



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 3 Week 4

Thursday 11th August 2022

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

Thank you very much to all the families and students who have reached out to support Mr Margerison and his family at this very difficult time. The messages and cards from the students have been very much appreciated. Thank you also to all of the staff who have worked together to keep everything going over the last two weeks. Covid has finally caught up to my household and I have been at home for the last week and a half. In a small school like ours it is always difficult when staff are away, but our teachers, office staff and support staff have all worked closely together to ensure that it is "business as usual" with minimal interruptions to the children. I am very grateful to be working with such a dedicated group of professionals.

Next week our Stage Three children will attend their first overnight excursion. It has been a few years since we have been able to go on excursions so to say there is a lot of excitement about next week would be an understatement.

Once again thank you to all the staff members who have worked hard preparing itineraries, risk assessments, menus, health plans and room allocations. Events like these take a lot of preplanning in order to ensure all goes smoothly.

Thank you also to Mr Liam Shields who will be attending the excursion in Mr Margerison's place.



The Lord replied,

"My precious child, I would never leave you.

During your times of trial

when you see only one set of footprints,

it was then that I carried you."

Have a blessed week.

Jane Misk

Principal





A message from the Assistant Principal

New Kindergarten to Year 2 Curriculum



You may have heard in the media that the NSW school curriculum is changing. *The NSW Curriculum Reform aims to deliver a new curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 12 from 2024. The new curriculum is being developed by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).*

This new curriculum will give students more time to focus on key learning areas so that they can acquire a deeper understanding of central concepts. The curriculum reform aims to ensure students develop strong foundations for learning, life and work in a complex and fast-changing world.

The first stage of this comprehensive reform of the NSW school curriculum is starting with the foundations for our youngest students. Years K-2 are sometimes referred to as 'the early years of school'

The English and Mathematics K-2 syllabuses are the first new syllabuses of the K-12 NSW Curriculum Reform. The focus is on establishing foundations for future learning success, particularly the development of oral language, reading and writing skills, and mathematical knowledge and skills. The new English and Mathematics K-2 syllabuses will be taught in all NSW primary schools from 2023.

All schools have access to the new syllabuses now to prepare and plan for implementation. At St John's all teachers are engaging in professional learning about the new curriculum for K- 2. We are working with our literacy and numeracy Teaching Educators from CEDP to have a thorough understanding of key concepts, essential knowledge and skills, and new outcomes. We will share more information about the new curriculum in Term 4.

Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal

A message from the Religious Education Coordinator



First Holy Communion

Please continue to keep our Year 4 children who are preparation for their First Holy Communion in your prayers as they continue their initiation into their faith.

Monday 15th August - Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Father is fully booked for Masses on that day so there will not be a school Mass.
Stage 3 students are invited to attend the 8:30 am Parish Mass. Please complete the form via the skoolbag notification sent out yesterday afternoon if you wish your child to attend.

Philip Margerison

Religious Education Coordinator





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A message from the Leader of Learning

Exciting Creative Writing Competition!

Blacktown council are inviting aspiring writer's to enter a Creative Writing Competition.

The work must be original and completed in the last 6 months.

Entries can be either a poem (maximum of 25 lines) or a short story (maximum of 500 words).

The theme is... What Now? The winning entries will receive \$100 prize money.

There are free workshops available on 20th August at the Max Webber Library for those who are interested.

Please refer to the additional information below

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning



CALLING ALL CREATIVE WRITERS

The Mayoral Creative Writing Prize is a chance to showcase and foster the talents of Blacktown City's aspiring writers.

It is open to adults and children (aged 8 to 17 years), who live in Blacktown city.

Entries close midnight, Monday 3 October 2022.

Winners will be announced at the presentation ceremony on Thursday 8 December 2022.

Entries can only be submitted online via the [WestWords website](https://www.westwords.com.au).

What was... was, And what has been, has been, well...

We have had pandemics, fires, floods, arguments,
new people enter our lives, and leave them...
a new government and an old one leave.

