



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 2 2021

Tuesday 27 April

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

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

APRIL		JUNE	
Thurs 29th	Priests/Parish Leaders/Principals Day Sallyanne at CSO	Mon 7th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Fri 30th	Awards Assembly 2:15pm Parents welcome	Mon 14th	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
MAY		Fri 25th	LAST DAY OF TERM 2
Mon 3rd - Fri 7th	Catholic Schools Week Liturgy/open classrooms. Monday 3 rd All welcome from 1pm	JULY	
11th -21st	NAPLAN Year 3 and Year 5	Fri 16th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Wed 12th	P&F Meeting 6pm (at school)	Fri 23rd	Grandparents/Friends Day
Fri 14th	Assembly 2.15pm Reconciliation 5:30pm St Brigid's Church	AUGUST	
Mon 17th	Full winter uniform by 17 May	Thurs 12th	School Photo Day
Wed 21st	Athletics Carnival for Kinder to year 6 at Miller Park (wet weather date 28 th)	SEPTEMBER	
		Thurs 9th	Whole School Concert
		Mon 13th	PUPIL FREE DAY

Principal's Message

Pope Francis: "The courage to encounter one another and extend a hand of friendship is a pathway of peace and harmony for humanity."

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a relaxing holiday. The Easter Season is the pivotal time for our Catholic faith, where we see the love that God has for all of us, that was witnessed through His son Jesus. Easter asks us to stop to reflect and pray on the Easter messages of forgiveness, hope, love and compassion.

Thank you to the many families who attended our Branxton/Greta RSL ANZAC march on Sunday. It was so lovely to see so many of our community in attendance to pay our respects after missing this very special event last year.

The children should also be commended on the respectful and reverent way they interacted during our Holy Week 'moving' liturgy last term and our school ANZAC liturgy last Friday. I commended the children last week on my pride when several of our RSL visitors and serving members of the Australian Army commented to me about the respect all of our children demonstrated during Friday's liturgy.

Catholic Schools Week: 'Faith In Our Future'

On Monday 3 May Rosary Park will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We will start with a liturgy in the hall at 1pm. After this, families are welcome to visit classrooms to see their child's work and enjoy afternoon tea with them in the school grounds.

As per Government regulations, we have a COVID safety plan in place. In order to abide by social distancing rules, this plan stipulates that we will run our open classrooms across two sessions (1:30 and 2pm).

All teachers will have now been in contact with you, asking you to nominate a session that you will attend for your classroom visits via signup.com, so that we can limit adult numbers in the classrooms at any one time.

Timetable of events are as follows:

1pm liturgy (hall)

1:30pm session 1 of classroom visits

2pm Session 2 of classroom visits.

From 1:30pm-2:30pm Afternoon tea shared with visitors in the school grounds

In order to abide by COVID guidelines, we must limit our visitors on this day to a maximum of **two adults per child**. I know this may be disappointing, however as you can appreciate we must follow our legal obligations. We will hold a special day for our grandparents/elderly friends on 23 July when they will have an opportunity to visit our school.

Other COVID guidelines will also apply on this day:

- Register via QR code on arrival.
- Follow personal hygiene rules
- Do not attend the event if you are unwell
- Adults are not permitted to congregate in groups

We thank you for your cooperation with these guidelines and look forward to seeing you on the day.

School Uniform Expectations

As we transition to winter uniform (full winter uniform must be worn from Monday 17 May), it is timely to remind parents of our school uniform expectations. Please use your discretion and if we have a cold snap, children are welcome to wear full winter uniform before 17th.

I would particularly like to bring to your attention the following issues. Firstly, the sport uniform- Branded socks are NOT permitted (e.g. Adidas, surf brands), socks are to be plain white, and joggers are to be **plain white**, not coloured.

Secondly, children are to be neatly groomed and wear polished shoes (**black leather only: no boots, Mary Jane style or joggers**). School Socks must cover the ankle.

Jewellery must be kept to an absolute minimum e.g. one pair of ear studs (studs only, for safety), one flat signet ring and wristwatch, plain wrist bangle (silver/gold). Neck chains and bracelets are not permitted due to safety concerns e.g. when playing sport.

Hair must be neat and tidy. Hairstyles should not be outlandish- **no Mohawks, tracks or rat tails**. Extremes of style and colour are not permitted. Children with long hair should **have their hair tied back every day**.

