



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 1 Week 8 2021**

**Tuesday 16th March**

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

*The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults - particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese. All employees are required to undergo a National Police Check and, where legislated, hold a Working with Children Check. Diocesan workers are expected to personally adopt and enact the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

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

MARCH		APRIL	
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup></b>	LLC Leading Learning Collaborative (Clarity) Executive at CSO	<b>Thur 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Out of uniform – gold coin donation (closed in shoes please) Easter raffle draw
<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Harmony Day	<b>Mon 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SCHOOL RETURNS TERM 2</b>
<b>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Rosary Park transitions to Tech One finance system	<b>Tue 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Interrelate Family Evening Year 3-6 children and their parents (via Zoom) 2 sessions 6pm and 7:15pm. \$35
<b>Tue 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Police Liaison Officer visiting Year 5 and 6- Cybersafety	<b>Fri 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Anzac Day liturgy 9:45am Awards Assembly 2:15pm Parents welcome
<b>Tues 24<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 26<sup>th</sup></b>	NAPLAN Practice Tests (year 3 and year 5)	<b>Fri 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Awards Assembly 2:15pm Parents welcome
<b>Fri 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Awards Assembly 2:15pm Parents welcome	<b>Thur 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Priests/Parish Leaders/Principals Day Sallyanne at CSO
<b>Wed 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Easter Liturgy	<b>MAY</b>	
		<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>- Fri 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Catholic Schools Week Liturgy Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>
		<b>11<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup></b>	NAPLAN Year 3 and Year 5
		<b>Wed 12<sup>th</sup></b>	P&F Meeting 6pm (at school)

		<b>Fri 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Assembly 2.15pm Reconciliation 5:30pm St Brigid's Church
		<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Athletics Carnival (wet weather date 28 <sup>th</sup> )

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

*"At the beginning of Lent, it would do us good to ask for the grace to preserve the memory of all that the Lord has done in our lives, of how He has loved us."* Pope Francis

### COVID update

In the last week we have received updated guidelines for COVID precautions in schools from NSW Health and Catholic Schools NSW. The latest changes are:

-Parents are now permitted to attend the school for more activities. This includes assemblies, liturgies and open days. However, visitors must not attend if they are at all unwell, you must still abide by social distancing, and you must register on entry via QR code.

We will begin inviting parents to Friday awards assemblies as of this Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March however please be aware that as numbers are capped to **abide by social distancing rules, we may need to turn parents away if the numbers who attend exceed this cap.** Thank you in advance for your understanding.

-We hope that our band will re-commence playing at our assemblies this week, as we can now sing our Anthem and happy birthday to children.

-Whilst parents are now able to re-join us for events, Rosary Park will continue its procedure where parents are to drop off and collect children at the front gates. Pre-COVID, Rosary Park had in place a process where parents are not permitted in the school grounds to drop or pick up their children, this is to ensure the safety of all of our children and remains in place even with the easing of COVID restrictions.

-Our parent pick-up procedure where families display their name and queue to pick up their children will also stay in place. Whilst this procedure was necessitated due to COVID restrictions, it has been trialled and proven to be the safest option for pick up and will remain in place. The meet and greet procedure will remain in place.

-Continued cleaning of all high touch areas and children to remain at home if they are at all unwell.

-Bubblers are allowed to re-open however *please still send a water bottle each day with your child.*

### Learning Focus 2020 to 2022– 'Clarity' by Lyn Sharratt

The Diocese of Maitland Newcastle is focusing all schools in the area of contemporary learning and the effective use of data.

This year Rosary Park will continue working with Dr Lyn Sharratt, an educationalist from Canada who has been engaged by Catholic Schools Office to work with schools. Next week a team from Rosary Park, will continue our Professional Learning with Dr Sharratt using her book *Clarity*, and all schools in the Diocese will engage in this project at some stage between 2020-22.

