

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 4 2022 Thursday 3rd November

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

P: (02) 4938 1541 E: <u>admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au</u>
Website: <u>www.branxton.catholic.edu.au</u>

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 2022

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

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Fri 11 th	Remembrance Day Service – 10:45am	Tue 6 th	Year 6 Graduation Liturgy – 5pm
Tues 15th	P&F Meeting – AGM 6pm	Fri 9 th	PUPIL FREE DAY
DECEMBER		Mon 12 th	End of Year Liturgy & school Awards <mark>(K-6)</mark> – 9:45am
Fri 2 nd	"Step Up" morning	Fri 16 th	LASTS DAY OF TERM FOR STUDENTS

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023:

31ST January 2023 Year 1-6 return to school 2nd February 2023 Kindergarten students begin

15th-27th March 2023 NAPLAN will be held with it moving to Term 1 – Years 3 and 5

Principal's Message

Lord, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

Book of Wisdom 11:22-12:2

Dear Parents/Carers,

Leading Learning Collaborative

Last week we attended the Leading Learning Collaborative (LLC) conference at Crowne Plaza with most of the schools from our diocese. We also hosted several schools and Catholic Schools Office staff at Rosary Park last Wednesday who saw firsthand the great work happening in our classrooms with LLC- based on the work of Lyn Sharratt and her book 'Clarity'. Ask your child the 5 questions to see how they are going with their learning:

What are you learning? Why?

How are you going?

How do you know?

How can you improve?

Where do you go for help?

Can your child articulate to you how they can improve their work (for example through accessing the Bump it up wall)?

These are a regular part of the dialogue in our classrooms every day and it is important that parents are also familiar with this so they can discuss their child's learning with them in detail at home.

Attendance at school

IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!!

At Rosary Park, we acknowledge that parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children. We strive to work in partnership with you to best enable you to raise your child. We can only work together *if your child has regular school attendance*.

The Education Act 1990 (NSW) states that 'the child attends the school at all times while the school is open for the child's instruction or participation in school activities.' This means that children are expected to be at school EVERY DAY that it is opened unless they have a specific medical reason not to be there. Where possible a medical certificate should be provided.

It is recognised that COVID cost us the opportunity to go on holidays for a significant period of time, however it is detrimental to your child's education and their social development if you consistently take holidays in the school term. We are working on (or consolidating) new content every day (even in kindergarten) and even one day off school is costly for your child. It is not OK, to take holidays in school time!

Please schedule appointments and holidays out of school time so that your child gets the best possible school experience.

Did you know?

Non-attendance is linked with poorer academic achievement and long-term student outcomes.

- Higher rates of absences have been associated with lower NAPLAN scores (Hancock et al. 2013; Daraganova et al. 2014).
- In NSW, students who report positive attendance behaviours in Year 7 are on average 3 months ahead in their learning by Year 9, compared with students who have poor attendance

In addition to lower academic achievement, international studies have found that non-attendance is linked with other longer-term negative effects including:

increased likelihood of dropping out of school earlier (Rocque et al. 2016)

- social isolation from the school community and peers (Gottried 2014)
- poorer mental health and social functioning (Kearney and Graczyk 2014; Gonzálvez et al. 2019)
- increased likelihood of requiring social assistance (Christenson and Thurlow 2004 as cited in Kearney and Graczyk 2014

A common cut-off point in the international literature is 10% of the school year (Heyne et al. 2018). That is, student attendance rates below 90% are considered as *chronically absent*. In NSW, 10% of the school year is **18.8 full-time** equivalent days. Does your child miss more days than this in a school year?

Remember, every day counts.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to school every day, PLEASE contact us and we can help you.

Classes 2023

There will be fourteen classes at Rosary Park in 2023. We will have two classes per grade for kindergarten to year 6.

In coming weeks, teachers will begin the process of allocating students to their 2023 classes. This is a well thought out process based on academic, social, and emotional needs. If you have a specific concern or request to make in relation to your child's class placement for 2023 that is based on your child's specific educational needs, please address this to me in writing (via email: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au) by **Friday 11 November.** Every consideration will be given to requests made that are based on student well-being.

Thank you in advance for trusting the staff to make careful, considered decisions and be guided by the expertise and advice of your child's current teacher as to what is best in an educational context for your child. Your child's class and teacher for 2023 will be sent home later in term 4 and these placements will be final.

