

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 2 2023
Thursday 19th October

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 2022

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

OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
Fri 20 th	Colour Run	Thur 16 th	School Disco
Fri 27 th	Stage 2 & 3 Netball Gala Day Maitland	DECEMBER	
Tue 31 st – Fri 3 rd	Bookfair	Mon 4 th	Step Up Morning for 2024 Classes
NOVEMBER		Wed 6 th	Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner 5pm
Fri 3 rd	Vocab Dress Up Day	Fri 8 th	End of Year Awards 9:45am
Wed 8 th	Years 1 & 2 Tag Gala Day Cessnock	Mon 11 th	Swimming Carnival – for swimmers 8 years and over
Fri 10 th	Year 6 Transition Day at St Joseph's	Fri 15 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 4 & 2023
Mon 13 th	Remembrance Day 10:45am All welcome		

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2024:

Thursday 1st February 2024 Year 1-6 return to school
Monday 5th February 2024 Kindergarten students begin.
Wednesday 20th March 2024 School Photos

There are **NO** Pupil Free Days for Term 4.

Principal's Message

The Lord is your guard and your shade; at your right hand he stands.

The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul.

The Lord will guard your going and coming

Both now and forever

(Psalm 120 verse 2)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our final term for 2023.

End of year awards

Our end of year awards, liturgy, and announcement of our 2024 leaders will take place in our school hall on Friday 8th December at 9:45am.

As we do as a Catholic community, we will begin with a liturgy to celebrate all the blessings bestowed on us throughout our 2023 school year. This will also include the naming of our 2024 school and sports leaders (from our year 6 2024 cohort).

As is our practice at Rosary Park grade (K-6) teachers will then give out awards to selected children in their class. Year 6 awards will be given out at their graduation. These awards are presented for:

*Faith and Service Award (Rosary Park medal awarded to two children/class each year):

Knowing what it means to be a child of God and demonstrating this through their actions.

*Rosary Park Award for Learning (Rosary Park medal awarded to two children/class each year):

Recognising students that use their strengths and gifts as a learner – letting their light shine as a learner in any Key Learning Area (KLA-subject) at any level. This award focuses on growth, persistence, and grit. These award recipients are **NOT** necessarily the best academic achievers in their class but more those children who work consistently and persistently to achieve their personal best.

Parents, grandparents, and friends are welcome to join us for this celebration on 8th December. We will contact families of awards recipients before the day (NOT those receiving a student leader role for 2024) so that they can attend this event if they wish. These parents will be given priority seating on the day as will year 5 parents whose children are part of leadership nominations (2 seats/child).

Obviously, seating will be at a premium so we will prioritise families whose children are receiving awards and we will live stream the event and provide seating for extended family members and friends in classrooms on this day, so the event can be viewed 'live' at the school or at home.

We ask for parents and families understanding and flexibility with this as we cannot accommodate all parents in the Hall/COLA area.

Rosary Park Building Works

In exciting news, today our stage 4 building works (the final 2 classrooms) commenced, and we hope for its completion by the end of Term 1 2024. The first part of the project will be the fencing off of the building site. We will have restrictions on playground space during this time but

nevertheless in coming months we will have all new buildings throughout our school. Trucks will access the site via the staff car park gates.

National Children's Week

Children's Week is a national celebration of children's rights, talents and citizenship. The Children's Week National Theme for 2023 is based on Article 31 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): **Children have the right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of leisure activities.**

Acknowledging and celebrating Children's Week aims to highlight children and young people's right to play, rest, engage in cultural life, the arts and recreational activities and the fundamental role it has in their learning. This project was initiated to support the implementation of the Wellbeing Framework and Early Learning philosophy that advocates for student voice and agency in the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Children's Week is in **Week 3, Term 4 from Saturday 21st - Sunday 29th October 2023.**

As a parent, see some ideas here on how you can celebrate Children's week with their child - <https://www.nswchildrensweek.org.au/ideas-for-adults>

Staffing 2024

Grace Dever and Ellen Rae will teach Kindergarten in 2024.

Congratulations to Alanna Seysener and her husband Jonathon on the birth of a daughter Mila Jade on 20 September.

Karen Forbes has resigned from EALD (English As additional Language or Dialect) as she will be moving to the Northern Territory in January.

Elisha Ayton has resigned from her canteen Co-Ordinator role, and will finish in the role at the end of this year.

Classes 2024

There will be fourteen classes at Rosary Park in 2024. We will have two classes per grade for Kindergarten to year 6.

