

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 2 Week 6 2024**  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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

**Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect**

*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**

JUNE		JULY	
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	PUPIL FREE DAY Student Led Conferences
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Great Aussie Bush Camp Ms Standbridge attending	Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Regional Athletics Carnival
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sacrament of confirmation @ St Brigid's Church Branxton	Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	LAST DAY OF TERM 2 – Pyjama Day
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tell Them From Me closes	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	FIRST DAY OF TERM 3
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> – Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ms Stanbridge attending Catholic Schools Senior Leaders Retreat	Thu 25 <sup>th</sup>	Grandparents Day – Liturgy at 12:30pm
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 to "Fame Jnr – The Musical at St Joseph's Lochinvar	Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition
Thur 27 <sup>th</sup>	ASPIRE Workshops – SPORTS UNIFORM	Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> – Thu 1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 6 Canberra Excursion Ms Stanbridge attending
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	Aboriginal Dance Performance	<b>AUGUST</b>	
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Excursion	Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	Father's Day afternoon – 12:30 sausage sizzle and games

## Principal's Message

He is waiting for you,

He is close to you.

He loves you,

He is merciful,

He forgives you,

He gives you the strength to begin again from scratch!

Everybody!

Pope Francis

Dear Parents & Carers,

### Student led conferences.

Teachers are busily preparing Semester One reports and these will be available via Compass from Tuesday 25 June.

Monday 1 July is a PUPIL FREE day, and, on this day, all our children will participate in student led conferences with you and their teacher. All parents are expected to attend with their child on this day between 8am & 5:15pm. 6 White has already held their conferences.

Bookings for conferences will open Tuesday 11 June for you to book a 15 min session. Any parent who does not book a time by 25 June, will be allocated a time, and notified via email.

### Communication to families

Rosary Park uses our fortnightly newsletter to communicate messages and dates for upcoming events. The table at the start of the newsletter is to assist families when adding dates to their calendars. In addition, Compass is used to remind parents as the event draws closer. Moving forward these messages will be sent via Compass during business hours.

### The Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998

Parents need to be aware that as teachers in the state of NSW we are required by law to report certain information to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). Reports to the Child Protection Helpline (Ph. 132 111, 24 hrs/7 days) must be made where we have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm and our concerns are current. Risk of significant harm may occur from a single act or omission or to a series of acts or omissions.

We can get help to determine whether we need to report by using the DCJ online Mandatory Reporters Guide: <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/>

We can also contact the Office of Safeguarding (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri). Information about the roles and functions of the Office of Safeguarding can be found here:

<https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

### Road Safety

Please ensure that you are regularly reminding your children of safety in and around cars, especially if they are riding to school. Their helmets must be correctly fitted and checked regularly for damage. If riding on footpaths, please kept left unless overtaking and be conscious of pedestrians.

Bicycles must be fitted with a working brake and a bell or horn, and if used at night the bicycle must display a white light on the front and a red light and red reflector on the rear.

If parents require further information visit:

<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/safety-on-wheels.pdf>

### Winter Uniform

We are now in FULL Winter uniform and there are some additional items added in recent years to our uniform for Winter that are available at Flanagan's.

Addition of a skort for girls on sport day

RPCS beanie

Vest with RPCS emblem

Girls' long sleeve shirt with emblem to be worn with long pants.

Rosary Park students do not wear a tie in Winter, and we apologise for the confusing messages you may have received from our supplier regarding this.

### Afternoon Dismissal-Reminders

Thank you for the consistent efforts you have been making with pick up.

If you need to pick up a child for a medical appointment, please arrive at school and do this before 2:30pm.

*Unless it is an emergency* please do not call school after 2:30pm to get a message to your child about a change to their pickup arrangements. It is very difficult for staff to locate your child once we have started our afternoon pick up procedures.

### Casual Teachers

We continue to manage the normal winter season illnesses. Teachers are even more susceptible to colds and illness in their role working with children every day. With such a demand across schools, it is very difficult (and often impossible) to engage a casual teacher for the day so there are occasions where we have to split classes for small groups of children to work in other classes for the day. Please be assured this is always our *last option* and teachers have already set work based on their class work for children to work on should this situation arise.

As part of their award, teachers are also entitled to two days' Release from Face to Face (RFF) teaching per semester and many teachers have been using these recently to work on assessments and reports.

