



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 4 Week 6 2020**  
**Tuesday 17th November**

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

P: (02) 4938 1541 E: [admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au)

Website: [www.branxton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.branxton.catholic.edu.au)

**PASSWORD: BRX 2335**

*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.**

November		December	
<b>Tues 24th</b>	<b>Pupil Free Day</b> (Vacation care available – please phone 0448 751 549)	<b>Wed 2nd</b>	Year 6 Student liturgy and dinner in our school hall 5pm  AGM Federation of P&F 6.30pm Zoom
		<b>Mon 7th</b>	Semester 2 reports available via Compass
		<b>Tue 8th</b>	Year 6 'Big Day In'
		<b>Wed 9th</b>	End of Year Awards and talent Showcase
		<b>Fri 11th</b>	End of Year Liturgy and 2021 School Leaders announced  Last day for canteen lunch orders
		<b>Mon 14th</b>	Swimming Carnival @ Singleton Gym and Swim (for competitive swimmers only)  Canteen open for over the counter sales ONLY
		<b>Wed 16th</b>	<b>LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS</b>
<b>January 2021</b>		<b>February 2021</b>	
<b>Thurs 28th</b>	Year 1 – 6 return to school	<b>Mon 1st</b>	Kindergarten commences

**\*St Nicholas OOSH Branxton** (Vacation Care) opens 17 – 22 December, 2020 and re-opens 4 - 25 January, 2021. Phone 0448 751 549 to book. Please refer to attached information.

## Principal's Message

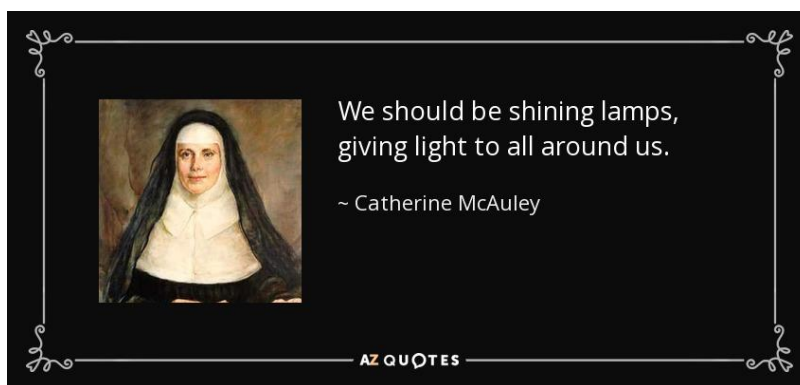


Dear Parents/Carers

**World Children's Day** is this Friday 20 November. It is a day to celebrate the power of children to change the world. It marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. On the 20 November, we celebrate 30 years of children's rights and demand that every child has every right.

'Around the world, children are showing us their strength and leadership advocating for a more sustainable world for all. Let's build on advances and re-commit to putting children first. For every child, every right'. UN Secretary-General António Guterres

### **Vision and Mission Statement**



One of Rosary Park's school improvement goals for 2020 was to revise our Mission and Vision statement to better reflect our Mercy Charism. Given that both of these statements were formulated at the amalgamation of the schools back in 2011, it was an opportune time to re-visit these as a community.

A Vision statement expresses a brief, clear shared understanding of the direction that a school is headed. Its purpose is to evoke commitment and to energise people. Redefining the vision is necessary to maintain growth and development. For us a Catholic school, it must be Christ centred.

A Mission statement expresses the purpose of the organisation. It refers to how we do what we do, how we operate daily in our school.

Despite interruptions, we have continued as a staff to work through the revision of these statements with input from Catholic Schools Office Mission and Formation Education officer.

We finalised this process last week and came to the following statements:

#### **Vision Statement:**

*In the light of Christ, we love, serve and learn as a caring faith community.*

### **Mission Statement:**

*Founded on the Mercy tradition, Rosary Park educates and nurtures the faith and wellbeing of all through:*

*\*service*

*\*respect*

*\*hospitality*

*\*compassion*

*\*justice*

*\*courage*

Our Mission Statement makes particular reference to the six pillars of Mercy. These are the cornerstones of our founding sisters of Mercy and Catherine McAuley as the founding sister of Mercy, and they are now also embedded in our student leadership policy. These pillars will become integral to our teaching in Religion moving forward and in our everyday vocabulary and actions as we work to familiarise our children and community with them.

