

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 6 2023 Thursday 16th November

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 2023

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

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Thur 16 th	School Disco – P&F Event	Fri 15 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 4 & 2023
Thur 30 th	Band End of Year Concert Time TBC	2024	IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2024
DECEMBER		FEBRUARY 2024	
Mon 4 th	Step Up Morning for 2024 Classes	Thur 1st	Year 1 – 6 Return to School
Wed 6 th	Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner – 5pm	Mon 5 th	Kindergarten Students Begin
Wed 6 th	Last Day of Canteen	MARCH 2024	
Fri 8 th	End of Year Awards 9:45 am	Wed 20 th	School Photos – Summer Uniform
Fri 8 th	CANTEEN – ice blocks, Christmas treats and cookies only!	Fri 22 nd	PUPIL FREE DAY
Mon 11 th	Swimming Carnival – for swimmers 8 years and over	Wed 13 th – Mon 25 th	NAPLAN dates for 2024 (Year 3 and Year 5)
Mon 11 th	Year 6 at school, MAT program and Kinder Buddy Activity		

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

We know that we should not let our worries burden us as we can always trust in You.

Help us to always follow Your example in being

Loving and caring

Calm and confronting

Gentle and kind

Help us to always help each other.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers,

Classes/Teachers for 2024

Kindergarten Blue: Grace Dever	Kindergarten White: Ellen Rae		
Year 1 Blue: Louise Kevin	Year 1 White: Jack Montgomery		
Year 2 Blue: Emelia Lindus	Year 2 White: Nikola Groves		
Year 3 Blue: Naomi Rodwell	Year 3 White: Mackenzie Gageler (M-T-W)		
	Simone Cameron (Th-Fri)		
Year 4 Blue: Amber Van Duuren (Mon-Tue and Fri)	Year 4 White: Victoria Prosser		
Rhiannon Temesvary (Wed -Thur)			
Year 5 Blue: Kate Burgess (Mon-Tue)	Year 5 White: Chloe Morgan		
Debbie Parkes (W-Th-Fri)			
Year 6 Blue: Nick Standing	Year 6 White: Paige Pringle		

RFF teacher: Simone Cameron (Creative Arts) M-T-W

Library teacher Melanie Flynn M-T-W

Learning Support Teacher- Nichola Ellis

English As additional Language Dialect teacher-TBC

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander teacher- Katrina Easton

Classrooms 2024

Our current year 3 class will remain in the brown demountables (at the back of the hall) for year 4 2024. Then when the new rooms are completed (hopefully by end term 1) Year 4 will move into them.

Year 3 2024 will move into the classrooms currently occupied by year 4. All other classes and their classrooms will remain the same for next year.

2024 Class Preparation

On the morning of <u>Monday 4 December</u>, we will spend time in our 2024 classes (and classrooms) with our 2024 teachers for our 'step up' morning.

If you are leaving Rosary Park and your child/children will not be returning to school in 2024 <u>please</u> ensure that you have notified us as we have families looking for enrolments for next year and we're in the process of concluding our class lists for 2024.

If you are just moving to a new house or changing your workplace, please ensure that you provide up-to-date contact details before the start of the school year.

Child Illness

In the September school holidays, Ella Grainger (year 6 student) became unwell and subsequent testing at John Hunter and Westmead hospitals has shown that she has a carcinoid tumour (a slow growing cancer) in one of her bronchial tubes (the pipe leading into her left lung).

This is a rare form of cancer, so it has taken the doctors some time to establish a treatment plan. On 22nd November Ella will receive one dose of nuclear radiation treatment at Westmead Hospital followed by a second dose 4 weeks later. It is hoped that the tumour will then shrink enough for the specialist team to undertake surgery in early 2024.

Her Year 6 classmates have been made aware of Ella's condition (with the permission of Ella's family) to make them aware of Ella's diagnosis and what the treatment is for Ella. Ella's doctors have given approval for her to begin attending school again, for periods of time depending on her general wellness and it has been lovely to have her back with us.

We thank our P and F and all our families for their generosity this week as the proceeds from our disco tonight are given to the family as they plan for the months of treatment ahead for Ella.

