



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 8

Thursday 1st December 2022

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

Last weekend we began our new liturgical year. It is just 4 weeks until Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. May Advent be a time for each of us to deepen our awareness of the love of Jesus in our everyday lives, a time of peace and reflection and a time to prepare.

At school this is a busy time as we prepare for the end of the school year. We have many special events coming up over the next two weeks and we are pleased that for the first time in two years we are able to welcome our families back to help us prepare for Christmas.

All families are warmly invited to join us at our **Christmas concert tonight from 6.30pm**. Gates will open at 6pm. Please take your children straight to their classrooms and then make your way to the seats outside the hall. Seating will not be available until after 6pm when COSCH has packed up.

On **Monday 5th December** we will be having our **St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal and Mufti Day**. All students are invited to wear Christmas mufti and bring in their donation for the Christmas Appeal. Please see the notification sent out via skoolbag for the details.

Next **Wednesday 7 December from 2pm** there will be an **afternoon tea** to thank our parent helpers. This is also an opportunity to come along for a chat and catch up with other parents in our school. Please RSVP via the invitation on SkoolBag.

On **Friday 9 December** we will hold our **end of year Mass and awards ceremony**. Mass will commence at 11.45am. This will be followed by a picnic lunch on the playground and our awards ceremony in the hall, commencing at 1.40pm.

Children will have the opportunity to **meet their teachers for 2023 on Monday 12 December**. We are very happy to welcome three new staff members to our St John's team next year. Mrs Julie Squadrito, Mrs Kyra Giglio and Mrs Kelly Hynes. At a time when it is so difficult to attract teaching staff we are blessed to be welcoming three experienced teachers to our team and we look forward to working with them next year. At the end of this year we will be farewelling Miss Carmen Lai who has a permanent position at a new school for 2023 and Mrs Skye Mordocco who is relocating with her family in 2023. We thank both Carmen and Skye for the contribution they have made to our school community this year. We wish them both all the best for their future career.

A reminder also that tomorrow, **Friday 2 December is a staff development day**. All teachers will be off site on this day. However, if you do need supervision for your child/ren please let the office know as soon as possible.



Dear Lord, this Advent we ask You to grant us peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, and peace in our hearts. Help us to stay focused on You, this Advent season as we prepare for the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

Amen.



Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee

Yesterday we had a very special celebration to acknowledge the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a tree commemoration ceremony honouring the life and work of Queen Elizabeth II. We were joined by Father Zak who blessed our 18 new trees, by our parents and by the Deputy Mayor of Blacktown Councillor Julie Griffiths.

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program.



Have a blessed week.

Jane Misek

Principal



A message from the Assistant Principal

Next Friday 9th December you will be notified via Skoolbag that Semester 2 student reports are available to download or view from COMPASS. These reports capture student learning for the second semester and inform parents about their child's progress for the year. Reports are one significant form of communication between school and home. The semester reports inform parents about student learning measured against syllabus outcomes. Teachers can only report on what students demonstrate. This can be challenging for parents who may see different skills demonstrated at home or in other extracurricular activities. Reporting on a 5 part scale is mandated by the Government for all grades except kindergarten who have a different style of reports.

The end of semester reports capture a "moment in time" for your child's learning. Getting the same result in Semester 1 and Semester 2, doesn't mean that your child is stagnant. It means they were on point at the halfway mark of the year with everything they had been taught and had progressed as expected with everything taught in Semester 2. They had improved. Students will be awarded the grade that best matches the standard of their achievement. Some students will be awarded "basic achievement" and on rare occasions "experiencing difficulty". Such grades can reflect a lot of hard work on a student's behalf and if maximum effort has been applied by a student no one can ask for much else.

It is important that students have a positive disposition to learning and parents play a key role in this. Your response to grades on reports can make a significant difference to a student's future learning. At St John's we promote a "growth mindset" for all students. We want students to believe that even if they struggle with certain skills, their abilities aren't set in stone. They think that with work, their skills can improve over time.

On the Semester 2 Reports the following grade scale is used to report student achievement in each Key Learning Area. The Common Grade Scale describes performance at each of the five levels. The number on the report indicates how many students in the grade achieved that level.

Outstanding Achievement

The student has extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.

High Achievement

The student has thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and has a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.

Sound Achievement

The student has sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.

Basic Achievement

The student has basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has demonstrated a limited level of achievement.

Experiencing Difficulty

The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.



The Evangelist

If you wish to contact your child's teacher to discuss the report please make an appointment by contacting the school office via phone or email.

