

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 2 2020
Tuesday 20th October

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

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



Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

IMPORTANT DATES

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

<u>October</u>		<u>December</u>	
Fri 23rd	Mercy Day and Socktober. Wear crazy socks with your school uniform.	Wed 2nd	Year 6 Student Farewell at school hall - TBC
Wed 28th	Year 4 Parent BYOD Zoom Meeting at 5.30pm	Wed 16th	LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
<u>November</u>	P&F Meeting 6pm- Zoom		
Wed 4th			
Thurs 5th	Book Fair – see details in newsletter		

Principal's Message

The Lord is your guard and your shade; at your right hand he stands.

The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul.

The Lord will guard your going and coming

Both now and forever

(Psalm 120 verse 2)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our final term for 2020. I trust that you took some time out of the busyness of packing lunches, sports training and alarm clocks to spend some precious time together as a family.

Rosary Park Bushfire Survival Plan

Our school is in a bushfire prone area. As a result, we have a clearly defined bushfire survival plan, attached to this newsletter. The plan has been developed in consultation with NSW Fire and

Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Services, local Police and the Safety and Wellness team from the Catholic Diocese. Copies of this plan have been provided to these organisations.

As the plan outlines, it follows these principles in the event of a bushfire:

1. Evacuate
2. Shelter onsite in the hall.
3. Evacuation to St Nicholas Centre Branxton if we cannot remain in hall
4. Evacuation to Branxton Golf Club

It is important that you consider as part of this plan, how you would collect your child from Rosary Park at short notice, if this plan was to be enacted.

As part of this plan, the school follows a strict maintenance plan where surrounding scrub (Asset Protection Zone- outside of the school boundaries) is cleared annually as well as the guttering and downpipes. Arborists monitor trees on site on an annual basis as well as ongoing grounds maintenance to reduce undergrowth fuel load on the site.

Our school practices regular lockdown and evacuation procedures (every term), as well as visits from the local fire brigade. Children are also familiarised with fire safety through lessons in the Personal Development Health Physical Education Syllabus.

Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourself with this document to prioritise the safety of all in our school community. It is important, in particular, that you give consideration as to how you would collect your child in the event of a bushfire evacuation

Staffing

Kate Levido has accepted the role of Religious Education Coordinator at St Patrick's Primary School Cessnock to start the 2021 school year. We wish Kate every success in her new role.

Rhiannon Temesvary will start maternity leave at the end of Term 1 2021. A temporary replacement will be sought for Rhiannon at that time.

Congratulations

Our best wishes to Samantha Foot and her family who recently welcomed a baby girl Annabel.

Uniform Expectations

Whilst we are reaching the end of our school year, it is still important that we uphold our high standards of uniform. If your child has grown out of their school shoes it is expected that parents will provide the class teacher with a note of explanation.

As stated in our uniform policy, socks are to be plain with NO brand names. Sports shoes are to be predominantly white.

Hair is always to be tidy and pulled back (this includes boys with longer hair). NO tracks or patterns to be cut into the hair.

Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting

Our P & F is a committed group of parents who work to maximise outcomes and opportunities for our children through their fundraising initiatives.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 4 November, where all positions on the P and F executive are declared open and parents are asked to nominate for positions for 2021. Please

indicate your interest by emailing admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au in attending this AGM via Zoom from 6pm and give your support.

Online Safety

No matter what their age, if your kids are online, now's the time to talk about online safety. It can be hard to know how and when to talk to kids about staying safe online. While they might know a fair bit about technology, they don't always know as much as you do about life. To better understand the issues and start the conversation, you need to have the right tools, tips and advice. Through the eSafety website, you can learn how to talk to your kids about cyberbullying, online predators and inappropriate content.

Talk to your kids before a stranger does. Visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)

School Holidays Works

During the holidays, we had a number of works carried out. In addition to our general maintenance of air conditioner and roof gutter cleaning, the playground in the middle of the school now has several additions which the children are very excited about. A mud kitchen, marble run, work bench, extra seating and a ropes climbing activity have all been added to the original design completed with the new buildings earlier in the year.

A major plumbing issue under the tar basketball court has also been repaired which had been causing the sinkage of a section of the tar.