<u>Staffing</u>

As part of their Enterprise Agreement, teachers are entitled to Release from Face to Face (RFF) teaching each week. At Rosary Park, this is taken as 90 minutes of RFF per week as well as 2 whole days/semester. These two full days are normally taken by staff at this time of term to prepare student reports.

Unfortunately, with our severe lack of casual teaching staff as well as staff illness, it has been a regular occurrence that we are forced to instead split classes across the school. This is our last resort, and we always strive to place a teacher with kindergarten and year 1 children so as not to split these classes. We thank you for your understanding with this- we know it is by no means an ideal scenario but one that we have little choice with.

Kindergarten 2024 Orientation

We have now concluded our formal Kindergarten 2024 orientation sessions. These were held over 4 weeks and gave parents and children the opportunity to visit in both large and small groups, becoming more familiar and comfortable with their new school setting. I thank Grace Dever and Ellen Rae (Kindergarten 2024 teachers) and Emily Capararo (Current Kindergarten Teacher) for the enormous amount of work they put into these sessions. Any feedback on these sessions is always appreciated.

Swimming Carnival

Our carnival will be held on <u>Monday 11 December</u> at Singleton Pool. As this event is for Representation for Primary students in 2024, our year 6 children will not attend the carnival. Instead, they will remain at school to participate in a 2-hour session of the MAT program. This is the martial arts and wellbeing program that they participated in in term 2. This session will be a focus on the transition and preparedness for high school. Following this, year 6 will participate in activities with their Kindergarten buddies before our school year concludes on 15th.

Advanced Notice

In 2024, our year 5 students will attend Great Aussie Bush Camp 12-14 June 2024 (approx. cost \$410/child) whilst our year 6 students will have their excursion to Canberra on Tue 30 July, Wed 31 July and Thur 1 August (approx. cost \$460/child). As these excursions are a significant financial commitment for families (not covered by our resource fee), I am giving you advanced notice so that you are able to budget for them.

School fee information for 2024 has been sent out in recent days from the Catholic Schools Office. Our school resource fee is \$505/child in 2024.

Semester 2 Student Reports

Our semester 2 reports will be published for all children in week 9 of this term. You will be notified via a compass notification when they are available.

Should you wish to discuss your child's report with the class teacher/s please contact them via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Year 6 parents need to be aware their access to these reports will be cut off from the last day of school this year as the children are removed from our school system. We suggest you download and save or print off your child's reports before the end of the year.

End of Year Teacher Gifts

At this time of year, some families want to give staff members an end of year Christmas gift. Whilst this is appreciated, it is not necessary. Our greatest gift is seeing your children enjoy learning and reaching their full potential.

The Catholic Schools Office has a detailed Gifts and Benefits Policy that requires substantial gifts to be declared and, sometimes, returned.

Under this policy, it is not appropriate for parents to take up collections of money from families to present one gift to their class teacher or another staff member.

If you choose to give a gift to a staff member, this is your personal choice. Please consider a card with a special message inside instead.

Canteen Changes

Our last canteen day is Wednesday 6 December. It will open Friday 8 December ice blocks, Christmas treats & cookies only.

Elisha Ayton has resigned from her canteen role. In 2024, the Rosary Park will only open on Fridays for lunch orders and over the counter sales. I am pleased to announce that Veronica Rigelsford and Cassandra Freeman will be the paid canteen officers for 2024. We will still of course require our wonderful volunteers to help us on Fridays.

Social Inclusion Week 18-26 November



<u>Social Inclusion Week</u> is about showing that we not only care about our own personal safety and wellbeing but that of others too. It's about encouraging all

Australians to be inclusive of all cultures, age groups, gender, nationalities, and abilities. At Rosary Park, we embrace our different cultures to ensure students and staff are socially inclusive and feel safe at school.

You may also like to add in some resources:

Kids Helpline has a great resource for kids aged 5-12 years - <u>Being ok with being different</u> Here is a short and easy to understand video on Human Rights for everyone - <u>What are Human Rights</u>

World Children's Day- 20 November

<u>World Children's Day</u> was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children's welfare.

On 20th November 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Rights of the Child and on the same day in 1989, The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At Rosary Park we are passionate about the rights and the welfare of our children and as such, you may have seen the "Child's Rights" poster displayed in our office foyer. The poster is attached to the newsletter for your reference.