Changes. So many changes. So... **What now?**



You have your story, but where do you start? With your writing journey just beginning, work with a mentor to find your direction... **What Now?** Blacktown Mayoral Creative Writing Prize Workshops

Saturday August 20, 10.00 am - 11.30 am at the Max Webber Library, Blacktown.

8-11 years with Brittany Kempiah <https://writingworkshopaug811.eventbrite.com.au>

12-14 years with Belle Butler <https://writingworkshopaug1214.eventbrite.com.au>

Good Luck to all participants!





BOOK WEEK 2022

Wednesday, August 24th

The Book Week theme this year is

Dreaming with eyes open...

The theme is about stepping into your own story, dreaming with eyes open...

Listening to country as the first storyteller...

Learning from friends who help you on your way.

We will begin our celebrations with a Book Character Parade.

Students are invited to come to school on that day appropriately dressed as a book character.

Parents, Grandparents and carers are invited to join with us at 10 a.m. for the Book Character Parade followed by a Staff Reader's Theatre performance and our annual Rug Reading. Everyone is then invited to stay on for a picnic morning tea.

Please see the timetable below.

10:00 am Book Character Parade Staff Reader's Theatre Performance Rug Reading

11:00 am Picnic Morning Tea (BYO morning tea to share with your children)

In addition to these activities, on Friday 26th August the students will be participating in an incursion experience presented by Koomurri Aboriginal Incursions. This incursion will immerse the students in various aspects of the indigenous culture including history, song and dance and didgeridoo and storytelling presented by a Koomurri Indigenous Educator

We are looking forward to another fabulous Book Week Celebration and hope that you can join us on Wednesday 24th August.



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CSPA 2022 Parent Survey on Student Wellbeing and Learning

The Catholic School Parents Association (CSPA) is an advocacy group for parents and carers of students attending Catholic schools in NSW. The association is conducting a survey on student learning and wellbeing.

This is a significant piece of research.

Have your say on what matters regarding the wellbeing and learning of your child. If you are a parent or carer with a child in a Catholic school, CSPA would love to hear from you.


Visit the survey link and share your feedback to assist CSPA in reporting to the Federal Government and Catholic education. Your feedback will remain anonymous.


The survey closes **31 August 2022**.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022CSPAParentSurvey>

2022 PARENT SURVEY

CLOSES 31 AUGUST





**Catholic School Parents
AUSTRALIA**

HAVE YOUR SAY

Catholic School
Parents Australia
is listening.

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) acknowledges the funding received from the Australian Government to support this work.

Have your say on what matters regarding the wellbeing and learning of your child.

For example, has COVID or your partnership with the school affected your child's wellbeing and learning?

If you are a parent or carer with a child in a Catholic school, CSPA would love to hear from you.

Click on the survey link and share your feedback to assist CSPA in reporting to the Federal Government and Catholic education.

Your feedback will remain anonymous.

Please consider sharing this flyer with other parents.

Thanks for your support



Wellbeing

At our morning assembly on Monday, the SRC and the student wellbeing leaders presented a short play about what to do when someone is annoying or hurting them on the playground. We have a social story posted around the school. This social story is displayed in play areas and in each learning space and is discussed regularly with the students. This allows us consistency across the school.



If someone is annoying me or hurting me I need to ask them to stop.



I will look at them and put my hand up in the 'stop' sign.



I will say, "Stop it, I don't like it" and I will tell them what they have done wrong.



Then I will walk away from the person and move to a new place.



If they keep doing it, I will say stop again and walk away.



If it keeps happening I will go and ask the teacher for help.



I will remember to take deep breaths and not touch the other person when I am angry.



If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me via email at riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

Miss Jeffery



Attendance

Throughout most of the first half of the year our overall attendance rate has been close to 90 percent and while this may sound high we are always aiming to have attendance rates above 95 percent - that is 95 percent of children at school 95 percent of the time.

