



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 8 2024
Thursday 12 September

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

SEPTEMBER		SEPTEMBER	
Wed 11 th – Tue 17 th	Sallyanne Long Service Leave	Fri 27 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 3
Fri 13 th	Polding Athletics in Sydney	OCTOBER	
Wed 18 th	Awards Assembly 9am	Mon 14 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 4
Fri 20 th	PUPIL FREE DAY	Wed 23 rd	Year 1 Excursion
Fri 20 th	NSG Netball Super Schools Cup	Tue 29 th	Vocabulary Parade
Thu 26 th	Feast Day of Catherine McAuley and Talen Quest Final		

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 27th November 2024 – Christmas Concert with Andrew Chinn starting at 5:30pm

Tuesday 10th December 2024 – Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner

Friday 13th December 2024 – Whole School End of Year Awards at 9:45am (school hall)

Monday 16th December 2024 – Swimming carnival (Singleton). Year 6 participation in MAT workshop at school on this day.

Principal's Message

In every age O Lord, you have been our refuge. Psalm 89:3-6.

National Child Protection Week 1-8 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,



Today 12th September is national **R U Ok Day**. This is a suicide prevention initiative which provides education and resources to have meaningful conversations with people who you may be concerned about, such as family, friends, colleagues, teammates etc.

The question R U OK? is part of a 4-step conversation: Ask, Listen, Encourage action and Check in. This year's theme is *Ask R U OK? Any Day* because life has ups and downs for all and a lot can happen in a year, a month, a week.

Perpetual Day of Remembrance September 15

This day was promulgated as a 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance' in our diocese, marks a day of solemn remembrance of the harm caused by a history of child sexual abuse and failure to protect children. It has two aspects: one focused on supporting survivors and the other on the prayer of the whole church. This year Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday falls on September 15.

As a people of faith, we can pray for a change of heart as the ground of hope for a safer future for all.



Debating Competition

Congratulations to our year 6 debating team who represented our school at the Lower Hunter Catholic schools debating competition on 29 August.

Samantha R, Ruby H-D, Evie M and Ellara B won their two debates against St Paul's Rutherford and St Patrick's Lochinvar. The eventual winners on the day after points counted was St Joseph's East Maitland.

Debate number 1 won by our team was Australians should only holiday in Australia

Debate number 2 won by our team was children should be paid for doing chores

Congratulations girls on your wonderful efforts and to the parents who took them to the event at Maitland.



Sport Aerobics

On 31 August we achieved amazing results at the National Titles of FISAF Sport Aerobics. Our year 1-2 and year 3-4 teams won GOLD! Our year 5-6 team finished fourth. A huge thank you to Kimberley Gargan for all the time spent choreographing and training our athletes. And thank you to the dedication of the parents for taking their children to all three events this year.







Resource Fee increase 2025

Rosary Park currently has an annual resource fee of \$505 per child. This is a school set amount and Rosary Park's fee is lower than other similar Catholic Schools. This fee currently covers one school excursion per grade (not camps).

On the advice of our diocesan finance team, we will be increasing this amount to \$595/child from 2025 and this will include ALL activities, such as buses to the Athletics carnival etc. This amount will NOT include the year 6 graduation dinner and year 5 and 6 camps or participation in incidental activities such as Chess competitions, Science days etc.

Rosary Park Bushfire Survival Plan

Our school is in a bushfire prone area. As a result, we have a clearly defined bushfire survival plan, attached to this newsletter. The plan has been developed in consultation with NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Services, local Police and the Safety and Wellness team from the Catholic Diocese. Copies of this plan have been provided to these organisations.

As the plan outlines, it follows these principles in the event of a bushfire:

1. Evacuate
2. Shelter onsite in the hall.
3. Evacuation to St Nicholas Centre Branxton if we cannot remain in hall
4. Evacuation to Branxton Golf Club

It is important that you consider as part of this plan, how you would collect your child from Rosary Park at short notice, if this plan was to be enacted.

As part of this plan, the school follows a strict maintenance plan where surrounding scrub (Asset Protection Zone- outside of the school boundaries) is cleared annually as well as the guttering and downpipes. Arborists monitor trees on site on an annual basis as well as ongoing grounds maintenance to reduce undergrowth fuel load on the site.

Our school practices regular lockdown and evacuation procedures (every term), as well as visits from the local fire brigade. Children are also familiarised with fire safety through lessons in the Personal Development Health Physical Education Syllabus.

Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourself with this document to prioritise the safety of all in our school community. It is important that you give consideration as to how you would collect your child in the event of a bushfire evacuation.