### **End of Year Awards**

As we work to further recognise and embed our Mercy pillars across all that we do at Rosary Park, it is timely then to review our end of year awards. Our core values as a Catholic School, are to demonstrate our faith in our everyday actions and interactions and to use the gifts given to us by God, to learn to the best of our ability. As of 2020, the end of year awards will be:

\*Faith and Service Award (Rosary Park medal awarded to two children/class each year):

*Knowing what it means to be a child of God and demonstrating this through their actions*

\*Rosary Park Award for Learning (Rosary Park medal awarded to two children/class each year):

*Recognising students that use their strengths and gifts as a learner – letting their light shine as a learner in any Key Learning Area (KLA) at any level. This award focuses on growth, persistence and grit. These award recipients are NOT necessarily the best academic achievers in their class but more those children who work consistently and persistently to achieve their personal best.*

### **COVID Changes**

Last week, we received an update from Catholic Schools NSW in regard to a lightening of some COVID restrictions. Whilst many guidelines remain the same, such as parents being unable to attend the school site for assemblies etc, there has been some easing of restrictions of parents on site in some cases. These apply only where a four-square metre distance can be adhered to, for the end of year awards and liturgy, Year 6 dinner etc.

However, for us here at Rosary Park, we are unable to adhere to these distance rules and accommodate the necessary number of parents at that particular function. Therefore, we will continue with our original plan as previously communicated in regard to our school end of year awards and liturgy. Parents will be able to view these.

For Year 6 awards and liturgy (Wed 2 December) these new guidelines mean we can have a maximum of two year 6 parents per child bring their child into the celebrations at the school hall,

stay with them for photos and presentation of their award before leaving their child for the actual meal with staff at school.

Whilst there has been a recent easing of schools attending excursions, we will instead ensure that our children have a fun 'incursion' with their grade at school paid for from the school resource fee before the year ends.

Our year 6 children will have a 'Big Day In' on Tuesday 8 December. The cost of this event will be covered by the school resource fee and will be run by the Ativ8 Sports Company with children participating in wet and dry sport activities to celebrate their end of Primary Schooling.

### **2021 Class Preparation**

If you are leaving Rosary Park and your child/ren will not be returning to school in 2021 please ensure that you have notified us as we have families looking for enrolments for next year and we're in the process of concluding our class lists for 2021. If you are just moving to a new house or changing your workplace, please ensure that you provide up-to-date contact details before the start of the school year.

### **Kindergarten 2021 Orientation**

Kindergarten 2021 orientations are still required to proceed without families on site, as outlined in the Catholic Schools NSW guidelines. We are sending videos to families whilst hosting our new school members again on 19 and 26 November.

Kindergarten will start school across two days on **Monday 1 February & Tuesday 2 February 2021** and in this first week days will be staggered, with shorter days for our children due to their interrupted orientation process this year.

Thank you to the outstanding year 5 students who showed maturity, pride and nurturing in welcoming their little buddies to Rosary Park during last week's first visit. To watch and listen to them interacting with their buddies and families made me an extremely proud Principal. Several parents of new Kinders commented to me about the positive impact our senior students had had on our new school members.

Thank you to the year 5 teachers for helping to prepare the students for their buddies and to Kinder teachers and Learning Support Assistants for their work and supporting the children.

In 2021, Alanna Seysener and Jessica Mead will be our Kindergarten teachers.

### **Canteen**

The last day for lunch orders will be Friday 11 December. The canteen will open on Monday 14 December for over the counter sales ONLY- NO LUNCH ORDERS.

In 2021, Qkr will be the **only payment option** for children's lunch orders. No cash will be accepted in order bags anymore. The instructions for downloading Qkr are again attached to this newsletter. Please feel free to call in to the office and we can assist you to download and use this APP if needed.

## **School Fees 2021**

Yesterday you received communication from our Director of Schools about fee structures for 2021. Our school determined resource fee will be \$425/child in 2021. This was decided upon at our recent P and F meeting, an increase of \$20 from this year as suggested by our Diocesan Finance team.

## **Thank you**

At our recent P & F meeting, \$2500 was donated from our parent group. This has now been put towards the purchase of 15 new I Pads for Kinder and year 1 children.

