



# The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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## Term 1 Week 3

### Thursday 9th February 2023

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

Dear St John's Families,

Welcome to the 2023 school year. I hope that all of our families were able to enjoy some relaxing family time together over the break. For many of us I am sure it has been the first time we have all been able to be together at Christmas for a few years. I was also fortunate to be able to spend a week with both of my sisters in Perth. We certainly had a lot of catching up to do as it was the first time we have all been together since 2019.

We are excited to see all of our children back this week and we extend a very special welcome to families and children new to the school. This includes all of our Kindergarten children who have settled in and had a great first week of learning.

We also welcome our new staff members to the school community. I know you will join with all of us in making them feel welcome as you meet them over the coming weeks. As always our Mantra is that every member of our school community should feel welcomed, valued and confident and we will all work together to achieve this.

A special thank you goes out to all of our staff who worked hard over the holiday to get the classrooms ready and to prepare exciting and engaging learning experiences and environments for the children. We hope that every member of our wonderful school community has a happy and successful year.

We know that all children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team. Parents' enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of our teachers. Working together we can all provide the best educational experience, and support every student in our school to achieve their personal best.

If parents are involved and are supportive of school decisions and policies, student achievement will improve.

It is important that parents and teachers have good communication opportunities. Good communication means speaking and listening actively and respectfully and not making assumptions. When problems arise they do not have to be stumbling blocks instead they could be opportunities to work together to find positive and creative solutions. Solutions that will benefit our children. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year your child's teacher should always be the first point of contact. The best way to make contact is via an email to the office. Each stage is also supported by one of our leaders of learning. If your question is urgent you can also contact the Leaders of Learning via the office or email.

- Mrs Pauline Berry supports Early Stage 1 and Stage 1
- Miss Judith Murphy supports Stage 2
- Mrs Angela Rowley supports Stage 3



We hope that throughout the year our community will come together to participate in and volunteer at a variety of school functions, activities and events including many celebrations of our Christian faith. In this way good relationships are formed and positive attitudes developed that give positive input to our children.

***A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.***

Hopefully all marks left during the year will be marks of respect, care and encouragement.

## **Meet your Child's Teacher - Meet and Greet - Week 5**

This week all families received information about how you can book a time to meet with your child's teacher. I encourage you to take up this opportunity. Meeting your child's teacher is an opportunity to begin a positive relationship and to clarify anything regarding the learning or your child's well being.

## **Dogs On School Grounds**

We all love to see everyones beautiful new puppies and pets, however, moving forward we request that if you are bringing your dog to school when you collect your child that you wait outside the school grounds.

## **Teachers Out of Class**

As with all professions, teachers have to maintain their accreditation through their attendance at professional learning. Sometimes these take place during the day in which case a relief teacher will be employed. We have a small bank of relief teachers and always endeavour to employ the same person for a class. Teachers also have their entitlements, such as long service leave, sick leave, family leave and bereavement leave. On any occasion when a teacher is absent the release teacher follows the class teachers program and has the support and guidance of the other teacher on the stage. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## **Road Safety**

Included with this newsletter is an attachment about keeping our children safe around schools. With our growing number of enrolments it is important that we are vigilant about road safety around our school. One of the problems we do face is ramp/pram access to the school. This is something that we are currently investigating. A reminder that the parish car park is out of bounds for parking in the morning as it is used for parishioners attending mass and for kiss and drop, however, if you do need to bring your pram into the school and park in the parish carpark please use the marked pedestrian crossing to cross through kiss and drop.

A reminder also about safety in the car park in the afternoons. It is always best to reverse into parking spots so that you are not try to reverse out where children are crossing. Please hold your childrens hands and avoid congregating in areas that can block drivers vision. It is very important that we remain vigilant about safety in the car park. It is everyones responsibility.

*Gracious God, we come to you at the beginning of this school year with our many feelings, expectations, fears and hopes. Throughout the year help us to remember that we have the comforting assurance from you: "I will always be with you." St John the Beloved - Pray for us Amen*

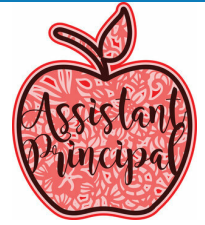
Jane Misek

**Principal**



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

### **NAPLAN 2023**



The National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Year 3 complete the writing assessment on paper- all the other assessments are completed via a secure online platform.

The assessments have been moved from May to March so that results are provided earlier to inform teaching and learning for school and system teaching programs. NAPLAN Online will take place in this term ( term 1) between the **15th - 27th March 2023.**

If you would like your child to have some practise answering the type of questions you can encourage them to use the [public demonstration site](#) to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in the NAPLAN online tests. The class teachers will also be using this site to ensure that students have the technological skills required to complete the assessments. If you have any questions please contact the class teachers or assistant principal via the school office.

