

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 2 Week 6 2023**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

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**

JUNE		JULY	
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Aussie Bush Camp	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	FIRST DAY OF TERM 3
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Grandparent's Day
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b> Student Led Conferences – with parents attending. ALL GRADES – all families attend	Thur 27 <sup>th</sup>	ASPIRE – Yrs 5 and 6 Attending
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> – Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6 Canberra Excursion	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>
Thur 29 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics Carnival – K to 6 ALL WELCOME	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	LAST DAY OF TERM 2	Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Concert @ Cesnock Performing Arts Centre – 2 performances 5pm and 6.45pm

## Principal's Message

He is waiting for you,

He is close to you.

He loves you,

He is merciful,

He forgives you,

He gives you the strength to begin again from scratch!

Everybody!

Pope Francis

Dear Parents & Carers,

### **Student led conferences**

Teachers are busily preparing Semester One reports and these will be available via Compass from Tuesday 20 June.

Monday 26 June is a PUPIL FREE day, and, on this day, all our children will participate in student led conferences with you and their teacher. All parents are expected to attend with their child on this day between 8am & 5pm.

Bookings for conferences will open Monday 5 June for you to book a 15 min session and will close on Monday 19 June. Any parent who does not book a time will be allocated a time and notified via email.

### **Communication to families**

Rosary Park uses our fortnightly newsletter to communicate messages and dates for upcoming events. The table at the start of the newsletter is to assist families when adding dates to their calendars. In addition, Compass is used to remind parents as the event draws closer. Moving forward these messages will be sent via Compass during business hours.

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

Parents need to be aware that as teachers in the state of NSW we are required by law to report certain information to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). Reports to the Child Protection Helpline (Ph. 132 111, 24 hrs/7 days) must be made where 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.

We can get help to determine whether we need to report by using the DCJ online Mandatory Reporters Guide: <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/>

We can also contact the Office of Safeguarding (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri). Information about the roles and functions of the Office of Safeguarding can be found here: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

## **Road Safety**

Please ensure that you are regularly reminding your children of safety in and around cars, especially if they are riding to school. Their helmets must be correctly fitted and checked regularly for damage. If riding on footpaths, please keep left unless overtaking and be conscious of pedestrians.

Bicycles must be fitted with a working brake and a bell or horn, and if used at night the bicycle must display a white light on the front and a red light and red reflector on the rear.

If parents require further information visit:

<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/safety-on-wheels.pdf>

## **Bus 179**

As you are well aware there are several ongoing issues with the 179 Bus service, largely that it remains a public bus. Rosary Park is working with Branxton Public, council and Transport for NSW to try to secure a school only bus service for the North Rothbury area. However, this requires your input and support

Sign up for a free or deeply discounted bus pass on the [Service NSW website](#). Even if there isn't a bus to your area right now, your sign up data helps Transport for NSW to plan for school and public bus services. The bus pass is free for students in years K-2 and for all students living outside 1.6 km from the school entry (as the crow flies).

If you have other transport issues to report, please use the snapsendsolve app or [website](#) to capture the issue and have it reported to the correct authority.

## **Bus Safety and Behaviour**

It is also pertinent to remind your child of their behaviour on the bus. I alert you to the following from Hunter Valley Buses:

'Hunter Valley Buses will take measures to ensure the comfort and safety of those onboard the bus isn't spoilt by a minority. **Unacceptable Behaviour** like bullying, fighting, pushing and swearing would not be tolerated in the classroom and will not be tolerated onboard the School Bus. Any students guilty of such breaches will have a warning letter sent home with any continued breaches resulting in a possible suspension from bus travel for a period of one to two weeks. **Dangerous Behaviour** like standing on seats, climbing over seats, swinging from railings, or throwing objects inside the bus may receive an immediate (longer) suspension without warning. I would implore any parent whose child uses these services to have a chat and reinforce considerate and safe behaviour on our buses, after all, these are the terms agreed upon when application for free travel under the School Student Transport Scheme was made. <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/studentCodesOfConduct>

## **Uniform Change**

We are now in FULL Winter uniform and there are some additional items recently added to our uniform for Winter that are available at Flanagan's.

