



Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 6 2022

Thursday 3rd March

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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

Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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.

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

March		March	
Mond Feb 28th- Fri 4th March	Sallyanne on Long Service Leave this week NO Principal's awards this week	Wed 23rd – Fri 25th	NAPLAN Practice Tests years 3 and 5
Wed 2nd	Ash Wednesday	April	
Mon 7th	Kindergarten 2023 enrolments open	Fri 8th	LAST DAY OF TERM 1
Mon 14th	Parent/Teacher interviews 3:45-7pm At school. Bookings open on Compass from 3 March	Tue 26th	First Day term 2
Fri 18th	Harmony Day and National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence - wear orange to school	Fri 29th	Pupil Free day. Children do not attend school on this day. OOSH care available at Rosary Park. Call 0448 751 549
Fri 25th	Whole school event at Miller Park X country trials from 8am Novelty for K-1 children		

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Pope Francis: "**Love of God and love of neighbour are inseparable. They are two sides of the same coin: lived together they are the true strength of believers.**"

Parent Teacher Conversations

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

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

Research has shown that students achieve more in school when their parents are actively involved in their education. Parental involvement not only enhances academic performance, but also has a positive influence on a child's attitude and behaviour. A parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can influence the child's attitude towards school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, absenteeism, and motivation in a positive manner.

In the week starting Monday 14 March, teachers we will be holding parent/teacher interviews where parents **are encouraged** to make an appointment with their child's teacher to discuss their child's start to the academic year and their goals for 2022. Further details about how to book a time are contained later in the newsletter.

Volunteers at Rosary Park

If you wish to volunteer in our school (canteen, etc) you need to complete our Diocesan Volunteer clearance. The link below contains a number of forms to be completed including a police check. This process normally takes a number of weeks to be finalised.

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>

Cultures of thinking

This is a major focus of our approach to learning at Rosary Park. It features prominently in our School Improvement Plan.

Cultures of thinking is defined as *"places where a group's collective as well as individual thinking is valued, visible, and actively promoted as part of the regular, day-to-day experience of all group members"*. The concept draws on the research of Ron Ritchhart at Harvard University, which shows that when schools become cultures of thinking, the learning of all members improves.

For teachers at Rosary Park, cultures of thinking means we value the thinking of every child in our classrooms, from Kinder to Year 6, knowing that thinking leads to learning. We value thinking by making time for thinking, using language that values thinking and prompts deeper thinking, making our own thinking and that of the students visible, and using classroom routines that encourage thinking.

As cultures of thinking is not an add-on to the curriculum, just a better way of engaging children in their learning, teachers come away from professional learning in this area ready to improve their classroom practice immediately. I look forward to us continuing to evolve thinking in the classroom.

2022 Athletics Carnival

Each year a school in the All-Saints Cluster of Primary schools (10 in total) is placed in charge of running the Regional Carnivals. This year, it is Rosary Park's responsibility to organise and run the All-Saints' Athletics carnival on Friday 24 June at Maitland Athletics Centre (in High St Maitland).

To familiarise us with this venue, we will hold our School Athletics Carnival there on **Thursday 19 May**. This venue is newly renovated and offers high performance facilities and an all-weather

track. Our whole school will attend the carnival on this day and pending further health directives on COVID, you are also welcomed to join us. Kindergarten to Year 6 will attend the carnival on 19 May, with all children still having the opportunity to compete in age races on this day.

We realise that our annual carnival at Miller Park offers us a great opportunity to gather as a community, so we are going to run the Cross-Country trials, along with some qualifying events for our carnival on **Friday 25 March** 2022 at Miller Park. As we normally do, we will hold a BBQ lunch as an option for lunch on the day. Elisha Ayton, our canteen co-ordinator, will organise this lunch.

Cross Country and athletics carnival qualifying is only open to children turning eight or older in 2022. To involve all our children in this event, we will also take our K-1 children to the park on 25th March for novelty games etc.- at least for part of the day. Once again, we hope that COVID restrictions will ease somewhat so we can have parents attend this event, although we await further advice on this.

Teachers will supply notes soon in relation to the organisation of the Cross-Country trials on 25 March.

Staffing

Louise Kevin is taking leave from her Assistant Principal role for the rest of term 1. She will continue to teach Year 1 Mondays & Tuesdays and work as Pedagogical Mentor (PM) every Wednesday.

