



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 1 Week 10 2024**

**Thursday 4 April**

Rosary Park Catholic School

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

**Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect**

*The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults - particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese. All employees are required to undergo a National Police Check and, where legislated, hold a Working with Children Check. Diocesan workers are expected to personally adopt and enact the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

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

APRIL		MAY	
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket Gala Day stage 3	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rugby League gala Day Stage 2
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rugby League Gala Day Stage 3	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	First School Assembly for Term 2
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM 1</b>	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Winter uniform starts (week of 13 <sup>th</sup> is optional for Winter uniform if weather is cold)
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup>	Anzac Day – Branxton march commences at 11:00am	Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Cross Country
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM 2</b>	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Catholic Schools Week 21 <sup>st</sup> liturgy and open classrooms
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics Carnival for K - 6	Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup>	School Spelling and Maths Bee

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I trust you all had a happy and holy Easter time, our most important event as a Christian community.

We reflect on the Easter triduum from the chant of 'Hosanna!' on Palm Sunday to Good Friday when those chants change to 'Crucify Him, Crucify Him!' It is a reflection on our humanness of being both saint and sinner. Held in tension as we look to do better and be more the saint but

noting that sometimes we get some things wrong. Jesus dies to help us tip our balance for goodness. Our prayer from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday should always be one of gratitude, for strength, for grace, for forgiveness and for the transformation only Jesus can bring.

I hope that this Easter season was able to bring you this.

### Student Led Conferences

Open and regular communication between school and home is so important to best optimise our children's learning outcomes. To this end we have now opened Compass for parents who wish to book a phone interview (10 mins' duration) with their child's teacher in week 1-2 of term 2.

Please ensure that you answer the call from a private number. Attached to this newsletter you will find instructions on how to book a time for this phone interview.

Semester one reports will be available to parents in the week of Monday 24 June. Then on Monday 1 July we will hold Student led conferences for *ALL children and their parents to attend on this allocated day which is a PUPIL FREE DAY.*

Our Leading Learning Collaborative (LLC) work in recent years has seen a growth in children's voice and autonomy in their learning. Children use Learning Intentions and Success Criteria to achieve success in a learning task and during this term they have started the setting of goals in aspects of their numeracy and literacy learning which will be shared and discussed with you at their conference on 1 July. At this conference the child is not only present but is encouraged to explain their progress and reflect on their accomplishments and set goals.

### Lyn Sharratt Visit to Rosary Park

Yesterday, Dr Lyn Sharratt, Catholic Schools Office staff, along with Principals and staff from five Maitland Newcastle schools visited Rosary Park to see the work that we are doing with students' goal setting, student led conferences, and children articulating their Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. The groups went on Learning Walks to classrooms throughout the morning, chatting to many children about their learning and were impressed at how well the children could articulate this.

I thank the teachers and children for hosting the guests in their classrooms and for the great work they are doing in this area.

### Bus safety reminders

Please remind your children of safe and appropriate bus behaviours. Recently we have had several reports of Rosary Park children displaying inappropriate and unsafe behaviours whilst travelling on buses. Children are to always remain in their seats until their bus stop and not engage in games.

### Period Positivity

Period poverty is the lack of access to sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education and inadequate toilet facilities. It is also the stigma and feelings of shame and embarrassment of a normal bodily function, and subsequent impacts on mental health.

In 2022 students from St Paul's Catholic College Booragul advocated for female hygiene products to be made available in school toilets to provide access, equity and dignity to students who menstruate. A Diocese-wide working group was formed to investigate the impact of period poverty in our schools and lead the way in addressing the issues by exploring the feasibility of:

1. Installing free period products in dispensing machines in our schools, aligned with the placement of the sanitary bins.
2. Developing an awareness education program for schools in conjunction with the syllabus.
3. Developing a policy that will help reinforce the promotion of dignity, gender equality and reproductive health.

The working group soon developed an initiative called Period Positivity. The initiative is about making periods normal. From free period care products to more informative discussions, the initiative aims to promote greater accessibility, equity and dignity for all.

In Term 4, 2022 a pilot program was conducted at St Paul's Booragul, trialling the installation of sanitary dispensing machines with the provision of free sanitary products at the school.

