

The Evangelist

St John's Primary School, Riverstone

Ph: (02) 9854 3200

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Term 4 Week 10

Thursday 14th December 2023

A Message from the Principal,

Dear St John's Families,

As we wrap up 2023 it is important that we take the time to look back with gratitude on all the opportunities that we have had and on the people who have shaped our lives this year.

We are very grateful for all of our children who surprise us every day with their resilience, their passion for learning and their kindness towards each other.

We are grateful for our families who trust us with their precious children and who support the school in many different ways.

We are grateful for our staff who go above and beyond to create the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for our children.

We are grateful for Father Zac and our wider parish community who support us in so many ways throughout the year.

As we farewell our Year 6 students and families who start a new adventure in life and other leaving students and their families we pray that as they continue their journey, our Catholic faith will guide them through the opportunities life has to offer and that they will remain faithful to their beliefs in a world that is becoming more challenging.

We pray that they will always embrace new challenges with courage and an open mind. That they set goals and dream big and that they encounter many opportunities to explore interests, discover passions and develop talents. We pray that they stay curious and never stop asking questions and seeking knowledge.

We pray that they will never underestimate the power of kindness. There are times when our kindness to someone else will have the capacity to light up their world.

This Christmas may you share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wisemen. May you be surrounded by love and happiness and may you have peace in your homes and hearts. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Best wishes for every blessing in 2024

Jane Misek
Principal





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Dear Parents

Last week the children met their teachers for 2024. I am pleased to introduce all of our teaching staff for next year.

Leadership Team	Principal Mrs Jane Misek Assistant Principal Miss Judith Murphy Religious Education Coordinator Mrs Angela Rowley Instructional Leader Mrs Pauline Berry Diversity Leader Mrs Katie Roberts Faith in Action Coordinator Mrs Linda Fredericks Wellbeing Coordinator Miss Elise McKeon
Kindergarten	Miss Elise Mckeon (M-F) Mrs Velona Noden (Th)
Year One	Mrs Chris Stafford (M - W) Mrs Raina Fox (TH-F)
Year Two	Mrs Linda Fredericks (M-F) Mrs Maria Galati (Th)
Year Three	Mrs Ameer Wheeler (M-Th) Mrs Lindsay Scarlett (F)
Year Four	Mrs Angela Rowley (M-W) Mrs Lisa Garcia (Th-F)
Year Five	Ms Jessica Nelson (M-F)
Year Six	Mrs Kyra Giglio (M-W) Mrs Kelly Hynes (Th-F)
PDHPE Music	Mrs Rebecca Tolhurst (T-W) Mrs Velona Noden (T-W)
Support Staff	Mrs Velona Noden Mrs Raina Fox Mrs Lisa Garcia Mrs Kelly Hynes Mrs Maria Galati Mrs Lindsay Scarlett
Library	Mrs Karen Abbott (T, W)
Groundsman	Mr Andrew Jenkins
Teacher Assistant	Early Stage 1 - Mrs Melissa Shanahan / Mrs Chantelle Camilleri Stage 1 - Mrs Selomi Fernandez Stage 2 - Mrs Kylie Hothocee Stage 3 - Mrs Chantelle Camilleri
Office Staff	Mrs Suzanne Cremona (M-Th) Mrs Karen Abbott (F) Miss Natalie Hurst (M - F) Mrs Robyn Carruthers (Th) Mrs Kim Antonelli - Business Manager



Message from the Assistant Principal

NAPLAN 2024

The National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

Questions are based mostly on the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills students have learnt from previous years schooling.

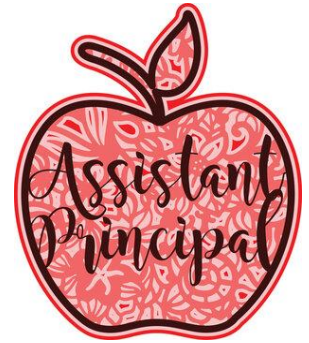
A few questions assess additional content from the year of testing and the following year. These questions have been designed so that they can be answered using strategies students have learnt in previous years. This ensures students of all abilities can show what they are capable of.

