



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 8 2023
Thursday 16th March

Rosary Park Catholic School

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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

MARCH		APRIL	
Wed 15 th till Mon 27 th	NAPLAN will be held with it moving to Term 1 – Years 3 and 5	Mon 24 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM2
Tues 21 st – Mon 27 th	Harmony Week	Tues 25 th	ANZAC DAY – No School
Fri 24 th	HARMONY DAY – Wear Orange to School	Fri 28 th	U10's 9 a side Rugby League - Morpeth
Thur 30 th	Polding Swimming at Homebush	MAY	
Thur 30 th	U'12's 9 a side Rugby League - Cessnock	Wed 10 th	Interrelate – 6pm and 7:15pm Years 3 to 6
Fri 31 st	PUPIL FREE DAY	JUNE	
APRIL		Mon 26 th	Student Lead Conferences (with parents attending)
Tue 4 th	School Cross Country – 8am start	Thur 29 th	Athletics Carnival – K to 6 ALL WELCOME!
Thur 6 th	P&F Easter Raffle	SEPTEMBER	
Thur 6 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 1	Tue 12 th	Whole School Concert @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre 2 performances

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

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

Sport Representative trials

Each year there are Winter and Summer trials held in various sports for those children who play at representative level and have the potential to follow the sporting pathway to the *highest* level of representation (Polding level). Whilst we give all children who play these sports the chance to participate in the school trial, only those considered elite in their chosen sport can be selected. As a result, only children in year 5-6 are invited to trial. Where possible an independent selector is invited to convene the trial especially for those popular sports so there is transparency.

Most sports are a regional trial, however Rugby League, AFL & Rugby Union are an immediate diocesan trial so only 3 students are selected **IF** they are seen as having skills to play at the elite level.

We are normally able to send 3-6 students to the next level of trial, however these children must be able to demonstrate and prove their representative credentials at the various level of trials. In any trial we are NOT permitted to send children who do not meet the selection criteria.

Sporting representative levels in Maitland-Newcastle diocese:

Regional. Rosary Park is in the All-Saints region. Children compete against others from Catholic schools in our local area including Rutherford, Maitland, East Maitland, Kurri Kurri/Abermain, Cessnock, Dungog, Lochinvar, Tarro and Chisholm.

The next level up is **Diocesan** representation. Children compete against all children from Catholic Schools in the Maitland Newcastle area – 44 primary schools.

Polding is the highest level of Catholic representation, competing against all other Catholic primary school students from NSW.

In our last newsletter we included information from Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) in regard to representative sport. Please visit csnsw.sport if you need more information on the pathways for sport. Our school website also contains information on representative sport (under news and Events).

Throughout the school year, we will participate in some gala days/competitions in different sports. The focus of these days is participation, and the aim is to give children equal game time. As sport is one part of a busy extra curricula and we strive to provide children with opportunities in Creative Arts and other areas, it is not possible for us to compete in every gala day offered. Please contact us if you require further clarification.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rosary Park will hold its biannual School concert on **Tuesday 12th September** at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. There will be TWO performances – 5pm and 6:30pm with a dress rehearsal held at the centre during the school day on Monday 11 September. All children Kinder to year 6

will perform in this as they prepare for this event during their weekly music/dance/drama lessons. Further information about costumes, tickets to follow.

Leading Learning Collaborative: ‘Clarity’ by Dr Lyn Sharratt

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

This year Rosary Park continues working with Dr Lyn Sharratt, an educationalist from Canada who has been engaged by the Catholic Schools Office to work with schools. Later this year we will continue our professional learning when Dr Sharratt again visits our diocese in May. At Rosary Park we have a team

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

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

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

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

Our next step in this journey is the introduction of Student Lead conferences. On Monday 26 June you will be invited to school to participate with your child and their teacher in this. Please keep this date available in your diary as we expect all families to attend.

