

The Evangelist

St John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 4 Week 2

Thursday 19th October 2023

A Message from the Principal,

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Miss Murphy who did a great job in her role as Acting Principal while I was away on my leave at the end of last term and to Mrs Berry who stepped into the Acting Assistant Principal role.

This term we welcome Mrs Amee Wheeler and Mrs Lindsay Scarlett to our teaching staff. Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Scarlett will be teaching Year 2 for the remainder of the year. Mrs Squadrito is doing well and will remain in hospital on bed rest until her baby is born. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

We have a very busy term ahead starting with swimming next week for Years K-4 and the stage 3 overnight camp in Week 4. ***The Swimming Program timetable and other important information can be found on page 5 in this newsletter.***

Dates for all of our events throughout this term can be found on the school calendar at the end of this newsletter.

World Teachers Day

Next week on Wednesday 25th October we will have a special liturgy for our teachers to acknowledge the hard work they do in educating and inspiring our children. All parents are welcome to join us in the hall at 2.20pm.

O holy teacher, we pray that all who teach be blessed and fulfilled in knowing they are helping others to grow and become knowledgeable.

Have a great week everyone.

Jane Misek
Principal

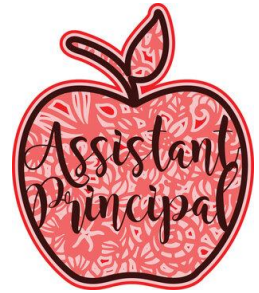




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Message from the Assistant Principal

The esafety commissioner is an online e safety resource from the Australian Government for parents, teachers and communities. The following is some advice from the website:



Parent resources

5 tips from the esafety commissioner to keep your family safe online

1. Start the chat:

Get into the habit of talking about online safety as a family, so your child feels comfortable coming to you if they ever need help working out an issue. It's never too early to introduce good online habits such as respect, empathy, critical thinking, responsible behaviour and resilience.

2. Create a family technology agreement:

Creating a Family Technology Agreement can help you and your kids decide together when and how digital technology will be used at home. As a family, brainstorm easy-to-follow rules and display them where everyone will see them. Your agreement could cover things like: time limits, apps your kids are allowed to use and online behaviour. Families with younger children can download a template to guide the conversation.

3. Set up parental controls:

Parental controls let you monitor and limit what your child sees and does online. It's best to use them in combination with the other online safety strategies listed here. Taming the technology can help you understand your options. Grab a device and get started with our guides to setting up parental controls on devices and accounts or in social media, games and apps.

4. Choose games and other apps carefully:

Use eSafety's App checklist for parents to think about the positives and negatives when your child asks to download a new game or other app. The checklist covers things like age ratings, managing privacy settings and reporting abuse in-app. You can also use The eSafety guide to check and set up safety features with your child.

5. Use digital technology together: Exploring or playing on devices or online with your child can be a positive experience that promotes learning and development. Ask questions, be curious and get involved. To learn more, read our blog post *How to encourage good screen practices for your child*.



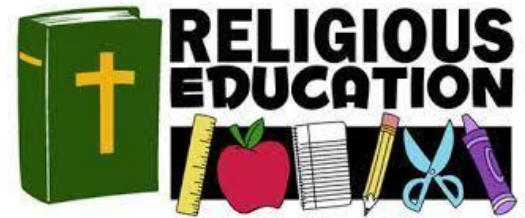
Judith Murphy
Acting Assistant Principal



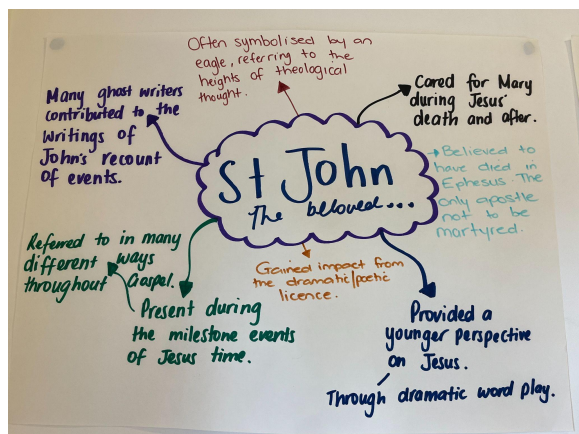
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A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

At the end of last term, the staff engaged in a spirituality day which focused on the gospels of St John. This looked at the life of St John and how he contributed to the gospels. We discussed our school mission statement and how we can foster the spirit of St John in our school.