World Children's Day reminds us be attentive to our children, be amazed and learn from their bright, imaginative and curious minds. They are our future.

Kids Helpline has a great resource for kids on their rights which you regularly make our children aware of:

Kids 5-12 years - https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids/issues/what-are-my-rights

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

Parents/Carers 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/

Social Media

A reminder to be vigilant with your children and their activity on social media. If you're not a user of social media but your children are, please investigate so that you understand what is happening and what they are seeing. All social media is meant to be for children older than 13 because they are more likely to have the social maturity to deal with it, although we've all heard cases where even older children don't have those skills. Please use the resources of the office of e-safety at the link below and discuss these sites with your children. http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents

End of year awards

We will come together as a school community to celebrate our academic year from <u>9:45am on Friday 8 December.</u>

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 night. 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.

Kind regards, Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Remembrance Day:

This week we held our Remembrance Day liturgy which was organised and lead by our Year 3 staff and students. I thank them for all their hard work and preparation leading up to the liturgy. At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month each year we remember the moment in 1918 when World War I came to an end. On Remembrance Day, we remember Australian men and women who have served in war and peacekeeping activities. Remembrance Day does not glorify war – it honours the memory of all those who laid down their lives for Australia. As a mark of respect to those who have served, we stop to observe one minute's silence. This year will mark the 105 Anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the First World War.

I also thank Brian and his wife Jenny. Brian is the president of the Branxton RSL service club who attended and presented our school with a gorgeous wreath and book for the library.







On Saturday the 11th of November we had five students attend the Remembrance Day Service at the Branxton Rotunda to represent Rosary Park and share a special project. This year the Branxton RSL celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the Branxton Rotunda. This rotunda has plaques with

names of War Veterans from our local area. To celebrate this special anniversary the President of the RSL, Brian Furner, asked the local primary schools to conduct a research project to find out about the life of one of the names from the plaque.

We had a group of 7 dedicated students from Year 6, Cooper T, Sophia H, Aurora L, Lily A, Shonoa A, Isabelle W and Miley R take on this special project. These students gave up their own time during lunches and after school to work on the project.

There were many names to choose from, but we settled on Eric Alfred Moore. E, A Moore was a Sapper in the army until he was discharged due to injury after 2 years of service.

The prize for winning this research project is a day trip to the ANZAC Memorial in Sydney. The RSL thought all the children did such an amazing job with their research and presentations, that they couldn't decide on just one winner. All students involved from each school will get to attend this wonderful day trip.

We thank the RSL for giving us this enriching learning experience.

Thank you Cooper T, Sophia H, Aurora L, Lily A, Shonoa A, Isabelle W and Miley R for representing our school so well and teaching us about a local War Veteran.

Rosary Park Christmas Appeal

As part of our commitment to social justice and mission, Rosary Park has traditionally collected donations of items for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. These are distributed to members of our local community who need a bit of extra assistance this Christmas. After we contacted our local St Vincent de Paul this year, they are asking for donations of money that can then go towards vouchers for families. This way the families can purchases the types of festive foods they would like to eat. If you are able to make a donation, please jump on to the QKR app and you will have various donation options.

If you feel you cannot contribute, this is totally understandable and please don't feel any pressure.

Thank you to our wonderful families for bringing hope, joy and dignity to those who need it most this Christmas.

Mercy Pillars:

We have worked extremely hard as a school community to further embed the Mercy pillars into school life. This week all classes received the below pictures to be displayed in classrooms. This is to allow all students to receive the same vocabulary and definition of each pillar. Our Mercy Pillars link closely to our PBL framework with focuses closely on one Mercy Pillar each week.



ICAS 2023 Awards

Earlier in the year, a number of students from Rosary Park elected to participate in the ICAS assessments. ICAS is an academic competition that challenges students and recognises their achievements in core subjects such as English, Maths and Science. The competition was started over 40 years ago and has since become an internationally recognised annual event completed across 41 countries. The questions are engaging, fun, and written in a way that is entirely different to regular school assessments, aiming to test students' higher-order thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Congratulations to the following students on their excellent results.