Professional Learning Team (PLT) Meetings

Professional Learning Team meetings for teachers, working with our Pedagogical Mentors, have already started for 2023. In term 2, PLTs will occur in half day allocations, with teachers off class half a day in week 3, 6, 9 of term 2. Teachers work together in analysing student data in Maths and work as a team to devise teaching strategies to further improve student performance.

This is part of our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and the school budgets for this to pay for casual staff.

Office of Safeguarding – Our diocesan and school commitment

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

- ☐ Lunch clubs (wellbeing, Minecraft)
- ☐ School band for Years 3-6
- Ukulele group for year 2
- ☐ Leadership Teams (termly meetings with their team and the Principal)

Daily Roll Marking and School Attendance

We have now also re-commenced our Monday morning assembly. Aside from this day, we are in classrooms marking class rolls on Compass as we begin our learning for the day. So, it is important that your child is at school on time or that you mark them absent (for full day absences only – not partial absences) via Compass promptly in the morning. Otherwise you will receive the automated unexplained absence text message by 9:30am.

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

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

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

Drop off/Pick up Times

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

Advanced Notice: Our school athletics carnival for all K-6 children will be **Thursday 29 June** at Maitland Athletic Centre. All welcome!

Kindergarten 2024 Enrolments

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

Kind regards,
Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message



Next week (week 9) we will celebrate "Harmony Week" at Rosary Park. Harmony Week is a special time to celebrate diversity and multiculturalism in our wonderful country. The children will participate in a number of activities during the week to build upon their understanding of the importance of unity and acceptance. These activities will occur in class throughout the week and include discussions, artworks, art/craft, culture, vocabulary and language based tasks, designed to build an appreciation and celebration of difference and inclusion within our community.

The week will conclude with an **out of uniform day on Friday 24th March, where children are encouraged to wear something orange** as a sign of unity. The children will also contribute to a whole school display that encompasses many of the important messages that come from this national initiative.

Always remember that if you have any questions about your child's academic, social or emotional needs at school, please reach out to the teachers, exec or office staff via phone or admin email. We are very happy to have a discussion about any concerns or questions you may have.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon

Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Project Compassion



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world.

Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.



Project Compassion is a demonstration of the faith, empathy and generosity of our supporters. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia – without it, we could not do the vital work we do. Thank you for helping transform lives today and for all future generations.

Please support Project Compassion: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion



Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Our Project Compassion donation boxes continue to have a prominent place on the pray spaces without Rosary Park. Students are asked to think of those less fortunate than themselves and to put any spare change they may wish to donate into these boxes. On Ash Wednesday, a Project Compassion box was sent home to each family. If you have anything to donate, please feel free to begin returning these boxes as we move closer to Easter.

Your generosity is the pebble that allows Caritas Australia to create the ripples that will improve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, supporting them to flourish and create opportunities for future generations to live to their full potential.

Thank you!

Please return all Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to the school office by Friday 26th May or donate online via the Caritas Australia website at www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Joshua Garnsey

Religious Education Coordinator

Gifted Education Mentor's Message

Next term in Week 3 students in year 4 will complete the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).

This test measures students' reasoning abilities in three areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. The verbal battery measures how well the student is able to learn and solve problems related to words. The quantitative battery measures your child's ability to apply numerical concepts. The nonverbal battery assesses skills in using figures and pictures to solve problems. Like any standardised test, the CogAT measures only some of your child's skills, and the results represent ability on the day the test was given. Therefore, these scores form one point of reference to measure a student's potential. Test scores should never be used alone to make decisions about services or supports, but they can be helpful when interpreted in conjunction with other information and metrics. In the Maitland – Newcastle Catholic Schools Diocese, CogAT results are used as one of several measures to inform classroom differentiation, supports, enrichments, and extensions.

Please note that unlike NAPLAN there isn't an opt out option for CogAT.