In addition, schools have employed Pedagogical Mentors who will become mentors for other staff. Louise Kevin and Janelle Dixon Janine continue in this role this year at Rosary Park. Throughout this year, they will receive professional development on this role and how-to best work with staff to improve outcomes for our students.

Our learning focus is on improving teaching & learning in reading.

In her book *Clarity* Lyn Sharratt emphasises fourteen parameters that are needed to improve teaching and learning in a school. The important role that parents play in their child's education is one of these key parameters. Here are five questions that she suggests parents can ask their children when engaging with them about their learning:

1. *What did you learn today?*
2. *How did you do?*
3. *What did you do if you didn't understand?*
4. *How can you improve on your learning?*
5. *What are you most proud of?*

### **Professional Learning Team (PLT) Meetings**

Last week we began our Professional Learning Team meetings for 2021. These occur three times/term where all K-6 teaching staff are released from class for half a day. This is part of our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and budgeted from this. Staff, led by our Pedagogical Mentors, work in analysing student data in reading and work as a team to devise teaching strategies to further improve student performance.

### **Office of Safeguarding – Our diocesan and school commitment**

Keeping our children safe can be achieved by ensuring our children are informed about their rights and participate in decision-making. Adults need to ensure they listen actively to children and engage them in discussions. This will help children feel valued and respected, which will help them to speak up if they feel they are unsafe or have been abused. At Rosary Park, the voice of each child is respected and valued, we have many opportunities for children to be involved in teams and activities to build our community. Encourage your child to participate in these activities such as:

- ☐ Lunch clubs (wellbeing)
- ☐ School band for Years 3-6
- ☐ Leadership Teams

### **Online Safety**

These days we are all spending more and more time online. The online environment is extremely useful but can also be a daunting and unsafe place for children who are unaware of the dangers. Please click on the following link for information regarding Online safety for parents/carers - [https://padlet.com/Office\\_of\\_Safeguarding/cybersafety\\_parents](https://padlet.com/Office_of_Safeguarding/cybersafety_parents)



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

iParent on the eSafety website - The website for the eSafety Commissioner has an information section for parents. It contains some useful tips to assist parents at home to protect their digital lifestyle. This space is referred to on the site as iParent, This space can be found at **<https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>** . One of the resources found on the site is "7 ways to manage devices".

### **Year 5- 6 Camp -16-18 June**

The final price for Aussie Bush camp is \$350/child and once our new finance system is operational in coming weeks, we will open this up for parents to begin payment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you may have difficulties in meeting this financial commitment.

### **Daily Roll Marking and School Attendance**

As we no longer have a morning assembly (aside from Mondays) we are now in classrooms marking class rolls on Compass earlier as we begin our learning for the day. So, it is important that your child is at school on time or that you mark them absent (for full day absences only – not partial absences) via Compass promptly in the morning. Otherwise you will receive the automated unexplained absence text message by 9:30am.

It is extremely important that children attend school every day. Days off school not only contribute to significant gaps and lost opportunities in learning, it is also hard for children to establish, develop and maintain social connections. Unless it is absolutely necessary, please do not schedule holidays during school time. Unless an emergency, medical appointments should be scheduled for school holidays.

If your child is not at school for a **valid** reason, parents are expected to log into Compass and give explanation for their absence within 7 school days. If you do not do this, you will be notified by the admin staff to explain your child's absence, although if it is past the seven-day window, it remains an 'unexplained/unjustified' absence on the class roll.

If your child has continued unexplained absences, you will be contacted by the school to explain these and asked to attend a meeting at school to work on formulating an attendance plan.

### **Drop off/Pick up Times**

The crossing supervisor begins at **8:15 am** daily. Any child who needs to be at school before this, must attend OOSH. Playground staff start duty at 8:30am. It is expected that children are collected by 3:30pm in the afternoons. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

**Advanced Notice:** Our school athletics carnival for all K-6 children will be **Friday 21 May** at Miller Park. If the new COVID guidelines remain, parents will be able to join us on this great community day.