Kind regards,
Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal Message

Child Protection Week 2024





Last week Rosary Park took the time to recognise Child Protection Week. During this special time schools are encouraged to recognise the important messages associated with Child Protection and decorate a gate or space with reminders about agencies and initiatives to promote child protection and wellbeing throughout our diocese. This year's motto "Every Conversation Matters," promotes the importance of regular open and honest dialogue to support child protection initiatives.



At Rosary Park we visit the idea of the "hand of support" with our students just before the holidays each term. This asks students to identify the people they have in their lives who will listen, help and support them if they are ever struggling in any way. Our display included a "hand of support" that had been made by each child in the school, identifying the 5 people each child recognises as trusted listeners they can have a conversation with if they have a problem. We included some

thought and speech bubbles with conversation starters to show our children how they might ask for help, as well as how to offer help to anyone that is struggling. We also recognised agencies that can support people when things are not going well, or they need someone to talk to. This was displayed on the grass in front of the school from Tuesday to Friday during child protection week helping to promote this very important message for our community and encouraging children to reach out to identified trusted people if they have any concerns. Please reiterate this message "Every conversation Matters," with your children at home.



Summer Uniform

We have had such beautiful weather this week and it is great to see the children coming to school in their summer uniforms again. Please ensure all items, especially hats and jackets, are clearly labelled with your child's name. Names tend to fade over time, please check to ensure your child's name is still clearly visible on uniform items.

I take this opportunity to remind you of the uniform expectations at Rosary Park. We can all agree that it is a lovely sight when children all wear their uniforms correctly with pride. Please remember that socks must not be the short "no show" length. All socks must be visible above the shoe and long enough to cover the ankle bone.

I also ask parents to remember that there are strict guidelines when it comes to the wearing of jewellery. Children may wear one necklace with a religious symbol on it. They may also wear one signet ring and one plain bangle. Earrings must not be hoops big enough for a small finger to catch and rip it out. Wearing earrings that dangle below the ear lobe is also against our uniform guidelines.

Hair that is long enough to touch the collar needs to be tied back and any clips/bands/ribbons must be small in size and in school colours. Please do not forget to pack a hat each day to protect your child from the sun. If a child does not have a hat they will be asked to remain in the shade during break times.

School Summer Uniform Guidelines



School Sports Uniform: Summer

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



Summer Uniform - Girls

TUNIC	Blue & white check summer dress
SHORTS/SHIRT	Blue shorts, white emblem shirt with Peter Pan collar
SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with white socks, to be worn above the ankle



Summer Uniform - Boys

TOP	School blue shirt with embroidered logo.
SHORTS	Navy shorts, not cargo.
SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with navy socks to be worn above the ankle.

Please assist us to ensure everyone is in uniform at Rosary Park. If something is broken or your child outgrows part or all of their uniform, please let us know at school so we are aware that you are working on purchasing something new.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Father's Day

Thank you to all the families who joined us for our Father's Day breakfast on Friday. It was lovely to welcome you into our school!

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for all fathers.
For the new ones, who endure sleepless nights with infants in arms.
For the busy ones, who juggle the pressures of home and family life.
For the steadfast ones, who nurture and care for our special vulnerable children.
For the patient ones, who always seek to forgive and engage with their pre-teens.
For the persistent ones, who cleverly find new ways to connect with their mini-adults.
For the father uncles, who step in to cradle and care for nieces and nephews.
For all granddads, who love and support their precious grandchildren.
For the foster dads that are called to gather and cover the fragile ones.
For the Sunday dads who care for our children and lead them in faith.
For the dads who give far beyond their own resources, who overcome disability to cherish and love.
Thank you, Lord, for all our beautiful fathers.
Help us to support them and keep them in our prayers.
May you bless them now and on their special day.

Amen.



Save the date:



Catherine McAuley, the founder of the sisters of Mercy, played an important role in the development of our school. As a Mercy school, we are part of a rich tradition inspired by her life and work. Our school's vision and mission are deeply rooted in the Mercy Charism. This feast day is an important time for our school community to come together and honour the legacy of Catherine McAuley, celebrating the values she instilled.'

Wellbeing Week:

Last week we celebrated wellbeing week. During this week we had a range of activities ran by our student leadership teams in which they did a fabulous job. For something new our PB4L leadership team came up with the idea of Favourite person Friday, where students were invited to come out of uniform dressed as someone they admired. It was great to see all children and staff get involved.





Primary Coordinator

Interrelate – Year 6.

In term 4, Interrelate is delivering a course for students in Year 6 to prepare them for high school. 'Moving into the Teen Years' explores a range of adolescent issues and offers a comprehensive sexuality and relationship education program designed specifically for this important time in life. The program consists of 3 x 90-minute sessions conducted during school hours.

