



Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 1 Week 4 2020**  
**Tuesday 18th February**

Rosary Park Catholic School  
 Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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*We acknowledge the Wonnarua people-the first custodians of this land*

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Weekly Mass Times: 6pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta.**

Feb		March	
<b>Fri 21st</b>	Assembly 2.00pm. Swim medals presented	<b>Wed 4th</b>	P&F Meeting 6pm
<b>Wed 26th</b>	Primary Principal Meeting – Sallyanne CSO	<b>Fri 6th</b>	12:30pm Catholic School's Week 'Drawing from the Well'.  Liturgy, open classrooms and picnic
<b>Thur 27th</b>	Diocesan Swimming Carnival	<b>Fri 13th</b>	Assembly 2.10pm
<b>Fri 28th</b>	Assembly 2.10pm 5/6 Gold are sharing their work at this assembly.	<b>Fri 20th</b>	Assembly 2.10pm
		<b>Mon 23rd</b>	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>
		<b>Tues 24th – Thurs 26th</b>	NAPLAN Practice Tests year 3 and 5
		<b>Fri 27th</b>	Assembly 2.10pm

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April: 3:30-6:30 Parent interviews**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April: out of uniform & Easter liturgy, raffle draw. Last day of term 1**

## Principal's Message

**Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.**

Mother Teresa

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (SIP) GOALS FOR 2020**

A significant focus for all diocesan schools is student growth and achievement. In terms of our learning agenda in 2020, Rosary Park will adopt evidence-based approaches to lift the performance of all students. Our focus encompasses three main areas.

1. Adopt a consistent, comprehensive whole-school approach to Phonics (reading) & Spelling
2. Provide appropriate learning opportunities for students in Creative and Critical thinking
3. Implement strategies to promote high quality teaching in Religion

These initiatives are designed to identify and address specific need and will involve alternate methods of content delivery. Each term (twice a term) staff will be provided with release from class to analyse student data as a stage team and work together to plan and cater for student needs based on this data. So, you might hear your child say that they had a different teacher on class or they may comment that their class teacher didn't teach the class all day. This situation regularly arises when teachers are released for professional learning and for planning meetings. Professional learning for all teachers is essential to maximise impact on student learning and relies on implementing practices that have been shown to benefit students the most.

I thank you for your support of this practice, knowing that the teachers themselves have worked hard behind the scenes to plan for their release. They routinely prepare and programme work and keep the replacement teachers informed of regular practices and management strategies to ensure a smooth transition.

Clearly, ongoing professional learning promotes excellence. The consequent impact of this improvement is on student learning, student engagement in learning and student wellbeing- a goal well worth striving for.

As part of our School Improvement budget, the Catholic Schools Office has this year introduced Pedagogical Mentors (PMs) who will be used in the school to work with teachers in meetings and in their classrooms to embed our school goal of teaching reading and vocabulary. Janelle Dixon and Louise Kevin are taking the PM role this year.

### **Parent Teacher Conversations**

The beginning of each school year is such an important time and one whereby teachers are working hard to formulate positive relationships with their students. A learning environment based on trust, where students feel safe to share their ideas and comfortable to make mistakes can set the scene for a successful school year, for each child.

Our teachers have been forming these positive relationships over the last few weeks by getting to know your child; finding out their strengths as learners, their passions, hobbies, challenges and goals they have for the year ahead. It has been a joy to watch Kindergarten begin their journey of primary school. The provocations set up by our Kinder teachers (as part of Successful Foundations) has created a wonderful space for our little ones to play.

Research has shown that students achieve more in school when their parents are actively involved in their education. Parental involvement not only enhances academic performance, but also has

a positive influence on a child's attitude and behaviour. A parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can influence the child's attitude towards school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, absenteeism, and motivation in a positive manner.

On **Wednesday 1 April (3:30-6:30pm)** we will hold a parent/teacher interview evening where parents are encouraged to make an appointment with their child's teacher to discuss their child's start to the academic year and their goals for 2020. Please keep this date free so that you are available to come in and discuss your child's learning with their teacher/s. Further details about how to book a time will follow.