There have been several children recently with 'tracks' shaved into their hair. These are not permitted at Rosary Park.

Please supply a note if your child is out of uniform for some reason. Thank you in anticipation for your co-operation with this.

See below our Winter uniform:

Winter Uniform - Girls

TUNIC	Navy tartan print tunic. Tunic is worn with navy stockings. No dance pants, leggings or tights.
PANTS	Navy tailored pants, navy blue socks, and black leather shoes.
TOP	White Peter-Pan collared, long-sleeved blouse.
JACKET	School embroidered jumper. School embroidered sport jacket can also be worn on very cold days.

Winter Uniform - Boys

TOP	School blue long-sleeved shirt with embroidered logo.
PANTS	Navy trousers. NO CARGO STYLE PANTS. Navy socks, to be worn above the ankle.
JACKET	School embroidered jumper. School embroidered sport jacket can also be worn on very cold days.

School Sports Uniform: Winter

PANTS	Navy lined microfiber pants with school initials. School embroidered sports jacket
TOP	Short sleeve polo shirt for boys and girls with school logo - polo only available from the school.
SHOES	Predominately-white joggers. Plain white socks (no sport/surf logo such as Puma, Adidas), worn above the ankle.

Legal References for Parents

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an absolute and abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children. As a parent sending your child or children to a Diocesan school, you should be aware of your rights and obligations in protecting your child and all children in our schools.

The Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998

In NSW we can report certain information to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). If we are concerned for one or more of the children in the school, we can discuss our concerns with a teacher, Assistant Principal or Principal. We can report our concerns to the Child Protection Helpline (Ph. 132 111, 24 hrs/7 days) if we have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm and our concerns are current. Risk of significant harm may occur from a single act or omission or to a series of acts or omissions.

It is better to be safe than sorry, so if uncertain, talk to a staff member at the school.

Part 4 of the Children's Guardian Act 2019

This legislation defines Diocesan schools as a 'schedule 1 entity' and as such we must have systems for preventing, reporting (to the Children's Guardian) and investigating reportable conduct.

All staff and volunteers that hold a working with children check in Diocesan schools fall within the scope of Part 4 and may be investigated for alleged 'reportable conduct' which includes sexual offenses, misconduct, assault, ill-treatment, neglect and behaviour that causes psychological harm to children.

The Office of Safeguarding is the Diocese's specialist child protection service who works with the Children's Guardian to ensure the Diocese meets its obligations under Part 4 of the Act. Information about the role and functions of the Office of Safeguarding can be found here: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

The Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012

Under this legislation people who undertake a role in child-related work in a paid or volunteer capacity in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are required by law to have a Working with Children Check Clearance. This 'Clearance' can be obtained from applying online at check@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au.

As a parent, if we learn about a staff member or a volunteer working in the school without a Clearance, we should talk with the Principal or Assistant Principal as soon as possible. If we believe that nothing is being done about our concerns, we can contact the Office of Safeguarding directly (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri).

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Reporting Policy

As a parent you can report any concerns we have for a student, or group of students, to our principal, assistant principal or directly to the Office of Safeguarding (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri). Information about reporting concerns for a child can be found on the Office of Safeguarding website: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/reporting-abuse/>

As parents you are entitled to contact the Office of Safeguarding directly about any concerns we have about the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child or if we are concerned that the school isn't addressing allegations of reportable conduct or abuse. (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri).

Staffing News

As previously communicated, we are fortunate to be one of the schools to receive State Government funds to assist children as a result of COVID. Mrs Tiffany Nolan (Mon-Tue) and Mrs Brienna Vollmer (Wed-Thur) will provide this support to small groups of students, starting with year 5-6 children in term 2.

Mrs Emily Capararo will replace Tiffany Nolan in teaching Kinder Blue every Monday. Emily will also teach RFF classes on Thursdays.

We welcome Mrs Katrina Mardell back to Rosary Park, following her maternity leave. Katrina will teach RFF to various classes on Tue-Wed.

Mrs Janelle Dixon and Mrs Katrina Mardell will share the role of Primary Coordinator for the rest of 2021. Mrs Amber Van Duuren remains acting Religious Education Coordinator for the remainder of 2021.

Congratulations to Rhiannon Temesvary and her husband Rob on the birth of their baby boy, Levi. We also congratulate Ashlee Edwards who was married in the April holidays.