- Session 1:** Understanding My Body - Wednesday 6 November
Session 2: Respectful Relationships - Wednesday 13 November
Session 3: Taking Charge - Wednesday 20 November

Program Focus

- Revisit development at puberty
- Outline the process of human reproduction, including conception, foetal development and birth
- Explore respectful relationships with self, friends and family
- Enhance students' self-esteem, communication and decision-making skills in relation to taking responsibility, taking care of themselves and respecting others
- Assist students to become aware of the influences on their personal choices and the potential consequences of those choices
- Raise awareness of technology and its influence on teens, including strategies for cybersafety
- Discuss expectations in high school
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If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to myself or your child's teacher. Please refer to the event on Compass to make payment.

Kind regards,
 Amber van Duuren
 Primary Coordinator

Weekly Awards

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

Week ending Friday 30th August 2024 (Week 6)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Mason P	Bentley K	Landon B
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Indy Mc	Oliver T	Claire D
Year 1 White	Charlie L	Zoe C	Carley O
Year 2 Blue	Charli C	Tristan C	Ayla B
Year 2 White	Callum F	Hunter A	Jenson F
Year 3 Blue	Elliana D	Louella T	Will M
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Liam D	Liam R	
Year 4 White	Fletcher B	Paige L	Ellie A
Year 5 Blue	Luke W	Cruz G	Charli F
Year 5 White	Samuel W	Samuel D	Owen C
Year 6 Blue	Nevada A	Riley M	Rubi B
Year 6 White	Brooke H	Harry W	Aubree C

Week ending Friday 6th September 2024 (Week 7)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	--	--	--
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Noah L	James D	Marshall C
Year 1 White	Stella M	Makayla C	Xavier T
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	Grayson B	Maisy C	Eleanor C
Year 3 Blue	Liam H	Annabelle L	Caelan G
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Jackson A	Flynn C	Hannah C
Year 4 White	--	--	--
Year 5 Blue	Calen C	Parker S	Jemma M
Year 5 White	Ruby N	Jesse C	Kyson C
Year 6 Blue	Rose D	Ruby H	Cameron D
Year 6 White	Phoebe C	Elara B	Madeleine P

Principal's Awards

Leilani D, Miya W, Carter M, Indi M, Aubree M, Carley O, Anderson P, Teagan S, Samantha R, Claire B, Brynn S.



ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

2024 HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Spring Break Holiday Workshops for Dance, Drama, and Vocal students who are in Year 4 to Year 7.

Dynamic Dance - Monday 30th September 2024

Location: The Place - Fredrick Street Charlestown

Get creative on the dance floor as you have fun exploring different forms of choreography and how we can use dance to tell a story through characterisation. You'll spend the day using a range of movement patterns in your work and help develop skills in performance whilst creating movement ideas.

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Cost: \$80

Play In A Day - Tuesday 1st October 2024

Location: Catholic Schools Office (Toohey Room) - 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Have a day filled with drama of the best kind as you work together to create a short performance piece in just a few hours. Starting the day with a simple idea you will develop skills in working as a team as well as creating characters and scenes as you all contribute to a short piece that you'll share at the end of the day.

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Cost: \$80

Sensational Singing - Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Location: Catholic Schools Office (Toohey Room) - 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Join like-minded peers in this supportive workshop that looks at how we can develop performance skills and confidence when it comes to singing both in a group and as a soloist. If you are keen to learn more about delivering a song and really engaging an audience, then this workshop is for you!

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Cost: \$80

Students can register by clicking here or following the QR code →



If you require further information, please contact Anne Atkins phone 02 4979-1331 or email: anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au

Scholarship places are available for students in genuine need of financial assistance. Please contact Anne Atkins for information.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the most up to date photos and information.

OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT CESSNOCK CITY LIBRARY:

CHILDRENS EVENTS:

FILM AND CRAFT – for children aged 5-12 **FREE**

Monday 30 September **Cessnock Library** **2-4pm**

Tuesday 1 October **Kurri Kurri Library** **2-4pm**

Join us for a movie and craft – there will be popcorn! Bookings essential

LEGO CLUB – for children aged 5-12 **FREE**

Tuesday 1 October **Cessnock Library** **4-5pm**

Tuesday 8 October **Cessnock Library** **4-5pm**

We supply the Lego, just bring along your imagination. No need to book, just come and join in the fun!

SENSORY STORYTIME – for children aged 2-6 and their families **FREE**

Wednesday 2 October **Kurri Kurri Library** **12-1pm**

Thursday 3 October **Cessnock Library** **10-11am**

Families and children of all abilities are invited to spend some time in a peaceful and calming environment – join us for an interactive storytelling adventure filled with music, movement, craft and sensory exploration. Bookings essential

FELT FINGER PUPPET MAKING – for children aged 5-12 **FREE**

Wednesday 2 October **Kurri Kurri Library** **3-4pm**

Thursday 3 October **Cessnock Library** **4-5pm**

Create little finger puppet characters, then decorate a calico bag to take them home in – your own travelling puppet show! Bookings essential.

