



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 1 Week 5

Thursday 23rd February 2023

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

Last week we held our opening school mass. It was wonderful to see so many of our parents and extended family members join us. The theme of our mass was One Community- Many Gifts. Thank you to Mrs Rowley for planning this beautiful celebration for us.

St John's is a community built firstly on our faith - a community that was started many years ago to ensure that students in this area had the opportunity for a catholic education and that their parents could send them to school knowing that their faith would be nurtured and enriched.

We are a community built on good leadership, from our priest Father Zac, from our staff and from our students who were recognised at our mass.

A community built on learning - not just learning in Maths or in English but a place where curiosity, imagination and a love of learning can thrive. A place where each learner, student, teacher or family member can be inspired through Catholic education to live their best life.

And a community built on love, love of God, love for each other, love for our families and love of life.

Last year we committed to ensuring that everyone who was part of this community could know that they are always welcome, valued and confident.

In 2023 I want us all to remember these words as we work together throughout the year as a community built on faith, leadership, learning, and love. I encourage all of us to work together to ensure that St Johns is a place where everyone feels welcome, valued and confident. A place where we can explore all the possibilities that lay in front of us, where we value the diversity of every member of our community and where there are opportunities for each one of our strengths and needs to be met.

Congratulations to our new leaders **Giovanni & Jacinta - School Leaders, Hirbod & Sienna - SRC Leaders, Jelena, Sia, Baylie & Breanna - Sports Leaders, Jamie, Elizabeth, Haarika, Jonathon & Shreya -Community Leaders.** Like your parents, we are very proud that you are leaders in our school and that you are here to support our other students.





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Thank you to our staff who have already shown so much commitment and dedication this year. Their love for the children is what makes St John's a unique learning community. I hope that all families were able to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher this week as we work in partnership. If you were unable to schedule an appointment and would still like to do so, please email the school.

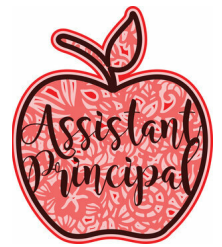
Thank you also to all of our families for choosing St Johns to educate your children in 2023. St Johns is a great school and we have many great opportunities planned for all of our children this year. I hope that throughout the year we will be able to work together to ensure the best outcomes for our children as we nurture their education and faith development.

I look forward to working with all members of our community to have the best year in 2023.

Jane Misek

Principal

A message from the Assistant Principal



Awards

At St John's we acknowledge and affirm the efforts of the students through our school awards that are presented at whole school assemblies on several Fridays throughout the term. Our school recognises and celebrates student achievement and success in a variety of curriculum areas as well as recognising students that follow the school expectations of being safe, being a learner and being respectful. School awards motivate students to achieve their best.

The following is a brief explanation of our school awards.

Merit Awards

Presented for achievements in any Key Learning Area.

These achievements may include -improvement, academic achievement, work habits, quality of class work, mastering a new skill, sporting attitude, social skills and positive contributions to the class.

Student of the week

Awarded to a student in each class who throughout the school week consistently 'strives to achieve'. This award is presented to a student who has achieved and / or displayed positive growth and / or has produced special efforts and application in any area of the school curriculum.

Value Award (ribbon)

The recipients of this award try to be like Jesus in their everyday actions. They are awarded to students who consistently demonstrate the Gospel Values through their interactions with others. These students have been seen to demonstrate one or more of the following values: stewardship, compassion, dedication, dignity, hospitality, justice and service.

Judith Murphy





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A message from the Religious Education Coordinator



This Wednesday, 22nd February we marked the beginning of the Church's season of Lent by celebrating Ash Wednesday. We held a liturgy at school for the students where children of all ages received ashes and students who had received their First Communion came to Mass. Throughout Lent, students are encouraged to acknowledge their shortcomings and make a special effort to turn back to God. As Fr Christopher Sarkis writes, "Lent calls us into the secret place of the heart where we are alone with God, allowing us to examine our conscience and life in order to shine a light on whatever may be keeping us from being completely united with God."



Project Compassion

Recently the eldest child in each family brought home a Project Compassion box. The Project Compassion box is a means for students to participate in almsgiving. The money donated goes to Caritas Australia to assist with their projects which help the poor in Australia and overseas. Children are encouraged to donate a small amount each week by placing the money in the box. At the end of Lent (which is also the end of term), the boxes are returned to the school or to the parish and the funds will be onforwarded.

Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator



A message from the Leader of Learning

Learning to write involves many skills. Kids need fine motor skills for handwriting and typing. Getting words on paper also requires spelling and other skills closely related to reading.

Children's experiences with writing and creating texts is an important avenue for self-expression in early childhood. These experiences also support precursors to their later reading and writing development (Saracho, 2017; Puranik & Lonigan, 2011).

