



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 1 Week 5

Thursday 24th February 2022

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we had our opening school mass where our school leaders for 2022 were acknowledged in front of their parents and their peers. At this mass I spoke to all of our stage Three children about the fact that, as the eldest members of our student community, they are all called upon to be leaders. A community is not made great by its leaders but rather by all members of the community working together to support each other.

At a recent meeting I was at with other leaders from the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta we were called upon to ensure that everyone who comes into our schools is made to feel "Welcome, Valued and Confident". On Friday at Mass I challenged our Stage Three students to think about how they can contribute to making sure everyone in our school feels "Welcome, Valued and Confident"

It is important to us as a staff that all of our children feel welcome, that they are happy and feel safe at school and that they know there are others who value them, and the contribution they make to their class. It is also important that we are able to build in them confidence in all aspects of their life. Confidence in themselves as learners, confidence to express their faith and confidence to make friends, to make their own decisions and to feel like they belong. We can not do this alone and we look forward to opportunities throughout the year to work in partnership with our parent community to build on all the good things that exist at St Johns so that we are all able to feel "Welcome, Valued and Confident".

Parent Information Nights - We encourage all parents to take the time to join this meeting. These will continue to be held via zoom. If you have any specific questions you would like addressed on the night please submit these via the school email riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au There will be an opportunity for you to meet face to face with your child's teacher later in the year. Please refer to the Skoolbag post sent on Friday 18th February 2022.

- Early Stage 1 Tuesday 1st March 5.45-6.30pm,
- Stage 1 Thursday 3rd March 5.45-6.30pm,
- Stage 2 Tuesday 1st March 6.30-7.15pm,
- Stage 3 Monday 28th February 5.45-6.30pm.


A Zoom link will be sent out via skoolbag to each family on the day of your scheduled meeting.

RAT Tests - In an update to prior information all children will now bring home 8 kits on Friday this week. at this stage these will be the final lot of RAT kits distributed. On the weekend, the NSW Government announced that it is supplying 8 additional RATs for families. These will be for use at your discretion when considered necessary - for example, when a student is feeling unwell with a sore throat or cough, or if family members are sick.

As you would be aware the NSW Govt has announced changes to Covid rules for schools for the rest of Term 1. We ask for your patience and understanding as we consider and plan for what this will look like for students at St John's.



Twosday 22/2/2022

Yesterday the children and staff at St John's celebrated Twosday - a day for double the fun. We had many creative students using their imaginations to celebrate the day by accessorising uniforms with anything to do with the number 2. Each student was able to borrow 2 books from our reopened library. Everyone had twice the fun! This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students and staff to celebrate this together. Follow us on Facebook  and check out the great photo's of the day.

Dear Lord

We ask that you help each one of us, parents and staff, to be a reflection of you so that we might effectively love and support all of the children entrusted to our care.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

Jane Misek

Principal.



A Message from the Assistant Principal

Congratulations to our students who are part of the Student Representative Council (SRC) for 2022.

Katelyn - Early Stage One, Sachyara - Year One, Olivia - Year Two, Dante - Year Three, Ainah - Year Four, Giovanni - Year Five and Pippa - Year Six

At St John's our SRC is a formal group of students from Kindergarten to Year 6, elected by their class to represent them and their views.

An SRC facilitates leadership and decision making by all students in the school. It is an important way in which schools can provide meaningful leadership opportunities, active citizenship and be of service to others. Students are happier and participate in their education more effectively when their ideas are listened to and their opinions are valued. Schools also benefit when students are involved in their learning and the school's operation. A Student Representative Council (SRC) is one structure which can assist students and schools in achieving this ideal.

These students will meet over the term to be a forum for student voice, plan special events or projects and promote positive relationships throughout the school. At St John's each SRC leader in 2022 will have the opportunity to demonstrate our St. John Values of stewardship, compassion, justice, dignity, dedication, service and hospitality. The staff and SRC leaders are looking forward to a great year of working together.

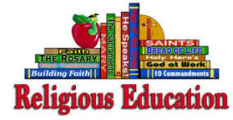
Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal.





A Message from the Religious Education Coordinator



Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday, 2nd MARCH, we mark the beginning of the Church's season of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday. We will be holding a Liturgy of the Word at school for the students where children of all ages may receive ashes. At this stage this will be a student only liturgy.

