

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 3 2024
Thursday 13th February

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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.

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

FEBRUARY		MARCH	
Wed 19 th	Assembly	Tue 4 th	Shrove Tuesday
Fri 21 st	Opening School Liturgy 9:15am – Commissioning of badges to Yr 6 Leaders	Wed 5 th	Ash Wednesday
Wed 26 th	Assembly / Diocesan Swimming Carnival	Thu 6 th	Lower Hunter Soccer, Netball and Hockey Trials
Fri 28 th	Lower Hunter Sports Trials	Fri 14 th	PUPIL FREE DAY – NO STUDENTS REQUIRED TODAY
		Fri 21 st	Harmony Day at RPB

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

As we begin a new school year, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us.

Thank you for the school holidays that gave us time for fun and relaxation with our family and friends.

Thank you for bringing us safely back to school this year.

We ask that you help us to:

use our eyes to see new friends and new opportunities,

use our minds to learn new things,

use our ears to hear your message as we try to live like Jesus and use our hearts in our interactions with others.

Help us to remember you are with us when we face challenges.

Help us to truly learn together and enrich the lives of all that we meet.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to our 2025 school year!

I hope you had a happy Christmas and enjoyed some time together as a family. I also wanted to thank the staff, students and families of Rosary Park for their very generous welcome, as I greet people each day.

A little bit about me, I am married to my beautiful wife, Amy and have two daughters, Jessica and Hannah, aged 17 and 15 respectively. Rosary Park represents the third school in which I will be Principal. I commenced my Principalship journey in 2019 at St Joseph's Merriwa, the furthestmost school from the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. In 2022, I took on the reins at Holy Cross Glendale, in Lake Macquarie. This year will be my 26th year in education and 13th year in leadership.

Outside of school, as anyone who has spoken with me has worked out, I love my sport. AFL, Football (soccer), cricket and Rugby League are my go to sports and I'm forging a little bit of a hobby as a sports broadcaster for services such as Bar TV, NSWRL, and Football NSW. Sport has always played a big part of my life and now that my brain writes cheques that my body can't cash, I find being in the broadcast box very fulfilling.

Please take the time to contact me if you ever need to discuss matters pertaining to the school or have any ideas for fundraising etc. I am always happy to schedule parents in to visit and chat, as you are one extremely integral piece in the puzzle that is Rosary Park.

I thank you for entrusting us with the carriage of educating and forming your child, your most precious commodity and we welcome your input wherever necessary.

Staffing

It was so lovely to welcome our first group of new Kindergarten children and their families today. They are settling in, and our year 6 buddies are doing an amazing job of looking after them.

We especially welcome our new staff:

Miss Danika Graham – Year 3 White

Miss Chelsea Edwards – RFF (PE)

Mrs Kylie Lunn – Kindergarten

Mrs Kathryn Piggott – Learning Support Teacher

Mrs Melita Robertson – Learning Support Assistant Admin

Staff 2025

Executive Staff:

Principal: Mr Ashley Borg

Assistant Principal: Janelle Dixon

Religious Education Coordinator: Mackenzie Gageler

Primary Coordinator: Amber Van Duuren

Teaching Staff:

Kinder Blue: Mrs Kylie Lunn

Kinder White: Ms Ellen Rae

Year 1 Blue: Mrs Louise Kevin

Year 1 White: Ms Phoebe Bridge / Ms Jess Dougherty

Year 2 Blue: Ms Emelia Lindus

Year 2 White: Ms Nikola Groves (M, W-F)/Miss Madelaine Percival (Tues)

Year 3 Blue: Ms Naomi Rodwell

Year 3 White: Ms Danika Graham

Year 4 Blue: Ms Grace Dever

Year 4 White: Ms Chloe Morgan

Year 5 Blue: Ms Mackenzie Gageler (Mon – Wed) / Mrs Debbie Parkes (Thurs – Fri)

Year 5 White: Mrs Simone Cameron

Year 6 Blue: Mrs Amber van Duuren (Mon, Tue, Fri) / Ms Kate Burgess (Wed, Thurs)

