

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 4 Week 8 2022**  
**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

## IMPORTANT DATES

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

DECEMBER		DECEMBER	
<b>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup></b>	CANTEEN IS ON THIS DAY	<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Swimming Carnival
<b>Fri 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	"Step Up" morning <b>NO CANTEEN THIS DAY</b>	<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>
<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Last Canteen Day for the Year	<b>Mon 12<sup>th</sup></b>	End of Year Liturgy & school Awards (K-5) – 9:45am
<b>Tue 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 6 Graduation Liturgy – 5pm	<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup></b>	P&F Meeting – final for 2022
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Blessing & Opening of Stage 3 Buildings	<b>Fri 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>LASTS DAY OF TERM FOR STUDENTS</b>

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023:

31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Year 1-6 return to school

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Kindergarten students begin

15<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March 2023

NAPLAN will be held with it moving to Term 1 – Years 3 and 5

## Principal's Message

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent.

Come long expected Jesus

Excite in me a hunger for peace

Peace on the world

Peace in our home

Peace in ourselves



Dear Parents/Carers

As this is the final Newsletter for 2022, I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of me, my staff and our children throughout the year. It's been a hectic yet very productive and rewarding year.

Next Wednesday, we host dignitaries from parliament, parish, Catholic Schools Office, and our diocese as we celebrate the official opening of our stage 3 classrooms. These were of course completed in May 2022, however with COVID delays we have only now been able to hold this special event.

2022 has seen a return to a relatively normal school year and we have had many wonderful experiences to celebrate at Rosary Park. We have celebrated liturgies, donated food to St Vincent de Paul, attended excursions and incursions, choir and band performances and many, many more that would not be possible without the support and dedication of the parents and staff of Rosary Park.

I am truly grateful for all that we do together to enrich the lives and learning of the children in our community. Thank you to all students, families and staff who make Rosary Park such a fantastic place.

I would also like to thank Fr Thomas his great support of our school this year, and to the supportive and hardworking parents from our P & F especially NaSharna Maskey our president who gives so much of her time to work for our school and children.

Finally, a big thank you to my wonderful colleagues who all work hard every day to deliver a quality education in a caring environment.

I wish all students and families a safe and happy holiday break. I hope all families take the time to experience the great joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus, our saviour.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year, with the first day of school for Years 1-6 being Tuesday, 31 January and our new Kindergarten starting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **Staffing 2022**

Staffing for 2023 is as follows-

Kindergarten: Alanna Seysener & Grace Dever

Year 1: Louise Kevin and Mackenzie Gageler (every Tuesday Annika Rooke on class)

Year 2: Debbie Parkes 4 days (and Brienna Vollmer every Wednesday) & Nikola Groves

Year 3: Emelia Lindus and Naomi Rodwell

Year 4: Victoria Prosser & Amber Van Duuren (Rhiannon Temesvary every Thur and even Wednesdays)

Year 5: Brittany Reynolds and Joshua Garnsey (Mon, Tue and Fri) Emily McHugh (Wed/Thur)

Year 6: Nick Standing and Paige Pringle

Pedagogical Mentors (PM): Joshua Garnsey and Janelle Dixon

Gifted Education Mentor (GEM): Mackenzie Gageler

Release from Face-to-Face (RFF) Teacher K-6 Tuesday-Wed-Thur: Kate Burgess

Learning Support Teacher: Tiffany Nolan (3 days/week) and TBC

School Counsellor: (3 days/week)

EALD Teacher: Karen Forbes

Aboriginal Education Teacher: Katrina Easton

Aboriginal Education Worker: Jess Dougherty.

As a school we will continue to fund Jess Dougherty in 2023 as a wellbeing officer

Children will have the opportunity to meet their 2023 class teacher in their new classroom this Friday 2 December 9:15-11:15.

All parents will be notified TODAY of their child's 2023 teacher and class via note. Please take a brief moment to use the QR code and share with their 2023 teacher some information, your hopes, and goals for them for the coming school year.

