



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 1 Week 6 2024
Thursday 7 March**

Rosary Park Catholic School
Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

P: (02) 4938 1541 E: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

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.

MARCH		APRIL	
Wed 13 th – Mon 25 th	NAPLAN 2024 (Year 3 and Year 5)	Tue 2 nd	The Resurrection Liturgy 9:15am – Year 1 and Year 4
Wed 20 th	Whole School Photos (No Assembly)	Fri 12 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 1
Thur 21 st	Harmony Week – out of uniform and wearing orange.	Thu 25 th	Anzac Day
Fri 22 nd	PUPIL FREE DAY	Mon 29 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 2
Tues 26 th	Palm Sunday Liturgy 9:15am – Kinder and Year 6	Tue 30 th	Athletics Carnival for K-6
Wed 27 th	Holy Thursday Liturgy 9:15am – Year 4 No Assembly today	MAY	
Thur 28 th	Good Friday Liturgy 9:15am – Year 3	Wed 8 th	First School Assembly for Term 2
Fri 29 th – Mon 1 st	Easter Long Weekend		

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Pope Francis: **"Love of God and love of neighbour are inseparable. They are two sides of the same coin: lived together they are the true strength of believers."**

Parent Teacher Conversations

The beginning of each school year is such an important time and one whereby teachers are working hard to formulate positive relationships with their students. A learning environment based on trust, where students feel safe to share their ideas and comfortable to make mistakes can set the scene for a successful school year, for each child.

Our teachers have been forming these positive relationships over the last few weeks by getting to know your child; finding out their strengths as learners, their passions, hobbies, challenges and goals they have for the year ahead. It has been a joy to watch Kindergarten begin their journey of primary school. The provocations set up by our Kinder teachers (as part of Successful Foundations) has created a wonderful space for our little ones to play.

Research has shown that students achieve more in school when their parents are actively involved in their education. Parental involvement not only enhances academic performance, but also has a positive influence on a child's attitude and behaviour. A parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can influence the child's attitude towards school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, absenteeism, and motivation in a positive manner.

As communicated previously we are NOT holding parent/teacher interviews in term 1 but will hold student led conferences with the involvement of your child on 1 July (pupil free day). We remain focussed however on an open dialogue between home and school so if there is anything of concern that you wish to discuss with us, please make contact via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au.

We will also share information about calls to families in week 1 and 2 of term 2 in our next newsletter.

Parents on school grounds

As part of our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our children, our policy is that parents drop their children off at the gate and do not enter the grounds to take their children to the classroom. This is not because of any COVID restriction from the past, but because of a long-held child protection policy we have implemented at Rosary Park. We have children in our community who are the subject of court orders, so this policy ensures we can maintain the safety of all our children by monitoring the adults on the school site. In addition, seeing some children with their parents on site can cause anxiety for a child if their parent is not present.

Our Diocesan Commitment to Safeguarding.

During the second half of 2023 the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle underwent an external audit to test its compliance with Edition Two of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards ('the Standards'). The Standards were developed in response to the findings and recommendations of recent Royal Commissions into the abuse of children and vulnerable people. The purpose of the Standards, and this audit, was to ensure the safety of those who encounter the Church.

The Most Rev Michael Kennedy, Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle, asked that the audit be particularly rigorous, as he wanted people to feel confident about the results. The audit was conducted by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd. (ACSL) and Prolegis Lawyers, whose senior auditor was a solicitor for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Diocese has achieved an outstanding result with 98% of the Standards' indicators being assessed as being 'Developed and Embedded' or 'Developed'. The ACSL-Prolegis Audit Report summarised their findings:

The NCSS assessment of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle indicates that the Diocese is successfully implementing and embedding a culture of safeguarding throughout its organisation.

The excellent audit result can be attributed to the unwavering commitment of Diocesan leadership, particularly the late Bishop Bill Wright, the former Diocesan Administrator Rev Greg Barker, and has continued under the guidance of the recently installed Bishop Michael Kennedy. The expertise and dedication of diocesan personnel, particularly those in the parishes and schools that participated in the on-site audit, was extraordinary and demonstrated the Diocese's clear and persistent commitment to safeguarding.

(taken from 'Aurora' diocesan magazine Autumn 2024 edition)

Volunteers at Rosary Park

If you wish to volunteer in our school (canteen, etc) you need to complete our Diocesan Volunteer clearance. The link below contains a number of forms to be completed including a police check. This process normally takes a number of weeks to be finalised.

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>

Cultures of Thinking

This is a major focus of our approach to learning at Rosary Park. It features prominently in our School Improvement Plan.

Cultures of thinking is defined as "*places where a group's collective as well as individual thinking is valued, visible, and actively promoted as part of the regular, day-to-day experience of all group members*". The concept draws on the research of Ron Ritchhart at Harvard University, which shows that when schools become cultures of thinking, the learning of all members improves.