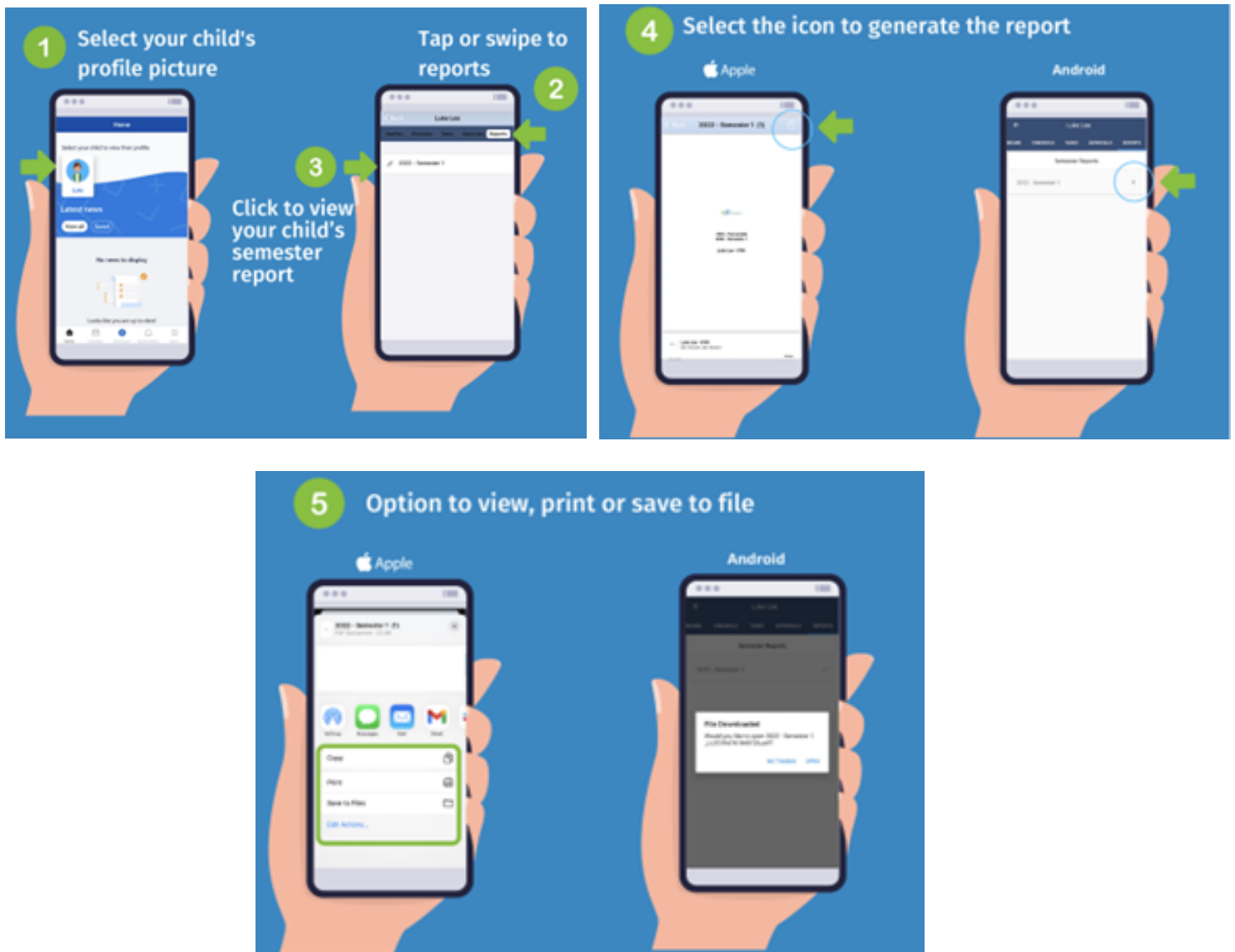
If you would like any more information about understanding the Semester Report please contact me via the school office.

Have a great week

Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR CHILD'S REPORTS VIA THE COMPASS PARENT PORTAL





The Evangelist

A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

Advent - Reflection Greg Sunter



© Jan Van't Hoff/Gospelimages.com

Sunday 27 November signifies the beginning of Advent in our Church. The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means 'coming.' So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas.

The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God becoming human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world.

Reflection Questions for Children

What are some things you look forward to?

How do you get ready to prepare for them?

Today we begin Advent – a time where we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Jesus asks us to live properly. How can we live properly?

How can we make Advent a time of preparation this week?

Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator



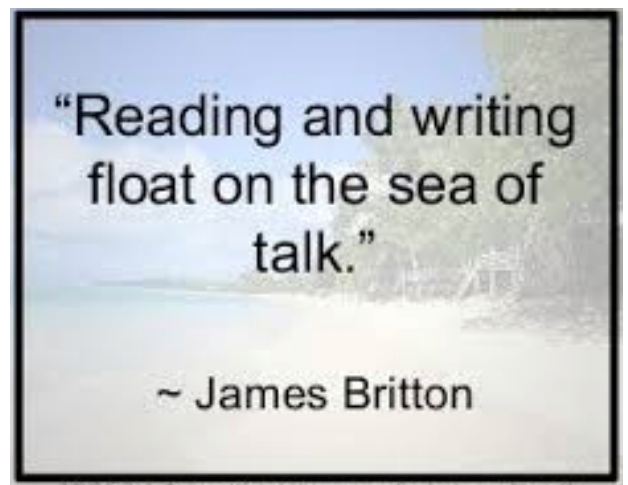
A message from the Leader of Learning

Why is communication and language key to development?

- Part of everyday life
- Allows for strong, positive relationships to be built with adults and children.
- Children can develop their own ideas and thinking.
- Supports social, emotional and educational development.
- Allows access to the wider school curriculum.
- Helps children become more confident with the written word.

How can you help your child

- Talk to your child.
- Have conversations.
- Think out loud.
- Find things your child is interested in.
- Make up stories.
- Change characters in existing stories.
- Draw or make puppets linked to stories you have read or created.
- Explore poetry and non-fiction books as well.
- Role play
- Picture books
- Rhyming helps children to break words down and to hear the sounds that make up words. Learn well known nursery rhymes, make up silly rhymes, find rhyming pairs and groups.



Questions that work

1. Showing interest/clarifying (following something up) e.g. did Matilda go to the party too?
2. Pondering (encouraging creative thinking) e.g. I wonder where bubbles go when they pop?
3. Posing possibilities (planting an idea) e.g. Do you think another block might help keep it steady?

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 2 "We work with our classmates and teachers to learn and care for our space".

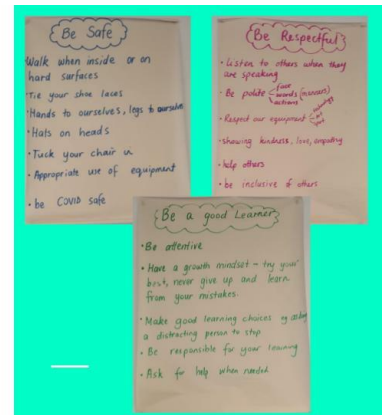
IN STAGE 2

We work with our classmates and teachers to learn and care for our space.



IN STAGE 2

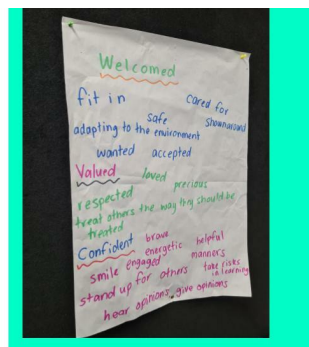
We follow our class and school expectations to be safe, be respectful and be good learners.



In Stage 3 "We are a rainbow of possibilities." Stage 3 students have expectations of their teachers and each other. The teachers have expectations of the students. We work hard to make sure everyone feels WELCOMED, VALUED and CONFIDENT at St John's.

IN STAGE 3

In Stage 3 we are all made to feel WELCOMED, VALUED and CONFIDENT.



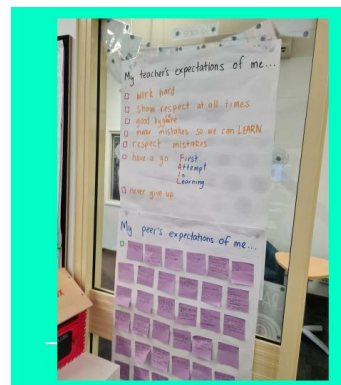
IN STAGE 3

We are SAFE, RESPECTFUL, LEARNERS.



IN STAGE 3

We have expectations of each other and our teachers have expectations of us.



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 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.

Secondhand Uniform Shop Price Change

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.



The Evangelist



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 for Students - 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



- **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

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.***



ST JP II HOSTS 2022

Christmas Concert Spectacular!

DANCING, LIVE MUSIC &
PERFORMANCES,
FOOD TRUCKS AND LOTS OF
SINGING!

SCHOFIELDS CAMPUS
WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER AT 6PM

Free entry with a donation to the



Vinnies Christmas Hampers
eg. canned goods, long life goods, toiletries,
Christmas goods, small gifts





The Evangelist

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