



# 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 8

### Thursday 17th March 2022

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I would like to take the time to thank each one of our families for their generosity in the donations to our St Patrick's Day Flood Appeal. At the time of publishing this newsletter we have raised \$603, what an outstanding effort. In the midst of everything that is happening around us, it is heartening to know that we still have time to stop and take the opportunity to support those in our community in need. It is hard to believe the devastation that has been caused by the floods. My own family lives in Pitt Town and I was shocked when I was finally able to go there on the weekend and see for myself how this area was affected. Thankfully my family was unaffected, but so many families just like our own have been devastated.

While my prayers and thoughts are with all of these families I also pray for the many helpers who have turned out to support those in need. People of all ages and walks of life have banded together to help. SES volunteers, community groups, teenagers, business, and trades people all working together to try to ensure people can move on and start again. Social media platforms have been overwhelmed with offers of help and many have pitched in offering what they can, food, bedding, transport or just comfort. It is often the small offers of support and unity that can have such a significant impact on others.

*Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. Mother Teresa*

On Monday we will celebrate the start of **Harmony Week** at our morning assembly. Harmony Week acknowledges Australia's cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. As a community we strive to ensure that every member feels included and respected and has a sense of belonging. There have certainly been some great examples of diverse communities working in harmony together over the past few weeks. Parents and carers are welcome to join us at our Monday morning assembly. At this assembly we will also be introducing you to our Early Stage One students and presenting our SRC leaders with their badges. We hope to see you there.

**Evacuation Drill and Lockdown Drills** - Each term the school is required to practice both our evacuation and lock down procedures. Over the next two weeks we will be having both an evacuation and lock down drill. We will let you know via skool bag when we have completed these.

*Have a peaceful and blessed week*

Jane Misek

Principal.





# The Evangelist

## Absent Explanation Reminder

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence.

Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. SMS: respond with reason to school notification of absence
2. Online: log the absence directly using [Skool Bag App]
3. Email: the school at [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au)
4. Telephone: the school office 02 9854 3200
5. Note sent with your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the 7 day timeframe.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

1. being sick or having an infectious disease
2. having an unavoidable medical appointment
3. being required to attend a recognized religious holiday
4. exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

## Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfill this legal responsibility.

The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

## What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child

every learner  
every day 



## A Message from the Assistant Principal

**Naplan Practice Test** - Next week on Thursday 24th March students in Y3 and Y5 will be participating in a Naplan Practice test. The purpose of this test is to provide an opportunity for students to practice answering different types of questions online. It is a coordinated practice test occurring at the same time in all CEDP schools. There are no results from this practice test. Students will require their own headphones or earbuds. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Judith Murphy via the school office.

## Supporting children to transition back to school

With the added disruptions that we have faced this term from COVID and school closures due to the risk of flooding it is important to support your child's return to school. The students and families have experienced many disruptions and changes to the usual school routine during the last two years. Kids Help Line has valuable resources for parents and children.



## Here are some ways you can support your child:

- **Get back into routine.** Routines are safe and familiar which can help reduce anxiety.
- **Focus on what you can control.** It's hard getting caught up in the unknown and 'what-if's'? Helping your child identify what they can control and practical things they can do can help them be more in the present moment and reduce anxiety. Practical strategies can include getting organised, making plans for the weekend, preparing their school bag, etc.
- **Revisit good hygiene practices:** for example washing and /or hand sanitising. Reviewing this can help your child feel more at ease about their safety when at school.
- **Provide reassurance.** Sometimes we can't solve all our children's problems, but they don't always need solutions – just to feel understood and supported.
- **Explore the positives.** Even if they are worried about returning to school, there may be some things they are looking forward to. It can be helpful to chat through these together if they seem open to this.
- **Contact your child's teacher:** If you feel that your child is worried or anxious about school please contact their teacher by ringing the School Office or sending an email to [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au). Our aim is to work together to support your child.

Have a great week,

Miss Judith Murphy.

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

In the last newsletter I wrote about prayer, fasting and almsgiving being the three aspects of our lives that we focus on during Lent. Can I encourage all families to take time to pray with their children during this Lent.

Three prayers to start with are

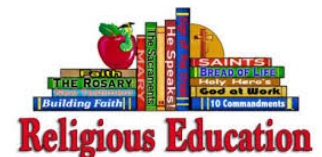
***The Our Father, The Hail Mary, The Glory Be***

Project Compassion

Recently the eldest child in each family brought home a Project Compassion box. The Project Compassion box is a means for students to participate in almsgiving. The money donated goes to Caritas Australia to assist with their projects which help the poor in Australia and overseas. Children are encouraged to donate a small amount each week by placing the money in the box. At the end of Lent ( which is also the end of term), the boxes are returned to the school or to the parish and the funds will be onforwarded.

Philip Margerison

Religious Education Coordinator.