For teachers at Rosary Park, cultures of thinking means we value the thinking of every child in our classrooms, from Kinder to Year 6, knowing that thinking leads to learning. We value thinking by making time for thinking, using language that values thinking and prompts deeper thinking, making our own thinking and that of the students visible, and using classroom routines that encourage thinking.

As cultures of thinking is not an add-on to the curriculum, just a better way of engaging children in their learning, teachers come away from professional learning in this area ready to improve their classroom practice immediately. I look forward to us continuing to evolve thinking in the classroom.

Next Saturday 16 March ten teachers from Rosary Park are attending the ICTENSW DigiTLL (Digital Teaching, Learning & Literacies) Conference in North Sydney. We look forward to sharing our learning with our children.

2024 Athletics Carnival

This will again be held at Maitland Athletics Centre for K-6 children on Tuesday 30 April. You are most welcome to join us as all children compete on the day!

Kindergarten Enrolments 2025

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2025 are now open and will close on 24 May. If you have a child to enrol for kindergarten, please contact the office as soon as possible. Please also let any family, friends or neighbours know about these dates.

NAPLAN 2024

Naplan 2024 Year 3 and Year 5: 13th March till the 25th of March

Since 2019 Education Ministers have been considering a range of changes to NAPLAN. These changes include bringing forward the testing. As of 2023, tests are now undertaken in March instead of May.

Now that the tests are undertaken fully online, reporting can be done earlier in the year with parents and schools scheduled to receive individualised reports in July 2024. Benchmarks will be more meaningful and clearer to reflect the personalised online tests that students undertake. They will be set against a challenging but reasonable standard of literacy and numeracy expected for the child at the time of testing.

Education ministers agreed in 2019 to set proficiency standards for numeracy and literacy assessed by NAPLAN.

These new standards will give teachers and parents better information about what a student can do. The names of the new standards are based on advice from ACARA's First Nations Australians Advisory Group and parent bodies. They are **Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support**.

These will be accompanied by detailed descriptions that are useful for teachers and families. The descriptions will be developed by a panel of teachers. They will simplify reporting, replacing the current 10 NAPLAN bands and national minimum standard, allowing parents and carers to know at-a-glance whether their child is where they need to be in literacy and numeracy, which are skills that underpin all other learning.

These will provide parents and schools with easy-to-read information about what they mean for a student's strength in literacy and numeracy. The statistical benchmarks for the new categories of achievement will also be confirmed by teachers with relevant experience.

Gifted Education- Virtual Academy

We are now in our seventh year of the CSO (Catholic Schools Office) key initiative that promotes and supports gifted students in our school. An integral component of this initiative is the role of the GEM (Gifted Education Mentor) who supports students and teachers in our school. Nikola Groves is the GEM at Rosary Park. Every Tuesday she is off class to work with students and teachers. We are focusing on our pedagogy in Mathematics to utilise the learning outcomes of our Gifted students.

We are excited that in 2024 we have three students in the Virtual Academy. We congratulate Sam J (year 5), Harry W (year 6) and Evie M (year 6) who this year are working in the diocesan Virtual Academy.

The Virtual Academy provides a parallel learning pathway for high potential and gifted students from across the Diocese. The Academy offers a unique and innovative learning experience that enables students to connect with like-minded peers whilst maintaining connection and engagement and dual enrolment in their school.

The Catholic Schools Office is committed to implementing practices in curriculum delivery that incorporate appropriate strategies to meet the needs of high potential and gifted learners. One such strategy has been the formation of a Virtual Academy for identified students from schools in the Diocese.

The Virtual Academy is based online and provides students with the opportunity to learn through a conceptual and skills-based framework. The Virtual Academy considers the strengths and interests of each student and enables them to have agency, voice, and choice over their learning. The students will work within their classroom, via web-based platforms, which enables them to be extended and advanced through curriculum outcomes in place of part of their regular class work.

Our Commitment to Learning

It is extremely important that children are at school every day and they are there for the *whole* day. As you know we have a brief Monday morning assembly only as we make a school wide commitment to commencing literacy teaching promptly each morning- that is Spelling Mastery Years 3-6 and Initial Lit in Kindergarten -year 2. If your child is late, they are missing vital and explicit learning in spelling and reading.

Similarly, their learning continues until 3pm. Normally our afternoon timetable consists of HSIE, Science and Creative Arts activities which are also a very important part of a child's learning with creativity, collaboration and problem solving forming key aspects of these lessons.