We will hold a 'step up' morning on Friday 2 December where 2022 staff will meet their classes.

End of year awards

With COVID restrictions, it has been difficult for us these last 2 years to join as a community to celebrate the end of our school year. Thankfully this year, restrictions have lifted, and we will come together at our school from 9:45am on Monday 12 December.

We are unable to secure any off-site venues (such as St Joseph's College Hall) as we have done in the past hence, we are trialling a change of venue and time.

As we do as a Catholic community, we will begin with a liturgy to celebrate all the blessings bestowed on us throughout our 2022 school year. This will also include the naming of our 2023 school and sports leaders (from our year 6 2023 cohort).

As is our practice at Rosary Park grade (K-6) teachers will then give out awards to selected children in their class. Year 6 awards will be given out at their graduation night. These awards are presented for:

*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-subject) 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.

Parents, grandparents, and friends are welcome to join us for this celebration on 12 December. We will contact families of awards recipients before the day (<u>NOT</u> those receiving a student leader role for 2023) so that they can attend this event if they wish. These parents will be given priority seating on the day as will year 5 parents whose children are part of leadership nominations (2 seats/child).

Obviously, seating will be at a premium so we will prioritise families whose children are receiving awards and we will live stream the event and provide seating for extended family members and friends in classrooms on this day, so the event can be viewed 'live' at the school or at home. We ask for parents and families understanding and flexibility with this as we cannot accommodate all parents in the Hall/COLA area.

Principal Leave

I will be on sick leave from 1-11 November. Please direct any issues or concerns to Janelle Dixon (Assistant Principal) during this time.

<u>Semester 2 Reports</u>

The Catholic Schools Office has a new report for 2022, so it will look different to previous reports. We will send you further information from the Catholic Schools Office about this report as it becomes available.

These reports will be available to parents via Compass from Friday 9 December, with the option of a parent/teacher interview if you require it.

Staffing

Congratulations to Katrina Easton who has been appointed permanently (from 2023) to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) teacher position at Rosary Park (3.5 days/week).

Parents and Friends AGM

Our P & F association holds their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November. At this meeting, all executive positions are declared open, and nominations are called for the coming year. Our meeting will be held in person at school on <u>Tuesday 15 November from 6pm</u>.

I would encourage you to attend this meeting and consider standing for one of the positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parent representative for Diocesan P & F association) as we have a hardworking group of parents who are always looking for ways to support our children and make our school even better.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

Leading Learning Collaborative (LLC) Conference

As reported in the last newsletter, a number of staff participated in the Leading Learning Collaborative (LLC) Conference last week. It was a wonderful few days of learning and sharing ideas with colleagues from around the diocese. Lyn Sharratt led conversations between schools on what is working well and reflecting on areas that we can improve. It was affirming to have visitors from the CSO and other schools visit our classrooms to see what is happening at Rosary Park and be amazed by the way our children can talk about their learning.

So What is Clarity, the LLC and how does it impact my child?

Lyn's book "Clarity" speaks of 14 Parameters of school improvement. It gives leaders a framework to guide best teaching practice and ensure continual reflective improvement based on data. Teachers write learning intentions for their class and together with the children they construct success criteria. The learning intention tells the children what they are learning and why they are learning it. Contributing to writing a list of criteria for success allows children to understand what they need to do to be successful. This gives children autonomy and responsibility for their own learning. Posters and charts displayed in the classroom help to guide children in what they can do to complete tasks and challenges them to improve their work and make it better. They can independently compare their work with examples displayed on the classroom wall so they can see what it is they need to add to make it better.

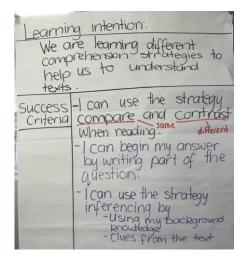
Questions to ask

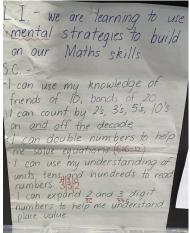
Teachers can gauge a how well the learning intentions, success criteria and posters are guiding a child's learning by asking the 5 student questions. These questions have been shared in previous newsletters. Parents also have a list of questions they can ask their children. They are shared again below so you can use them to start conversations at home about learning.

