



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 2 Week 6

Thursday 1st June 2023

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

Next Friday 9th June we will be having a whole staff professional learning day. On this day we will be working with a team from Catholic Schools Diocese of Parramatta to look at PBS4L (Positive Behaviour Support for Learning).

Positive Behaviour Support for Learning (PBS4L) is an evidenced-based, organisational framework for behaviour support to enhance respectful relationships and engagement of students in their learning. It encompasses a broad range of systemic and individualised strategies and agreed practices, for achieving important social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for all students.

When PBS4L is implemented well, teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction.

Students and staff benefit from:

- reduced problem behaviour
- increased time focused on instruction
- improved social-emotional wellbeing
- positive and respectful relationships among students and staff
- support for teachers to teach, model and respond effectively to student need
- a predictable learning environment where staff and students know what is expected to deliver effective practices that can be sustained over time.

We will continue to share the journey of our learning with you as we progress.

Staff News - Congratulations to Mrs Julia Squadrito and her husband who are expecting their first child later on this year.

Next week we welcome Mrs Amee Wheeler back to our staff. Mrs Wheeler will be doing casual work three days a week at St Johns.

As already mentioned I will be on Long Service Leave from Thursday 15th June until the end of term. While I am away Miss Judith Murphy will be Acting Principal and Mrs Pauline Berry will be Acting Assistant Principal.

Work Health and Safety Audit

This week the school undertook a very extensive work health and safety audit. A lot of time goes into preparing the documentation required for this audit and we are very grateful to our admin staff who have worked together to ensure we are compliant.



The Evangelist

I am pleased to say that we passed with flying colours. We have very safe practices at St Johns and I am confident to say that the wellbeing of all of our community, students, staff, parents and the wider community is at the forefront of all of our decisions.

This week we pray for the family of one of our Stage 3 students, Harmony Worrell. After a very short battle with cancer, Harmony's mother Sue passed away last Friday. We keep Harmony and her family in our prayers and thoughts at this very difficult time.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen. May almighty God bless Sue's family with peace and strength, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Have a wonderful week.

Jane Misek

Principal



A message from the Assistant Principal

Maths Game

The NSW Government Education website has some great ideas for maths games students and families can do. This idea is for for years 3-4

Car cricket

Car cricket is a fun game to play when you are out and about. Runs are based on the colour of the cars you pass, with a red car getting a player out. There are many scoring variations based on different colour cars and vehicle sizes, and you can even make up your own. You will need paper or a device for recording

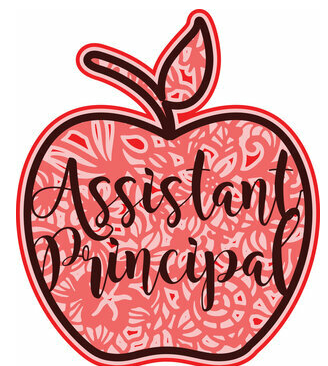
The challenge

Step 1

One person at a time is selected to 'bat', and they score 'runs' when certain cars are spotted. For cars to count as runs they must be moving and travelling in the opposite direction.

Step 2

- White cars (and silver/grey) are worth one run
- Black and coloured cars (excluding red) are worth two runs
- Motorbikes are worth four runs
- Buses are worth six runs
- Red cars are a 'wicket' and get you out





The Evangelist

Step 3. After everyone in the car has had a turn to bat, the person with the most runs wins.

You may want to make a score limit so players have to retire if they make 100 runs.

The conversation - As you're playing the game, ask your child:

"Who was the unluckiest player today? Why?"

- "If we played again, how could we change the rules to make the game different?"
- "What strategies are you using to help keep track of your score?"

Children develop understanding and fluency in mathematics through:

- exploring and connecting mathematical concepts
- choosing and applying mathematical techniques to solve problems
- communicating their thinking and reasoning coherently and clearly.

This game assists them in developing fluency and problem solving skills.

Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal

A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

On the 10th June the following students will be making their reconciliation:

Mai, Naina, Nathia, Noah, Zoey, Beryl, Khate, Elina and Isaac.

We keep them and their families in our prayers.

What is National Reconciliation Week?

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates

commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

God of holy dreaming, Great Creator Spirit

From the dawn of creation you have given your children the good things of Mother Earth. You spoke and the gum tree grew. In vast deserts and dense forest, and in cities at the water's edge, creation sings your praise. Your presence endures as the rock at the heart of our Land. When Jesus hung on the tree You heard the cries of Your people and became one with Your wounded ones: the convicts, the hunted, and the dispossessed. The sunrise of Your Son coloured the earth anew and bathed it in glorious hope. In Jesus we have been reconciled to you, To each other and to Your whole creation. Lead us on, Great Spirit, As we gather from the four corners of the earth; enable us to walk together in trust from the hurt and shame of the past into the full day which has dawned in Jesus Christ. Amen.

A reminder that on Friday 16th June, we will celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart at 11:45am with Mass in the church. All are welcome to attend.





The Evangelist

Thank you for participating in our pyjama day!
Students looked great in their pyjamas and donated many canned goods which will be donated to our local St Vincent De Paul team to assist our local community.

Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator



A message from the Leader of Learning

There is no magical formula for learning to read. Children learn in their own time according to their own pace. When children are learning to walk and talk, we accept different levels of progress – it is the same with learning to read and write. This does not imply, that meanwhile, the parent sits back doing nothing. Children need ongoing quality experiences with books. Providing a regular, reading routine at home assists children in their quest for reading success.

Some tips for home reading

- Establish a home reading routine. Read aloud with your children everyday.
- Before you read a book, set your child up for success. Reading is not a test! Reading time is only ten minutes so do some of the following: Keep the introduction short – one minute is enough. Talk about the illustrations and the title. Read the blurb and talk about the author, talk about any unusual words, read a page here and there as your child flicks through the book, discuss the characters. This is a short introduction, not an interrogation. If the book is already a familiar one, then this step is unnecessary.
- At the end of the 10 minutes, ask questions that encourage discussion, for example: What was your favourite part? Tell me about the characters. What do you think will happen next? What did you think about that setting? What do like/ dislike about this book? There is no need to interrogate the reader. Make it a conversation as you would in a book club.
- Encourage your child to read independently. A bedside light is one of the best enticements for your child to read before going to sleep. After the 10 minutes of reading with you, the child can elect to continue reading independently.
- Avoid judging your child's reading with words such as: 'good', 'excellent' or 'getting better'. Instead say things about the strategies your child uses when reading such as: 'I like how you read on when you came to that difficult word.' 'I like how you changed your voice to be the voice of the character in the story.' 'I noticed that you reread the bit that did not make sense.'
- Not every book has to be read cover to cover. Your child might select books based on illustrations or factual information about a topic of interest.
- Independent readers pick and choose what they read. They are entitled to read some and reject others. They are entitled to not complete books because they are boring. Readers make choices.

Kaye Lowe: Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA)

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning





St John's School Library News

We hope everyone enjoyed reading the Speedy Sloth during National Simultaneous Story Time On Wednesday 24th May



Thanks to everyone who supported our first Book Fair for 2023 it is always a delight to see the children come to the fair and be excited to buy books and literacy items. We were able to raise \$582 which will go towards new books and resources for the library

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge



It is not too late to join the Premiers Reading Challenge if you haven't already joined, please email the school at riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au attention Mrs Abbott if you would like your child to participate and haven't completed the parent Acknowledgment letter.

Remember the Challenge closes on the 18th August so keep your reading up.

