



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 1 Week 11

Thursday 6th April 2023

A message from the Principal

Dear St John's Families,

As we come to the end of the first term it is important that we stop and reflect on all the wonderful events and people who have contributed to our community so far in 2023.

A special thank you goes out to all of our staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure excellent learning experiences for our children. St John's is fortunate to have such a committed group of teachers and support staff working together.

A big thank you also to our parents and carers who have supported all the extra curricular events we have had this term. We have really seen a great example of a community working together to support our children over the last 11 weeks.

This week we farewell Mr Liam Shields who has been a part of the St John's community for the last 8 years. During this time Liam has shared his strong faith, his love of music and his love of teaching with the staff and students. We wish him all the best as he starts his new role as a music teacher at Chisholm Catholic Primary School.

As you go our friend, you walk upon a bed of love,

On which our prayers are falling softly every day.

As you go, remember that our hearts will hold you close.

You're treasured, and we will cheer you on your way.

As you go our friend, you travel with Christ at your side.

His light will show a path and be your guide.

As you go, be hopeful that you're following your dreams.

This week our students have led us through reflections on the events of Holy Week. Holy Week, the final week of Lent, is the most important and significant week in our Catholic faith. It begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is an important week of prayer, reflection, and gratitude as we contemplate the agony Jesus endured for us and the hope of the Resurrection.





The Evangelist

On behalf of all the staff at St Johns I would like to wish all of our families a happy and Holy Easter. I hope that you have time to spend with family and friends and that the love and joy of the Easter season is alive in your hearts and homes.

Have a safe holiday break - we look forward to seeing all of our children back on Monday 24 April.

*Lord Jesus,
come fill us with light,
come fill us with love,
fill us with hope,
fill us with joy.
As your friends found your tomb empty,
help us to find you alive in our lives.*

We pray that our school, our classrooms, our playgrounds and our homes are filled with your love.



Jane Misek

Principal

EASTER RAFFLE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone, a fantastic effort.

\$ 1220.00 was raised at the Easter Raffle.

As always the generosity of our school community was amazing.

Hope our prize winners are enjoying their Easter treats!

We have already purchased our first two new soccer nets.

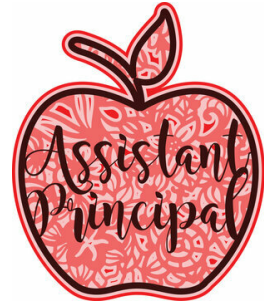




A message from the Assistant Principal

FRIENDSHIPS

The NSW Education website has some helpful information about children and friendships at school:



When thinking about your child's friendships, it helps to understand how these may differ from your own; childhood relationships don't necessarily follow the same rules as adult ones.

Children's friendships change over time. Researchers have identified five developmental stages, gradually progressing towards full adult friendship.

- Stage one (three to seven years): shifting friendships with children who happen to be nearby
- Stage two (four to nine years): one-way friendship with someone who can help achieve goals
- Stage three (six to 12 years): reciprocal friendship but only under specific conditions
- Stage four (11-15 years): Mutually close, supportive friendship
- Stage five (12 to adulthood): friendship which respects the autonomy of each individual even though they may share similar interests and deeper feelings.

Every child is different and there is no precise formula or timeline for how their social life will develop.

At times children may experience difficulties with their friendships. Talking to your child is key to helping them - it's helpful to know who their friends are and how their efforts to make new ones are going.

That way, if problems emerge, discussing them can be part of an ongoing conversation.

If your child is reluctant to open up, try sharing some of your own childhood experiences and ask if theirs are similar or different.

If you have any concerns about your child's friendships at school the best person to contact is your child's teacher.

Judith Murphy

Assistant Principal



Anzac Day

ANZAC DAY MARCH & DAWN SERVICE



Anzac Day

All members of the St John's School Community are invited to attend the Riverstone-Schofields RSL sub-Branch ANZAC Day Dawn Service to be held at Riverstone Memorial on Tuesday 25th April 2023. March to the Memorial to commence at 5.45am (5.30am assemble at the RSL sub-Branch Hall, 18 Market Street Riverstone) Service to start at 6am. Students must be accompanied by a parent/carer at all times and be dressed in their full winter uniform including school tie. School Captains will be laying a wreath on behalf of St John's.



A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

Reflection Easter Sunday – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart



Jesus' tomb was empty. It had even been cleaned up. The linen burial cloths were folded and rolled up neatly. Everything was left in order and taken care of. Jesus was clearly finished with this grave. No more of this 'death business' for him. He left it totally behind, and was fully alive, never to know the sufferings of death again.



Have you ever made a transition in life? Did you ever take a step and know that a part of your former life was totally behind you? What happened? How did you feel? Did you find yourself trying to take care of things or leave things in order in any way? Obviously Mary, Peter and the other disciple were close friends with one another and with Jesus. It is easy to picture the three of them running to the tomb together to be sure of what actually happened.

Who are the Marys and Peters in your life? Have you ever hurried to get to some important place? Have you ever struggled with someone else to figure out what was really happening in an important situation that affected you or a friend of yours? What happened and how did that affect your relationship?

