



The Evangelist

St John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 4 Week 6

Thursday 16th November 2023

A Message from the Principal,

Dear St John's Families,

Last week Miss Murphy and I attended a two day leaders symposium with many other leaders from Catholic Schools Diocese of Parramatta. The first day of the symposium was focused on improving what we are already doing to ensure the best possible outcomes for every member of our community.

At the symposium we talked about ensuring that students are able to leave school with a sense of self determination, confidence, passion and purpose. All of these are qualities which can help to increase the capacity for students to achieve the best learning outcomes they can.

At a time when many young people are struggling with mental health issues, it is important that together we ensure that each and every member of our community feels connected. Connected to each other, connected to learning and connected to the school. Being connected creates a sense of belonging and greater engagement. All of these factors also correlate with academic performance and can lead to greater measures of success.

At St John's we always aim to create a positive learning environment. In 2024 one of our goals will be to build on the sense of belonging that all of our students and families have at St Johns. Our wish is that all of our students can develop self determination, confidence and passion and purpose through their sense of belonging and connection at school.

As we are nearing the end of the year there are many important events in the school calendar that help us build on our sense of connection.

On Friday 1 December we will be holding our Christmas carols in the playground with the parish. All Parents and Carers are warmly invited to attend. The evening will start at 6pm and will run for approximately two hours. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to join together with our wider parish community. We look forward to seeing many of our children and their families on the night.



Year 6 Graduation Mass, Lunch and End of Year Fun Day

The Year 6 Graduation Mass will be held on Tuesday 12th December at 12 noon. This will be followed by lunch in the hall. This event is for Year 6 children and their families. Please return your RSVP to the office if you have not already done so. On Wednesday 13th December Year 6 students and their teachers will spend the day at Treetops Adventure Park to celebrate the Year 6 Fun Day.



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SAVE THE DATE - End of Year Mass will be held on Thursday 7th December at 11.45 in the church. More information to follow in the next newsletter. All are welcome to attend.

This week we also ask you to keep our fellow school community, St Joseph's at Schofields in your prayers following the sudden death of one of their students this week. Please keep this little boy, his family and friends and the students and staff of St Joseph's Primary in your prayers at this very difficult time.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be vigilant, stay firm in the faith, be brave and strong. Let everything you do be done in love.

Wishing you all a safe and happy week

Jane Misk
Principal



Message from the Assistant Principal

MATHEMATICS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Working mathematically plays an important role across all areas of mathematics and reflects the strengthened connections between concepts. Working mathematically has been embedded in the outcomes, content and examples of the syllabus. The Working mathematically outcome describes the thinking and doing of mathematics.

Mathematics content is organised into:

- Number and algebra
- Measurement and space
- Statistics and probability

The Working mathematically processes are present in the Mathematics content :

- Communicating
- Understanding and fluency
- Reasoning
- Problem solving

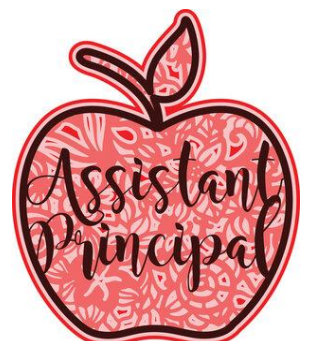
Students learn to work mathematically by using these processes in an interconnected way. The coordinated development of these processes results in students becoming mathematically proficient.

When students are Working mathematically it is important to help them to reflect on how they have used their thinking to solve problems. This assists students to develop '*mathematical habits of mind*' (Cuoco et al. 2010). Students need many experiences that require them to relate their knowledge to the vocabulary and conceptual frameworks of mathematics.

When helping your child with maths at home it may be useful to ask: *What do you already know that can help you to solve this problem ?*

Have a great week,

Judith Murphy
Assistant Principal



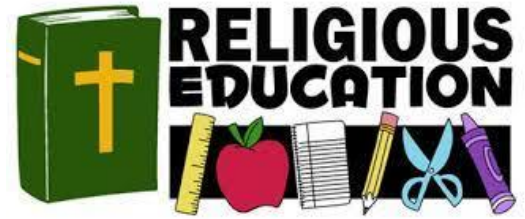


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A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

Gospel Reflection - Sunday 18th November 2024

This week's gospel is a very familiar parable and one that is often used with students and young people. It is generally used as an encouragement to make the most of the gifts and skills that the listeners possess. It is rarely, however, placed in its context as part of the full Chapter 25 lesson about the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord and the Christian life.



Again, the story is presented as a parable of the Kingdom – a glimpse into the right order of things in the realised Kingdom. A very wealthy master entrusts his considerable assets to his servants to manage in his absence. The three servants were allocated money, 'each in proportion to his ability'. The emphasis of the parable is on what each servant did with the funds they were allotted. They were charged with managing the money in the place of their master; acting in their master's place to further develop his wealth.

Like all of Jesus' parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. His crime is laziness! He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master exactly what had been entrusted to him, unimproved. The author of Matthew's gospel uses this parable to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord, they must continue to act on Jesus' message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives. Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity.

What talent do you have that you could use to make a difference in other people's lives?

Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator

SPORTS NEWS

Next week we will be sending four Stage 3 Basketball teams to the Basketball Gala Day. We wish them a day filled with fun and good sportsmanship.

Our annual Swimming Carnival will be in Week 8 on Wednesday 29th November. There is a change to the venue, students and staff will walk to and from Riverstone Pool. Please complete the **COMPASS CONSENT FORM** sent to all parents yesterday for students turning 8 years and over in 2024.



Rebecca Tolhurst

Sports Coordinator



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LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair



Next Week our second fair for 2023 will arrive at St Johns and depart on Thursday 7th December. Children will come down to the library on the 24th November for a viewing of the books, prior to the Book Fair opening for sales.



Book Fair will also be open sometime during our Christmas concert on Friday 1st December.

You will once again be able to pay via the QKR app for your child to purchase from the Book Fair if you are unable to attend in person to make a purchase with your child. QKR for book fair purchases will be available from the 19th November to the 4th December.

Further details on opening days and times will be advised this week

Premiers Reading Challenge

2023 PRC Certificates

These are currently in the process of being printed by the PRC department and will arrive at the school in the coming weeks. We will update everyone once they have arrived and are ready to be presented to students.

Now that the 2023 Reading Challenge has now closed, please encourage your children to keep reading. Any books read between now and when the 2024 challenge opens can be recorded against the 2024 Challenge when it opens in March. Just remember to keep adding the books to the list.

If you would like to join the challenge in 2024, and have not previously registered before please email the school and I will add you to the challenge in 2024. Logins and Passwords will be issued once registrations open in March.

Karen Abbott

Library

MAI ASSESSMENTS 2024

At the beginning of the 2024 year **MAI Assessment** will be held for **Kindergarten students only**. These will take place on Thursday 1st February throughout the day.





Kindergarten 2024 Transition





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November

Thursday 23rd November to 7th December - Book Fair Number 2

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

December

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

Monday 4th December - Motiv8 Sports Fun Day whole school

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



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 an '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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Principal: Jane Misek

Office Hours 8.30am – 3.30pm

Parish

Cnr Garfield Road & McCulloch St Riverstone
NSW 2765

Ph: (02) 9627 2276

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Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm,

Sunday 7am & 9am