Karen Abbott

Library Assistant



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN STAGE TWO

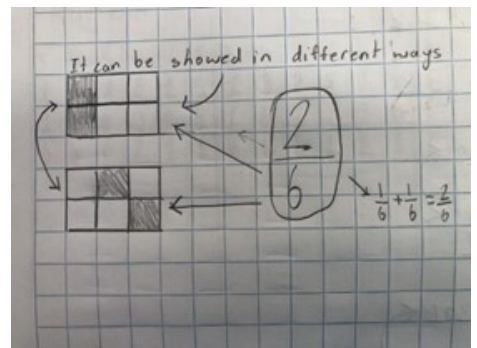
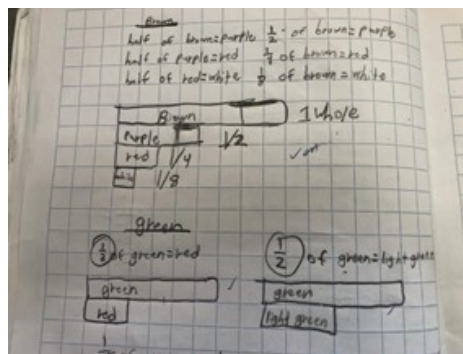
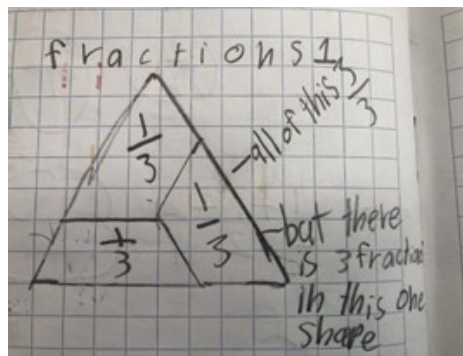
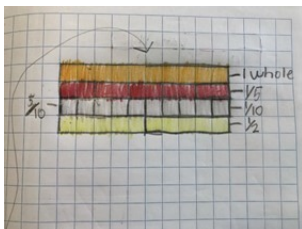
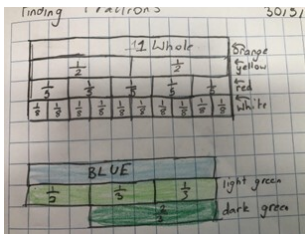
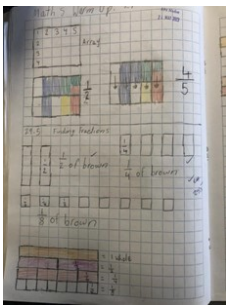
In Year 3 we have been learning about writing informative texts. We are learning that we need to include a classification of our topic, subheadings, topic-specific vocabulary and a concluding statement. We have chosen an animal to write about. Some of the chosen animals are emus, the lion's mane jellyfish, sharks, octopus, dogs, giraffes and even human beings!



Welcome to Miss Elise McKeon, our new teacher in Year 4.

During numeracy time Year 4 have been representing fractions using equipment and diagrams and sharing their mathematical thinking with their classmates. They have persevered with tasks and developed their knowledge of equivalent fractions.

They recorded some great thinking !





A message from the Sports Coordinator



SPORTS NEWS

The Soccer Gala Days for Stage 2 and Stage 3 students are about to begin over the next couple of weeks.

Please join me in wishing our Stage 3 Girls team the best of luck when they attend their gala day on Friday 2nd June.

I have no doubt that they will all try their best and represent St John's with pride and show great sportsmanship.

REMINDERS



Our annual Athletics Carnival is fast approaching and we need your help. We now have 6 wonderful parents who have emailed Mrs Tolhurst about assisting on the day but we need more volunteers. Please consider if you could help out and email Mrs Tolhurst ASAP.

ONLINE CONSENT for the Athletics carnival was due Monday 29th May 2023, thank you to those parents who have given consent via the COMPASS PARENT PORTAL. If you haven't already done so please ensure you go onto the parent portal and give consent for your child to attend. This is a compulsory school event and all students are required to attend.