### **Class Structures**

In 2023 we will again have 14 classes. Our year 3 classes will move to the brown demountables at the back of the hall. Year 4 will move to the current year 3 rooms.

### **Resource Fee 2023**

Diocesan information will be sent tomorrow as to the cost of school tuition fees and DFSBL for 2023. Our school resource fee is \$495 per child and will include one excursion for each class.

Children in year 5-6 will participate in camps during 2023 and these will NOT be covered by the resource fee.

*In 2023, our year 5 students will attend Great Aussie Bush Camp 7-9 June 2023 (approx. cost \$390/child) whilst our year 6 students will have their excursion to Canberra on 20, 21, 22 June (approx. cost \$450/child). As these excursions are a significant financial commitment for families (**not** covered by our resource fee), I am giving you advanced notice so that you are able to budget for them.*

### **Compass**

Please be aware that if your child is leaving Rosary Park (**including year 6 students**) you will lose access to all your child's Rosary Park reports as of our last school day (Friday 16th). Please download and/or print the reports before this date.

### **2023 Class Preparation**

If you are leaving Rosary Park and your child/children will not be returning to school in 2023 please ensure that you have notified us as we have families looking for enrolments for next year and we're in the process of concluding our class lists for 2023.

If you are just moving to a new house or changing your workplace, please ensure that you provide up-to-date contact details before the start of the school year.

### **Semester 2 Student Reports**

This year the semester 2 reports are a different format, developed by the Catholic Schools Office. I direct you to a letter attached to today's newsletter which explains the report in detail. They will be available via Compass from Friday 9th December. Should you wish to discuss your child's report with the class teacher/s please contact them via [admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au)

### **Gifts**

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

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

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

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

### **Canteen Changes**

The canteen will NOT open on Friday 2 December. Instead, it will open on Thursday 1 December. The last day of canteen for 2022 is Monday 5 December. On this day the canteen is open for both Qkr recess sales and over the counter sales of Christmas cupcakes and other special treats!

### **School Improvement Plan 2023**

As part of our 2023 Annual School Improvement Plan, Rosary Park teachers and students are continuing the focus on student growth in Mathematics. We began this during 2022 and will focus on the new syllabi implementation (Mathematics and English) in K-2. A trial NSW Syllabi for Year 3-6 in these KLA's will start in 2023.

We will be undertaking the Spelling Mastery program from Years 3-6. This is showing us promising results. This program uses the Direct Instruction approach to learning. The 20-years of research invested in this program shows that clear instruction at a student's spelling skill level, results in the mastery of skills at a faster rate. This has been evidenced in our first year of the program where the majority of students have progressed and will move up at least one spelling level in 2023.

To determine the spelling skill level of each student, all students have completed a placement test. Using this data, the students have been grouped according to their current skill level; therefore, to meet the specific needs of each student, students will move around the school to their designated Spelling Mastery teacher. Students will be working with other students who are at the same skill level but may be from a different grade. Their Spelling Mastery teacher may not be their usual class teacher.

This approach will enable us to meet each student's needs at the precise time in their learning. It will develop spelling skills and knowledge, leading to growth with spelling skill levels.

We are looking forward to seeing the students' growth in their spelling abilities across the school. Kindergarten - year 2 will continue participating in the InitialLit program. Both programs use a similar Direct Instruction approach to learning. This will ensure consistency in spelling instruction across all grades.

In addition, in our SIP, we are placing a stronger focus on student and staff wellbeing in 2023. COVID and the return to normality from lockdown has certainly shown us that mental health and well-being are areas that need our constant attention. We will be endeavouring to widen our focus in this area next year.

### **Out of School Hours Supervision**

A reminder to parents that supervision by staff begins at 8:30am each morning. If you need to drop off your child before this time, they need to be enrolled in St Nicholas OOSH. Over the past few weeks, we have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving at school, as early as 8am! This is very dangerous as staff are not on duty, so if a child was to injure themselves no one would be on duty to assist. In the afternoon, the pick-up is supervised until 3:30pm. I know it can be very

busy in the afternoon and sometimes parents/carers run late, so please contact the school office on 49381541 to let us know that you will be late. After 3:30pm, children waiting to be collected will be brought to the school office to wait for their parents/carers.