Year 3 completes the writing assessment on paper- all the other assessments are completed via a secure online platform.

NAPLAN Online will take place in **term 1** next year between **Wednesday 13 March to Monday 25 March 2024**.

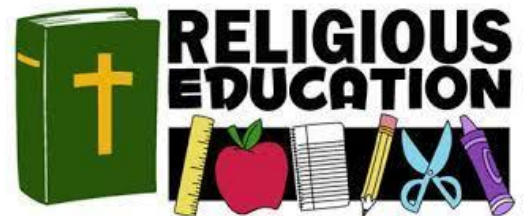
If you would like your child to have some practice answering the type of questions you can encourage them to use the public demonstration site to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in the NAPLAN online tests. The class teachers will also be using this site next year to ensure that students have the technological skills required to complete the assessments.

Judith Murphy
Assistant Principal



A message from the Religious Education Coordinator

Reflection On Christmas – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart



For people surrounded by department store decorations, commercials, Christmas carols, special foods, and the like, believing that today's Christmas celebration actually evolved from the humble story of a young woman giving birth in the straw is a stretch. It might help to focus on the characters involved.

What do you think went through Joseph's mind as he witnessed Mary giving birth to a baby? What do you think went through Mary's mind as she struggled with the birth experience?

The Christmas story is full of symbols. Jesus, who becomes our bread and wine – our nourishment – is laid in a manger, the feeding trough for the animals. Jesus, who is the champion of poor people, is born into a homeless family. Poor shepherds were the first to welcome the Messiah that the Jewish people had been awaiting for generations. The symbol of angels singing, praising God, and flying madly all over the sky was a good clue that something out of the ordinary was happening.



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Modern Christmas stories use different symbols to make the same points: Rudolph, the 'poorest' reindeer, becomes the champion, and Frosty, a snowman, transforms children's lives.

What story from your own personal Christmas experiences has special meaning or symbolism?

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sat 23 December 8:30am

Mass 6pm Vigil Mass (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

Fourth Sunday of Advent 7am, 9am & 10:30am Mass

6pm Children's Christmas Mass

9pm Christmas Eve Mass

Monday 25 December Christmas Day

Christmas Day Mass 7am, 9am & 10:30am

Thank You for your ongoing support this year. Wishing your families a Holy & Merry Christmas season.

Angela Rowley

Religious Education Coordinator



LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair in December, we were able to raise \$927.00. We will use this in 2024 to go towards new library resources.

On Wednesday children were able to come to the library and borrow books for Holiday reading. Please ensure these are kept in the St John's library bag and not taken away on holidays. Children are asked to bring these back on the first day of Term 1 2024. Also remember to add these to your list for when the Premiers Reading Challenge opens in March next year.

As a final reminder please have a final look for any St John's reading resources and have them returned to school.

Thankyou for supporting your children in their reading journey

From your parents you learn love and laughter and how to put one foot before the other. But when books are opened you discover you have wings."

Karen Abbott

Library





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PARENTS The Information You Need!



December

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

Thursday 1st February - MAI's Kindergarten 2024 only

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

Kindergarten students will start at 8.50am and finish at 2.50pm from the first day, this is the same as the rest of the school.



END OF YEAR DATES

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



TERM 1/2024

WHOLE SCHOOL - MONDAY'S (DANCE FEVER)
KINDERGARTEN & YEAR 3 - TUESDAY'S
YEAR 1, YEAR 2, YEAR 4, YEAR 5 & YEAR 6 - WEDNESDAY'S





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Ambrose School Age Care & Ambrose Activities Christmas and New Year Closure Period 2023-2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

To help you make holiday plans the key dates for Ambrose School Age Care & Ambrose Activities over the Christmas/New Year period are captured here.

