



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 2 2023

Thursday 4 May

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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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

MAY		JUNE	
Wed 10 th	Interrelate – 6:00pm and 7:15pm for Years 3 to 6	Thur 29 th	Athletics Carnival – K to 6 ALL WELCOME
Mon 15 th	FULL WINTER UNIFORM STARTS	Fri 30 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 2
Mon 15 th	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 12:30pm Liturgy 1:00pm Open classrooms 1:30pm Shared afternoon tea 2:00pm Whole school games	JULY	
Thurs 25 th	SCHOOL PHOTO'S – Winter Uniform Caritas Boxes due to be returned	Mon 17 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 3
Fri 26 th	PUPIL FREE DAY	Fri 21 st	Grandparent's Day
JUNE		Fri 28 th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Wed 7 th – Fri 9 th	Year 5 Great Aussie Bush Camp	SEPTEMBER	
Mon 26 th	PUPIL FREE DAY Student Led Conferences – with parents attending ALL GRADES – all families to attend	Tues 12 th	Whole School Concert @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre – 2 performances
Tue 22 nd – Thur 24 th	Year 6 Canberra Excursion		

IMPORTANT DATES

PUPIL FREE days 26 May, 26 June, 28 July NO PUPIL FREE DAY ON 16 JUNE

Interrelate family night year 3-6 from 6pm Wednesday 10 May

FULL winter uniform starts Monday 15 May

Catholic Schools Week Rosary Park celebration from 12:30pm Monday 15 May

Athletics Carnival Thur 29 June ALL classes

Grandparents' day Friday 21 July

"You can have flaws, be anxious and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from failing. You are appreciated, admired and loved by so many. Remember that being happy is not having a sky without storm, a road without accidents, a job without effort, a relationship without disappointments."

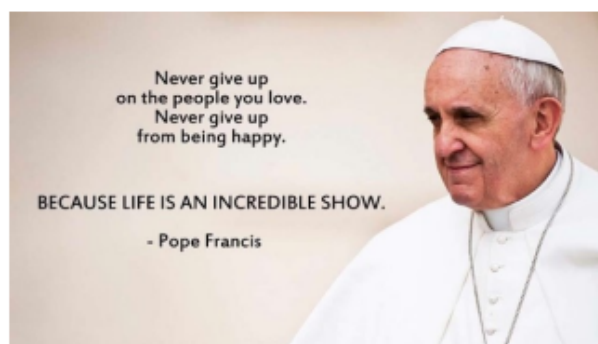
"To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become the author of your own fate." It's walking through deserts, but being able to find an oasis deep in the soul. Is thanking God every morning for the miracle of life. It's kissing your children, cuddling your parents, having poetic moments with your friends, even when they hurt us."

"Being happy is letting the creature that lives in each of us live, free, joyful and simple. You have the maturity to be able to say: "I've made mistakes". It's having the courage to say I'm sorry. It's having the sense to say "I need you". Is having the ability to say "I love you". May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness... that in spring he may be a lover of joy and in winter a lover of wisdom."

"And when you make a mistake, start over. Because only then will you be in love with life. You'll discover that being happy isn't having a perfect life. But use tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your defeats to train your patience."

"Use your mistakes with the serenity of the sculptor. Use pain to tune into pleasure. Use obstacles to open the windows of intelligence. Never give up ... Above all never give up on the people that love you. Never give up on being happy, because life is an incredible spectacle. "

Pope Francis



Principal's Message

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

Thank you to the many families who attended our Braxton/Greta RSL ANZAC march last Tuesday.

The children should also be commended on the respectful and reverent way they interacted during our Holy Week 'moving' liturgies last term and our school ANZAC liturgy last Wednesday.

Student- led conferences

On **Monday 26 June** we will have a PUPIL FREE day for student led conferences (8am -5pm). All parents are expected to attend a meeting on these days with their child/ren. As the name suggests, students will lead the conversation with the support of their teacher to articulate their learning successes and future goals. Parents will be there to hear their children articulate their goals and

challenges and to offer support for a plan moving forward to help their child reach their goals in semester 2.

Teachers have been contacting parents over the last two weeks to discuss any academic or social goals we are working on at school, and what your child's semester 1 report might look like. As the conference is an opportunity for children to lead conversation about their achievements and to set future goals for semester two, we will not be discussing the reports as such.

Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Alanna Seysener (Kinder White teacher) and her husband who are expecting their first child in October.