Throughout Lent, students are encouraged to acknowledge their shortcomings and make a special effort to turn back to God. As Fr Christopher Sarkis writes, "Lent calls us into the secret place of the heart where we are alone with God, allowing us to examine our conscience and life in order to shine a light on whatever may be keeping us from being completely united with God."

Prayer - An important part of your child's spiritual growth is taking time for prayer. As we move into Lent, Catholics have traditionally focussed on fasting, alms giving and prayer as a means of turning back to God. Maybe this Lent your family could take time to pray.

Three simple steps to make prayer happen:

1. **Create Time** - An opportune time to pray is when children are settling to sleep or you gather for a family meal.
2. **What to say** - Invite your child/children to think over their day, the fun/good times, the people they met etc. Begin with the Sign of the Cross and then say, 'Let's thank God for the people we love.' (ask your child/children to name them.)
3. **Prayers** - Use a variety of traditional prayers. Each newsletter during Lent we will publish a number of prayers that you might like to use.

Philip Margerison

Religious Education Coordinator.

From Our Leader of Learning

Early Years Assessment

Over the coming weeks our Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 teachers will be completing the Early Years Assessment for all children. This literacy assessment, along with the Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAIs), gives teachers valuable information to inform the planning of learning/teaching opportunities for children. It also helps to identify any needs that the children have which can then be targeted either in the classroom or in early intervention programmes. These literacy and numeracy assessment tools offer an opportunity for teachers to understand a child's beliefs, attitudes, strengths, thinking process and skills and help their teachers to learn about how their students think, and what they know.

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Good Luck to the following children who will be representing St John's at the Zone Swimming Carnival next Tuesday 1st March 2022. ***Makenna Year 4, Matilda Year 4, Shreya Year 5 and Tristan Year 5.***





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



Reminders

Pancake Day Tuesday 1st March 2022 - Orders due by Thursday 24th February 4pm. Please refer to the Skoolbag post sent yesterday (Tuesday 22/02/2022) with instructions on how to order.

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

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 - Thank you to all the families that have donated items to the Second hand Uniform Shop. Please note that the uniform shop is overflowing with items at this stage we no longer require any further donations. Thank you once again for your generosity it is very much appreciated.



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.



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



School Photo Day - School photography day is coming up soon. 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

SAY CHEESE!



School photography information: Online orders - do not require an envelope returned to your school.

Sibling Photos - Don't forget to pre-order your sibling photos online up to 24 hours before photo day. We provide your school with a list of sibling orders right up to the day of photography, so no one misses out. If you miss the online order deadline, you can submit a completed sibling order envelope first thing in the morning of the day of photography, so your school is aware you want the photo taken and can bring your children together in time for it. Sibling photographs only apply to children enrolled at your school.

Late fees - a late fee will be applied to each package purchased after photo day due to the additional cost of producing these packages separately

Package delivery - photographic packages will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken.

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>



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.

Allergy Aware School



Nut Aware School

Our School is a Nut Aware School. At St John's Primary School, we have children and staff who have severe allergies to nuts. While allergic reactions are common and most are not serious, for these children the reaction can be life-threatening. This is called anaphylaxis and can occur in minutes of an exposure to a trigger, in these cases, nuts. We see prevention as a major part of providing a safe environment for these people. So as to support our community's effort in this regard, parents are requested not to send nuts or foods containing nuts to school with their children. The following list gives examples of such foods:- Peanuts, hazelnuts, almonds, cashews, macadamia nuts, peanut butter, nutella, biscuits and cakes containing nuts, snack packs containing nuts, chocolate bars containing nuts, eg Picnics, Mars Bars (almond), Nut Breaks and Fruit & Nut Chocolates, marzipan and nougat, muesli bars and snack bars containing nuts, yoghurt and nut mixer packs, some confectionery items, yoghurt muesli bars. We realise that there may be trace elements of nuts in a variety of other foods. However, if you use the above list as a guide you will be doing your part. Parents can also reinforce with their children that sharing food is not allowed at St John's. Thank you for working with us in partnership to support the safety of everyone in our community.

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



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

Tel: 9854 3200 Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

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