### **Kindergarten 2022 Enrolments**

These are now open, and numbers are filling quickly. You can collect an enrolment package from the school office. Please let any relatives, friends or neighbours know about this.

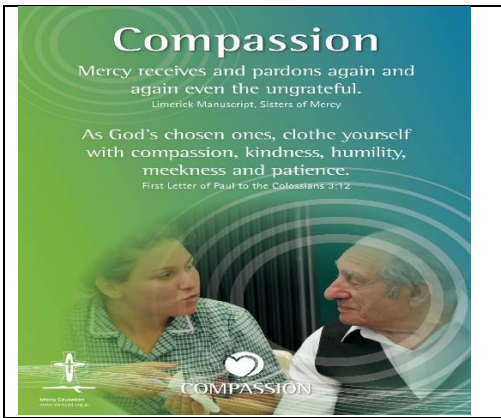
Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

## Religious Education Coordinator's Message

### Mercy Pillars- Compassion

The mercy value of compassion is about loving and caring for family and friends. It is about showing kindness to all people who might be feeling sad or upset and then helping them to feel better. The mercy value of compassion is about feeling that you can make a difference.



#### Questions you might like to ask your child:

1. How do you show compassion?
2. Have you seen other people showing compassion?
3. What way can you show the value of compassion this week?
4. How did Jesus show compassion?
5. What did Jesus say about the value of Compassion?

### Compassion Prayer

God of tender mercy, your love reaches out to everyone, and you hear the cry of the poor. Give us hearts that are full of love for those who live with heavy burdens, who trace pain or hunger every day. Help us to work together to change our world and to make it better, even in small ways. May we never doubt that our love can make a difference, in Mercy's name.

Amen.

### Liturgies

- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March: Whole School Easter Liturgy organised by Year 6. As this is a staggered Liturgy occurring throughout the morning, we are not able to invite parents. However, we will ensure that photographs will be uploaded to Compass.

### Sacramental Program for 2021

We pray for those children who will shortly begin their journey towards the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. The dates and times are included below. If you were not able to attend Tuesday's meeting and would like your child to be a part of the Sacramental program for 2021, please contact the Parish Office for more information. Phone 55074048 or email [singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au)

### Weekend Mass Times

It is always lovely for children and their families to attend Mass in our Parish. Currently Mass is celebrated at 6:00pm Vigil (each Saturday) at St. Brigid's Branxton and at St. Catherine's Greta at 8:00am.

Have a lovely week and may God bless you always,  
Amber Van Duuren  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

# SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PROGRAM 2021

## ST BRIGID'S PARISH BRANXTON

### Parent/Child information and Enrolment Meeting

Tuesday 9 March 2021, 5.30pm - St. Brigid's Church, Branxton

BRANXTON GROUP	GRETA GROUP
<u>Commitment Mass - St Brigid's Branxton</u> Saturday 27 March 2021, 6PM	<u>Commitment Mass – St Catherine's Greta</u> Sunday 28 March 2021, 8AM

### RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

GRETA TUESDAY	BRANXTON TUESDAY	BRANXTON GROUP	GRETA GROUP
<b>Week 1: Tues 20 April</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 1: Tues 20 April</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 1: Sat 24 April</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 1: Sun 25 April</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room
<b>Week 2: Tues 27 April</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 2: Tues 27 April</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 2: Sat 1 May</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 2: Sun 2 May</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room
<b>Week 3: Tues 4 May</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 3: Tues 4 May</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 3: Sat 8 May</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 3: Sun 9 May</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 14 May 2021, 5.30pm - St. Brigid's Church, Branxton

### CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

BRANXTON GROUP	GRETA GROUP	GRETA - TUESDAY	BRANXTON - TUESDAY
<b>Week 1: Sat 5 June</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 1: Sun 6 June</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 1: Tues 8 June</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 1: Tues 8 June</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall
<b>Week 2: Sat 12 June</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 2: Sun 13 June</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 2: Tues 15 June</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 2: Tues 15 June</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall
<b>Week 3: Sat 19 June</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 3: Sun 20 June</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 3: Tues 22 June</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 3: Tues 22 June</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall

### CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

GRETA TUESDAY	BRANXTON TUESDAY	BRANXTON GROUP	GRETA GROUP
<b>Week 1: Tues 13 July</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 1: Tues 13 July</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 1: Sat 17 July</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 1: Sun 18 July</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room
<b>Week 2: Tues 20 July</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 2: Tues 20 July</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 2: Sat 24 July</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 2: Sun 25 July</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room
<b>Week 3: Tues 27 July</b> 4.30pm - Greta Parish Room	<b>Week 3: Tues 27 July</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 3: Sat 31 July</b> 4.30pm - St Brigid's Church Hall	<b>Week 3: Sun 1 August</b> 9.00am - Greta Parish Room

### GROUP 1

Practice for Confirmation & Holy Communion

**Tuesday 3 August 2021, 5.30pm**

St. Brigid's Church

Sacrament of Confirmation & Holy Communion

**Friday 6 August 2021, 6.00pm**

St. Brigid's Church

### GROUP 2

Practice for Confirmation & Holy Communion

**Weds 4 August 2021, 5.30pm**

St. Brigid's Church

Sacrament of Confirmation & Holy Communion

**Sunday 8 August 2021, 10.30am**

St. Brigid's Church



## Learning Support News



Our goal is the inclusion of all children, including those with disability. It is important to understand that inclusion goes well beyond simple enrolment or attendance. Inclusion means that an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) service supports children with disability or complex additional needs to participate in the program in full and meaningful ways. For a child with disability or complex additional needs, their participation might look different to that of other children—for example, they may need physical supports or some time away from the group. **Inclusion means meeting a child's needs, so that they can participate to the full extent of their abilities and interests—just as every other child does.**

Taken From <https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/earlyYears/Documents/info-sheet-2-principles-inclusion.pdf> Principles of Inclusion

At Rosary Park we live and work through our 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

We acknowledge that each child is an individual, special in their own way. All children bring us special gifts to work with and many require assistance and support to reach their full potential. A Disability in children is anything that makes it difficult for them to access the classroom or learning environment at the same level as their peers. At Rosary Park it is our hope that we adjust for these students to have the same opportunities as their peers.

The term 'complex additional needs' encompasses children who require a range of extra support or services to participate as other children do. Complex additional needs may include: • health and medical conditions, including asthma or allergies • developmental delay, such as a language delay or learning difficulties • diagnosed developmental disorders, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder • disability, such as physical, sensory or intellectual • issues arising from abuse, neglect, trauma, loss or grief • belonging to a culturally and linguistically diverse groups • children achieving significantly beyond their peers (or being identified as gifted).

This covers a very broad range: it is not possible to generalise about children with complex additional needs, or to generalise on how best to meet their needs. You will also hear the term 'special needs', but this is being used less often and is not preferred (as the word 'special' can be judgmental or exclusionary).

At Rosary Park we celebrate diversity amongst our students and promote acceptance by all.

Annmaree Hooker

## Congratulations!

**Congratulations** to Bridie Richards and Isabella Theuma on being selected to represent the All Saints Region at the Diocesan Netball Trials.

**Congratulations** to Jed Ayscough, Taylem Grieve, Eddie Walters, Jayden Slomka, Will Hanlon and Adam Vella who will be representing our school at the Diocesan Rugby League trials in their respective age groups.

Good Luck!

## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received awards in the last fortnight.

