

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 6 2024
Thursday 21st November

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

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	
Wed 27 th	Christmas Concert with Andrew Chin starting at 6:00pm	Tue 10 th	Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner
DECEMBER		Fri 13 th	Whole School End of Year Awards at 9:45am (school hall)
Mon 2 nd	Reg Kelly School Cricket	Mon 16 th	Swimming Carnival Years 1-5 (Singleton)
Wed 4 th	Official Opening of Year 4 Classrooms	Mon 16 th	Year 6 MAT Workshop at School
Mon 9 th	Step Up Morning	Wed 18 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 4, 2024

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025:

Tuesday 4th February 2025 – First Day of School for Years 1 to 6

Thursday 6th February 2025 – Kindergarten commences with part day

Wednesday 12th February 2025 – Kindergarten FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

Wed 11th – Fri 13th June 2025 – Year 5 Great Aussie Bush Camp

Wed 23rd – Fri 25th July 2025 – Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

We know that we should not let our worries burden us as we can always trust in You.

Help us to always follow Your example in being

Loving and caring

Calm and confronting

Gentle and kind

Help us to always help each other.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers,

2025 Class Preparation

On the morning of Monday 9 December, we will spend time in our 2025 classes (and classrooms) with our 2025 teachers for our 'step up' morning 9:15-11 am.

If you are leaving Rosary Park and your child/children will not be returning to school in 2025, please ensure that you have notified us as we have families looking for enrolments for next year and we're in the process of concluding our class lists for 2025.

If you are just moving to a new house or changing your workplace, please ensure that you provide up-to-date contact details before the start of the school year.

Kindergarten 2025 Orientation

We have now concluded our formal Kindergarten 2025 orientation sessions. These were held over 4 weeks and gave parents and children the opportunity to visit in both large and small groups, becoming more familiar and comfortable with their new school setting. I thank Kylie Lunn and Ellen Rae (Kindergarten 2025 teachers) and Grace Dever (Current Kindergarten Teacher) for the enormous amount of work they put into these sessions. Any feedback on these sessions is always appreciated.

Sports Shirt 2025

From 2025 all students will wear a new sport shirt. These are now in stock at Flanagan's menswear Cessnock.

Official Opening of Stage 4 buildings

Parents and carers are invited to the official opening of our final stage of buildings (year 4 classrooms) on Wednesday 4 December, starting at 10a.m. Bishop Michael Kennedy will officiate at this liturgy in our hall, and we will be joined by the Chief Executive officer of M-N diocese Sean Scanlon and our state member (Upper Hunter) Dave Layzell.

Swimming Carnival

Our carnival will be held on Monday 16 December at Singleton Pool. As this event is for Representation for Primary students in 2025, our year 6 children will not attend the carnival. Instead, they will remain at school to participate in a 2-hour session of the MAT program. This is the martial arts and wellbeing program that they participated in in term 2. This session will be a focus on the transition and preparedness for high school. Following this, year 6 will participate in activities with their Kindergarten buddies before our school year concludes on 18th.

Thank you!

Our colour run raised \$19,550. What an effort, thanks for your fundraising. Thank you to Mrs Nevin and the parents who helped us on the day.

Advanced Notice

In 2025, our year 5 students will attend Great Aussie Bush Camp 11th –13th June 2025 (approx. cost \$430/child) whilst our year 6 students will have their excursion to Canberra on 23rd – 25th July 2025 (approx. cost \$480/child). As these excursions are a significant financial commitment for families (**not** covered by our resource fee), I am giving you advanced notice so that you are able to budget for them.

School fee information for 2025 will be sent out once received by the Catholic Schools Office. Our school resource fee is \$595/child in 2025.

Semester 2 Student Reports

Our semester 2 reports will be published for all children in week 9 of this term. You will be notified via a compass notification when they are available.

Should you wish to discuss your child's report with the class teacher/s please contact them via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Year 6 parents need to be aware their access to these reports will be cut off from the last day of school this year as the children are removed from our school system. We suggest you download and save or print off your child's reports before the end of the year.

End of Year Teacher Gifts

At this time of year, some families want to give staff members an end of year Christmas gift. Whilst this is appreciated, it is not necessary. Our greatest gift is seeing your children enjoy learning and reaching their full potential.

The Catholic Schools Office has a detailed Gifts and Benefits Policy that requires substantial gifts to be declared and, sometimes, returned.

Under this policy, it is not appropriate for parents to take up collections of money from families to present one gift to their class teacher or another staff member.

If you choose to give a gift to a staff member, this is your personal choice. Please consider a card with a special message inside instead.

Canteen Changes

Our last canteen day is Friday 6 December. It will open Friday 13 December for ice blocks.