### **Parent information night**

Thank you to the large number of parents who came along to last night's Parent information night. We changed the format slightly this year to include a meeting of all families together at the beginning to share our school directions for 2020. Any constructive feedback about the new format is welcome via [admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au)

### **Successful Foundations**

This is an action research project which supports the positive transition to school of 2020 Kindergarten children and supports system wide implementation of the Early Learning Policy for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Rosary Park is again participating in this initiative, to collaborate with Kim Moroney, Education Officer-Early Learning (Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle) and Dr Cathie Harrison (Australian Catholic University) to provide a series of open-ended play experiences for learning and wellbeing in the first hour of the day over the first five weeks of Kindergarten.

*Successful Foundations* provides children with the opportunity to actively demonstrate their funds of knowledge, build relationships and become familiar with the context of the school. *Successful Foundations* also provides teachers with the time and opportunity to develop meaningful relationships as they observe and interact with the competent, creative and capable child.

The learning environment of the classroom and the outdoor setting is intentionally and thoughtfully designed to invite your child to play and to provoke deep knowledge and understanding. These intentional spaces are called "provocations." *Successful Foundations* provides a continuum between prior to school and school.

### **School Routines**

As you are aware, we have a class attend the parish masses at St Brigid's Church each fortnight. This means that children are leaving the schools grounds to go to the church and on other rare occasions our children might access the grounds across the road from our school to utilise play space during building works. This is considered a normal part of our school process. If you have any concerns about your child leaving the school grounds with teachers, please contact me.

### **Wellbeing**

During the holiday break it has been difficult to watch the devastation and impact of the recent fires and ongoing drought across our nation. We continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers the individuals and communities who have suffered such terrible losses this season. Yet we can also be extremely grateful to the amazing RFS and State Fire services that have tirelessly served their communities and nation at this time. The media coverage has been quite confronting at times and can impact on the anxiety levels of our children. Beyond Blue has some excellent resources to support educators and parents at this time. If you are interested the link is included here: <https://beyou.edu.au/bushfires-response?>

## **Office of Safeguarding**

The Office of Safeguarding has been set up by the Bishop, with the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students, staff and parents. Prior to the Office of Safeguarding being set up, Zimmerman Services worked with schools to train staff and implement procedures around child protection. This continues through the Office of Safeguarding, which has a wider scope to ensure the emotional and physical wellbeing of our students.

## **Attendance**

**All children should be at school on time each day and remain until the conclusion of lessons in the afternoon.** This ensures a consistent routine for students which helps children feel secure, as well as allowing children to learn and grow. We ask that you try to limit appointments through the school day, we understand that doctors, dentists and specialist appointments can be difficult to organise out of school hours. These appointments are important for your child to attend. However, parents sometimes sign their children out early to go to the hairdresser or because it is their child's birthday, these need to be avoided. Frequent lateness should also be avoided, as children need to get into a good routine each morning. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school on time, please talk to their class teacher.

## **Dropping off Children Safely at the School**

Parents please be mindful of which side of the car you remove your children from when dropping children to school. Children should exit out the footpath side of the car, not the roadside. Also please make sure you are parking

## **Complaints Resolution and Feedback page for Parents and Carers**

The Parents and Carers Complaints Resolution and Feedback information page for the CSO can be found at <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/complaints-resolution-feedback>. Copies of the brochure are available from our office.

The webpage holds information regarding the escalation process for complaints, the appropriate policy and procedures and the online complaints form. The online complaint form is an editable PDF document.

Parents and members of the school community can access the online complaint form should you wish to escalate a complaint through to the CSO for consideration. Alternatively, you can contact 02 4979 1127 and speak to the Parent Liaison team.

## **Rosary Park P & F**

Thank you to the dedicated group of parents who came to our meeting last week. This year our P and F have great plans for fundraising initiatives to help make our school even better. Please support them in any way you can. Don't forget the welcome to the 2019 school year BBQ at Miller Park this Friday at 6pm.