Mrs Simone Cameron has started working 3 days/week on 5 Blue job sharing with Mrs Emily McHugh. In term 1 Simone was given provisional accreditation by NESA to commence teaching as she will graduate at the end of 2023.

Catholic Schools Week

You are invited to join us from 12:30 pm on Monday 15 May when we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We will start with a liturgy followed by 1pm open classrooms and a shared afternoon tea at 1:30pm. From 2pm our senior students will lead the whole school in a game's afternoon. Afternoon tea food packs for families to share can be ordered via QKR if you would like them. There will be NO normal afternoon tea food orders for children on this day (over the counter ice blocks etc only).

Changes to school uniform

All additions to our school uniform that were voted on by parents (addition of a beanie, zip up vest, girls long sleeve shirt with emblem and skort) will be available from Flanagan's menswear by 15 May, our change over to Winter uniform.

At last week's P and F meeting it was agreed that our new sports shirt will be worn by all children at Rosary Park by JANUARY 2025. This gives Flanagan's time to run down their present stock of our sports shirt. Obviously in the interim we will have children wearing the two different types of sports shirt until full change over occurs in 2025.

School Uniform Expectations

As we transition to winter uniform (full winter uniform must be worn from **Monday 15 May**), it is timely to remind parents of our school uniform expectations. Please use your discretion and if we have a cold snap, children are welcome to wear full winter uniform before 15th.

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

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

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

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

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

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

See below our Winter uniform:

Winter Uniform - Girls

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

Winter Uniform - Boys

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

School Sports Uniform: Winter

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

Legal References for Parents

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

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

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

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

Part 4 of the Children's Guardian Act 2019

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

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

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

The Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012

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

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

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Reporting Policy

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

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

Online Safety

No matter what their age, if your kids are online, now's the time to talk about online safety especially in these times of home learning online. It can be hard to know how and when to talk to kids about staying safe online.

While they might know a fair bit about technology, they don't always know as much as you do about life. To better understand the issues and start the conversation, you need to have the right tools, tips and advice. Through the eSafety website, you can learn how to talk to your kids about cyberbullying, online predators, and inappropriate content.

Talk to your kids before a stranger does. Visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

Kindergarten 2024 Enrolments

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

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

Feedback Journals

This year we have been working on increasing our descriptive feedback to students. This is to help them know how they are going with their learning and what they need to work on to take the next step.

Feedback Journals have been introduced across the school. Students can look at these journals to remind them of their learning goals across numeracy or literacy. Reflecting on teacher feedback, referring to task success criteria and comparing work to bump it up walls in the classroom, all help to guide children during their independent working time to ensure they are working towards achieving their goals. Children and teachers will refer to the feedback journals during the student led conferences later this term.

If you have any questions about our feedback journals, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or a member of the executive.

Clarity

On Wednesday 3rd May our "Clarity Team" had a full day of professional development with Lynne Sharratt at the Catholic Schools Office. Classroom teachers, pedagogical mentors and school executive staff are included in the team. The day allowed our team to reflect on the many positive practices we have implemented at Rosary Park and helped us identify what may be our next steps to ensure we continue to build opportunities for reflection and improvement for our school and the learning of our students.

The continual analysis of data along with the belief that every face on the data is important is integral to the success of this work. Collaboration between teachers and knowledgeable others is timetabled and given priority to ensure every child is provided with the environment, resources and teacher input required to improve and grow.

Our PLT meetings, where grade partners come together to share and analyse data, will occur this term for half days in weeks 3, 6 and 9. These meetings are used to analyse the data, discuss trends, devise questions and plan for high impact strategies to make change. This occurs by enabling teachers to collaborate, share ideas and develop timely interventions to meet particular needs of groups of teacher. The point of these meetings is to help gather data to help answer the questions we have and improve the data for all students.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

At Rosary Park we follow the Positive Behaviour for Learning or PBL Framework. This framework has a focus on identifying and rewarding positive behaviours. Rules are taught explicitly in a set sequence. Data is also regularly analysed to allow a focus on rules that children seem to be struggling with at particular times.

Our sequence of rules for Term 2 is outlined below. You will see the open options every second week for teachers to analyse data and discuss specific rules that need to be addressed as the term progresses.