In addition, in weeks 3, 6 and 9 of this term (K-2) and week 3 and week 8 (Year 3-6), teachers are released for a half a day to participate in Professional Learning Team (PLT) meetings. During this time, teachers work with our Pedagogical Mentors to analyse and discuss children's maths data (as this is our school improvement goal) and make learning plans for the cohort of children in the grade. On such days, Rosary Park teachers leave casual teachers a very detailed plan to continue with from the teaching program.

### Staffing

Mrs Paige Pringle (6 White teacher) has now started maternity leave and we wish her and her husband Corey all the best as they await the birth of their first child. Mrs Burgess and Mrs Cameron have now commenced teaching 6 White and Mrs Dougherty will teach 5 Blue with Mrs Parkes from 17 June.

Next week I will be attending camp with year 5 from 12-14 June.

## Wellbeing Week

Next week is wellbeing week. Our student teams have thought of some great activities for us as a school community to participate in during week 7. It is an opportunity for kids, parents, and staff to take 'time out'. The wellbeing of our students, staff and families is of great importance at Rosary Park. Enjoy quality time with your beautiful children. Here are some ideas for you and your child:

- Organise a play date with a friend.
- Get to a park for the afternoon.
- Play a board game or card game with your family.
- Have a special dinner.
- Go for a walk/bike ride/scooter ride.
- Have a milkshake or a special treat after school.
- Watch a movie.
- Cook or bake a meal together.
- Learn something new

Reach out for support when you need it – from colleagues, friends, family, your GP, a psychologist, or an employee assistance program through your workplace. Lifeline – 24-hour telephone counselling 13 11 14.

## Smart Watches

As our Mobile Phone and Device Policy states children are *discouraged* from bringing a mobile phone or wearing a smart watch to school.

The only reason that children are permitted to bring a phone or wear a smart watch is for safety on their journeys walking/riding to and from school.

Children are NOT permitted to use the smart watch or mobile phone whilst at school. If this does occur, our policy states that the child is no longer allowed to bring the phone or wear the smart watch to school.

## Online Safety

Throughout the colder months we often spend more time inside and online gaming can be a part of our activities. The following site gives some wonderful tips about when children play online with other people. Players sometimes can be mean, rude or say some hurtful things and how to deal with it can be confusing. Sadly, bullying can happen in games too. However, there is so much to do, see and explore when playing a well-developed, educational and creative online game. It can be fun to learn new things and to solve problems. The link below is a small clip that explains what children can do should this occur to them while gaming.

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids/issues/online-gaming-bullyin>

Parents need to ensure children are playing age-appropriate games and are supervised at all times.

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

## Assistant Principal's Message

### Tell Them from Me Survey

We would like to invite you to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community, we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at Rosary Park.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the following URL: [www.tellthemfromme.com/rpttfm](http://www.tellthemfromme.com/rpttfm)

### NAPLAN reports

The way NAPLAN results are reported to parents and schools changed last year. There are 4 proficiency standards children's results will be compared to. These standards describe what a child should be able to do in literacy or numeracy at the time of sitting NAPLAN. They provide a reasonable expectation of what students should be capable of at the time of testing and are based on numeracy and literacy skills learnt in previous years of school. Student results are reported across 4 levels of achievement.

The levels are -

- exceeding
- strong
- developing
- needs additional support

These levels clearly show parents what their child's numeracy and literacy skills are at the time of testing. It provides a clear indicator of the need for additional supports or interventions for some students. These 4 achievement levels will be reported against the key areas of

- writing
- reading
- conventions of language (spelling, grammar, punctuation)
- numeracy

The NAPLAN report will show the average results for a school and a comparison between the school and national averages.

It is important to remember that NAPLAN is a "point in time" assessment of a student. Many factors can influence the results for a child. If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN, or you would like results explained once they are released, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself at school.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon

## Religious Education Coordinator

Last week I had the privilege along with Ms Stanbridge to take a group of our Mercy team students to Singleton Mercy Nursing home. This is a new initiative that our Mercy team suggested. This experience is designed to instil a sense of empathy, compassion and social responsibility in our students. The residents loved our visitor as we played games and just chatted to them. We look forward to going again in a few weeks with more students from our Mercy Team.



Rosary Park is founded on the Mercy tradition and holds the Mercy Pillars at the centre of our school life. Each fortnight we, as a school, focus on one of these pillars aligned to our school rule focus for the fortnight. These rules are explicitly taught during the fortnight and teachers place an increased emphasis on rewarding children with Gotchas for demonstrating the focus rule. One student from each class is recognised for displaying the mercy pillar at our school assembly on a Wednesday and receives the mercy award.

