



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 4 Week 4 2024**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

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 2024

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

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reg Kelly School Cricket
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 & 2 League Tag Gala Day	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Official Opening of Year 4 Classrooms
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 – Interrelate Session 2	Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	School Assembly	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School End Of Year Awards at 9:45am (school hall)
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup>	World Diabetes Day (students can wear blue accessories)	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming Carnival K-5 (Singleton)
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Reg Kelly School Cricket	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 MAT Workshop at School
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 – Interrelate Session 3 (final)	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM 4, 2024</b>
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concert with Andrew Chin starting at 6:00pm		

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025:

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025** – First Day of School for year 1 to 6

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025** – Kindergarten commences with part days

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025** – Kindergarten FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

## Principal's Message

<b>Lord, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.</b>	<i>Book of Wisdom 11:22-12:2</i>
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week a large group of our primary children participated in a netball gala day with our neighbouring lower Hunter primary schools. Purposely we made teams of mixed abilities with some children having little or no experience playing the game. I was immensely proud to receive such positive feedback about the sportsmanship of our children and the way our parents helped our staff on the day to make it such a smooth and enjoyable day. Even more so, the fact that staff and parents from other schools gave similar positive comments about our children's co-operation, fair play and the spirit of inclusion they showed on the day. We are blessed to be part of such a supportive and welcoming community. Thank you!

### **Leading Learning Collaborative**

Last week we participated in our last Clarity presentation for 2024 as part of our Leading Learning Collaborative with our colleagues from St Joseph's Lochinvar and other local Catholic primary schools whose children also attend St Joseph's for high school.

We had the opportunity to talk with the high school about the data on this year 6 group, their strengths and learning challenges.

Year 6 will attend St Joseph's on 15 November for an orientation visit.

### **Staffing**

Kate Burgess is taking leave from Rosary Park for 2025, and Tiffany Nolan has been appointed as a Learning Support Teacher at St Patrick's Lochinvar from 2025.

We are still in the process of advertising and interviewing for teaching positions in 2025. Once this is done, we will begin assigning teachers to classes and begin the transition process for children.

### **Canteen volunteers**

There have been recent changes enforced by local councils regarding food preparation. This means that all canteen volunteers MUST complete a food handling course by 28 January 2025 to volunteer in our canteen. This is a free course and takes approximately 30-60 mins to complete and provides a certificate at the end.

All volunteers wishing to help in canteen in 2025 will have to complete before school returns. Here's the link to the training-

[Food Handler Basics training](https://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/food-handler-basics-training)  
[foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](https://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au)

### **Attendance at school**

**IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!!** At Rosary Park, we acknowledge that parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children. We strive to work in partnership with you to best enable you to raise your child. We can only work together **if your child has regular school attendance.**

The Education Act 1990 (NSW) states that 'the child attends the school at all times while the school is open for the child's instruction or participation in school activities.' This means that children are

expected to be at school EVERY DAY that it is opened unless they have a specific medical reason not to be there. Where possible a medical certificate should be provided.

It is recognised that COVID cost us the opportunity to go on holidays for a significant period, however it is detrimental to your child's education and their social development if you consistently take holidays in the school term. We are working on (or consolidating) new content every day (**even** in kindergarten) and even one day off school is costly for your child. It is not OK, to take holidays in school time!

Please schedule appointments and holidays out of school time so that your child gets the best possible school experience.

### ***Did you know?***

Non-attendance is linked with poorer academic achievement and long-term student outcomes.

- Higher rates of absences have been associated with lower NAPLAN scores (Hancock et al. 2013; Daraganova et al. 2014).
- In NSW, students who report positive attendance behaviours in Year 7 are on average 3 months ahead in their learning by Year 9, compared with students who have poor attendance

In addition to lower academic achievement, international studies have found that non-attendance is linked with other longer-term negative effects including:

- increased likelihood of dropping out of school earlier (Rocque et al. 2016)
- social isolation from the school community and peers (Gottfried 2014)
- poorer mental health and social functioning (Kearney and Graczyk 2014; González et al. 2019)
- increased likelihood of requiring social assistance (Christenson and Thurlow 2004 as cited in Kearney and Graczyk 2014)

A common cut-off point in the international literature is 10% of the school year (Heyne et al. 2018). That is, student attendance rates below 90% are considered as *chronically absent*. In NSW, 10% of the school year is **18.8 full-time** equivalent days. Does your child miss more days than this in a school year?

Remember, every day counts.

**If you are having difficulty getting your child to school every day, PLEASE contact us and we can help you.**

### **Classes 2025**

There will be fourteen classes at Rosary Park in 2025. We will have two classes per grade for kindergarten to year 6.