Finally, our electronic gates installed at the front and car park gates are nearing completion. This upgrade was advised by the Catholic Schools Safety and Wellness team. Parents/Carers wishing to access the school grounds will need to do so by pressing the button at the main gate which alerts the office staff.

All the above works carried out were funded by the school.

School Community Code of Conduct

In 2018 the Catholic Schools Office introduced a School Community Code of Conduct. This became part of the school enrolment application in 2018 and was also sent home to all families already members of Catholic School communities.

It is important that all members in our community are familiar with and follow these requirements.

Aggressive, confrontational and threatening behaviour is unacceptable from or towards any member of our community and will not be tolerated.

Important dates:

Wednesday 28th October at 5:30pm Year 4 parents meeting about Bring Your Own Device program (via Zoom).

Wednesday 4 November 6pm: P & F AGM 6pm (Zoom)

Tuesday 24 November: PUPIL FREE DAY

Wednesday 2 December at 5pm: Year 6 farewell dinner and liturgy at Rosary Park

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal Message

Vocabulary and Asking Questions with your child.

The types of questions we ask impact on our children and their responses. Open questions will generate more discussion and encourage students to think more critically. When your child is talking with you to extend their oral language you could use some of these prompts

Tell me more about...

Why do you think that?

Can you give me an example?

What is your evidence?

This encourages children to respond in a full sentence and to expand their use of new vocabulary.

Supporting students when reading at home.

Reading material that is sent home is based on the students independent reading level. Your child will be able to read it and at home you can work on the fluency and accuracy that they are currently reading at.

It is important to take time to read to your child daily as this develops listening comprehension which is a precursor to reading comprehension when your child is at school. Being read to is an important factor in your child becoming a successful reader throughout their early years at school.

The benefits of reading are-increasing vocabulary knowledge, exposing children to the structure and organisation of ideas in a text, hearing expressive and fluent reading, develop listening comprehension and it assists in expanding their general knowledge and understanding of the world.

Amazing Vocabulary Day

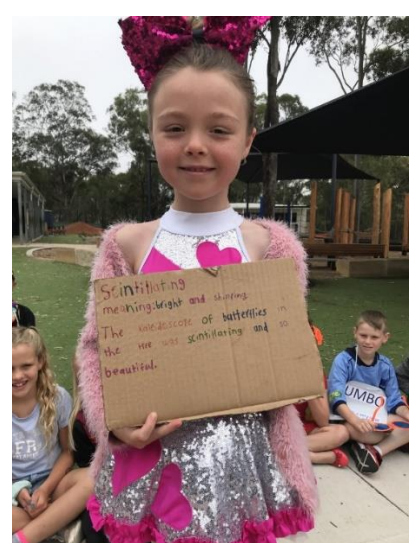
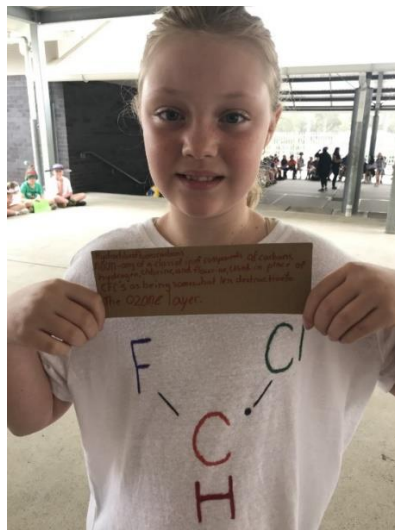
The Vocabulary Parade was a magnificent display of clever words in the form of costumes! The children joined in a small parade around the school grounds, sharing their words and explaining definitions, play on words and synonyms. The day provided a great opportunity for students to expand their vocabulary and learn from their peers. Students shared their chosen word with their class and were challenged to define the word, spell it and give an example in a sentence.