In coming weeks, teachers will begin the process of allocating students to their 2024 classes. This is a well thought out process based on academic, social, and emotional needs. If you have a specific concern or request to make in relation to your child's class placement for 2024 that is based on your child's specific educational needs, please address this to me in writing (via email: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au) by **Friday 10 November**. Every consideration will be given to requests made that are based on student well-being.

Thank you in advance for trusting the staff to make careful, considered decisions and be guided by the expertise and advice of your child's current teacher as to what is best in an educational context for your child. Your child's class and teacher for 2024 will be sent home later in term 4 and these placements will be final.

As is our practice at Rosary Park on Monday 4 December we will hold our Step Up morning so that children spend some time meeting their new teacher and classmates for 2024. This includes new staff who are included in this meeting. Additional supports are also put in place for those children who may need it, so that the transition to their new class is as smooth as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this.

As we begin setting classes for 2024, if you are moving your child/ren to another school for 2024, please make us aware of this as soon as possible as we have enrolment inquiries from new families for 2024.

Safe and Respectful Peer Relationships



The Kids Helpline website has a number of great resources that are child friendly to help support safe and respectful relationships. Some topics

include:

- Fights with friends
- Bullying is not ok
- Making friends
- Being ok with being different
- How to be happy being yourself
- My friends are fighting
- Wanting to fit in
- Treating others well

Please take some time to show your child the Kids Helpline website so they can learn to navigate through these resources should they ever want to know more information on some of these topics or others. - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids/issues>

Australia World Teacher's Day- 27 October 2023

<https://worldteachersday.edu.au/>

World Teacher's Day

Quality teaching is at the heart of our work. We continue to reflect on our practices and develop our expertise so we can better educate, inspire and support our students and make them feel safe.

As Principal I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the dedicated teachers and support staff at Rosary Park who work so hard to support our children and their families every day. It is my privilege to lead such a wonderful team.

Rosary Park Bushfire Survival Plan

Our school is in a bushfire prone area. As a result, we have a clearly defined bushfire survival plan, attached to this newsletter. The plan has been developed in consultation with NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Services, local Police and the Safety and Wellness team from the Catholic Diocese. Copies of this plan have been provided to these organisations.

As the plan outlines, it follows these principles in the event of a bushfire:

1. Evacuate
2. Shelter onsite in the hall.
3. Evacuation to St Nicholas Centre Branxton if we cannot remain in hall
4. Evacuation to Branxton Golf Club

It is important that you consider as part of this plan, how you would collect your child from Rosary Park at short notice, if this plan was to be enacted.

As part of this plan, the school follows a strict maintenance plan where surrounding scrub (Asset Protection Zone- outside of the school boundaries) is cleared annually as well as the guttering and downpipes. Arborists monitor trees on site on an annual basis as well as ongoing grounds maintenance to reduce undergrowth fuel load on the site.

Our school practices regular lockdown and evacuation procedures (every term), as well as visits from the local fire brigade. Children are also familiarised with fire safety through lessons in the Personal Development Health Physical Education Syllabus.

Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourself with this document to prioritise the safety of all in our school community. It is important that you give consideration as to how you would collect your child in the event of a bushfire evacuation.

Mobile Phones at School

As our Mobile phone policy states, if children need a mobile phone at school for safety when travelling to/from school, it is to be kept in their school bag for the entire day. Our policy remains that if you need to get a message to your child about travel arrangements, you are to do this via the office staff. Once again, our preference is that smart watches are left at home, however, if your child must wear one to school, the mobile phone facility must be de-activated or on 'do not disturb' for the duration of the school day. Thank you to the parents whose children are wearing these devices and have already done this. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Uniform Expectations

Whilst we are reaching the end of our school year, it is still important that we uphold our high standards of uniform. If your child has grown out of their school shoes it is expected that parents will provide the class teacher with a note of explanation.

As stated in our uniform policy, socks are to be plain with NO brand names. Sports shoes are to be predominantly white.

Hair is always to be tidy and pulled back (this includes boys with longer hair). If a child wants a mullet haircut, it must not reach the collar and must be blended in. It cannot be cut very short over the ears etc. NO tracks, mohawks or patterns to be cut into the hair.

School Holiday Maintenance

As is always the case for us at Rosary Park, during the holidays, several items on our maintenance plan were addressed:

- Cleaning of all air conditioning filters (6 monthly service)
- Pest, snake, and rodent spraying/baits
- Cleaning of all carpets and hall floor
- Roof gutters (Year 1, 2, library, admin) cleaned out

All the above works carried out were funded by the school.

