



# The Evangelist

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## Term 2 Week 2

### Thursday 4th May 2023

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

Dear St John's Families,

It is great to have all the children back at school enjoying their learning this term. We have a busy term of learning and fun planned for all of the students at St Johns and we look forward to welcoming you to many of our community events.

This week on Friday we should finally see the area outside Stage 1 and Early Stage 1 completed. This has certainly been a work in progress as we applied for the grant last year. It was due to be finished last week but the rain on Saturday stopped the work going ahead. This will mean that there will be no access to the school via the parish gate on this day. Parents will need to use the teachers car park to walk through and collect the children who will wait outside the hall. This work has been completed thanks to a NSW Government Community Building Partnerships Grant of \$35,000. It will be a wonderful new area for our children to enjoy.

The final work on the soft fall around the cubby house is also due to go ahead next week.

**Enrolments for Early Stage 1 2024 have now closed.** Altogether we received over 60 applications for 32 places. This is great news for our school as our community continues to grow. All applications received now will be placed on a waiting list.

**Staffing Update** - This term we welcome Mrs Lisa Garcia to our teaching staff. Mrs Garcia will work on Thursday and Friday in Stage 1.

We are now busy preparing for Mother's Day next week and are very grateful to the many businesses and parents who have kindly donated prizes for our raffle. An invitation was sent out last week to all families. Please RSVP if you are able to come along to our liturgy, morning tea and open classrooms on Friday 12 May. Some of our wonderful prizes include gym membership, beauty vouchers, gift cards for various local businesses, cafe and restaurant vouchers to name a few. Ten percent of the money we raise at our raffle will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation in support of all the women in our lives so please dig deep and consider buying tickets.

In Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated to Mary. Chosen by God above all other women, Mary's example teaches us faith, obedience, humility and most of all, how to love. As St Thomas of Villanova said, "If in this world any creature ever loved God with whole heart, with whole soul, and with whole mind, she was the creature."

**"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things.  
From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone.  
From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God."**

ST POPE JOHN PAUL II



# The Evangelist

At the foot of the cross, her heart broke for Jesus, yet she accepted God's will not only for her Son, but for herself in her new role as mother to us all (cf. John 19:25-27). As we honour our mothers and mother figures, including stepmothers, grandparents, relatives, guardians, close family friends and those who would be mothers, let us honour Mary our mother as well. Those devoted to her are always led to her Son. For her wise counsel tells us, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

And so we pray:

*Lord Jesus Christ, You chose to put yourself, tiny, needy and helpless,  
into the nurturing and watchful hands of a human mother.  
Since then, every act of mothering, both physical and spiritual,  
in every time and every corner of the world recollects Mary's.  
Inspired by this example, we, too, honour our mothers  
and mother figures next week. Bless these women, that they may  
be strengthened as Christian mothers and nurturers.  
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.  
Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honour them  
always with a spirit of profound respect.  
We ask this in your holy name. Amen.*

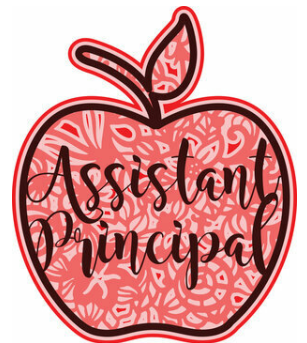


Have a wonderful week.

Jane Misek

**Principal**

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



## Car Park Safety

This term Father Zac is away on leave. While he is on leave the parish gates onto Garfield Road will be closed at 3.15 each day. This means anyone leaving after this time will need to exit via McCulloch Street. We ask that you take extra care when entering and exiting the car park. A reminder also that there is to be no queuing in the Kiss and Drop Zone prior to 8.20am. This blocks parishioner access into the car park. Mass starts at 8.30 and there are many parishioners coming into the carpark at this time. If you arrive before 8.20am please park your car and walk your children across via the pedestrian crossing.



## Bus Safety



If your child catches the bus to or from school it is important that you remind them regularly about safety on the bus.

### Getting to and from the bus stop

- Families are responsible for getting their child to and from the bus stop safely.
- Always supervise your child until they are at least 10 and hold their hand when walking to and from the bus stop or interchange and when crossing the road.
- When waiting for the bus, hold hands and wait as far back from the passing traffic as possible.

### On the bus

Remind your children get on the bus and take a seat quickly and buckle up if there's a seatbelt on the bus.

### Getting off the bus

When travelling by bus, your child is most at risk in the minutes after they get off the bus. Meet your child AT the bus stop or interchange after school. NEVER wait on the opposite side of the road and call them across. If you cannot meet your child, organise for a trusted adult to take your place. Always wait until the bus has gone, then use a safe place to cross.