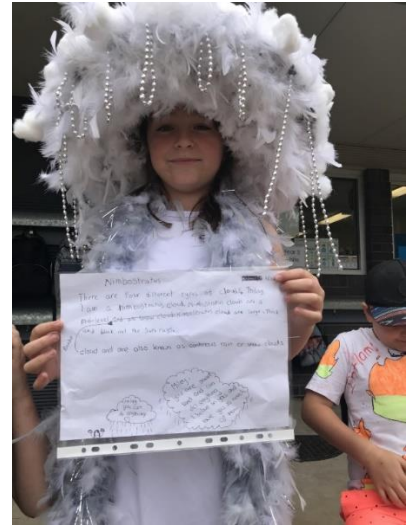
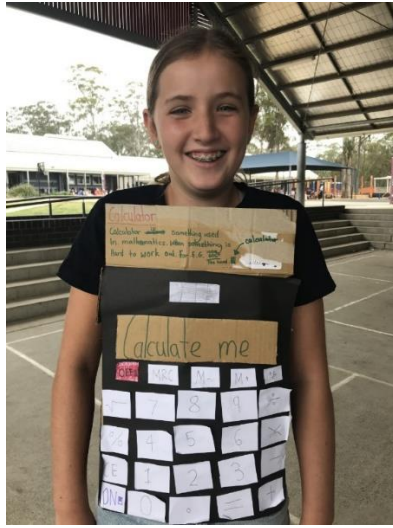
Additionally, some students engaged in more challenging vocabulary activities throughout the morning to compliment the focus of the day using dictionaries, thesauruses, glossaries and played word games such as 5 second rule, Scattegories and Articulate. There were some winners in class spelling bees too. Having fun with words and learning to use new vocabulary was certainly achieved!

All of the children who participated by dressing up and providing a dictionary meaning and example of the word in a sentence were placed into a class raffle, where one student won a book as a prize.

Notable costumes in the Parade included monochrome, nimbostratus, protestor, cadaverous, scintillating, ramshackle, galaxy, affluent, hydrochlorofluorcarbon, palindrome, sommelier, calculate, caution and noteworthy, among many other clever dress ups!

We are grateful to our supportive families for helping students with their costumes! They were all amazing, incredible, marvellous, wonderful, awesome 😊





Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Prayer

Last week was the Feast Day of St Theresa of Avila. This is a moving prayer written by St Theresa which I found on the Jamberoo Benedictine Abbey site on Facebook. They post many worthwhile reflections and it is a site worth following.

*Let nothing disturb you, nothing alarm you:
while all things fade away God is unchanging.
Be patient and you will gain everything:
for with God in your heart nothing is lacking.
God meets your every need.*

Back to School Liturgy



This week the students held small liturgies in their classrooms which focused on the work that www.CatholicMissions.org do in Cambodia. They watched a short clip which showed how our fundraising has set up a school for children with injuries from land mines. The children prayed together and discussed how important helping others is. You might like to watch the clip too: <https://video.link/w/d8tI>

Mini Vinnies receive their badges

On the last Friday of term, eighteen Year 5 Mini Vinnies members received their badges during Assembly. This group of capable, service-driven students now proudly wear their badges, showing their membership of the St Vincent de Paul society which started in Paris in 1833. They are continually working towards helping others, just as Jesus did. We are proud of these Rosary Park leaders!

Pictured, are four of our eighteen Mini Vinnies members.



Year 4 Mercy Works and Socktober – THIS FRIDAY!

Year 4 are working hard to plan activities for Mercy Works. This charity supports long term development projects, working with some of the most challenged people in Australia and the South-East Asia Pacific region, improving health, enhancing social wellbeing and expanding educational opportunities. The children have been looking specifically at a project in Cambodia, where our funds are actively supporting a school for child victims of land mine accidents.

Since the day will already be exciting, we have decided to celebrate Socktober on the same day. Children are invited to **wear bright, colourful socks** (they can be decorated if the children desire) with their school uniform. If you are interested in reading more about raising money for Socktober, have a look at <https://www.socktober.org.au> . Children can bring a gold coin on the day which will go to the Missions. Many thanks for your support of these charities. We are looking forward to an exciting day!

Details:

Date: Friday 23rd October 2020 from 12:30pm-1:30pm

Time and Place: Rosary Park Catholic School – Hall and Playground

Theme: wear usual school uniform and add fancy, crazy, colourful socks. All money goes to Catholic Missions

Cost: a gold coin donation to wear crazy socks and stalls run by Year 4 (various prices from 50c to \$4).