You are discouraged from continually taking your child early as not only is it disrupting your child's learning, it interrupts other children's learning and the class teacher's focus on teaching with constant phone calls to the classroom. If there are extenuating circumstances as to why your child needs to leave early, please write to your child's teacher giving reasons why. Our staff and children thank you in anticipation for your commitment to learning for all our children.

Please ensure that you explain your child's absence from school preferably via Compass. You have seven days to do this. The Education Act mandates that we as a school and system are to monitor children's attendance at school.

Children with excessive days off school may be asked to provide medical certificates.

Our diocesan policy directs that parents receive a letter from the school if their child's attendance is not satisfactory and you may need to work with us in formulating an Attendance Improvement Plan for your child if their attendance does not improve.

Online Safety

Office of Safeguarding eSafety Schools are often asked how to safeguard children in terms of "digital safety", our advice is always to monitor very closely what your child is doing when using technology. Every year new social media sites become popular, which then results in issues for students who may have negative comments made about them, in some cases cyberbullying also occurs.

The Australian Government has excellent information on the following website around safety, I encourage parents to visit this site whenever you are unsure how appropriate content is for your child <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>.

The comments we often hear from parents are "I don't want my child to miss out", "everyone else is online", "my child has a tantrum if I refuse them screen time" and so on. Rather than worrying that our child will be left out, focus more on what you believe to be in their best interests. All social media sites have age limits for good reasons, such as inappropriate content and reduced security.

Your digital footprint can **NEVER be erased**.

Mobile Phone Policy

Rosary Park's Mobile Phone Policy states that we understand that there are times when a student may require a mobile device or smart watch at school to use in some circumstances for afterschool use.

Personal Technology refers to any device of a technological nature that students are able to bring to and from school. It includes, but is not limited to, mobile phones/smart phones, Apple/Android Smart watches, iPods, iPads, tablet/slate devices and electronic gaming devices.

For the purpose of this policy, it **DOES NOT** refer to current laptop computers/tablets a part of the 1:1 Device Program respective Program Participation Agreement.

Rosary Park Catholic School, Branxton recognises the important role that Personal Technology does, and can, play in the lives and education of our students.

Our expectation is a mobile phone device is brought to school for parents to communicate with their child on their way to/from school. It is not brought to school for any other purpose. The expected method regarding changes in travel arrangements is that parents contact the school office informing them of any changes which will then be communicated to the child.

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 switched off at all times, 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. It is preferred that these *are left at home*. If a child uses the device to communicate or call someone whilst at school, the device is no longer permitted at school.
3. At no stage are these devices to be used to communicate or photograph/video others.

Whilst permitting students to access PTD for the above-mentioned purposes, **the school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft, damage or misuse of any device.**

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

In the last newsletter and at our parent information night, we shared information around our PBL and how our focus at Rosary Park is on encouraging and rewarding positive behaviours. When children make choices that fall outside our PBL positive behaviours our first focus is on restorative questions (listed below). These help a child to identify and own their choices, outline the impact these choices have had on the people around them and make a plan to move forward in a more positive way.

Restorative Questions

What happened?

What were you thinking at the time?

What have you thought about since?

Who has been affected by what you have done?

In what way?

As previously communicated, our school rules fall under 3 main areas. I am safe, I am respectful, and I am an active learner. Each week we focus on a different rule. This rule is explicitly taught in every classroom so that every child builds their knowledge of the rules. Each rule is also linked to a mercy pillar. These mercy pillars form part of our mission statement. The mercy pillars are respect, compassion, hospitality, justice, service, and courage and are taught in our Religion lessons as well as in the

HARMONY WEEK

Rosary Park Harmony Day Competition

During week 8, from March 18th-22nd we will celebrate Harmony Week at Rosary Park. This year the theme of Harmony Week is "Everyone Belongs!"

On Thursday 21st March children are invited to come to school out of uniform and wearing orange to celebrate our diverse cultural backgrounds, uniqueness, and the fact that **Everyone Belongs**. On this day we will have a display at the front gate of the school. Please feel free to come and have a look at drop off time.

In the lead up to Harmony Week we are running some competitions to help students immerse themselves in the spirit of the celebration.

Poster Design Competition

Design a poster on A4 paper or cardboard that encompasses the theme of Harmony Week 2024 "Everyone Belongs!"

We will have an infant's (K-2) category and a primary (3-6) category. Submitted posters may be displayed around our school or included in school newsletters showing our commitment to celebrating our diversity.

Poetry Writing Competition

Write a poem that celebrates the core values of harmony week; the inclusiveness, respect and belonging of ALL Australians. Let us celebrate the diversity of culture in our school community.

EVERYONE BELONGS
www.harmony.gov.au

Playground Fun

Despite the limited space on the playground at the moment due to the building works, children are still making the most of our wonderful natural outdoor spaces. Many children enjoy fossicking in the gravel for "gems" and "treasures." Their imaginative play includes pirates, dragons and campfires among others. Building home bases with rocks, logs and sticks is a favourite. It is a real treat when we are able to spot wildlife including many birds and lizard varieties. We hope you enjoy a few pictures of our fun.