Due to the success of the trial, dispensers have been rolled out across all Secondary Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, with the Period Positivity initiative to commence at Rosary Park in coming months.

- Sanitary products will be available to students for free, via dispensers in the toilet blocks.
- If students find themselves needing pads or tampons, they will be available from the dispensers.
- Students will still be able to use their own products, but there will be the option to use the free products provided in the female toilets for those who need them.

The product roll-out will be complemented by an educational awareness program that will be deployed to students. Professional Learning resources will enable teachers to be competent and confident to deliver the educational materials such as Menstrual health; information about periods and anatomy, dispelling myths, products, accessibility, gender equity and promoting dignity.

For more information, please visit <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/students/period-positivity/>.

#### MAT life skills program

In Term 2 our year 4,5 6 children will participate in this weekly program. This is a therapeutic martial arts program that combines the principles of physical and mental wellbeing with those of therapeutic martial art training techniques. Its format engages and empowers young people to learn life skills and to better manage the challenges in their lives. The program uses drills, games, metaphors, and stories to deliver the physical, and mental wellbeing objectives. It does NOT involve sparring of any form.

Trained life skill instructors Darius and Lisa Wingate-Pearse (with the assistance of class teachers) will lead the children every week.

The philosophy of the program is BE STRONG - BE CALM - BE KIND - TRY HARD

The school is providing the funding for this initiative along with some donations from the P & F/ PEG.

Grades 1, 2, and 3 will participate in the program in term 3.

#### Changes to 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.

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 there will be one Mercy award given to a child who has consistently displayed this Mercy pillar. This will REPLACE the current award called 'Making Jesus Real' (MJR). 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.

Currently children are invited to hand in 3 merit and/or MJR awards to receive a principal's award at our Wednesday assembly. This practice will continue, obviously with the MJR award now being replaced by the Mercy award. Any MJR awards received by a child in previous years, 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 changes have been made to the reception of additional rewards for multiple 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 these changes are welcome once the changes begin.

### Complaints and Concerns - A Positive Approach

Concerns arise at schools for a variety of reasons, sometimes due to the very busy nature of the school environment.

In addition to solid teaching & learning, there are many extra curricula activities to enhance school life and a great deal of coordination is required. Accordingly, many considered decisions are made every day by our professional team to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the wider community, and promote learning for all. At the same time, the school community is quite diverse, with many individuals or groups having vastly different opinions on how things should be done.

It is inevitable therefore, that times will arise when some parents agree with the school's actions while others disagree and wish to discuss the matter and seek clarification with the school. We welcome such discussions and encourage parents to raise issues so that they can be dealt with speedily and resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Raising concerns or seeking clarification is not a negative experience if everyone focuses on it being a solution-focused experience by valuing everyone's opinions. The following process for presenting and managing parental concerns works well and is the way we manage all concerns at our school.

The diocese now has a new complaints and feedback process. Brochures are available in our school foyer should you wish to access these.

The CSO website has now been updated to reflect the new Complaints Resolution Framework. Please see Complaints Resolution and Feedback at <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/complaints-resolution-and-feedback/>

### Winter Uniform

Changeover to winter uniform occurs in Term 2. Unless we have a cold snap earlier, all children are expected to be in full winter uniform by the start of Week 4 (20<sup>th</sup> May). In the two weeks prior to this, parents are welcome to use their discretion and if there is a cold snap children can wear their Winter uniform. Your support is greatly appreciated to maintain our very high uniform standard. All items are available at Flanagan's Menswear, Vincent Street, Cessnock.

### Uniform reminders

In 2022, we formed a parent uniform Sub-committee to investigate changes and additions to our school uniform. Following parent surveys, we have had some addition made to our Winter uniform that parents can purchase from Flanagan's.

If children wish to wear a beanie in Winter, they will need to purchase a RPCS beanie displaying our emblem from Flanagan's.

Girls long sleeved (white) Winter shirt worn with long pants in Winter now displays our school emblem and can be purchased at Flanagan's.

