

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 2 2024
Thursday 8th February

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people-the first custodians of this land.

IMPORTANT DATES

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.

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

FEBRUARY		MARCH	
Fri 9th	Canteen starts today.	Wed 13th – Mon 25th	NAPLAN 2024 (Year 3 and Year 5)
Tue 13th	Regional Swimming Carnival	Wed 20th	Whole School Photos
Wed 14th	Ash Wednesday liturgy held in hall from 9am NO awards assembly today	Fri 22nd	PUPIL FREE DAY
Thur 15th	10am Opening school liturgy in hall. ALL WELCOME. Parent information night 2 sessions 5pm and 6pm (in classrooms). Playground supervision will be provided by staff.	Fri 29th – Mon 1st	Easter Long Weekend
Thur 29th & Fri 1st Mar	Sallyanne at Catholic Schools Office (Principal's meeting)	APRIL	
		Fri 12th	LAST DAY OF TERM 1

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

As we begin a new school year, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us.

Thank you for the school holidays that gave us time for fun and relaxation with our family and friends.

Thank you for bringing us safely back to school this year.

We ask that you help us to:

use our eyes to see new friends and new opportunities,

use our minds to learn new things,

use our ears to hear your message as we try to live like Jesus and use our hearts in our interactions with others.

Help us to remember you are with us when we face challenges.

Help us to truly learn together and enrich the lives of all that we meet.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to our 2024 school year!

I hope you had a happy Christmas and enjoyed some time together as a family.

Some items to bring to your attention:

-We anticipate there could be challenges in staffing our school throughout this term. There will likely be times that class teachers cannot be replaced. Whilst every effort will be made to secure a casual teacher, this will be difficult. It may mean that your child has multiple teachers in a week or more likely that the class will have to be split. Of course, every effort will be made to avoid such scenarios. I thank you in anticipation for your understanding and patience with this.

Staffing

It was so lovely to welcome our first group of new Kindergarten children and their families today. They are settling in, and our year 6 buddies are doing an amazing job of looking after them.

We especially welcome our new staff:

Ms Ellen Rae (Kindergarten teacher)

Mrs Lauren Wicklein (Year 4 Blue teacher- Mon & Wed)

Ms Madelaine Percival (2 White teacher - Tuesday)

Ms Penny Anderson will continue at Rosary Park (school counsellor 3 days/week) for the start of this term only, as she is expecting her first child in April.

Mrs Paige Pringle is expecting her first child in July and will begin parental leave in June.

Special welcome to the new families apart from Kinder families/students who have joined us this year and some who have returned to us: Singh, Mundaden, Collier, Nguyen, D'Annibale, Leedham, Jean Baptiste, Garth, Pascoe and Thomson,

Staff 2024

Executive Staff:

Principal: Sallyanne Stanbridge

Assistant Principal: Janelle Dixon

Religious Education Coordinator: Mackenzie Gageler

Primary Coordinator: Amber Van Duuren

Teaching Staff:

Kinder Blue: Ms Grace Dever

Kinder White: Ms Ellen Rae

Year 1 Blue: Mrs Louise Kevin

Year 1 White: Mr Jack Montgomery

Year 2 Blue: Ms Emelia Lindus

Year 2 White: Ms Nikola Groves (M, W-F)/Miss Madelaine Percival (Tues)

Year 3 Blue: Ms Naomi Rodwell

Year 3 White: Ms Mackenzie Gageler (M-W) & Simone Cameron (Th-Fri)

Year 4 Blue: Mrs Amber Van Duuren and Mrs Lauren Wicklein (Mon and Wed)

Year 4 White: Ms Victoria Prosser

Year 5 Blue: Mrs Kate Burgess (M-T) & Mrs Debbie Parkes (W-Fri)

Year 5 White: Ms Chloe Morgan

Year 6 Blue: Mr Nick Standing

Year 6 White: Mrs Paige Pringle

Learning Support Teacher: Mrs Nichola Ellis (full time) and Mrs Tiffany Nolan (0.5) returning in term 3

EALD teacher: Mrs Janelle Dixon 2 days/week

ATSI teacher: Ms Katrina Easton

Gifted Education Mentor: Nikola Groves (Tuesday)

Teacher Librarian: Mrs Melanie Flynn (M-T-W)

School Counsellor: Ms Penny Anderson (3 days/week)

RFF Teacher: Mrs Simone Cameron (M-T-W) teaching dance/drama/music

Support Staff

Senior Admin School Officers: Mrs Amanda Percival (Mon - Friday)

Mrs Kim O'Rourke (Wed-Thu-Fri & alternate Tuesdays)

Wellbeing Officer: Mrs Jess Dougherty 3 days/week

Aboriginal Education Support worker: Mrs Jess Dougherty – 1 day week

Library Assistant: Mrs Erin Dewey Mon-Thur

Learning Support Assistants: Mrs Renae Craft, Mrs Jessica Bellott, Mrs Kacie Bishop, Mrs Cherie Lane, Mrs Natalie Cortis, Mrs Kimberley Gargan, Mrs Fiona Roberts, Mrs Katherine Allen, Mrs Emma Nevin and Mrs Jess Dougherty.