Religious Coordinator Message

Holy Week Liturgies:

During week 9 in the preparation to Easter we will have short liturgies to acknowledge the events of holy week. It would be lovely if you could please join us. Each liturgy will begin at **9.15am** in the hall.

- Tuesday 26th March Palm Sunday lead by Kindergarten and Year 6
- Wednesday 27th March: Holy Thursday Year 4
- Thursday 28th March: Good Friday Year 3

And in Week 10

- Tuesday 2nd of April: The Resurrection Year 1 and Year 4

As we enter another week of lent let's take a moment to reflect and pray:

PRAYER

God of all hope,
we pray for our world with all its beauty and need.
We thank you for the love in our lives that is
a mirror of your unending love.

May all creation know your compassion this Lent
and may we take courage to share it, especially with
those who don't have what they need.

In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to Moses:
'I will be with you,' when you ask us to do courageous things.

Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving,
move us to act in the company of your Spirit,
showing compassion and acting for justice
to renew the face of the Earth,
now and for all future generations.

We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.



Third Week of Lent beginning Monday 4 March)



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

Watch [Leaia's Story](#)

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes.

Wellbeing Week

Student Wellbeing is an important part of what we do as a school at Rosary Park. Our aim is to focus on 3 main principles which stem from the resilience project by Hugh van Cuylenburg which are Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM).

Each term we have a dedicated "Wellbeing Week". Week 7 (next week) is Wellbeing Week. During this week we do not set homework and staff have no planned afternoon meeting. Staff and students are asked to spend time with their families or participating in activities they enjoy with their family and friends.

In addition to this, we have a series of activities planned to engage students and focus on positive lifestyle choices. Our student leadership teams have come up with initiatives to help make this special week engaging for all students. To encourage autonomy and build leadership skills, Year 6 leaders and members of the four leadership teams have planned and will run the following activities for wellbeing week. Each afternoon next week students will rotate between classrooms to complete a wellbeing activity. This allows for students to work in different classrooms and teachers to work with different students. We look forward to seeing many children enjoying these activities during the week.



The poster features a central title 'Wellbeing Week 7' in a white box with a rainbow and heart icon to the left. Below the title are five activity boxes: 'MISSION MONDAY' (red), 'TEAM SPORT TUESDAY' (yellow), 'WALK TO SCHOOL WEDNESDAY' (light blue), 'THOUGHTFUL THURSDAY' (pink), and 'FILL IT UP FRIDAY' (blue). A rainbow and heart icon is also present in the bottom right corner.

Wellbeing Week 7

MISSION MONDAY
Join the Mercy team in the hall at lunch time to create artwork for the elderly. Donation to go towards project compassion.

TEAM SPORT TUESDAY
Staff vs students at lunch time on the basketball court.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEDNESDAY
Meet the teachers at the bakery and walk to school. 8.30am at Branxton Bakery

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAY
Meet the PBL team at the front gate and write a thoughtful message to a friend or teacher.

FILL IT UP FRIDAY
Fill the bucket up with rubbish. The grade with the most rubbish in their bucket will receive a prize.

Classes	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Kinder	Disco Kinder	Kindness Year 1	Mindfulness colouring Year 2	Gratitude Year 3	Mindfulness Meditation year 5
Year 1	Kindness Year 1	Mindfulness meditation Year 5	Kindness certificates year 6	Singing bowl Year 4	Disco Kinder
Year 2	Mindfulness colouring Year 2	Gratitude year 3	Singing bowl Year 4	Mindfulness Meditation year 5	Kindness certificates year 6
Year 3	Gratitude Year 3	Singing bowl year 4	Disco Kinder	Kindness certificates year 6	Mindfulness colouring year 2
Year 4	Singing bowl year 4	Kindness certificates year 6	Mindfulness Meditation year 5	Kindness Year 1	Gratitude Year 3
Year 5	Mindfulness Meditation year 5	Disco Kinder	Kindness Year 1	Mindfulness colouring Year 2	Singing bowl Year 4
Year 6	Kindness certificates year 6	Mindfulness Year 2	Gratitude Year 3	Disco Kinder	Kindness certificates year 6

God Bless,
Mackenzie Gageler
Religious Coordinator

Does your child ride a bike or walk to and from school?

The Catholic Schools Office and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Government guidelines states that parents must give written permission each year, for their child/ren to ride their bike or walk to and 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 need to be completed once each year per child. If your child/ren is likely to walk or ride to or from school, and you have not already done so, please complete the permission note available with this newsletter or contact the office to arrange for a note to be sent home with your child.