### **Safer Internet Day**

What is Safer Internet Day?

Safer Internet Day is a global event that brings together communities, families, schools and organisations from more than 200 countries to help create safer online spaces.

This worldwide initiative is celebrating 20 years in 2023, making it a great time to reflect as well as look forward.

Technology has evolved dramatically in the past two decades and the benefits have been huge. These developments have also exposed us to many risks with real-world impacts, making online safety awareness even more important.

That's why we are calling on our community to Connect. Reflect. Protect.

Connect safely and with purpose – by keeping apps and devices secure and using social media in positive ways.

Reflect before we act – by taking a moment to consider how what we do and say online may affect others.

Protect ourselves and others by taking action – by telling family, friends or colleagues about eSafety and how we can help.

By doing these simple things, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

Class teachers will be discussing this event with their students.

The eSafety Commissioner is offering free online webinars for parents and carers via the link: [eSafety Commissioner](#)



 Term 1, 2023  
**Free eSafety parent and carer webinars**

Join eSafety's expert education team for a free live webinar designed for parents and carers.

**Term 1 topics:**

- **eSafety 101: how eSafety can help you (30 minutes)**  
For parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.
- **Setting your child up for success online (30 minutes)**  
For parents and carers of young people in primary school.
- **Getting the most out of gaming (45 minutes)**  
For parents and carers of young people in primary and early secondary school.
- **Navigating online friendships (30 minutes)**  
For parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

For more information and to register now: [esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)



**IT agreements will be also coming home soon. Please read carefully and discuss with your child.** If you have any questions we encourage you to contact the class teachers or assistant principal via the school office.

Judith Murphy

**Assistant Principal**

## CARPARK SAFETY

As our school grows it is important that we are very aware that the parish carpark is getting more traffic, especially in the afternoons.

Please ensure that you are always parking in marked spots. If there is no parking please exit the carpark and drive around the block and reenter via McCulloch street. Double parking is dangerous as it blocks vision for others.

*Please consider reverse parking if you are arriving before the bell - this is safer as you are not reversing around pedestrians.*

Please hold onto your young children's hands as you make your way to the car. Please avoid standing around in the car park talking around reversing vehicles. While we love that our parents are socialising, the carpark is not the best place as it is easy to lose focus.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping everyone safe.



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



The following Gospel reading occurred for the 5th Sunday in Advent over the weekend.

Mt 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

### *A Gospel reflection for children*

- Do you have a salt shaker on your table at home?
- Do you have a lamp in your house or a night light in your room?

Salt and lamps are common, everyday things. Jesus always uses objects that are familiar to us to teach us something about God's Kingdom or our place in it.

Let's think about the salt first. In Jesus' day, salt was very important. It was used in food and we use salt for the same reason today. Jesus is saying that we must exhibit the same qualities as salt. We should help preserve what is good in us and in other people.

Our light is our talents. The things we can do and the characteristics we possess all bring light to the world. We should recognise them, strengthen them, and use them in service of others.

- Do you recognise your talents?
- Can you name the things you do well?
- How can you make them stronger?
- How can you use them to help others?

Upcoming Dates:

- Friday 10 February - WYD Mufti Day (Donation by the Qkr! App) ***Students can wear casual, comfortable clothing and closed in shoes (no singlets or croptops). The school hat must also be worn.***
- Friday 17 February 11:45am - Opening School Mass
- Wednesday 22 February 10:15am - Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Angela Rowley

***Religious Education Coordinator***



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

The first few weeks of Kindergarten are a learning curve for everyone, including children, parents and teachers. But what a wonderful start we have had here at St John's.

We are so proud of our Early Stage One students (and their parents, teachers and buddies), they are quickly becoming familiar with all of the new faces and routines.

Below are some tips to help your children make a happy start to kindergarten and will help them set a solid foundation for their school life.

- Encourage their independence. Give them responsibility for simple daily tasks.
- **Read, read and read.** Reading and fostering a love of books is probably the most important activity you can do with your child to support their learning, it will help set them up for a lifelong love of learning. Visit your local library and start conversations with your child about their book choices.
- Encourage their curiosity and genuinely listen to what they're saying.
- Practise problem-solving skills.
- Develop their numeracy skills by playing counting games and maths concepts in your day-to-day household activities. Simple classification games (size, shape, colour and quantity) are also good.
- Establish clear expectations at home and help them to follow instructions. 'Please could you pick up your toy and put it in the cupboard'.
- There's no substitute for good manners and constantly reinforcing the need to say 'please' and 'thank you' will set them up for the kindy environment and for later life.
- Never miss an opportunity to help them with the concept of sharing and taking turns.

Once again, we are so proud of our Early Stage One students and congratulate them and all of our St John's students for the wonderful start they have made to 2023.

