



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 30th November 2023

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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

DECEMBER		2024	IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2024
Mon 4 th	Step Up Morning for 2024 Classes	FEBRUARY 2024	
Wed 6 th	Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner – 5pm	Thur 1 st	Year 1 – 6 Return to School
Wed 6 th	LAST DAY OF CANTEEN	Mon 5 th	Kindergarten Students Begin
Fri 8 th	End of Year Liturgy and Awards 9:45am	Mon 12 th	Regional Swimming Carnival
Fri 8 th	CANTEEN – ice blocks, Christmas treats & cookies only!	MARCH 2024	
Fri 8 th	SCHOOL ASSEMBLY @ 2:15 – Last presentation of Principal's Awards	Wed 20 th	School Photos – Summer Uniform
Mon 11 th	Swimming Carnival – for swimmers 8 years and over	Fri 22 nd	PUPIL FREE DAY
Mon 11 th	Year 6 at school, MAT program and Kinder Buddy Activity	Wed 13 th – Mon 25 th	NAPLAN dates for 2024 (Year 3 and Year 5)
Fri 15 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 4 & 2023		

Principal's Message

Feast of Christ the King

O Lord our God, you alone are the Most Holy King and Ruler of all nations. We pray to You, Lord, in the great expectation of receiving from You, O Divine King, mercy, peace, justice and all good things. Protect, O Lord our King, our families, and the land of our birth.

Dear Parents/Carers

As this is the final Newsletter for 2023, I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of me, my staff, and our children throughout the year. It's been a hectic yet very productive and rewarding year. I wish all our year 6 children all the very best as they embark on the next phase of their school journey.

In addition to those families leaving us at the end of 2023, I thank you for all that you have contributed to our community and wish you all the best for the future.

Throughout 2023, we have gathered as a community to celebrate liturgies, a whole school concert, donated food to St Vincent de Paul, attended excursions and incursions, choir and band performances and many, many more that would not be possible without the support and dedication of the parents and staff of Rosary Park.

I am truly grateful for all that we do together to enrich the lives and learning of the children in our community. Thank you to all students, families and staff who make Rosary Park such a fantastic place.

I would also like to thank Fr Thomas for his great support of our school this year, and to the supportive and hardworking parents from our P & F especially NaSharna Maskey our president who gives so much of her time to work for our school and children.

Finally, a big thank you to my wonderful colleagues who all work hard every day to deliver a quality education in a caring environment.

I wish all students and families a safe and happy holiday break. I hope all families take the time to experience the great joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus, our saviour.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year, with the first day of school for Years 1-6 being Thursday 1st February and our new Kindergarten starting on 5th February.

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) Rhiannon Temesvary (Wed -Thur)	Year 4 White: Victoria Prosser
Year 5 Blue: Kate Burgess (Mon-Tue) Debbie Parkes (W-Th-Fri)	Year 5 White: Chloe Morgan
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

Student wellbeing officer – Jessica Dougherty

English As additional Language Dialect teacher- TBC

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander teacher- Katrina Easton

All parents will be notified today of their child's 2024 teacher and class via note. Please take a moment to use the QR code and share with their 2024 teacher some information, your hopes, and goals for them for the coming school year.

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.

Resource Fee 2024

Diocesan information will soon be sent out as to the cost of school tuition fees and DFSBL for 2024. Our school resource fee is **\$505** per child and will include one excursion for each class.

Children in year 5-6 will participate in camps during 2024 and these will NOT be covered by the resource fee.

Compass

Please be aware that if your child is leaving Rosary Park (**including year 6 students**) you will lose access to all your child's Rosary Park reports as of our last school day (Friday 15th). Please download and/or print the reports before this date.

Semester 2 Student Reports

The semester 2 reports will be available via Compass from Tuesday 5th December. Should you wish to discuss your child's report with the class teacher/s please contact them via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Canteen Changes

Our last canteen day is Wednesday 6 December. It will open Friday 8 December for 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.

School Improvement Plan 2024

As part of our 2024 Annual School Improvement Plan, Rosary Park teachers and students are continuing the focus on student growth in Mathematics. We began this during 2022 and will focus on the new syllabi implementation (Mathematics and English) in K-6.

We will be undertaking the Spelling Mastery program from Years 3-6. This is showing us promising results. This program uses the Direct Instruction approach to learning. The 20-years of research

invested in this program shows that clear instruction at a student's spelling skill level, results in the mastery of skills at a faster rate. This has been evidenced in our interaction with the program where most students have progressed and will move up at least one spelling level in 2024.

