



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 4 Week 2

Thursday 20th October 2022

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

Welcome back to Term 4. Traditionally in our Catholic Church October has been celebrated as the month of the rosary. On October 7, 1571 a great sea battle was fought between an alliance of countries known as the Catholic league (Spain, Venice, the Papal States, Genoa, Savoy, and Malta) and the Ottoman Empire.

Prior to the ships sailing off towards battle, Pope Pius V prayed the rosary, asking for Our Lady's intercession in victory, and every man on board carried a rosary. For this reason, as soon as the men returned victorious from the battle, the Pope declared a feast day for Our Lady of Victory. A rosary procession was offered in St. Peter's square after the victory and in time, the whole month became associated with the rosary, rather than just one day. Pope Leo XIII officially established October as the Month of the Rosary in 1884.

Although the rosary can be a beautiful prayer to pray alone it is a powerful prayer when prayed together as a family, as a parish or as a school community.



When we pray in common, the prayer of each one belongs to all. We make one great prayer together. During his month of October I encourage all of our families to take time to pray the rosary together.

"For where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" -Matthew 18:20

Term 4 is always a very busy term and we have many school events that we are planning for. Earlier this week a note went out to all of our Stage 3 families outlining the end of Year events for Year 6. Other events for this term are included in this newsletter. Further information about these will come out closer to the date. Importantly all families are invited to join us at our Christmas Concert on the evening of Thursday 1st December 2022. This will be a wonderful way to celebrate the start of the Advent season.

Grant News

Earlier in the year the school applied for a grant to plant trees to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I am pleased to say that we were successful and in a few weeks time a new line of trees will be planted along our back fence. Hopefully this will help to provide a leafy outlook for the school with the commencement of further development in this area. At the conclusion of the planting we will hold a commemorative event which all families will be invited to. The project received funding from the Australian Governments Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee Program.

Have a blessed week.

Jane Misek

Principal



Australian Government





A message from the Assistant Principal



Walk-a-Thon

I am so amazed at the incredible generosity of our families for the donations we received for our walk-a-thon. To date we have received \$8,180.00. Of this amount, 10% will be donated to the Children's Hospital at Westmead. This week we ordered 31 new chromebooks to be used throughout the school. This will mean that our children in Years 3-6 will all have a chromebook to use for their learning. This is a great achievement for a small school like St Johns. While the cost of these was close to \$11000 it is great to be able to say that we were able to put most of our walk-a-thon money towards purchasing resources.

Our prize draw for the walk-a-thon will be held at tomorrow afternoon's assembly, Friday 21st October. All children who participated on the day have received a raffle ticket in the draw and a subsequent ticket for each \$10 raised.

We have some fun prizes including snack shack cards, Rebel sports Vouchers and other sporting equipment.

Thank you to **Victory Martial Arts/Aperion Parkour** for their generous donation of Rebel sports vouchers and prizes for this draw.

World Teachers Day - Friday 28 October marks World Teachers Day

World Teachers Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and thank the teachers at St John's for their important role in our community and for the positive impact they have on the lives of our children.

This year we say thank you to our teachers for 'teaching through every moment'. We acknowledge and show appreciation for the many ways teachers provide support and inspiration to our students.

We will celebrate with a liturgy on Friday 28th October at 1pm. Parents are most welcome to attend.

The theme for our day will be Hats off To Teachers - all children are invited to wear a fun hat on the day in honour of the teachers.

Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal

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.



A message from the Leader of Learning

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 9 across Australia participated in National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in May 2022. The purpose of this assessment is to provide information to parents and teachers about the achievements of students in aspects of Literacy and Numeracy. It provides a measure of the student's performance against established standards and against other students in Australia. Each year the results are analysed by the school to inform teaching and learning, with a view to improving student performance.

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum acceptable standards for literacy, numeracy, reading, writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling at particular ages. These are referred to as national minimum standards. Student performance in NAPLAN in our school is compared to these standards.

In 2022, the students at St John's performed extremely well in all areas. This impressive achievement is even more significant given the challenges our students and community have faced over the last 2 years. Congratulations to our wonderful students and staff on these excellent results.

The table below outlines our 2022 NAPLAN results:

At or Above National Minimum Standard	Year 3	Year 5
Reading	95%	95%
Writing	95%	90%
Numeracy	100%	95%

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning



Wellbeing

During the school day the students might visit several areas besides the playground. We have expectations for behaviour in areas such as the office, the library and the hall. The expectations in these areas are the same as the rest of the school.

I am SAFE.

I am RESPECTFUL.

I am a LEARNER.