Young children begin to explore written communication by scribbling, drawing and producing approximations of writing. They use digital technologies and multimedia resources to communicate, play and learn. They create and display their own information in a way that suits different audiences and purposes.- VEYLDF (2016)

Your child's ability to write is dependent on their ability to master a wide variety of literacy skills including recognizing letters, interpreting sounds, and print awareness, such as the spacing of words. Sight word recognition is also important to help children confidently undertake writing tasks.

A great way to encourage your child as a writer – even in the early stages – is to say, "Tell me what you wrote." Children love sharing their stories, and you'll delight in hearing the often-elaborate and fantastical thoughts that are behind those simple scribbles.



Keep paper and crayons or markers easily accessible so your child can start writing when inspiration strikes. Pens and pencils are fine too, but young children often have an easier time holding thicker writing tools. You can also encourage your child by writing notes. A simple note waiting at the breakfast table can inspire a note in return.

Remember that all children learn differently. A child might do well with one skill but might find another skill more challenging. Struggling with writing doesn't mean they aren't smart. Some children just need more support to thrive as writers.



“Popcorn is prepared in the same pot, the same heat, in the same oil, and yet, the kernels do not pop at the same time.” Don't compare your child to other children. Their turn to pop is coming.”

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning

SPORTS NEWS

On Tuesday 28th February 2023 three students from St John's will participate at the Parramatta Diocesan Boys and Girls Football Trials.

Good Luck to Tyga, Makenna & Giovanni from Stage 3

We wish you every success next week.





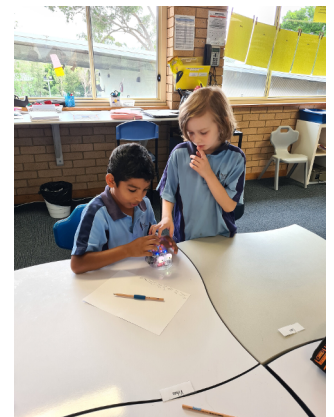
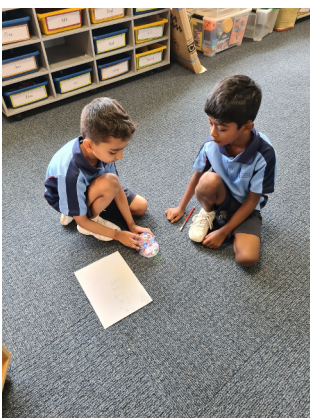
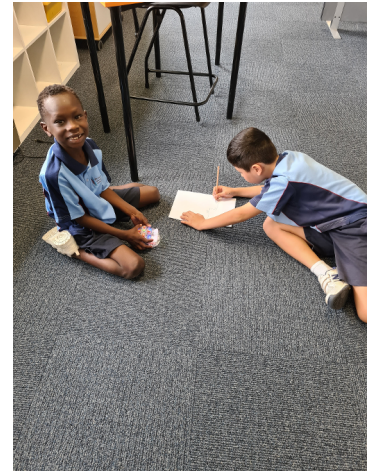
What's happening in Stage 2

Year 3

In Year 3 we have been working on Position. We learned to read simple maps and some new positional vocabulary. We then used the BlueBots to do some coding. We had to make the Bots do a little dance. We recorded our dances using the symbols on the back of the BlueBots. Our Bots moved forwards and backwards as well as turned left and right. We did half turns and full turns. We then made two Bluebots do a synchronised dance and spell our names on the alphabet mat.

Year 4

What's on? Click the QR code to view just one of the great things happening in Year 4





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.

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 Applications 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

School Fees 2023

School fee statements have been issued and are due 15th March. If you wish to accept the Flexible Payment Plan attached to your statement, please select an option and preferred payment type and complete the relevant flexible payment eform by visiting <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/fpp>



END OF YEAR DATES

Term 4/2023

The last day for students in 2023 is Friday 15th December

The 18th & 19th December will be Staff Development Days

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



- **Friday 24th February** - Assembly Stage 3 presenting
- **Monday 27th February** - Open Day
- **Wednesday 1st March** - Open Day
- **Friday 3rd March** - Assembly Stage 2 presenting
- **5th - 10th March** - Catholic Schools Week
- **Monday 6th March** - Catholic Schools Week Liturgy
- **Friday 10th March** - Cross Country
- **Friday 10th March** - Welcome BBQ/Picnic & Disco 5.30pm - 7.30pm
- **15th, 16th 17th & 18th March** - Naplan (Years 3 & 5)
- **Friday 17th March** - St Patrick's Day - wear a touch of green
- **Thursday 6th April** - Last day of Term 1





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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.

Snack Shack (school canteen)



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.

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.

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