

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 1 Week 10

Wednesday 1st April 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now living in a time of great uncertainty locally and globally. Many of us can be feeling powerless and anxious in the face of this corona virus pandemic. However, through the ongoing work of our government and health agencies we will be able to conquer this virus. We all need to play our part and follow the direction and advice of the Federal and State governments.

At a school level we are following the guidelines of both the government and our CEDP.

This term has been very unusual, to say the least. We have had to cancel the majority of school events and activities that has been very much a part of the fabric of our school. However, we have been getting on with the work.

I appreciate and applaud the commitment of our staff for the additional work they have undertaken over the last two weeks to ensure that the learning continues. The time, energy and effort they have invested in creating both the online and offline resources has been phenomenal.

In all we have undertaken the wellbeing and safety of parents and carers, teachers and students and the continuity of education has been of highest priority. I thank our parents and carers for working with us through this difficult time ... for your patience, encouragement and ongoing support. It was especially pleasing to hear the lovely comments of support and appreciation from parents and carers when they came onsite to collect student learning packs. I passed on your lovely comments and kind words to our staff.

Prayer of Solidarity

For all those who have contracted coronavirus,

We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,

We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,

We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For the time we can't touch with our hands,

We pray that we can reach out with our hearts.

For public officials and decision makers,

We pray for wisdom and guidance.

For our brothers and sisters around the world.

We pray for shared solidarity.



solidarity is the tenderness of the people



Learning Packs

This week I commended all our teachers and aides for preparing the comprehensive learning packs for our students to support home learning. The distribution of the packs (last Friday) ran very smoothly due to the thorough preparation and organisation by St John's teachers and teacher aides. I thank our parents/carers for complying with the protocols put in place to ensure a safe and orderly collection of the learning packs and chromebooks. It is vital that we continue to comply with good hygiene practices to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our community. For parents and carers who were unable to pick up the learning materials on Friday another time was scheduled. The majority of packs have now been collected. Thank you.

Dance Fever

As you would be aware our students participated in the Dance Fever program in Sport this term.

Our students have enjoyed the program and learnt many dance skills and movements from the very talented and enthusiastic 'Dance Fever' instructors. However, due to the current COVID situation and after consultation with Dance Fever I suspended the dance program last week. This means that students will miss two lessons this term. We will resume the program at a later date; when it is safe to do so.

You Will Be Missed Emmanuel Sultana

I know many of our parents and students will be saddened by the news that Mr Sultana has made the decision to resign his teaching position. I would like to thank Mr Sultana for his many valuable contributions to our St John's Community and I wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Change to picking up and dropping of students

Due to the reduced number of students attending school and the number of teachers working off site changes have been made to our drop off and pick up procedures.

On arrival at school parents and carers are asked to park their cars in the parish carpark and bring children down to the play area. As the church is now closed due to COVID-19 there is plenty of parking spaces. In the afternoon the students will be brought to the Year One Cola area and dismissed from there. Parents are reminded of the social distancing protocols when on the school site.

Contact School

Parents and carers are invited to contact me at school by either phone: 9854 3200 or the Riverstone email address: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au if you would like to talk with me about your concerns during this most difficult time for families.

*Keep safe, look after yourself and your families
and I wish you all many blessings this Easter.*

God Bless Patricia





every learner
every day 

ONLINE LEARNING/ABSENCES

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please be advised that all students learning from home must log onto online learning/Google classroom each and every school day and complete the set tasks that are uploaded by their teacher every morning.

Students that **do not log on and complete the tasks** will be marked as absent/unjustified. All enquiries should be emailed to the class teacher on:

ES1 Email: SJPES12020@gmail.com

S1 Email: SJPS12020@gmail.com

S2 Email: SJPS22020@gmail.com

S3 Email: SJPS32020@gmail.com

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

EVERY LEARNER EVERY DAY



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Parents and Carers,



To keep up to date on the latest news and important announcements we strongly advise that all parents install the SkoolBag app on their mobile devices.