To determine the spelling skill level of each student, Year 2 students will complete a placement test. This data is used to group students according to their current skill level; therefore, to meet the specific needs of each student. Students will move around the school to their designated Spelling Mastery teacher. Students will be working with others who are at the same skill level but may be from a different grade. Their Spelling Mastery teacher may not be their usual class teacher.

This approach will enable us to meet each student's needs at the precise time in their learning. It will develop spelling skills and knowledge, leading to growth with spelling skill levels.

We are looking forward to seeing the students' growth in their spelling abilities across the school. Kindergarten - year 2 will continue participating in the InitialLit program. Both programs use a similar Direct Instruction approach to learning. This will ensure consistency in spelling instruction across all grades.

In addition, in our SIP, we are placing a stronger focus on student and staff wellbeing in 2024. We will implement the MAT program across Year 1-6 in term 2-3 of 2024. This is a therapeutic Martial Arts program that we have trialled with 3 grades (2,5,6) this year with very positive feedback from children and staff.

Uniform

Children are expected to wear the correct uniform to school each day. The general appearance of a child is an outward sign to others of the pride and respect one has in oneself and reflects pride in the school.

As well as wearing the correct school uniform, children are to be neatly groomed and wear polished shoes (**black leather only: no boots, Mary Jane style or joggers**). Socks must cover the ankle.

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

Hair must be neat and tidy. In keeping with the school tone, hairstyles should not be outlandish- no Mohawks, tracks or rat's tails. Extremes of style and colour are not appropriate. Children with long hair should have their hair tied back. Mullets **MUST BE blended in. It cannot be short at the sides. If hair touches the collar, it needs to be tied back.**

A note explaining any variations in school uniform is expected.

The summer uniform is worn in Terms 1 and 4 and the winter uniform is worn in Terms 2 and 3. Occasionally, depending on the length of term and weather conditions, this requirement is adjusted. If this occurs, you will be informed via the school newsletter.

NOTE: Please ensure all clothing/shoes/hats and bags are clearly marked with your child's name.

Summer Uniform – Girls

TUNIC	Blue & white check summer dress
Shirt/shorts	White emblem shirt and blue shorts



SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with white socks, to be worn above the ankle
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Summer Uniform – Boys

TOP	School blue shirt with embroidered logo.
SHORTS	Navy shorts, not cargo.
SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with navy socks to be worn above the ankle.

Wishing you a happy, holy, and safe Christmas,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal Message

St. Joseph's Community Engagement Program

As a part of their weekly "Flexi Learning" a number of students from St Joseph's College at Lochinvar have chosen to take part in the community engagement program. These students give their time each Wednesday morning to visit and support students in local schools as well as visiting the Sisters of St Joseph. We would like to thank the students and teachers from the college who have assisted our Kindergarten and Year 3 students during their visits this term. We have enjoyed your company and your guidance in supporting our reading time in Kindergarten and text writing time in Year 3. Thank you for coming to Rosary Park. We hope we can be part of this program again next year.

End of Year Awards

Reminder that the end of year awards will be held at school on Friday 8th December at 9:45am. There will be assigned seating for the children receiving awards and some general seating. There will also be a section of seating assigned for Yr5 parents of children who prepared and delivered speeches for 2024 leadership roles. Please note that parents will NOT be informed if their child was successful prior to the ceremony. All 2024 student team and sports leaders will be announced as a part of this end of school liturgy and awards ceremony.

End of Year PBL Reward – Water Wednesday

On Wednesday 13th December we will celebrate our year of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) rewards with Water Wednesday. There will be a timetable giving each grade time to participate in water fun games outside for a period of the day. Our Year 6 PBL team and teachers will run the games for the children. Children will need to wear old clothes for the activities and will need to bring their sport uniform to change into on the day. Further specific information to follow on Compass.

Many Blessings for Advent and the Christmas Season,

Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Christmas Appeal:

Thank you to those families who have donated to our Christmas appeal for St Vincent de Paul. Thank you for bringing hope, joy, and dignity to those who need it most this Christmas.

This Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent. This marks the beginning of the Church Year. This is where we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus over the next four weeks. The first candle, which is purple, symbolises hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.



As we come closer to the end of the school year, I would like to take the time to thank you all for the generosity you have shown this year. We truly are a wonderful school community living through the Mercy Pillars of respect, compassion, hospitality, justice, service, and courage every single day.

May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and may God bless and keep you safe during the holiday season and all through the coming year.

God Bless
Mackenzie Gageler

Library News

Dear Parents and Carers

Merry Christmas from the Library - we hope you enjoy a lovely break and both adults and young people alike "sleigh" some holiday reading!

Also, congratulations to Sophie Cortis who will be receiving her Gold Premiers Reading Challenge award for completing the challenge 5 years in a row. Well done, Sophie!