1. Addition of a skirt for girls on sport day
2. RPCS beanie
3. Vest with RPCS emblem
4. Girls' long sleeve short with emblem to be worn with long pants.

## **Afternoon Dismissal-Reminders**

Thank you for the consistent efforts you have been making with pick up.

If you need to pick up a child for a medical appointment, please arrive at school and do this **before 2:30pm**.

**Unless it is an emergency** please do not call school after 2:30pm to get a message to your child about a change to their pickup arrangements. It is very difficult for staff to locate your child once we have started our afternoon pick up procedures.

### **Casual Teachers**

We continue to manage outbreaks of COVID and the normal winter season illnesses. Teachers are even more susceptible to colds and illness in their role working with children every day. With such a demand across schools, it is very difficult to engage a casual teacher for the day so there are occasions where we have to split classes for small groups of children to work in other classes for the day. Please be assured this is always our *last option* and teachers have already set work based on their class work for children to work on should this situation arise.

As part of their award, teachers are also entitled to two days' Release from Face to Face (RFF) teaching per semester and many teachers have been using these recently to work on assessments and reports.

In addition, in weeks 3, 6 and 9 of each term, teachers are released for a half a day to participate in Professional Learning Team (PLT) meetings. During this time, teachers work with our Pedagogical Mentors to analyse and discuss children's reading data (as this is our school improvement goal) and make learning plans for the cohort of children in the grade. On such days, Rosary Park teachers leave casual teachers a very detailed plan to continue with from the teaching program.

### **Wellbeing Week**

Next week is wellbeing week. It is an opportunity for kids, parents and staff to take 'time out'. The wellbeing of our students, staff and families is of great importance at Rosary Park. Enjoy quality time with your beautiful children. Here are some ideas for you and your child:

- Organise a play date with a friend.
- Get to a park for the afternoon.
- Play a board game or card game with your family.
- Have a special dinner.
- Go for a walk/bike ride/scooter ride.
- Have a milkshake or a special treat after school.
- Watch a movie.
- Cook or bake a meal together.
- Learn something new
- Reach out for support when you need it – from colleagues, friends, family, your GP, a psychologist, or an employee assistance program through your workplace. Lifeline – 24-hour telephone counselling 13 11 14.

### **Smart Watches**

As our Mobile Phone and Device Policy states children are **discouraged** from bringing a mobile phone or wearing a smart watch to school.

The only reason that children are permitted to bring a phone or wear a smart watch is for safety on their journeys walking/riding to and from school.

Children are NOT permitted to use the smart watch or mobile phone whilst at school. If this does occur, our policy states that the child is no longer allowed to bring the phone or wear the smart watch to school.

### **Online Safety**

Throughout the colder months we often spend more time inside and online gaming can be a part of our activities. The following site gives some wonderful tips about when children play online with other people. Players sometimes can be mean, rude or say some hurtful things and how to deal with it can be confusing. Sadly, bullying can happen in games too. However, there is so much to do, see and explore when playing a well-developed, educational and creative online game. It can be fun to learn new things and to solve problems. The link below is a small clip that explains what children can do should this occur to them while gaming.

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids/issues/online-gaming-bullyin>

Parents need to ensure children are playing age-appropriate games and are supervised at all times.

### **Kindergarten 2024 Enrolments**

These are now open although they will be closing soon. You can collect an enrolment package from the school office.

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

### **Assistant Principal's Message**

Student led conferences.

On Monday 26th June we will host our student led conferences. This will be a pupil free day. On Monday 5th June, times will be made available on Compass for parents to book in for these conferences. Parents are asked to book in a time and bring their child in to school for the 15-minute conference. Parents who do not book in a suitable time on Compass will be allocated a time by the classroom teacher.

Children will lead the conference, speaking about their current learning goals and the steps they are taking to try and achieve these goals. Teachers will assist the children to have these learning conversations. Please look for the list of possible parent questions that are attached to this newsletter. These will help you participate in this learning conversation with your child and their teacher.