School Community Code of Conduct

In 2018 the Catholic Schools Office introduced a School Community Code of Conduct. This became part of the school enrolment application in 2018 and was also sent home to all families already members of Catholic School communities.

It is important that all members in our community are familiar with and follow these requirements.

Aggressive, confrontational, and threatening behaviour is unacceptable from or towards any member of our community and will not be tolerated.

Included in today's newsletter is a child friendly version of this code of conduct so that our children have an understanding of the appropriate support that is there for them, and how they can access this help should they need it.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

Welcome back to Term 4. One that will be extremely busy.

Standardised PAT Testing

Your child may come home in the next few weeks and tell you that they have completed some online testing. Children in years 1-6 will be completing testing in the areas of reading, maths and spelling. The ACER tests are standardised, norm referenced tests, which means that they give teachers lots of valuable information. Teachers gain a clear picture of which children are working at an appropriate level for their age, which concepts have been taught well across the grade, as well as areas that both individual and groups of children are struggling with. They also show if a child is growing in their skills from year to year and give an idea of how our school is achieving compared to other schools across the state.

Across our diocese, catholic schools complete the maths and reading tests. This year we have the option of choosing to do the standard maths and English test, or the adaptive one. The adaptive is aligned with the new NAPLAN testing style and allows students an individualised test whereby the questions will get progressively harder if the child is answering correctly, or easier until the child is actually able to answer correctly.

Each school is also invited to choose a third test that aligns with a school focus. At Rosary Park we are completing the spelling test as our chosen focus. This will help us with decision making around our explicit teaching of spelling across the grades.

Data is gathered from this testing for teachers and leaders to analyse growth, guide future learning and plan for improvement at a class, school and system level. Specific marks for these tests are not shared with parents, however significant areas of growth, strengths, or areas of need may be communicated by your child's teacher. If you have any questions regarding the PAT testing, please feel free to contact the school.

Teacher Release from Face to Face

Over the next few weeks, you may notice your child's teacher is not on class every day. There are a number of reasons that teachers have days in the office.

Firstly, we will be conducting PLT (Professional Learning Team) meetings and CMM (Case Management Meetings). These meetings are led by our pedagogical mentors and attended by the principal, learning support teacher and any other school personnel who might be able to help put strategies in place to help support a particular child's learning.

In PLT's we analyse both individual and whole class data to ensure we are following a continuum of continual improvement. This analysis of data allows us to reflect on our current realities and hold robust discussion around how we can refine classroom teaching and structures that will help improve student learning outcomes.

During our CMM's, we focus on the learning of one particular child. We bring in as many personnel as possible to discuss and identify the needs of the child and ensure we have plenty of ideas for strategies and support that will be written into a plan to ensure continued improvement for this specific child. Even though these meetings focus on one specific child, the strategies discussed often support the learning of a number of students with similar needs across a cohort of children.

Classroom teachers will also be using their allocation of release from face to face (RFF) days to collate data, moderate grades and write comments for the end of year reports.

Please know that wherever possible we attempt to maintain continuity with classroom casuals. In the current climate, with limited available casual teachers available, this is not always possible. Unfortunately, our current reality is that casuals are not generally available so if a teacher is sick, we often have no option than to split a class. In this instance, children are handed a booklet of relevant tasks across subjects, and they sit in small groups in other classrooms and independently work their way through the tasks that have been left for them.

Colour Run This Friday

Friday is our colour run. It will be a fun and exciting day for all involved! Just a few reminders to ensure the smooth running of the day. The children WILL GET WET and COLOUR STAINED!!

- Children should come to school dressed in a white t-shirt (or lighter coloured) if they have it as the colour will be more effective on white.
- It is our suggestion that children wear a pair of shorts other than their school sports shorts as the colour may stain.
- If your child owns old joggers or closed in shoes these may also be a better option, rather than wearing their white school sport shoes.
- As there will be water involved in the run, it is suggested that children bring a change of clothes (old ones) and a towel (that may end up colour stained) to clean themselves up for their journey home.
- Children will need a plastic bag to put wet/coloured clothes and towel in.
- There is powder involved, if your child is asthmatic, please ensure your child has their puffer on the day.

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Last Friday we celebrated our Lady of the Rosary feast day as well as Socktober. It was so wonderful to see so many students join in on the fun and activities we had planned. It was a very successful day and a massive thank you to all families who contributed to the activities and as a school we raised an incredible \$1,066.00. This money will be shared across two charities, with \$700.00 going towards Catholic Mission's Socktober and \$366.00 going to Mercy Works.