Groundsman: Mr Nigel Levido

Canteen Coordinators- Fridays- Mrs Veronica Rigelsford and Mrs Cassandra Freeman

Parents and Friends -PEG model 2024

In November 2023, the Parents of Rosary Park voted unanimously to discontinue the executive model of P and F and instead adopt the Parent Engagement Group (PEG) model.

This will mean that we still hold termly parent meetings and the formation of group/s to continue initiatives (e.g. fundraising) that the parent body may deem is needed for our community.

Your input will be welcomed as to areas that you would like more information on to assist with your child's education and social and emotional development and a survey was sent out to all families on Compass on Tuesday.

Our term 1 gathering will be our parent information night on Thursday 15 February (2 sessions- 5pm and 6pm). We will also hold our termly parent meeting at 4:30pm on Thursday 15 February in our staffroom (or online).

Grade and Principal's Awards

In recent years, we have worked hard at Rosary Park to build our children and staff's understanding of the vision and work of the founding sisters of our school- the sisters of Mercy and in particular Catherine McAuley who founded the sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831. This has included the formulation of new Vision and Mission statements for our school in 2020 and expanding our school prayer to include aspects of these statements and our Mercy Pillars in 2022.

Also in 2022, we introduced our grades taking one of the Mercy pillars to focus on in class. This has led to a deeper understanding for all our children of the Mercy pillars and how we can display these in our interactions with others. Every Monday at our assembly, our student leaders introduce the PBL rule of the week and the Mercy pillar which we will all try to focus on in our lives for the week. Every Wednesday at our assembly there is one Mercy award given to a child who has consistently displayed this Mercy pillar. Once a child receives ALL of the six Mercy awards (that is for respect, courage, compassion, service, justice and hospitality) they will receive a special set of Rosary beads which represents our school's patron saint, Mary (the mother of Jesus) and the special prayer that we pray to her- the Rosary.

Children are invited to hand in 3 merit and/or Mercy awards to receive a principal's award at our Wednesday assembly. Any MJR awards received by a child in previous years- prior to 2023, CAN still be used for a principal's award. Children accrue multiple Principal's awards over the course of their education at Rosary Park.

The following rewards are given once a child accrues several Principal's awards:

- Once a child receives **5** Principal's awards, they will receive a Catherine McAuley card.
- After **10** Principal's awards they receive our Rosary Park badge of excellence
- After **15** Principal's awards they receive a Cross + card (prayer) to acknowledge the child's efforts in consistently displaying the pillars of Mercy.

I am sure you will agree that these rewards add further meaning to the Mercy pillars for our children. As always, any questions or constructive feedback on our awards structure is always welcome.

Standard Collection Notice

In today's newsletter you will see the Diocesan Standard Collection Notice. Upon enrolment of your child, you signed an agreement stating that you understood that the Diocese holds information on students and families. This standard collection notice explains that this information held about your child is able to be used by the school and diocese for the purposes outlined in this document. Please make sure you are aware of this document and contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Contacting Teachers

The best outcomes occur for our children when school and home, work together. We look forward to continuing to build the strong links between families and school. Your child's teacher is obviously an integral part of this and there may be times during the year, aside from our scheduled student led conferences at the end of Term 2, that you need to contact your child's teacher. If so, contact can be made via the school's administration email:

admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au .

These emails will be forwarded to the relevant teacher by myself or Janelle Dixon (Assistant Principal). Teachers will respond to your email within 2 business days and during the hours of 8:15am and 5pm.

You can also contact your child's teacher through our office, by leaving a message for them by phone. They will return your call as soon as possible.

As you can appreciate, teachers are very busy during the school day so any 'urgent' messages for your child regarding travel arrangements, medications, lunches etc must be made by calling the office.

Afternoon Pick up Reminders.

Rosary Park has a clearly defined Traffic Management Plan, developed several years ago in consultation with NSW Police, Cessnock Council and the Diocesan Safety and Wellness team. It is attached to today's newsletter. As part of this plan, we regularly review safe travel and road safety with our children. Parents are expected to do the same; we know the best way of doing this is by actually abiding by the road rules and following our set procedures to ensure the safety of everyone.

The parent car queue and pick-up process is a streamlined and organised process which allows staff to monitor children's movements more closely to their homes with known adults and ensure their safety by minimising their interaction with traffic, crossing roads etc.

I am extremely grateful to those parents who follow our procedures as we ask, demonstrate patience, and abide by road rules to ensure everyone's safety.

I encourage you to read and familiarise yourself again with this document which outlines the following:

-Parents are always to abide by traffic laws during drop off and pick-up times. No U turns, follow the 40km zone, do not park in or obstruct driveways.