Rosary Park Catholic School PBL Scope and Sequence Semester 1 2023

Term 2	School Rule	Behaviour Focus	Mercy Value
Week 1 and 2	I am safe	Using equipment correctly	Courage
Alternate 2			
Week 3 and 4	I am safe	I am in bounds	Respect
Alternate 4			
Week 5 and 6	Be Prepared to Learn and Let Others Learn	I am organised and have my tools ready	Service
Alternate 6			
Week 7 and 8	Be Prepared to Learn and Let Others Learn	I let my friends work and keep on task	Compassion
Alternate 8			
Week 9 and 10	Be Prepared to Learn and Let Others Learn	I am an active listener	Justice
Alternate 10			
Procedures Every Monday morning the PBL team will introduce the rule for the week during morning assembly. All staff take time to teach the PBL in the classroom for 10 minutes. Staff review behaviour data and choose possible alternate rules at Friday morning meeting. Mercy awards are given out at Friday assembly along with class merit awards.			

PBL Procedures

Each week the new PBL rule is introduced at assembly. Here we discuss as a school what this rule looks like in the classroom and on the playground.

Words on Bullying

IS IT BULLYING?

When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's

RUDE

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's

MEAN

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep* doing it - even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset, that's

BULLYING

The word "Bullying" is often misused in society by the media, on social media and by children. When discussing bullying behaviours, it is important that we understand what bullying is and what it is not.

Rosary Park has an "Anti-Bullying Handbook" that defines bullying as follows:

- *Bullying is deliberate – there is an intention to cause physical and/or psychological pain or discomfort to another person.*
- *Bullying involves the intentional misuse of power in a relationship – there is an actual or perceived unequal relationship that may be based on physical size, age, gender, social status or digital capability and access.*
- *Bullying is ongoing and repeated – bullying behaviour is usually not one-off. It is repeated over time, with the threat of further incidents leading to fear and anxiety. Repeated acts of bullying may involve single acts with different targets, as well as multiple acts with the same individual.*
- *Bullying involves behaviours that can cause harm – there is short or long-term physical or psychological harm on those involved,*

including bystanders.

Conflicts or fights between equals, or single incidents are not defined as bullying. These matters are dealt with according to the Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy, Conditions of Enrolment and the School Community Code of Conduct.

Bullying behaviour is not:

- Children not getting along well
- A situation of mutual conflict such as teasing or disagreement
- Single episodes of hurtful words or actions, or random acts of aggression or intimidation.

Roles in Bullying

Our school Anti-Bullying Handbook defines the different roles in bullying. It can be helpful as a parent to discuss these with your child to gauge their involvement in, or knowledge of, bullying behaviours in or around the school.

Bullying behaviour involves three parties: those that engage in bullying behaviour, those being bullied, and bystanders (those who witness the bullying).

Students who bully others often do so to gain status and recognition from their peers. Their bullying behaviour is reinforced when they intimidate their targets and when the peer group fails to challenge those engaged in bullying or reporting the bullying to staff.

Students of all ages can be at risk of being bullied for a whole host of reasons, including:

- *being unassertive or withdrawn.*
- *differing from the majority culture of a school in terms of ethnicity, cultural or religious background, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status, having a disability, special education needs or mental health issues.*
- *academic achievement (perceived as a high or low achiever).*
- *having recently transitioned into a school (through natural progression through schools, changing to a new school because of behavioural issues at a previous school or moving to the area).*

Bystanders (i.e. witnesses to bullying behaviour) can have a powerful effect on either encouraging or inhibiting bullying behaviour. There are three main types of bystander:

- *followers/assistants – do not initiate but take an active role in the bullying behaviour.*
- *supporters/reinforcers – support the bullying behaviour (overtly or covertly, e.g. by turning a blind eye) but do not take an active role in the bullying behaviour.*
- *defenders – dislike the bullying and try to help the target by intervening, getting teacher support or providing direct support.*

How can you support your child?

Helping your child to be resilient enough to stand up for themselves or tell another child that their actions have been hurtful is a great place to start. Having regular discussions about the benefit of being a “defender” can help empower your child if they find themselves or their peers in a challenging social situation. It is important to listen to your child and encourage them to speak with a teacher or trusted adult at school if they experience or witness incidents of teasing or overpowering that could lead to bullying. This is a great first step towards reducing or eliminating these incidents in the future.

At Rosary Park we take all reports of Bullying very seriously. **Each incident will be investigated thoroughly.** All children involved will be spoken to and reflection on the incident will be carried out.

Please Note: personal information and details regarding consequences for individual children will not be shared with other families.

