



# The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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## Term 4 Week 6

### ***A message from the Principal***

**Thursday 17th November 2022**

Dear St John's Families,

Recently Miss Murphy, Mrs Rowley and I attended a symposium of system leaders and clergy. The theme of these two days was *Catholic Education for All - Developing a Culture of Dialogue*.

During the two days we had opportunities to discuss with our colleagues how we are called to respond to the signs of the times, and how we are committed to developing a Catholic identity that is characterised by dialogue.

We were challenged by our Bishop, *Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL, Bishop of Parramatta* to think about the diversity of gifts in our community that contribute to Catholic Education for all and to look at ways we can create an ongoing culture of dialogue in our schools. Everyone has something to learn and everyone has something to offer.

I recently spoke to our Kindergarten parents for 2023 about what makes us stand out from other schools. Of course it should always be that we have Christ at the centre of everything we do and that we place equal importance on the intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth of our children.

Bishop Vincent used this beautiful quote "*We sit on the old mat, in order to weave the new*", which I think demonstrates how in a culture of dialogue we are always working together as parents, teachers and parish to contribute to a school culture that will enable our children to flourish in all areas of their lives.

*God of Love,*

*You call us to be people of purpose.*

*Open our eyes to the great significance of our work together*

*as day by day we give witness to Your love and transform*

*the lives of the children in our care.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus.*

*Amen*

God  
is  
Love

**As we are nearing the end of the year there are many important events in the school calendar.**

**Christmas Concert** - On Thursday 1 December we will be holding our Christmas concert in the school hall. All Parents and Carers are warmly invited to attend. The performance will start at 6.30pm and will run for approximately an hour. On this evening we will also introduce our school leaders for 2023 to our community. We look forward to seeing all our children and their families on the night.



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**End Of Year Mass** - This will be held on **Friday 10 December at 11.45am** in the church. Following Mass parents may join their children for lunch on the playground. We will then hold our awards ceremony at 1.40pm in the hall. All are welcome to attend.

## **Year 6 Graduation Mass and Lunch and End of Year Fun Day**

The Year 6 Graduation Mass will be held on **Wednesday 14 December at 11.45am** This will be followed by lunch in the hall. This event is for Year 6 children and their families. Please contact the office if you have not yet sent your RSVP. On **Thursday 15 December** Year 6 children will be visiting Sydney Zoo together.

*In order to ensure that all of these events can go ahead safely it is important that we take note of the most recent COVID advice outlined below.*

## **COVID Advice**

[NSW Health recently advised](#) that COVID-19 transmissions within the community are rising, with a peak of cases expected in early December. Whilst NSW Health has not changed its required actions at this time, we recommend ensuring that COVID-safe measures are taken to minimise infections.

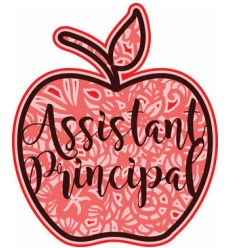
Staff and students should remain at home if they are unwell. Students, staff and visitors should only attend school when they are symptom-free. While mask wearing is no longer mandatory we still encourage the use of masks in indoor spaces or large gatherings.

Today each family will receive a new box of Rapid Antigen tests. We encourage you to use these if your child is experiencing any cold or flu like symptoms. *Our aim is to ensure that we are all able to finish the school year safe and well and that all of our end of year activities are able to go ahead as planned.*

Have a blessed week.

Jane Misek

**Principal**



## ***A message from the Assistant Principal***

As the weather has become warmer experts are warning us to be on the lookout for snakes, with recent wet and warm weather bringing them out earlier than usual. Approximately 3000 people are bitten by snakes every year, with 300 of them receiving antivenom and one or two bites, on average, proving fatal. The vast majority of snakebites occur when the snake is threatened.

As Riverstone is a semi-rural suburb we must prepare students and staff for the possibility of a snake sighting on school grounds. The teachers will discuss snake safety with students, reinforcing that no one is to ever approach, chase or attempt to catch a snake. Our safety message to students will be to **STAY CALM** if they see a snake and stand still until it moves away and let the closest adult know.

If a snake is sighted at our school we will ring a snake catcher immediately and relocate all students and staff to safe locations away from the snake. We will inform the school community if a snake is sighted.

Judith Murphy

**Assistant Principal**





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## ***A message from the Religious Education Coordinator***

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the chance to introduce myself, my name is Angela Rowley and I am so pleased to have joined the St John's community two weeks ago. Prior to St John's I have worked at very large schools so I am enjoying the community and getting to know the lovely smiling students here each day.

I am privileged to continue the work of Phil Margerison in building the faith development and prayer life of the community and look forward to getting to know you as this year concludes and 2023 commences. Thank you for making me feel so welcome in my short time here already.

### **Upcoming Events**

On Tuesday you would have received a skoolbag notification for the upcoming ***St Vincent De Paul appeal***. This is occurring slightly differently to previous years. On Monday 5 December students are invited to wear Christmas Mufti. On this day students will bring an item to support the appeal in return for wearing their mufti clothing. Please see skoolbag for the list of items required for each stage and in advance we thank you for your generosity in supporting those in our local community less fortunate than us during the Christmas season.

***Queen Jubilee Tree Planting Ceremony*** - On Wednesday 30 November at 10:30am families are invited to a tree planting ceremony in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II. Following the ceremony, parents are welcome to join us for a picnic morning tea with light refreshments served for adults.