Social Inclusion Week- 'Impact matters'

23 November-1 December



[Social Inclusion Week](#) is about showing that we not only care about our own personal safety and wellbeing but that of others too. It's about encouraging all Australians to be inclusive of all cultures, age groups, gender, nationalities, and abilities. At Rosary Park, we embrace our different cultures to ensure students and staff are socially inclusive and feel safe at school.

You may also like to add in some resources:

Kids Helpline has a great resource for kids aged 5-12 years - [Being ok with being different](#)

Here is a short and easy to understand video on Human Rights for everyone - [What are Human Rights](#)

World Children's Day- 20 November

[World Children's Day](#) was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children's welfare.

On 20th November 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Rights of the Child and on the same day in 1989, The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At Rosary Park we are passionate about the rights and the welfare of our children and as such, you may have seen the "Child's Rights" poster displayed in our office foyer. The poster is attached to the newsletter for your reference.

World Children's Day reminds us be attentive to our children, be amazed and learn from their bright, imaginative and curious minds. They are our future.

Kids Helpline has a great resource for kids on their rights which you regularly make our children aware of:

Kids 5-12 years - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids/issues/what-are-my-rights>

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

Parents/Carers 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/>

Social Media

A reminder to be vigilant with your children and their activity on social media. If you're not a user of social media but your children are, please investigate so that you understand what is happening and what they are seeing. All social media is meant to be for children older than 13 because they are more likely to have the social maturity to deal with it, although we've all heard cases where even older children don't have those skills. Please use the resources of the office of e-safety at the link below and discuss these sites with your children.

<http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

End of year liturgy and awards

We will come together as a school community to celebrate our academic year from 9:45am on Friday 13 December.

We will begin with a liturgy to celebrate all the blessings bestowed on us throughout our 2024 school year. This will also include the naming of our 2025 school and sports leaders (from our year 6 2025 cohort).

As is our practice at Rosary Park grade (K-6) teachers will then give out awards to selected children in their class.

*Faith and Service Award (Rosary Park medal awarded to two children/class each year):
Knowing what it means to be a child of God and demonstrating this through their actions

*Rosary Park Award for Learning (Rosary Park medal awarded to two children/class each year):
Recognising students that use their strengths and gifts as a learner – letting their light shine as a learner in any Key Learning Area (KLA-subject) at any level. This award focuses on growth, persistence, and grit. These award recipients are **NOT** necessarily the best academic achievers in their class but more those children who work consistently and persistently to achieve their personal best.

Kind regards,
Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

St. Joseph's Community Engagement Program

As a part of their weekly "Flexi Learning" a number of students from St Joseph's College at Lochinvar have chosen to take part in the community engagement program. These students give their time on Wednesday mornings to visit and support students in local schools as well as visiting the Sisters of St Joseph. We would like to thank the students and teachers from the college who have assisted some of our Kindergarten and Year 1 students during their visits this term. We have

enjoyed your company and your guidance in supporting our reading, writing, spelling and oral language through games and play. Thank you for coming to Rosary Park. We hope we can be part of this program again next year.

End of Year Awards

Reminder that the end of year awards will be held at school on Friday 13th December at 9:45am. There will be assigned seating for the parents of children already notified they will be receiving awards and some general seating. There will also be a section of seating assigned for Yr5 parents of children who prepared and delivered speeches for 2025 leadership roles. Please note that parents will NOT be informed if their child was successful in obtaining a leadership role prior to the ceremony. All 2025 student team and sports leaders will be announced as a part of this end of school liturgy and awards ceremony.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

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.

Remembrance Day liturgy:

Last week, our school community came together for a special Remembrance Day liturgy to honour those who have served and sacrificed for our country. This important day reminds us to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the courage and dedication of those who have fought for peace and freedom.

Thank you to our Year 4 students and their teachers for leading this meaningful liturgy. Your thoughtful preparation and reverent participation helped us all to connect with the significance of this day.

Thank you to our wonderful families for bringing hope, joy and dignity to those who need it most this Christmas.

Mercy Pillars:

We have worked extremely hard as a school community to further embed the Mercy pillars into school life. This week all classes received the below pictures to be displayed in classrooms. This is to allow all students to receive the same vocabulary and definition of each pillar. Our Mercy Pillars link closely to our PBL framework with focuses closely on one Mercy Pillar each week.