Lord Jesus Christ,

You hung on the cross for us.

You endured pain to bring us healing.

You experienced rejection so that we might be children of God for ever.

You suffered death so that we might have life.

As we pray and fast today, and remember all that you suffered for our sake,

We give you thanks and praise, for the wood of the cross has brought joy to the world.

You live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, for ever and ever. Amen

Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator





A message from the Leader of Learning

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY.

"Play is the highest form of research" Albert Einstein

Through play, children make sense of their world as they engage with people and resources, that is, they are learning through play.

Play is the 'child's work'.

People often say they are "just playing" but play is a whole lot more. The more playful experiences children have the more neurological connections are activated.

Play is intrinsically motivated, freely chosen, process-orientated, and enjoyable.

Play allows children to explore, identify, negotiate, take risks and create meaning. The intellectual and cognitive benefits of playing have been well documented. ***"Children who engage in quality play experiences are more likely to have well-developed memory skills, language development, and are able to regulate their behaviour, leading to enhanced school adjustment and academic learning."*** (Bodrova & Leong, 2005).

Play benefits the development of the whole child.

Social and emotional development: Play enables children to develop many skills including; cooperation, negotiation, problem solving, empathy, resilience, self-regulation, confidence, attention and focus.

Language development: play enhances children's oral development and increases their skills in listening, speaking, and vocabulary

Cognitive development: Children's executive functioning, independent thinking, creativity, skill acquisition, and their willingness to take risks is improved. It also helps them to make connections to and sense of their world.

Physical development: through play children develop their fine motor and gross motor skills, coordination and core strength.

As we begin the school holidays don't underestimate the importance of time spent with family and the opportunities for your children to explore and play.

Pauline Berry

Leader of Learning

Library News



Every year at St John's we hold two Book Fairs. Book Fairs provide children and families an opportunity to come to the library and view books for purchase and take home (like a shop). Book fair is a much loved date on the St John's calendar. The purchase of books made by families is a wonderful fundraising event for the school, thus allowing us to buy new resources for the library. **Our first Book Fair for 2023 will be in May from the 18th May 2023 until the 24th May 2023** Look out for more details in the the next Newsletter



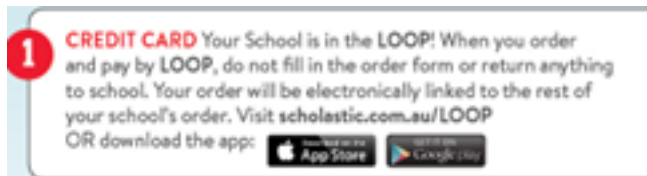
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Scholastic Book Club - 8 Issues per year

Ready access to books is a key factor in fostering a child's love of reading. Twice a term Book club orders are sent home making it possible for parents and carers to purchase books at affordable prices by sending home the Scholastic Book Club brochures. To order follow the directions on the back of the form for Online ordering.

1. If you see a book you would like to order for your child follow the online ordering instructions via the LOOP Process. Ensuring to order before the close off date. ***St John's does not accept cash orders.***
2. When the ordering period has finished Scholastic compiles all the orders and delivers them to the school. These are then checked and sorted by the parent volunteer and then given to each class for the child to bring home from school.

How to order online:



Book Club is managed by a parent volunteer Sarah Fuller, we are very grateful for Sarah's support in assisting with Book Club. The school earns rewards points which are then used to purchase new books for the children to borrow from the library.

St John's does not accept cash orders for Book Club

Karen Abbott

Library



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.



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A message from the Sports Coordinator

Upcoming Term 2 Sporting Events

10/5/23 - Diocesan Cross Country @ Eastern Creek

2/6/23 Friday Stage 3 Girls Soccer @ Jamison Park Penrith

16/6/23 Friday Stage 3 Boys Soccer @ Jamison Park Penrith

19/6/2023 - Athletics Carnival @ Charlie Bali Reserve Doonside

If any parent has an interest in helping out with coaching/team managing/refereeing at one of these events please reach out and get in touch with Mrs Tolhurst rfrew@parra.catholic.edu.au

Yours in sport,

Rebecca Tolhurst

Sports Coordinator



SPORTS NEWS



**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
DAY
FRIDAY 9TH
JUNE 2023**

NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL ON THIS DAY

Please mark this date on your calendar

Would you like to join

Cool Kids Music Co.
Celebrating 10 Years
Excellence in Group Primary School Music Tuition

Cool Kids Music Co.
Music Lessons at School

Enrol Now

Keyboard, Guitar & Drums Tuition

- ♪ Available for students Years 1-6
- ♪ Perfect for Beginners
- ♪ Instrument provided for lesson
- ♪ 30-min lessons, once/week
- ♪ Maximum 8 students/class
- ♪ From \$13.50/lesson prepaid at the beginning of the term.
- ♪ \$20 once off book fee

What makes CKMC so cool

- ♪ Music Olympics
- ♪ Mini Performances
- ♪ Certificates for Encouragement, Awesomeness & Book Completion
- ♪ Certificate of Participation Awards.
- ♪ Lessons held in the convenience of your own school with friends!
- ♪ Weekly homework charts &
- ♪ Semester Reports provided

If you wish to enrol, please visit www.coolkidsmusic.co

For more information, please contact our friendly staff at
Call (02) 8609 9099
Email info@coolkidsmusic.co
Our friendly team is available 10am-4pm school days

**WINNER of the 2016 Blacktown Local Business Awards
Most Outstanding Specialised Business**

**AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS
ACTIVITIES GROUP**

CREATIVE KIDS
REGISTERED PROVIDER
Creative Kids Music Co.