Kind Regards,
Amber Van Duuren
Primary Coordinator



Rosary Park Catholic School – Bikes and Walkers Permission Note 2024

Permission to either walk or ride to and from school is to be authorised by the Parents/Caregiver (please complete the following). Note: this form must be completed every 12 months.

1. I authorise my child to
- Walk unaccompanied
 - Ride a bicycle unaccompanied (see bicycle rules below)

For Walking – Parent/Caregiver Permission Note

I give permission for _____ (child's/student's name) in class
_____ to walk to and from school in 2024.

Signed (Parent/Caregiver):	Relationship to child/student:	Date:

For Bicycle Riding - Parent/Caregiver Permission Note

I give permission for _____ (child's/student's name) in class
_____ to ride his/her bicycle to and from school in 2024.

- I have read and understand the bicycle information provided in this Traffic Management Plan
- I have read and explained the bicycle information provided in this Traffic Management Plan
- I have reviewed the "[A guide to bicycle maintenance: Eight Point Safety Check](#)" to check my child's bicycle for roadworthiness and understand that it is my responsibility to keep the bike well maintained with all component parts working correctly
- My child will correctly wear a Standards Australia approved helmet when riding a bicycle to and from school
- I understand that bicycles are brought to school at the owner's and user's risk

Signed (Parent/Caregiver):	Relationship to child/student:	Date:

Bicycle User Commitment

- I have read and understand the bicycle information provided in this Traffic Management Plan
- My Parent/Caregiver has read and understood the bicycle information provided in this Traffic Management Plan
- I understand that it is a joint responsibility between my Parents/Caregivers and I to keep the bike well maintained with all component parts working correctly
- I will wear my Standards Australia approved helmet correctly when riding a bicycle to and from school
- I understand that I bring my bicycle to school at my own risk and will secure it in the bike rack
- I will not lend my bike to another student when travelling to and from school
- I will not carry any passengers on my bike

Signed (Child/Student):	Signed (Parent/Caregiver):	Date:

BUILT ON FAITH, KNOWLEDGE, RESPECT

A guide to bicycle maintenance: Eight point safety check		
Feature	What are you checking for?	Maintained
Bell or horn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rings or sounds clearly and loudly 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs fixing
Brakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bike wheel does not rotate when brakes are applied 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs fixing
Brakes pads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pads are not worn down 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs fixing
Chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> should be well oiled and not sag 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs fixing
White front reflector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is secure and clean 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs fixing
Red rear reflector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is secure and clean 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs fixing
Tyres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> firm tyres tread not worn and no canvas showing no bulges or cuts 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs fixing
Yellow wheel and pedal reflectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> are secure and clean 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs fixing

Source: Adapted from Safety Town

More information from about bicycle safety, Transport for NSW <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/bicycles/safety-rules/maintain-your-bicycle.html>

What is the right size of bicycle?

The right sized bicycle:

- is comfortable for the rider
- allows for the arms to be slightly bent as the body leans slightly forward holding the handlebars
- has controls within reach
- allows the rider's feet to just touch the ground when the rider is sitting on the seat
- allows the rider to straddle the crossbar with both feet flat on the ground. There should be about 3 cm between the bicycle and the rider's crotch for a light or medium weight road bicycle. For a BMX or mountain bike there should be a 10 cm gap. If there is no crossbar, make the test from where the crossbar would be.
- has a level seat

If not, the bicycle is either too small or too big and is unsafe.

What is required by law?

A bicycle must be fitted with a working horn or bell and at least one working brake.

Virtual Academy

We are very proud of our three Stage 3 students, Evie M, Harry W and Sam J, who were accepted into the Virtual Academy for 2024.

The Virtual Academy provides a parallel learning pathway for select students from across the Diocese, offering a unique and innovative learning experience that enables students to connect with like-minded peers whilst maintaining connection and engagement in their school. The Virtual

Academy is based online and provides students with the opportunity to learn through a conceptual and skills-based framework. The program considers the strengths and interests of each student and enables them to have agency, voice, and choice over their learning. The students will work within their classroom, via web-based platforms, which enables them to be extended and advanced through curriculum outcomes in place of part of their regular class work.

Across the Diocese, almost 300 students were nominated by their school, with only 90 places available in the program. We congratulate these students on their wonderful achievement and look forward to seeing what they do as part of the VA program!

Regards
Nikola Groves
Gifted Education Mentor

Ever wanted to spy on your child at school?

Volunteering at our school canteen is a fantastic way for you to see your child enjoying the playground and having fun with their peers.

This year we have welcomed a brand-new Canteen Supervisor Cassandra. Cassandra enjoys working with children, has a wealth of experience running school canteens and has a bubbly, fun personality.

