



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 4 Week 4

Thursday 3rd November 2022

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

Earlier this week we celebrated All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Each year we recall the example, witness, and prayer of the holy women and men who have been identified by the Church as Saints. These saints are often looked upon by us as role models; often being examples of ordinary people who were called to do the work of God. Every year when we celebrate All Saints Day, the Gospel we proclaim recalls for us Jesus' teaching about happiness, the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living and outline God's gift of blessing granted to those who choose to live as His disciples. Saints are people who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived. On this day, we too are challenged to model our lives on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes.

For me personally this is a big week as my son turns 18 and will finish his last HSC exam on Friday. As I have mentioned to many of you, it is difficult and daunting for our young people to leave behind the security of 13 years of Catholic schooling and step into the world of work or further study. There will be many challenges ahead, I am sure but I pray that my son and all of our school leavers will remember the teachings of the Beatitudes and will use this beautiful scripture passage to model their behaviour and interaction with others. I pray that their lives will be blessed with love and joy and that they will remember to keep God in their everyday lives.

This week we welcome **Mrs Angela Rowley** to our staff at St John's. Angela has joined our staff as Religious Education Coordinator. She was previously working at St Luke's Marsden Park. We are very happy to have Angela at St John's to share her knowledge and experience.

Swimming Programme

As you would be aware the children have been participating in the swimming programme over the last two weeks. As a staff we are very keen to hear your feedback on this program before we make the commitment for 2023. While it is important that children learn to swim, it is not a mandatory part of our curriculum. The majority of the cost of the program is put towards the buses that transport the children each day. Unfortunately our attendance rate has been down by 30 percent each day, throughout the swimming program. As it is the parents who are paying for this we would like to offer you a chance to have your say. Please email the school by Friday 11 November if you would like to provide any feedback on the program. We will take on board all feedback before we make any decisions about swimming for 2023.

Have a blessed week.

Jane Misek

Principal





A message from the Assistant Principal



ONLINE SAFETY

The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) is Australia's independent regulator for online safety.

The [esafety webpage resource](#) is available for free online and outlines some advice for parents of school age children.

Using technology has become a part of our daily lives and we should work together to ensure students use the internet in a safe and responsible manner.

The webpage explores Online Safety Basics and outlines 3 Key Strategies for parents.

1. Be engaged, open and supportive

- Get involved. Share online time with your children as part of family life. Play games together. Talk about favourite apps, games or websites.
- Keep lines of communication open. Ask about their online experiences, who they are talking to and whether they are having any issues.
- Reassure your child they can always come to you, no matter what. Let them know you will not cut off internet access if they report feeling uncomfortable or unsafe when online – this is a real concern that may stop your child from communicating with you openly.
- If you notice a change in behaviour or mood, talk to your child about it. If you are concerned, consider seeking professional help – from your GP, a psychologist or school counsellor.

2. Set some rules

- Set age-appropriate rules for devices and online access, with consequences for breaking them.
- Get your child's input — this will help them understand risks. As they get older you can review your rules together.
- Consider creating a family tech agreement (sometimes called a family media plan or family online safety agreement). This is a set of rules about how devices, like smartphones, tablets, computers, TVs and gaming consoles are used in your home. It is written down and agreed to by all family members and kept in a place where everyone can see it, such as on the fridge.
- Your family tech agreement could cover the type of websites that can be visited, time spent online and acceptable online behaviour.
- eSafety has created downloadable family tech agreement templates for families with children under 5 or those with kids aged 5 to 8 years. For families with older children, The Family Online Safety Contract from ThinkUKnow Australia is a good starting point.
- The consequences for breaking the rules should be clear. Negotiate these with your child when you create your agreement so they mean something to them – Raising Children Network has some useful tips and advice.
- Consider making some 'rules for parents' too and stick to them! Model behaviour that you would like to see.



Use technology and get information

- Get to know the devices you and your children use and set them up for privacy and online safety. Take advantage of parental controls to monitor and control screen time and access to content, based on your child's age and experience. See our guide to parental controls.
- Choose apps and games carefully and visit the App Store or Google Play for age ratings and consumer advice. Read the Australian Classification Board's online database for information about movies and games.

Your support and guidance can give your children the confidence to make sound decisions online – and ask for help when they need it.

Have a great week.

Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal



A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

In the coming weeks, families will be receiving information in regards to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal and the upcoming Christmas concert.



Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator



ENROLLING NOW . . .

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.



Wellbeing

The expectations of *I Am Safe, I Am Respectful, I Am A Learner* extend across the whole school, on the playground and in all the learning spaces. Each Stage has their own set of expectations based around the whole school expectations.

For the past few years we have had a focus on developing a growth mindset in all students and staff. Each Stage has their own display based on their own teaching and modelling.

In Early Stage 1, "We are all strong because we are all good at something."

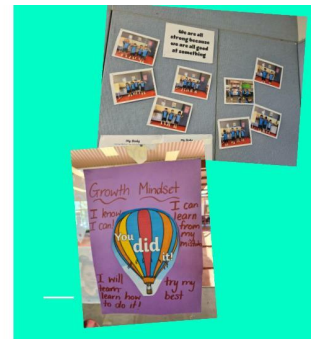
IN EARLY STAGE 1

We follow the expectations and use our learning space in a respectful way.



IN EARLY STAGE 1

We are all strong because we are all good at something
We are good learners because we have a growth mindset.



IN EARLY STAGE 1

We know that we need to:
BE SAFE
BE RESPECTFUL
BE GOOD LEARNERS



Amanda Jeffery

Wellbeing

Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Ltd

From the beginning of 2023, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will have a new name, Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Ltd. The organisation will also have a new governance framework. It is not expected that these changes will have an impact on the day-to-day operation of schools, or upon students, parents and carers, and parishes. Further information is available

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/about/our-leadership/board-of-directors>



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.

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 Friday:

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



Mark your
Calendar



- **Friday 4th - 15 November** - Book Fair
- **Friday 4th November** - Assembly lead by Stage 1
- **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
- **Friday 25th November** - Assembly Stage 3 & ES1 combined
- **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

the  of the **COMMUNITY**

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.**



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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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