-The school recommends a "Kiss & Go" process at the front of the school in the mornings where students exit the vehicle on the passenger (kerb) side only. The area (gravel) beside St Nicholas Early Learning Centre is out of bounds for unaccompanied students due to the danger of crossing the St Nicholas Early Education Centre Driveway. If it is necessary to park in this area, it is the school's expectation that a Parent/Caregiver will accompany the student to the school crossing to ensure their safety. As staff do not come on duty until 8:30am, students should not arrive at the school before this time.

-In the afternoons, *Parent Pick up and Go* is our preferred method of pick up and we appreciate Parents/Caregivers choosing this option to minimise adults on site as well as children and adults interacting with traffic.

Vehicles queue from ten (10) minute zone to the southern side of the pedestrian crossing (right of the school). They are to wait there until directed by a Staff member (5 cars at a time) to move into the pick-up zone. A staff member will call the family name and students are placed in the vehicle.

Note – A Staff member will place your child/ren in the vehicle on the kerb side (NOT roadside). Parents/Caregivers are to REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLE and place the vehicle in PARK OR NEUTRAL. Whilst a Staff member can assist a child with their belt it is appreciated that in order to ensure the swift and smooth running of this procedure, children are able to do this themselves.

All five (5) cars leave this zone at THE SAME TIME before the next five cars are directed to the pick-up area. Family names A-L are to arrive at 3pm, while M-Z at 3:10pm. **Please do not arrive until your allocated time.**

Parents are asked NOT to park in St Nicholas car park as we will not walk children across the crossing to meet families. Parents/Carers will have to collect their child at the Meet and Greet. We need to minimise children and adult interactions with the traffic and crossing the road.

-If you are walking/riding bikes home with your child, they will cross with a staff and the walkers/bike riders and meet you near the church/cemetery.

-As per the Catholic Schools Office and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Government guidelines, parents must give annual written permission for their child/ren to ride their bike or walk to/from school, with parents aware that children are under parent's duty of care once they leave school grounds. The School and TfNSW recommends that children under 10yrs DO NOT ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult. Children under 12yrs should ride away from busy roads. They may ride bikes on the footpath unless there are signs that specifically prohibit cycling. These permission notes will come home via class teachers in coming weeks.

If for a very specific reason you need to pick up your child early one day from school, this must be done **before 2:30pm**. Please do not call the school office **UNLESS IT'S AN EMERGENCY** after 2:15pm asking for a message to be relayed to your child about a change to pick up arrangements.

We thank you for your cooperation with this plan to ensure the safety of our children & all members of our community.

St Nicholas OOSH Branxton

A reminder that St Nicholas OOSH offer before and after school care 7am-8:30am & 3pm-6pm, as well as Vacation Care in holidays. OOSH can be contacted on **0448 751 549** to make enrolment inquiries. Vacation care is available during holidays and pupil-free days.

Uniform reminders

Thank you to those families who have ensured their children have started 2024 with correct uniforms. Please remember that our uniform policy states sports socks are *plain white (no sport logos)* with predominantly white joggers. Thank you for assistance with this.



Rosary Park Summer Uniform – Girls

SHORTS/ SHIRT	Peter Pan white collar shirt (emblem) and blue Midford shorts, white socks.
TUNIC	Blue & white check summer dress
SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with white socks, to be worn above the ankle. Leather jogger style shoes are permitted

Rosary Park 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. Leather jogger style shoes are permitted

Rosary Park Sports Uniform: Summer

TOP/ PANTS	Blue and White Sports Polo with school logo Navy microfiber shorts with school initials (or skort)
SHOES/ SOCKS	Predominately white joggers. Plain white socks (no sport logos such as Puma, Adidas), worn above the ankle

Sport Term 1

<u>Kinder:</u>	Sports uniform day every Thursday for all of term 1
<u>Year 1:</u>	Sports uniform day every Friday for all of term 1
<u>Year 2:</u>	Sports uniform day every Tuesday and Thursday for all of term 1
<u>Year 3:</u>	Sports uniform day every Thursday for all of term 1
<u>Year 4:</u>	Sports uniform day every Friday for all of term 1
<u>Year 5:</u>	Sports uniform day every Tuesday for all of term 1
<u>Year 6:</u>	Sports uniform day every Friday for all of term 1

School Attendance

The Education Amendment (School Attendance Bill) states that ALL children must attend school EVERY day that they are well enough to be there. Parents are DISCOURAGED from taking children out of school for holidays during school time. School work will not be set by the class teacher if you choose to take your child away on holidays during the school term.