In coming weeks, teachers will begin the process of allocating students to their 2025 classes. This is a well thought out process based on academic, social, and emotional needs. If you have a specific concern or request to make in relation to your child's class placement for 2025 that is based on your child's specific educational needs, please address this to me in writing (via email: [admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au)) by **Friday 8 November**. Every consideration will be given to requests made that are based on student well-being.

Thank you in advance for trusting the staff to make careful, considered decisions and be guided by the expertise and advice of your child's current teacher as to what is best in an educational context for your child. Your child's class and teacher for 2025 will be sent home later in term 4 and these placements will be final.

We will hold a 'step up' morning on Monday 9 December where 2024 staff will meet their classes.

*If you are leaving Rosary Park in 2025, please let us know as we have families who are requesting enrolment places at Rosary Park for 2025.*

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

## Assistant Principal's Message

### Road Safety

A reminder to parents and students to have a discussion about safety near the school crossing during morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Children on buses are expected to walk sensibly towards the crossing. All people using the crossing need to wait for the crossing supervisor to say it is safe to cross the road. It is important that all people use the crossing in the mornings and afternoons to ensure the safety of all.

### End of Year Uniform Expectations

A reminder as we draw closer to the end of the year, it is important that children continue to wear their school uniform, including the correct socks. It is not expected that parents buy new shoes at this time of year. If children grow out of shoes or the shoes break, the child must bring in a note stating that the child is not in the correct shoes. Thank you for your understanding in this. Please ensure your child has a school hat to wear during break times and sport lessons. To remain sun safe all children must wear a hat on the playground. Anyone without a hat must play under the COLA or shade shelter.

Here are some of our children having fun in nature at break times.







If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding your child, their learning or social interactions at Rosary Park, please do not hesitate to reach out via the admin email.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon

## Religious Education Coordinator's Message

### Year 5 leadership day:

Our Year 5 students recently took part in an inspiring Leadership Day, where they explored the qualities that make a compassionate and effective leader. A key focus was on *servant leadership*—leading with kindness, empathy, and a dedication to helping others. Together, they looked at the life and legacy of Catherine McAuley, the founder of our school, who continues to guide us in living out the Mercy values of respect, compassion, hospitality, justice, service, and courage. Catherine's words, "*We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us,*" resonated as a powerful reminder of the positive impact we can have in the lives of others. Through teamwork challenges, our students learned the importance of supporting one another and understanding each other's unique strengths. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and commitment to becoming the next generation of Mercy-inspired leaders in our school community. Year 5 will continue their leadership journey and begin preparing speeches next week.



### Andrew Chinn:

**On Wednesday, 27th of November**, Andrew Chinn will be visiting our school. Andrew has been recording Christian music for children (and some for adults too), designed for use in Religious Education and liturgy. With an extensive background in Catholic education, Andrew taught in Catholic primary schools in Sydney for over twenty years. His concerts and workshops are a celebration of faith and fun, incorporating singing, actions, and a bit of comedy.

Throughout the day, Andrew will work with all classes, planning and learning songs. In the evening, we will host our Christmas concert, where each class will perform with Andrew. **The concert will begin at 6 pm, and all families are welcome and encouraged to attend.** Children are asked to wear Christmas clothes or colours on the night. Please bring a rug to sit on for a relaxed and enjoyable evening. It is expected that children return for this.



## All saints and All souls:

Last Friday we celebrated The Commemoration of All Souls which is a day of hope and prayer as we remember all those who have gone before us in this life.

*God of Heaven and Earth*

*We give you thanks for the Saints who encircle my life.  
May their courage, compassion and commitment  
strengthen me*

*when my faith flags and my hopes dim.*

*May their holy vision and attentive hearts motivate us  
towards the life of deeper prayer and devotion.*

*May the generosity and service inspire us  
to reach out to those who are poor and vulnerable.*

*As their holy lives touch ours, draw us Father along my  
own path to sainthood.*

*In the blessed name of Jesus Christ, your son, We pray.*

*Amen*



## October Month of the Rosary:

In the Catholic tradition, October is dedicated as the Month of the Rosary, a time when we reflect deeply on the life of Jesus and the love of His mother, Mary. At Rosary Park Catholic School, this month holds special meaning as the Rosary is not only central to our faith but also inspires our values and community spirit. Praying the Rosary helps students grow in their relationship with God, focusing on virtues such as compassion, peace, and humility.

God Bless,

Mackenzie Gageler



## World Diabetes Day 2024

Type 1 Diabetes is a chronic autoimmune condition that can develop at any age. There is nothing anyone can do to prevent T1D, and right now there is no known cure. T1D is a complex and challenging condition, and it's not something anyone should have to face alone. In fact, approximately 11,000 school-aged children in Australia live with T1D, which means there's more than one child with T1D in every school.

