



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 4 2023
Thursday 10th August

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

P: (02) 4938 1541 E: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

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

AUGUST		AUGUST	
Fri 11 th	Athletics Assembly @ 2pm No award given out – Principal's only	Thurs 31 st	Years 1 & 5 Attend Mass @ 9:15am. All Welcome
Tues 15 th	Years 4 – 6 Road & Cyber Safety with Senior Constable Michael Steele	SEPTEMBER	
Fri 18 th	Yr 3 – Taronga Zoo Excursion	Fri 1 st	Father's Day Breakfast – 7:30am NO CANTEEN
Tues 22 nd	Public Speaking - Abermain	Tues 5 th	Yr4 Dirt Detectives Excursion - Sydney
Mon 28 th	Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day	Sat 9 th	Branxton Holy Communion – 6pm
Tues 29 th	Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day	Tues 12 th	Whole School Concert @ CPAC 2 performances 5pm & 6:45pm

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 6th December 2022 – Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner – 5pm

Friday 8th December 2023 – End of Year Awards – 9:45am

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

Last week the Pope gave the opening address to the youth gathered to launch World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal- 334, 000 pilgrims were gathered to hear him speak. His message of '**everyone is welcome, and everyone is loved by God**' mirrored the talk and homily of Archbishop Fisher (Archbishop of Sydney) at the event. An important message that we should regularly reinforce for ourselves and our children, and one Jesus shared widely throughout the scriptures.

Working Together

At Rosary Park, we recognise and respect parents and carers as being the 'the first and principal educators' of your children. As such, we seek to engage all parents and carers in the life of our school community, and to ensure the relationship we develop with you is strong and collaborative.

One of the ways that we aim to foster family engagement within our school community is through our P & F Association. The P & F Association meets twice per term, and all parents and carers are encouraged to attend. P & F forums provide a wonderful opportunity for parents, carers, and staff to come together in a productive partnership to support the best possible outcomes for our students.

At the most recent meeting, the school's canteen operations were discussed, and as a result those present had input into a new approach that will be trialled from next week (14/8). The weekly roster will be staffed by grade volunteers (1 on Mondays and 2 on Fridays).

As the trial progresses, I welcome feedback from our entire school community including students, parents, carers and staff, based on their experience of the proposed model. Please note that as the canteen is run by the school and not the P & F Association, if you have feedback that you would like to share, it is best sent directly to the school at admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au. At the next P & F meeting (Tuesday 5/9), I will table a summary of feedback received on the trial. By working together, I am confident we can ensure our canteen is a sustainable service that meets the needs of our entire school community.

I firmly believe that we are stronger as a school community when we work together, and that parental input enriches the work that our staff undertake in supporting all students to thrive. I also understand that as much as you might like to, it is not always possible for parents and carers to attend P & F meetings. As such, this is a friendly reminder that while our P & F is highly valued by our entire school community, P & F meetings are not the only forum available to you to share your ideas on school-related matters.

I welcome the opportunity to hear from parents and carers directly, whether it be with compliments, constructive ideas on how you think the school could approach things differently or, even grievances. By coming to me in the first instance, often I can work more swiftly if there are areas of immediate concern or, even support you to deliver your ideas to the broader school community.

If you do want to reach out to me, in the first instance please email admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au. This email address is regularly monitored and will ensure you receive a response within 2 business days, even if I am on leave and unable to personally get back to you straight away.

Safeguarding information 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.

Rosary Park has implemented a Safeguarding Promoter to ensure that our families are provided with information about the schools' approach to safeguarding children and its compliance with the Church and State child safe Standards. Sallyanne Stanbridge is currently in this position.

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. When determining how serious your concerns for a child may be, always consider whether that child has any particular risk factors, including:

- age, the younger the more dependent
- physical disabilities, developmental delays or medical conditions
- social isolation
- culturally diverse background
- diverse sexuality and gender
- nobody looking out for the child they could depend on.

It is better to be safe than sorry, so if uncertain, talk to a staff member at the school. As parents you are entitled to contact the Office of Safeguarding directly about any concerns you have about the safety, welfare, or wellbeing of a child or if you are concerned that the school isn't addressing allegations of reportable conduct or abuse. (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri).

Here's how we celebrated recent cultural events. As a school, we held our Indigenous Games where children participated in traditional games. They also learnt more about first nations cultures and histories.



Rights of the Child

As with all peoples, children have human rights across the full spectrum of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights.

Because children are recognised as having inherent needs and dependencies, they also have particular rights. Both the Commonwealth of Australia and the Vatican (Holy See) ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 1990, this is the central international instrument that underpins both Australia's and the Church's approach to safeguarding children.

The Australian Human Rights Commission's child friendly summary of children's rights state that children.

