



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

Ph: (02) 9854 3200

E: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

W: www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Term 3 Week 8

A message from the Principal

Thursday 8th September 2022

Dear St John's Families,

This week we farewell our colleague and friend Mr Philip Margerison. Although Phil has only worked at St John's for three terms, he has had a big impact on the students and staff. We thank Phil for his contribution to St Johns and we pray that he may embrace the next stage of his journey with arms opened wide. We hope that he will always remember how much his service is valued and appreciated by many schools across the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta.

May God's blessing follow you all as you find new journeys to travel. May you walk safely along the pathways of your dreams.

May his gentle hand guide the decisions you will make and the passions that you follow.

May your hearts and lives always reflect his love and truth,

And may hope, be a light within you that you carry into each new day. Amen



Walkathon

A reminder about our Walk-a-Thon coming up on Friday 16th September. Hopefully this will be a fun day for all of our school community, that will promote health and fitness and well being as well as raise much needed funds. All children who participate will receive a raffle ticket in our major prize draw and children will receive an additional ticket for every \$10 they raise. The main prizes on the day will be vouchers from REBEL SPORT. Sponsorship money can be paid via QKR. Friends and family can also download the QKR app to donate - please remember to include the child's name and class.

Car Park Safety

As our student numbers increase it is timely to remind parents about safety in the parish car park. This is not an area where children should be allowed to play. After collecting your children please make your way straight to your car. This is a parish car park and as such there is access to members of the public who may not be as alert or on the lookout for young children.

Please remember to use the pedestrian crossing and to hold your younger children's hands at all times in the car park. Afternoon pick up can be spread out between 2.50pm and 3.20pm.

Have a blessed week.

Jane Misek

Principal



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A message from the Assistant Principal



Yesterday all children in Year 3 and Year 5 took home their student report for **NAPLAN 2022**.

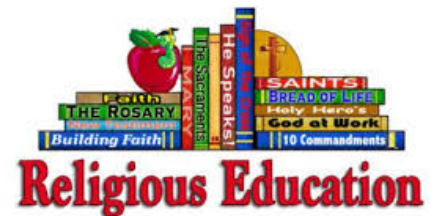
The National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy was held in May this year.

These assessments provide a snapshot of your child's achievement at a point in time and information should be considered with school based assessments and reports.

Should you wish to discuss your child's report please contact the school office, thank you.

Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal



A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

Today **Mrs Misek, Mrs Berry, Jyugaad, Sofia, Pippa and Danica** attended the 2022 Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Education Mass and Agency Mission Expo at St Patrick's Cathedral. The Education Mass was an occasion for students of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta to gather with Principals, Parents, RECs and Diocesan Priests to celebrate their role in the mission of the Church. The Children also visited the original cathedral and spent some time in the Piety Stall. They had a wonderful time!!!!



Philip Margerison

Religious Education Coordinator





WHS - Cubby House

After a recent safety inspection we have had to regrettably close the cubby house for the time being. Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta carries out safety inspections on all fixed playground equipment and following our recent inspection our cubby house has been deemed to not meet the safety requirements. Hopefully this will only be temporary as we look into the cost and practicality of the repairs.

Wellbeing

At St John's we are very lucky to have lovely grass areas as well as hard play areas. This year has been one of transitioning from being unable to play with other grades due to COVID-19 and the grass area being consistently damp from all of the rain we have been experiencing.

The expectations on the playground are the same as the rest of the school.

I am SAFE.

I am RESPECTFUL.

I am a LEARNER.

The images show the posters which are displayed in areas around the playground and outline specific expectations for the students.

We have also purchased some large games for use in the playground. We have large Connect 4, large Dominoes and Puzzle Builders.

Each week we revisit expectations for different areas. The expectation for the playground are:

- **We wear our hats**
- **We listen to teachers**
- **We include others in our games**
- **We use equipment safely and return it when we finish**
- **We are fair and follow the rules**
- **We are in the right place**



Amanda Jeffery

Wellbeing



2022 Premier's Reading Challenge

**It was wonderful to see so many children participate in this year's Challenge,
Well done to all the children below who completed the challenge in 2022....**

Early Stage 1

Rishon, Anoush, Aarush, Ava, Karan, Lucas, Lily, Jet, Dominic, Gurnazz, Dominic, Jessica, Tobias, Jaxon, Lily, Francesco, Senaya, Manvi, Aavish, Rian, Katelyn, Hannah-Joby, Curtt, Dehang, Pavnjay, Mason, Prayan, Newa, Tashvi, Matt Gian, Rosalia and Aidan.

Special thank you to Mrs Galati for reading this year's Books to Early stage 1

Stage 1

Ayansh, Sachyara, Paridhi, Nathaniel, Myra, Samuel, Sanyukta, Amerie, Manav, Diksha, Vihas and Ryan-Joby.

Stage 2

Krish, Seanice, Samuel, Taanish, Raphael, Reva, Matilda, Ainah, Riley and Marlee.

Stage 3

Giovanni, Haarika, Jyugaad, Jacob, Lucas, Nimit, Danica, Shritik and Pippa.



Congratulations to **Raphael** who will receive a Gold Award for completing the challenge 4 years in a row.

And to **Lucas, Jacob and Pippa Wood** who will receive a Platinum Certificate for Completing the challenge 7 years in a row "From Kindy to Year 6! "

Certificates will be presented to students once received, generally late term 4.

Get Ready for 2023!!

Even though the Challenge will not open until March 2023, you can start reading books now..

Keep a list of what you read from now and enter them when the challenge starts.



Mrs Abbott

Library



Attendance



Over the last few weeks our attendance rate has not been as good as it was in the first half of this year. 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 per month adds up to four weeks of lost learning a year, which over the course of schooling from Kindergarten to Year 12 adds up to a full year missed.

Extended Leave

As you know it is very important that children attend school every day. Quite often leave is requested by parents for various reasons. While we understand that this may be necessary sometimes, it is not encouraged as every school day is important for every child.

If you intend taking your child out of school for **five days or more you must make a formal application in writing to the principal and fill out an 'Application for Extended Leave' which is available from the school office.** It is important for you to know that, depending on circumstances, this leave may not be granted. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and could depend on circumstances such as the intention for the leave, your child's attendance, and the impact the leave may have on your child's academic progress.

These regulations are in place to make sure that your child achieves to his/her full potential and we know you will understand the reasoning behind them.



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



- Early Stage One Assembly - Friday 9th September
- Netball Gala Day - Tuesday 13th September
- Junior Youth Leadership Assembly - Wednesday 14th September - School Leaders attending
- Musica Viva - Thursday 15th September
- Walk- a-Thon - Friday 16th September
- Early Stage One Excursion - Golden Ridge Animal Farm - Monday 19th September
- Last Day Term 3 - Thursday 22nd September
- Staff Development Day - Friday 23rd September, no students at school on this day
- Staff Development Day - Monday 10th October, no students at school on this day
- First Day Term 4 - Tuesday 11th October

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.**

Lost Property - The lost property box is overflowing with school jackets and other uniform items. Please encourage your child to look for any missing uniform items. The lost property box is located in the student foyer.



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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

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