*T&Cs: Room usage fee may apply at some schools. Information & website are subject to change.



MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

A REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION AT SCHOOL FORM NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PRESCRIBING DOCTOR AND PARENT FOR ANY MEDICATION (INCLUDING OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATION)

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 (by the pharmacy) container and handed into the school office.

School Fees

Installment one fees were due on Wednesday 15th March unless there was an active arrangement in place. Thank you to those who have paid.

If you are experiencing hardship or require any support with your account please contact Natalie on 02 9854 3200 or sjhn-rivrfees@parra.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY - Thursday 4th May 2023

School photography day is coming up soon. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link below or by returning the order envelope sent home 27/3/2023 with your payment to our photographer on school photo day

2 easy ways to purchase:

1. Visa, MasterCard or PayPal
2. 2. Cash – complete the envelope supplied and return it to our photographer on photo day

visit: www.advancedlife.com.au and enter online order code: **TMX EXY KJ8**

Online orders - do not require an envelope returned to your school

Sibling Photos - Don't forget to pre-order your sibling photos online up to 24 hours before photo day.

Late fees - a late fee will be applied to each package purchased after photo day due to the additional cost of producing these packages separately.

SAY CHEESE!





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



- **Thursday 6th April** - Last day of Term 1
- **Monday 24th April** - First day of Term 2/Resurrection Liturgy 9am
- **Tuesday 25th April** - Anzac Day Public Holiday
- **Wednesday 26th April** - Anzac Day Service 9am
- **Thursday 4th May** - School Photo Day
- **Wednesday 10th May** - Diocesan Cross Country
- **Friday 12th May** - Mother's Day Morning Tea 10am & Mass 11.45am
- **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

Mark your
Calendar





The Evangelist

Donations for the Mother's Day Raffle Term 2

We are now collecting donations for our Mothers day raffle to be held at the start of Term 2.

This week we have received a \$150 voucher for Bush's Meats in Winston Hills.

This has been donated by our local community business Bush's ProteinsTM.

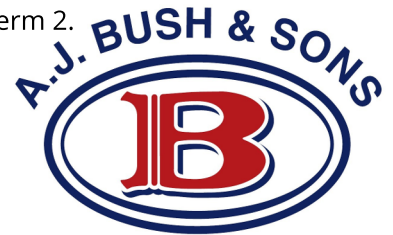
Bush's have recently reached out to our school as they are very keen to support the local community. *We are very grateful for this generous donation.*

With a legacy spanning over a century and four generations in the meat industry,

Bush's ProteinsTM is part of a thriving, family-owned business.

Since 1953, their Riverstone rendering and protein recovery plant has been at the forefront of sustainable practices, proudly contributing to the circular economy. Bush's ProteinsTM has been providing employment to the Riverstone community for 70 years and are continually looking to locals to provide work opportunities. As one of Australia's largest 100% Australian owned protein recovery operators, Bush's ProteinsTM supports the meat and poultry industries, producing nutrient-rich protein meals and tallows/oils that cater to a wide range of industries. The hygienic treatment of non-consumable materials through rendering ensures the highest quality products, benefitting both the environment and the economy.

Bush's Fresh Meats cater for the traditional purchaser and also has an extensive range of butchers selected gourmet products for either the alternative meal or for a special occasion. Their stores provide consumers with branded premium meat products and together with their friendly, experienced staff they can assist customers to find the correct product with the most suitable cooking method for all needs. We look forward to building on our community relationships with this local business.



BUSH'S PROTEINS™



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

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



ST JOHN'S EAGLES



INDOOR SOCCER ROUND ROBIN

INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE, Corner Hamilton St and Garfield Rd, Riverstone NSW

Organised by St John's Catholic Church, 164 Garfield Rd East, Riverstone NSW 2765

Wednesday 12 April 2023

9.30am - 2.30pm Opened to boys and girls aged 5-16

*Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer or responsible person over the age of 15. **No child under the age of 8 years old can be left unattended at any time.** We remind you to please wear the *correct* gear - *non marking shoes, long socks and shin pads.*

There will be extra food and drinks available to purchase on the day.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE LUNCH

Tell your friends and bring them along

Cost of \$15 per person includes a sausage sizzle and a ticket for LUCKY DOOR PRIZES

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE COORDINATOR or JUST TURN UP ON THE DAY

All enquiries to the parish office (02) 9627 1176

Help on the day appreciated!