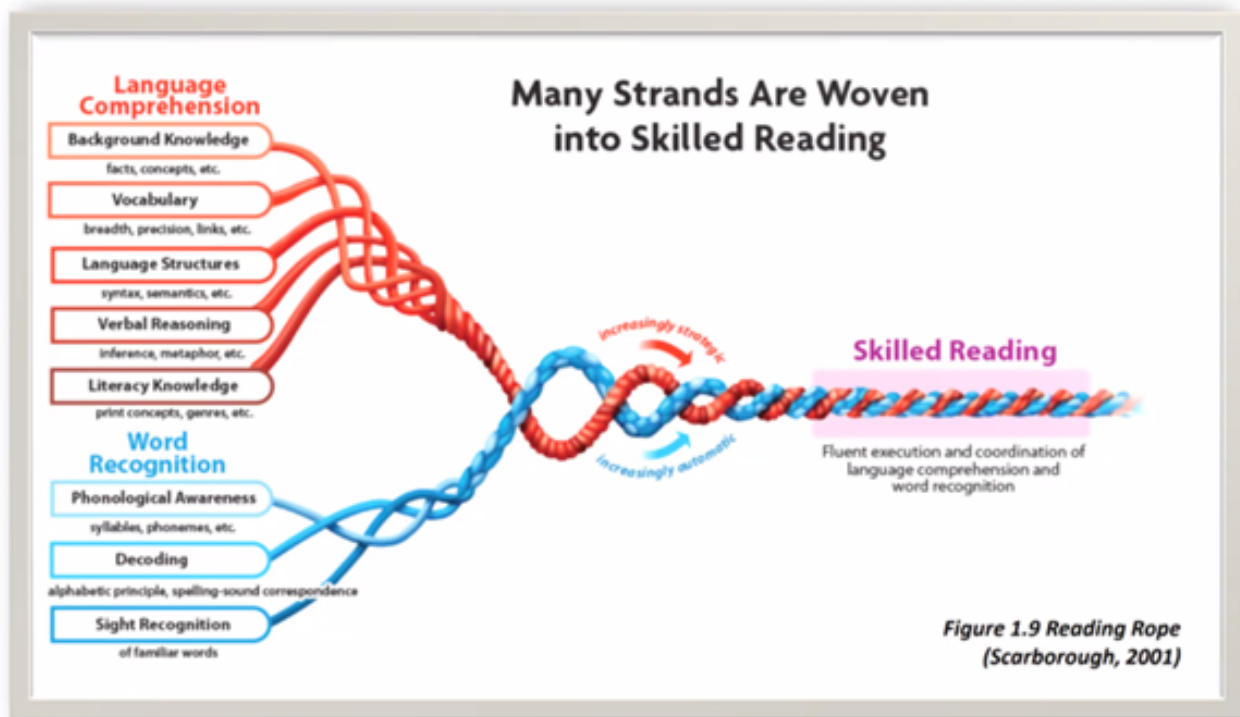


## ***From Our Leader of Learning***

Over the next few weeks I will be providing some information and tips about *Reading* with your child. There are numerous articles and websites available with information to support you in understanding and supporting your child in their reading development. Reading is a complex process that plays an important role in the overall development of your child.



# The Evangelist



You were your child's first teacher and taught them many important skills, including how to speak. *Your child will experience the most success in reading when school and home work together.* Children learn about the importance of reading as they watch family members use reading and writing for everyday purposes. Reading for pleasure, sharing a story with your child, using a recipe or reading street signs teaches them that reading is a useful skill in today's world. *Reading with your child at home will help your child in all areas of school.*

With such a complex process, it is important that your child is given many and varied opportunities to develop and practice these important skills. *Sharing stories, talking and singing every day helps your child's development in many ways.*

Research shows the importance of reading on a daily basis.

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning.

## Zone Swimming Carnival



When competing at a swimming carnival you expect to get wet. This is a realistic expectation. However for the 4 students who were able to represent St John's at the 2022 Hills Zone Swimming carnival they got a little more wet than they had anticipated. On Tuesday, 1st March, **Shreya, Tristan, Makenna and Matilda** had to get to Mt Druitt pool very early and just to get to the school area was a trek through slippery mud. These students were among swimmers from 12 different schools and competed in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke.

A big thank you to Mrs Belinda Murray who was the team manager for the day and ensured everyone made it to their events. Some of them had never experienced a Zone carnival before and were able to finish their heat in a competitive way. Everyone is to be commended for their efforts on a difficult day and we are so very proud of them.

**A special mention to Tristan, who came first in his race and qualified for the Diocesan Swimming carnival and then came 3rd in his event on the 11th March. Please join me in congratulating him for this special achievement.**



# The Evangelist



## 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



**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](http://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.stjohnsrivestone.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohnsrivestone.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.





## 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:

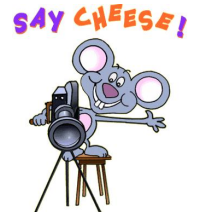
**LatitudePay**– Using the link below, set up an account during the online order process and split your payments across 10 weeks with no interest or fees, if you pay on time.

**Visa, MasterCard or PayPal.**

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

**Or visit: [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au)**

**And enter online order code: TMX EXY KJ8**



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.



## 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.



## We're hiring!

# Thrive where your Values are Valued

Want to use your skills in a high-quality, caring early childhood service? Then join Ambrose and be part of a supportive, enthusiastic and professional team guided by Catholic values.

**Positions for all experience levels  
– Attractive Wages & Conditions!**

**Ambrose Activities and School Age Care (OSHC)** is seeking people of all ages to facilitate activities as part of a supportive team.

- Full time, part time, casual, and permanent
- No experience necessary – training is provided
- Leadership roles for experienced Teachers and Educators

Ambrose is a licensed ECEC Service Provider operating under the National Quality Framework. Working With Children Checks and other screening requirements are mandatory.



# Ambrose®

A social enterprise of Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited (CDPSL)

To apply or learn more about these roles, please direct your enquiry through our recruitment partner FireFly HR.

**Apply online:** [linktr.ee/CDPSLFireflyHR](https://linktr.ee/CDPSLFireflyHR)

**or email:** [apply@fireflyhr.com.au](mailto:apply@fireflyhr.com.au).

Scan to apply





## 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](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