**Thursday 14th November** is World Diabetes Day. On this day, all Rosary Park students are invited to wear **blue accessories** over their uniform. We can't wait to **GO BLUE** and show our support for our children with T1D, Archie and Makayla.

If you would to know more information about T1D, you can visit the website [<http://www.jdrf.org.au/>] [www.jdrf.org.au/](http://www.jdrf.org.au/)

Grace Dever

## Sports News

On Friday, 1st of November, our Stage 2 and 3 students attended the ASC netball gala day, and what a fantastic day it was! Congratulations to all the players for their incredible teamwork, sportsmanship, and resilience, especially for those students who were playing netball for the first time. A huge thank you to the parents, siblings, and family members who came along to help and cheer from the sidelines—your encouragement made the day even more special. It was wonderful to see everyone working together and showing such pride in representing our school. Well done to all!







## Message from the Parish

### Expressions of Interest for 2025 Sacramental Program

If your child is in Year 3 or above in 2025 and is ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion, please send their details through to the Parish Office at email [singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au) to be placed on the list. You will be contacted early in 2025 to attend an information session once dates have been planned. While you are waiting for this program to come, please start bringing your child/ren to Mass on Sundays as part of their faith formation. And remember to say Hi to me at Mass!

Enjoy Term 4!

God Bless!

Fr Thomas Chirackal

## Weekly Awards

Congratulation to those children who have received awards over the past fortnight.

### Week ending Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (Week 2)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Nam N	Lara A	Carter L
<b>Kinder White</b>	Astrid C	Henry C	Olivia M
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Harvey C	Vivienne S	Indy M
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Winnie C	Jack C	Eva S
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Stella G	Tristan C	Alexis I
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Grayson B	Vinnie L	Reeve W
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Jenny N	Campbell C	Stanley H
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Alfie T	Emily S	Baxter D
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Frances M	Amarlie K	Flynn C
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Isaac I	Addison K	Noah L
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Ellie Y	Sylvester R	Logan C
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Madden T	Nevaeh D	Mia W
<b>Year 6 Blue</b>	Flynn R	Nevada A	Riley M
<b>Year 6 White</b>	Sam R	Brooke H	Isabella T

### Week ending Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 (Week 3)

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Isla C	Isabelle S	Archie M
<b>Kinder White</b>	Hunter B	--	--
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Abbey A	Oliver T	Leilani D
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Mia D	Miya W	Hunter W
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Sawyer D	Maici B	Ayla B
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Leo B	Eleanor C	Tony P
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Layla M	Caelan G	Will M
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Aramaia M	Ken P	Kade B
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Hunter I	Noah R	Emmett C
<b>Year 4 White</b>	--	--	--
<b>Year 5 Blue</b>	Caelan G	Taylah B	--
<b>Year 5 White</b>	Kyson C	James D	Georgie W
<b>Year 6 Blue</b>	Lewis C	David H	Aliyah P
<b>Year 6 White</b>	Aubree C	Elara B	Nicholas L

## Principal's Awards Owen G, Emily R, Pearl B



# School Student Travel



## School student travel information for parents and students

### School Travel Passes

Applications are now open for 2025 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their School Opal card at their nominated postal address from mid-January 2025.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass but have not yet applied need to [apply](#) or [update](#) their details as soon as possible.

In the Opal network, students should travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

Students living in rural and regional areas will receive their travel pass from their nominated transport operator. It may be issued via their school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some rural and regional operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

### Terms of Use

**Students using School Opal cards must tap on and tap off** in line with the [Opal terms of use](#).

This includes travel within the approved times between 6.30am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday on school days only. Students must use their Child/Youth Opal card for any travel outside these times.

All students are required to comply with the [Student code of conduct](#). The code of conduct aims to ensure the safety and well-being of school children and other passengers. It is important that parents ensure their child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in a suspension from travel.

Mail sent from the Stakeholder Liaison Team, Customers Systems and Operations.



Further information can be found at [transportnsw.info/school-travel](https://transportnsw.info/school-travel)  
Enquiries can be submitted at [transportnsw.info/passes-concessions-feedback](https://transportnsw.info/passes-concessions-feedback)



## Keeping active and cool in summer

Being physically active is not only fun but also great for your body! Running, jumping, playing sports, and even dancing helps keep your muscles and heart strong and healthy.

It's important to stay active every day, whether you're playing outside, riding your bike, or having a game with friends. But when it's hot, don't forget to stay cool!

Try:

- Wearing light, comfortable clothes that protect you from the sun and let your skin breathe
- Drinking lots of water to stay hydrated
- Being active during the cooler parts of the day
- Taking breaks in the shade
- Using cold towels or fans to help you feel cooler when finished

Staying active and cool makes sure you can play longer and feel great!



Hunter New England  
Local Health District

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

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.

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