We are looking forward to sharing in this valuable learning discussion time with you and your child. Please note that conferences will be strictly 15 minutes duration. Teachers will be timing the sessions to ensure all families get their allocated time. If you have any questions about the conferences or how they will run, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon

Assistant Principal

## Religious Education Coordinator's Message

### Mercy Pillar- Compassion

Rosary Park is founded on the Mercy tradition and holds the Mercy Pillars at the centre of our school life. Each fortnight we, as a school, focus on one of these pillars aligned to our school rule focus for the fortnight. These rules are explicitly taught during the fortnight and teachers place an increased emphasis on rewarding children with Gotchas for demonstrating the focus rule. One student from each class is recognised for displaying the mercy pillar at our school assembly on a Friday and receives the mercy award.

For weeks 7 and 8, the Mercy Pillar focus will be Compassion. Compassion means we care about others, treat them with kindness, and feel a strong desire to help people in need.

Questions you might like to ask your child:

1. How do you show compassion?
2. Have you seen other people showing compassion?
3. What did Jesus say about compassion?
4. How did Jesus show compassion?
5. What way can you show the value of compassion this week?

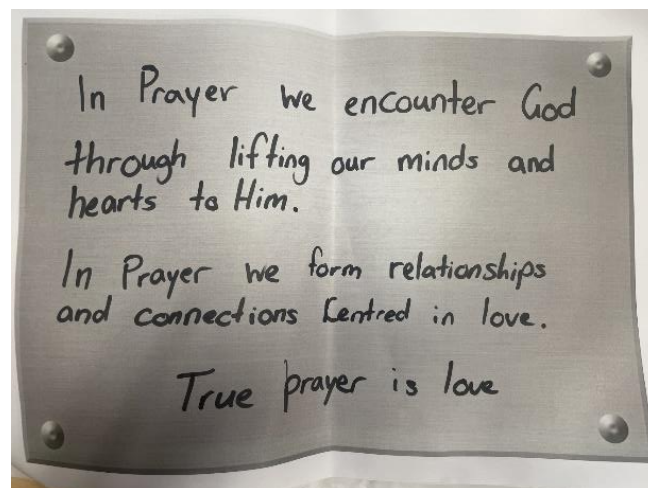
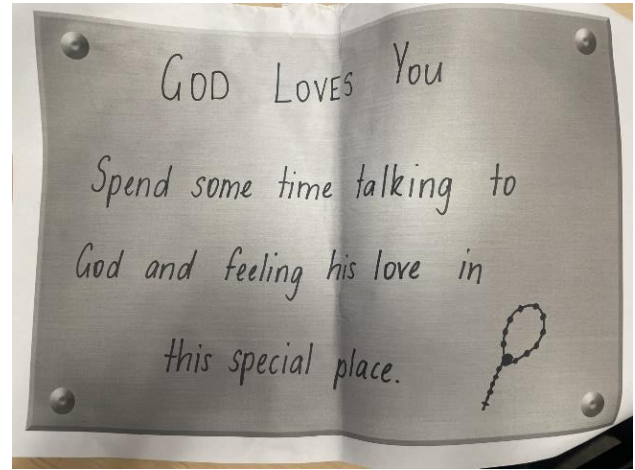
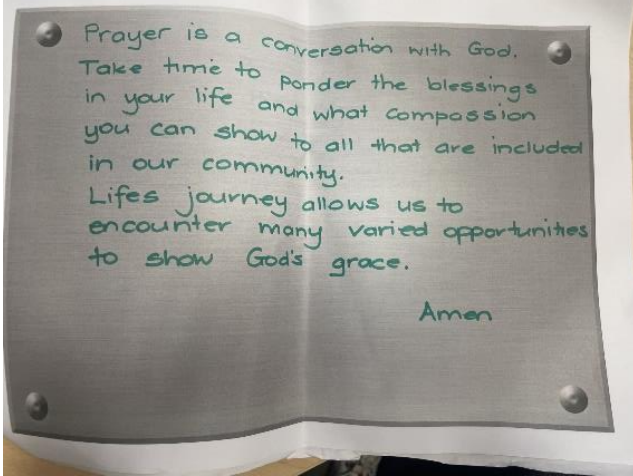
More information on the Mercy Pillars can be found via this link <https://www.mercy.edu.au/resources/values>

Each grade is given one of the Mercy pillars to focus on throughout the year and learn in depth. Year 2 have the mercy pillar compassion and have created a 'compassion garden'. Each time a student shows compassion they are encouraged to get a flower pedal and write their name and what they did to show compassion.