For weeks 7 and 8, the Mercy Pillar focus will be Compassion. Compassion means we care about others, treat them with kindness, and feel a strong desire to help people in need.

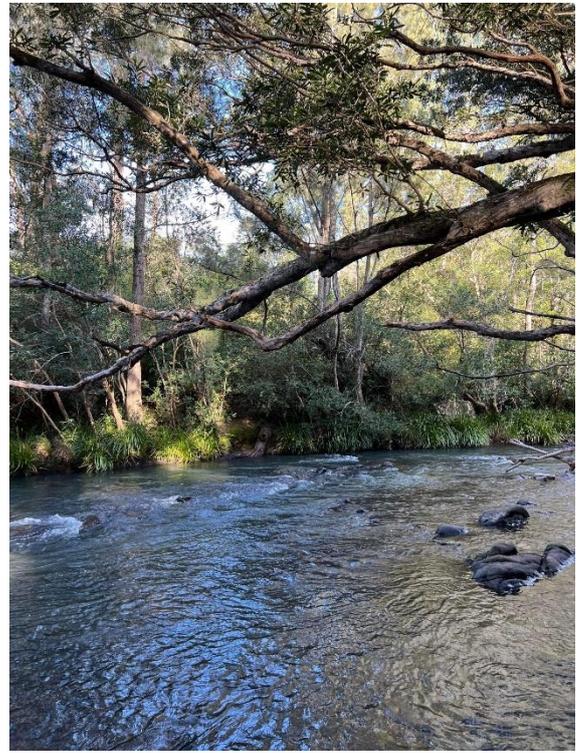
*Questions you might like to ask your child:*

1. *How do you show compassion?*
2. *Have you seen other people showing compassion?*
3. *What did Jesus say about compassion?*
4. *How did Jesus show compassion?*
5. *What way can you show the value of compassion this week?*

More information on the Mercy Pillars can be found via this link <https://www.mercy.edu.au/resources/values>

### Doorways Retreat

Myself, Miss Dever and Miss Lindus returned to the annual Doorways retreat Phase 2 at Riverwood Downs. The Theme was "the Church as doorway". It builds on this understanding and explains the sacramental aspect of the vocation of teaching and how it relates to God's mission and the mission of the Church.



God bless,  
Mackenzie Gageler

## Gifted Education Mentor Message

### Spelling and Maths Bee at Rosary Park!

A spelling bee is a contest in which participants are asked to spell words in a round-robin format, where each person gets a turn to spell a word that is suitable for his or her level. Spelling Bees are a fun and easy way to engage children in the learning process, to help develop their spelling and vocabulary, and to give them the confidence to test their skills against their peers, in a friendly competition.

In a maths bee, students are asked to answer a series of maths questions in a round-robin format, similar to the spelling bee. Each round focuses on a different topic, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and whole number.

Last week, students participated in our stage finals.

Stage 1 - Year 1 and Year 2 competed against each other

Stage 2 - Year 3 and Year 4 competed against each other

Stage 3 - Year 5 & Year 6 competed against each other.

Congratulations to the following students who were finalists in their class and competed at stage level in our school spelling bee!

Spelling Stage Finalists				
Year 1	Jack	An	Lillah	Amari
Year 2	Josie W	Charlie D	Aiden L	Theo C

Year 3	Addison R	Jaxon C	Sofia P	Annie H
Year 4	Ella Y	Claire B	Hudson W	Shahaan S
Year 5	Kendra Collier	Evie Smith	Georgie Ward	Sylvester R
Year 6	Harry W	Samantha R	Jaegar D	Evie M

Congratulations to the following students who were finalists in their class and competed at stage level in our school maths bee!

Maths Stage Finalists				
Year 1	Makayla C	Madi N	Abbey A	James
Year 2	Matilda C	Charlie D	Piper R	Josie W
Year 3	Cruz J	Baxter D	Cooper S	Jaxon C
Year 4	Tao	Liam D	Luke H	Blake C
Year 5	Sophie C	Neveah D	Darcy H	Taylah B
Year 6	Aden P	Harry W	Tyler S	Brooklyn J

Congratulations to our Stage winners!

	Maths	Spelling
Stage 1	Madi N	Aiden L
Stage 2	Jaxon C	Sofia P
Stage 3	Sam J	Evie M

These children will attend our Regional Spelling Bee at Our Lady Of Lourdes in the coming weeks. We wish them the best of luck!