Skort has been added to the girls' sport uniform

Zip up vest for Winter displaying our emblem has been added to our Winter uniforms. Purchase at Flanagan's.

A new coloured sports shirt (mostly sky blue was the parent preference) will be phased in over the next 2 years. Further information to follow.

### Staffing

We welcome Kim Davey to Rosary Park who will commence next week as our school counsellor every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. She is a Registered Psychologist, currently working in private practise. Kim has also worked as a rehabilitation consultant and spent some time working as a school Psychologist with NSW Department of Education.

Victoria Prosser will take all of term 2 (and possibly longer) as leave due to ill health. We are currently in the process of trying to recruit a teacher to fill this position on 4 White.

Mrs Paige Pringle will start maternity leave on 14 June. Paige's year 6 class will hold their student led conferences on Friday 7 June. Parents are required to come into school on this day to attend the conference with their child.

### Social Media- Tik Tok

*"Respect and empathy for others is far more important than getting laughs, likes or followers"*- eSafety Commissioner.

Rosary Park is committed to student safety and wellbeing. We want our students to be responsible online citizens and to be able to navigate this space in a safe and respectful manner. The eSafety Commissioner has put out some information recently regarding concerns with Tik Tok and a worrying trend amongst its younger users. This can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2HQwQzA>

Tik Tok is a video-sharing app, where its users film themselves in a 10-15 second clip. These clips are usually set to music, uploaded, and are viewed by followers and strangers alike. Tik Tok is a new, rebranded version of the previous app Musical.ly.

Tik Tok is intended for users 13 years and over (<https://support.tiktok.com/en/privacy-safety/for-parents-default>). Please consider restricting your child's access, if you become aware of them using this form of social media.

#### iParent on the eSafety website

The website for the eSafety Commissioner has an information section for parents. It contains some useful tips to assist parents at home to protect their digital lifestyle. This space is referred to on the site as iParent and can be found at <https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>.

I would encourage you to access this resource especially as we are now accessing technology more often at home. Please ensure that you have clear guidelines in place to monitor your child's technology use, especially online.

#### Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2025 are now open & will close 24 May. Please contact the school office for an enrolment package, if you have a child eligible for kindergarten or know of someone intending to seek enrolment.

#### Anzac Day

Our local RSL will run their annual Anzac Day service on Thursday 25 April. Rosary Park children are invited to march (in full summer uniform) and attend the service. This will start with meeting from 10:45am between the hotel and the butchers, to march to the rotunda for the service.

#### Advanced Notice- calendar dates.

Our Athletics Carnival is Tuesday 30 April at Maitland Athletics Centre K-6. Travel by bus.

Winter uniform starts Monday 20 May

Pupil free day Monday 1 July- Student led conferences. Parent/s and child to attend school on this day.

Thank you for your support in term 1.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

## **Assistant Principal's Message**

### **Travelling safely to and from school**

Over the past few weeks, we have had a number of reports of children forgetting to act safely when travelling to and from school. Please take the time to sit down and have a family conversation about travelling safely to school. This includes children who walk, ride and catch the bus. It is important that we continually revisit these conversations and remind children how to be safe around roads. Some of these reminders include:

- Safe places to cross roads (not from between parked cars, near corners or intersections and waiting for the bus to leave before crossing)
- Getting off a bike and walking it across the road
- Always using a pedestrian crossing if one is available
- Getting in and out of the car on the kerb side
- Wearing a helmet when riding a bike
- Being aware of driveways and always checking for cars entering/leaving
- Looking both ways before crossing the road, even on a crossing
- Remaining seated on the bus
- Allowing the bus driver to concentrate on the road without distracting them

### **End of term Child Protection and safety lessons**

As always at Rosary Park we revisit our safety and child protection lessons at the end of each term before the holidays. Teachers will be providing the opportunity for students to identify safe people in their home circle, as well as safe behaviours when in the community. If you would like to have these conversations in your home, you may find the following resources helpful.

Kids Helpline online - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids>

Road Safety - <https://www.safetytown.com.au/>

If you would like further information about road safety or child protection education, please contact the school via the administration email.