## **Social Media**

Our newsletter and Compass are the main forms of communication between home and school. Our school does not moderate or endorse any school social media. Please ensure you have your log in for Compass as we regularly send reminder about school events.

While social media and emails are great ways to keep in touch, using them to criticise or make negative comments about others is dangerous and is not in keeping with the values we teach and live by in our Catholic Schools.

The use of social media by parents or carers to engage in abusive or inflammatory remarks about staff or the school can have serious legal implications. If comments are made about the school, the school can also act, which may include responsible persons being excluded from the school.

Please remember that you cannot share photos on social media that include children other than your own. If you are setting up a class or grade parent Facebook page you are not permitted to include the name of the school in naming this page.

In your child's enrolment form, you indicated whether you gave permission for your child to be photographed or videoed for school and diocesan advertisements and promotion in newsletters. Please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible **if you do not give permission** for your child to be photographed or videoed.

### **School fees**

To minimise constant payment of moneys to the office, and following consultation with our P & F, our Resource fee has increased to \$405 in 2020. This amount will include one excursion per grade (not the two-night year 5-6 Aussie Bush Camp excursion) although 5/6 students will participate in another excursion funded by the resource fee. Term 1 fees will be sent home in the next week.

Our office is open 8:30-3:15pm. If you need to contact the office outside of these hours, please email [admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au). Emails that require a response will be attended to within school hours.

### **Working Together**

Rosary Park has over 300 students with many more parents. We also have around 30 staff members. This makes us a large and growing community! It is wonderful when we can all come together for community events and celebrations. Inevitably at times, things will go wrong. To effectively work together in the best interests of the children, we need to always maintain open, respectful and supportive relationships. If at any time, you have concerns for your child, their Class Teacher should always be your first point of contact. As your child's Class Teacher is with them most of the time when they are at school, usually issues can be quickly resolved at this level. If a problem continues after discussing it with your child's class teacher, the next step would be contact either myself or Louise Kevin (Assistant Principal).

Teachers will be offering parents interviews during weeks 10 and 11 of this term. I would encourage you to make a time to discuss your child's learning with their teacher as we work together for the best outcomes for our children.

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** The following date is a Pupil-Free Day in which our teachers undertake professional learning. As our school will be closed on these days, please make alternate arrangements for your children.

*Term 1: Monday, 23 March - Staff PD on Revising our Mission and Vision Statement*

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

## **Learning News**

### **STEM Lunch Club**

We have started a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Lunch Club on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have kicked off the Lunch Club with students in Years 3 and 4 (at this stage) with a focus on creative computing.

The activities in our lunch club are designed to foster a culture of:

- creative agency
- fearless experimentation and problem-solving
- respectful sharing and collaboration
- applying computational learning to areas of knowledge beyond computing

Our activities are based on a curriculum designed for K-12 students by the Harvard University Graduate School of Education and we are using the popular, free coding platform, Scratch, developed by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

We have almost 20 students who have shown an interest in our STEM Lunch Club and we cannot wait to see what amazing ideas they develop! If you have any questions about our STEM Lunch Club, please contact Andrew Hacker (4 White teacher).

### **Year 5 and 6 Cyber Safety**

On Friday week 3, Stage 3 was visited by Senior Constable Michael Steele who spoke to the children about cyber safety and protecting themselves while online. During his visit Snr Constable Steele spoke about a variety of technology uses, the dangers of being online and the world of social media. Some of the important points as parents we need to remember when children are using their devices, playing online and using different apps are below:

- Social media is illegal for the use of children under the age of 13.
- Games such as Call of Duty and Grand theft Auto are designed for 18+, therefore if children are playing online, they are not only seeing graphic content, they are speaking to adults as they play.
- Please **ALWAYS MONITOR** your child's online apps/mobile phones and devices. You should be seeing everything that your child is posting/writing online.
- Teach children to think twice before posting- they have been taught 'The Grandma Test' (Would they show their Grandma what they are putting online?)
- Don't share your passwords with anyone except your parents (as parents should have access to everything!)
- Remind your child that they NEVER give their personal information/home address etc to anyone online.
- NEVER no accept friend requests from people they don't know.
- Always report inappropriate behaviour/content seen online to a trusted adult.
- Have routines at home in place to ensure they are always monitored when using their devices.