Gifted Education

We are now in our fifth year of the CSO (Catholic Schools Office) key initiative that promotes and supports gifted students in our school. An integral component of this initiative is the role of the GEM (Gifted Education Mentor) who supports students and teachers in our school. Katrina Mardell is the GEM at Rosary Park.

Parent Interviews

Interviews can be scheduled with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and set goals for them for the academic year from 14 March (and dates throughout that week). Interview appointments with your child's teacher are to be made via Compass.

With the recent easing of some COVID restrictions, we will be able to hold these interviews in person at school.

We would like children in years 3-6 to join their parents for this interview with their teacher/s. This would be an opportunity for the child to share a proud moment so far this year as well as discuss their goals for the academic year.

Booking on your phone

Parents can book an interview by clicking the 3 bars on the top left-hand side and selecting the 'Conferences' button then selecting 'Parent Teacher Interviews 2022'. You will then be led through to select your child, their teacher and will then be shown the available time slots. You can then choose the most suitable timeslot and book your interview with the teachers.

The online Compass parent interview system will open **Thursday 3rd March** at 9am and will close at 3pm **Thursday 10th March**.

After 10th March you will no longer be able to make or change a booking with a teacher via Compass. You will need to contact the admin email. Likewise, if you are no longer able to keep the interview time, it is your responsibility to contact the school directly and make another time.

Our Commitment to Learning

It is extremely important that children are at school every day and they are there for the *whole* day. As you know we have a brief Monday morning assembly only as we make a school wide commitment to commencing literacy teaching promptly each morning- that is Spelling Mastery Years 3-6 and Initial Lit in Kindergarten -year 2. If your child is late, they are missing vital and explicit learning in spelling and reading.

Similarly, their learning continues until 3pm. Normally our afternoon timetable consists of HSIE, Science and Creative Arts activities which are also a very important part of a child's learning with creativity, collaboration and problem solving forming key aspects of these lessons.

I would discourage you from continually taking your child early as not only is it disrupting your child's learning, it interrupts other children's learning and the class teacher's focus on teaching with constant phone calls to the classroom. If there are extenuating circumstances as to why your child needs to leave early, please write to your child's teacher giving reasons why. Our staff and children thank you in anticipation for your commitment to learning for all our children.

Please ensure that you explain your child's absence from school preferably via Compass. You have seven days to do this. The Education Act mandates that we as a school and system are to monitor children's attendance at school.

Children with excessive days off school may be asked to provide medical certificates and attend a school meeting to improve attendance.

Online Safety

Office of Safeguarding eSafety Schools are often asked how to safeguard children in terms of "digital safety", our advice is always to monitor very closely what your child is doing when using technology. Every year new social media sites become popular, which then results in issues for students who may have negative comments made about them, in some cases cyberbullying also occurs.

The Australian Government has excellent information on the following website around safety, I encourage parents to visit this site whenever you are unsure how appropriate content is for your child <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>.

The comments we often hear from parents are "I don't want my child to miss out", "everyone else is online", "my child has a tantrum if I refuse them screen time" and so on. Rather than worrying that our child will be left out, focus more on what you believe to be in their best interests. All social media sites have age limits for good reasons, such as inappropriate content and reduced security.

Your digital footprint can **NEVER be erased**.

Mobile Phone Policy

Rosary Park's Mobile Phone Policy states that we understand that there are times when a student may require a mobile device or smart watch at school to use in some circumstances for afterschool use.

Personal Technology refers to any device of a technological nature that students are able to bring to and from school. It includes, but is not limited to, mobile phones/smart phones, Apple/Android Smart watches, iPods, iPads, tablet/slate devices and electronic gaming devices.

For the purpose of this policy, it **DOES NOT** refer to current laptop computers/tablets a part of the 1:1 Device Program respective Program Participation Agreement.

Rosary Park Catholic School, Branxton recognises the important role that Personal Technology does, and can, play in the lives and education of our students.

Our expectation is a mobile phone device is brought to school for parents to communicate with their child on their way to/from school. It is not brought to school for any other purpose. The expected method regarding changes in travel arrangements is that parents contact the school office informing them of any changes which will then be communicated to the child.