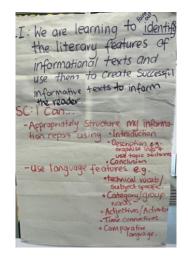


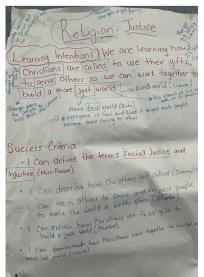


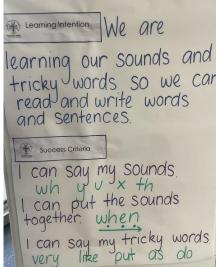
Some of our learning intentions, success criteria and teaching posters.

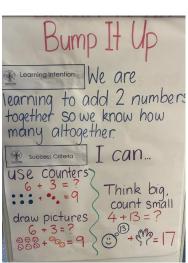




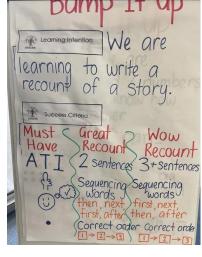


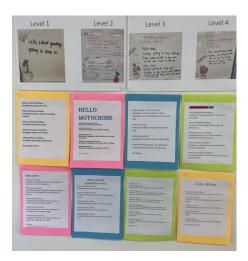












Janelle Dixon

Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Socktober

It was so much fun seeing our children with their bright socks on! We have raised \$265.00 for Catholic Mission so far. If you would still like to make a donation, this can be done via Qkr. Thanks for your support.

Rosary Park Christmas Appeal

As part of our commitment to social justice and mission, Rosary Park has traditionally collected donations of items for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. These are distributed to members of our local community who need a bit of extra assistance this Christmas. To try and distribute goods, we kindly suggest families donate (though we gratefully accept any donation):

Kinder: Christmas serviettes or plates, Christmas decorations, bonbons, Iollies

Year 1: Biscuits, chips, popcorn, etc

Year 2: Pasta, rice, pasta sauce, etc

Year 3: tea, coffee, soft drinks, etc

Year 4: condiments, jelly, sweets, pancake mix, etc

Year 5: Shampoo, conditioner, soap, hand sanitiser, tissues, deodorant etc

Year6: Canned goods (fruit, vegetables, soups, etc)

Some notes from the St Vincent de Paul Society:

- Vinnies can only distribute non-perishable food items.
- To uphold the dignity of people receiving hampers, Vinnies is unable to accept pre opened packaged items or second-hand items. Please also ensure that all food items have a long expiry/best before date.
- For safety reasons, please do not gift wrap any items.
- We don't encourage gift/toy donations however should this be what you are looking to donate please consider a gift card so parents can experience the joy of purchasing their children a personalised gift they have been asking for.

We ask that all donations for the hampers be brought to school by **Friday 2nd December**.

If you feel you cannot contribute, this is totally understandable and please don't feel any pressure.

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

Many blessings to you and your families,

Níkola Groves

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

DOES YOUR CHILD RIDE A BIKE OR WALK TO AND FROM SCHOOL?

The Catholic Schools Office and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Government guidelines states that parents must give written permission each year, for their child/ren to ride their bike or walk to and from school, with parents aware that children are under parent's duty of care once they leave school grounds. The School and TfNSW recommends that children under 10yrs DO NOT ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult. Children under 12yrs should ride away from busy roads. They may ride bikes on the footpath unless there are signs that specifically prohibit cycling. These permission notes are available with this newsletter, or please contact Amber van Duuren to arrange for a note to be sent home with your child.

Kind Regards, Amber Van Duuren Primary Coordinator

A guide to bicycle maintenance: Eight point safety check					
Feature	What are you checking for?	Maintained			
Bell or horn	rings or sounds clearly and loudly	☐ Yes ☐ Needs fixing			
Brakes	bike wheel does not rotate when brakes are applied	☐ Yes ☐ Needs fixing			
Brakes pads	pads are not worn down	☐ Yes ☐ Needs fixing			
Chain	should be well oiled and not sag	☐ Yes ☐ Needs fixing			
White front reflector	is secure and clean	☐ Yes ☐ Needs fixing			
Red rear reflector	is secure and clean	☐ Yes ☐ Needs fixing			
Tyres	firm tyres tread not worn and no canvas showing no bulges or cuts	☐ Yes ☐ Needs fixing			
Yellow wheel and pedal reflectors	are secure and clean	☐ Yes ☐ Needs fixing			

Source: Adapted from Safety Town

More information from about bicycle safety, Transport for NSW https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/bicycles/safety-rules/maintain-your-bicycle.html

What is the right size of bicycle?