## Faith Formation:

Last Friday all staff participated in a faith formation day facilitated by Ryan Gato from the RE team at the CSO. The day was focused on prayer. At the end of the day staff had to work in small groups to collaborate and create a definition of prayer. See below photos of what RP staff believe prayer is.



## Family Mass 17th June

St Brigid's Church Branxton invites all Rosary Park families to attend a special family Mass on Saturday 17th June 2023 at 6pm. It would be lovely to have as many families as possible join us for Mass on the night!

## Wildlife Wednesday

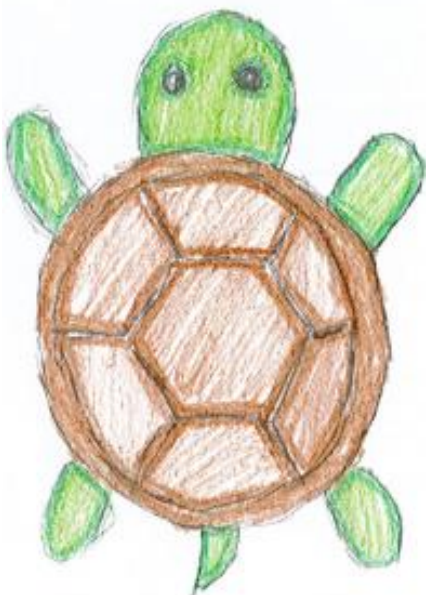
On Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June we will be holding Wildlife Wednesday to raise money for the Sealife Shelter. You can send your donation in on the day, or it has been placed on QKR for you to use. Please see the poster for the day following.

Wild-life  
Wednesday

Wild-life  
Wednesday will  
be on in week 7  
well being week.

We will run  
a colouring-in  
Competition and  
you will need  
to bring 50c  
to do a colouring.

The money  
we raise  
will go to  
the **Sealife Shelter**



You can wear  
the colours **Green,**  
**Blue, Yellow** for a  
dollar coin donation



### Spelling and Maths Bee at Rosary Park!

A spelling bee is a contest in which participants are asked to spell words in a round-robin format, where each person gets a turn to spell a word that is suitable for his or her level. Spelling Bees are a fun and easy way to engage children in the learning process, to help develop their spelling and vocabulary, and to give them the confidence to test their skills against their peers, in a friendly competition.

In a maths bee, students are asked to answer a series of maths questions in a round-robin format, similar to the spelling bee. Each round focuses on a different topic, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and whole number.

Over the past two weeks, students at Rosary Park have had an opportunity to participate in both the spelling and maths bee in the following ways:

1. **Class Level:** Students completed a short spelling and maths test to determine the top 6-10 children in their grade. These children participated in a grade spelling and maths bee, with the top 2 children progressing onto the stage level.
2. **Stage Level:**  
Early Stage 1 -Kindergarten competed against each other  
Stage 1 - Year 1 and Year 2 competed against each other  
Stage 2 - Year 3 and Year 4 competed against each other  
Stage 3 - Year 5 & Year 6 competed against each other.

Congratulations to the following students who were finalists in their class and competed at stage level in our school spelling bee!

<b>Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)</b>	<b>Stage 1 (Year 1, 2)</b>	<b>Stage 2 (Year 3, 4)</b>	<b>Stage 3 (Year 5, 6)</b>
Makayla C	Charlie D	Elke B	Elara B
Madi N	Ari S	Lachlan B	Evie M
	Landyn W	Jema M	Joel C
	Jaxon C	Sam J	Will L

Congratulations to the following students who were finalists in their class and competed at stage level in our school maths bee!