This year at our Athletics Carnival we will run the 800m event. We will only be accepting students in this event if they have been nominated by their parents. If your child is capable of running 2 laps of an athletics track without stopping and would like to run in this event please email their name through to Mrs Tolhurst ASAP.

Also we still have not had any volunteers for the S2 soccer teams. We need some assistance with coaching/team managing and refereeing if we are to enter teams in these Gala Days.

Please email Mrs Tolhurst rfrew@parra.catholic.edu.au if you are able to help out at any of these events this year.

Yours in sport,

Rebecca Tolhurst

Sports Coordinator

ATTENDANCE

As you are aware every day of attendance at school adds to your child's chances of success and achievement.

You play a key role in making sure your child attends school every day. While we realise some absences are unavoidable we also know that when students miss too much school, no matter the reason, it can cause them to fall behind. The more absences your child has, the harder it is for them to catch up on missed work and stay connected to their school community.

We want all children to be successful at school. Please let us know how we can best support you in making sure your child attends school on time each day. At all times if children's attendance rate fall below 85% we will contact you to ensure we are working together to support regular attendance.



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

MINI ROOS FOOTBALL PROGRAM - STUDENTS WEAR SPORTS UNIFORM ON THESE DAYS AS WELL AS THEIR USUAL SPORTS DAY

Week 4 - Thursday 18th May - ES1 and S1 **Friday 19th May - S2 and S3**

Week 5 - Thursday 25th May - ES1 and S1 **Friday 26th May - S2 and S3**

Week 6 - Thursday 1st June - ES1 and S1 **Friday 2nd June - S2 and S3**

(Thursday 1st June students wear pyjamas & sports shoes)

Week 7 - Thursday 8th June - ES1 and S1

Week 9 - **Friday 23rd June - S2 and S3**

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

Upcoming Events:

- **Thursday 1st June** - Pyjama Day - St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal
- **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
- **Friday 16th June** - Sacred Heart Mass 11.45am
- **Monday 19th June** - Athletics Carnival
- **Friday 30th June** - Last day of Term 2
- **Monday 17th July** - First Day Term 3 - Staff Development Day - No Students at school on this day.

SAVE THE DATE

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS - MONDAY 17TH JULY (T3 - Note this is the first day of Term 3), FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER (T3 - Note this is the last day of Term 3), MONDAY 9TH & TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER (T4 - Note these are the first two days of Term 4) No Students at school on these days

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





SCHOOL FEES

Instalment 2 statements have been sent and were due 31st May.

If you have not made payment and need support please contact Natalie on 02 9854 3200 to discuss options.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

FRIDAY 9TH JUNE 2023

NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL ON THIS DAY

Please mark this date on your calendar

BUS ZONE - OUTSIDE AMBROSE BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE GATE 4

Please be advised that in a Bus Zone you must not stop in the direction of the arrow or arrows on the sign, unless you're driving a public bus. You can not stop or park your vehicle in a Bus Zone.

This is used by Public Buses 24/7 as well as school buses.

Please **DO NOT PARK OR DROP-OFF/PICK UP** in this area.

We thank you for your support regarding this matter.



The Evangelist

KISS & DROP - CAR PARK SAFETY

This is a reminder for our parents using kiss and drop. Please do not line up before 8.20am. Kiss and Drop can only operate if it does not block any traffic on the outlying streets. We do not want a situation where the council stops us using the Kiss and Drop Zone and we cannot have cars blocking access to the parish or the car park.

If you are arriving before 8.20am when Kiss and Drop officially starts please park your car and walk your children across the crossing in the parish car park to the gates.

Moving forward we are trialling the teacher on duty moving the bollards to open kiss and drop. If the bollards are still in place when you arrive please park your car. As our school continues to grow we will be monitoring the flow of traffic and safety in the parish car park.

In the afternoons please ensure that you are aware of your surroundings when reversing and that you are holding your children's hands at all times when walking.



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 CSPD 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

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