## **Social Media**

A reminder to be vigilant with your children and their activity on social media. If you're not a user of social media but your children are, please investigate so that you understand what is happening and what they are seeing. All social media is meant to be for children older than 13 because they are more likely to have the social maturity to deal with it, although we've all heard cases where even older children don't have those skills. Please use the resources of the office of e-safety at the link below and discuss these sites with your children.

<http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

## **World Kindness Day**

This is an internationally observed day of kindness that was started in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement. It was held last Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, as it is every year and has been a part of Australia's Federal School Calendar since 2012. World Kindness Day is all about acceptance, diversity and love. This is done by taking opportunities to perform acts of kindness towards others. These acts may include:

- Complimenting someone on their outfit or hairstyle
- Buying somebody a snack or a hot drink
- Giving somebody a card with a lovely message written inside
- Calling or sending a message to a friend or family member you have not spoken to in a while
- Taking care of a chore or tidying a room for your housemate

## **Family Discount Form**

The family discount form was sent home last week with the eldest child in the family. Please complete and return to ensure you receive the correct discount on next year's fees. If you have a Health Care card, please enquire at the office as there is a new form to be completed for this. I have attached a copy of the family discount form for your convenience.

## **Semester 2 Student Reports**

These will be available via Compass from Monday 7th December. As you would recall from Semester one, the reports are no longer printed. Should you wish to discuss your child's report with the class teacher/s please contact them via [admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au)

## **Gifts**

At this time of year, some families want to give staff members an end of year Christmas gift. Whilst this is appreciated, it is not necessary. Our greatest gift is seeing your children enjoy learning and reaching their full potential.

The Catholic Schools Office has a detailed Gifts and Benefits Policy that requires substantial gifts to be declared and, sometimes, returned.

Under this policy, it is not appropriate for parents to take up collections of money from families to present one gift to their class teacher or another staff member.

If you choose to give a gift to a staff member, this is your personal choice. Please consider a card with a special message inside instead.

## **Afternoon dismissal**

Thank you, parents, for your cooperation with our afternoon dismissal. Please be aware that it is very difficult for our office staff to call children for the parents to take them right-on pick-up time. Granted, there are times when this cannot be avoided but several parents are calling at bell time for their children to leave early or on first bell, which is very hard for our staff. If you need to take your child early or need them to leave on first bell, please make these arrangements with the class teacher/office early in the day. Thank you in anticipation for your cooperation.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

## **Religious Education Coordinator's Message**

### **Advent begins on 29<sup>th</sup> November**

The term Advent comes from the Latin, meaning 'arrival'. Advent's purpose and meaning are to look ahead to the coming of Christ to Earth through the birth of Jesus. Christ's arrival brought the dawn of a new covenant and salvation. This is really what the Christmas season is all about. It is the holiday of the arrival of Jesus and an opportunity to show courage and follow Him.

*Father,*

*Help me to hear your voice. Touch me once again. Give me the courage to be your follower. Give me courage to choose joy. I need you this Christmas. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Important Information about Christmas Mass**

With the changes that 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have brought to our Parishes, Christmas Mass will need to look a little different this year, if current restrictions remain in place. Anyone wishing to attend Mass will need to register for their ONE nominated Mass time by **12pm on Wednesday 23**

**December 2020.** Sheets are available at each church to start registering from this weekend or you can phone the Parish Office on 5507 4048 or email [singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au)

*St Brigid's Church Branxton* will have Vigil Mass at 6pm and 8pm on Thursday 24 December.

*St Catherine's Church Greta* will have Mass at 8am on Christmas Day.

*St Patrick's Church Singleton* will have Vigil Mass at 6pm, Midnight Mass at 12am and Mass on Christmas Day at 10am. Mass in Singleton will be live-streamed and those who don't fit in the church will be able to stand in the church yard and watch online or listen via the speakers. Communion will be offered from the doors for those outside.

### **Fr Anthony**

Fr Anthony visited Year 3 last week. He spoke to them about the significant people who helped shape the Catholic Church in the early years of colonisation. The children have been learning about these inspirational people who worked hard to encourage people to help the poor and needy and keep their faith alive. Ask your Year 3 child if they can tell you something about Fr James Dixon, Mary MacKillop, Caroline Chisholm, the Sisters of Charity, John Bede Polding, Fr Connolly, Fr Jeremiah O'Flynn. The children's historical knowledge will pleasantly surprise you! Fr Anthony was able to share with the children the story of how Catholicism made it's way to the Philippines. Year 4 will be the next group to meet with Fr Anthony and they will be discussing their unit about Confirmation.