Nikola Groves

## Library News

### **Scholastic Book Club**

Orders are due – 21<sup>st</sup> of June.

### **Borrowing**

A friendly reminder that ALL students require a library bag to borrow from our library. The bag can be as simple as a shopping bag or even a pillowcase. By following this simple rule, we can better protect the school's resources from being damaged.

The Borrowing Timetable is as follows:

MONDAY – Year 6 and Year 3B  
 TUESDAY – Year 4 and Year 3W  
 WEDNESDAYS – Year 5 and Kindergarten  
 THURSDAYS – Year 2 and Year 1

### **Donations**

A big thank you to the Thomas family for their generous donation of books to the school library.

## Cyber Safety



In Term 1 students from Year 1 to Year 6 participated in lessons regarding internet safety. Our Year 1 and Year 2 students completed a lesson on recognising 5 trusted adults in their lives and then proceeded to make finger puppets of these people. Below is just a small handful of the work that the students completed. We definitely have some very talented artists!!

Melanie Flynn  
Librarian

## Aboriginal Education

### Reconciliation Morning Tea

Our morning started under the eucalypt trees with the Welcome to Country by Aunty Cynthia, a Wonnarua woman. She spoke about how Country is not just land but an important part of our culture and identity.

After that we watched Kurri Kurri High School students dance and play the Didgeridoo, we saw moves that represented Goannas, Emus and Kangaroos. There were students from primary schools that shared what they thought Reconciliation meant. Some of the students reminded us that we all should be standing up for rights of Aboriginal people to have strong connections with their culture and ancestry.

The Youth Ambassador for Cessnock, Kaleb spoke about the history of Australia. That his grandfather was only 5 years old when the 1967 referendum occurred which meant that his grandfather was not considered a citizen until this event occurred. He mentioned that although we are working towards a better future for Aboriginal people, there are still injustices in our country that need to be fixed and this is why now more than ever is the time for us to **take action** and demand change.

The Cessnock High School choir sang a song about returning to Country – Some lyrics that stood out for us were...

*“Your country might be a family farm  
North Queensland patch of dirt  
Or Kings Street in Newtown  
Where they tucked away the hurt  
Patient stories, different worlds  
Of love, hate, and fear  
With a single dream, how many tribes  
All come together here?”*

We think this means that no matter your background, we as Australians can all join together and work towards reconciliation.

By Saige (Biripi and Awabakal), Hudson (Kamilaroi and Anaiwan), Hunter (Wiradjuri), Lilly (Kamilaroi), Rawson (Wiradjuri)



Katrina Easton  
Aboriginal Education Teacher

# Jump off afternoon

On Thursday the 30th of May we held our Jump off afternoon. We celebrated all the students who have raised valuable funds for the Heart Foundation.

Congratulations to our 3 top fundraisers!

Aiden L	\$378.26
Georgie W	\$314.38
Jaxon C	\$253.20

We also congratulated all fundraising students and those students and families who registered online. Your efforts helped us to raise a total of

**\$2,889!**

We held a skip off to see who in year 2-3 and 4-6 can skip the longest!

Congratulations to Will M (3) and Rubi B (6)!

Next up was the talent quest. We had some fantastic acts showing off their tricks and skipping moves!! Congratulations to all those who participated and to our winners!

It was certainly a fun afternoon, and it wouldn't have been possible without our wonderful Active Lifestyle team leader - Phoebe C who was an excellent host and organiser. Thank you also to Brooklyn J, Flynn R and Louis D for MCing our event and to all the year 6 students who helped on the day and throughout the 5 week program.

It has been an amazing 5 weeks of Jump Rope for Heart. Every lunch and recess we have had students working on their skipping or making new friendships during group skipping. We certainly caught the skipping bug at Rosary Park and our healthy hearts are thanking us for it!



## JUMP ROPE for HEART



Mrs Pringle.



## Sports News

Yesterday, some of our students made the trip to the Sydney Equestrian Centre to compete in the Polding Cross Country for 2024.

Congratulations to our students who competed with pride and good sportsmanship while representing our school.



## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards.

