

PARENT INFORMATION

Thursday 14th December 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

Term 4 Week 10 2023 Parent Information

Important DATES:

Last day for 2023: Friday 15th December: Year 6 clap out 2:45pm

2024 dates:

Tuesday 30 January: Staff return.

Thursday 1 February: Year 1-6 return

Monday 5 Feb: Kindergarten starts (shorter day Monday)

Fri 9 February: Canteen starts for 2024.

Tuesday 13 Feb: Parent Information night (2 sessions 5pm and 6pm)

Wednesday 20 March: School photos

Friday 22 March: PUPIL FREE DAY

School leaders 2024:

Mercy: Rubi Barnes

Active Lifestyle: Phoebe Cole

Environmental: Rae Killick

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL): Harry White

Freeman House: Scarlett Twight and Dante Sepulveda

Thorpe House: Liana Rock and Louis Dodd

Bradman House: Sienna Marr and Tyler Standen

Fearnley House: Rose Drever and Hudson Radcliff

School uniform

A few uniform reminders when you are shopping in the holidays:

Skate shoes (and similar) are NOT permitted. VANS shoes (canvas style) are also NOT permitted.

Children are allowed to wear black jogger style school shoes (such as Skechers, Asics etc) but they MUST BE leather, not canvas, mesh etc.

Girls cannot wear Mary Jane style shoes. The foot must be closed in.

Sports socks are PLAIN white, no brand names.

No tracks, rat tails. If a child wants a mullet this must be blended in- i.e. not cut short at the sides and long at the back.

Staffing

Rhiannon Temesvary has taken a position in another school so we welcome Lauren Wicklein who will work Mon and Wed on 4 Blue whilst Amber Van Duuren fulfils her executive responsibilities.

Madelaine Percival will work every Tuesday on 2 White whilst Nikola Groves is taken from class this day to work as the school's Gifted Education Mentor (GEM).

Janelle Dixon will work 2 days/ week as EALD teacher as Karen Forbes has resigned her position.

Teagan Ross will work 0.5 as an additional Learning Support Teacher for term 1 & 2. Nichola Ellis will continue full time in the role.

Assembly change for 2024

In 2024 our awards assemblies will move to 9am Wednesdays. We are trialling this to vary the days that we hold school activities so that as many parents as possible can attend school activities. Parents are very welcome to join us, and our band will still play at the assembly.

Congratulations

On 24 November our diocese held an Aspire band concert called Vivace! Several schools performed on the night at Newcastle City Hall. We congratulate Dante Sepulveda, Anika Fuller, Aden Pople, Elke Bereza, Ella Yeomans and Ruby Nevin who represented our Rosary Park band at the performance. Thank you and well done!

Support in the holidays

As we move into the holiday period, we wanted to make you aware of the supports that are available to your young person when they are not at school. Changes to routine can be hard and your young person may experience times when they feel a range of challenging emotions such as sadness, stress, or lonely.

During the holidays we encourage you to check in/yarn with your young person. It can be helpful to let them know that you are available to speak with them if they ever need. You may also like to encourage them to stay connected with friends and family, look after their physical health and engage in the activities that they enjoy.

If you notice that your young person may benefit from chatting with someone, we encourage you to make them aware and support them to access services. This may be engaging with your local headspace centre, GP or access online or telephone supports through eheadspace (1800 650 890) or kidshelpline (1800 55 1800). Please note that you can also call these numbers to help guide your support, alongside parentline (1300 1300 52).

Apps and websites for support:

- My Compass <https://www.mycompass.org.au/> This is a resource created by Black Dog which creates personalised support for mental health. This is focused on providing psychoeducation and skill development. This website can be used by staff and students.
- Mood Gym <https://moodgym.com.au/> An online resource that can help support and manage symptoms of mental health challenges.
- eheadspace <https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace/>, 1800 650 890 Online access to a mental health clinician via telephone or webchat. It can be encouraged that students create an account with eheadspace, so that if they have to use this when distressed this is not a barrier for use. Parents can speak with a clinician for help supporting a young person.
- Reachout <https://au.reachout.com/> Tools and resources for stress management and mental health support strategies.
- CalmHarm <https://au.reachout.com/tools-and-apps/calm-harm> support develop strategies to deescalate when feeling distressed. It can be encouraged for students to download, or for use in classroom or advisory group. This can be used for staff and students. Use can be encouraged when not distressed, to establish the use and learning of a helpful coping strategy. Can also be used after an incident, in the hope to long term replace or at least challenge, maladaptive strategies.
- Parent Line <http://www.parentline.org.au/>, 1300 1300 52 A resource to support parents to manage concerns with supporting their young person

- **eSafety Gift Guide**



Christmas is fast approaching, and it is about this time when parents start looking for tech gifts for their children. It is important to remember that the gadgets you choose do more than entertain; they can influence personal safety and the wellbeing of your family. So, how do you choose tech gifts that are both fun and safe for your kids?