### **Rosary Park Christmas Appeal**

The families from Rosary Park traditionally bring items to school to give to those in need of extra assistance at Christmas time. This year we are asking for a small toy or non-perishable food item that are associated with a Christmas Feast. We are collecting small items that could be put together to make a hamper. We ask that all donations be brought to school by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November (Week7) and Vinnies will come and collect the items for distribution.

Some ideas include: lollies, bonbons, Christmas themed serviettes, small jars of condiments, small cans of fruit or vegetables, gravy, pasta sauce, small box of tea bags, tiny jams, small shampoos,



small soft drinks, pretzels, marshmallows, soap, hand sanitiser, toiletries, Christmas decorations and any small, thoughtful gifts.

Thank you to our wonderful families for bringing hope, joy and dignity to those who need it most this Christmas.

## Remembrance Day

Year 2 conducted a short Liturgy for the Rosary Park children last Wednesday. They led us in prayer, explained the significance of the 11-11 date and prepared us for a minute's silence. They prepared poppies for each class and across the school we were able to make a garden of red poppies to remember those lost in war. You may see the remnants of the poppies along the fence line as you drive past in days to come.



## Naidoc Week

We are fortunate to have Mrs Jess Dougherty as the Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Rosary Park. She has permission from the Wanaruah elders to tell the story of Biaime in this land. She visited some classes during Naidoc Week, explaining Indigenous spirituality and the deep connection they have to the land.





## Art Competition

All Rosary Park students are participating in a special Christmas Story Art Competition. The purpose of the competition is to celebrate and explore children's creative and artistic ability in illustrating the Christmas story. It is a great opportunity for our children to deepen their faith and express their creative talents. The children had to take their inspiration from the annunciation, the journey to Bethlehem, the Shepherds visiting baby Jesus, the birth of Jesus or the three wise men. A winning entry will be chosen from each class to send through to the All Saints Cluster where 14 finalists will be chosen to have their artwork displayed in the East Maitland Library.



## Learning Support News



We are a TEAM not only at School but with Parent's and the Community. Teachers are not the only educators of our children. Parent-teacher communication plays a big role in helping your child to have a successful academic career. Since parents and teachers know different aspects of a child's personality, they must work together to solve problems or celebrate gains.

In learning Support we work closely with Teachers to ensure our children can achieve to the best of their ability. There may be programs that we do as a group or individually to assist children to do this. LSA's and I carry out these programs and we have an enormous amount of experience in the LSA team. You as parents will also be asked to assist and teachers are happy to let you know what you can be doing at home, even sending some extra pieces of work home. We are not asking you to 'teach' these things just to do some revision to help your child get things straight in their heads. It only takes a moment of your time!

Communication is the key...Never wonder what is going on at school. This Year has been challenging for everyone. We miss seeing parents at school, having that personal connection and look forward to getting back to normal. Whatever that will be. We never forget that we are only a piece of the puzzle that nurtures and educates our children. You can always email school and emails are passed onto appropriate teachers to get back to you. Something to remember is how busy teachers are and contact may take a couple of days.

Keeping Parent-Teacher Communication Lines Open (From The Very Well Family By Amanda Morin)