English	Mathematics	Spelling	
Participation	Participation	Participation	
Sofia P (Year 2)	Emily A (Year 4)	Emily A (Year 4)	
Emily A (Year 4	Darcy H (Year 4)	Ezme (Year 4)	
Aria B (Year 5)	Sam J (Year 4)	Harry W (Year 5)	
Harry W (Year 5)	Ezme S (Year 4)		
High Distinction	Merit	Credit	
Evie M (Year 5)	Sofia P (Year 2)	Sofia P (Year 2)	
	Evie M (Year 5)		
	Credit		
	Harry W (Year 5)		

Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition

In Term 3, our Year 5 and 6 children participated in the Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition. The annual maths competition gives Year 5 and Year 6 students from across regional NSW the opportunity to test their numeracy and problem-solving skills.

One of Australia's longest running annual mathematics competitions, the Newcastle Permanent Primary School Mathematics Competition is more than 40 years old. It now attracts almost 21,000 students from across the state.

The top performing students from each region are invited to attend a special awards presentation and further compete in the annual Newcastle Permanent Primary School Online Mathematics Team Challenge in May each year.

Congratulations to all Rosary Park students on their efforts. Special mention to the following children on their excellent results.

Distinction Awards: Tyler S, Evie M, Jaegar D, Elara B

Merit Awards: Brooklyn J, Samantha R, Rae K, Sharni L, Harry W, Eamon H, Scarlett T, Rubi B, Flynn R, Korban L, Lisa O, Holly W, Isabelle W, Lawson M, Chelsea S, Lilah B, Bryden K, Brooklyn O, Indy Y, Ava J, Cooper T.

Sporting News

Polding Athletics: On the Friday 13th of October 4 students Annie H, Jesse C, Will M and Cohan Y travelled to Sydney Olympic Park to represent the Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle at the POLDING Athletics championships. Congratulations to all students what a huge achievement that was. All of us here at Rosary Park were very proud of you.



Last week we had several students in Year 1 and 2 attend a football gala day at Cessnock football Oval. Firstly, a big thank you to our parent helpers on the day, Rob A, Justin B and Jessica T. The day would not have been possible without your support and coaching. It was great to see so many students enjoying the day and encouraging their team as well as other teams. Lastly thank you to all parents who were able to get their child to this gala day, it would not have happened without your support.





ASPIRE Scriptwriting

Congratulations and well done to Aurora L, Shonoa A and Evie M who have been participating in the Aspire Lower Hunter Scriptwriters Performance.

They will have the opportunity to see their work come to life in the staged reading event on Thursday the 23rd of November, in Maitland Town Hall, commencing at 6pm

If you would like to go and support them or just enjoy the performances, there is a link to buy tickets below for just \$15.

https://www.ticketebo.com.au/catholic-schools-office-diocese-of-maitland-newcastle

Please note you do not need to purchase tickets for the writers.





Aboriginal Education

Kindergarten

Using "The symbolism iconography and language of Eastern NSW Aboriginal Art" to create their own story/totem poles. They are a traditional way of telling the stories of Aboriginal families and clans, and of keeping records of important historical events.







Interpretation of a Torres Strait Islander Dhari - The Dhari is the distinctive traditional dance and ceremonial headdress of the Torres Strait. Customarily worn and made by males, Dhari designs vary from island to island. Dharis were traditionally made from Frigate Bird and Torres Strait Pigeon feathers but are now made from a wide and often creative range of materials including heavy cardboard, plywood, chicken feathers and cane. Students gathered leaves and feathers from the playground and leftover coloured paper to repurpose resources that we had available.









Year 1

Recreation and presentation of the dreaming story "Butterly" from the homeland of the Butchulla People (Fraser Island).









Because parenting doesn't come with instructions, SchoolTV is a wellbeing resource implemented at our school to help support you in the challenges of modern-day parenting relating to youth mental health and wellbeing. Parenting is a learning journey and SchoolTV supports families by providing credible information from trusted sources with practical strategies to help alleviate some of the challenges being faced by young people today.

Watch video interviews with leading wellbeing specialists and browse a library of resources. Each topic is accompanied by factsheets, podcasts, books, articles, apps and other videos.

