



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 3 Week 6

Thursday 25th August 2022

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

Last week I wrote to the Stage 3 parents to inform them that our Religious Education Coordinator and Stage Three Teacher, Mr Philip Margerison had resigned from his position at St Johns. I sincerely thank Mr Margerison for his faith leadership and his service to the St John's community as teacher and Religious Education Coordinator. On behalf of the community, I wish him every blessing in his retirement. He will, of course, remain firmly in our prayers during this very difficult time.

The process for the recruitment of a new Religious Education Coordinator will commence immediately.

Voice Of Youth - Congratulations to **Jyugaard** and **Shritik** who represented our school at the Voice of Youth cluster final at Santa Sophia on Monday this week.

Both boys prepared very engaging speeches and spoke well on the day. Unfortunately St John's didn't make it through to the next stage but we are still very proud of both our finalists. I was also so impressed with all of the Stage 3 students who attended the Voice of Youth Competition on the day. They gave all of the speakers their full attention and were a credit to our school.

Yesterday all families received a letter about our upcoming **Walk-a-Thon** to be held on **Friday 16 September**. This event will involve all students and will be our major fundraiser for the year. **While small events such as the Mother's Day stall and the Father's Day stall raise some money for the school they really just cover costs and are more about providing students with experiences and building community spirit.** Each year we have a budget for maintenance of the school and often when these costs run high we have little left to put towards resources. This year we have replaced the air conditioning in Early Stage 1, installed new outdoor lighting for COSCH and replaced the projector in the hall - these were outside of already budgeted projections.

The money raised from the Walk-a-Thon will go towards the purchase of playground and classroom resources that will benefit all children across the school. We are hoping to purchase more technology (each chrome book costs \$500) and we would like to move the fresh water filter at the back of Stage 3 to the playground where it is accessible for all children to refill their drink bottles. Thank you in anticipation of your generous support in providing new resources for your children.

Have a blessed week.

Jane Misk

Principal

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your
heart take courage; wait for the Lord!*

Psalm 27:14





A message from the Assistant Principal



Stage 3 Canberra Excursion

Congratulations to our Stage 3 students who were excellent representatives of our school during our Canberra Excursion.

They had outstanding knowledge of our system of government and participated with enthusiasm during all the activities.

Please see the diary entry from Jyugaad and Pippa about our excursion in this newsletter.



Judith Murphy



Assistant Principal

A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

First Holy Communion

Last weekend students in Year 4 made their First Holy Communion. It was so pleasing to see them present so well for this important step in their initiation into our faith. Their first Holy Communion is just one step in their faith journey and we would encourage you to provide further opportunities for them to attend Mass and continue to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

Congratulations to *Rubie, Matilda, Marlee, Reyden, Tyga, Ainah, Oliver and Rony.*



Upcoming Feasts

Thursday 8th September is the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mary, the mother of Jesus' birthday). Maybe over the next two weeks, you could make a special time to pray the Hail Mary, as a means of recognising this feast.

Philip Margerison

Religious Education Coordinator





A message from the Leader of Learning

On Tuesday, we began our Book week celebrations by visiting each others classrooms to learn about some of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CCBA) Shortlisted books. Each stage made a display to introduce their focus book to the other teacher's and students at St John's. Every display was different and they were all wonderfully creative. The students enjoyed visiting each other's displays.

On Wednesday, we continued our celebrations with a Book Character Parade, Reader's theatre, Rug Reading and finished with a picnic morning tea. It was an exciting day with lots of Princesses, Super Heroes and other Book Characters represented.

On Friday, we will finish off our celebrations with an Indigenous Performance to tie in with our Book Week theme, ***Dreaming With Eyes Open.***

It is great to be able to celebrate our love of books and reading during Book Week and to be able to share some of our celebrations with our whole community.

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning

Wellbeing

Due to COVID-19 we were unable to attend mass for a long period of time. Now that we are able to go to mass as a school we have informed the students of the expectations of behaviour. This poster is displayed on the wall outside of Stage 1, on the way to the church and is also part of the presentation which is in each learning space.

As you can see, the expectations are:

- We are reverent and prayerful.
- We actively listen and participate.
- We stand and sit sensibly when needed.
- We are safe when moving to and from the church.

IN THE CHURCH

- ☐ We are reverent and prayerful.
- ☐ We actively listen and participate.
- ☐ We stand and sit sensibly when needed.
- ☐ We are safe when moving to and from the church.



All these expectations fall under our whole school expectations of being safe, being respectful and being a learner.

SCHOOL FEES

Friendly reminder that school fee installment three payments were due on

24th August 2022 unless you have an active arrangement in place.