Students and staff will adhere to the following expectations in reference to the use of a Personal Technology Device (PTD) at school:

1. As a rule, if a student has a PTD at school, it must be switched off at all times, on aeroplane mode or ideally left at home. It must be out of sight. This specifically includes before school, recess, lunch, on bus duty and during classes.
2. Apple/Android smart watches must be on **Do Not Disturb mode** at all times. It is preferred that these *are left at home*. If a child uses the device to communicate or call someone whilst at school, the device is no longer permitted at school.

Whilst permitting students to access PTD for the above mentioned purposes, **the school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft, damage or misuse of any device.**

NAPLAN

This year the National Testing for year 3 and 5 students will be online again this year **10-20 May** (except for writing). Please be aware of these important dates.

Catholic Schools Week

Our diocese has moved this date to 23-30 May. Kindergarten 2023 enrolments will open next Monday 7 March.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

Reminder FRIDAY 18th March-wear something orange!

Friday 18th March marks the 12th National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence and we will celebrate Harmony Day also on this day, as this celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.



Children are asked to wear something **orange** (an orange t shirt, socks, hair band, hat) **on Friday 18th March, 2022** as we will be celebrating Harmony Day and the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

The National day of Action against Bullying is an important day to mark Australian school communities standing together against bullying and violence and School communities across the nation are the key drivers of the NDA and proudly represent eleven years of positive action. (<https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>).

The definition below is taken from <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/understanding-bullying> and presents a clear explanation of what bullying is.

Bullying is an **ongoing** and **deliberate misuse of power** in relationships through **repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour** that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an **individual or a group** misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening. Bullying can happen **in person or online**, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be **obvious** (overt) or **hidden** (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records). Bullying of any form or for any reason can have **immediate, medium and long-term effects** on those involved, including **bystanders**. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

This link <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/resources/fact-sheets/fact-sheets-for-families> will provide you with parent fact sheet on this topic.

Harmony Day

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it. The message of Harmony Week is everyone belongs. It is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Wishing you all a great week,

Louise Kevin

Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

"Twosday" Fundraiser

Thank you so much to all the children who participated in our Twosday fundraiser on 22.2.22. There was a lot of fun had by all. There were many funny doubles on this day and in all that fun we managed to raise \$555.55 for Catholic Mission.



Opening Liturgy

I hope parents had a chance to watch the video of our opening liturgy. It was a beautiful celebration of our school community despite not being able to come together to celebrate. We were able to present our leaders with their badges and all Year 6 children read a pledge to be positive role models during their final year at Rosary Park.

Ash Wednesday

Yesterday, the children in our infant's classes led our liturgy for Ash Wednesday. This day marks the beginning of the church season of lent; the forty days leading up to Easter. Unfortunately, we were unable to receive the traditional Ash Wednesday ashes. Our infant's children led us in prayer and in the setting of our sacred space.

As Christians, lent represents a time where we reflect on our lives and think about ways we can live Jesus' message more willingly in our lives. During lent we pray more, we give up something we take for granted so we can empathise with those living in poverty and we give time or money to support those experiencing poverty.



Project Compassion

During lent, Caritas Australia launches a campaign called "Project Compassion" to help raise money for people in Australia and all over the world living in poverty. You will have received a mission box for your family to support this cause during the season of lent. If you would like to learn more about the work of Project Compassion, please click the following link.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/primary-school-film>



An education in the Mercy tradition invites us to take up a challenge – one that encourages us to develop fully our own God given talents. At the same time, it enkindles within us a desire to assist others, so that they too 'may have life, and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

Technology in the Home K-6

Last week Snr Constable Michael Steele (police liaison officer) visited Rosary Park, as he does annually to discuss the dangers of interactions on the internet and social media sites with year 5-6 children.

He emphasized to the children that many sites the children told him they visit are illegal for children of their age because of their highly inappropriate (and often violent) content; content that is disturbing for anyone let along a young child.

Teachers have identified, in their interactions with our students on the playground, that there has been an increase in the use of social media and internet chat sites at home.

It is imperative that we are diligent in monitoring our children's online interactions.

Are you aware of what your child is doing when using home devices? Are they using it in a public part of the home where you can view their screen? Have you placed appropriate safeguards on these devices to monitor and protect them from these sites?

Promoting inappropriate online content at school is contrary to our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) framework and expectations.

It is strongly recommended that all devices in the home are placed on charge in a public part of the house (NOT bedrooms) so that children are not tempted to use them at night unsupervised. Setting boundaries in the home around the use of devices early helps to promote a healthy relationship with technology in the future. We hope to work with you in setting a good example of technology use now and in the future.