Year 6 White: Mr Nick Standing

Learning Support Teacher: Mrs Kathryn Piggott / Mrs Nichola Ellis (returning Term 3)

EALD teacher: Mrs Janelle Dixon 2 days/week

ATSI teacher: Ms Katrina Easton

Gifted Education Mentor: Nikola Groves (Tuesday)

Teacher Librarian: Mrs Melanie Flynn (M-T-W - Th)

School Counsellor: Ms Kim Davey (3 days/week)

RFF Teacher: Ms Chelsea Edwards (M-T-W) teaching PE

Support Staff

Senior Admin School Officers: Mrs Amanda Percival (Mon - Friday)

Mrs Kim O'Rourke (Wed-Thu-Fri)

Pastoral Care Worker: Mrs Kylie Johns

Aboriginal Education Support worker: Mrs Jess Dougherty – 1 day week

Library Assistant: Mrs Jennifer Bailey Tue and Thur

Learning Support Assistants: Mrs Katherine Allen, Mrs Jessica Bellott, Mrs Kacie Bishop, Mr Jeremy Brown, Mrs Natalie Cortis, Mrs Renae Craft, Ms Kimberley Gargan, Mrs Kylie Johns, Mrs Cherie Lane, Miss Linda Museth, Mrs Emma Nevin, Ms Fiona Roberts, Mrs Melita Robertson

Groundsman: Mr Nigel Levido

Canteen Coordinators- Fridays- Mrs Cassandra Freeman

Parent Engagement Group - 2025

It was great to see so many families at our Parent Information Night on Tuesday. This indicates a high-level interest in your child's education. This is, sometimes, taken for granted at some schools and should never be underestimated, the power of home-school partnerships.

Your input is always welcomed as to areas that you would like more information on to assist with your child's education. We will send around a very short survey in the coming week to ascertain topics of interest for our termly meeting.

Our term 1 gathering will be held after the Assembly on Wednesday MARCH 19 – to commence with coffee and tea and a chat before we hold a more formal gathering, for approximately 60 minutes. The meeting will conclude at 10:45 – 11:00am. It would be great to see any interested and available families in attendance to start a process for building community in our school.

Grade and Principal's Awards

In recent years, we have worked hard at Rosary Park to build our children and staff's understanding of the vision and work of the founding sisters of our school- the sisters of Mercy and in particular Catherine McAuley who founded the sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831. This has included the formulation of new Vision and Mission statements for our school in 2020 and expanding our school prayer to include aspects of these statements and our Mercy Pillars in 2022.

Also in 2022, we introduced our grades taking one of the Mercy pillars to focus on in class. This has led to a deeper understanding for all our children of the Mercy pillars and how we can display these in our interactions with others. Every Monday at our assembly, our student leaders introduce the PBL rule of the week and the Mercy pillar which we will all try to focus on in our lives for the week. Every Wednesday at our assembly there is one Mercy award given to a child who has consistently displayed this Mercy pillar. Once a child receives ALL of the six Mercy awards (that is for respect, courage, compassion, service, justice and hospitality) they will receive a special set of Rosary beads which represents our school's patron saint, Mary (the mother of Jesus) and the special prayer that we pray to her- the Rosary.

Children are invited to hand in 3 merit and/or Mercy awards to receive a principal's award at our Wednesday assembly. Any MJR awards received by a child in previous years- prior to 2023, CAN still be used for a principal's award. Children accrue multiple Principal's awards over the course of their education at Rosary Park.

The following rewards are given once a child accrues several Principal's awards:

- Once a child receives **5** Principal's awards, they will receive a Catherine McAuley card.
- After **10** Principal's awards they receive our Rosary Park badge of excellence
- After **15** Principal's awards they receive a Cross + card (prayer) to acknowledge the child's efforts in consistently displaying the pillars of Mercy.

I am sure you will agree that these rewards add further meaning to the Mercy pillars for our children. As always, any questions or constructive feedback on our awards structure is always welcome.