To make a payment please follow the link below. Your biller information can be found on your statement.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICEDUCATIONOFFICE?BillerCode=1643972>

Thank you if you have made this payment already.

If you are experiencing hardship or wish to discuss your account, please contact Natalie on 0298543200 or sjhn-rivrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au



Canberra Excursion

Stage 3

Day 1 -

On day 1 our alarm clocks woke us up early in the morning to get ready, pack our bags and head to school. We got to school, overjoyed with excitement at 6:30, ready to get on the bus. Our bus driver was a kind, helpful person named Les. A long wait while watching 'Happy feet' as we were finally there, Canberra. To start off we go to Parliament House. There we met our tour guide, Monique, who took us to a roleplay. We also met Michelle Rowland, who is our member for Greenway, before our roleplay. She told us a bit about the Government and her role in the Government, as the Minister of Communications. Following that, we had a tour of Parliament House. After that we went around the National embassies on the bus while taking photos with our cameras. We were on the way to the War Memorial where we met our guide who showed us around WW1 and WW2 showed us two of the stories of the soldiers in war that received the Southern Cross. After this we went to Mount Ainslie lookout where we took pictures of the view.

Next we went to our accommodation where the dinner was delicious. We went to our room and fell asleep for the next day.





On day 2 we woke up at 6:00am to get ready for our last but very exciting day in Canberra. Our first stop was at CSIRO. Everyone was really excited as this was our first time going there. Our task was to scan as many QR codes as we can and find our way around the facility and answer the questions to get as many points as we could. Everyone had an amazing time and didn't want to leave, but our next stop was the Australian Electoral Commission. Once we got to the AEC our tour guide, Susan, gave us a little run down on what we were going to be doing when we were there. We got to watch an 11 minute video about a representative democracy and the Australian constitution. After we had watched the video we played a game called democracy.

Our last part of visiting AEC was doing a vote on our favourite fruit. Everyone got to experience what voting would feel like when we are old enough to vote. After we were finished we went off to our final spot for the day, Questacon. Everyone loved it there as we were able to explore all the different interactive activities that were there. Many people were going to face their fears on a 6.2 metre free fall but sadly, it was closed. Stage 3 really enjoyed the wind tubes which was where we were able to put different colours of neon scarves into the wind chambers and then the scarves would fly up in the air and people had to catch them. Everyone was able to get something from the gift shop to take home as a souvenir. On the way home everyone got McDonalds for dinner and after we had got back on the bus we headed home while watching a movie called 'Robots'. By Jyugaad and Pippa Stage 3





National Child Protection Week

4-10 September 2022

Welcome to the campaign for 2022.

In 2022, National Child Protection Week will continue to embrace the overarching message that 'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go'.

In particular, this year we will be shining a light on children growing up safe and supported.

Children and young people thrive when they grow up safe, connected and supported in their family, community and culture.

They have the right to grow up in environments that support them according to their needs, now and into the future.

This year let's talk about how we create a supportive environment for every child.

National Child Protection Week will be looking at what works to keep children safe and supported... what children are telling us... what families are telling us... what the evidence is telling us... and how to translate this knowledge into action.

We know that too many children are not growing up safe and supported and that Child Protection systems are overloaded. There are many opportunities to change the trajectory for these children.

We can stop child abuse and neglect – and reduce its impact – by working together to make sure every child in every community has a fair go.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
4 - 10 September 2022





The Evangelist

CSPA 2022 Parent Survey on Student Wellbeing and Learning

The Catholic School Parents Association (CSPA) is an advocacy group for parents and carers of students attending Catholic schools in NSW. The association is conducting a survey on student learning and wellbeing. This is a significant piece of research.

Have your say on what matters regarding the wellbeing and learning of your child. If you are a parent or carer with a child in a Catholic school, CSPA would love to hear from you.


Visit the survey link and share your feedback to assist CSPA in reporting to the Federal Government and Catholic education. Your feedback will remain anonymous.


The survey closes **31 August 2022**.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022CSPAParentSurvey>

2022 PARENT SURVEY

CLOSES 31 AUGUST





Catholic School Parents
AUSTRALIA

HAVE YOUR SAY

Catholic School
Parents Australia
is listening.

Catholic School Parents Australia
(CSPA) acknowledges the funding
received from the Australian
Government to support this work.

Have your say on what matters regarding the wellbeing and learning of your child.

For example, has COVID or your partnership with the school affected your child's wellbeing and learning?

If you are a parent or carer with a child in a Catholic school, CSPA would love to hear from you.