BANG THE DRUM! UPCYCLED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS – for children aged 5-12 **FREE**

Tuesday 8 October **Cessnock Library** **12-1pm**

Wednesday 9 October **Kurri Kurri Library** **12-1pm**

Make your own musical instruments from upcycled materials. Bookings essential.

JURASSIC EGG DINO DIORAMA – for children aged 5-12 **FREE**

Wednesday 9 October **Kurri Kurri Library** **3-4pm**

Thursday 10 October **Cessnock Library** **4-5pm**

Create your own Jurassic world inside a papier mache dinosaur egg! Bookings essential.

MY PET DINOSAUR – for children aged 4-12 **\$5.00**

Thursday 10 October **Branxton Community Hall** **10-11am**

Thursday 10 October **Kurri Kurri Library** **1.30-2.30pm**

Travel back to a time when reptiles ruled the earth! Join us for an interactive dinosaur event, with fossils you can see and touch! Just Dream productions presents an informative talk about dinosaurs with fun activities and hands-on time with lifelike dinosaurs. Bookings essential.

Book under “What’s On” at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries or call Cessnock Library on 49934399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 49371638.

OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT CESSNOCK CITY LIBRARY:

TEENS EVENTS:

HAUNTED LIBRARY – for ages 11-18 **FREE**

Tuesday 1 October **Kurri Kurri Library** **5.30-6.30pm**

Thursday 3 October **Cessnock Library** **5.30-6.30pm**

Meet some real life ghost hunters in the lead up to Halloween. Hear some spooky stories and learn about the equipment used to investigate paranormal events! Bookings essential

LEARN CROCHET! – for ages 12-18

Wednesday 2 October

Kurri Kurri Library

FREE

10am-12pm

Wednesday 2 October

Cessnock Library

2-4pm

Join local business owner Sarah for an inspiring crochet workshop designed specifically for teens. This hands-on session will guide you through the basics of crochet in a fun and supportive environment. Bookings essential

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS – for ages 10-18

Wednesday 2 October

Cessnock Library

FREE

4-5pm

Wednesday 9 October

Kurri Kurri Library

4-5pm

Learn the basics of the game, make new friends and embark on exciting adventures in a fun and safe environment. Immerse yourself in a world of fantasy and adventure! No need to book, just come and join in!

FELT ART BROOCH MAKING – for ages 11-18

Thursday 3 October

Kurri Kurri Library

FREE

12-2pm

Wednesday 9 October

Cessnock Library

10am-12pm

Join local felt artist Julija to create an elegant and original artwork to wear or give as a gift! In this workshop, you will learn to felt a brooch made from wool fibres. Bookings essential.

TEEN LIBRARY LOUNGE – for ages 11-18

Thursday 3 October

Kurri Kurri Library

FREE

3.30-4.30pm

Thursday 10 October

Cessnock Library

3.30-4.30pm

Join us for a weekly catch up - whether you're into games, colouring or relaxed conversations, Kurri Kurri Library has you covered with a fun, inclusive vibe at Teen Library Lounge! No need to book, just come and join in!

PET PORTRAITS – for ages 10-16

Friday 4 October

Kurri Kurri Library

FREE

11am-12pm

Friday 4 October

Cessnock Library

3-4pm

Ever wondered what your dog would look like with wings and a spiky tail? Bring along a picture of your pet (or use one of ours) to paint your own pet masterpiece - create something truly unique! Bookings essential.

EMBRACE KIDS FILM SCREENING – for ages 9-14 and their parents/carers

Wednesday 9 October

Cessnock Library

FREE

2-3.30pm

A feature documentary for school-aged kids, this film by Taryn Brumfitt brings together vibrant stories from young people who share their experiences about body image, bullying, gender identity and more. Bookings essential.

POLYMER CLAY GHOULS AND GHOSTS – for ages 11-18

Thursday 10 October

Kurri Kurri Library

FREE

10-11am

Friday 11 October

Cessnock Library

3-4pm

Get into the Halloween spirit by creating some ghosts, ghouls, pumpkins and more out of polymer clay. Whether you prefer spooky or spooey, you can create whatever you like! Bookings essential.

YA Author Chat with Jaimie Thomas – for ages 11-18

Friday 11 October

Cessnock Library

FREE

12-1pm

Jaime Thomas started out writing fanfiction and has now published her own debut YA novel! Come along to hear about Jaimie's experience as a young writer and get some insight into the process of writing and publishing a novel. Bookings essential.

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