If you have any further questions regarding bullying or our Anti-Bullying Handbook for Schools, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Warm Regards,
Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

TELL THEM FROM ME

PARENT/CARER LETTER TO INFORM RE STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND ENABLE OPT OUT

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our focus on school effectiveness, Rosary Park will be participating in an online survey for students – Tell Them From Me (TTFM®). The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about their faith, school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the TTFM® survey to help them improve.

From the 15 May to 16 June 2023, students from Years 4 to Year 6 will be given the opportunity and time to participate in this survey during regular school hours. Students who agree to complete the survey will be given a random username and password to access and complete the survey online. Students' names cannot be linked to their responses, which allows it to be completely anonymous. Results will show all student scores combined together – it is not possible to single out individual students in the results.

The survey takes approximately 15–20 minutes to complete. The survey measures include such topics as emotional and social well-being, physical health, and behaviours and attitudes linked to student success.

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, they should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time. If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by Monday 8th May. If you would like more information, please contact the school office.

Kind Regards,

Nikola Groves
Classroom Teacher
Rosary Park Catholic School



Stage 2 Football Gala Day held in Cessnock last week.

Well done to the Year 3 and 4 boys who participated and thanks to Ryan Collins and Jess Thomas for your help.

Library News

Happy Mother's Day from the Library!



Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards.

Week ending 31st March 2023 (Week 10)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Baylee H	Millah L	Indy M
Kinder White	Oliver T	Johan C	Bonnie D
Year 1 Blue	Olivia D	Jenson F	Theo C
Year 1 White	Isaac K	Logan B	Tristan C
Year 2 Blue	Mason C	Reid E	Matilda M
Year 2 White	Landyn W	Stanley H	Jenny N
Year 3 Blue	Jackson L	Zoey D	Lucy S
Year 3 White	Jaiden X	Leah W	Elke B
Year 4 Blue	Cruz G	Eyden G	Mia W
Year 4 White	Liam P	Cooper C	
Year 5 Blue	Zara L	Lewis C	Rubi B
Year 5 White	Cameron D	Nicholas L	Marley G
Year 6 Blue	Brody B-S	Indiana S	Lisa O
Year 6 White	Emily-Rose A	Ella G	Aurora L

Week ending 6th April 2023 (Week 11)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Cruze P, Amarni L	Teren G, Jesse J	Jasper W
Kinder White	Maci H, Savannah H	Jack C	Darcy J
Year 1 Blue	Reeve W	Matilda B	Eli B
Year 1 White			
Year 2 Blue	Jack C	Addison R	Indy M
Year 2 White			
Year 3 Blue			
Year 3 White	Lachlan B	Emmett C	
Year 4 Blue	Aleah D	Kyson C	Ezme-Rose S
Year 4 White			Hudson O
Year 5 Blue	Hudson R	Lachlan M	Lilly R
Year 5 White	Brooklyn J	Lian R	Phoebe C
Year 6 Blue	Owen S		Ashton P
Year 6 White	Ella G	Jamie R	Lina P



Less is more
Embracing a simpler way of living



**CHILDREN'S
TOY &
BOOK
SWAP**

Are your children's toys & books lying around gathering dust or have they simply outgrown them?

Come along to the Cessnock Children's Toy & Book swap and exchange them for something 'new'!

Toys must be in working condition and suitable for ages 3-8 years.
Maximum of six toys & six books per child.



Sunday 21 May
Kearsley Community Hall,
22 Allandale Street, Kearsley
Check in: 11.30am-12 pm
Swap starts promptly:
12pm-12.45pm

To allow more children to attend the event, only one parent/ guardian per family should attend

Bookings
required



This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority Waste less, Recycle More initiative funded by the Waste Levy.






Children's Storytime Session

Wednesday mornings 10-10.30am

@Maitland St Collective

45 Maitland St, Branxton

(Cafe in the Commercial Hotel next door to the Butchers)



Come along on a casual basis for free and buy a coffee whilst your little one listens to a story.

*during Term 2



BRANXTON COMMUNITY HUB
 (Next Door to Branxton Preschool)
 BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
NATUREANDNURTURENSW.COM.AU
 OR CALL 0421 009 297

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PARENT/CARER OPT OUT FORM Tell Them From Me® Student Survey

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the Tell Them From Me® student survey, please sign this form and return it to your school **by Monday 8th May.**

I (print name) **DO NOT** give consent for my
 child/children (print name/s) of classto
 participate in the **Tell Them From Me® student survey.**

Signed..... **Date**.....