The main points:

- All absences must be recorded and kept by the school for 7 years. Parents must give the school a reason for their child's absence (Compass, email or by phone) within 7 school days, otherwise it is marked in school records as an 'unexplained absence.'
- Principals may request a doctor's certificate if leave is for several days OR there are patterns of absence e.g. every second Monday.
- Parents are urged to avoid booking holidays in term time. If, however, your child needs time from school (more than 10 days) you must complete an 'Exemption from Attendance' form available from the Principal, PRIOR to exemption. It cannot be granted retrospectively. These are retained by the school. Exception from Attendance over 100 days in a 12-month period must go to the Minister via the Catholic Education Commission NSW.
- According to the Guidelines: Principals and the Diocesan Director may grant exemptions due to exceptional domestic circumstances, including, but not limited to participation in family holidays during school term, subject to being satisfied that this is in the best educational interests of the child.

School Website

Our website can be accessed via, <http://www.branxton.catholic.edu.au>

Our 2024 newsletters can be accessed there by clicking on the Newsletters button.

We also have relevant diocesan policies (which are followed by the school) on our website site such as Privacy & Complaints Resolution for Parents and Carers.

Please have a look, any constructive feedback or ideas about features or additional information you would like to see on the site is welcome.

Camps 2024

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.

2024 Student Leaders

Congratulations to our 2024 Leaders. They will receive their badges at our opening school liturgy on **Thursday 15 February at 10am.**

Mercy Team: Rubi Barnes

Active Lifestyle Team: Phoebe Cole

Environmental Team: 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 Radcliffe

Helping your child settle into the new school year (Source: Beyond Blue)

Occasionally feeling scared or fearful is all part of growing up. But some kids find it much harder to manage stressful situations and the world can be scarier for them than for other kids their age.

A particularly stressful situation is when children start kinder or primary school. Separation anxiety refers to the fear kids have when being separated from their parents or caregivers. It's very common in early years. The [Australian Parenting Website](#) has some great tips for helping a child deal with starting childcare, kinder or school:

- Help your child adapt to a new setting by spending time at the new place with them before the separation. If you're there when your child is introduced to their teacher or caretaker, they're more likely to develop trust quickly.
- If your child is feeling very upset and showing signs of separation anxiety before you arrive, have a chat to the childcare centre or the school so they're aware of the situation.
- Tell your child when you're leaving and when you'll be back. Sneaking out can make matters worse. At the same time, don't drag out your goodbye.
- Keep a calm and cheerful manner when leaving. If you look stressed, your child will likely pick up on this and get upset.
- Don't use negative phrases like, "stop being such a baby". Instead, reinforce positive behaviour by complimenting them when they are behaving well.

At home, you can work together with your child to develop coping strategies for their anxiety. Here are six great ways to get on top of it:

- **Slow down.** This is always the best place to start. Take some slow, deep breaths together. Breathe in for three seconds, hold for three, then out for three. Once they're feeling a bit calmer, you can talk through what's worrying them.
- **Think positive.** Remind them of times they've dealt with similar issues. "Remember the time your friend Andy didn't play with you at lunch, you played tiggy with Keely and Matt and had a great time."
- **Help them to challenge the scary thought with facts.** "Sharks can't live in a swimming pool." "Every time Mum goes out for dinner, she comes back." Make a plan together for what to do if things don't go as they'd like. "If you forget your workbook, it's okay, just borrow a piece of paper to write things down and we can glue it in later when we're home."
- **Have a go.** Kids often worry about making mistakes. This can lead to them avoiding situations or activities. Encourage your kid to give new things a try and let them know that it's about fun, not being perfect.
- **Check yourself.** Try taking a step back and wait before you jump in to help your child. Figuring things out for themselves, learning to problem-solve, is an important step and will help them to be a resilient adult. Over-protective family members can reinforce a child's fears that the world is a dangerous place and that they can't handle it.
- **Be the example.** Be a model for your child. Kids pick up signals from adults, so by showing calmness in dealing with stressful situations, you are showing them the way.

More support for your anxious child can be found on Beyond Blue's [Healthy Families](#) website. A health professional can help you develop strategies tailored to your child.

Rosary Park is truly a unique School and Parish community with an inclusive and nurturing atmosphere where we learn together and enrich the lives of each other. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with you, your children, and the staff this year to ensure that every child at Rosary Park thrives in 2024!

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

School Rules and PBL

At Rosary Park we follow a Positive Behaviour for Learning framework. This ensures that teachers interact with students in a positive way. The primary focus is on rewarding positive behaviours and specifically teaching children what these positive behaviours look and feel like.

In the first few weeks of the year, every classroom has a focus on building positive relationships.

Your child's teacher will be working on getting to know your child better and building a positive relationship with them. If your child is having trouble with friendships or relationships with others in the classroom, on the playground or on the bus, we suggest you encourage them to discuss these concerns with their classroom teacher. This will assist the teacher to get to know your child and work together with them to solve any issues they may be experiencing.

To make things as simple as possible, we only have 3 basic rules -

I am safe, I am responsible and I am an active learner.