Volunteering at canteen is fun and rewarding. If you can make a sandwich, enjoy a laugh and meeting new people, Canteen is perfect for you.

Volunteering at school actually benefits your child's education. Research shows that when children see their families involved in the running of their school, they have an increased value in their own education.

Volunteers are needed on Fridays from 9 till 11.30am. Younger siblings are welcome, you will receive a delicious lunch and you are able to spend some time seeing your child enjoying school with their friends.

To become a canteen volunteer please follow the link to complete the appropriate child safety checks and send in your expression of interest to Cassandra at the canteen!

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>



Showcase your child's talents.

Sign up for ICAS 2024



Dear [Parents/Guardians],

We know our students are amazing, so we're giving them the opportunity to showcase and celebrate their talents in the world-renowned ICAS competition this year.

What is ICAS?

ICAS is an online academic competition that gives students the opportunity to challenge their higher order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling Bee, and Digital Technologies.

Every student who participates is celebrated and recognised with a printed certificate in each subject area, and an online results report to track development each year. Top performers are eligible for one of the highly coveted ICAS medals.

To learn more about this year's exciting ICAS competition, visit: (icasassessments.com/products-icas/)

How to participate in ICAS

If you wish for your child to participate in ICAS this year, please:

1. Read about ICAS subjects and prices [here](https://icasassessments.com/products-icas/)
2. Read the Privacy Collection Statement below.
3. Read the terms and conditions [here](https://icasassessments.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-ICAS-Assessments-Schools-TsCs_S2023.V6-1.pdf)
4. Go to the Parent Portal to sign up to chosen subject areas [here](https://shop.icasassessments.com/pages/pps)
5. Enter our school's access code – EQN972
6. Enter your child's details, select the subject areas your child would like to participate in, then proceed to payment.

Please note that the ICAS subject areas shown for selection are at the school's discretion. After payment is made via the Parent Payment System, you will receive an order confirmation email, please keep this for your records.

ICAS results and certificates

All assessments will be conducted online, at school. We will notify you of the date(s) that we will run ICAS assessments, and when your child's ICAS results are ready. Your child's ICAS certificates will be delivered to school. Once we have received them, we will present them to your child to bring home. The back of the certificate will show your child's ICAS results and the login details, "TAP ID and Pin". - Use these to enter the [Results Portal](#)

Showcase your child's talents.

Sign up for ICAS 2024



orti.icasassessments.com/ortiStudent.

Privacy collection statement

The following information is a privacy notification about how your child's data is kept private and secure.

ICAS Assessment is owned by Janison Solutions Pty Ltd (**We, Us, Our**).

To deliver assessment products, Janison will require your child's School to obtain your consent to provide Janison with certain personal information of students. Janison will collect, store, use, disclose and otherwise deal with such personal information in accordance with its privacy policy (below). We are aware of our responsibility to protect personal information related to children and students from being disclosed when we deliver an ICAS Assessments product. Unless you, as the child's legal guardian consents, we **will not**

- collect any personal information or data of children other than the information we need for the successful completion of an assessment, test, or exam.
- transfer any personal information we obtain from a child in the delivery of assessments and tests to any jurisdiction outside of Australia.
- share any personal information relating to children with any third parties (except for those third parties necessary for us to carry out our Services or provide our Products e.g., medal engraving).
- use any personal information or data relating to children for marketing purposes.

You can view our full privacy policy at <https://www.janison.com/privacy-policy/>.

We may retain personal information and data relevant to a child for their future purposes or for research purposes by Janison for the duration of the school life cycle of the child. However, if you or your child at any time wish to have their personal information or data removed from our systems, they or you may opt out by simply contacting our Privacy Officer at privacy@janison.com or by contacting icasassessments@janison.com.

We are excited to be offering ICAS to our students this year and look forward to celebrating their achievements. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions.



ICE BLOCKS

QUELCH FRUIT STICKS 50c

TNT \$1

JUICIE \$2

MOOSIE \$2

SNACKS

POPCORN 60c

GRAINWAVES/SEA SALT CHIPS \$1.50

CHOCOLATE MUFFIN \$2.20

ASSORTED FROZEN FRUIT

Subject to availability

WATERMELON/ORANGE WEDGE

GRAPES

PINEAPPLE RING

All 20c

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending Friday 1st March 2024 (Week 5)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Bruno BR	Noah W	Isla C
Kinder White	Archie A	Eva N	Lewis S
Year 1 Blue	Evie E	An N	James D
Year 1 White	Madi N	Mia D	Eva S
Year 2 Blue	Alexis I	Ayla B	Charli C
Year 2 White	Ava M	Maya S	Matilda C
Year 3 Blue	Annabelle L	Will M	Aubree M
Year 3 White	Indy M	Jaxon C	Jesse S
Year 4 Blue	Elke B	Hudson W	Jaiden X
Year 4 White	Fletcher B	Tao D	Addison K
Year 5 Blue	Johnny N	Karmichael A	EllieY
Year 5 White	Evie S	Laylah K	Owen C
Year 6 Blue	Nevada A	Liana R	Ella R
Year 6 White	Brooke H	Louis D	Emitee O