Online Safety

No matter what their age, if your kids are online, now's the time to talk about online safety especially in these times of home learning online. 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)

Diary dates for 2021:

PUPIL FREE DAYS Monday 7 June, Friday 16 July, and Monday 13 September. NO school for children on these dates. OOSH is open. Contact them on 0448 751 549

Grandparent/Friends day: Friday 23 July

Whole School Concert: Thursday 9 September (2 performances at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre-day and night)

Kindergarten 2022 Enrolments

These are now open and filling fast. Please make family and neighbours aware of this. Enrolment packages are available from the school office where families are asked to make an appointment for an enrolment interview.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Mercy Pillars- Respect

The mercy value of Respect is about recognising the gifts and talents of the people around you. It is also about being responsible for our own actions and our own choices.



Questions you might like to ask your child:

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

Respect Prayer

God of great love: Jesus told us that you Forget no one, and that each person is worth more than hundreds of sparrows. Help us to remember that we are all special in your sight, and that you call each of us by name. May we treat one another with respect and love because we all belong to you. Amen.

Liturgies

- Monday 3rd May Catholic Schools Week Liturgy, picnic and open classrooms at 1pm.
- Thursday 6th May Mother's Day Liturgy and morning tea beginning at 9:30am.

Sacramental Program for 2021

We pray for those children who have begun their journey towards the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The dates and times are included below. If you were not able to attend the Sacrament 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

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.

ANZAC Day Liturgy

Thank you to Mrs Kevin and the students who lead us in our ANZAC service today and to members of the local RSL and the catafalque party from Singleton who were a very welcome part of our service as well. Congratulations to all students on the reverence you displayed throughout the service.



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

Athletics Carnival 2021

Date: Friday 21st May 2021 (wet weather back up date Friday 28th May)

Venue: Miller Park Branxton

Time: 9.00am start

Cost: None

Permission notes will be sent out via Compass in week 2 and are due back on the Thursday 13th May.

Children need to make their own way to Miller Park by 9am. Carnival will begin at 9.15am. Children who normally catch a bus to school will be dropped at Miller Park by the bus (teachers will be on duty from 8.30 am). Children who need to attend OOSH will be walked to Miller Park with teacher supervision.

When children arrive at the carnival, they will need to sit in their colour house and get their name marked off by the following colour house supervisors when they arrive, NOT THEIR CLASS TEACHER:

Green House: Andrew Hacker

Blue House: Deb Parkes

Red House: Jessica Mead

Yellow House: Rachel Hamilton

Students will need to stay in their colour house when they are not competing in an event.

If students wish to run in the 800m race they will need to be at Millar Park by 8.15am ready to race at 8.30 am.

Full school sports uniform is to be worn including, joggers and hats. Students may wear something extra to show support for their sporting team (**Bradman - Green**, **Freeman - Red**, **Thorpe – Gold** and **Fernleigh-Blue**). You can look up your child's colour house via the Compass app.

How the day is run:

Each student will participate in their 100m age race this year. Children will compete in events based on the age that they are turning this year. The 100m events for 8-13 years will have finals to determine places for each age group, finals will be run on the day of the carnival. Places for 100m (5-7 years), 200m and 800m events will be based on the overall times for their age group. Ribbons will be presented at the Sports Assembly (date TBC).

Carnival Events:

- 100m age races
- 800m no final (Optional event – need to be at Miller Park at 8.15am ready to race at 8.30am)
- 200m no final (Optional event)
- Long jump (Optional event – heats will be held at school on Friday 30th April, for 8 years and over only). Long jump finals will be run at the carnival. Children will be notified prior to the date of the carnival if they qualify for long jump finals.
- Shot Put (Optional event – shot put event will be held at school on Friday 30th April, for 8 years and over only).
- **Discus and High Jump** – events will not be run at school level. If you wish to apply for these events at the regional level please send Little Athletics records to Mrs Seysener alanna.seysener@mn.catholic.edu.au
- Novelty games for K-2 only.

An event running schedule will be posted on Compass closer to the date of the Carnival.

Students are expected to sit inside the oval in their allocated colour houses for the day, so they can listen for their race and name to make the day run efficiently. Parents are welcome to enjoy watching the events from the outside of the oval. Students will be able to join their parents for lunch during the allocated break. The canteen will not be open, a sausage sizzle will be available orders will need to be placed prior to the day (more information to come).