- **Don't:** Feel as though you're being a nuisance. Whether you have concerns, questions or just simply want to say "Great job," it's perfectly all right to get in touch with your child's teacher. That's what good parent-teacher communication is all about.
- **Do:** Advocate for your child. Their teacher may spend six hours a day with them and know how they conduct themselves within the school setting, but you're with them the rest of the time and know them in a very different light. If there is something they need or if something isn't going well, make yourself heard.
- **Don't:** Wait until there's a problem to get in touch with your child's teacher.
- **Do:** Make an effort to introduce yourself in person, in writing or over the phone, as a way to begin a good parent-teacher relationship.
- **Don't:** Call your child's teacher during the school day and expect to be put right through to them.
- **Do:** Let your child's teacher know what is a good way to get in touch with you and at what times. Teachers are busy teaching during the school day and often use breaks to use the bathroom, grab a quick lunch, and/or prepare lesson plans. Thus, you may have to wait until after school hours to speak on the phone. However, if you let the teacher know that you can be reached via note or email or that early in the morning is a fine time to call, you have a better chance of speaking sooner rather than later.
- **Don't:** Say to the person who answers the phone "Tell them Jane Smith called" and expect the teacher to know who you are and that you would like a return call.
- **Do:** Leave a message identifying whose parent you are and leave as much detail as you feel comfortable sharing about why you are calling. If you would like a callback, make sure to mention that in your message.
- **Don't:** Call/contact your child's teacher at home.
- **Do:** Ask the teacher whether it's acceptable to reach them at home in the evening to discuss a problem your child is having. While many teachers prefer not to be disturbed at home, some don't mind and will provide their home phone number to a parent whom they know will not abuse it. If you have their home number, make sure to be respectful of the teacher's time, calling at a reasonable hour and only for urgent situations (usually problems that need addressing before the next school day).
- **Don't:** Hesitate to request a meeting.
- **Do:** Let your child's teacher know if you need a few face-to-face with them. Just be sure to let them know why, whether you'd like other staff to be there, and about how long you expect the meeting to take. That way they can set aside enough time for you.
- **Don't:** Assume that phone calls and notes are the only way to speak with a teacher.
- **Do:** Find out whether or not your school or school district has an intranet, such as our Compass
- **Don't:** Send an unsealed note with your child to give to their teacher and expect them not to read it.

- **Do:** Seal notes in an envelope or fold and staple them shut, so it's obvious if little eyes have been prying. Make sure to clearly print the teacher's name on the outside if it is for their eyes only. That way, if there is a Casual for the day the note will be set aside unread. *Notes that deal with changes in transportation for the day or lunch money should be labelled as such on the outside. For example, "John's Lunch Money" or "Bus Change Information."*

As this has been my first year on the job I have learned a great deal and must say I still have a long way to go however, it has shown me how rewarding making a difference can be. Watching children develop and grow is amazing. I am here Monday to Thursday and will return calls of an afternoon when you need anything.

Annmaree Hooker

## Year 3 News

As part of our HSIE Unit, we are looking at places that make Australia special. This perfectly ties in with our Science unit, where we are unpacking the ideas of weathering and erosion.

We began by looking at landmarks in Australia that were formed through weathering or erosion, such as Uluru or Wave Rock. We conducted a 'Memory Draw', which is a Creative Thinking Routine that requires us to look for details in a picture. The teachers hung photos of The Devil's Marbles, Wave Rock, The Twelve Apostles and The Organ Pipes around the classroom and we drew them with as much accuracy as we could.

Following on from this, in English, we read and unpacked a poem about Uluru. We worked in Terrific Teams to brainstorm synonyms for words and figurative language we could use in our own poetry writing. We then constructed our very own poems about the rock formations we examined in our memory draw. The teachers were blown away with our creativity and dedication to this writing task!

In Religion, we have been learning about the early Catholic Church in Australia and the impact of early Catholics. We loved researching key figures from this era, such as Fr James Dixon or John Bede Polding. Even Fr Anthony was impressed with how much we knew! We have been inspired by the work of people like Caroline Chisholm, who worked tirelessly to support immigrant females and families during the early 1800's. We look forward to following in her legacy and supporting the people in our community who need it.





## Australia Reads – Reading Hour



As part of our School Improvement Plan in 2020 we have had a learning focus on developing reading skills and the rate at which children can read in Kinder to Year 6. Last Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November we celebrated Australian Reading Hour. All classes spent time throughout the day to stop everything and read. Students from Kinder to Year 6 enjoyed the time to spend reading for enjoyment.

Some classes spent time enjoying reading their favourite book, others shared reading with a friend or just taking time to read their favourite book.



Year 4 decided to do a "book tasting" where students wrote a recommendation for their favourite book and then they walked around and read the recommendations and wrote down new books they wanted to try. We finished the hour by listening to our class novel read by Mr Hacker.



## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards.