The right sized bicycle:

- is comfortable for the rider
- allows for the arms to be slightly bent as the body leans slightly forward holding the handlebars
- · has controls within reach
- · allows the rider's feet to just touch the ground when the rider is sitting on the seat
- allows the rider to straddle the crossbar with both feet flat on the ground. There should be about 3
 cm between the bicycle and the rider's crutch for a light or medium weight road bicycle. For a
 BMX or mountain bike there should be a 10 cm gap. If there is no crossbar, make the test from
 where the crossbar would be.
- has a level seat

If not, the bicycle is either too small or too big and is unsafe.

What is required by law?

A bicycle must be fitted with a working horn or bell and at least one working brake.

YEAR 1 NEWS

In Year 1 we have been busy doing lots of wonderful learning and participating in special whole school events. Last Friday we ran in our school's colour run, and we had so much fun. We all had a wonderful time running with our friends and teachers, and we were certainly very colourful at the end!

In English, we have been learning how to write descriptions of special places, by using our success criteria to bump up the quality of our writing. We have been learning how to read fluently, accurately and with expression. We have enjoyed reading the texts 'All though the year' and 'Dry to dry', which both link to our Geography unit 'Weather and seasons'.

In Maths, we have been learning how to round numbers to the nearest 10 and have enjoyed our Maths lessons using the teaching model of 'Launch, Explore and Summarise'. We particularly enjoy working with our maths buddies to explore and solve problems together, using concrete materials.

In Religion, we have been learning about the history of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese and its important features and people. We enjoyed our recent classroom visit from Fr Greg Barker, and we had interesting questions to ask him about his role in the Diocese. He certainly will not forget us anytime soon!

We have been working hard to become active learners, by listening carefully, trying our best and letting others learn. We are now counting down the weeks until Christmas and are very busy finishing off units of work.



Last term we introduced 10-minute maths activities at the start of each lesson that require using knowledge of number facts and a variety of mental strategies. The children are in ability levelled groups and work on a different activity each day. Students have been thoroughly engaged in the activities and are looking to improve their number facts by using the 'bump it up wall' and teacher feedback.

We asked some students what their favourite activity was:

The 3 digit and 4 digit Yahtzee because you need to rearrange the dice to make a number. Elke B

The Guess my Number because you need to use the clues to help determine my partner's mystery number, such as, odd or even, 2 digits, higher or lower. Aria G

The Amazing Maze because you need to solve the number facts correctly to complete the maze. Ellie A

The paddle pop riddles because you need to challenge yourself to get to the end. Hannah C

The pegs to 15 because I like solving the addition and subtraction equations. Lucy S

The dominoes because I like adding up to different numbers and then doubling that number. Anika F







The mystery number because you need to solve the riddles carefully to find the mystery number. Liam D











LIBRARY NEWS

Firstly, a reminder that the last week for borrowing is Week 8, 28.11.22 til 02.12.22. All library books must be returned in Week 9 to allow time to stocktake our Library Collection.

As seen in our last newsletter many of our students have been working through our new Cyber Safety Program: The Cyber Safety Project. So far, the feedback from the student's regarding program has been very positive.

And it's not just our students that can benefit from this program! The team from the Cyber Safety Project are offering free family webinars. Please see below for more details.



Who should attend: Parents/Guardians with their children

Is your child about to get their first mobile phone? This can be a very exciting time for any tween or teen, but don't forget, a personal device connected to the internet is a window to the world.

With 45% of young people still sharing their last name and location when signing up for online profiles and 20% of social media users having a public account, it makes it easy for cyber criminals to get to work.

You don't want to miss this **FREE** interactive session where Trent Ray (Cyber Safety Educator) and Luca Gennai (Cyber Security Officer) from the Cyber Safety Project team share important insights and helpful tips to level up your mobile phone security and develop a digital use agreement to help you create a safe digital environment for the whole family.

Whether your child is getting their first mobile phone, or you need some help levelling up your child's online safety, this session is for you.

Some big topics for your family to engage with:

Cyber safety 101 for any digital citizen Defining your family's personal and secure information How your location can be tracked on an internet-connected device Important device and profile settings for success

Tips on establishing a healthy balance with technology

How to empower everyone to have a voice in setting up device agreements and setting limits.



Who should attend: Parents/Guardians with their children

Today, more people 'game' than watch TV. Gaming is now social and a space where young people go to play, connect and communicate with their friends.