## **Uniform**

Children are expected to wear the correct uniform to school each day. The general appearance of a child is an outward sign to others of the pride and respect one has in oneself and reflects pride in the school.

As well as wearing the correct school uniform, children are to be neatly groomed and wear polished shoes (**black leather only: no boots, Mary Jane style or joggers**). 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 encouraged due to safety concerns e.g. when playing sport.

**Hair must be neat and tidy. In keeping with the school tone, hairstyles should not be outlandish- no Mohawks, tracks or rat's tails. Extremes of style and colour are not appropriate. Children with long hair should have their hair tied back. Mullets **MUST BE** blended in. It cannot be short at the sides. If hair touches the collar, it needs to be tied back.**

*A note explaining any variations in school uniform is expected.*

The summer uniform is worn in Terms 1 and 4 and the winter uniform is worn in Terms 2 and 3. Occasionally, depending on the length of term and weather conditions, this requirement is adjusted. If this occurs, you will be informed via the school newsletter.

**NOTE:** Please ensure all clothing/shoes/hats and bags are clearly marked with your child's name.

### **Summer Uniform – Girls**

TUNIC	Blue & white check summer dress
Shirt/shorts	White emblem shirt and blue shorts
SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with white socks, to be worn above the ankle

### **Summer Uniform – Boys**

TOP	School blue shirt with embroidered logo.
SHORTS	Navy shorts, not cargo.
SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with navy socks to be worn above the ankle.



Wishing you a happy, holy, and safe Christmas,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

## Assistant Principal Message

Thank you for a lovely year of loving and learning. I wish our Year 6 children and those families moving on to other places all the very best. May you take the mercy pillars of respect, compassion, hospitality, justice, service and courage that we value so deeply here at Rosary Park with you wherever you may be going. I hope you have many wonderful memories of love, learning and friendships to look back on as you take another path on your life journey. I look forward to working again with the other families at Rosary Park in 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe, happy and holy Christmas and a restful and enjoyable holiday period with those you love most.

Many Blessings,

Janelle Dixon  
Assistant Principal

## Religious Education Coordinator's Message

### *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, lollies

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

Year 6: 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December**.

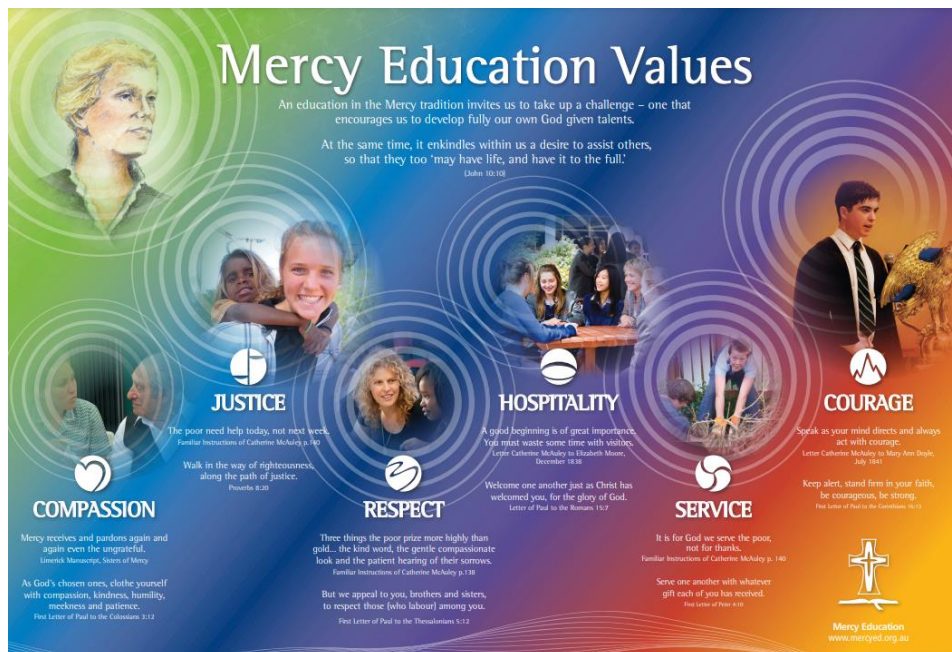
If you feel you cannot contribute, this is totally understandable and please don't feel any pressure.