Money arrangements: Children can bring money to their classroom teacher who will give one token for every 50c. We are doing this so that children are not handling money during the activity time. Children can bring in money all week leading up to Friday and save their tokens until the day.

Meal Deal offered: Please see messages on Compass from our Canteen Manager Elisha Ayton-Mason. This is optional, children can bring their own lunch as usual if they prefer.

Some of the Stalls include:

- Hairspray and scrunchies (1 token/1 colour, 2 tokens for 3 colours)
- Sack races (1 token)
- Basketball throwing competition
- Temporary tattoos (1 and 2 tokens)
- Lucky lolly dip (1 token)
- Feeling Bag guessing competition
- Just dance competition (1 token for 2 turns)
- Water balloon target (1 token)
- Lolly jar guessing competition (1 token)
- Mini Vinnies will also have some activity jars (for example army men in a jar, mini jenga in a jar) 4 – 8 tokens.

COVID Safe: All food given to children will be covered or in a bag. We are not allowing children to handle food with their hands. This is to ensure that any treat that children win or buy is clean. Teachers will support Y4 students in wiping balls, surfaces, etc as needed during the activity time.

Year 4 thank you for supporting their Mercy Works fundraising!

Save the Dates:

Friday 30th October – Y1 will lead the prayer during Assembly

Friday 6th November – Celebrating our Grandparents. Prayers led by Kindergarten during Assembly

Wednesday 11th November – Y2 will lead a short Remembrance Day Liturgy

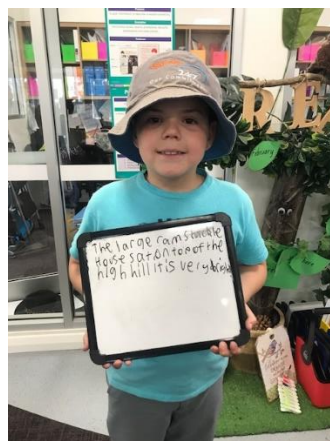
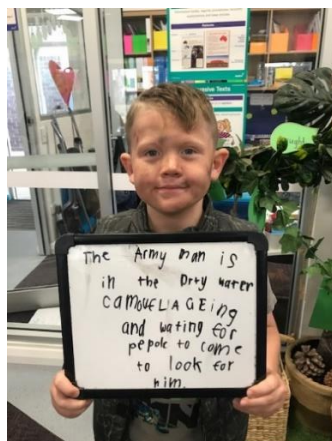
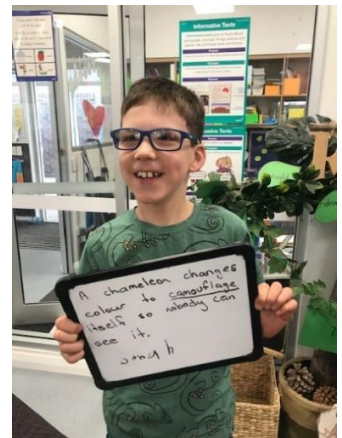
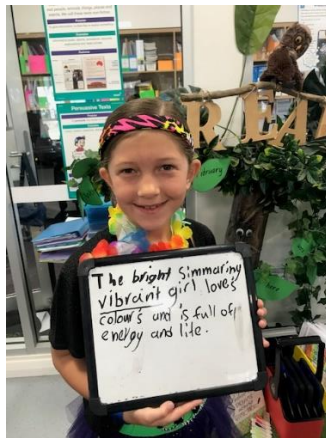
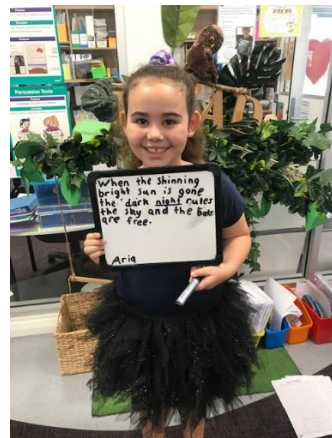
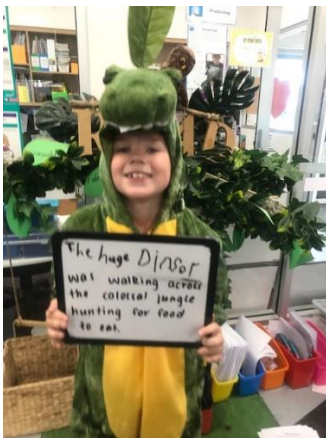
All of these events, including Assemblies are filmed and posted to Compass.