There are many positive behaviours we encourage for the students under these 3 rules. The positive behaviours are linked to our Mercy Values. (see below)

**AS DISCIPLES
OF JESUS, WE
SERVE OTHERS
WHEN WE
MAKE GOOD
CHOICES**



I am safe



"The Lord is like a strong tower. Those who do what is right can run to him for safety." Proverbs 18:10

I have **respect** and use my equipment correctly
I am **compassionate** and use caring hands and words
I show **courage** when I stay in a safe place

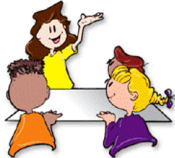
I am respectful



"Love your neighbour as you love yourself" Mark 12: 31

I am of **service** to others by **respecting** my environment
I am **just** and make others feel included
I am **respectful** when I use my manners
I am **hospitable** and greet others
I am **courageous** and show **compassion**
when I use kind words and actions

I am an active learner



"They found Jesus in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions" Luke 2:46

I **serve** others by being prepared to learn and letting others learn
I show **justice** when I let my friends work and keep on task
I show **respect** when I am organised and ready to learn
I am displaying **justice** as an active listener

To help the children follow these rules and behaviours we have a school wide focus rule each fortnight. This means that each 2-week block has a focus rule and a value. This rule is announced at the Monday morning assembly and is specifically taught in each classroom in an age-appropriate way. The class discusses the rule and value and may role play examples of what it might look like when this rule is followed and when it is not. Sometimes, incident data suggests there is a need to focus on a particular rule. When this happens, we change to this focus in the second week of the cycle, this way we ensure the focus rule is always an area of a current identified need.

Teachers reward children with a "Mercy Award" at assembly each week. This is for a child who has displayed this focus pillar in the classroom or on the playground.
See below for the list of focus rules for Semester 1.



Rosary Park Catholic School
PBL and Mercy Value Scope and Sequence
Semester 1 2024

Term 1	School Rule	Behaviour Focus	Mercy Value
Week 1, 2, 3	I am Respectful	Kind Words: Making students feel included.	Justice
Alternate 3			
Week 4 and 5	I am Respectful	Kind Words: Using Manners	Respect
Alternate 5			
Week 6 and 7	I am Respectful	Kind Actions: Body Language	Courage Compassion
Alternate 7			
Week 8 and 9	I am Respectful	Kind Actions: Greeting people	Hospitality
Alternate 9			
Week 10 and 11	I am Safe	Caring Hands	Compassion
Alternate 11			
Term 2	School Rule	Behaviour Focus	Mercy Value
Week 1 and 2	I am Safe	Using equipment correctly	Respect
Alternate 2			
Week 3 and 4	I am Safe	I am in bounds	Courage
Alternate 4			
Week 5 and 6	I am an Active Learner	I let my friends work and keep on task	Justice
Alternate 6			
Week 7 and 8	I am an Active Learner	I am organised and have my tools ready	Service
Alternate 8			
Week 9 and 10	I am an Active Learner	I am an active listener	Justice
Alternate 10			
Procedures			
Every Monday morning the PBL team will introduce the rule for the week during morning assembly. All staff take time to teach the rule in the classroom for 10 mins with a focus on the "Mercy language" and how the pillar fits. Mercy awards, with a focus on the Mercy Pillar, are given out at Friday assembly along with class merit awards. Staff review behaviour data and choose possible alternate rules at Monday morning meeting.			

Gotchas

Teachers give gotchas to reward positive behaviours. Children collect these "Gotchas" to trade for fun prizes. Classrooms gotchas are tallied throughout the term and the colour house with the most gotchas throughout the school are rewarded at the end of term with the "Spirit Cup" and they can choose an ice block or extended play time to celebrate this success.

PBL Matrix

Occasionally there is a need for children to have a more focused reflection on our rules and consequences for continued poor choices. Our PBL Matrix outlines poor choices and consequences for these. Initially, reminders and reteaching of behaviours is offered to students.

Sometimes yellow slips are given when poor behaviours continue, or behaviours outlined on the matrix are displayed. When a child receives a yellow card, they also complete a restorative think sheet to help them unpack what happened, where things went wrong and what choices they could make to get the help and support they need to make better choices in the future. This sheet is sent home for child and parent reflection and the consequences for these behaviours include community service and time off playground to reflect.

Incidents of a more serious nature, or 3 yellow cards within a term, results in a red card. A red card means that a child receives an in-school suspension. The child will reflect on behaviours, remaining in the administration area to talk through how they can seek the supports needed to make better choices in the future.

On some occasions behaviour incidents may result in an immediate at home suspension. These behaviours would include a high risk to the safety of self or others and may involve inappropriate physical contact.

When it becomes evident that a child required further support in following expected behaviours at Rosary Park, an individualised behaviour support plan is devised for that student in partnership with the parents.

Our school follows the Diocesan Suspension, Expulsion and Exclusion Policy. In some cases, continued breeches of our PBL expected behaviours results in the need for advice and consultation with Catholic Schools Office Directors as to the continued enrolment of a child at Rosary Park.

Please see our PBL Matrix attached to this newsletter.

