



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 4 Week 10

Thursday 15th December 2022

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

As we come to the end of our 2022 school year it is important that we look back with gratitude on all the events and experiences and the gifts of all the people we have encountered that have shaped us this year. At the start of the year I spoke with all the children about ensuring all of us were made to feel welcome, valued and confident when we walk through the gates of St John's primary school and I sincerely hope that we have achieved this.

We would never have suspected that we would have a year with so many twists and turns, including COVID, flooding, some deep sadness with the loss of loved ones and the ongoing staff shortages to name a few. But through it all we have remained strong together as a community of learners and we have placed our trust in our friend, Jesus.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the staff who have worked tirelessly this year to ensure the continuity of learning for our children at St John's. We are blessed to have such an extremely dedicated group of teachers, teachers aides and admin staff who support the children in many ways every day. Thank you To Miss Murphy, Mrs Berry, Mr Margersion and Mrs Rowley who have been a great support to me in my first year as principal of St John's and to Father Zak who has always supported our school and has been a source of great advice to me personally. I look forward to us building on our partnership as a Catholic learning community next year.

Thank you also to our families who have been a wonderful support to our school this year. Whether it be through the help at school events, your support in our fundraising efforts or your attendance at special occasions - we appreciate you and we look forward to another year in 2023 of working together to support our children.

Congratulations to our Year 6 students who celebrated their graduation yesterday. Best wishes to all of you as you go to high school and continue your journey as lifelong learners. Thank you to our school leaders for their enthusiasm and the mature manner in which they represented the school and the excellent way they have each carried out their particular role. It has been a pleasure to have their support and I wish them every success in the future.

And finally to all of our children - thank you children for just being you and trying your best every day. Each one of you is very special and we are so happy that you are part of our school community.





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Each year we have staff moving on for various reasons. We farewell Miss Carmen Lai and Mrs Skye Mordocco. We thank them all for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the students at St John's. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

To our children and families and staff members, Miss Lai and Mrs Mordocco who will not be continuing their journey with us in 2023 I leave you with these words

As you journey onward, may you always remember that our love and appreciation for you are etched on our hearts . . .

As you meet the poor, the pained, the stranger on your way, may you see in each one the face of our Christ . . .

As you walk through the good times and the hard times, may you never lose sight of the shelter of God's loving arms . . .

As you question your decisions and wonder about the fruits of your choices, may the peace of God reign in your heart . . .

May you always know that you are in God's loving care and that you have a companion on your journey.....

May your future be filled with many exciting and transforming moments....

May God Shelter you and protect you from all harm and all useless anxiety.....

And May you always remember that wherever you go you always have a community of friends here at St Johns....

To all of our families and friends on behalf of all of the staff I wish you a very happy and holy Christmas. May you keep the spirit of Jesus alive in your heart and in the hearts of all those you meet throughout this season. May the season of Christmas bring peace to you and your families and may the holidays be a time of reconnecting with each other. We look forward to seeing you back here in 2023.

School Leaders 2023

Congratulations to our student leaders who will take up their student leadership roles for 2023.

Giovanni & Jacinta - School Leaders

Hirbod & Sienna - SRC Leaders

Jelena, Sia, Baylie & Breanna - Sports Leaders

Jamie, Elizabeth, Haarika, Jonathon & Shreya -Community Leaders

We congratulate them and wish them the very best in supporting the school and being role models to their peers.

Have a blessed Christmas and a safe and happy holiday break.

Jane Misek

Principal





A message from the Assistant Principal

NAPLAN 2023

The National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Year 3 complete the writing assessment on paper- all the other assessments are completed via a secure online platform.

NAPLAN Online will take place in term 1 next year between the **15th - 27th March 2023**.

If you would like your child to have some practice answering the type of questions you can encourage them to use the [public demonstration site](#) to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in the NAPLAN online tests. The class teachers will also be using this site next year to ensure that students have the technological skills required to complete the assessments.

Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal

CARPARK SAFETY

As our school grows it is important that we are very aware that the parish carpark is getting more traffic, especially in the afternoons.

Please ensure that you are always parking in marked spots. If there is no parking please exit the carpark and drive around the block and reenter via McCulloch street.

Double parking is dangerous as it blocks vision for others.

Please consider reverse parking if you are arriving before the bell - this is safer as you are not reversing around pedestrians.

Please hold onto your young children's hands as you make your way to the car.

Please avoid standing around in the car park talking around reversing vehicles. While we love that our parents are socialising, the carpark is not the best place as it is easy to lose focus.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping everyone safe.



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A message from the Religious Education Coordinator



"People were walking in the dark when they saw a bright light. A light came to them to brighten their darkland. You have made them very happy. They will be never sad again. A child is born. A son given to us. He will be wonderful. His name will be Prince of Peace. He will tell us what to do and we will find peace."

These words were written by the Prophet Isaiah. As we prepare to celebrate another Christmas, we recall the birth of Jesus long ago at Bethlehem and we rejoice in his continuing presence amongst us today. Christmas preparations indicate that we are in the closing month of the year, the closing weeks of the academic school year and more significantly for some students, the end of their time as students at this school.