COVID Information:

- In previous years parent spectators have been able to sit near the front of the canteen. However, due to the current COVID restrictions parents will need to sit in the designated seating area for the duration of the carnival and adhere to 1.5m social distancing rules (see map below). Whilst this is very different to previous athletics carnivals, full cooperation and support is required in order for us to have families present at this event.
- Parents need to sign in using the QR codes that will be displayed around the park on the day.

Miller Park Site Map



We're looking forward to a great carnival and we hope to see you there.

From the Athletics Team

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bridie Richards who has been selected in the Polding Netball Team following the Polding Carnival where we were lucky enough to have Bridie and Isabella Theuma represent us. Both girls played their hearts out and represented our diocese extremely well. We couldn't be prouder of the girls and wish Bridie all the best!



Congratulations also to Jayden Grant, Jayden Slomka, Tex Engel, Will Hanlon, Wade Grosso, Jed Ayscough, Adam Vella, Eddie Waters, Will Heggart, Taylem Grieves, Ashton Johansen & Xavier Van Wyck, who participated in the Coalfields under 12's NRL Rugby League Gala Day at Kurri. The boys had a great day winning all three games they played, scoring 21 tries & with only 3 tries scored against them. All the boys displayed a determination to play for each other. Everyone commented on how well the whole team defended as a team and constantly supported each other.

A big thank you to Andrew Grieve who did a fantastic job coaching the team.



Weekly Awards

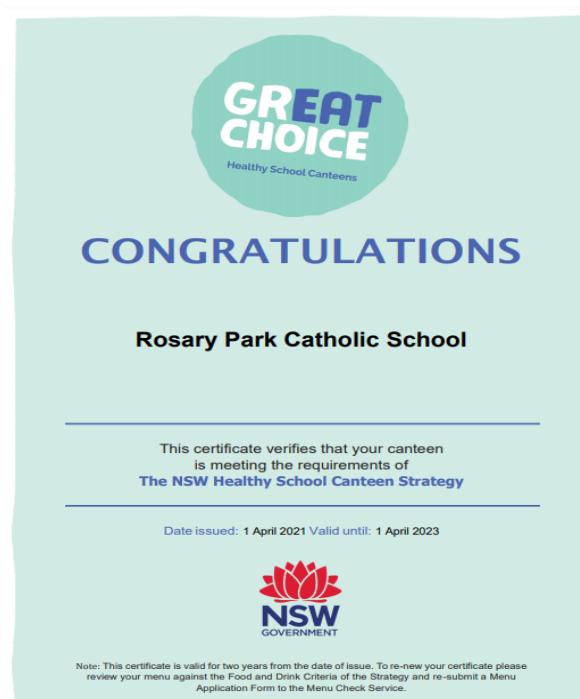
Congratulations to the following students who received awards on Friday 2 April, 2021.

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Mackenzie Hammond	Cooper Stamp	Lexi Diebert
Kinder White	Aria de Graff	Megan Norton	Sofia Papacostas
Year 1 Blue	Jackson Adney	Ella Yeomans	Flynn Chard
Year 1 White	Hunter Irvine	Max Kummeling	Noah Linton
Year 2 Blue	Eliza Dagg	Cruz Grant	Charlie Fox
Year 2 White	Nah Goddard	Mikayla Gillings	Aleah Dilley
Year 3 Blue	Tayla Menchin	Ty Issanchon	Sharni Lyttle
Year 3 White	Brooklyn Johansen	Riley McLaren	Olivia Costa
Year 4 Blue	Owen Simpson	Olivia Libreri	Holly Wilson
Year 4 White	Sienna Como	Shonoa Appelkamp	Leo Ramsay
Year 5 Blue	No awards given		
Year 5 White	No awards given		
Year 6	No awards given		

Congratulations to the following students who received awards on Friday 23 April, 2021