Angela Rowley

***Religious Education Coordinator***



**Australian Government**



## ***A message from the Leader of Learning***

This week we welcomed our 2023 Early Stage One students. The students came together and spent the morning with their teacher for next year, Mrs Fredericks reading and creating an artwork. They then met their buddies and after learning a little bit about one another the students shared recess together. There were so many smiles and happy faces.

We are so proud of our year 5 students who interacted beautifully with our newest community members showing outstanding leadership skills. They will be wonderful role models and support for our new Early Stage One students. 2023 promises to be a wonderful year.



Pauline Berry

***Leader of Learning***



## 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 Stage 1, we use all the areas of our room safely and for our learning. We know that to be safe, be respectful and be good learners we need to follow our non-negotiables.

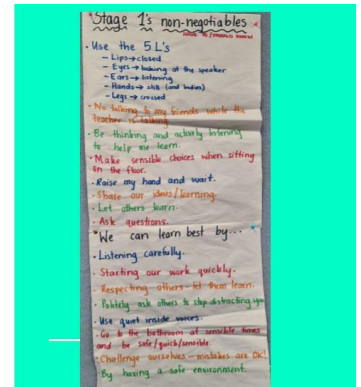
### IN STAGE 1

We use all the areas of our room safely and for our learning.



### IN STAGE 1

We know that to be safe, be respectful and be good learners we need to follow our non-negotiables.



Amanda Jeffery

**Wellbeing**



## 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](http://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.**



## SWIMMING CARNIVAL FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2022



HAWKESBURY OASIS SOUTH WINDSOR

Buses will depart St John's at 9am sharp, please ensure students 8 years and over attending the carnival are at school on time tomorrow.

Students should wear their sports uniform. Competitors should wear a swimming costume underneath their sports uniform. For this event, students are allowed to wear a t-shirt indicating their house colour. (no pictures/slogans or patterns). Please provide your with adequate sun protection for the day (school hat and sunscreen). Students will need plenty of light, healthy snacks to eat between events, a sensible lunch and plenty of water to drink. (no glass bottles please). Students will only be permitted to go to the canteen for a treat (not lunch), if time permits and we are able to free up a teacher to supervise.

## 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.

## Secondhand Uniform Shop Price Change

This week our parent helpers have been working hard to sort out many of the uniforms that are donated to the second hand uniform shop, thank you to Jessica Stone and Kate Beazley. We appreciate all the donations that we receive but we do ask if you are donating uniforms that they are clean and without rips or holes.

*Moving forward, the cost of second hand items sold in the uniform shop will be increased. Items will be sold at approximately 25% of their cost if purchased new. Items will be priced individually. At all times, if you are experiencing financial hardship and need support to purchase uniforms please feel free to contact the school office.*





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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Staff Development Days 2022

TERM FOUR - 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



- **Friday 18th November** - Swimming Carnival Ages 8 & over
- **Friday 25th November** - Assembly Stage 3 & ES1 combined
- **Wednesday 30th November** - Ceremony for Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting
- **Thursday 1st December** - Christmas Concert
- **Friday 2nd December** - Staff Development Day
- **Monday 5th December** - ES1 & Stage 1 Incursion
- **Wednesday 7th December** - Parent Volunteers Thank You Afternoon Tea with the principal
- **Friday 9th December** - End of Year Mass, Picnic Lunch and Awards Assembly
- **Monday 12th December** - Meet the Teacher
- **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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## Parish Toilets

A gentle reminder to parents and carers that the toilets attached to the presbytery are for the use of the parishioners using the Church. Parents and students should not be using these toilets during afternoon pick up. These toilets will usually be locked when the parish office closes at 2pm.

## 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)



St John XXIII  
Stanhope Gardens

## Vacation Care Program DECEMBER 2022



**IN-CENTRE**  
Monday 19 Dec  
Christmas Festivities  
\$60



As Christmas is just around the corner, the children will be invited to roll up their sleeves and get messy. Throughout the day the children will have the opportunity to cook Christmas delights, make their very own tree ornaments participate in a range of crafts, create their own Christmas jingles and lastly perform their songs for all their friends during a talent show!

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

**EXCURSION**  
Monday 19 Dec  
ZONE Bowling  
\$85



READY, SET, AIM, STRIKE!  
Join us at Blacktown Zone Bowling for a day of challenges and excitement. Taking turns and competing against one another, the children will bowl and strike to get their personal best on the score board! Are you ready for a challenge?

Excursion – Authority  
Form Required.

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

**WORKSHOP**  
Wednesday 21 Dec  
Christmas in Australia  
\$75



Do you know the signs that Christmas is coming?  
Christmas in Australia does. This exciting hands-on workshop teaches the children all the signs that Christmas is coming, this includes the exploration into Australia's native plants as well as some very special Australian animals.

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

Thursday 22 Dec

**Service Closed**

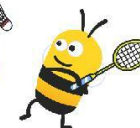
Friday 23 Dec

**Service Closed**

Children must wear sun-safe clothing with sleeves & collar, enclosed sports shoes, socks & a sun-safe hat (legionnaire or bucket hat with wide brim) for all outdoor play and excursions. The service will supply breakfast and afternoon tea each day and is an allergy aware service—please do not bring **nuts or eggs**. Children will not be able to purchase food while off site.

St John XXIII 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens

Open: 6:30am - 6:30pm Phone: 0438 228 271 Email: [StjohnXXIII@ambrose.org.au](mailto:StjohnXXIII@ambrose.org.au)





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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](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:stjohns10@bigpond)

***Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed***

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am & 9am