- Check out the eSafety Gift Guide to help you choose gifts wisely this holiday season.
- [Gift Guide for tech gifts | eSafety Commissioner](#)

Thank you for all your support throughout the year.

Best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas,

Sallyanne Stanbridge



A Christmas message from Fr Thomas

As we enter the season of joy, it is with great pleasure that I extend warm Christmas greetings to the school community.

Christmas is a time when we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and to embrace the values of love, compassion, and generosity that He exemplified throughout His life.

At the heart of the Christian celebration of Christmas is welcoming Jesus into our hearts. May the magic of Christmas fill your hearts with love, peace, and happiness. This season invites us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to carry its essence into our daily lives. May our actions reflect the teachings of Jesus and contribute to a world filled with peace, goodwill, and understanding.

During all the festivities, let us remember the importance of kindness, compassion, and generosity. This is a season to share our blessings with others and spread joy to those around us.

May Infant Jesus bless you all.

Fr Thomas Chirackal (Parish Priest)

The Nativity of the Lord

RECONCILIATION

Branxton Thurs 14 December after Mass
Singleton Thurs 14 December after Mass

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

St Brigid's Branxton 6.00pm
St Patrick's Singleton 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

St Patrick's Singleton 12.00am

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

St Catherine's Greta 8.00am
St Patrick's Singleton 10.00am



Weekly Awards

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

Week ending Friday 10th November 2023 (Week 5)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Leilani D	James D	Indy M
Kinder White	Stella M	Jack C	Mason B
Year 1 Blue	Ava M	Maisy C	Theo C
Year 1 White	Cooper S	Aramaia M	Jenny N
Year 2 Blue	Annabelle L	Emily S	Brailyn L
Year 2 White	Cooper S	Aramaia M	Jenny N
Year 3 Blue	Addison K	Jackson L	Blake C
Year 3 White	Ella Y	Levi C	Charlize L
Year 4 Blue	Emily A	Ruby N	Eyden G
Year 4 White	Nevaeh D	Charli F	Cooper C
Year 5 Blue	Lewis C	Madeleine P	Samantha R
Year 5 White	Harry W	Asha J	Liana R
Year 6 Blue	William L	Brody B-S	Indy Y
Year 6 White	Jordan G	Teirrah-Jean M	Lina P

Week ending Friday 17th November 2023 (Week 6)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Hunter W	Baylee H	Marshall C
Kinder White	Madi N	Carter M	Amelia H
Year 1 Blue	Grayson B	Reeve W	Emily R
Year 1 White	Teagan S	Charlie D	
Year 2 Blue	Liam H	--	Reni S
Year 2 White	Boston B	Campbell C	Sofia P
Year 3 Blue	James S	Tao D	Liam D
Year 3 White	Liam R	Noah R	Jaiden X
Year 4 Blue	Sam J	Chase R	Laylah K
Year 4 White	--	--	--
Year 5 Blue	Riley M	Rubi B	Elara B
Year 5 White	Cameron D	Rose D	Rae K
Year 6 Blue	Olivia L	Indiana S	Lisa O
Year 6 White	Aurora L	Lily A	Archer k

Week ending Friday 24th November 2023 (Week 7)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Claire D	Teren G	Jasper W
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Grayson B	Piper R	Dominic P
Year 1 White	Harley R	Brynn S	
Year 2 Blue	Lexi D	Minh B	Indy M
Year 2 White	Ken P	Aubree M	Noha M
Year 3 Blue	Flynn C	Hudson W	Max K
Year 3 White	Braxton T	Matthias K	Noah R
Year 4 Blue	Jesse C	Samantha F	
Year 4 White	Liam P	Lola M	Isla F
Year 5 Blue	Aden P	Sharni L	Sienna m
Year 5 White	Dante S	Elsa G	Phoebe C
Year 6 Blue	Sophie C	Lara D	Layla H
Year 6 White	Joel C	Emily-Rose A	Sophia H