This award-winning resource helps families build relationships, foster connections, enable understanding and break down barriers to navigate a pathway towards better mental health and wellbeing for young people. It will assist you in starting those conversations on topics that can sometimes be awkward or difficult to tackle.

Parents and caregivers are the greatest influence on a young person's life and SchoolTV focuses on empowering confident parenting.

Explore SchoolTV today!

To access SchoolTV you can find it on our website underneath the parent tab, or click on the link below:

https://branxton.catholic.schooltv.me/

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards earlier this term.

Week ending Friday 13th October 2023 (Week 1)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue			
Kinder White	Donnie B	Lylah H	Jett I
Year 1 Blue	Parker G	Stella G	Nic L
Year 1 White			
Year 2 Blue	Mason C	Matilda M	Hudson L
Year 2 White	Taylah H	Baxter A	Megan n
Year 3 Blue	Tao D	Hugo S	Noah L
Year 3 White	Jackson A	Luke H	
Year 4 Blue	Sammy W	Lilly S	Kingsley J
Year 4 White	Sophie C	Sylvester R	Kendra C
Year 5 Blue	Evie M	Louis D	Scarlett T
Year 5 White	Rawson D	Nic L	Logan K
Year 6 Blue	Cade L	Asha M	Cooper T
Year 6 White	Isabelle W	Lawson M	Bailey C

Week ending Friday 20th October 2023 (Week 2)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue			
Kinder White	Zoey A	Winifred C	Tanner H
Year 1 Blue	Josie W-H	Jenson F	Sawyer D
Year 1 White	Maya S	Brooklyn Y	
Year 2 Blue	Ellesse S	Willow J	Jack C
Year 2 White			
Year 3 Blue	Hannah C	Hunter I	Hudson W
Year 3 White	Susan P	Emmett C	Anika F
Year 4 Blue	Indi M	Hugh M	Karmichael A
Year 4 White	Jacob L	Darcy H	Mikayla G
Year 5 Blue	Hunter G	Zara L	Aubree C
Year 5 White	Eamon H	Ruby H	Jonah M
Year 6 Blue	Ashton P	Lilah B	Holly W
Year 6 White	Kai M	Shonoa A	Cohan Y

Principal's Awards



Children's rights

You have the right to:



- 1. be treated fairly no matter what
- 2.
 have a say
 about decisions
 affecting you
- 3. live and grow up healthy

- 4.
 have people
 do what is best
 for you
- 5. know who you are and where you come from
- 6. believe what you want

7. privacy

- 8. find out information and express yourself
- be safe no matter where you are

- 10. be cared for and have a home
- 11.
 education,
 play and cultural
 activities
- help and protection if you need it

Adapted from the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For more information on children's rights, go to www.humanrights.gov.au/childrights

To tell a story about your rights, go to somethingincommon.gov.au/thebigbanter

Visitor Information Centre Outdoor Cinema

Featuring

ELEMENTAL ELEMENTAL

Bring the family, a pillow and blanket and join us for the opening of the new park and outdoor cinema at the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre!

Saturday 9 December 2023, from 5pm - 10pm

Location: 455 Wine Country Drive, Pokolbin NSW 2325



Purchase some food and drink from the licenced Lovedale Cafe while you enjoy live music and a movie. Pre-show entertainment from 5pm – 8pm, including live music by Sami Cooke and Madeleine Hunt, a photo booth to capture the moment and various kids activities!

The animated kids movie 'Elemental' will play from 8pm where you can enjoy the movie under the stars!

\$5 per ticket – includes a drink (water or soft drink)

Only 250 tickets available so book online today!



To purchase tickets please click here





Vinnies Hunter Volunteers Members

- Make a genuine difference in your community by joining the team of dedicated Vinnies Hunter Volunteer Members - the heart and soul of what we do!
- Our Volunteer Members benefits include;
 - Having the satisfaction of helping others
 - Learning new skills and sharing your skills with others
 - Having the sense of community and friendship
- All new Member volunteers are mentored and trained so no experience necessary.
- If you can spare a couple of hours per week or fortnight, share the values of commitment, compassion, respect, integrity, empathy, advocacy and courage - then we want to hear from you.
 - Call us on 4967 6277 or
 e: maitland.newcastle@vinnies.org.au



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