Talk with your child about what to do:

- if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual
- if they catch the wrong bus
- if they get off the bus at the wrong bus stop.

Children who catch the bus at St Johns wait near the COSCH gate with a teacher who will put them on the bus. Often we are informed that buses are running very late. If this happens you may be contacted and asked to find an alternate way for your child to get home as it is not ideal for primary children to be waiting for a bus to arrive as late as 4pm.

Judith Murphy

**Assistant Principal**





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



Our Religious Education learning cycles at St John's and in the wider diocese now follow an inquiry model of learning. What does this mean?

Learning cycles need:

- to be well-designed, content-rich
- to have checkpoints for understanding
- to have well-resourced opportunities for feedback/just in time planning

During an inquiry students will cycle through:

**Experiencing** (Building Knowledge - Life Experience)

**Reflecting** (Building Knowledge/Making Meaning - Life Experience/Faith)

**Thinking** (Building Knowledge/Making Meaning - Life Experience/Faith)

**Acting** (Making Meaning/Applying Understanding - Faith/Life)

Learning through inquiry provides opportunity for the effective integration of the Head, Heart and Hand Methodology. This enhances intrinsic motivation as students experience real world connections through intentional dialogue and encounter.

Learning through inquiry enables rigour or challenge, student clarity and assessment capable learners brought through the development of a culture of learning.

The learning cycles for this term are as follows:

Early Stage 1 - What choices make love grow?

Year 1 - What is prayer?

Year 2 - Why should we come to know Jesus through Sacred Scripture?

Year 3 - Why is forgiveness important?

Year 4 - How do the Scriptures enrich my life?

Year 5 - What is the point of prayer?

Year 6 - How can Jesus be an example for all in our community?

It would be great if you could discuss your child/ren's

Religious Education learning at home.

Angela Rowley

***Religious Education Coordinator***





## Library News



**Our first Book Fair for 2023 will be in May from the 18th May 2023 until the 24th May 2023**

**Reminder** the Book Fair arrives on the 18th May until the 24th May 2023. Please look out for a separate note that will be sent home with children with opening times and how to purchase books.

## National Simultaneous Storytime

**National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, re-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country.**

This year NSS takes place on **Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 11:00am** now in its 23rd successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for Foundation to Year 6.

### 2023 Book is *The Speedy Sloth*

*It was finally time for the event of the year,*

*Spike couldn't believe it—*

*THE GREAT RACE was here!*

*The other sloths said it couldn't be done,*

*but Spike didn't care, she was ready to run!*



## About the author

Rebecca Young is an award-winning author from Sydney. Her first book, *Button Boy*, illustrated by Sue deGennaro, was a Notable Book for the 2012 CBCA Awards and has been published internationally. In 2016, *Teacup*, illustrated by Matt Ottley, won the Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature in the NSW Premier's Literacy Awards.

## About the illustrator

Heath McKenzie is an award-winning children's book illustrator who has written and illustrated countless books for children. Heath lives in Melbourne with his wife, two kids, dog, and a fish that he considers more of a lodger than a family member.

## NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

The login and password details for all children who have registered for the challenge have now been sent home with your child, along with instructions on "How to enter books" and access the PRC site.

If you have not received these or require further assistance please email Mrs Abbott via the school email address.

Karen Abbott

**Library/Premier's Reading Challenge Coordinator**





## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN EARLY STAGE ONE

Early Stage One have been engaging in play pods as part of their learning this term. They are based on different areas of interest of the students and learning themes of the term. The new K-2 English syllabus has a focus on oral language and has a focus on social and learning interactions.

### Social and learning interactions

- Contribute to group conversations
- Start a conversation with a peer and/or adult, staying on topic
- Take turns when speaking during structured and unstructured play
- Use oral language to make requests and express needs
- Use oral language to reason when speaking
- Use oral language to persuade, negotiate, give opinions or discuss ideas
- Use imaginative, verbal language in structured and unstructured activities
- Ask questions using who, what, when, where, why or how

You could ask your child at home:

- What did you do in your play pods today?
- Who did you play with and what did you talk about?
- What did you enjoy learning about today? Can you tell me why?





## *A message from the Sports Coordinator*

### Sports News

#### **Active Bands**

Next week the students of St John's will be getting (at zero cost) Active Bands! Combining a wristband and an interactive mobile App, Active Bands are a fun way to keep kids active.

Research shows active kids can perform better in the classroom and maintain better health and wellbeing. Please keep an eye out for more information as we send these home with all children.

# SPORTS NEWS



*Yours in sport,*

Rebecca Tolhurst

*Sports Coordinator*



# STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY FRIDAY 9TH JUNE 2023

NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL ON THIS DAY

Please mark this date on your calendar



## **BULLYING - frequently asked questions**

Please see information attached to this newsletter with some frequently asked questions about Bullying. At all times you are encouraged to communicate with the school if you have concerns about your child being bullied.