### Week ending 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 (Term 2 Week 4)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Ava S	Titan L	Bruno B
Kinder White	Henry C	Oliver C	Astrid C
Year 1 Blue	Maxx R	Claire D	Lara T
Year 1 White			
Year 2 Blue			
Year 2 White	Ari S	Tony P	Harrison A
Year 3 Blue	Aubree M	Cruz J	Addison R
Year 3 White	Jaxon C	Holly N	Ken P
Year 4 Blue	Linda N	Leah W	Shahaan S
Year 4 White	Noah L	Blake C	Susan P
Year 5 Blue	Sophie C	Shelle C	Elijah C
Year 5 White	Hudson O	Sam D	Jacob L
Year 6 Blue	Hunter G	Rubi B	Nevada A
Year 6 White	Korban L	Asha J	Eamon H

### Week ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 (Term 2 Week 5)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue			
Kinder White	William H	Archie A	Astrid C
Year 1 Blue	Leilani D	Harvey C	Maci H
Year 1 White	Eva S	Donnie B	Zoe C
Year 2 Blue			
Year 2 White	Ava M	Reeve W	Eli B
Year 3 Blue	Addison R	Campbell C	Jenny N
Year 3 White	Kade B	Willow J	Indy M
Year 4 Blue	Lucy S	Liam D	Elke B
Year 4 White			
Year 5 Blue	Luke W	Calen C	Ellie Y
Year 5 White	Sammy W	Alex L	Aleah D
Year 6 Blue	Flynn R	Ella R	Piper J
Year 6 White	Brooke H	Rae K	Louis D

# WELLBEING WEEK 7

**Monday**  
Public Holiday

**Treasure Hunt  
Tuesday**  
Active Lifestyle team  
organising a treasure hunt  
in break times for  
children.

**Warm Wednesday**  
Come in a beanie and have a  
hot chocolate. Gold coin  
donation money goes  
towards St Vincent de Paul.

**Turn trash into Art  
Thursday**  
Students collect their  
trash and work together  
as a class to create an  
artwork.

**Bucket filler Friday**

Fill the bucket with  
kindness and gratitude  
towards others.

# Parking and Driving Safely

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and drivers outside school. Drive and park responsibly even if it means you have to walk further to the school gate. **Note: Consider posting this reminder at the start of each term.**

The do's and don'ts of Parking in a school zone.



## Do:

Drop off and pick up on the school side of the road  
Follow all parking signs as these help keep our students safe  
Ensure children enter and exit the car through the safety door

## Don'ts

Never call out to your child from across the road, it's dangerous  
Never double park - its illegal and puts our students at risk  
Never do a U turn or three point turn in the school zone

## Safety Door

Ensure your child always gets in and out of the car through the Safety Door. This is the rear kerb-side door of the car. Never allow your child to get in and out of the car on the traffic side. **Note: For more information see [Transport for NSW Keeping kids safe around schools- Fact Sheet](#).**



## Free Suicide Prevention Workshop Available For Your Club



LivingWorks SafeTALK for Young People is a 3.5-4 hour in-person workshop in Suicide Alertness, appropriate for individuals aged 15+

LivingWorks safeTALK teaches participants to:

- Challenge community attitudes that prevent open talk about suicide.
- Identify when a young person is having thoughts of suicide.
- Confidently engage this young person in direct and open talk about suicide.
- Connect them with safety connections in your community to complete a suicide safety plan.

Proudly funded by

*This workshop is available for free for NSWRL Clubs for a limited time, facilitated by NSWRL with support from LivingWorks and the NSW Government.*





## Free Suicide Prevention Workshop Available For Your School



**LIVINGWORKS** safeTALK

LivingWorks SafeTALK for Young People is a 3.5-4 hour in-person **NESA Accredited** workshop in Suicide Alertness, appropriate for teachers, parents, and students aged 15+.

LivingWorks safeTALK teaches participants to:

- Challenge community attitudes that prevent open talk about suicide.
- Identify when a young person is having thoughts of suicide.
- Confidently engage this young person in direct and open talk about suicide.
- Connect them with safety connections in your community who can complete a suicide safety plan.

Proudly funded by

*This workshop is available for free to all NSW High Schools for a limited time, facilitated by NSWRL with support from LivingWorks and the NSW Government.*



# Nutrition Snippet

## WINTER FRUIT & VEG

Seasonal fruit & vegies taste better, are more nutritious and better for the environment.



### Try these recipes

- [Chicken cacciatore](#)
- [Shepherd's pie](#)
- [Apple crumble](#)

For these recipes and more visit:

[healthyinbox.com.au](https://www.healthyinbox.com.au)



**Cancer Council**  
Healthy Lunch Box

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