1. be treated fairly no matter what
2. have a say about decisions affecting them
3. live and grow up healthy
4. have people do what is best for them
5. know who they are and where they come from
6. believe what they want
7. privacy
8. find out information and express themselves
9. be safe
10. be cared for and have a home
11. education, play and cultural activities
12. help and protection if they need it.

Child Protection

As a staff our duty of care is always to maintain the safety and wellbeing of our children. If as a parent, you are sending another person to pick up your child early from school (who is not listed on our records as an emergency contact) please notify the office staff beforehand that this is happening. If we do not have this information, our office staff will need to call the parent to verify this person's identity. Thank you in anticipation for your cooperation with this to maintain our children's safety and wellbeing.

Road Safety

I refer you to the attached document reminding your child of safety when riding their bikes. As the weather starts to warm up, we will have more children riding to and from school, so it is important that you remind them of their safety on the road. On 15 August, Snr Constable Michael Steele (Police Liaison officer) will attend Rosary Park to talk to years 4-6 children on cyber safety and road safety.

Staffing

Joshua Garnsey has resigned from his Religious Education Co-Ordinator role at Rosary Park. In addition, Brienna Vollmer and Brittany Reynolds have resigned from their teaching positions. All these positions will be advertised in coming weeks, for 2024 commencement.

School Concert

Rosary Park will hold its biannual whole school concert on Tuesday 12 September at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre (CPAC). Kate Burgess our RFF Creative Arts teacher has been busily preparing this for us, from writing a script to teaching dances to all grades and training our actors for their parts.

Costume requirements have now been sent to all parents. These are to be sent to school in a clearly labelled bag by MONDAY 28 AUGUST.

There will be 2 performances on 12 September. These are 5pm and 6:45pm

Children are required to stay backstage with staff between the 2 performances on the night of the 12th and parents will be responsible for packing snacks etc for them to eat backstage between the 2 performances.

Tickets are \$20 each and available through the ticket office of CPAC.

On Monday 11th all students will travel by bus during school hours to CPAC for a rehearsal and to familiarize them with the venue.

Remembering Zane

Last Friday 5 August we held a liturgy with our year 4 children for the first anniversary of Zane Slomka's passing. Zane was a year 3 student of Rosary Park when he died on 5/8/22 following a 9-month battle with brain cancer. His friends wanted goal posts made in his memory for our playground given his love of rugby league. These have now been erected in our playground and at the conclusion of last week's liturgy his year 4 friends loved trying them out for the first time doing what Zane loved so much- playing rugby league!

Covid Funding

The Federal Government recently announced that they are again extending their round of Covid Intensive Learning Support funding until the end of the year. Whilst there are tight restrictions around how this money is to be used, it is good news for schools, including Rosary Park as we will be able to better support the needs of our children with increased learning Support time.

Father's Day

We are pleased to be able to hold our Father's Day breakfast from 7:30am on Friday 1 September. This will be bacon and egg rolls for dads and granddads, toast/juice for children. Invitations to follow soon.

Student Leadership Policy

As well as being a buddy for our new Kinders, year 5 children will in coming weeks prepare for 2024 leadership opportunities. The main principles of our Student Leadership policy are:

-In order to encourage a more shared approach to leadership and service amongst our senior (year 6) children, our policy requires that year 6 children join one of four teams. This will not be compulsory for all students however it will be for those who wish to run for election as a school leader. Throughout the year, they will meet as a team with the school executive/teacher in charge of this team, to discuss issues and organise school initiatives.

-Students elected as leaders of these four teams, following the delivery of a speech and voting by children in grades 2-5, would form the leadership team at Rosary Park. All students wishing to run for a school leadership position will prepare their one-minute speech at school with support and input from year 5 teachers, to ensure a fair and equitable process.

-Election of sports leaders remains the same, where students running for this position deliver a speech to their house colour peers and children in Years 2-5 vote. Students may wish to run for a formal student leader role and a sport leader role. Their success as a student leader would take precedence over the sport leader role.

-School and sports leaders are announced at the end of year Liturgy.

Kind regards,

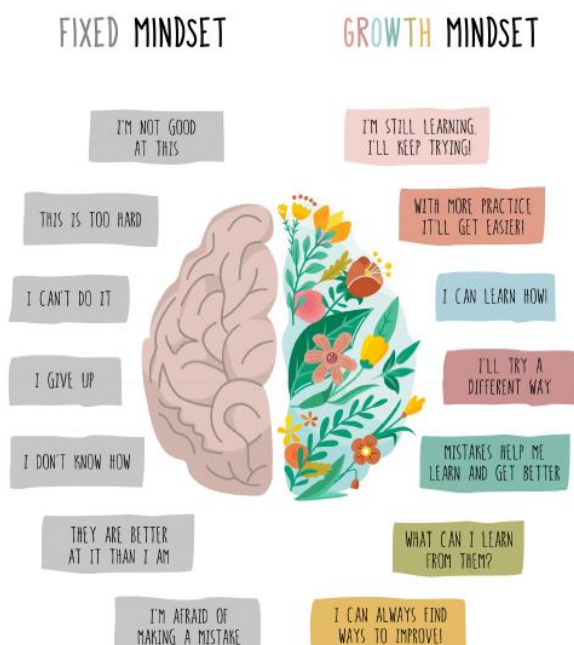
Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal Message