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

## Mercy Values

We have worked extremely hard as a school community to further embed the Mercy pillars into school life. As the year comes closer to an end, you might like to talk with your child about how they represent these values in their everyday life, and how you can make these values present during the holiday season.



## End-of-Year Liturgy and Awards:

Our End-of-Year whole school Liturgy will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am.

Student leaders and class awards will be announced on this date. Families are welcome to join us!

**Mindfulness:** Some Mindfulness you might like to practise with your child at home as a way of winding down and relaxing:

## STRETCH THE MOMENT

*Sit down and close your eyes.*

*In your mind, hold a picture of what you see.*

*Open your eyes.*

*Close your eyes again and listen to the sounds around you.*

*Add more sounds to what you are hearing.*

*Repeat several times until you have a firm picture in your mind.*



Have a lovely week and may God bless you always,

*Nikola Groves*

(Acting) Religious Education Coordinator

## **News from Year 5**

We have been extremely busy in Year 5 this term as we finish off assessment tasks, prepare for leadership positions and start to wrap up the school year.

This week in Maths we have been using our knowledge of 3D nets and shapes to create robots out of five or more 3D shapes. There were some outstanding robots built with some interesting prisms and pyramids attached. Ashton P and Cade L went above and beyond and created a dinosaur robot. Please see image below.

In English we have been very busy writing information reports on the bushfires which occurred on Kangaroo Island in the Summer of 2019/20. We have been using Flipgrid to record news reports to present to the class, based on the research we used to write our reports. We are looking forward to watching these as a class shortly. Students were very creative, and we have all sorts of characters such as talking koalas.

Year 5 have been working extremely hard to prepare speeches for the leader positions for next year. All students prepared a speech, and those selected by their peers, have delivered their speeches in front of large groups within the school. All students have made their teachers proud from the effort they put into the preparation of their speeches and the maturity they have shown in the delivery. We look forward to hearing who our selected leaders will be for 2023 and know that all of Year 5, will step up and lead our school by example.

All Year 5 students have been introduced to their buddies for 2023 and we have had two fun filled mornings getting to know them. Year 5 went above and beyond for their buddies and ensured they all felt comfortable and welcomed when they visited Rosary Park.

It has been a fun filled term and with the end of the year fast approaching, we are looking forward to the festive activities to come.







## **News from Year 4**

Year 4 have been working hard across all Key Learning Areas this term. We have been focusing on building our creative and critical thinking skills. This has provided students with the ability to draw on their thinking across all strands and make deeper connections.

In Mathematics we have been focusing on building our Multiplicative thinking skills and working through deconstructing multi-step word problems. Students have shown impeccable progress with their ability to use a variety of mental and written strategies to help them navigate challenging problems. We have moved our focus to a more problem heavy approach to build on their critical skills. Students are given more time to think before trying to work things out. They are then given time to share their thinking orally with their peers and build on their thinking together. Once these two processes have been complete, students are more prepared to explore the problem and apply their thinking to their work. They are given the opportunity to compare their thinking with their peers, where they can collaboratively work out any errors that may have occurred and how to articulate where they may have gone wrong. This also, provides them with the confidence and understanding that making mistakes with our learning is valuable and is seen as an opportunity to learn. Once students have had some time to explore real world Math problems, we collectively come together to summarise our thinking. Students are asked to think about what challenges they faced, how they overcame these challenges, what strategies did they use and how efficient were these strategies and why?