Week ending 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Noha Messenger	Baxter Applekamp	Kade Bishop
<b>Kinder White</b>	Sophia Theuma	Ellesse Skowron	Addison Bondin
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Liam Russell	Hunter Bondin	Lucy Smith
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Joseph Alston	Hunter Irvine	India Bailey
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Elijah Collier	Jacob Lunan	Jesse Cavanagh
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Sam Jacka	Caleb Crossman	Mikayla Gillings
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Evie Mathewson	Rawson Drage	David Haynes
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Hudson Radcliffe	Eadie King, Elsa Grey, Ella Robertson (joint award)	Tyler Standen
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Lilah Bush	Asha Messenger	Ava Jacka
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Aurora Lane	Leo Ramsay	Will Ledingham
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Ella Mathewson	Amber Murrell	Tia Killick
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Bella O'Connor	Gemma McCarthy	Lewis Drever
<b>Year 6</b>	Jed Ayscough	Annabella Treloar	Oliver Upward



Week ending 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Jaxon Chaffey Extra award – 1B Charlize Lott	Taylah Hampson-Dunn	Holly Nevin
<b>Kinder White</b>	Campbell Coffey	Harry Milgate	Annabelle Lunnon
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Mason Hamson	Leah Wishart	Addison Saxby
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Ivy Hanlon	Jaxon Brown	Isaac Lunan
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Logan Carroll	Owen Clifton	Kyson Crossman
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Parker Samaras	Penelope Bunner	Isla Francis
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Lewis Chard	Madeleine Parkes	Marley Gibson
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Jaegar Davies	Flynn Russell	Elara Black
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Willow Roberts	Archer Kowalski	Lisa Olive
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Stella Walters	Amelia Saxby	Hamish Alston
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Charlie Rockley	Teresa Le	Wade Grosso
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Sahara Adamthwaite	Zoe Kendall	Sasha Collier
<b>Year 6</b>	Taylem Grieve	Abagail Parkes	Charles Wilson

## Principals Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received Principals awards in the last fortnight.

Kendra Collier, Samantha Foote, Jayden Slomka, Zane Slomka, Charli Cole, Amelia Saxby, Leo Ramsay, Alice Lawler, Josie Lawler, Hannah Norton, Gemma McCarthy, Bella O'Connor, Ruby Nevin, Noah Roessler, Amy Murray.

Following a recent survey, our parents and carers listed concerns about **Cybersafety** as one of the top three topics they would like more information about.

The **Federation of P & F Associations** has listened and is proud to offer a **FREE** online presentation specifically for parents and carers of students enrolled in Catholic School in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.



We are delighted to announce **BRETT LEE** will present specifically for us on **30<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm**.

Former detective Brett Lee worked as a Queensland Police Officer for 22 years, 16 of which were as a detective in the field of Child Exploitation.

This unprecedented view of the online world enables Brett to view the cyber world through the eyes of a child yet stand back and process the experience with the mind of an adult.

Please join us for an evening with Brett from the comfort of your home.

**WHEN: TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**TIME: 6.30pm**

**COST: FREE**

PLEASE NOTE - THIS PRESENTATION IS SUITABLE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ONLY

**To register, please click the link below.**

<https://event.webinarjam.com/register/177/4v4l8fz1>

This presentation will also be available **to those who register** for 5 days following the event.

**Please note: To register for this event, your details will be collected by "Internet Safe Education". Further details about Internet Safe Education can be found at:**

<https://internetsafeeducation.com/>

# Good for Kids good for life

## KEEPING AN EYE ON SCREEN TIME

Computers, tv and small screens can be valuable for education and communication, but it is important place limits so that kids don't miss out on other physical activity and real world learning opportunities. It is recommended to limit screen time to less than 2 hours per day, not including homework time.

Some tips to manage screen time:

- Try to limit screens to 20 minutes in any one sitting.
- Setting simple restrictions, like 'no screen time before school'.
- Remove TVs and computers from your child's bedroom.
- Only watch specific shows or movies on the tv, don't leave it on in the background.
- Encourage other types of fun that include both physical and social activities e.g. walking the dog, joining a sports team.



For more info, visit the eSafety Commissioner website: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>



**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/>

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