Week ending Friday 1st December 2023 (Week 8)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Claire D	Addison M	Millah L
Kinder White	Darcy J	Bonnie D	Johan C
Year 1 Blue	Olivia D	Emily R	Dominic P
Year 1 White	Finn R	Sonny R	Scarlett C
Year 2 Blue	Addison R		Kade B
Year 2 White	Arielle F	Anderson P	Zoe H
Year 3 Blue	Lucy S	Ellie A	Addison S
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Elijah C	Luke W	Evie S
Year 4 White	Darby T	Kendra C	Jema M
Year 5 Blue	Flynn R	Sam R	Ella-Grace W
Year 5 White	Marley G	Tyler S	Brook H
Year 6 Blue	Macy D	Holly W	Brooklyn O
Year 6 White	Ella G	Cohan Y	Isabelle W

Week ending Friday 8th December 2023 (Week 9)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Zoe C	Makayla C	Evie E
Kinder White	Myla W	Maci H	Maxx R
Year 1 Blue	Amelia H	Harrison A-L	Stella G
Year 1 White	Kenny A & Tony P	Maici B	Tristan C
Year 2 Blue	Addison B		Finn M
Year 2 White	Hendrix B	Louella T	Imogen M
Year 3 Blue	Liam D	Sasha A	Jackson L
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Mia W	Shelle C	Laylah K
Year 4 White	Alex L	Madden T	Georgie W
Year 5 Blue	Jaegar D	Hudson R	Aubree C
Year 5 White	Bryce B	Brooklyn J	Saige M
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Principal's Awards

Robert C, Eli B, Addison B, Sophie C, Frances M, Matilda C, Karmichael A, Holly N, Sawyer D, Hunter I, Baxter D, Carter A, Amarlie K, Addison S, Joel C, Myla W, Winnie C, Ava M, Josie W-H, James D, Madeleine P, Emily A, Marley G, Elke B, Hannah C, Jayden M, Sam D, Indi M, Kobe M, Laylah K, Sam R, Holly W, Lewis C, Flynn C, Jesse S, Tyler S, James L, Amelia H, Indy M, Jack C, Theo C, Parker G, Carter M, Alyssa B, Chase R, Jenson F, Addison K, Indy Y, Sophie C, Darby T, Brynn S, Maici B, Isaac L, Lisa O, Ellesse S, Flynn R, Nick L, Tony P, Arielle F, Matilda B, Teren G, Jasper W, Claire D, Addison M, Sam J, Matthias K, Jonah M, Korban L, Jack C, Braxton T, Laylah K, Charlize L, Oliver T, Lexi D, Susan P, Lleyton L, Aramaia M, Isaac K, Piper R, Owen S, Samantha F, Angus W, Lauren M, Emily R, Noah L, Lauren M



YEAR 6 GIFT!

Thanks to the efforts of the Year 6 Parents and their fundraising events this year we are excited to announce the Year 6 gift to the school. This year's Year 6 gift is a new game for the playground, 9 Squares in the Air! It is a fun game that is a cross between Volleyball and Handball. Year 6 are excited to add this additional play space to our playground for all to enjoy while our current students remember the wonderful Year 6 class of 2023.

Thank you to the Students and Parents of Year 6 2023! We are hoping to have our new play equipment for the start of 2024.



Sydney War Memorial Trip

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.

The prize for winning this research project is a day trip to the War Memorial in Sydney. Our 7 students who were involved in the project and Mrs Pringle were very lucky to go on this trip to Sydney on Tuesday the 5th of December along with the students from Branxton Public and Kirkton Public School. It was a wonderful day and we learnt so much about the history of those who have served our beautiful country. We would like to thank Brian Furner and Branxton RSL for this wonderful opportunity.



Aboriginal Education



Year 7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Transition Day on Tuesday 28th of November



Year 2 presenting their Persuasive Writing

“Why should people visit and holiday in Wonnarua Country?”