Many blessings to you and your families,

Kate Levido – Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Year 2 News

Year 2 have continued to focus on developing their vocabulary to support their writing. It was exciting to see all the interesting costumes around Rosary Park on Thursday for our Vocabulary Day. Children in Year 2 played many vocabulary games including Boogle, Scattegories and Charades. We also created word searches using the new vocabulary that we learnt from our friends.



Mrs Kevin came dressed as NIGHT and Miss Gagelar came dressed as DAY. This was linked to our new Science and Technology unit of work about Earth & Space.



Every week Year 2 have a new word of the week that we explore in depth. This week the word was: **TUMBLE.**

We know that tumble is a two syllable word, that it is a verb and that the suffixes ed, s, and ing can be added to create new word. Some super sentences were written using this word.

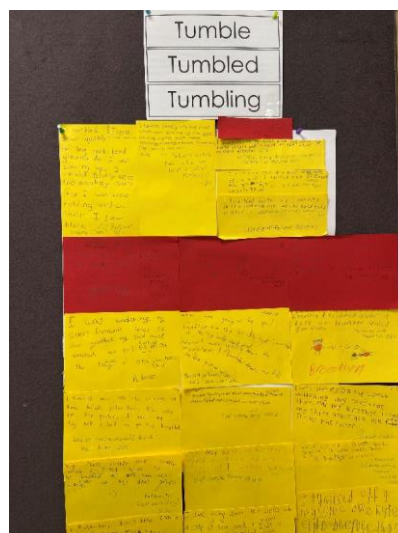
I **tumbled** clumsily into the river, which was glimmering like gems, causing crystal blue waves to crash, revealing a bottle shimmering like rain in the sun. **Evie 2 Blue.**