Date	Event
Friday 15 December 2023	Last day of Ambrose School Age Care & Ambrose Activities for 2023. Term 4 concludes.
Monday 18 December – Wednesday 20 December 2023	Vacation Care Program Offered at the below selected 8 services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Michael's Baukham Hills • St Michael's, Blacktown South • Chisholm, Bligh Park • Bethany, Glenmore Park • Good Shepherd, Plumpton • St Mary's, Rydalmere • St John XXIII, Stanhope Gardens • Mother Teresa, Westmead
Thursday 21 December 2023 – Friday 5 January 2024	All services closed Christmas and New Year closure
Monday 8 January – Monday 29 January 2024	Vacation Care Program Offered at up to 22 vacation care services (attached) Note: Friday 26 January 2024 is a public holiday and services will be closed

St Joseph's Schofields

VACATION CARE PROGRAM SUMMER 2024 WEEK 1

Early 'Bee' – discounted rate applies if booking form received by service before 6pm, 24 November 2023.

<p>Educators' vs Children Showdown Monday 8 January Early 'Bee' \$70 Standard Fee \$80</p>	<p>Sydney FC Football Tuesday 9 January Early 'Bee' \$85 Standard Fee \$95</p>	<p>Inflatable World Wednesday 10 January Early 'Bee' \$100 Standard Fee \$110</p>	<p>Kidchella Thursday 11 January Early 'Bee' \$80 Standard Fee \$90</p>	<p>Amazing Race Friday 12 January Early 'Bee' \$70 Standard Fee \$80</p>
<p>Get ready for an epic showdown of wits and skills at our 'Educator vs. Children Showdown! From quizzes and obstacle courses to art challenges and cooking showdowns. A day filled with friendly competition, laughter, and learning as our dedicated educators go head-to-head against our young explorers.</p>	<p>Join our Australasian Soccer Clinic for a day of soccer excitement! Led by professional coaches, children will improve their skills, play friendly matches, and learn about teamwork. It's a unique chance to connect with the club and have a blast on the soccer field!</p>	<p>The children will step foot into an inflatable world full of jumping castles, giant slides, and obstacle courses to compete alongside their peers!</p>	<p>A music festival-inspired vacation care day! Design flower crowns and tie-dye shirt, dance, and showcase talents in our Talent Show. Enjoy festival food, games, and a photo booth for a day of creativity and fun. It's the ultimate blend of music, art, and excitement, right here at Kidchella!</p>	<p>Prepare for the ultimate Amazing Race! Children will be divided into teams, and the race begins with a clue that leads to the first checkpoint. At each checkpoint, teams will face unique challenges that test their problem-solving skills, creativity, and physical abilities.</p>
<p>IN-CENTRE Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat.</p>	<p>WORKSHOP Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat</p>	<p>EXCURSION Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle, hat, towel, aquatic shoes/attire</p>	<p>WORKSHOP Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat</p>	<p>IN-CENTRE Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat, enclosed shoes</p>

Children must wear sun-safe clothing with sleeves & collar, enclosed sports shoes, socks & a sun-safe hat (legionnaire or bucket hat with wide brim) for all outdoor play and excursions. The service will supply breakfast and afternoon tea each day and is an allergy aware service— please do not bring **nuts or eggs**. Children will not be able to purchase food while off site.

St Joseph's Schofields | 78 Alex Avenue | Schofields 2762 NSW
Open: 6:30am - 6:30pm Phone: 0400468599 Email: stjosephssch@ambrose.org.au

Availability is limited. Bookings will be processed on a first in, first serve basis. Book early to avoid missing out.



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Ambrose[®] St Joseph's Schofields
School Age Care

VACATION CARE PROGRAM SUMMER 2024 WEEK 2



Early 'Bee' – discounted rate applies if booking form received by service before 6pm, 24 November 2023.

PJ'S, PIXELS & POPCORN
Monday 15 January
Early 'Bee' \$70
Standard Fee \$80



Welcome to 'PJs, Pixels, and Popcorn!' It's a day of cozy comfort and tech-filled excitement. Wear your comfiest pyjamas and dive into the world of pixels and technology. We'll explore gaming, digital art, and enjoy Kahoot games and tech-themed movies with popcorn.

In-centre - Authority Form Required.