The children had many thoughtful questions and were given information about the consequences of doing the wrong thing online. It was an insightful discussion and an important reminder for all to stay vigilant at all times when accessing the internet.

Stage 3 Teachers

## **Religious Education News:**

### ***Class Mass for Term 1***

**Term 1 Class Masses:** Stage 3 (5/6) - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Year 2 - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Year 1 - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
Year 3 – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

### **Shrove Tuesday**

Shrove Tuesday began as a way to use up rich foods like eggs, milk and sugar before the 40 days of Lent and has turned into a worldwide tradition!

**When:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 is Shrove Tuesday

**What:** Classes will be making pancakes in class and eating them once cooked. Please advise the classroom teacher of any allergies or diet restrictions.

**Cost:** In the true spirit of Lent, each student is asked to make a *gold coin donation* to go to Caritas Australia who this year are raising funds for those less fortunate to have access to adequate food.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

### **Ash Wednesday**

Our **Ash Wednesday whole school Liturgy** will take place on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February** in the **school hall** (time to be advised). Parents and friends are welcome to join in.

### **Catholic School's Week – Week 6!**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March:** You and your family are invited to Rosary Park's Catholic School's Week Liturgy, Open Classrooms and Picnic, which will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 12:15pm in the school hall. Visitors will then be invited into the classrooms, before joining the students on the playground for an afternoon picnic. Please feel free to pack a picnic to have with your child or children on this day.

### **Parish News: Lenten Scriptural Program for adults**

If you are interested, our Parish is holding a Lenten Scriptural program during the Wednesdays during Lent from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at the Parish Office in Singleton. *The Program is as follows:*

**26 February** - *Creatio ex nihilo* and the *Imago Dei*: Re-imagining the Creation Narratives (Required Reading: Genesis)

**4 March** - A God in Need of Anger Management (Required Reading: Joshua and Judges)

**11 March** - The Suffering Servant (Required Reading: Isaiah)

**18 March** - Biblical Karaoke (Required Reading: Psalms)

**25 March** - Kenosis: Self-Emptying Love in the Time of Drought (Required Reading: Letter to the Hebrews)

**1 April** - Twitting Jesus' Last Three Hours (Required Reading: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

Please register your interest by contacting the Parish Office Secretary, Ms Erica Janssen at (02) 55074048.

### **Sacramental Program for 2020**

Children who are in Year 3 and above who wish to receive the catholic Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in 2020 are invited to the Branxton Catholic Parish Sacramental Program Information Meeting **tomorrow evening** at 5.30pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at St Brigid's Church, Station Street, Branxton. If your child would like to be baptised during the program please call the Parish Office. For more information you can contact the Parish Office on 55074048.

Have a lovely week and may God bless you always,

*Amie Harry*

Religious Education Coordinator

## Weekly Awards:

Friday 14 February, 2020 (Kinder awards to begin next week)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award one</b>	<b>Class Award two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Kendra Collier	Sam Dodd	Eliza Dagg
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Sam Jacka	Luke Wright	Mikayla Gillings
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Evie Mathewson	Louis Dodd	Aria Brenton
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Olivia Costa	Riley McLaren	Sienna Marr
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Layla Hedger	Will Ledingham	Lacey Norton
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Hamish Alston	Chelsea Simmons	Willow Roberts
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Sasha Collier	Lewis Drever	Sally King
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Amelia Dagg	Amy Murray	Adam Vella
<b>Year 5/6 Blue</b>	Blake Little	Oscar Thomas	Amy Crick
<b>Year 5/6 White</b>	Benji Matt	Fletcher Knodler	Darcey Fuller
<b>Year 5/6 Gold</b>	Tom Drever	Bridie Richards	Tahlia Gillings

Kindergarten enjoying their weekly gymnastics lessons



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Open for boys and girls 5-17yo



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