This webinar, hosted by Cyber Safety Project Co-Founder, Sam Macaulay, will uncover the appeal of gaming and expose life through the lens of a gamer. What is drawing young players to game? What are the risks for online gamers? How can we support our young gamers to establish healthy gaming habits?

In this **FREE** webinar you'll gain practical tips for helping to manage screen time and the development of self-regulation skills in young gamers and have the curtained pulled back on how these games are engineered.

Throughout the session Sam will be joined by Dan Martinez (The FUSE CUP Founder) as they look to breakdown the positive 21st century life skills that can be developed through gaming and other positives that do exist from gaming.

To conclude the session, Sean Kearney (Community Engagement Officer at EACH) will join the conversation to outline to parents and guardians the subtle links to gambling with online games and the signs to look out for.



FREE WEBINAR FOR FAMILIES

Digital Balance & Wellbeing

7:30pm (AEDT) MONDAY 28th NOV 2022







Who should attend: Parents/Guardians with their children

Technology plays a vital role in how we learn, connect, and play. It's safe to say that, in recent years, we have all experienced an increase in the use of technology at home, school and work. Evidence is showing that it is taking a toll.

A survey of young people found that device use has been a huge distraction for teens, particularly affecting quality time spent with family. We also learned that 40% of young people have felt sad or poorly about themselves after using social media and 45% said they compared their lives to others on social media.

Digital wellbeing is mindful and authentic engagement with the digital environment that balances the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of yourself and others. We could all do with a digital wellbeing check up from time to time.

In this **FREE** webinar you and your whole family will have a chance to reflect on the ways technology may be impacting your lifestyle.

As a family, join Kiah Allen (Cyber Safety & Digital Wellbeing Educator at the Cyber Safety Project) along with industry experts from the Big Sister Experience and Mindsetters Education who will discuss key digital challenges and emerging wellbeing trends, and share simple strategies to help your family manage digital pressures.

Key topics discussed:

How can using technology impact our physical, social and emotional health? What are some ways to create more positive and mindful interactions online? What are some practical tips to level up your overall wellbeing? What are the pressures of growing up digitally connected? How can we take control of our digital balance and wellbeing? How can we tap into our mindset to establish healthy technology boundaries?

To register for any of the above please follow this link: https://cybersafetyproject.com.au/events/ and scroll down to the Free Families Webinar Series section.

Weekly Awards

Children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending Friday 14th October 2022 (Week 1)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Sawyer D	Hendrix M	Piper R
Kinder White	Josie WH	Theo C	Koa VW
Year 1 Blue	Willow J	Indy M	Stanley H
Year 1 White	Jesse S	Finn M	Allie D
Year 2 Blue	Amarlie K	Luke H	Noah L
Year 2 White	Tao D	Charlize L	
Year 3 Blue	Owen Gough		
Year 3 White	Cameron N	Evie S	Mia W
Year 4 Blue	Bryce B	Aliyah P	Saige M
Year 4 White	Elara B	Sienna M	Hunter G
Year 5 Blue	Lilah B, Joel C	Hamish A	Robert C
Year 5 White	Ava J	Isabelle W	Bailey C
Year 6 Blue	Amber M	Riley N	Charlie R
Year 6 White	Kade T	Ethan W	Sasha C

Week ending Friday 21st October 2022 (Week 2)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Aiden L	Brooklyn Y	Amelia H
Kinder White	Lleyton L	Matilda C	Finn R
Year 1 Blue	Stanley H	Minh B	Megan N
Year 1 White	Aria D	Mackenzie H	Jenny N
Year 2 Blue	Noah R		Mason H
Year 2 White	Liam D	Susan P	Hannah C
Year 3 Blue			
Year 3 White	Jesse C	Sam D	Hudson O
Year 4 Blue			
Year 4 White	Rubi B	Marley G	
Year 5 Blue	Cohan Y	Lisa O	Owen S
Year 5 White	Cade L	Ashton P	Brody BS
Year 6 Blue	Eva H	Jayden S	Ari S
Year 6 White	Adam V	Jayden G	Tia K

Principal's Awards

Shanoa A, Owen S, Rawson D, Luke W, Ethan W, Baxter A, Ayla B, Bronson Q, Lleyton L, Matthias K, Aliyah P, Elke B, Anderson P.

COLOUR RUN FUN!!















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