"A book is a gift you can open again and again."



SCHOOL TRAVEL NEWS

Applications for school travel passes through Transport NSW are now open for 2024

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) gives eligible school students free or subsidised travel between home and school on NSW public transport, including trains, buses, ferries and light rail.

Depending on where students are travelling, they may receive a free school travel pass, a School Opal card, or both.

Please visit Transport NSW in the link below, to learn about eligibility criteria and apply for a travel pass which will help support transport options for our school community.

<https://transportnsw.info/school-travel-apply>

[Other useful links and resources can be found here.](#)

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending Friday 27th October 2023 (Week 3)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	--	--	--
Kinder White	Abbey A	Charlie L	Xavier T
Year 1 Blue	Eli B	Olivia D	Aiden L
Year 1 White	Tommy e	Koa VW	Ayla B
Year 2 Blue	Will M	Annie H	Baxter D
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Frances M	Zoey D	Isaac L
Year 3 White	Aria G	Linda P	Luke H
Year 4 Blue	Sam D	Cruz G	Aleah D
Year 4 White	Owen C	Alyssa B	Hudson O
Year 5 Blue	Korban L	Piper J	Emitee O
Year 5 White	Nevada A	Charlie B	Aria B
Year 6 Blue	Lacey N	Owen S	Robert C
Year 6 White	Bryden K	Amelia S	Jamie R

Week ending Friday 3rd November 2023 (Week 4)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Carter A	Harvey C	Louis E
Kinder White	James L	Hugh M	Lara T
Year 1 Blue	Sawyer D	Dylan R	Maisy C
Year 1 White	Leo B	Matilda C	--
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Amarlie K	Jaxon B	Hugo S
Year 3 White	Leah W	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Ezme-Rose S	Kyson C	Taylah B
Year 4 White	Johnny N	James D	Ellie Y
Year 5 Blue	Ella R	Allen D	Lilly R
Year 5 White	Aliyah P	Isabella T	David H
Year 6 Blue	Cooper T	Stella W	--
Year 6 White	Miley R	Chelsea S	Victoria A

Principal's Awards

Cooper T, Jett I, Lilly S, Madden T, Shelle C, Elsa G, Ellie A, Brooke H, Noah R, Noah L, Eamon H, Scarlett C, Donnie B, Emmett C, Hallie D, Jackson A, Hudson W, Jaiden X, Olivia D, Matilda M, Tao D, Abbey A



International Day of
People with Disability

HUNTER #IDPWD COMMUNITY EVENT

PRESENTED BY LOCAL DISABILITY
PROVIDERS!

DATE: FRIDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2023

LOCATION: MAITLAND BASKETBALL STADIUM

TIME: 11AM - 2.30PM

RSVP: SCAN ME



Summer Holiday Activities For Kids @ Your Library

Pre-booking essential as places are limited.

KIDS EVENTS

FILM & CRAFT – for children ages 8 -12

Monday January 8	Cessnock Library	2.00 – 4.00	FREE
Tuesday January 9	Kurri Kurri Library	2.00 – 4.00	FREE

Enjoy a movie about everyone’s favourite wizard, followed by craft.

WAND MAKERS WORKSHOP – for children ages 5-12

Monday January 15	Cessnock Library	2.00 – 3.00	FREE
Thursday January 24	Kurri Kurri Library	3.00 – 4.00	FREE
Thursday January 11	Branxton Community Hall	10.00 – 11.00	FREE

Make your own magic nature wand to weave some magic with these holidays!

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK PAINTING WORKSHOP – for children ages 5-12

Thursday January 18	Cessnock Library	10.00 – 11.00	FREE
Wednesday January 17	Kurri Kurri Library	2.00 – 3.00	FREE

Make your own night sky with glow-in-the-dark stars using glow paint, star stickers and black paint – what other glow-in-the-dark masterpieces can you create?

TWIRLING TWIG MOBILE – for children ages 5-12

Thursday January 18	Cessnock Library	2.00 – 3.00	FREE
Tuesday January 16	Kurri Kurri Library	2.00 – 3.00	FREE
Thursday January 11	Branxton Community Hall	2.00 – 3.00	FREE

Explore the principles of centre of gravity, and tension and compression in this beautiful little yarn wrapped mobile project.

JD’s WORLD OF MAGIC CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP – for children ages 6-12

Monday January 22	Cessnock Library	2.00 – 3.00	\$5.00
Monday January 22	Kurri Kurri Library	10.00 – 11.00	\$5.00

Have you ever dreamed of joining the circus? Now you can! Join magician extraordinaire JD Howlett for a circus workshop – have lots of fun and learn some basic circus skills.

