: [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:stjohns10@bigpond)

**Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed**

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