After spending a large amount of time with these types of questions we felt the students were ready for an even bigger challenges...VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM CHALLENGE!

Escape rooms help students with critical thinking because the game itself requires them to approach various problems and challenges from different angles to find the solution that works. They solve puzzles and riddles using analysis and logic and connect bits based on clues. Students develop excellent communication and teamwork skills by working together with their peers to try and escape the room. With the added teamwork element, our students had the opportunity to develop essential leadership skills by delegating tasks, identifying strengths in others, and collectively solving problems. All the skills needed to solve an escape room are essential to thinking critically.

Students worked extremely well together, and we could really see how much they were applying the skills we had been working on throughout the year! We are extremely proud of our Year 4 students!

## **Library News**

### **Borrowing**

Please note that week 8 will be our final week of borrowing. All library books need to be returned in week 9 and 10 so our yearly stocktake can be performed. Please contact our library assistant Erin Dewey if you are having problems locating missing books.

### **Donations**

We are always blown away and extremely grateful to all families who donate high quality used books to our library. A big thank you to the Brown and White families who generously donated books in the last few weeks. (Apologises to anyone who we've forgotten)



We are looking for child appropriate dirt bike and rugby league magazines for our older students to help encourage reading in this age bracket. If you have any, please send them our way! Our students will be very appreciative!

### **Cyber Safety Project**

As stated in previous newsletters many of our students are completing lessons on Cyber safety in their library lessons. Recently our year 1 students identified five trusted adults in their lives and thoroughly enjoyed making finger puppets to represent these people. Please see below for some of their wonderful creations.



To all our RPCS families we wish you a healthy, happy and restful Christmas break!

A huge congratulations to all the students who received their Premier's Reading Challenge Certificates recently. Well done for your commitment in taking on the challenge and reading the required number of books for completion. Also, a very special congratulations to Emily A in Year 3, Bryce B in Year 4 and Lilly A in Year 6 who will all be receiving a gold certificates in the next coming weeks for each completing the Premier's Reading Challenge for 4 consecutive years in a row !

Ms. Flynn and Mrs. Dewey

## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this past fortnight.

### Week ending Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2002 (Week 5)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Quinn M	Nicholas L	Jenson F
<b>Kinder White</b>	Ari S	Nate O	Josie WH
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Addison B	Kade B	Zoe H
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Harry M	Caelan G	Finn M
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Lean W	Joseph A	Ellie A
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Liam R	Blake C	Hunter B
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>			
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Madden T	Darby T	Ruby N
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Allen D	Ella R	Evie M
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Jonah M	Flynn R	Dante S
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Emily A	Lisa O	Sophie C
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Indy Y	Isaac G	Ella G
<b>Year 6 Blue</b>	Lilly A	Noah L	Oriella S
<b>Year 6 White</b>	Will H	Sally K	Charli C

### Week ending Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (Week 6)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Grayson B	Bronson Q	Hunter AL
<b>Kinder White</b>	Grace S	Sonny R	Matilda B
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Addison R	Annabelle B	Hudson L
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Mason C	Baxter D	Lexi D
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Braxton T	Lachlan B	Anika R
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Sasha A		Addison S
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>			
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Nevaeh D	Cruz G	Lola M
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Samantha R	Harry W	Sharni L
<b>Year 4 White</b>			
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Cohan Y	Miley R	Stella W
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Brody B	Asha M	Ashton P
<b>Year 6 Blue</b>	Leah-Rose C	Will M	Brock W
<b>Year 6 White</b>	Sam G	Han N	Ella M

## Principal's Awards

Charli C, Matilda C, Owen G, Kingsley J, Isabella T, Harry W, Isabelle W, Emily S, Reeve W, Ava M, Brynn S, Baxter A, Ava J, Hunter I, Sasha C, Sophie C, Oriella S, Parker S, Quinn M, Michael H, Brody B-S, Callum F, Rubi B, Charlie R, Evie S, Georgie W, Sofia P, Liana R, Sally K, Joseph A, Jack C, Kai M, Piper J

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