I **tumbled** quickly over my brother's smelly shoe. **Rawson 2 White.**

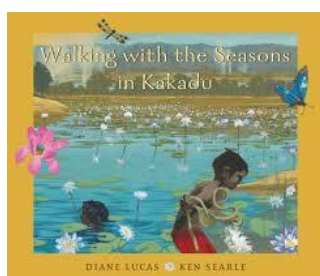
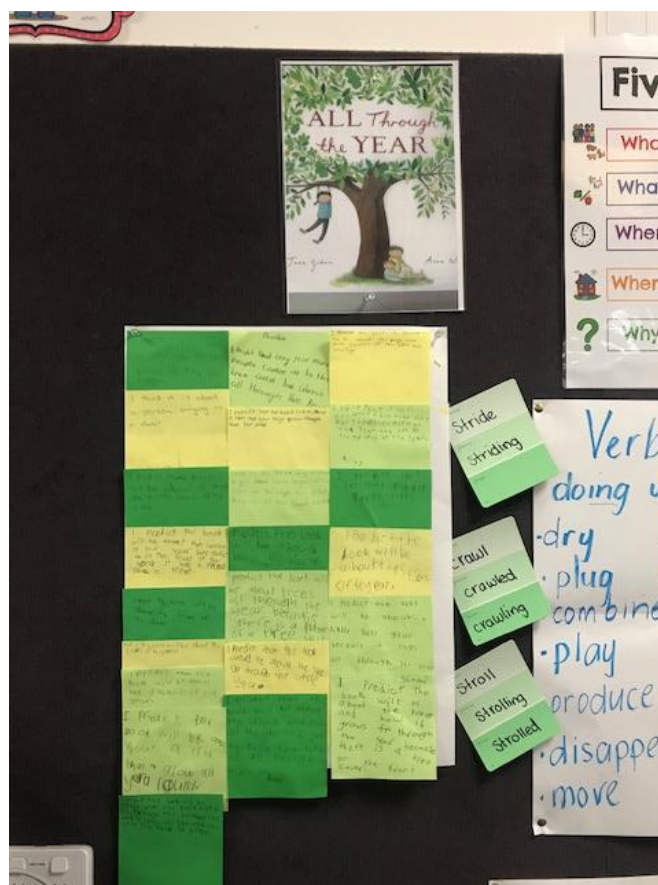
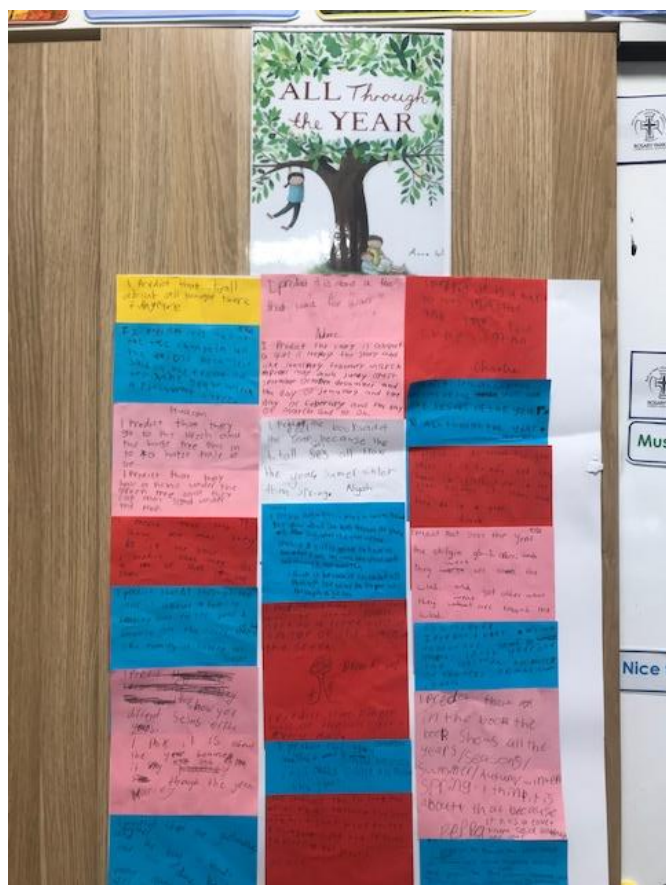
When I went fishing, my brother caught a fish and he **tumbled** into the icy, dark blue water. **Cameron 2 Blue.**

The ball quickly **tumbled** down the big tall pointy, snowy hill. **Phoebe 2 White.**

I **tumbled** down quickly to the rock-hard ground. As I was staring up, I could faintly see the monkey bars that I was once holding onto, then I saw black. **Elara 2 Blue.**



Children will be observing changes that occur around them including changes that occur with the seasons. The first text that we have explored this week in English is called 'All Through the Year'. Children made interesting predictions about this work.



Next we will be reading 'Walking with the Seasons in Kakadu'. I wonder what it will be about?

We love our new outdoor space!



Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards.

Week ending 25 September, 2020

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Flynn Chard	Luke Healy	Blake Collins
Kinder White	Jaiden Xuereb	Hannah Charnock	Liam Dobos
Year 1 Blue	Indi Morgan		Cooper Clarke
Year 1 White	Jesse Olson	Charli Newman	Sam Jacka
Year 2 Blue	Harry White	Louis Dodd	Tayla Menchin
Year 2 White	Flynn Russell	Phoebe Cole	Bryce Bogacz
Year 3 Blue	Aurora Lane	Isaac Gough	Summer Redden
Year 3 White	Xander Utjesenovic	Emily-Rose Ayton	Olivia Libreri
Year 4 Blue	Noah Lunan	Zoe Kendall	Sasha Collier
Year 4 White	Kiera Libreri	Tia Killick	Amelia Dagg
Year 5/6 Blue	Isabelle Kennedy	Laika Findlay-Egerton	Annabella Treloar
Year 5/6 White	Brody Collins	Benji Mott	Jemma Elderton
Year 5/6 Gold	Ashton Johansen	Matilda McLaren	Alana Moss

Principals Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received Principal's Awards.