We understand that we ask you to keep children at home if they are unwell and that children have had to isolate due to family illness. However, if children are well and can be at school then they should be at school. Please consider your reasons for keeping children at home. It is easy to fall into a pattern of non attendance when children are allowed to stay home regularly when they are not sick.

Every day missed makes it harder for children to catch up and can lead to gaps in learning and social connections. Two days off a term adds up to four weeks a year, which over the the course of schooling from Kindergarten to Year 12 adds up to a full year missed.

Consent for Photos and Videos

A reminder to Parents and Carers that upon enrolment and at the commencement of each year, consent to have school photos / video etc is given. If at anytime you wish to withdraw this consent Parents and Carers must contact the school in writing.



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 their parents.

You are most welcome to bring a friend.

6pm in the Church Hall on these Fridays:

19 August, 16 September, 21 October and

18 November (Christmas Party)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Staff Development Days 2022

TERM THREE - Friday 23 September 2022

TERM FOUR - **Monday 10th October**, Monday 19th December and Tuesday 20th December 2022

Please note that we will be having an additional Staff Development Day on Monday 10th October 2022. This day has been allocated to support the implementation of the new syllabus in 2023.

Term Dates 2022

- Last Day Term 3 - Thursday 22nd September 2022
- First Day Term 4 - Tuesday 11th October 2022
- Last day of Term 4 Friday 16th December 2022



- Stage 3 Overnight Excursion to Canberra - 18th & 19 August 2022
- BOOK WEEK - 20th - 26th August 2022
- BOOK WEEK - WEDNESDAY 24TH August 2022 10:00 a.m
Book Character Parade, Staff Reader's Theatre
Performance & Rug Reading 11:00 am Picnic Morning Tea
(BYO morning tea to share with your children)
- Voice of Youth Cluster Final - Monday 22nd August 2022
Stage 3 attending
- Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day - Wednesday 31st August 22
- Father's Day BBQ Breakfast & Liturgy - Friday 2nd September 2022

Snack Shack - We will be reintroducing the "Snack Shack" to St Johns commencing Friday 12th August. Please note: in accordance with CEDP guidelines our Snack Shack will be cashless and we will be 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.***

Lunch Orders - All lunch orders are made via the **Spriggy Schools App**. Please refer to the Skoolbag post published on the 10th May with instructions on how to download the Spriggy Schools App. **No paper bag cash orders will be accepted.**

Second hand Uniform Shop - The uniform shop will open each **Wednesday from 8.30am to 9am**, please come to the front gate GATE 1 - McCulloch Street and see the staff member on duty. Donations of secondhand uniform items are welcome, we thank you for your continued support.



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Work Health and Safety Reminders

COVID 19 Back to School Safety

- A reminder to all that the COVID-smart settings that students, staff and communities have become used to will continue in Term 3.

These include:

- Staying home if unwell or showing any symptoms, and not returning to school or work until fully recovered
- Household and close contacts are required to follow the NSW Health household and close contact guidelines for 7 days from the last time someone in their household tested positive to COVID-19. In line with the updated rules for the general community, teachers and students who are household contacts, but do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, can return to school, however, we ask that you **please inform us if your child is a household contact**. In such circumstances, staff and students over the age of 12 must wear a mask. (Mask wearing is recommended for primary students but not mandatory)
- Rapid antigen testing for any students or staff showing symptoms and for household and close contacts who are able to return to school
- Maximising natural ventilation including utilising air purifiers (including scheduled replacement of filters)
- Good hygiene practices for students and staff including regular hand washing with soap and water
- Encouraging all students, staff and families to keep up to date with vaccinations, including COVID-19 booster shots when eligible and the flu vaccine

In addition to this:

- We strongly encourage all staff and school visitors to wear a mask while indoors, particularly during the next four weeks.
- All families were distributed with Rapid Antigen Test Kits at the end of Term 2. Please use these as necessary and contact the school if you require more.

If our school were to experience high numbers of COVID-19 cases we will consider postponing non-essential large group activities where it is feasible to do so.

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