Should an instance of bullying, harassment, discrimination or racism be reported to the school, the Principal, delegate or nominated staff member, will investigate the incident in a timely manner. Parents/carers are encouraged to speak to their child's teacher, leaders of learning, the Principal or Assistant Principal if they are concerned about bullying behaviour within the school.

In circumstances of an allegation of bullying the Principal, delegate or nominated staff member will investigate the situation to determine if the notification relates to bullying and, if so will assess the severity and frequency of the bullying.

Our school based response includes clear investigation, response, monitoring and follow up in relation to bullying allegations. Our response will be consistent and aligned to our Pastoral Care and wellbeing policies and procedures and will honour the confidentiality of all parties.

Where our school becomes aware of out-of-school hours bullying and/or cyberbullying the matter may be reported to parents/carers, the police or other appropriate authority (such as the Internet Service Provider).

Follow-up action by our school will promote:

- resolution of the problem in an amicable and impartial manner
- advice to the complainants that they may take the matter further if they are not satisfied with the way that the school handled their complaint
- monitoring of the situation
- appropriate feedback to parents of students involved

At all times consequences and responses will ensure that the student is taught more positive and appropriate social skills and behaviour and that there is ongoing support for all students involved.

## **EARLY PICK-UPS**

**Where possible parents and carers are asked to make appointments outside of school hours. If this is not possible parents are asked to collect their child/children during recess or lunch break to avoid disruptions to class time. If you need to collect your child between 2.30pm-2.50pm please advise in writing to the class teacher so your child can be sent down to the office at the requested time.**

**It is very difficult to call classrooms at this time as they are in the process of packing up for the day.**

**Commencing from Term 2/2023 please be advised that students will not be signed out after 2.30pm unless it is an emergency or the class teacher has a written note or email from the parent.**

***We thank you for your support and understanding regarding this matter.***





Please note change of sports day for Kindergarten and Year 1 & 2

## 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

### TERM 2

**Kindergarten - Tuesday's**  
**Years 1 & Year 2 - Wednesday's**  
**Years 3 & 4 - Wednesday's**  
**Years 5 & 6 - Tuesday's**



- **Wednesday 10th May** - Diocesan Cross Country
- **Thursday 11th May** - Mother's Day Stall
- **Friday 12th May** - Mother's Day Liturgy 9am, followed by Morning Tea and Open Classrooms.
- **Wednesday 16th May** - Stage One Excursion
- **Thursday 18th May to Wednesday 24th May** - BOOK FAIR
- **Wednesday 24th May** - National Simultaneous Story Time
- **Friday 2nd June** - Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day
- **Friday 9th June** - **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY** no students at school
- **Monday 12th June** - Public Holiday (no school)
- **Friday 16th June** - Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day
- **Monday 19th June** - Athletics Carnival
- **Friday 30th June** - Last day of Term 2
- **Monday 17th July** - First Day Term 3

### SAVE THE DATE

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER**

**No Students at school on this day (Note this is the last day of Term 3)**

**Stage 3 Overnight Excursion 30th -31st October (Monday/Tuesday)**





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## Donations for the Mother's Day Raffle Term 2



Thank you to the following local business for their generous donations for the Mother's Day Raffle.

*BFT Riverstone, Barbara's Italian Restaurant, Three Birds Renovations, Vanilla Creme, CPR Kids, Wild Bunch Florist, Plus Aesthetics, Bethel and Co Photography, Bush's Meat Winston Hills (AJ Bush Riverstone), TEN - The Immaculate Nail Kellyville, High Tea Crown Plaza Hawkesbury, City Cave, Norwest Beauty, Rouse Hill Bunnings, JUNE Cafe Winston Hills, Dee Crosbie Hair & Makeup, Galati & Associates Accountants, The Stage Door - Dancing School, Bakehouse North Kellyville, Chantal Sleep Consultant Voucher, Em Kat Creations Voucher, Mallow Gift Voucher.*

**Raffle tickets are available to purchase via the Qkr! App until the 12th May 2023 for \$1 each.**

Thank you to our wonderful parent/carer volunteers that have been busy wrapping gifts for the Mother's Day Stall. We have many beautiful items children can purchase for their mums, grandmothers etc. These will be available for sale at the Mother's Day Stall to be held on Thursday 11th May. Vouchers for the Mother's Day Stall are available via the QKR! App. If you are available to volunteer on the day of the stall and have completed the BCSC training, please contact the school office.

### 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. ***If you are able to assist on Mondays or Wednesdays 10.50am Recess or 1.20pm Lunch for just 30 minutes, please contact the school office.***

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.

## 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