Click on the survey link and share your feedback to assist CSPA in reporting to the Federal Government and Catholic education.

Your feedback will remain anonymous.

Please consider sharing this flyer with other parents.

Thanks for your support



Attendance

Throughout most of the first half of the year our overall attendance rate has been close to 90 percent and while this may sound high we are always aiming to have attendance rates above 95 percent - that is 95 percent of children at school 95 percent of the time.

We understand that we ask you to keep children at home if they are unwell and that children have had to isolate due to family illness. However, if children are well and can be at school then they should be at school. Please consider your reasons for keeping children at home. It is easy to fall into a pattern of non attendance when children are allowed to stay home regularly when they are not sick.

Every day missed makes it harder for children to catch up and can lead to gaps in learning and social connections. Two days off a term adds up to four weeks a year, which over the course of schooling from Kindergarten to Year 12 adds up to a full year missed.

Consent for Photos and Videos

A reminder to Parents and Carers that upon enrolment and at the commencement of each year, consent to have school photos / video etc is given. If at anytime you wish to withdraw this consent Parents and Carers must contact the school in writing.



PARISH NEWS



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 and their parents.

You are most welcome to bring a friend.

6pm in the Church Hall on these Fridays:

16 September, 21 October and

18 November (Christmas Party)



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Staff Development Days 2022

TERM THREE - Friday 23 September 2022

TERM FOUR - Monday 10th October, Monday 19th December and Tuesday 20th December 2022

Please note that we will be having an additional Staff Development Day on Monday 10th October 2022. This day has been allocated to support the implementation of the new syllabus in 2023.

Term Dates 2022

- Last Day Term 3 - Thursday 22nd September 2022
- First Day Term 4 - Tuesday 11th October 2022
- Last day of Term 4 Friday 16th December 2022



- Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day - Wednesday 31st August 22
- Life Education Van Visit - 31st August, 1st September & 2nd September 2022
- Father's Day Stall - Thursday 1st September
- Father's Day BBQ Breakfast & Liturgy - Friday 2nd September 2022
- Stage 3 Assembly - Friday 2nd September 2022
- Stage 2 Excursion - Australian National Maritime Museum Darling Harbour - Tuesday 6th September 2022
- Early Stage One Assembly - Friday 9th September
- Musica Viva - Thursday 15th September
- Walkathon - Friday 16th September

Snack Shack - Please note: in accordance with CEDP guidelines our Snack Shack will be cashless and we will be using a school issued **prepaid card** purchased via the QKR app. Please refer to the skoolbag notification sent out on Friday 5th August 2022 for more information. ***Thank you to the parent/carers who have given their time to run the Snack Shack your generosity is very much appreciated. If you are able to volunteer, please complete the form on skoolbag.***

Lunch Orders - All lunch orders are made via the **Spriggy Schools App**. Please refer to the Skoolbag post published on the 10th May with instructions on how to download the Spriggy Schools App. **No paper bag cash orders will be accepted.**

Second hand Uniform Shop - The uniform shop will open each **Wednesday from 8.30am to 9am**, please come to the front gate (GATE 1) - McCulloch Street and see the staff member on duty. Donations of secondhand uniform items are welcome, we thank you for your continued support.



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Work Health and Safety Reminders

COVID 19 Back to School Safety

- A reminder to all that the COVID-smart settings that students, staff and communities have become used to will continue in Term 3.

These include:

- Staying home if unwell or showing any symptoms, and not returning to school or work until fully recovered
- Household and close contacts are required to follow the NSW Health household and close contact guidelines for 7 days from the last time someone in their household tested positive to COVID-19. In line with the updated rules for the general community, teachers and students who are household contacts, but do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, can return to school, however, we ask that you **please inform us if your child is a household contact**. In such circumstances, staff and students over the age of 12 must wear a mask. (Mask wearing is recommended for primary students but not mandatory)
- Rapid antigen testing for any students or staff showing symptoms and for household and close contacts who are able to return to school
- Maximising natural ventilation including utilising air purifiers (including scheduled replacement of filters)
- Good hygiene practices for students and staff including regular hand washing with soap and water
- Encouraging all students, staff and families to keep up to date with vaccinations, including COVID-19 booster shots when eligible and the flu vaccine

In addition to this:

- We strongly encourage all staff and school visitors to wear a mask while indoors, particularly during the next four weeks.
- All families were distributed with Rapid Antigen Test Kits at the end of Term 2. Please use these as necessary and contact the school if you require more.

If our school were to experience high numbers of COVID-19 cases we will consider postponing non-essential large group activities where it is feasible to do so.

We thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe and stay well

School

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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