During these very uncertain times it is imperative that you are able to receive the latest most up to date information straight to your mobile phone anytime/anywhere.

Please see the instructions on the next page and if you have any questions or concerns please contact the school on

Telephone: 02 9854 3200

or

Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

Subscribe to our fortnightly newsletter at: www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Don't forget to follow us on FACEBOOK



*We are all in this together and we
thank you for your support and cooperation*



How to install the SkoolBag app

instructions for parents and community

1. Get your favourite mobile device
2. Open the App Store/Play Store
3. Search for "SkoolBag"
4. Download the free app
5. Open the app and add your school(s)

for Apple users



for Android users



for more info visit skoolbag.com.au





CREATIVE ARTS

Creative Arts Term 1

This term during Creative Arts, students have been participating in music and drama lessons. Below is a snapshot of some of the work students have been participating in this term.

Music

Each lesson incorporates a variety of musical skills that are presented as a warmup, followed by a lesson where students engage in music through listening, making and playing.

ES1 Learning to play the beat



Stage 1- Singing to the song 'Reach for the stars'



CREATIVE ARTS

Stage 2-Creating and playing a rhythm to the class



Stage 3- Identifying sounds around the environment

Drama

Most of the activities for drama are based on literature that students use as inspiration to dramatise. Students explore different drama forms such as role play, mime & improvising. Students are working on using drama elements to enhance their performance. Students have also been appreciating the work of their peers and providing feedback to each other based on their performance.

ES1- Role playing the story "We're going on a bear hunt"





CREATIVE ARTS

Stage 1- Creating monsters from the story
"Where the wild things are"



Stage 2- Students being interviewed
in character

Stage 3- Students participating in mime





SAY CHEESE!



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY POSTPONED

SAY CHEESE!



NEW DATE **MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER** (FIRST DAY TERM 4/2020)

St John's Primary Riverstone

SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER CODE: **TMX EXY KJ8**

SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER LINK:

<https://www.advancedimage.com.au/keycode/keycodefinder.aspx?keycode=TMXEXYKJ8>

Dear Parents and Carers,

School photography has been postponed due to the current situation with COVID-19. All orders already completed online will be carried forward to the new date. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link above or by using the envelope provided.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- School photos purchased online **DO NOT** require envelopes returned to school
- Don't forget to order your sibling photos, collect a sibling order envelope from the school office*
- **Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day**
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken
- Past years' photographs including sports, co-curricular and representative groups available at school's **advancedorder** site (follow the link above) and your child's **advancedyou** photo site

*Sibling photographs must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. A photograph will not be taken without an order. Sibling photographs can only be taken of children enrolled at the school. **Please note:** Sibling photographs are not offered at all schools.

advancedlife would like to express our appreciation to St John's Primary Riverstone for placing your trust in us. Please remember we offer a 100% money-back guarantee on our products, for your peace of mind, and are also here to resolve any issues you may experience to ensure your satisfaction. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your **advancedlife** experience, please contact us at:

enquiries@advancedlife.com.au



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendar

of Events

What's Coming Up

06-09 Apr

Holy Week (for students & staff only)

09th Apr

Last Day Term One

10th Apr

Good Friday

12th Apr

Easter Sunday

27th Apr

First Day Term Two (Students return in winter uniform)

Cashless Schools

This year CEDP has implemented new policies around the taking of payment within CEDP Schools and have asked that cash payments be eliminated

As a result we have incorporated most of the students regular planned activities for the year within the school based fees for 2020

While this doesn't apply to fundraising events, snack shack or our second hand uniform shop we ask that you pay for these items with the correct denominations whenever possible as change may not be available

EFTPOS facilities are available to parents and carers at the school office and over the phone (not available for snack shack purchases)

We thank you for your cooperation.



**ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL**



Numeracy News

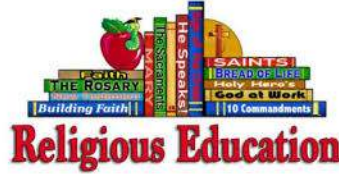
As most families have moved to learning at home this week, a helpful website for parents of young learners is Numeracy at Home. This site has been developed by Monash University and the Dept of Education, Victoria to assist families to introduce and work with mathematical concepts in everyday situations. It has videos, tip sheets and a Facebook Feed to give you ideas about how we can encourage mathematical thinking. This is a really useful resource and it is free so it would be great to access this with your children to improve their mathematical ability. The website is: <https://www.numeracyathome.com/>.

All students are able to access some free online games, a great site is Math Playground where students are able to play games at their grade level. <https://www.mathplayground.com/math-games.html>

Judith Murphy Assistant Principal



The Evangelist



On Sunday 5 April 2020 we begin our Journey with Jesus into Holy Week.

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem where he was treated like a king, people were shouting 'Hosanna in the highest' and placing their clothes on the road for him.

Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday Jesus shared a very important meal with his disciples - the Last Supper (Passover Meal). At this meal, we witness the first Mass, where Jesus blessed and broke the bread and shared it with his disciples and said to them to take and eat and do this in memory of him. He also did the same with the wine.

After the meal, Jesus showed a true example of servant leadership, where he washed the disciples feet and said to them 'what I have done for you, you need to do for others'. Meaning that we need to follow by his example and serve others in our community. Later on Holy Thursday, we then move into the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus took some of his beloved disciples and went to pray to his Father that he could be spared the sorrow he was about to face.

He was then betrayed by one of his disciples Judas and was taken away to be tried by Pontius Pilate.

Good Friday



On the morning of Good Friday, Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples disowned him three times. Jesus had predicted that this would happen. He was treated very badly on this day, he was made fun of, scourged, whipped and had a crown of thorns placed on his head. He was made to carry a heavy cross up the place of the skull (Golgotha) and was crucified. He had done no wrong but even at this time was able to show forgiveness to those who were against him.

At this most sacred time of the year, let us take time to think about the events of Holy week. Think about how we can make changes in our lives to be more forgiving towards others. During these uncertain times let us take time as a family to reflect on the happenings of Holy Week and pray as a family so that we can ourselves renew our relationship with God.

Project Compassion

Thank you so much for your generosity in regards to this initiative. Due to the current circumstances, we have decided to postpone the collection of our project compassion boxes



*God Bless
Kim Roffman REC*



LIBRARY



2020
NSW PREMIER'S
READING
CHALLENGE
start
reading
now!

OPENS MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020
CLOSES FRIDAY 26 AUGUST 2020
(Online Student reading record must be complete)

Illustration and design by MICK ELLIOTT

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



KEEP READING

Mrs Abbott



REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child needs to be administered medication at school (this includes any over the counter medications/creams), Parents/Carers are required to complete a '**Request to Administer Medication at School**' form completed and signed by the prescribing doctor (or a separate letter from the doctor can be submitted to the school office. The letter must state the child's name, class, type of medication, dose and the time it needs to be administered and be signed and dated by the doctor.

All medication must be in it's original labelled container.

'Request to Administer Medication at School' forms can be collected from the school office.

WE STILL HAVE A NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED THEIR UPDATED ASTHMA ACTION PLANS FOR 2020. THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE SENT INTO THE OFFICE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

PARENTS/CARERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT ALL MEDICATION IS KEPT IN DATE AND THE OFFICE HAS A READY SUPPLY AT ALL TIMES

Thank you for your continued support

ST JOHN'S

the  of the **COMMUNITY**



AWARDS



Values Award

Term 1 Weeks 7 & 8

Justice

Kana Boyd ES1, Kinjal Mainali & Isabella Gadzambo Stage 1, Mersadiez Syme & Jacob Beazley Stage 2, Talara Sciberras & Stephanie Bugeja Stage 3

Merit Award

Tabitha Kersten ES1, Maxtton Flanagan-Irwin & Harnidh Murba Stage 1, Jamie Hartz & Lucas Beazley Stage 2, Emilia Keating & Landen O'Connor Stage 3