### **PBL – Term 2 Focus rules**

Our staff PBL team met last week and arranged for some additions to our PBL processes moving forward. The student PBL team have always introduced the rule of the week at our Monday assembly, however the language of this will be streamlined, helping every child and teacher to build a shared understanding and connect with the weekly focus rule. We have also arranged to support the student PBL team in making resources for teachers to use when unpacking the rules with their class each week. These resources will include photographs and short videos of our own students demonstrating the focus rule, helping our children to connect with the content and build a deeper understanding of the rule and the mercy value it is aligned with.



**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 Respectful	I care for my environment	Service Respect
Alternate 11	I am Respectful	I give everyone a fair go when playing	Justice
Term 2	School Rule	Behaviour Focus	Mercy Value
Week 1 and 2	I am an Active Learner	I am organised and have my tools ready	Service
Alternate 2			
Week 3 and 4	I am Safe	I stay in safe places	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 Safe	Using equipment correctly	Respect
Alternate 8			
Week 9 and 10	I am an Active Learner	I am an active listener	Justice
Alternate 10			
Procedures			
<p>Every <b>Monday</b> 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 assembly along with class merit awards. Staff review behaviour data and choose possible alternate rules at the Monday morning meeting.</p>			

### Professional Learning Team Meetings (PLT's)

Last week all our teachers spent half a day participating in PLT meetings. While these meetings do take teachers out of the classroom for half a school day, they provide invaluable opportunities for data analysis, progress monitoring, planning and programming for targeted teaching to ensure optimum growth for every child.

In these meetings data is compared with syllabus outcome expectations and NSW learning progressions along with acadience and initialit benchmarks. This continued monitoring ensures that all children are growing as expected and allows teachers to target teaching in areas that require the most attention. One way of targeting areas of need for specific groups of children is in literacy and maths groups.



These PLT meetings occur regularly, two to three times each term, allowing for regular monitoring and changing of the targeted focus when required. The gathering of this data can come from whole class tasks, one on one hands on questioning, teacher observations, student written response or student oral reasoning.

Another positive to these meetings is the opportunity for teachers to discuss their children and the identified needs with knowledgeable others. One of our Pedagogical Mentors, Janelle Dixon or Amber Van Duuren, chair the meeting and Nichola Ellis (Learning Support Teacher) along with Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal) also attend to discuss targeted teaching practices or interventions to help a group of children move to the next phase of their learning. We call this the process of collaborative inquiry. Including many professionals in these discussions allows for many ideas to support the learning of the children and gives a shared ownership over the learning of every child in our school.

### **Parent Phone Call Conferences**

During the first 2 weeks of next term teachers will be conducting parent phone calls to discuss the learning of your children. These conferences will be scheduled using Compass and were opened up to parents yesterday. Please make sure you go in and schedule a time to receive a phone call about your child's learning. We suggest you make a note of the day and time your phone call is scheduled so you are ready to take the call.

As you can appreciate, teachers have many phone calls to make and will need to adhere to a timeframe (10 minutes) to ensure each parent is given adequate time for the call. For this reason, we ask that you be ready to answer your phone at the time scheduled. Please be aware that this call will come from a private number as teachers will be calling from their mobile phones and NOT the school line. Teachers will call the mobile phone number of the adult who makes the conference booking on Compass. If you would like this call on a different number, you will need to email admin prior to the day to request this. If you miss the call, teachers will try a second time after about 1 minute. If it is missed again, you will not receive another call on this day as teachers need to continue with subsequent booked calls. Please email the school admin if you would like to reschedule your call. Please do not call the school as teachers will not be able to respond on this day.

Due to illness, Year 4 white parent conference calls will not occur in the first 2 weeks of next term. Victoria has already spoken with many families about the learning of their children throughout this term. If you have any concerns and need to speak with anyone at this time, please reach out to us via the admin email or by calling the school.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss your child's learning, strengths and goals at the beginning of term 2. If you have any trouble with this process, please let us know by emailing admin or calling the school.