IN THE HALL

- ❑ We sit in our Stage groups sensibly.
- ❑ We listen to the school leaders and staff.
- ❑ We clap appropriately when needed.
- ❑ We move around sensibly and quietly.



IN THE OFFICE

- ❑ We are quiet and patient.
- ❑ We wait our turn.
- ❑ We are respectful to all the adults.
- ❑ We finish the task and move safely back to class.



IN THE LIBRARY

- ❑ We push our chairs in when we are done.
- ❑ We use a library bag to keep books safe.
- ❑ We return books on time so that others can borrow them too.
- ❑ We put books back where they belong.



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

If you have any questions or concerns about these expectations please feel free to contact us at riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

Amanda Jeffery

Wellbeing

Sports News

Swimming Program commences from **Monday 24th October to Friday 4th November 2022**. Students can wear their costumes under either their school or sports uniform including their regular school or sports shoes. Bring spare underwear, towel, thongs/slides/sandles and something warm to wear (dressing gown, swimming gown, shorts & t-shirt or track suit) over their costumes while travelling to and from the pool. A plastic bag is also handy for wet towels & cosies.

Swimming Carnival

This years swimming carnival is being held on **Friday 18th November** at Hawkesbury Oasis for students 8 years and over only. More information will be communicated in due course.





Parramatta Diocese Catholic Primary School Sports Council (PDCPSSC)

The Parramatta Diocese Catholic Primary School Sports Council (PDCPSSC) is responsible for the provision of opportunities for primary students to participate in representative teams in a range of sports.

Nominations are opening up this term for 2023 to students who are currently in Year 4 and Year 5 who display an above average ability in their chosen sport.

The sports that students are eligible to participate and represent in are:

- AFL
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Diving
- Football (Soccer)
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Softball
- Tennis
- Touch Football

Representation is facilitated through the following pathway for these team sports: Diocese (Parramatta), Region (MacKillop), State (NSW PSSA)

This culminates with the opportunity for talented students aged 10 -12 Years to participate in School Sport Australia in both individual and team sports.

If you would like your current **Year 4 or Year 5** child to be considered for nomination in any of the above sports for 2023 please email Mrs Tolhurst rfrew@parra.catholic.edu.au with an expression of interest including a detailed list of your child's achievements in their chosen sport as well as their current representative experience/team. Thank you to the parents who have already sent this through to me.

Rebecca Tolhurst

Sports Coordinator



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.

POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

2 Day Parent/Carer Workshop - NSW

This workshop is for parents, full time carers and grandparents. Join other local families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership.

1 - 2 November 2022

2 day workshop

Presented by Trish Nicoll and is free to attend. Visit the website below for more information and to register

<https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/>

Description

Learn about:

The diversity of autism

examines parent's knowledge of autism and how autism directly impacts their child at home and school

investigates a range of practical strategies to use at home and school to improve learning outcomes



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:

21 October and

18 November (Christmas Party)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Staff Development Days 2022

TERM FOUR - Monday 7th November, Friday 2nd December,
Monday 19th December and Tuesday 20th December 2022

Term Dates 2022

- Last day of Term 4 Friday 16th December 2022

Term Dates 2023

- Tuesday 31st January - First Day Years 1 to 6
- Wednesday 1st February - First Day Kindergarten 2023
- Thursday 6th April - Last Day of Term 1





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- **Monday 24th October to -** Swimming Program
Friday 4th November
- **Wednesday 26th October -** Kindergarten 2023 Transition 1
- **Thursday 27th October -** Kindergarten 2023 Transition 2
- **Monday 31st October -** Kindergarten 2023 Transition 3
- **Tuesday 1st November -** Kindergarten 2023 Transition 4
- **Friday 4th - 15 November -** Book Fair
- **Monday 7th November-** Staff Development Day
- **Wednesday 9th November -** Kindergarten 2023 Parent Info
- **Tuesday 15th November -** Kindergarten 2023 Whole Group
- **Friday 18th November -** Swimming Carnival Ages 8 & over
- **Thursday 1st December -** Christmas Concert
- **Friday 2nd December -** Staff Development Day
- **Monday 5th December -** ES1 & Stage 1 Incursion
- **Friday 9th December -** End of Year Mass
- **Wednesday 14th December -** Year 6 Graduation Mass & Lunch
- **Thursday 15th December -** Year 6 Fun Day
- **Friday 16th December -** Whole School Farewell Assembly
- **Friday 16th December -** Last day for Students

Snack Shack - Please note: in accordance with CEDP guidelines our Snack Shack is cashless and we are 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.**



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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

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