Student Voice project:

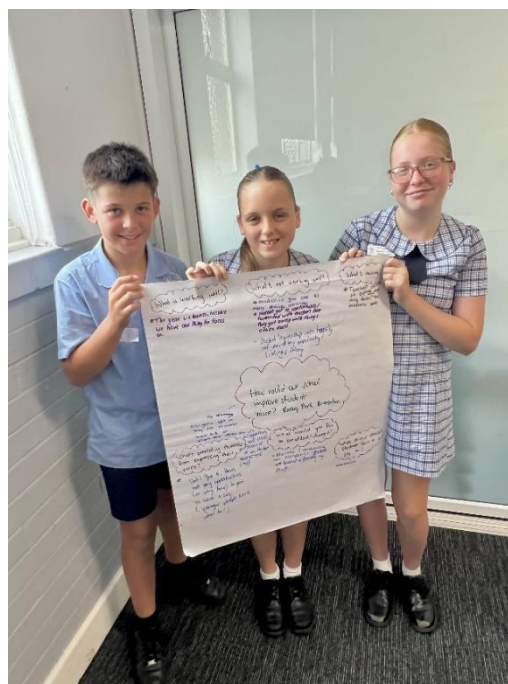
On Monday 3 Year 6 students Louis D, Lexi B and Sienna M went to All saints Maitland to participate in the student voice project.

What is the Student Voice Project? The Student Voice Project is designed to encourage students to express their views and work together with other students and leaders from the Catholic Schools Office, to improve educational practices. By participating, students will have the opportunity to: - Share their opinions on important school matters. - Collaborate with other students and CSO leaders. - Enhance their creative and critical thinking, leadership and communication skills.

The students did a great job represented our school beautifully and added great contributions.

God Bless,

Mackenzie Gageler



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 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

Sporting News

Last Tuesday on the 12th of November, our Stage 1 students had an exciting and fun-filled day at the NRL League-Tag Carnival! We were very fortunate that the weather allowed our year 1 and 2 students to travel to our very well-known and local ground of Greta Oval. Rosary Park was 1 of 11 schools invited from the surrounding Maitland / Newcastle region, to participate in a round-robin like event playing league-tag.

There were many highlights and memories made on the day, but some standout moments include the many fun dance breaks, the teamwork, sportsmanship and skills demonstrated, along with the fun rivalry clash between Rosary Park Team Green and Rosary Park Team Purple.

We were so proud to see our young athletes showing great enthusiasm and respect for one another and others throughout the day. For a few participants, a day like this was a new experience, however it was amazing to see how our children managed to create a friendly and supportive environment. Our students represented our school, Rosary Park, with pride, and it was a pleasure to be a part of the experience.

A big thank you to all teachers, parents, volunteers and NRL coordinators who helped make the event such a success!





Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards earlier this term.

Week ending Friday 8th November 2024 (Week 4)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	--	--	--
Kinder White	Isla H	Jax B	Emily G
Year 1 Blue	Evie E	Marshall C	Bonnie D
Year 1 White	Donnie B	Makayla C	Amelia H
Year 2 Blue	Matilda B	Parker G	Nic L
Year 2 White	Harrison A	Ari s	Brynn S
Year 3 Blue	Jack C	Elliana D	Reni S
Year 3 White	Hudson L	Mason C	Allie D
Year 4 Blue	Braxton T	Hudson W	Jaxon B
Year 4 White	Claire B	Susan P	Blake C
Year 5 Blue	Samantha F	Indi M	Luke W
Year 5 White	--	--	--
Year 6 Blue	Hunter G	Charlie B	Lilly R
Year 6 White	Bryce B	Harry W	Eamon H

Week ending Friday 15th November 2024 (Week 5)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Ally C	Bentley K	Tyler T
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Noah L	Maxx R	Millah L
Year 1 White	Hugh M	Savannah H	Stella M
Year 2 Blue	Ethan T	Kenny A	Charli C
Year 2 White	Brooklyn Y	Tommy E	Charlie D
Year 3 Blue	Matilda M	Vy N	Liam H
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Leah W	Shahaan S	Sasha A
Year 4 White	Levi C	James S	Jye D
Year 5 Blue	Sophie C	Jema M	Johnny N
Year 5 White	Alyssa B	Jacob L	--
Year 6 Blue	Rawson D	Rose D	Liana R
Year 6 White	Louis D	Asha J	Phoebe C

Principal's Awards

Connor T, Cleo P, Zoe H, Savannah R, Piper R, Henry C, Annabelle L, Mia D, Elijah C, Theo C, Abbey A, Stella G, Brailyn L, Harry W, Titan L, Korban L, Ayla B, Indy M, Archer M, Eva S, Evie E, Spencer C, Charli C, Koa V, Jax B, Ari S, Reni S, Mason P, Johan C, Charlie L, Amelia H, Bryce B, Isla H, Leah W

Children's rights

You have the right to:

1.
be treated fairly
no matter what

2.
have a say
about decisions
affecting you

3.
live and grow
up healthy

4.
have people
do what is best
for you

5.
know who you
are and where
you come from

6.
believe what
you want

7.
privacy

8.
find out
information and
express yourself

9.
be safe no
matter where
you are

10.
be cared for and
have a home

11.
education,
play and cultural
activities

12.
help and
protection if
you need it

Adapted from the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For more information on children's rights, go to www.humanrights.gov.au/childrights

To tell a story about your rights, go to somethingincommon.gov.au/thebigbanter



Game: Bat Tapping

Each player has a suitable batting instrument and ball. The aim is to keep the ball in the air with the bat for as long as possible.