### Week ending 6 November, 2020

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Liam Russell	Amarlie Kiem	Blake Collins
<b>Kinder White</b>	Liam Dobos	Kade Dodd	Max Kummeling
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Liam Pike	Nevaeh Diebert	Karmichael Armstrong
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Josie Lawler	Ellie Young	Sophie Cortis
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Harry White	Hudson Radcliffe	Louis Dodd
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Nevada Adamthwaite	Jonah Martyn	Olivia Costa
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Layla Hedger	Will Ledingham	Cooper Thomas
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Archer Kowalski	Sophia Hedger	Willow Roberts
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Brock Wishart	Oriella Samaras	Ari Samuelson
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Bella O'Connor	Jayden Grant	Michael Hardy
<b>Year 5/6 Blue</b>	Callan Lyttle	Charles Wilson	Kiran Olive
<b>Year 5/6 White</b>	Benji Matt	Johanna O'Nions	Oliver Upward
<b>Year 5/6 Gold</b>	Bridie Richards	Matilda McLaren	Jack Yeatman

### Week ending 13 November, 2020

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Evie Corry	Isaac Lunan	Addison Kowalski
<b>Kinder White</b>	Ellie Ayscough	Evelina O'Nions	Leah Wishart
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Samuel Waters	Jesse Cavanaugh	Aleah Dilley
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Owen Gough	Charli Fox	Parker Samaras
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Jaegar Davies	Ella Robertson	David Haynes
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Alice King	Tyler Standen	Brooke Healy
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Amelia Saxby	Cohan Young	Lacey Norton
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Lara Dilley	Xander Utjesenovic	Stella Walters
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Lilly Allgood	Ava Brenton	Jayden Slomka
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Teresa Le	Xavier Thomas	Tia Killick
<b>Year 5/6 Blue</b>	Annika Marr	Darcy Burgess	Jed Ayscough
<b>Year 5/6 White</b>	Kayne Standen	Taylem Grieve	Sam Martin
<b>Year 5/6 Gold</b>	Alana Moss	Claire Fisher	Ashton Johansen

## Principals Awards

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

### Week ending 6 November, 2020

Ebony Manning, Abigail Parkes, Sam Ramsay, Sally King, Asha Messenger, Kiara Hedger, Taylem Grieve, Noah Linton, Darby Thomas, Sharni Lyttle, Lilly Allgood, Callan Lyttle, Hannah Charnock, Sam Gray, Joel Charnock.

### Week ending 13 November, 2020

Aliyah Papacostas, Michael Hardy, Benji Matt, Jed Ayscough, Claire Fisher, Chloe Fisher, Taylem Grieve, Gemma McCarthy, Nevaeh Diebert, Jaxon Brown, Max Kummeling, Samantha Foot, Ella Robertson, Harry White, Jemma Matt, Latoya Hardy.

## Aspire 2020

ASPIRE is the Maitland/Newcastle Catholic Schools Office creative and performing arts program. Each year ASPIRE creates an original production through which students can audition to be a part of through dance, design, drama, musical and production ensembles. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, ASPIRE has adapted the way the 2020 production 'The Pecking Order' will be delivered. Normally a large-scale production with over a hundred and fifty young people, ASPIRE will instead create a filmed version of the original show. Each of the performance ensembles will have their own day of filming in the Civic Theatre in front of a live audience. The audience will be talked through the plot of the show by some of the cast members as it is being professionally filmed and recorded.