Week ending 25 September, 2020

Ivy Hanlon, Brooklyn Johansen, Ellie Ayscough, Jackson Lacey, Charlie Cole, Joseph Alston, Evie Corry, Levi Cousins, Kai Mueller, Xander Utjesenovic, Samuel Dodd, Louis Dodd, Will Ledingham, Aleah Dilley and Sophie Costello.

Good for Kids good for life

WHY DO CANTEENS NEED TO BE HEALTHY?

Healthy foods give kids sustained energy to learn and play in at school. Healthy eating can improve concentration and behaviour in the classroom, as well as being important for wellbeing.

Encourage your child to choose delicious and nutritious everyday items from the canteen, like:

- Sandwiches, wraps and rolls with lean meat, cheese and salad vegetables
- Pastas like lasagne, spaghetti Bolognese and macaroni cheese
- Snacks like yoghurt, pikelets or 99% fruit juice ice blocks
- Canteen made pizzas
- Beef hamburgers
- Sushi or rice paper rolls
- Drinks like water or milk



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>

School Community Code of Conduct

Members of Catholic school communities in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle agree to nurture and support each other's individual growth in faith, to create communities of respect and tolerance and to engage in the promotion of peace, justice and service of others.

The School Community Code of Conduct reinforces our understanding of the rights and responsibilities each of us has in ensuring we provide an environment where our students can thrive.

Upon acceptance of enrolment and as a condition of continuing enrolment in our Catholic schools, all members of the school community are bound by this Code of Conduct. School staff must abide by the CSO's Code of Conduct for staff members available at: www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/policies

Students in Catholic school communities agree to:

- Model positive behaviour to other students.
- Comply with and model school values.
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner.
- Respect themselves and other members of the school community both personally and through the use of all social media technologies at all times.
- Respect our school environment.
- Actively participate in our school community.
- Support the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

Parents/Carers and volunteers in Catholic school communities agree to:

- ▶ Understand and abide by all diocesan policies, procedures and guidelines, which are available on the CSO website www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/policies
- ▶ Model positive behaviour to their child and all children in the school community.
- ▶ Ensure children attend school on time, every day the school is open for instruction.
- ▶ Take an active interest in their child's school and their learning and to engage positively in all aspects of their child's learning.
- ▶ Participate in the Liturgical and Faith Life community of the school including participation in all aspects of the Religious Studies program regardless of personal beliefs.
- ▶ Work in a positive manner with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child.
- ▶ Communicate constructively, respectfully and in a spirit of partnership with the school and use processes and protocols outlined in the CSO Complaints Resolution Policy documents when raising concerns.
- ▶ Communicate with their child's teacher or the Principal directly regarding any concerns about their child, other students, staff or community members.
- ▶ Reject aggressive, abusive and confrontational language and behaviour, as this is counterproductive to the sustainability of any relationship. Approaching students, community members and/or staff in a confronting manner will not be tolerated.
- ▶ Support all school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.
- ▶ Treat all school staff, students, other members of the school community, visitors and volunteers with respect in all dealings with them both personally and through the use of all social media technologies at all times.
- ▶ Discuss with the Principal any barriers to meeting the financial obligations agreed to at the time of enrolment and seek to form an agreement with the school to meet these.
- ▶ Ensure any agreement made with the school is honoured.



St Nicholas Early Education's newest service is

now open at Branxton!

St Nick's Branxton offers a range of natural and man-made play spaces, purposefully designed so children can experience, explore, discover, take risks, derive meaning and solve problems.

Some of Branxton's key features include its immersive natural outdoor play spaces with large sandstone sandpits, mud kitchen, bicycle tracks and garden beds; open-plan classrooms with plenty of natural light and well-equipped to cater to children of all different interests; and co-location with Rosary Park Primary School, offering a convenient one-stop drop-off and pick-up for parents with children attending both services.

In line with St Nicholas' commitment to supporting working parents, the service also offers long daycare hours (6am – 6pm), with meals, snacks, nappies and cot linen all included with daily care.

We'd love to give you a personalised tour to share more about how we can help support your family needs, and hear your thoughts.

Call 0491 200 578 or email
branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au
 to book in your tour.