For people surrounded by department store decorations, commercials, Christmas carols, special foods, and the like, believing that today's Christmas celebration actually evolved from the humble story of a young woman giving birth in the straw is a stretch. It might help to focus on the characters involved.

What do you think went through Joseph's mind as he witnessed Mary giving birth to a baby? What do you think went through Mary's mind as she struggled with the birth experience?



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The Christmas story is full of symbols. Jesus, who becomes our bread and wine – our nourishment – is laid in a manger, the feeding trough for the animals. Jesus, who is the champion of poor people, is born into a homeless family. Poor shepherds were the first to welcome the Messiah that the Jewish people had been awaiting for generations. The symbol of angels singing, praising God, and flying madly all over the sky was a good clue that something out of the ordinary was happening.

Modern Christmas stories use different symbols to make the same points: Rudolph, the 'poorest' reindeer, becomes the champion; and Frosty, a snowman, transforms children's lives.

What story from your own personal Christmas experiences has special meaning or symbolism? - Reflection by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

Wishing you all a holy & happy Christmas season.

Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator



A message from the Leader of Learning

As we come to the end of another year it is always important to reflect on what we have experienced. While this year presented us with some challenges in the form of flooding, Covid and some sadness, once again our community supported one another and we were able to continue to grow and learn together.

Our Naplan results are a testament to the hard work of our students, teachers and families. And our Tell them from Me data highlighted the many great opportunities provided for our students and families and the positive learning environment we are creating.

We are proud of the growth in all of our students and commend them on their hard work and positive mindset.

We are grateful for the support of our families who are our partners in learning.

I wish all of our community a happy and holy Christmas. Enjoy your well deserved break.

We will be back to do it all again in 2023!

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning



ENROLMENTS 2024

IF YOU HAVE A CHILD READY TO START SCHOOL IN 2024 NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBMIT A COMPLETED ENROLMENT APPLICATION WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DOWNLOAD THE ENROLMENT APPLICATION FORM A, FORM B AND FORM C.

www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au ENROL > HOW TO ENROL

YOU WILL FIND A LIST OF ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED IN THE ENROLMENT INSTRUCTIONS OR CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND WE CAN ARRANGE FOR AN ENROLMENT PACK TO BE SENT TO YOU.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO ST JOHN'S IN 2023

If it is your intention that your child will be leaving St John's at the end of 2022 now is the time to advise the school.

Advice is required in writing, please contact the office and an **'Advice of Withdrawal of Enrolment'** form will be sent to you.

Thank you for your cooperation.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Staff Development Days 2022

TERM FOUR - Monday 19th December and Tuesday 20th December 2022



Term Dates 2022

- Last day of Term 4 for Students - Friday 16th December 2022

Term Dates 2023

- Friday 27th January - SDD/MAI's
- Monday 30th January - SDD/MAI's
- Tuesday 31st January - First Day Years 1 to 6
- Wednesday 1st February - First Day Kindergarten 2023
- Thursday 6th April - Last Day of Term 1



- **Friday 16th December** - Whole School Farewell Assembly
- **Friday 16th December** - Last day for Students
- **Wednesday 25th January 2023** - MAI bookings close
- **Tuesday 31st January** - First day for students Years 1-6
- **Wednesday 1st February** - First day for kindergarten
- **Friday 17th February** - Opening School Mass
- **Tuesday 21st February** - Open Day
- **Wednesday 22nd February** - Ash Wednesday
- **Wednesday 1st March** - Open Day
- **5th - 10th March** - Catholic Schools Week
- **Wednesday 15th March** - Whole School Photo Day

the  of the **COMMUNITY**



Work Health and Safety Reminders

Covid - Changes to self-isolation requirements

On 30 September, National Cabinet announced that from Friday 14 October 2022 people who test positive for COVID-19 do not need to self-isolate. In line with this announcement, the NSW Department of Education has worked with NSW Health to support all schools to adapt to this change while continuing to prioritise student and staff wellbeing by minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmissions.

It is recommended that staff and students continue to stay home if they are sick. We will continue to call parents to collect their child if they are displaying cold or flu like symptoms.

Anyone who believes they have been exposed to COVID-19 is recommended to monitor for symptoms, test, and wear a mask if they are concerned. If you test positive on a rapid antigen test (RAT) please [register](#) this with Service NSW (note that such registration is now voluntary). Voluntarily registering your result can help you access medical support from NSW Health, including antiviral medicines if you are eligible. It also assists NSW Health to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued COVID-smart measures

At St John's we will continue to operate with the 'baseline' COVID-smart measures in place throughout Term 4 to minimise transmission and to prioritise student and staff wellbeing. This includes a combination of layered safety measures – we continue to encourage mask-wearing along with the use of rapid antigen testing (RAT), good ventilation in indoor settings as well as extra cleaning of high touch surfaces..

Visitors attending the school continue to be encouraged to wear a mask, particularly when indoors and/or when physical distancing is not possible.

We thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe and stay well

School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765

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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