Kindergarten Art Project

Aboriginal interpretation of the Christmas Nativity Scene



Year 4 Art Project



#AOKIDS

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Holiday Tennis

for kids
4-16
years



Camp 1

Tues 19/12
Wed 20/12
Thurs 21/12



Camp 2

Tues 16/1
Wed 17/1
Thurs 18/1



Camp 3

Tues 23/1
Wed 24/1
Thurs 25/1

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\$35/day or \$100 3 consecutive days



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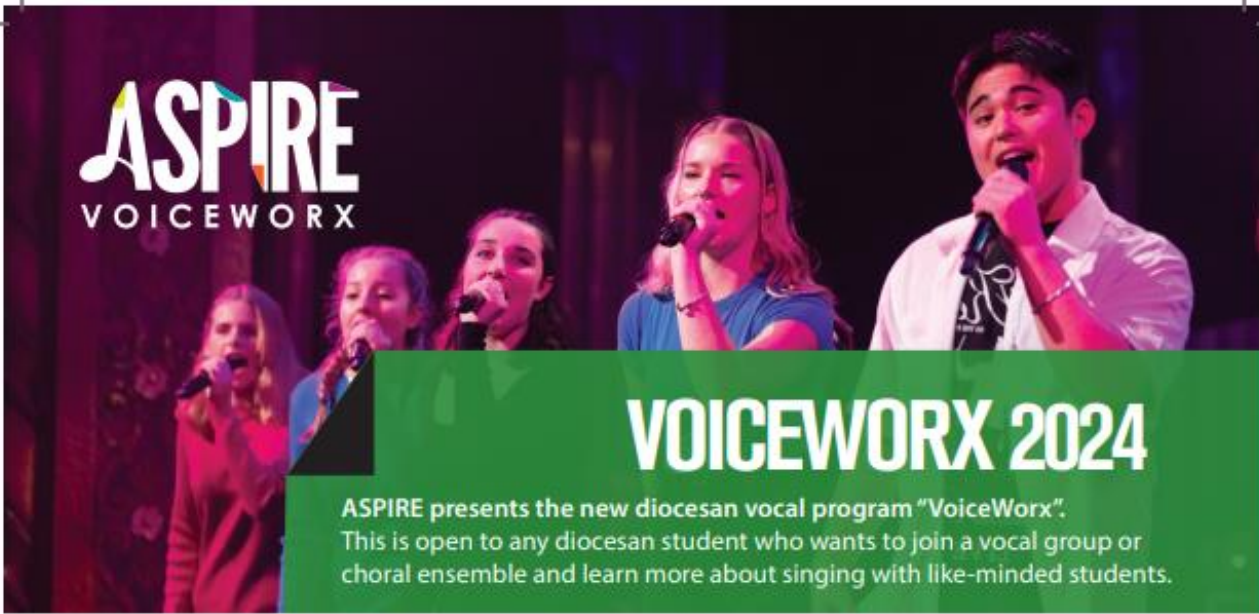
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ABOUT VOICEWORX

The focus will be on vocal ensemble music, particularly choral repertoire of all styles including traditional, popular and contemporary music that is interesting and challenging. There will be 6 choirs total - 5 Primary choirs that will be based in regions, and 1 Secondary choir - Years 7-12. The program will be run by a team of experienced Vocal Directors and Assistants under the direction of the Aspire Musical Director. The choirs will perform at various diocesan and community events and concerts.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- Vocal technique
- Vocal warmups, exercises for correct voice production and vocal hygiene
- Ensemble skills and learning about the roles of each part of a choir
- Dynamics, phrasing and expression
- Reading traditional notation
- Listening skills
- Following a conductor

REHEARSALS: PRIMARY CHOIRS

These Rehearsals will be in Regions- Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter, Manning, Lakes, Central/Norths. You will only need to attend the rehearsals closest to you.

Upper Hunter: St James' Primary School MUSWELLBROOK
Lower Hunter: St Aloysius Catholic Primary School CHISHOLM
Manning: St Clare's High School TAREE
Lakes: St Paul's Catholic College BOORAGUL
Central/North: San Clemente High School MAYFIELD

REHEARSALS: SECONDARY CHOIR

Rehearsal venues will be split between All Saints' College Maitland and St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton (1 rehearsal at each school, per term). Students are expected to attend both rehearsals. There will also be a whole-day workshop at St Francis Xavier's College early in Term 1.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR VOICEWORX 2024

Registration is an online process via the ASPIRE website. The following QR code will direct you to the:

2024 VOICEWORX REGISTRATION FORM



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code:
<http://mn.shor.tn/ASPIREVoiceWorx>
 *You will have to use your student login details (the details you use for school) when submitting your registration (Other email addresses will not work).

2. FILL IN THE FORM TO APPLY

The cost will be \$100 per year (can be paid \$25 per term). A VoiceWorx polo shirt, sheet music, rehearsal, and/or backing tracks will be supplied. *Financial support is available if needed.



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