A huge thank you to all Year 4 parents and students who contributed to our cake stall, Stage 3 students and teachers who organised our tabloid games, Year 6 sport leaders and Mercy team for running our Socktober soccer. On Monday we held our whole school talent quest where 2 students from each grade participated in the final. Congratulations to the following students.

Infants:

1st Place: Year 2 dance group "I'm Still Standing".

2nd place: Addison K in Kindergarten singing.

3rd place: Year 2 dance group "Made you look"

Primary

1st place: Brooklyn O singing

2nd place: Year 4 dance group "Bang Bang"

3rd place: Emily A singing and Kai M guitar

Parish Mass:

This term all grades except year 3 due to their RFF lessons occurring at this time will be attending our parish Mass on a Thursday at 9.20am.

Parish Mass Thursday's Term 4	
Week and Date	Grade
Thursday 9 th November Week 5	Year 2 and 4
Thursday 16 th November Week 6	Kinder and Year 6
Thursday 30 th November Week 8	Year 1 and Year 5

Many thanks,

Mackenzie Gageler



Primary Coordinator News

Year 5 Leadership Information.

Our student Leadership structure at Rosary Park is firmly based on the work of our founding sisters of Mercy whose vocation was based on service. A copy of this policy and procedure is attached to today's newsletter. I ask you to familiarise yourself with this document if your year 5 child wishes to pursue a leadership role in 2024. The relevant forms were sent home with your child on Monday 16 following Ms Stanbridge's meeting with year 5 which outlined our expectations of leaders at Rosary Park. These are due back at school by **Monday 23rd of October**.

The student leadership procedure requires year 5 students who wish to run for a formal student leader role in 2024 to join one of our four teams. (Positive behaviour for learning, Mercy, Environmental and Active Lifestyle). All year 5 children are encouraged to join one of these teams.

To prepare for their leadership opportunities, all year 5 children will participate in a leadership day on Monday 23rd October facilitated by our Religious Education Coordinator Mackenzie Gageler and Primary Coordinator, Amber van Duuren along with the year 5 teachers. On this day, children will focus on our pillars of Mercy and how they apply to their lives.

On Tuesday 31 October, Year 5 children will be asked to nominate to join one of these four teams. It is hoped that given our expectation that all of Year 6 are leaders at Rosary Park, all children will make a commitment to join one of these teams.

The next step in the process will be for those students to nominate if they wish to be the leader of their team and thus pursue a formal leadership role at Rosary Park. Year 5 teachers will lead children in this process and all speeches will be prepared at school under the guidance of one of the year 5 teachers so that every candidate receives the same input and there is a fair and equitable process.

Please carefully read the timeline outlined below.

Leadership Timeline:

Monday 16 October – Ms Stanbridge will visit Year 5 to begin discussions on leadership expectations at Rosary Park. Students will be given their nomination forms to take home and discuss with their parents.

Monday 23 October - Signed nominations forms must be returned to class teachers by Monday 23rd October (No time extensions will be given).

Monday 23 October – Year 5 Leadership Day.

Tuesday 31 October – Students will nominate their Leadership team for 2023 (Active Lifestyle, PBL, Mercy or Environmental team).

Monday 13 November– Students begin writing their speeches in class with the help of their teachers.

Friday 17 November – Speeches for school leaders and sport leaders, school voting commences.

Friday 8 December – School Leaders 2024 will be announced at our final Liturgy.

Kind Regards,

Amber van Duuren
Primary Coordinator

Library News

Dear Parents,

For book week 2023 we are celebrating a Vocabulary Day on **Friday the 3rd of November** starting at 9.30am in our playground.

All students and staff will need to choose a word and dress up representing their chosen word.

There are only TWO RULES for making a costume:

1. Show your **WORD** on the costume you are wearing.
2. Write the **definition of your word** on the costume somewhere, so the children can share the meaning with their class.

This can be a very simple activity and we encourage the children to choose a word, design how they will represent it and what they will wear on the day.

There are some examples below,



Parents are welcome to come and view this parade starting at 9.30am.
Thank you for all your support,

Regards,
Melanie Flynn
Teacher Librarian

Lower Hunter Regional Debating Competition

On Wednesday the 11th of October, four Year 6 students represented Rosary Park at the Lower Hunter Regional Debating Competition held at St Patrick's Cessnock.

Holly W was a strong first speaker setting the tone for our team. Following Holly we had our talented second speaker, Ava J who was quick to rebut the opposing team's arguments. For our third speaker we were represented by Isabelle W, another brilliant debater who did a great job of summarising the team's arguments. Supporting the team as Captain and fourth speaker was Lily A. Lily had the important role of choosing the topic, organising the team writing rebuttals on the go.