### ASPIRE Studio Audience

**Tickets \$20 per person per session**

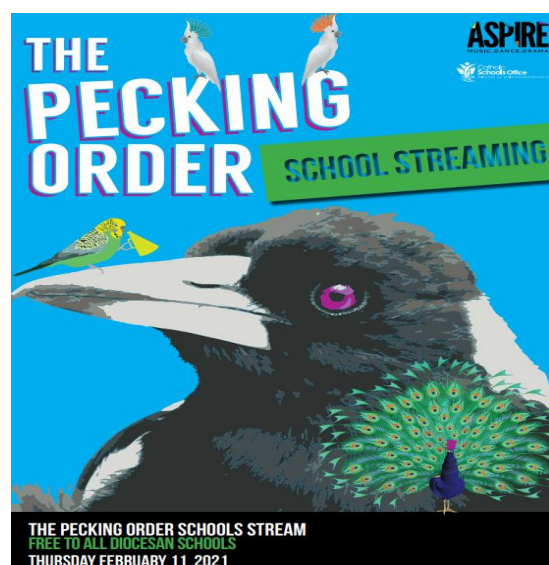
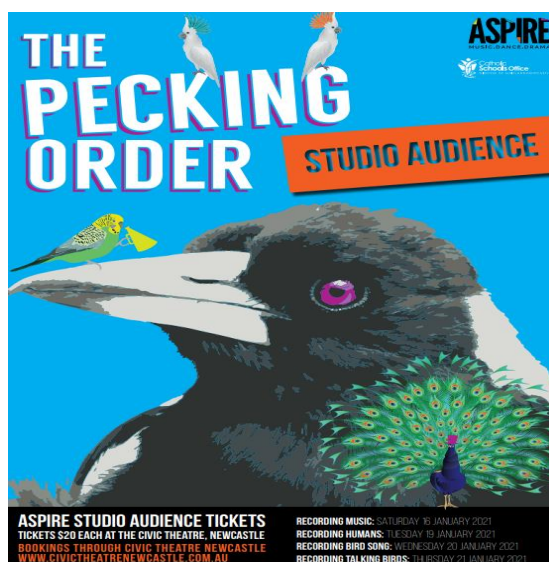
**Individual days available for the ASPIRE Studio Audience Experience are as follows:**

- **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January: Recording Music at the Civic Theatre at 1pm (finish time approx. 4pm)**  
Be part of the live studio audience for the ASPIRE stage band sessions. Watch as the band perform the music from the production 'The Pecking Order' as it is professionally recorded in readiness for later studio audience sessions for dance and vocal ensembles. This is a unique opportunity to see ASPIRE's talented young musicians front and centre as they take over the Civic Theatre Stage.
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January: Recording Humans at the Civic Theatre at 1pm (finish time approx. 5pm)**  
Join the human characters of the Pecking Order as we film their scenes and songs in a special live studio audience event. This event involves Junior Drama and Vocal ensembles as well as lead characters from the Senior Vocal Ensemble. Join them all at 'Camp Capacity' a leadership camp run by Cash Vanity – leadership guru and egocentric entrepreneur as they learn about what makes a good leader and challenge their preconceptions.
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January: Recording Bird Song at the Civic Theatre at 1pm (finish time approx. 5pm)**



- Be entertained by a flock encompassing Rainbow Lorikeets, Fairy Wrens and Mynah Birds as they sing and dance their way through the bird related repertoire of 'The Pecking Order'. This event showcases our dance and senior vocal ensembles who will dazzle with their beautiful bird song and fancy flying.
- **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January: Recording talking birds at the Civic Theatre at 1pm (finish time approx. 5pm)**  
Munch the Magpie is desperate to be leader of the flock, but when will it be her turn? Join ASPIRE's senior drama ensemble as they portray the most eclectic flock of birds in Australia. Follow the birds as they negotiate their relationship with the humans and find that in times of adversity, every member of the flock is vital.

Following filming, the full production will be pieced together and streamed at Civic Theatre on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Please see attached flyer for more information. We will also host a celebration of the Creative and Performing Arts early in 2021 here at Rosary Park where the production will be streamed to all our students. Stay tuned for more information on this.



## 2021 Family Discount & Diocesan Pastoral Contribution Form

**FAMILY DISCOUNT:** This form is required for ALL your children enrolled in the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese; issued per school. The family discount is applicable to Tuition Fees. **Please be aware the family discount will not be processed on the school account until this form is returned.** Students listed on this application **must have the same residential address to qualify for the family discount.**

### Office Use Only

No of Students in Family:

Family Code:

DFSBL applicable for billing? Y/N

Name of **Fee payer** for students listed below:

(Please clearly write the Full Name of Person Responsible for Fees)

Fee payer's Signature:

Please list **ALL** children attending Maitland/Newcastle Diocesan Schools in 2021, who reside at the same address and the person (as above) is responsible for the payment of fees.

Residential Address for **ALL** Students listed:

Student Name/s	Name of School, Student is attending in 2021	2021 Year/Class

**HEALTH CARE CARD:** Eligibility for reduction off Tuition fees for 'means tested' low income Health Care/Pension holders. This discount is up to **50% off the Diocesan Tuition Fee full rate**, percentage granted is determined by family discount applied. In order to receive this discount, **you are required to complete paperwork and provide a copy of your Health Care Card to the School at the commencement of each school year.** NB: Student HCC are not accepted.