IN-CENTRE

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

HOLA AMIGOS!
Tuesday 16 January
Early 'Bee' \$85
Standard Fee \$95



Let's travel to South America! The children will make tacos, traditional horchata drink, followed by experienced instructors, that will teach children how to play traditional Brazilian rhythms and percussion instruments, and the basics of Brazilian dance styles.

WORKSHOP – Authority Form Required.

WORKSHOP

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

READING CINEMAS ROUSE HILL
Wednesday 17 January
Early 'Bee' \$100
Standard Fee \$110



Join us for a day of cinematic fun at Reading Cinema Rouse Hill. We will choose from the latest family-friendly films. Enjoy some popcorn, then share our thoughts in a post-movie discussion. Afterward, dive into creative activities related to the film.

Excursion – Authority Form Required.

EXCURSION

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

SPLASHTASTIC SUMMER
Thursday 18 January
Early 'Bee' \$75
Standard Fee \$85



Let's get ready for summer season and cool off by participating in a water play day! Children will engage in water balloons games, water gadgets, splash mats, mini water slides and aquatic obstacle courses for our wet and wild day.

WORKSHOP – Authority Form Required.

WORKSHOP

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

BIKE AND SCOOTER
Friday 19 January
Early 'Bee' \$70
Standard Fee \$80



Gear up for an action-packed adventure at our Bike and Scooter Day! Bring your wheels, whether it's a bike or scooter, and join us for a day of outdoor excitement as we navigate through our bike obstacle course

In-centre - Authority Form Required.

IN-CENTRE

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

Children must wear sun-safe clothing with sleeves & collar, enclosed sports shoes, socks & a sun-safe hat (legionnaire or bucket hat with wide brim) for all outdoor play and excursions. The service will supply breakfast and afternoon tea each day and is an allergy aware service—please do not bring nuts or eggs. Children will not be able to purchase food while off site.

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School Age Care

VACATION CARE PROGRAM SUMMER 2024 WEEK 3 & 4



Early 'Bee' – discounted rate applies if booking form received by service before 6pm, 24 November 2023.

STIMUL8 YOUR SENSES
Monday 22 January
Early 'Bee' \$75
Standard Fee \$85



Children will participate in multi-sensory experiences which include their all-time favourite slime, cloud dough, clay, kinetic sand, and DIY sensory bottles!

WORKSHOP – Authority Form Required.

WORKSHOP

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

BULLY BUSTERS TAEKWANDO
Tuesday 23 January
Early 'Bee' \$85
Standard Fee \$95



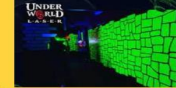
This workshop will focus on promoting respect and self-control, which can help children stand up to bullies and build positive relationships with others and provides a safe and structured outlet for stress and anxiety in children & young people!

WORKSHOP – Authority Form Required.

WORKSHOP

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

UNDERWORLD LASER IN MENAI
Wednesday 24 January
Early 'Bee' \$100
Standard Fee \$110



Underworld Lasers' awe-inspiring interactive playing arena and state of the art equipment takes the game of laser tag to a new and exciting level!

Excursion – Authority Form Required.

EXCURSION

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

DOWN UNDER ADVENTURES
Thursday 25 January
Early 'Bee' \$70
Standard Fee \$80



Let's celebrate Australia by getting down under! Sausage sizzles and Australian sounds, lamingtons & Anzac biscuits, backyard cricket, soccer, and indigenous dreamtime stories.

IN-CENTRE

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

Friday 26 January

SERVICE CLOSED

PUBLIC HOLIDAY



WE COULD BE HEROES!
Monday 29 January
Early 'Bee' \$70
Standard Fee \$80



Children are invited to dress up into their favourite superhero costume and engage in elite group missions around Ambrose play spaces. Let's accomplish the missions together as specific characters need your help!

IN-CENTRE

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, refillable water bottle and hat

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MAI ASSESSMENTS 2024

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



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 before or after school, 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

5 McCulloch St Riverstone NSW 2765

Ph: (02) 9854 3200

E: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

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