Promoting Wellbeing

GROWTH MINDSET

SUCCESS BEGINS WITH BELIEVING YOU CAN



The staff have recently participated in a 40-hour face to face and online learning module on supporting student wellbeing and mental health. Our recent pupil free day gave staff some of the time to complete this course. Whilst we already had many processes in place in classrooms and as a school, it has helped us to formulate a whole school approach to supporting our students' wellbeing.

In classrooms we will be focusing on having a growth mindset. This helps children to accept that tasks will sometimes be challenging, however with perseverance and effort, children can succeed beyond what they feel they are capable of today.

One important way to see this is through the power of "yet!" In class, when a child says, "I can't do this," we add the word "YET!"

Other activities that can happen in class include meditations, reflections and prayerful opportunities. Children are responding well to this quiet time in class, and it helps them to settle back into the classroom after a busy break time to ready themselves for learning. Many teachers are using resources from the "Smiling Minds" website for these activities. These resources are free, and they offer ideas and suggestions for activities to focus on at home. I have included the link if you would like to try some activities at home.

<https://www.smilingmind.com.au>

We also have options for organised play/activities to support children during break times. These include active games organised by our Yr 6 Active Lifestyle Team, computers in the library, quiet games and activities in the white demountable and regular art and spiritual activities organised by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teacher.

"Wellbeing Week," which occurs in week 7 each term also provides opportunities for us as a school to focus on our wellbeing. During this week children have no set homework, fun

BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF

YET

I can't do this **YET**

I don't understand this **YET**

I'm not good at this **YET**

This doesn't make sense **YET**

It doesn't work **YET**

activities are organised with a focus on enjoyment and engagement. We encourage families to organise time to do things that they enjoy together during this week as well.

Student Leadership Team Meetings

This week our year 6 teams have met with their teacher leader to discuss ideas and initiatives they have for the school. The four teams, Active Lifestyle, Environmental, PBL and Mercy Teams meet with a teacher during a break time to put forward ideas and suggestions they have. The leaders of these teams, our four school leaders, then take these suggestions to Ms Stanbridge in a leadership meeting. This helps to give our students a voice on the activities and initiatives we focus on here at Rosary Park. It also allows our leaders, and all year 6 children to take an active leadership role at school and builds their leadership capacity.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon

Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Last Friday 4th August we held a liturgy with Year 4 children and families for the first anniversary of Zane Slomka's passing. It was a beautiful morning and in Zane's memory we now have goal posts on the playground.

You may like to use the following reflection to spark a conversation with your child about remembering our loved ones in Heaven.

Bubbles are magical. They make us smile. They make us giggle. They remind us of simple joys and simple times. Bubbles are brief. They are here for just a moment, sparkling, bouncing, shimmering. Then having completed their task, they are gone. Left behind is the memory of the joy and the experience. So, as we watch these bubbles dancing in the air, let us be thankful for Zane's time on earth. While it makes us sad to not have him in our world, we can remember this sparkling life that bounced through your lives and left memories that will stay with us forever.





Parish Mass:

This term it has been wonderful to see all our classes attend our local parish on a Thursday for Mass. The children show reverence in the church and for many are learning the order of Mass.

Families are invited to join as on Thursday the 30th of August at 9.20am for mass. This will take place at our local parish St Brigid's Bransford. Year 1 and Year 5 classes will be attending.



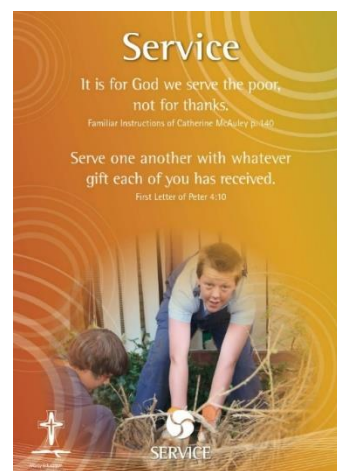
PBL and Mercy:

Each fortnight we have a significant focus on one of our school expectations and the corresponding Mercy Pillar. Currently, children are asked to focus on showing service by using the correct body language.

Service is a Gospel Value about honoring God and others. What are your gifts and talents and how can you employ them in the service of others?

Jesus modelled honourable servant leadership. How can you live the Gospel call to service:

- At home
- At school
- At work
- In community groups.