If you are looking for more information on how to promote a healthy use of devices in the home, you can use these links:

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/crime_prevention/young_people/young_people/social_networking_safety

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/topic/top-student-safety-tips-for-hybrid-learning-eed7bc54-c0f3-4ce0-8d85-9c23e27eb7b7?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/online-safety>

Quotes from students who attended the information session:

If you have Snapchat or Tik Tok you should read the terms and conditions before agreeing to them because one of the agreed terms is that you give them full access to your camera.

I learnt that on video games criminals have people playing in the server and will try and be your friend to get your information and your address. – Nate H

I learnt that you should never share a photo with your school crest because people online can work out where you go to school and get an idea of where you live. For example, if I was to show my Rosary Park crest someone would know I live near Branxton.

I also learnt that if you accept someone as a friend online, they have access to your data and can sell it online. - Chelsea S

Katrina Mardell
Primary Coordinator

Year 2 News:

In Year 2 we are recognising children who have an artistic side by awarding an 'Artist of the Week' for each artwork that we do in class. Below is a photo of our students who have been 'Artists of the Week' so far in Year 2 this term. In these artworks students have taken Roland Wakelin's technique by placing objects in the foreground and as the picture retreats to the background, the objects are getting smaller. We also created fireworks on Sydney Harbour to celebrate Australia Day.

In English we have stretch a sentence by what, when, where learnt that by adding adjectives to our create a super our writing. To tie in have been reading a to Bondi Beach". provided with a create a super 5W's. Check out how writing is in Year 2.



been learning to using the 5W's (who, and why). We have more information and sentences, we can sentence and bump with our History unit we text called "The Tram Students were then picture and needed to sentence using the amazing some of our

The very old tram is travelling very slowly in the blazing hot middle part of the day to the crowded Bondi Beach because the passengers want to surf in the roaring waves. By Levi C 2W

The dark green tram is rattling on the old brown tracks past the famous Bondi Beach. It is going to the town on the other side. It is a scorching hot day. The tram is driving the people to their offices. By Noah R 2B

On the weekend, my whole family went to Bondi Beach. The sand was reflecting the boiling hot sun. The water was so fresh and the waves were crashing on the yellow sand. We built a big sandcastle. After, we had a delicious lunch on the soft sand. We ate fish and chips and sandwiches. By Elke B 2B

Last week, when we celebrated Twosday on the 22.2.22, Year 2 felt very excited to actually be in Year 2 on this very unique day. To remember this day students made a little certificate to celebrate this milestone.

Mackenzie Gageler
Classroom Teacher

Sport News:

What a busy start to Term 1 with lots of sport students trialling for regional sporting events. Congratulations to the following girls who represent Rosary Park in the Regional Netball on Tuesday: Charli C and Sophie F. An extra congratulations to Charli who was selected to through to the Diocesan Trials.



and
Trials
go

Soccer

On Tuesday we also had a group of talented boys represent our school in the Regional Soccer Trials at Maitland congratulations to the following boys: Hayden O, Owen S and Harper S.

Rugby League

This year there is no regional trials for Rugby League students proceeded straight through to the diocesan level. Last Wednesday we held our school trial and took a group of talented year 5 and 6 students down to Branxton Oval. I thank Mark Bercini who ran our

trials. He was very impressed with all students and made his job very hard to only be able to select 4 students. Well done to the following students who will now trial on the 18th of March at Raymond Terrace: Will H, Cohan Y, Jayden Z and Adam V.

AFL: Sam Gray will represent Rosary Park on the 16th of March at Tulkaba Oval Teralba.

Cross Country:

More information regarding our cross-country event will be available next week. Please keep an eye out on compass. We are looking forward to a wonderful community sport day with all children from K-6.