John's own Gospel refers to him as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (see John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2), the one who reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper, and the one to whom Jesus gave the exquisite honor of caring for his mother, as John stood beneath the cross. "Woman, behold your son.... Behold, your mother" (John 19:26b, 27b). Because of the depth of his Gospel, John is usually thought of as the eagle of theology, soaring in high regions that other writers did not enter.



Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator

COLOUR RUN FUN DAY

Oh, what fun we had at our Colour Run on Wednesday 18th October! Thank you to Zing Activ! For running our day and our parent helpers who made sure the day ran smoothly. A special thanks to **April La Guardia/Rose Pop Balloon Co** for the wonderful balloon arch that brightened the way for all our runners!

To date, we have raised \$3800!! This is halfway towards our goal of \$8000! Students can continue collecting sponsors until Thursday 2nd November, donations can be made via the QKR! App. For every \$10 raised students will get a raffle ticket in our main prize draw which will be drawn on Monday 6th November at Monday morning assembly. Parents are welcome to join us.



We received some fantastic feedback from the staff of Zing Activ! on how beautiful our students were throughout the day. They mentioned how respectful and well mannered our students were. Congratulations St Johns!



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MONDAY 23RD OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2023

	Bus Pick Up TBC	Lesson	Recess
Early Stage 1	9am	9.30-10.10am	Usual Time
Stage 2	9.45am	10.10am - 10.50am	11.30am
Stage 1	10.30am	10.50-11.30am	10am

The swimming program takes place in Weeks 3 and 4 for Early Stage 1, Stage 1 and Stage 2.

We ask that all students come to school wearing their swimmers underneath their uniform. For the duration of the swimming program, your child may wear whichever uniform (sport or summer) he/ she finds easier to manage when changing. All children need to bring a towel, suitable pool footwear, goggles if required and underwear. Board shorts/Rash shirts are not to be worn under the school uniform.



There are limited change rooms available at the swim centre, therefore, for the comfort of all students we ask that they wear a bathrobe, track suit, sloppy joe or swimming gown over their costumes and thongs/slides to and from the pool. Please ensure that all of your child's items are clearly labelled with their name, this includes their uniform and undergarments.

As Kindergarten students will be departing from school at 9am for their lesson, they are encouraged to wear their thongs or slides to school, bringing their shoes and socks in their school bag for after swimming.

Parents/Carers are asked to please not attend the swimming centre to watch their child as this is a distraction to both the students and instructors.

Your cooperation and understanding is very much appreciated.



Why is school attendance so important?

Every day counts! Whilst a day away from school here or there doesn't seem like much, over time it can add up, and can lead to significant impact on your child's academic achievement, and social and emotional wellbeing.

If children do not show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills, and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into high school and careers.

What your child learns each day builds on what they learned the day before. If your child misses school, their learning routine is broken. Students can also lose confidence and miss out on building their friendships.

Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to send their children to school every school day. If your child misses school due to illness, religious reasons, family circumstances or other reasons, please ensure you contact the classroom teacher to let them know. Additionally, please contact the school within 7 days to explain the reason for your child's absence. If your child arrives at school late or needs to leave early, you will need to go to the office to sign your child in or out and explain the reason for the absence.

If your child is struggling to attend school, due to anxiety or any other issues, it is important that you make time to speak to the teacher. Your child's teacher can discuss additional support that can be provided to your child to help with school attendance.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



every learner
every day



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Grooming

Please find below an excerpt from our school handbook about hair cuts

JEWELLERY	HAIR	
Standard watches	Extreme hairstyles are not acceptable. This includes scalp designs (e.g. Lines and patterns), under cuts, colour, foils, streaks, rats tails, mullets etc. . Hair is to be tidy and neither grown, cut nor groomed in an extreme or exaggerated fashion. Hair is to appear to be of a natural colour with no contrast.	
Plain stud or sleeper earrings permitted girls only	<p>Girls:</p> <p>Hair shoulder length or longer must be tied back with a regulation (school colours, Sky Blue/Navy Blue/Maroon) ribbon, band or school scrunchie and off the face so sight is not impeded.</p>	<p>Boys:</p> <p>Short and neat.</p> <p>Cut neatly around ears, back of neck and around face. Any hair longer than collar length must be pinned or tied back so sight is not impeded.</p>
Nail polish is NOT permitted to be worn.		

These haircuts are great for school holidays but we do ask that during term time children's hair is kept in a way that is appropriate for school. Thank you.

REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

To be completed by prescribing Doctor and Parent

In the case of on-going medication at school, this form must be completed by the prescribing doctor (or a separate letter from the doctor can be attached to this form) and must be updated on a regular basis. All medication must be in the original labelled container and handed into the school office.