Mary MacKillop Feast Day:

This week we gathered to remember and celebrate the life of our patron Saint Mary MacKillop. Mary MacKillop was a woman of faith and commitment. She spent her life helping the poor, underprivileged and anyone in need. Mary placed all her trust in God, encouraging others to do likewise. We learn from St Mary of the Cross to live for others, finding the presence of Jesus in each and every person.



God Bless,
Mackenzie Gageler
Religious Coordinator

Sporting News

Congratulations to the following students who have made it through to the Polding Athletics Carnival which will be held on 13th October at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre: Jesse C, Cohan Y, Annie H and Will M. Rosary Park community wish you all the best.

Soccer Gala Day:

Stage 2: Week 7 Monday 28th August (Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility).

Stage 3: Week 7 Tuesday 29th August (Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility).

Mackenzie Gageler
Sports Coordinator

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending Friday 21st July 2023 (Week 1)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	--	--	--
Kinder White	Donnie B	Connor T	Abbey A
Year 1 Blue	Dominic P	Nick L	Grayson B
Year 1 White	Thomas E	Teagan S	Brooklyn Y
Year 2 Blue	Willow J	Finn M	Kade B
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Frances M	Max K	Tao D
Year 3 White	Noah R	Fletcher B	Emmett C
Year 4 Blue	Eyden G	Karmichael A	Samantha F
Year 4 White	Johnny N	Sylvester R	Mikayla G
Year 5 Blue	Riley M	Sam R	Scarlett T
Year 5 White	Tyler S	Charlie B	Marley G
Year 6 Blue	Cooper T	Lisa O	Cade L
Year 6 White	Bailey C	Victoria A	Lily A

Week ending Friday 28th July 2023 (Week 2)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue			
Kinder White	Stella M	Lylah H	
Year 1 Blue	Dominic P	Maisy C	Eli B
Year 1 White	Tristan C	Alfred W	
Year 2 Blue	Lexi B	Jack C	Jaxon C
Year 2 White	Allie D	Anderson P	Zoe H
Year 3 Blue	Hudson W	Hugo S	Jaxon B
Year 3 White	Aria G	Ella Y	Jackson A
Year 4 Blue	Chase R	Laylah K	Logan C
Year 4 White	Isla F	Charli F	Darby T
Year 5 Blue	Lachlan M	Sharni L	Lewis C
Year 5 White	Brooklyn J	Rae K	Phoebe C
Year 6 Blue	Brody B	Layla H	Asha M
Year 6 White	Lily A	Archer K	Ella G

Principal's Awards

Road safety



Wearing helmets and riding safely

Wearing helmets

Your child must wear a helmet when riding a bike in any public place – it's the law. The helmet must comply with the Australian and New Zealand standards and needs to be securely fitted and fastened on your child's head. It should be buckled firmly so it fits without wobbling or slipping to the sides.

Always remember to check that your child is wearing a helmet whenever they're playing or riding on wheels –

- Bikes
- Foot scooters
- Rollerskates
- Skateboards
- Rollerblades.

Riding safely

Although children quickly learn to pedal, steer and brake, they aren't ready to cycle near traffic or on the road. Until they are at least 10 years old, your child should ride off-road away from vehicles and driveways.

The safest places to ride bikes, scooters and skateboards are within fenced areas. This helps your child from riding or falling onto the footpath or the road. Children under 16 and their

accompanying supervising adult riders may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting cycling. Riders need to take special care at driveways where vehicles may be driving in or out.

At intersections, riders must dismount and wheel the bicycle across the road as a pedestrian, following the **STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!** procedure.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au

Messages to share with your children in Kindergarten to Year 4

- Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate
- Ride your bike away from the roads

Messages to share with your children in Years 5 and 6

- Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate
- Ride your bike away from busy roads

www.safetytown.com.au



SUNDAY
10 SEPT 2023
9.30am-4pm

OUR BUSHLAND FESTIVAL

FOOD
BUSHWALKS
LOCAL ART
& CRAFTS
TALKS

Poppethead Park, KITCHENER

A full day of fun for everyone with:

- Aussie Ark Tassie Devil Joeys
- Free Face Painting and Craft Activities
- Guided Bush Walks
- Informative Display Stalls
- Market Stalls & Food Vendors
- Fun Activities and Mini-Workshops Just for Kids
- Spotlighting – bookings required (Saturday evening)

MUSIC

performances by:

- Melody Pool
- The Lairs
- 24 Strings
- Fish Fry



Scan for more information
and to book spotlighting



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KIDS

TALENT
Time



MONDAY 28th AUGUST FROM 7PM

We are looking for talented youngster singers and musicians. Have you own band? We want to hear from you. Open to everyone under 18.

Send your audition tapes to info@huntleetauern.com.au

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www.huntleetauern.com.com



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