Week ending Friday 8th March 2024 (Week 6)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Titan L	Blaine S	Ava S
Kinder White	Hunter B	Scott N	Isla H
Year 1 Blue	Oliver T	Lara T	Vivienne S
Year 1 White	Xavier T		Carley O
Year 2 Blue	Sawyer D	Gus W	Lauren M
Year 2 White	Grayson B	Ari S	Teagan S
Year 3 Blue	Mackenzie H	Minh B	Reni S
Year 3 White	Emily S	Cooper S	Noha M
Year 4 Blue	Linda P	Flynn C	Shahaan S
Year 4 White	Blake C	Max K	Matthias K
Year 5 Blue	Cruz G	Jemma M	Shelle C
Year 5 White	Jesse C	Sam J	Georgie W
Year 6 Blue	Hudson R	David H	Rose D
Year 6 White	Rae K	Brooklyn J	Madeleine P

Principal's Awards

Imogen M, Rawson D, Vincent L, Charli C, William M, Frances M, Aubree M, Elke B, Ayla B, Charlie D, Jaiden X, Evie E, Eva S



Lower Hunter

SPEECH PATHOLOGY

for kids!!



What is a Speech Pathologist?

A Speech Pathologist is someone who has been professionally trained to diagnose and treat infants and children who are not learning to communicate effectively and/or are experiencing feeding/swallowing difficulties

What does a Speech Pathologist do?

A Speech Pathologist **assesses** and **treats** children who have difficulty;

- **Understanding** what is said
- **Expressing** themselves
- **Communicating** with other people as expected for their age
- **Learning** at school
- **Speaking clearly**
- **Stuttering**
- **Feeding:** Chewing/ sucking/ swallowing
- **Dribbling/drooling** problems

The Speech Pathologist's job may include:

- **Assessment**
- Working with **children and families** in therapy
- **Program planning**
- **Educating** family members
- **Giving talks** to parents, teachers, support workers, doctors, health workers
- **Working with other specialists** such as audiometrists and audiologists, occupational therapists, dietitians, doctors, nurses, teachers, and school counsellors.

How can I contact a Speech Pathologist in the Lower Hunter?

For all **SPEECH PATHOLOGY** referrals for children, ring Lower Hunter Central Intake
4931 2003

Hunter New England Local Health District employs speech pathologists in the Lower Hunter to provide services to residents of the Local Government Areas of **Maitland, Dungog, Kurri Kurri and Cessnock.**

You do not need a referral to see us and we are a free service.

Hearing Tests

Children who have speech and language problems should have a hearing test.

For **HEARING TESTS**, ring

Lower Hunter Central Intake
4931 2003



Please fax to: 4931 2005 (Lower Hunter Sector)
Or please email to: HNELHD-LHCAPRS@health.nsw.gov.au

Lower Hunter and Hunter Valley Sectors Paediatric Speech Pathology Referral Form			
DATE: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>			
MRN/PMI: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	SURNAME: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	OTHER NAMES: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
ADDRESS: <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>		DOB: <input style="width: 20%;" type="text"/>	ATSI <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal
PHONE: Home <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>		Mobile <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
NEXT OF KIN: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	PH: <input style="width: 20%;" type="text"/>	RELATIONSHIP: <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>	
PREFERRED LANGUAGE: <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>		Medicare No: <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
INTERPRETER REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
GP(Name and/or Practice): <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>		SPECIALIST(S) NAME AND POSITION: <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
REFERRER NAME AND POSITION: <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>		REFERRER PH: <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
CONSENT FOR REFERRAL OBTAINED FROM PARENT/CARER? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
What are your specific concerns?			
<input style="width: 100%; height: 100%;" type="text"/>			
How long have you had these concerns?			
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>			
Has this child been referred to the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency?)			
If yes, does the child have a NDIS care plan / reference number? <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>			
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Are there any custody issues for this child? Is FACS involved with this child? If yes, who is the case manager and what are their contact details?			
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>			
Is the child being seen by any other services / health professional or special education involvement?			
Psychologist?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
Paediatrician?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
Speech Pathologist?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
Occupational Therapist?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
Early Intervention?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	
Other? (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	

Relevant Medical History:

Does the child have any diagnosed medical / health / developmental / behavioural issues?