Personal Device Policy

At Rosary Park we have a personal device policy which outlines rules and boundaries to do with personal technology devices as well as listing the responsibilities of having such a device at school. The policy refers to personal technological devices such as mobile phones, smart watches, iPods, iPads, tablets, slates and electronic gaming devices. IT does NOT refer to laptops used for educational purposes.

From the policy-

Policy Statement

To adequately prepare students for life beyond school and to ensure that 21st Century Learning skills are addressed and accessed in the most appropriate manner. Rosary Park Catholic School, Branxton recognises the important role that Personal Technology does, and can, play in the lives and education of our students.

Students and staff will adhere to the following expectations in reference to the use of a Personal Technology Device (PTD) at school:

1. As a rule, if a student has a PTD at school, it must be always switched off, on aeroplane mode or ideally left at home. It must be out of sight. This specifically includes before school, recess, lunch, on bus duty and during classes.
2. Apple/Android smart watches must be on **Do Not Disturb mode** at all times.
3. At other times, such as excursions, there may be a need for students to use a PTD for communication purposes. Again, this may be done with the **DIRECT PERMISSION AND SUPERVISION OF THE TEACHER IN CHARGE AT THE TIME.**
4. These devices are NOT permitted to be used as a mode of communication or to take photos.

The school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft, damage or misuse of any device.

Parent Responsibilities

1. The expectation is that changes regarding student afternoon travel arrangements are made via parent contact with the school office. The only reason for a student to have a PTD device (smart watch) or mobile phone at school is for safe travel between school and home.
2. To educate your child on the responsibilities of bringing a PTD to Rosary Park.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to follow the policy as outlined above.

1. Students who are found using their device without the direct permission and supervision of the teacher in charge will be asked to switch the device off and put it away. The device will be stored and can be collected at the end of the school day.
2. Any inappropriate use of a PTD (including use in class without permission), disrespect towards staff or refusal to cooperate by the student will be dealt with as per the PBL Framework.
3. If a child breaches the school's procedure in regard to usage for photos, videos or a means of communication, the smartwatch/mobile device must remain at home for the remainder of the school year. This can be reviewed at the start of the new school year at the request of the parent.

Students who have their phone confiscated will have their names recorded on the School Behaviour Tracking system.

If the school has reason to suspect that there is inappropriate or illegal material contained on any PTD, it has the right to inspect it and students must hand the PTD over for inspection. If anything of an illegal nature is found on the device and/or if the student refuses to hand over the PTD for inspection, the matter will be referred directly to the police.

Parent Night

There will be more information about our Positive Behaviour for Learning at our parent night next **Thursday 15th February.**

If you have any questions about our PBL behaviour model or our personal technology device policy, please do not hesitate to send an email. We are happy to discuss or explain anything further if required.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Beginning of Year Staff Liturgy

On Tuesday 30th January, the staff gathered at our school yarnning circle to begin the new school year in prayer. We celebrated our 'mercy' heritage, listened to 'The Word of God,' shared prayers of hope for the year and gave thanks for our many blessings. We look forward to celebrating the beginning of the year as a whole school community in the coming weeks.

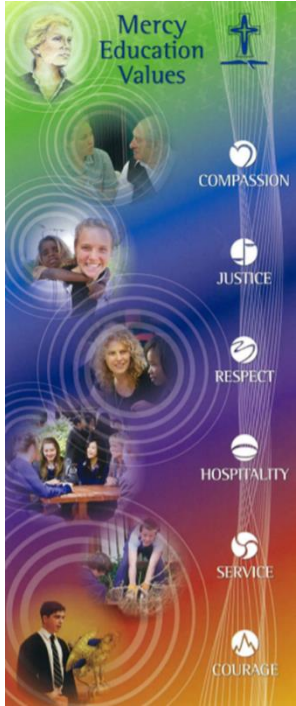


Rosary Park Mercy Charism

At Rosary Park we celebrate our Mercy Charism by recalling the life of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy. At the beginning of the year, we focus on lessons that outline some of the positive impacts of the Sisters of Mercy throughout our world. Each grade at Rosary Park has a focus mercy pillar to specifically teach and demonstrate throughout our school community. With the exception of Kindergarten who focus on God's love for us.

You might like to have a conversation with your child/children about their mercy lessons, identify people they know who show these values and discuss ways they think they could demonstrate this value in their school and home communities.

Grade specific Mercy Pillars	
Kinder – God's Love	
Year 1 – Respect	
Year 2 – Compassion	
Year 3 – Hospitality	
Year 4 – Justice	
Year 5 – Service	
Year 6 – Courage	



Vision and Mission Statement:

We have an ongoing focus and commitment to our school vision and mission statement. Which is drawn from the work of our school founder Catherine McAuley and the sisters of Mercy. In the light of Christ we love, serve and learn as a caring Faith community. Founded on the Mercy tradition Rosary Park educates and nurtures the faith and wellbeing of all through learning in:

Kindergarten: God's love

Year 1: Respect

Year 2: Compassion

Year 3: Hospitality

Year 4: Justice

Year 5: Service

Year 6: Courage

Our staff are on an ongoing journey with the students to make the vision and mission part of our everyday school language. Our Mercy pillars also linked with our PBL rules of the week. At every Monday morning and Wednesday morning assembly our children and staff say our vision and mission statement during our prayer time.