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Landyn Walsh	Reid Efremoff	Annabelle Bielby
Kinder White	Boston Baker	Mackenzie Hammond	Lexi Diebert
Year 1 Blue	Harrison Montgomery	Elke Bereza	Hunter Bondin
Year 1 White	Hudson Wyatt	Ivy Hanlon	Hunter Irvine
Year 2 Blue	Hugh McGrath	Emily Allgood	Liam Pike
Year 2 White	Lincoln Montgomery	Madden Tipper	Sophie Cortis
Year 3 Blue	Sienna Marr	Jonah Martyn	Aliyah Papacostas
Year 3 White	Brooklyn Johansen	Bryce Bogacz	Rubi Barnes
Year 4 Blue	Ebony Manning	Lacey Norton	Emily-Rose Ayton
Year 4 White	Henry Jackson	Cooper Thomas	Lara Dille
Year 5 Blue	Harper Shuttleworth	Sophie Fox	Lilly Allgood
Year 5 White	Will McGrath	Oriella Samaras	Noah Lunan
Year 6	Maddie Smith	Ashton Johansen	Zavier Van Wyk

Principal's Awards: Indy Young, Emmett Collier, Holly Wilson, Addison Saxby, Eadie King, Alice King, Liam Pike, Hannah Norton, Rawson Drage and Sophie Cortis.



Good for Kids good for life

GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR 'DISCOVER NSW' VOUCHERS!

Have you heard about the recent NSW Government "Dine and Discover NSW" initiative? Every adult in NSW is eligible to receive 2 x \$25 vouchers to spend on registered entertainment and recreation venues.

Why not consider using your vouchers to get active with your kids? Here are a few ideas:

- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Putt Putt/Mini Golf
- Ice Skating
- Lawn Bowls
- Trampoline Park
- Sport and Recreation Centre



To see a full list of registered businesses near you and to apply for your vouchers, head to the ServiceNSW website.

Get in quick – vouchers expire 30th June 2021!



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

VIEW DEBONAIR

GALLERY AND STUDIO

ELDERSLIE RD

Art and Design workshops by Daniel Cox

(Bachelor of Natural History Illustration)

Introductory Session

including nature walk, demonstration workshop
and afternoon tea:

Monday 26th April from 3:30 pm - 5:00pm

\$5 per person.

Plenty of Parking.

**Adult and children's Workshops
commencing May 3rd**

Call Daniel: 0401 392 611



NATIONAL 17-23 MAY 2021
VOLUNTEER
RECOGNISE. RECONNECT.
REIMAGINE. **WEEK**

VOLUNTEER WEEK MOVIE NIGHT

THURS 20 MAY - 5.30PM
EVENT CINEMAS KOTARA



Catering will be provided.

Please RSVP by Friday 14th May by emailing
volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au or calling (02) 4979 1384



ROBLOX is the world's biggest platform for emerging and independent game developers, and they offer the ability to earn real money from their creative efforts.

ROBLOX is open to people of all ages. Each player starts by choosing an avatar and giving it an identity. They can then explore ROBLOX - interacting with others by chatting, playing games, or collaborating on creative projects. Each player is also given their own piece of undeveloped real estate along with a virtual toolbox with which to design and build anything.

NOTE: Although Roblox is primarily for children, without permission from a parent or legal guardian the app is deemed 18+.

Challenges

The purpose of the game is for players to interact and make friends with one another. This is achieved by wandering around the online world to stop and talk with other players. The most dangerous aspect about the game is that it appeals most to young children under the age of 12 and therefore a very easy platform for predators to target them.

The game also allows players to invite each other into their online bedrooms and engage in sexualised behaviour. Whilst there are no 'simulated' sex acts, the insinuation is there. More advanced players are able to create their own online worlds for other players to enter, which often means that pornographic content can be uploaded for children to see.

To report abuse in-game:

- Click on the Menu button, located at the upper left of the screen. This icon looks like three lines stacked on top of each other.
- Click Report tab at the top of the menu.
- Click on the Which Player pull-down menu, and select which player to report.

- Click on the Type of Abuse pull down menu, to select the inappropriate action.
- Additional details can be written in the Short Description box.
- Click Submit to finalise.

How to block a user

To block a Roblox member go to their profile page. Under their character thumbnail, you'll see a 'More' button. Hit the button, and click 'Block user'. This adds the user to your block list, which you can manage at any time within the 'Privacy' tab of the Account Settings page.

Like any online game, Roblox can be a positive social activity that keeps kids connected to their friends (not to mention a great potential bonding experience if you choose to play with your child). Just be mindful of screen time and monitor that chat. We always encourage open conversations around privacy and personal safety.

App Fact Sheets available from
the Carly Ryan Foundation. Please email:
info@carlyryanfoundation.com