Does the child suffer with frequent middle ear infections? (>4 / year or involved with ENT)

Has the child had a hearing assessment? (if yes, when and results)

Clinical information:

Speech: Are there any difficulties making the correct sounds in words?

Yes No

Expressive Language: How is the child speaking:

Appropriate for age?

Delayed for age?

Not talking much / at all?

(Give example):

Receptive Language: How much does the child understand what is said to him/her?

Everything or most things – as expected?

Doesn't always understand when I think s/he should?

Doesn't understand?

Stutter: Does your child stutter?

Never

Sometimes

Frequently / All the time

Feeding:

Is the child gaining weight appropriately? Yes No

Yes

No

Comments:

Does the child cough/choke when eating or drinking? Yes No

Yes

No

If yes, which foods/drinks:

Education:

Name of preschool/school attending, (and year/grade level)

(If preschool aged) What year is the child expected to enter Kindergarten?

(If school aged) Has the school counsellor seen the child? Yes No

Yes

No

Mobile phone contact: Speech Pathology may contact you via a text messaging service.

What is the best mobile number for us to contact you in this way?

(Any problems with this [NOTE: families need to opt out of this option]?)



ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

JUNIOR THEATRE MAKERS 2024

ASPIRE's Junior Theatre Makers Ensemble for Years 5 – 8 is again offering creative drama programs across the Diocese in 2024 throughout Terms 2 and 3.

Term 2 will be all about learning and skills with a focus on play building. Ensemble members will work through an array of exercises relating to character, physical and image-based theatre. The ensemble will be run by experienced drama tutors who will ensure ensembles are fun, inclusive and develop performance and drama skills.

Term 3 will be spent creating an original short performance piece which will be performed on **Thursday 26th September 2024 at Warners Bay Theatre, Warners Bay**. All groups will come together to rehearse at the theatre on **Wednesday 25th September**.

This is a great opportunity to learn in a fun environment with like-minded students. Places in the program are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

To register a for the program please complete the application form [here](#).

Course Cost: \$300

(scholarships are available for those in financial need)

REGION	LOCATION	TERM	TIME
Newcastle	St Pius X High School Adamstown	2 and 3	Wednesdays 4:00pm - 5:30 pm
Upper Hunter	St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton	2 and 3	Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30 pm
Lakes/West Lakes	St Paul's Catholic College Booragul	2 and 3	Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30 pm
Manning	St Clare's High School Taree	2 and 3	Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30 pm



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the most up to date photos and information. Visit aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au or call Anne Atkins on 02 4979 1331 for more information.

KIDS, STRESSED or ANXIOUS?

- Yoga poses (Meridian-based Yoga Therapy) that relieve tension and stress on a physical, mental and emotional level.
- Breathing techniques that reduce anxiety.
- Mindset activities to help create lasting change.

**Where: Branxton Community Hall
35 Bowen St, Branxton**

When; Tuesdays 4-5pm

Ages: 4-17 years

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

For Bookings: Ph 0402 194 908



Janine De Jorge is a qualified Children's Yoga Teacher Specialising in Yoga Therapy. Working with Children's Check (WWCC), police check & NDIS worker screening checks up to date.

follow on fb

hunteryogasync@gmail.com

www.hunteryogasync.com





**ROSARY PARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL AUSKICK**

THURSDAYS | 3:15PM - 4:15PM | 21/3 - 11/4

\$50.00 | INCLUDES SYDNEY SWANS PACK

**4 WEEKS OF FUN GAMES, NEW SKILLS AND
ACCESS TO SELECT SWANS HOME GAMES**

IDEAL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN YEARS K-6

CONTACT: MATT.HAINES@AFL.COM.AU

**FIND YOUR LOCAL CLUB, VISIT:
LINKTR.EE/AFLHUNTER**



CARDIFF



LAKE MACQUARIE



MAITLAND



MUSWELLBROOK



NELSON BAY



NEWCASTLE CITY



PORT STEPHENS



SINGLETON



WARNERS BAY

Good for kids

good for life



Start the day right with brekky

Eating breakfast fuels the body and gives kids more energy to concentrate and focus at school. It also gives kids the energy to be physically active!

Here are some tips to encourage kids to eat breakfast everyday:

- 🍴 Involve kids in planning, shopping and making breakfast. This teaches them to plan, prepare and cook meals
- 🍴 Prepare the night before - i.e., get the kitchen utensils out ready to use, bowls, plates, cups, cut up fruit and pop it in the fridge
- 🍴 Try healthy grab and go options: fruit, trail mix, yoghurt, fruit smoothies, baked beans or wholegrain cereal bites
- 🍴 Encourage your kids to start each day with breakfast! Make time to sit and enjoy eating breakfast together



HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>

Developed by Hunter New England LHD



Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in this newsletter are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about these matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are subject of these advertisements.