Short Term Medication

Children fit to be at school, but need to complete a course of antibiotics or medication prescribed by a medical practitioner. **This also includes all over the counter medications.**

Parental Responsibilities

- Parents are required to request the administration of medication to their child in writing, signed, dated and stating the duration of medication and administration requirements of the medication. This form needs to be signed by the parent and prescribing doctor. This form can be obtained from the office or downloaded from our website.
- Parents to provide the medication as a pre-measured dose in its original packaging clearly marked with the **child's name**, name of the drug, time of administration and prescribing doctor's name. Pharmacy labels must be on packaging.

Long Term Medication

Children who have an ongoing medical condition that requires them to take essential medication prescribed by a medical practitioner during school hours.

Copies of standard permission forms, in accordance with CSPD Guidelines are available from the school office and on the school website for **Long Term** medication needs.

Parental Responsibilities

- Parent to obtain above forms from the school office as well as a letter from the prescribing doctor and return duly signed and completed before medication can be administered.
- Parents to send medication in its original packaging with a pharmacy label with students name & dose to the school in a container with separate daily doses for the week (available from most chemists) clearly marked with the child's name.
- Parents to advise school of any changes in medication in writing and provide a new signed letter from prescribing doctor.
- Parents to ask the Prescribing Doctor to complete a new **Medical Advice Form** if any changes to medication or signed letter from prescribing doctor.

Asthma:

Each student at school who has asthma must have an up to date Asthma Action Plan signed by their GP.

A reminder will be sent to parents when the Asthma Action Plan is due to expire and it is their responsibility to obtain a new one signed by their GP.



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PARENTS The Information You Need!

October

Tuesday 17th October - Kindergarten 2024 Parent Information Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 18th October - Colour Fun Run

Monday 23rd October to Friday 3rd November - K - 4 Swimming Program

Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st October - Stage 3 Overnight Excursion.

November

Wednesday 1st November - Kindergarten 2024 Transition Group A Session 9.30am

Thursday 2nd November to 8th November - Book Fair Number 2

Wednesday 8th November - Kindergarten 2024 Transition Group B Session 9.30am

Wednesday 8th November - Stage 2 Excursion - Hyde Park Barracks

Thursday 9th November - Kindergarten 2024 Transition Group C Session 9.30am

Thursday 9th November - Kindergarten 2024 Transition Group D Session 12noon

Wednesday 15th November - Whole Cohort Kindergarten 2024 Transition Session 9.30am

Friday 17th November - Stage 3 Surf Awareness Program

Wednesday 29th November - Swimming Carnival Yrs 3-6 12 noon to 2.40pm

December

Friday 1st December - Christmas Concert with Parish 6-8pm

Thursday 7th December - Whole School End of Year Mass 11.45am - 12.45pm

Tuesday 12th December - Year 6 Graduation Mass and Afternoon Tea

Wednesday 13th December - Year 6 Funday, Treetops Adventure Park

Friday 15th December - Last Day Term 4 for Students

January 2024

Tuesday 30th January - Staff Development Day - NO STUDENT AT SCHOOL

Wednesday 31st January - Staff Development Day - NO STUDENT AT SCHOOL

Thursday 1st February - FIRST DAY TERM 1 2024 - YEARS 1 TO 6

Friday 2nd February - FIRST DAY TERM 1 2024 - KINDERGARTEN

Mark your
calendar!



END OF YEAR DATES

Friday 15th December -
LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th
December -
STAFF DEVELOPMENT
DAYS



TERM 4/2023

KINDERGARTEN - TUESDAY'S
YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 - WEDNESDAY'S
YEAR 3 & YEAR 4 - WEDNESDAY'S
YEAR 5 & YEAR 6 - TUESDAY'S



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UNIFORM

LOWES has advised that the maroon school jacket is temporarily unavailable.

Students are able to wear their navy sport jacket instead. Boys grey socks with stripes have been discontinued.

Plain grey socks can now be purchased.

Thank you for your understanding.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
OPEN Wednesday 8.30am to 8.50am
Please see the staff member at the front gate for access

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING IN 2024

Please advise the school office if it is your intention that your child/children will not be returning to St John's in 2024.

Written, signed notification is required, please contact the office for a 'Advice of Withdrawal of Enrolment' form that will need to be completed and returned as soon as possible.

NO PARKING IN STAFF CAR PARK

A gentle reminder to all parents and carers that there is no parking in the staff car park unless you are picking up a child from sickbay. Please use the church car park or street parking.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe at St John's.

School

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W: www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Jane Misek

Office Hours 8.30am – 3.30pm

Parish

Cnr Garfield Road & McCulloch St Riverstone
NSW 2765

Ph: (02) 9627 2276

E: stjohns10@bigpond

Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm,

Sunday 7am & 9am