Principals Award

Cayden O'Connor ES1, Abigael Herencia Stage 1, Giovanni Galati Stage 2 & Esha Menon Stage 3





*Cohen Stanton
19th March*

*Kana Boyd
30th March*

*Elizabeth O'Neill
22nd March*

*Ruchika Shergill
28th March*

*Xygelle Aguila
31st March*





UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

LETTERS ARE SENT HOME TO PARENTS/CARERS ON A REGULAR BASIS REGARDING UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED URGENTLY AND NEEDS TO BE RETURNED TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. Note, signed and dated sent with your child
2. Skoolbag app
3. Email the school at riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au
4. Telephone the school office on 02 9854 3200 (office staff must be able to verify the caller)

All explanations to the school must be provided within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence.

This is a legal requirement.

every learner
every day 

KISS AND DROP SAFETY TIPS

- Always drop-off at the designated drop-off zone and follow the schools procedures.
- Drivers must remain in their vehicles at all times.
- **Make sure all children exit the vehicle from the drivers side passenger door only, (door closest to the teacher on duty).**
- No student should be walking behind or in-front of their vehicle.
- Make sure the handbrake is applied when the vehicle is stationary.
- All children 12 years and under are not permitted to sit in the front seat of the vehicle unless the back seats are fully occupied.
- Avoid dangerous maneuvers such as u-turns and 3 point turns.
- All passengers under 7 must be in an approved child restraint.
- To ensure correct and safe installation of your child car seat, contact an Authorised Restraint Fitting Station.

THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY IS PARAMOUNT



COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or principal, to find a resolution for your concern.

It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience for our staff.

If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly.

Information about how to lodge a complaint and a complaint form are available from the school office or in the Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures.

These documents can be accessed on the CEDP website
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP TRADING HOURS

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Lunch orders are available on Monday's and Friday's from Sam's Café

Please write your child's name, class and order on a brown paper bag and enclose the correct money.

Children can then place their orders in the RED lunch order baskets located in the under-croft.

Orders need to be in the boxes by 8.50am

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

*IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL
PARENTS/CARERS TO ADVISE THE SCHOOL
OFFICE IN WRITING OF ANY
CHANGES/UPDATES TO PARENT/CARERS AND
EMERGENCY CONTACTS*

TELEPHONE/MOBILE NUMBERS

***It is imperative that the school
is able to get in contact with
each and every child's
emergency contacts at anytime***

*PLEASE FORWARD ANY CHANGES/UPDATES IN
WRITING TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE SO YOUR
CHILD RECORDS CAN BE AMENDED. YOU CAN
ALSO PICK-UP A FORM FROM THE SCHOOL
OFFICE*

Thank you for your support



Building Child Safe Communities

Important Information for Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering. The opportunities provided to students are greatly enhanced by the contribution of volunteers. All volunteers will need to complete the '**Undertaking for Volunteers' Form and Training Module** online before they can volunteer at St John's, please use the link below.

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/home>

Step 1: Complete 'Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers' Form

You will need to complete a Volunteers Form for **each location** that you volunteer. A notification of your successful completion of the form will be sent via e-mail to the volunteering location and also to your email address.

Step 2: Complete the online training module

It is a system requirement that the online training module be completed by all volunteers commencing at any of our locations and the training needs to be completed every second year.

- Open the module by clicking the **Start** link below.
- Read through the presentation.

Complete and submit quiz questions (this will take approximately 10 minutes).

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THE TRAINING MODULE YOU WILL ONLY NEED TO COMPLETE THE 'UNDERTAKING FOR VOLUNTEERS' FORM.



SCHOOL OPAL CARDS FOR BUS TRAVEL

**ALL STUDENTS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL BY BUS ARE
REQUIRED TO HAVE A VALID OPAL CARD
(either a School or Child/Youth Opal Card)**

**Please remind your child/children to
TAP ON and TAP OFF**



every time they get on and off the bus



For more information and to apply for a School Opal Card call 131 500 or apply online
at www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/

School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765

Tel: 9854 3200 Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Patricia Charlton

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