**FEE ASSISTANCE:** Any family experiencing financial difficulties can seek fee assistance, please contact the School Office to arrange an interview and complete the necessary paperwork with the Principal at the beginning of each year.

**Family Diocesan Pastoral Contribution** will be notarised on the school fee account for the eldest child in the Diocese. As this contribution is voluntary, **please tick your preference below.** This contribution is NOT tax deductible. This contribution will help support the initiatives of the Pastoral Ministries within the Diocese.

- ☐ I elect **to pay** the Diocesan Pastoral Contribution of \$300.00 for the 2021 school year.
- ☐ I elect **NOT to pay** the Diocesan Pastoral Contribution.
- ☐ I will contact the school to arrange a nominated amount to contribute to the Diocesan Pastoral Contribution.

**This form is to be returned, to this school by 4 December, 2020**



masterpass

For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by Mastercard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr! you can:

- Order and pay for your child's lunches, reducing the need to bring cash to school;
- Pay for a variety of school items;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.



Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

#### Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



#### Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

#### Step 3 Find our school

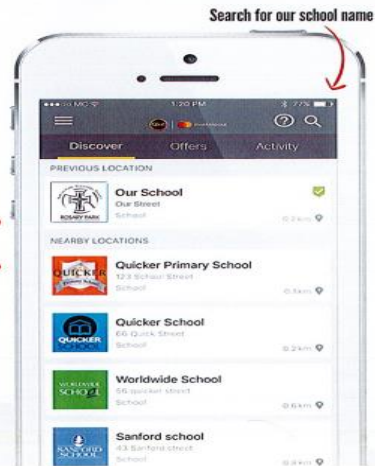
Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10kms of the school, or search for our school by name.

#### Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'



masterpass

Add your children's details in Student Profiles



Order meals



Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet



At checkout select which card to pay with.

Pay with any cards accepted by the school.

Once your payment is approved you can continue to the home page, or view your receipt.





All NSW school-enrolled children are eligible for **two \$100 Active Kids vouchers** each year. The vouchers can be used with any approved Active Kids provider, to help cover costs towards registration or membership fees for sport and active recreation. **Voucher one is valid January to December** and **voucher two is valid July to December**. After 1 July 2020, the second voucher can be claimed immediately after the first voucher.

## HOW TO CLAIM YOUR VOUCHERS



Mary Sm



- 1** Visit [service.nsw.gov.au](https://service.nsw.gov.au) and login to your MyServiceNSW Account
- 2** Click on the Active Kids icon found in your SERVICE tab
- 3** Fill out the requested information (you will need your current Medicare card)
- 4** Print a copy of each voucher or email it to yourself

Visit [sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids](https://sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids) for terms & conditions and FAQs

## HOW TO USE YOUR VOUCHERS

- 1** Find a provider by visiting our website: [sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids](https://sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids)
- 2** Once you have chosen an activity give the voucher number to your activity provider, or log onto your provider's website and enter the voucher number

\*Vouchers can always be found in your MyServiceNSW account by looking in the My Applications tab



## Good for Kids good for life

### KEEP THE LUNCHBOX COOL

As the weather warms up it is important to keep the lunchbox cool so that food stays safe to eat.

Using an insulated lunchbox with an ice brick can keep the lunchbox 12° cooler.

You could also try a frozen:

- Water bottle
- Milk popper
- Yoghurt

These double as a refreshing drink or cool snack as they defrost.



Health  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

[HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>

## 7 WAYS TO START MAKING KINDNESS THE NORM IN YOUR DAILY LIFE:

- 1 Send an uplifting text to a friend or family member.
- 2 Let that guy merge into traffic with a wave and a smile.
- 3 Include intentional moments of kindness, laughter and delight in your daily routine.
- 4 Go *slightly* outside of our comfort zone at least once a day to make someone smile.
- 5 Share a compliment with a co-worker or friend.
- 6 Reach out to a family member you haven't spoken to in awhile.
- 7 Treat someone to a cup of coffee (a friend, stranger, or even yourself).

make  
kindness  
the norm.

#WorldKindnessDay  
#MakeKindnessTheNorm  
[www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org)





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](mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au)  
to book in your tour.



     
[www.stnicholasmn.org.au](http://www.stnicholasmn.org.au)

*Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in this newsletter are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about these matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are subject of these advertisements.*