Liturgies:

Ash Wednesday Liturgy:

When: Wednesday 14th of February 9am

Who: All classes

Where: Rosary Park School Hall

Opening school liturgy: Blessing our new school leaders

When: Thursday 15th of February 10am

Who: all classes

Where: Rosary Park School Hall

All students will attend a special liturgy next Thursday to bless our school leaders and sport captains and present them with their badges. ALL families are welcome especially our leaders' parents as we present our year 6 leaders with their badges for the school year ahead.

God bless.

Sports News

Congratulations to all of the children who took part in our 2024 swimming carnival at the end of last year. Congratulations to the follow students who were our age champions for 2024:

Junior girl: Ellie A

Junior Boy: Logan C

11 yrs girl: Charli F

11 yrs boy: Jesse C

Senior girl: Rubi B

Senior boy: Korban L



We wish the following children all the best who have made it through to the regional swimming carnival held next Tuesday at East Maitland Pool:

Charli F, Ruby N, Phoebe C, Ayla B, Maici B, Matilda M, Holly N, Annie H, Ellie A, Charlize L, Lucy S, Ella Grace W, Rubi B, Rae K, Elke B, Shelle C, Mia W, Aliyah P, Ella R, Korban L, Logan C, Lleyton L, Alfie T, Lachlan B, Levi C, Jesse C, Liam P, Luke W, Bryce B, Flynn R, Darby T, Brooklyn J.

Sports in Schools

Sports in Schools provides grant opportunities to schools to allow for the implementation of quality sports programs in schools. In Term 1, Rosary Park has received a grant to provide AFL lessons to students in Year 1-3. Students will participate in 4 x 45 minute lessons, running on Thursdays from the 22nd February. The programs will be delivered by coaches from AFL NSW and will aim to build a range of skills related to our PDHPE syllabus.

Miss Groves

Bus Safety

Please find following some safety information from Graces Coaches.

As we enter the new year, we ask you to please share the following link in your School Newsletter or Facebook page, as a reminder of the importance of bus safety.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riVZwFgotwg>

Heidi Libreri
Grace Coaches Pty Ltd

Weekly Awards

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

Week ending Friday 9th February 2024 (Week 21)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Starting Week 3		
Kinder White	Starting Week 3		
Year 1 Blue	Millah L	Teren G	Indigo M
Year 1 White	Myla W	Hugh M	Jesse J
Year 2 Blue	Lleyton L	Maici B	Parker g
Year 2 White	Brooklyn Y	Charlie D	Scarlett C
Year 3 Blue	Hendrix B	Baxter A	Sofia P
Year 3 White	Brailyn L	Finn M	Annie H
Year 4 Blue	Noah R	Braxton T	Sasha A
Year 4 White	Hugo S	Paige L	Addison S
Year 5 Blue	Elijah C	Charlotte P	Lilly S
Year 5 White	Halle G	Chase R	Jacob L
Year 6 Blue	Elsa G	Ruby HD	Riley M
Year 6 White	Korban L	Harry W	Saige M

Principal's Awards: Annabelle B, Shelle C, Korban L, Nicholas L, Emily R, Noah L, Layla K, Charlize L



SONG COMPETITION

COMMUNICATION AND QUESTIONING WHETHER
BEING TOO LOUD IS A BAD THING?

The Song Competition will be broken into 4 categories - Primary School (individual), Primary (class), Years 7-9 and Years 10-12. Using the story for the production, the themes below will be the songwriting focus for these allocated year groups.

This year we will be introducing a new category, Primary (Class). Primary school teachers are encouraged to create a song with their classes or part of their class. This could be part of programming or a co-curricular project.

PRIMARY SCHOOL (INDIVIDUAL AND WHOLE CLASS CATEGORIES):

COMMUNICATION

What is communication?

What makes good or bad communication?

Different ways of communicating

What can be communicated?

YEARS 7, 8 OR 9: QUIET

Using 'quiet' as a theme for lyrics and/or music

What does 'quiet' mean to you?

What is the impact of being 'quiet'?

YEARS 10, 11 OR 12: LOUD

Using 'loud' as a theme for lyrics and/or music

What does 'loud' mean to you?

What is the impact of being 'loud'?