### **Leading Learning Collaborative (LLC) Learning Walk with Dr Lyn Sharratt**

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Rosary Park hosted over 40 people from over 8 different schools throughout the diocese as well as representatives from the Catholic Schools office and Lyn Sharratt herself. These people came to hear about the educational journey we have been on, embedding Lynn's 14 Parameters of "Clarity" into our practice. Our "Clarity Team" were able to speak to our journey and then the visitors had the opportunity to participate in a "Learning Walk," taking them into our classrooms, observing the educational "walls that talk" in the rooms, as well as asking the 5 questions of the students to gauge their understanding of what they are learning and why.



## Religious Coordinators Message

### Staff Formation Day:

On our pupil free day our staff participated and engaged in a faith formation day which promoted forming the heart. This gave staff opportunities to reflect on religious scripture, ponder and engage in discussions about contemplative educational practices. We had opportunities to engage our heart, vision and imagination. Some examples of there were contemplative, engaging and photography as Contemplation. We were very grateful for the wonderful facilitated we got to use overlooking the beach.



### Holy Week Liturgies:

Holy Week is an important time during the Lenten season. It marks the final week of the season of Lent, and it recounts the final days of Christ's life, as well as his death, burial and resurrection. I thank all the staff and students for their preparation preparing the holy week liturgies and to our wonderful parents and families that were able to attend a liturgy. As lent comes to an end please ensure all project compassion mission boxes are sent back to the office by the end of this week. Thank you for

*Guide to Holy Week*

**Palm Sunday**  
Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.

**Maundy Thursday**  
Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.

**Good Friday**  
Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.

**Holy Saturday**  
Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.

**Easter Sunday**  
Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.

**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday**

**Holy Thursday**

**Good Friday**

**The Resurrection**

helping transform lives today and for all future generations. We appreciated all your support and generous donations.

**Pope Francis:**

Francis' Focus – Who better to help guide us in the true depth and meaning of our Catholic faith than the charismatic and authentic leader of our Church, Pope Francis. Below he encourages us to go out and live joyfully the Easter message that Christ is alive: Reflecting on Easter, Pope Francis highlights the importance of 'walking away from the tomb.' Once found, faith must be lived. As Saint Peter said, 'we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people.' Easter is, in a sense, the starting point of our Christian responsibilities. Living the Easter mystery means becoming a joyful Easter people. We must, therefore, be open to action and change. We cannot become stuck in our ways, crippled by doubt, despair or habit. As Pope Francis says, Easter shows us that 'it is always possible to begin anew, because there is always a new life that God can awaken in us in spite of all our failures.' The annual celebration of Easter reminds us that what we celebrate is present here and now. Ours is a living faith. As the Pope adds, 'faith is not an album of past memories; Jesus is not outdated. He is alive here and now.' Easter is a celebration of the mystery that Jesus is present. He is here, in both the need of the world and through the actions of His followers. So, having celebrated the mystery, we are sent forth to live it. 'Having made himself present in the heart of our world,' the Pope points out, Jesus 'invites us to overcome barriers, banish prejudices and draw near to those around us every day in order to rediscover the grace of everyday life.'



**RCIA:**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process for adults and older children who seek Jesus and feel drawn to the Catholic faith. Christian initiation is a journey into deeper knowledge and love of Jesus and our Catholic way of life: a way of prayer, worship, listening to the word of God and discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit. This journey takes place within the parish community. Conversion to Christ is at the heart of this journey both for those seeking membership of the Church and the parish community.

Recently Mrs Cameron and Miss Rae have participated and successfully completed their sacraments of initiation. This took place last Saturday at the Easter Saturday Vigil Mass where they were welcomed into the catholic church. We congratulate both of them for taking the steps into their Faith Journey as Catholic Educators.



### **Upcoming events:**

#### **Anzac Day 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2024**

Students who would like to represent our school in the Branxton RSL Anzac Day march, please meet Miss Gageler at the Branxton Butcher Shop by 10:45am to commence marching at 11:00am.

**Anzac Day liturgy:** Join us in our school hall on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at 2.15pm where Year 6 will lead us in our Anzac day liturgy.

God bless.

Mackenzie Gageler

#### **CogAT testing**

In Term 2, Year 2 and Year 4 will participate in CogAT testing at school. This test is delivered to children across the diocese in Years 2, 4 and 7 as part of our commitment to understanding how students learn best, and therefore how we can improve student learning.

The CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) measures the level and pattern of cognitive development of a student compared to age as well as grade cohorts. These general reasoning abilities, which start developing at birth and continue through early adulthood, are influenced by experiences gained both in and out of school.

The CogAT measures three different cognitive abilities:

- the verbal section measures a child's ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them and to make inferences and judgments about them
- the quantitative section measures a child's understanding of basic quantitative (numerical) concepts and relationships, and
- the non-verbal section measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This section reduces the impact of language on the student's score.

This test aids in understanding a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses and again, helps teachers to tailor classroom teaching practices.

Miss Nikola Groves

## Library News

We are always blown away and extremely grateful to all families who donate high quality used books to our library.

A big thank you to the Gray and Chakojoby families who generously donated books in the last few weeks.

Ms Melanie Flynn  
Librarian

## Hunter Regional Conservatorium

Violin, guitar & piano lessons available in Term 2 with Hunter Regional Conservatorium Teacher, Susan Langbein.

Enrolment can be done online via: <https://form.jotform.com/213198073888873>

Or contact our office on 6541 4888 from 9am to 4pm.

## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received awards in the last fortnight.

### Week ending Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Week 9)

<i>Class</i>	<i>Class Award One</i>	<i>Class Award Two</i>	<i>MJR Award</i>
Kinder Blue	Mason P	Deon L	Bentley K
Kinder White	Savannah R	Toby B	Angus M
Year 1 Blue	Johan C	Bradley S	Addison M
Year 1 White			
Year 2 Blue	Ethan T	Stella G	Hendrix M
Year 2 White	Callum F	Harrison A	Eleanor C
Year 3 Blue	Reni S	Elliana D	Addison B
Year 3 White	Jayden M	Hudson L	Finn M
Year 4 Blue	Lachlan B	Liam D	Shahaan S
Year 4 White	Ella Y		Paige L
Year 5 Blue	Lola M	Hugh Mc	Calen C
Year 5 White	Mia W	Halle G	James D
Year 6 Blue	Charlie B	Jaegar D	Marley G
Year 6 White	Bryce B	Eamon H	Asha J

### Week ending Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (Week 10)

<i>Class</i>	<i>Class Award One</i>	<i>Class Award Two</i>	<i>MJR Award</i>
Kinder Blue	Ayla K	Isabelle S	Dustin P
Kinder White	Marlia D	Indy H	Tate K
Year 1 Blue	Leilani D	Johan C	Bonnie D
Year 1 White			
Year 2 Blue	Isaac K	Nic L	Harley R
Year 2 White	Reeve W	Tony P	Hallie D
Year 3 Blue	Cruz J	Lexi D	Jack C
Year 3 White	Ellesse S	Alfie T	Baxter D
Year 4 Blue	Noah R	Frances M	Tuan N
Year 4 White			
Year 5 Blue	Sophie C	Kingsley J	Darby T
Year 5 White	Ezme S	Evie S	Aleah D
Year 6 Blue	Cameron D	Hunter G	Piper J
Year 6 White	Dante S	Sam R	Brooklyn J



## Fundamental Movement Skills Activity: Balancing Act

Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) are the building blocks of movement. Just like kids need to learn to read and write, they need to learn how to master FMS for a lifetime of enjoying being physically active.

### Try the activity 'Balancing Act' to develop balance!

Students try balancing different objects to see which shapes are easiest to balance.

#### What you need:

Various balancing objects, such as feathers, shoes, caps, broom handles, balancing poles (made from rolled up newspaper and sticky tape), etc.

#### What to do:

- Students balance various objects to see which shapes are easiest to balance
- Students use different body parts to balance the objects, such as the palm or back of their hand, or their knee, foot, elbow or chin

#### Change it up:

- Students try walking or lying down and getting back up again while trying to balance the object
- Students 'jump' the balancing object from one body part to another i.e., one hand to another
- Compete with others and see who can hold a balance the longest



Source: Playing for life (www.sportaus.gov.au)



[HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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.*

**Tues 16/4**  
**Wed 17/4**  
**Thurs 18/4**  
8:30am till 11:30am



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