SENSORY STORYTIME – for children aged 2-6

Tuesday January 23	Cessnock Library	12.00-1.00	FREE
Wednesday January 24	Kurri Kurri Library	12.00 – 1.00	FREE

Children of all abilities are invited to come and spend some time in a peaceful and calming environment – enjoy the library’s collection of sensory items and engage in some fun sensory activities.

GIANT GAMES – for children ages 5-12

Tuesday January 23	Cessnock Library	3.00 – 4.00	FREE
Wednesday January 10	Kurri Kurri Library	2.00 – 3.00	FREE

Join us for a game of Giant Jenga, or try your hand at Giant Snakes and Ladders.

NATURE AND NURTURE SENSORY ART WORKSHOP – for children ages 2-8

Thursday January 25	Cessnock Library	2.00 – 3.00	\$5.00
Thursday January 25	Kurri Kurri Library	10.00 – 11.00	\$5.00

Enjoy sensory art activities at this special workshop run by Nature and Nurture – children will be encouraged to explore their world through their senses. These hands-on workshops allow kids to squish, squelch, spin and splash through nurturing and creative play.

TEEN/TWEEN EVENTS

JEWELLERY MAKING (COPPER WIRE WRAP PENDANTS) – ages 10-18

Wednesday January 10	Cessnock Library	1.00 – 2.30	FREE
Wednesday January 10	Kurri Kurri Library	10.00 – 11.30	FREE

This guided workshop introduces teens and tweens to the craft of wire wrapping, teaching them how to use copper

TABLETOP GAMING WITH AARON – ages 10-18

Thursday January 11	Cessnock Library	10.00 – 12.00	FREE
Thursday January 18	Kurri Kurri Library	10.00 – 12.00	FREE

This tabletop gaming session is perfect for both new and experienced gamers. Players will have an opportunity to try out some fun new miniature tabletop games and use their tactical skills to immerse themselves in an exciting adventure.

BULLET JOURNALLING – ages 10-18

Friday January 12	Cessnock Library	2.00 – 3.00	FREE
Friday January 12	Kurri Kurri Library	10.00 – 11.00	FREE

Do you feel like you don't have enough room in your brain for all the things you need to do? Do you struggle with remembering tasks and goals? Explore the power of planning and organisation to boost productivity and mental wellbeing through creating your own bullet journal.

IMAGINATURALISTS – A HISTORY OF DRAGONS ILLUSTRATION WKSHP – ages 10-18

Wednesday January 17	Cessnock Library	2.00 – 3.00	FREE
Wednesday January 17	Kurri Kurri Library	11.00 – 12.00	FREE

Together, dragons and humans have had a long history over many thousands of years – come along to an illustration workshop, meet some of the dragons of history, and learn to draw one of these famous dragons or imagine a dragon of your own. Gillian Hewitt from Imaginaturalists will guide you through the creation of your ferocious or benevolent beast.

TEEN/TWEEN MOVIE & PIZZA – ages 10-18

Friday January 19	Cessnock Library	12.00 – 1.30	FREE
Thursday January 25	Kurri Kurri Library	12.00 – 1.30	FREE

Escape the heat and watch a movie featuring everyone's favourite video game plumbing brothers! Pizza and drinks provided!

Please ring Cessnock Library on 49934399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 49371638 to enquire, or email library@cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

Bookings essential – head to the What's On page at <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au> to book your spot!

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB
invites you to the 2023

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

**FRIDAY
8TH DECEMBER 2023
5:30PM**

- RIDES • FACE PAINTING
- FIREWORKS • SKY DIVING SANTA
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY JUMPIN JUKEBOX UNTIL 10PM

FAMILY - \$80*
Admits 2 Adults and 3 Children.
Extra Child \$15. Under 3yrs FREE.

COUPLE - \$10*
Admits 2 People

SINGLE - \$20*
Admits 1 Person

*Prices are for pre purchased tickets. No refunds or exchange of tickets after being purchased. All tickets include free rides. Children will be given a ride wristband upon entry. In the event of inclement weather, the event may be cancelled or postponed at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Food is to be purchased from our restaurant or the food van available on the night. Tickets purchased at the gate will be Family \$80 Couple \$60 Single \$30

TICKETS ON SALE NOW. AVAILABLE AT THE BAIL ON OUR WEBSITE OR ON FACEBOOK. LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE. BOOKING EARLY RECOMMENDED.

STRICTLY NO BYO ALCOHOL/FOOD
Enquiries 02 4938 1421. BYO Chair or Picnic Rug.
Regular Friday night raffles will be moved to Thursday 7th at 7pm.

Branxton Golf Club - 25 Cessnock Road, Branxton NSW 2335

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