While we didn't make it through to the next round, these young debaters did Rosary Park proud! They were respectful and polite, showing great resilience and celebrating the other teams.

Well done, Holly, Ava, Isabelle and Lily.



Paige Pringle
Year 6 Classroom Teacher

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards at the end of Term 3.

Week ending Friday 15th September 2023 (Week 9)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Noah L	Vivienne S	Miya W
Kinder White	Xavier T	Jack C	Bonnie D
Year 1 Blue	Lauren M	Lleyton L	Hendrix Mc
Year 1 White	Hallie D	Kenny A	Sonny R
Year 2 Blue	Minh B	Lexi D	Reni S
Year 2 White	Aramaia M		Imogen M
Year 3 Blue	Addison S	Lucy S	Noah L
Year 3 White	Leah W	Noah R	Linda P
Year 4 Blue	Taylah B	Sammy W	Jesse C
Year 4 White	Alex L		
Year 5 Blue	Allen D	Zara L	Piper J
Year 5 White	Cameron D	Asha J	Aria B
Year 6 Blue	Sophie C	Cooper T	Lisa O
Year 6 White	Archer k	Chelsea S	Cohan Y

Week ending Friday 22nd September 2023 (Week 10)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	--	--	--
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Theo C	Josie W	Hunter A-L
Year 1 White	--	--	--
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	Hendrix B	Ken P	Taylah H
Year 3 Blue	Ellie A	Amarlie K	Frances M
Year 3 White	Matthias K	Elke B	Jaiden X
Year 4 Blue	Same D	Aleah D	Emily A
Year 4 White	--	--	--
Year 5 Blue	Sam R	Flynn R	Lachlan M
Year 5 White	Nic L	Charli B	Eamon H
Year 6 Blue	Asha M	Cade L	Layla H
Year 6 White	Lily A	Aurora L	Lawson M

Principal's Awards

Lincoln H, Jaxon C, Mikayla G, Finn R, Ezme-Rose S, Jacob L, Jesse J, Cooper S, Liam H, Neveah D, Aiden P, Ayla B, Liam R, Vincent L, Taylah H-D, Allie D, Cameron D, Owen S, Ruby H-D, Alex L, Lucy S, Mikayla G, Leah W, Jackson L x 2, Jamie R, Anderson P

Diocesan CODE OF CONDUCT



In our Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, all the adults that work for us or help out, agree to follow some important rules to keep you safe and happy. These rules are written in a *Code of Conduct* or the *Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement*. The adults will sign one of these documents to say they will follow the rules.

These rules say that adults who work with you should:

- take care of you, make you feel welcome and keep you safe
- speak to you kindly. They should use kind words when talking to you
- listen to you and ask your opinion when making decisions about you. Your ideas are important too
- listen to you when you are worried and help you feel better and safer
- tell someone, like the Police, if they find out that you or someone else is not safe
- let your parents or carers know what's going on. They won't keep secrets from your mum, dad or carers.

In our Diocese, we don't allow people to hurt others or make them feel scared or really sad. That's called **abuse**. No one is allowed to be abusive to you:

- **Physically:** No one should ever hit, punch or hurt you
- **Emotionally:** No one should be rude to you, say things that scare you, yell at you, swear at you, say nasty things or embarrass you
- **Sexually:** No one should talk to you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe or touch your private parts. They shouldn't ask you to touch them or show you photos of nude people or ask you to take your clothes off.

There are other things adults are not allowed to do with you:

- take you away from your friends to be with just them
- try to make you keep secrets
- give you special treats and gifts that others do not get
- try to make you do things that make you feel worried, even scared
- meet you or talk with you over social media or mobile phone, without your parents knowing.

If you see someone hurting you or others, or if an adult does something they are not supposed to do, tell an adult you trust right away. This could be someone in your safety network



The adult you tell should let the Office of Safeguarding know. The people who work at the Office of Safeguarding will check if the worker is not following the rules that they agreed to follow when they signed the *Code of Conduct* or the *Safeguarding Commitment Statement*.

BOOTS *and* BALL GOWNS

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2023, 5-9PM
MCDONALD PAVILION, MAITLAND SHOWGROUNDS

AN EVENT FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR NEW MAITLAND HUB. CATERING BY THE GALS FROM **HOT LUCK**. MUSIC FROM **KAREN SOPER**. KIDS ENTERTAINMENT BY **YABADOO & SILLY STREET FACE PAINTING**.

PRIZES FOR THE BEST VINNIES PURCHASED OUTFIT. MAKE SURE TO KEEP YOUR RECEIPT!

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