Pauline Berry

***Leader of Learning***



*Congratulations* to Pavnjay in Year 1 who welcomed a new baby brother yesterday. What exciting news!!





## 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.**

## OPEN DAY

**MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2023 10AM-11AM & 2PM-3PM & WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2023 10AM-11AM & 2PM-3PM**

**Please register your expression of interest via the website to attend the Open Day.**

**Enrolment Application are currently being accepted for 2024 and will close 31st March 2023.**

**Applications can be downloaded from our website <https://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au/>**

**Enrol > How to Enrol**

**or visit the school office to collect an enrolment application form between 8.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday during school terms**

## Ambrose - Before and After School Care

St John's is very fortunate to be able to offer before and after school care on our school site for the convenience of our families.

If you require this service please contact Sarah on

**0427 565 455 or email [stjohns@ambrose.org.au](mailto:stjohns@ambrose.org.au)**

## School Fees 2023

School fees will be mailed out to all families by Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Natalie in the school office on 9854 3200 or via email at [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au)



## Reducing the risk of illness

All students, staff and their families should follow NSW Health's advice to reduce the risk of not only COVID-19, but also other illnesses that may affect schools. The most up to date message from NSW Health for communities is as follows:

- **Stay home if unwell or showing even the mildest of symptoms**
- **Keep up to date with vaccinations – including the flu vaccine, which is available from your local GP, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service**
- **Get tested immediately for COVID-19 if you become symptomatic and isolate until you receive a negative result and are symptom free**
- **Practice good hand hygiene by washing regularly with soap and water**
- **Take a RAT before visiting vulnerable loved ones or going to large gatherings and events.**

*Next week all families will receive the final box of RAT tests.*

*Please use these for your family if needed.*

## SPORTS DAYS

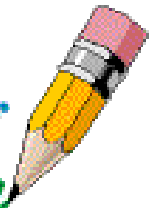
Kindergarten - Wednesday's & Thursday's

Years 1 & Year 2 - Tuesday's & Thursday's

Years 3 & 4 - Wednesday's & Thursday's

Years 5 & 6 - Tuesday's & Thursday's

Mark your  
Calendar



- **Friday 10th February** - WYD Mufti Day
- **Friday 17th February** - Opening School Mass
- **Monday 27th February** - Open Day
- **Wednesday 22nd February** - Ash Wednesday
- **Wednesday 1st March** - Open Day
- **5th - 10th March** - Catholic Schools Week
- **15th, 16th 17th & 18th March** - Naplan (Years 3 & 5)
- **Thursday 6th April** - Last day of Term 1
- **Thursday 4th May** - School Photo Day

## Australian Girls Choir Open Day

Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir (AGC) because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform. School aged girls are invited to come along to our Open Day on Saturday February 18 to try our fun and inclusive classes and learn more about being part of the AGC! Please visit our website to register to attend our free Open Day: <https://ausgirlschoir.com.au/joinagc>





## Snack Shack (school canteen)



We are pleased to let you know that next week we will be able to resume Snack Shack for the students. We are very appreciative of our parent volunteers who offer this service to our students twice a week on Monday and Wednesday at recess and lunch times.

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.

Students will be able to purchase a variety of items at the snack shack in the price range of 50c - \$2.00 using a school issued prepaid card that can be purchased via Qkr!

Parents can purchase either a \$5 or \$10 card. This card will be punched at the snack shack each time a student purchases an item according to its cost.

Each card issued will have

- the child's name and class clearly printed on it as well as
- denominations of 50c to the total value of the card. Children will only be able to purchase two items at the snack shack per day . When the value of the prepaid card has been spent, parents can purchase a new card for their child via Qkr. Students will be encouraged to bring their used card home with them. The students will be issued with a new card at school. If you need to purchase a new prepaid card for your child to use at the snack shack on:
  - Monday - it must be purchased on Qkr! no later than 4.30pm on the preceding Friday or on
  - Wednesday - it must be purchased on Qkr! no later than 4.30pm on the preceding Tuesday.

Students will not be able to purchase items at the snack shack using cash. Important It is important for parents and students to understand that prepaid cards need to be treated as we would money. Students will need to be responsible for their card just as they would any money that is given to them.

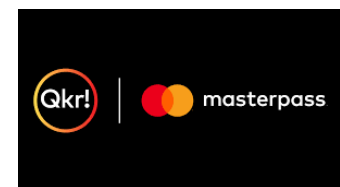
Like money, if it is lost the school cannot replace the card. For younger grades the cards can be stored in boxes for each class in the snack shack. However, you may prefer that your child keeps their card in their wallet/pocket and brings it home each operating day.