What you need:

- 1 ball and batting instrument per player e.g. tennis racquet, cricket bat, baseball bat, table tennis paddle, pickle ball bat etc.

How to play:

- Players tap their ball on their bat and count the number of consecutive taps they get
- If a player drops their ball, they start counting from the beginning
- TIP: Try to beat your score each time you play. If playing with others try and beat their score- the highest score wins!

Change it up:

- Allow players one bounce on the ground in between taps
- Vary the bat and ball
- Play cooperatively in pairs or small groups hitting the ball to one another. Vary the distance between each player to make it harder
- See how many times players can tap the ball on different parts of the bat
- Players try to hop/jump as many times as they can while the ball is in the air



Source: Australian Sport Learning Centre (www.sportaus.gov.au)



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.

25TH ANNUAL

Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER, 5PM

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL, HAMILTON

Please join Bishop Michael Kennedy and the Federation of P&F Associations for the 25th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning.

The Mass will be a celebration of inclusion and diversity, where everyone's unique and God-given gifts will be acknowledged.

After Mass, you are invited to stay for supper, where you will have the opportunity to connect with friends, old and new.

Mass will be celebrated to ensure everyone feels welcome, including if that means there is wriggling and noise amongst the pews!

Mass | 5pm- 6.00pm, Supper | 6.00pm-7.00pm

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hunter Street, Hamilton

RSVP not required, for more information or specific requirements contact

Lizzie Watkin to discuss your needs
lizzie.watkin@mn.catholic.edu.au or ph 0404 005 036

The Federation of P & F Associations hosted its first Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning in 1999. Over the years, the Mass has remained a valued opportunity for everyone to come together in celebration of the diverse gifts and talents of each and every student, which undoubtedly enrich our Catholic school communities.

The Federation's Diverse Learning Needs Working Party has a proud history of advocating for our Catholic Schools to be places of welcome and support for children who perceive and interact with the world in diverse ways. As such, its annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning is one of welcome and inclusivity; everyone is encouraged to attend and feel comfortable to be themselves!

This year, the Federation is grateful to have Bishop Michael Kennedy and the communities of Newcastle's Inner City Schools lead the celebration.

This celebration is intended to be inclusive of all in our community to come and enjoy. To help facilitate this, the Federation has ensured there is disabled parking and amenities onsite, supper will cater for people with a range of dietary requirements.





Swim and SURVIVE

SwimVAC 2025

Enrol your kids for Summer!

Program Dates: 13 January to 24 January 2025

Bookings Open!
drowningprevention.org.au/swimvac



ROYAL LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES





Do you or your child play club sport?

Then we want to hear from you.

Complete a short survey to help us understand how much it

costs to play sport



Ethics reference number: 2024/179



HOLIDAY CLINICS





HOLIDAY CLINICS

The League Stars program appeals to the true nature of kids, in all their messy, high energy, love of fun and play. During the holiday clinic your child will participate in specially designed games that get them smiling and sweating.

League Stars kids have loads of fun with their friends, old and new, but the program delivers so much more. The holiday clinics unlock more of their unique strengths, building physical, cognitive, social and emotional skills that will help them take on challenges big and small, now and in the future.

**REGISTER FOR OUR HOLIDAY CLINICS AT
LEAGUESTARS.COM**

DATE: 12/12/2024
TIME: 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm
AGE: 5-12 Years
COST: \$49

WHERE:
Waratah Oval
Young St
Waratah
NSW 2298

YOUR LEAGUE STARS COACH IS:

Brianna Ritchie
britchie@pnrl.com.au
0487 432 293



**LEAGUE STARS
PACK INCLUDED**



**LEAGUE
STARS**

LEAGUESTARS.COM

NSW RUGBY LEAGUE

PLAY

SOMETHING UNREAL

NRL

HUNTER JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

CLUB RUGBY LEAGUE

Photo courtesy of Jeremy's Sports Photography

hunterjuniorrugbyleague
playnrlhunterandcentralcoast

FIND YOUR CLUB TODAY!

30 club logos including: Maitland, Newcastle, Cessnock, and many others.

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