<b>Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)</b>	<b>Stage 1 (Year 1, 2)</b>	<b>Stage 2 (Year 3, 4)</b>	<b>Stage 3 (Year 5, 6)</b>
Indy M	Harrison A	Levi C	Jaegar D
James L	Hunter A	Flynn C	Tyler S
	Arielle F	Sam J	Joel C
	Jack C	Darcy H	Holly W

**Congratulations to our winners who will have the opportunity to participate in the Regional Competition at Our Lady of Lourdes, Tarro on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Maths</b>
Stage 1	Jaxon C	Arielle F
Stage 2	Sam J	Sam J
Stage 3	Evie M	Joel C

Congratulations also to our Kinder winners, who do not go through to Regional level:

- Madi N and James L

**If students are successful at the Regional Level, they may progress to the Diocesan Level:** The Diocesan Spelling and Maths Bee Final will be held Term 2, Week 9 – **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023** at **St Catherine's College, Singleton.**

## Library News

Dear Parents/Carers

Book Club Issue 4 is now available for ordering online. There are some really fun reads fun this edition to add to your child's home library!

All orders must be placed via LOOP by Monday 5/6 by 2.30pm.

Happy Reading  
Erin Dewey  
Library Assistant



**HOW TO PAY** This offer is subject to Scholastic's delivery of the order of products to its carrier. The items purchased through this Book Club offer may not be revised. Teachers are acting in the best interest of their students, they are not agents or representatives of Scholastic Book Clubs.

- 1 CREDIT CARD** To pay by credit card, visit [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://scholastic.com.au/LOOP) OR download the **LOOP** app. Your order will be electronically linked to the rest of your school's order. You do not need to complete the order form.
- 2 CASH** If your school accepts cash payments, please enclose cash with completed order form and return to your school.
- 3 CREDIT VOUCHER** If paying with a credit voucher, please enter details on **LOOP** or return to your school with your cash order.

## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards.

Week ending 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Week 3)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>			
<b>Kinder White</b>	Charlie L	Mason B	Carter M
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Aiden L	Piper R	Jenson F
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Thomas E	Tony P	Matilda C
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Emily S	Willow J	Hudson L
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Hendrix B	Alfie T	Zoe H
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Hannah C	Max K	Hugo S
<b>Year 3 White</b>			
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Kingsley J	Aleah D	Lilly S
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Nevaeh D	Jacob L	Johnny N
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Flynn R	Sam R	Aubree C
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Nevada A	Rose D	Aria B
<b>Year 6 Blue</b>	Brooklyn O	Robert C	Lisa O
<b>Year 6 White</b>	Cohan Y	Lily A	Lina P

Week ending 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Week 4)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Lincoln H	Marshall C	Evie E
<b>Kinder White</b>	Abbey A	Bonnie D	Myla w
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Hunter A-L	Eli B	Stella G
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Kenny A	Vinnie L	Bronson Q
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Reid E		Vy n
<b>Year 2 White</b>			
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Frances M	Amarlie K	Blake C
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Liam R	Linda P	Lachlan b
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Karmichael A	Samantha F	Luke W
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Sophie C	Darcy H	Cooper C
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Korban L	Jaegar D	Rubi B
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Harry W	Cameron D	Tyler S
<b>Year 6 Blue</b>	Stella W	Lara D	Lilah B
<b>Year 6 White</b>	Shonoa A	Isabelle W	Chelsea S

### **Principal's Awards:**

Sawyer D, Lleyton L, Archer K, Charlize L, Theo C, Jayden M, Hugh M, Addison S, Robert C, Jaxon C, Annabelle L, Bryce B, Charlie D, Jaiden X, Nevaeh D, Max K, Sam R, Jett I, Bailey C, Lylah H, Indy M

### **Catholic Schools Week Mass**



Our school leaders represented their school beautifully when attending the Catholic School Week Mass on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

## FREE COMMUNITY FILM NIGHT

Cessnock Council has a free community film night that may be of interest to families.

The film is 'Together We Grow', an inspiring story about building a local, resilient community. There will be free nibbles at the event, as well as a Q & A session about how we can work to establish a local, thriving community in Cessnock.

**Less is more**  
Embracing a simpler way of living

**HAPPEN FILMS.**

# TOGETHER WE GROW

Watch 'Together We Grow' (2022)  
and stay for a Q&A discussion

**FREE FILM NIGHT**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**  
4993 4266

**THE REMAKERY**

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT THRIVE**

**Thursday 22 June 2023**

**Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC)**  
198 Vincent Street, Cessnock

**5:00pm** Finger food  
**5:45pm** Film starts

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

NSW  
CESSNOCK COUNCIL

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