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2024

ASPIRE Song Competition Closing Date

THURSDAY 16 MAY 2024

ASPIRE Song Competition Finalist Concert

HOW TO ENTER

1. Video or record yourself singing or playing your song.
File formats: MP3, MP4 or MOV
2. A copy of your lyrics File format: Word document (NOT PDF or a photo)
3. If you can, include the chords or notation.
This is not compulsory.
4. Your song must be **no longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds.**
5. You will be able to upload via the ASPIRE website from **Week 1, Term 1 2024.**

ASPIRE SONG COMPETITION 2024 ENTRY FORM

The ASPIRE Song Competition Entry is an online process, upload via the ASPIRE website from.



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: <http://mn.shor.tn/ASPIRESongCompetition>

2. FILL IN THE FORM TO ENTER AND UPLOAD YOUR FILE

Criteria: Lyrics and/or music reflect the category theme. Quality and creative use of musical concepts e.g. melody, chords, structure, rhythm and dynamics. Interesting and engaging song.

Once entries close, shortlisted finalists will have the opportunity to workshop their song with professional musicians and ASPIRE Musical Director. The winner for each category will be decided at a live concert where a guest panel will judge the songs. This year there will be 4 winners, one for each category (Primary - Individual, Primary - Class, Years 7-9 and Years 10-12). The prize is a \$300 Musos Corner voucher and have their song professionally recorded.

Conditions: Music and lyrics must be created by the nominated students. Some students, particularly classes and younger students, may use backing tracks, or samples they have arranged themselves, but must create the lyrics themselves. Some students may seek feedback from their teachers or tutors, but the final product must be the student's own work. Submissions may be lyrics and music, or music only. Artificial Intelligence is not to be used in any aspect of the work submitted. The quality of the performance/recording will not impact selection.

For more details go to aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au



VOICEWORX 2024

ASPIRE presents the new diocesan vocal program "VoiceWorx". This is open to any diocesan student who wants to join a vocal group or choral ensemble and learn more about singing with like-minded students.

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.



This is an initiative of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools

WHO IS IT FOR?

The ASPIRE Concert Band is a Diocesan ensemble for students in Years 5-12. It is suitable for students who can at least play at a 1st grade (AMEB) level as well students of a more advanced ability, 4th grade (AMEB) and above. The ensemble is not suitable for beginner students.

Instruments include: Flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, mallet/auxiliary percussion and drum kit. The band is not suitable for string or piano players.

Students must know how to read traditional music notation.

The concert band will be playing a variety of repertoire including traditional concert band music, music from television and film, rock and pop music and music specifically composed for concert bands. There will be performances and events the concert band will be part of.

WHEN ARE REHEARSALS?

There will be 3 rehearsal per term (total of 11 hours per term):

- 2 regional rehearsals - (Central and Upper Hunter)
- 1 whole day rehearsal at St Pius X High School Adamstown

REGIONAL REHEARSAL:

You will be able to attend rehearsals at your closest school:

- St Pius X High School Adamstown
- St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton

These rehearsals will be after school hours, 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm and will only involve the students from that area.

Please see the ASPIRE website for the rehearsal dates.

WHOLE DAY REHEARSAL:

There will be one full day rehearsal each term held at St Pius X High School, Adamstown. All students are to attend this rehearsal.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

There is no cost to be involved in the Concert Band. Students will receive a ASPIRE T-shirt. Sheet music will be provided.

REGISTRATION

GO TO THE ASPIRE WEBSITE TO REGISTER FOR THE ASPIRE CONCERT BAND: <https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au/>

*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.

Contact jessica.lopez@mn.catholic.edu.au for more information.



Maitland LEGO User Group
- PRESENTS -
the
Maitland Show
LEGO® COMPETITION
- ENTRIES CLOSE 9TH FEB -
WWW.MAITLUGNSW.au
- PROUDLY SPONSORED BY -



The **Maitland Show LEGO Competition** will be running for the first time this year and we'd love to have your students, parents, and staff get involved!

Entries close on Friday the 9th Feb (next week!) via <https://maitlugsw.au>

Traditional place ribbons as well as LEGO prizes to be won courtesy of our exclusive sponsor Casey's Toys.

Your LEGO builds should be your own original design and no larger than a 16 x 16 stud baseplate.

There are four categories to enter:

- Railway
- Sci-Fi & Fantasy
- Technic
- Natural & Built Environment

and three age groups, with a small cost to enter (per entry):

- \$2 for Juniors (5-14)
- \$5 for Youth (15-25)
- \$7 for Open (26+)

Please also see our Facebook post for more details, which you are free to share in your community.

<https://www.facebook.com/maitlugsw/posts/pfbid027gmwR4krh9SdNRPdZkhvddjiiVGfSQp16fpe96bthwYb4sXq1ipLpayk7kq7LVNsI>



**REGISTRATIONS
NOW OPEN**



BRANXTON DISTRICT NETBALL CLUB

We welcome new players to come and join a great club where we ensure everyone enjoys themselves and develops their game

Find out more information by visiting our facebook page

**Rego closes 15th February
Season starts 4th May**



@branxtondistrictnetballclub



branxtonnetball@gmail.com

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