It is important that parents have set up each of their children's information and student profile in Qkr! accurately so that prepaid cards are issued correctly. Parents please ensure that your child is appearing in the correct year and class on Qkr! If not, please amend their profile before purchasing

## How to use Qkr for school?

### Getting Started

1. Download Qkr! on your Android phone or iPhone at either the Apple App store, or Google Play.
2. Select your country of residency 'Australia' and follow the steps to register.
3. Find our School - Our school will appear in 'nearby locations' if you're within 10 kms of the school or search for St John's Primary School, our logo will appear.
3. Set up your child/children's profiles individually.
4. Register your debit card





## Lunch Orders

### Lunch orders can be placed via the Spriggy Schools App on Monday's and Friday's

Sam's Gourmet Café has partnered with Spriggy Schools to manage our canteen ordering system. Spriggy Schools is very user friendly and available for child caregivers to use on an iPhone, Android and desktop.

Please see the instructions below on how to download the Spriggy Schools App.

The cut-off time to order lunch for students will be 9am on Monday & Friday. If for any reason it is past the cut-off time, caregivers can contact Sam on 02 9627 1634 and if there is reasonable time to prep the order, Sam can place the order for the student via the back end of the Spriggy Schools app. Sam will be requesting sufficient details to ensure the correct student account is being charged. Caregivers can request a refund and cancel the order via the app prior to 9am, if it is past 9am, the caregiver must contact Sam and if the order hasn't been made, Sam will issue a refund back onto the students account.

If the caregiver has any questions regarding the app and its functionality, please direct them firstly to the customer support popup on the bottom right hand of the Spriggy Schools app, alternatively you can direct them to Sam and we will help to the best of our ability or pass the question onto our Spriggy Schools account manager.

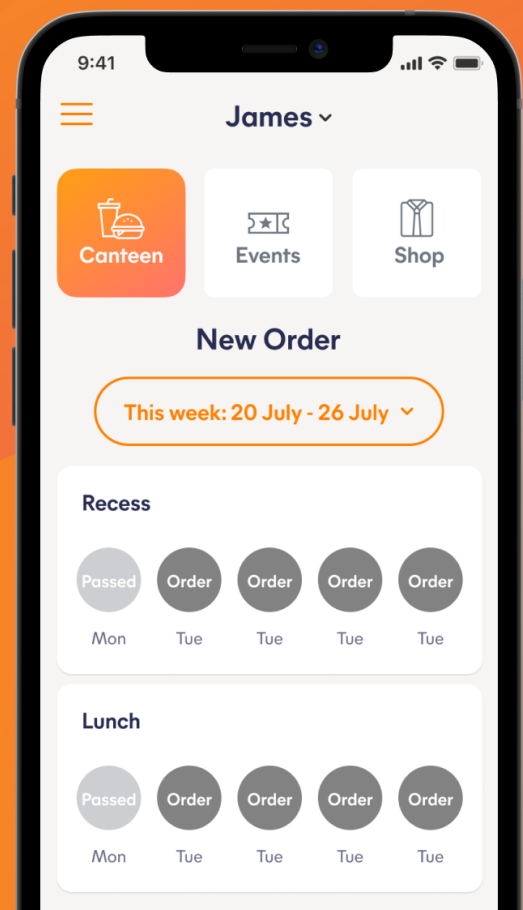
Spriggy Schools

## Introducing Spriggy Schools for online ordering

### How to get started

1. Download the Spriggy Schools app
2. Create a profile for your child
3. Conveniently place orders online

Download the app now!





# The Evangelist

## Secondhand Uniform Shop

The secondhand uniform shop is open every Wednesday morning from 8.20am to 9am. Please see the staff member on duty at the gates. We thank our parent volunteers Mrs Belinda Murray and Mrs Jessica Stone for their support in offering this service for our St John's families. Payment for all secondhand uniform items are made via the Qkr! App.



## Library News

### Guided Reading Books

During the holidays we completed a stocktake of our reading resources and found that we have 61 incomplete sets of guided readers. This means that 1 or more of our guided reading books was not returned to St John's last year. We need to have a minimum of 6 books per set so that the guided reading groups can work effectively. St John's has limited resources and don't want to be spending money to replenish current resources where we could be spending this on adding new resources to the school.

We are asking all families to please do a check at home, and anywhere else your child may complete homework or reading, for any books you may still have at home. If you could please have these returned to the school marked to **Mrs Abbot's attention. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.**

### Library Books

We also seek your assistance in having library books that were borrowed over the school holidays returned to the school, many students have still not returned their books. **If parents could please assist students in having these returned this week so that library borrowing can commence next week.**

### Mrs Misek Challenge.

Thank you to the students who participated in Mrs Misek's Summer Reading Challenge and have returned their challenge sheet to school. If you have not yet returned your Challenge, sheet this needs to be returned to school by Friday the 10th February. ***If you have any queries please contact Mrs Abbott via the school office.***

## 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