If you have questions, please contact Mackenzie Gageler Gifted Education Mentor a Rosary Park Branxton; or the Gifted Education Officers, Maree Karaka maree.karaka@mn.catholic.edu.au or Cathy Curk catherine.curk@mn.catholic.edu.au

Each Tuesday I am off class to work with students and teachers with the focus Mathematics. This consist of implementing number talks into our Maths block across k-6.

What is a number talk:



The teacher will present a problem on the board. Students will be given thinking time to solve the problem mentally. Students then respond by using the following hand signals. Next, I ask students to share their answers. Teachers record all of these, even the incorrect answers. In Number Talks, we use incorrect answers to discover misconceptions students have. Next students are asked to communicate their thinking. What strategies did you use? The teacher will record what the students says and ask if anyone used a different strategy. The rest of the class is actively listening and thinking about the strategies being shared.

Regards

Mackenzie Gageler



Thank you to the P&F Association for purchasing our brand new soccer Jerseys!!!



Weekly Awards

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

Week ending 3rd March 2023 (Week 6)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	James D	Kobe M	Claire D
Kinder White	Madi N	Amelia H	Abbey A
Year 1 Blue	Stella G	Hendrix Mc	Charlie C
Year 1 White	Alfie W	Callum F	Maici B
Year 2 Blue	Ellesse S	Jesse S	Emily S
Year 2 White	Mackenzie H		Zoe H
Year 3 Blue	Tao D	Noah L	James S
Year 3 White	Susan P	Liam R	Leah W
Year 4 Blue	Lilly S	Kyson C	Ruby N
Year 4 White	Isla F	Jacob L	James D
Year 5 Blue	Allen D	Sam R	Aubree C
Year 5 White	Harry W	Dante S	Alexis B
Year 6 Blue	Lisa O	Stella W	Indy Y
Year 6 White	Archer K	Isabelle W	Ella G

Week ending 10th March 2023 (Week 7)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Louis E	Carley O	Addison M
Kinder White	Donnie B	Winifred C	Lara T
Year 1 Blue	Aubrien G	Piper R	Lleyton L
Year 1 White	Tony P	Grace S	Charlie D
Year 2 Blue	Lexi D	Minh B	Will M
Year 2 White	Megan N	Ken P	Allied
Year 3 Blue	Max K	Lucy S	Zoey D
Year 3 White	Matthias K	Noah R	Levi C
Year 4 Blue	Taylah B	Kingsley J	Samantha F
Year 4 White	Sophie C	Nevaeh D	Madden T
Year 5 Blue	Lewis C	Ella-Grace W	Sharni L
Year 5 White	Isabella T	Asha J	David H
Year 6 Blue	Will L	Ashton P	Asha M
Year 6 White	Lina	Ethan W	Amelia D

Principals Awards

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

Alfie R, Aramaia M, Boston B, Amelia S, Addison S, Annabelle B, Taylah B, Harley R, Brooklyn, Kenny A, Arielle F, Ella R, Miley R, Lisa O, Zoe H, Mackenzie H.

Extra Compassion Awards

Sophia H, Sophie C, Lilah B, Layla H, Cohan Y, Cooper T, Joel C, Bryden K, Archer K



Greta Branxton Football Club

**Missed Registration?
We have limited places**

Last chance - Don't Miss Out!



Mixed Teams Spaces

Under 5/6: 5 players
Under 7: 5 players
Under 8: 1 player
Under 9: 7 players
Under 10: 1 players
Under 11: 2 players

Under 12: 8 players
Under 13: 3 players
Under 15: 5 players
Under 16: 3 players
Under 17/18: 5 players

Girls Teams Spaces

Under 5/6: 2 players
Under 7: 4 players
Under 8: 5 players
Under 9: 5 players
Under 10/11: 2 players

Teams are the age you turn in 2023

**Text Stewart 0429701578
or Lauren 0428773002
to confirm if a spot is
still available as numbers
will change quickly**



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