Mackenzie Gageler
Sports Coordinator

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending 18th February, 2022

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Teagan S	Nicholas L	Harley R
Kinder White	Charlie D	Tristan C	Nate O
Year 1 Blue	Jaxon C	Aubree M	Stella B
Year 1 White	Jack C	Landyn W	Allie D
Year 2 Blue	Amarlie K	Luke H	Lachlan B
Year 2 White	Hannah C	Blake C	Hunter B
Year 3 Blue	Logan C	Emily A	Eyden G
Year 3 White	Cruz G	Indi M	Charli F
Year 4 Blue	Bryce B	Evie M	Ella-Grace W
Year 4 White	Brooklyn J	Sienna M	Asha J
Year 5 Blue	Lilah B	Hamish A	Sophia H
Year 5 White	Layla H	Asha M	Kai M
Year 6 Blue	Bella O	Kiera L	Oriella S
Year 6 White	Will H	Charli C	Tia Killick

Week ending 25th February, 2022

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Ayla B	Eli B	Jenson F
Kinder White	Leo B	Thomas e	Maisy C
Year 1 Blue	Hudson L	Willow J	Brailyn L
Year 1 White	Jayden M	Liam H	Caelan Gf
Year 2 Blue	Joseph A	Elke B	Addison K
Year 2 White	Tao D	Liam D	Flynn C
Year 3 Blue	Taylah B	Karmichael A	Kingsley J
Year 3 White	Madden T	Mia W	Lilly S
Year 4 Blue	Korban L	Ruby H-D	Aliyah P
Year 4 White	Riley M	Madeleine P	Elara b
Year 5 Blue	Sophie C	Aurora L	Owen S
Year 5 White	Bailey C	Ella G	Cade L
Year 6 Blue	Jayden S	Meliah B	Harper W-H

Year 6 White	Jayden G	Sophie F (Mercy)	Adam V
--------------	----------	------------------	--------

Principal's Awards

Jack C, Louis D, Isaac L, Jacob L, Jaegar D, Lachlan B, Luke H

P&F News

P&F Easter Chocolate Drive Fundraiser

To assist with one pick up and collection we are asking families to pre-pay for their chocolate boxes via Qkr (so we can order only for those families that want to participate & have one collection pick up). The advantage of this is families can then sell their chocolates and recoup their money without having to worry about cut off and return dates back to the school.

This year using the chocolate drive system, we will not be asking for Easter raffle donations, all students will get a ticket into a draw for Easter bundles supplied by the chocolate drive. Chocolate drive will be added to Qkr, so please pre-purchase your box by Thursday 17th March and expected delivery for collection will be Thursday the 24th of March.



Books Books Books!

Books are a huge part of our children's learning and here at Rosary Park we are very lucky to have a beautiful library where our children can go to borrow and read a book.

The school continues to purchase new and exciting reading and picture books, and the P&F have a goal this year to make some book donations to the school during Bookweek in Term 3. The P&F wanted to make families aware that they can donate books to our ever-growing library, which is always greatly appreciated. Our library ladies will ensure donated books receive a "donated by" sticker on the inside so that your generosity is remembered long after your time at Rosary Park is finished. If this is something, you are interested in please email admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au and someone will contact you with a list of desired books for the library.

Library News

Dear Parents and Carers

Book Club Issue 2 is now available for ordering online, closing date for all online orders will be by 3pm Wednesday 9/3.

Happy Reading
Erin Dewey
Library Assistant

Rebel Community Givebacks

Dear parents and carers,
This year Rosary Park is partnering with Rebel Sport and the '**Rebel Community Givebacks program**'.

To be involved and help our school community all you need to do is sign up for a free membership with Rebel Sport and make sure Rosary Park is your assigned school.

You can assign Rosary Park to your Rebel Sport membership at the register in store. A Rebel staff member can assign our school to your account then and there!

Remember to mention that you are a member of Rosary Park Catholic School when purchasing from any Rebel Sports store.

This way we can work together as a community to raise money for new sports equipment and teamwear.

Thank you,
Rachael Wood

Rosary Park Catholic School

proud partners of

rebel
COMMUNITY
GIVEBACKS

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Thanks to our partnership with
rebel Community Givebacks
5% of what you spend at rebel comes back to us
to spend on sports equipment and teamwear.

rebel

Simply link your **rebel active membership**
to our club next time you shop at rebel

Not a member? Joining is free & easy. Ask instore for details.


Huntlee ELC

Open Hours
 Monday – Friday
 6:30am – 6:00pm
 4 Winepress Road, Branxton
 (02) 4938 1612
 Email: Enquiries@huntleelc.com.au


TAKING ENROLMENTS NOW


- 6 weeks – 6 Years
- School Readiness Program
- Passionate and Enthusiastic Staff
- Everything provided (Meals, Nappies, Wipes, Bed Linen)
- Large Outdoor Play Spaces

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.