Standard Collection Notice

In today's newsletter you will see the Diocesan Standard Collection Notice. Upon enrolment of your child, you signed an agreement stating that you understood that the Diocese holds information on students and families. This standard collection notice explains that this information held about your child is able to be used by the school and diocese for the purposes outlined in this document. Please make sure you are aware of this document and contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Contacting Teachers

The best outcomes occur for our children when school and home, work together. We look forward to continuing to build the strong links between families and school. Your child's teacher is obviously an integral part of this and there may be times during the year, aside from our scheduled student led conferences at the end of Term 2, that you need to contact your child's teacher. If so, contact can be made via the school's administration email:

admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au .

These emails will be forwarded to the relevant teacher by Mrs Percival / Mrs O'Rourke or myself / Mrs Dixon. Teachers will respond to your email within 2 business days and during the hours of 8:15am and 5:30pm.

You can also contact your child's teacher through our office, by leaving a message for them by phone. They will return your call as soon as possible.

As you can appreciate, teachers are very busy during the school day so any 'urgent' messages for your child regarding travel arrangements, medications, lunches etc must be made by calling the office.

St Nicholas OOSH Branxton

A reminder that St Nicholas OOSH offer before and after school care 7am-8:30am & 3pm-6pm, as well as Vacation Care in holidays. OOSH can be contacted on **0448 751 549** to make enrolment inquiries. Vacation care is available during holidays and pupil-free days.

School Attendance

The Education Amendment (School Attendance Bill) states that ALL children must attend school EVERY day that they are well enough to be there. Parents are DISCOURAGED from taking children out of school for holidays during school time. School work will not be set by the class teacher if you choose to take your child away on holidays during the school term.

The main points:

- All absences must be recorded and kept by the school for 7 years. Parents must give the school a reason for their child's absence (Compass, email or by phone) within 7 school days, otherwise it is marked in school records as an 'unexplained absence.'
- Principals may request a doctor's certificate if leave is for several days OR there are patterns of absence e.g. every second Monday.

- Parents are urged to avoid booking holidays in term time. If, however, your child needs time from school (more than 10 days) you must complete an 'Exemption from Attendance' form available from the Principal, PRIOR to exemption. It cannot be granted retrospectively. These are retained by the school. Exception from Attendance over 100 days in a 12-month period must go to the Minister via the Catholic Education Commission NSW.

-According to the Guidelines: Principals and the Diocesan Director may grant exemptions due to exceptional domestic circumstances, including, but not limited to participation in family holidays during school term, subject to being satisfied that this is in the best educational interests of the child.

School Website

Our website can be accessed via, <http://www.branxton.catholic.edu.au>

Our 2025 newsletters can be accessed there by clicking on the Newsletters button.

We also have relevant diocesan policies (which are followed by the school) on our website site such as Privacy & Complaints Resolution for Parents and Carers.

Please have a look, any constructive feedback or ideas about features or additional information you would like to see on the site is welcome.

Camps 2025

In 2025, our year 5 students will attend Great Aussie Bush Camp 11-13 June (approx. cost \$430/child) whilst our year 6 students will have their excursion to Canberra on 23-25 July (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.

Resource Fee 2025

Diocesan information will soon be sent out as to the cost of school tuition fees and DFSBL for 2025. Our school resource fee is **\$595** per child and will include one excursion for each class. This cost covers all aspects of school life, apart from Year 5/6 camps and sport that is not based at school (Gala Days, Representative Sport, etc)

2025 Student Leaders

Congratulations to our 2025 Leaders. They will receive their badges at our opening school liturgy on **Friday 21 February, from 9:15am.**

Mercy Team: Ruby Nevin

Environmental Team: Luke Wright

PB4L: Sam Jacka

Active Lifestyle: Jesse Cavanagh

Freeman House Leaders: Shelle Cole and Logan Carroll

Thorpe House Leaders: Mia Wells and Sam Dodd

Bradman House Leaders: Taylah Bishop and Darby Thomas

Fearnley House Leaders: Georgie Ward and Hudson O'Connor

Rosary Park is truly a unique School and Parish community with an inclusive and nurturing atmosphere where we learn together and enrich the lives of each other. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with you, your children, and the staff this year to ensure that every child at Rosary Park thrives in 2025!

Kind regards,

Mr Ashley Borg

PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

Welcome back to 2025

Welcome back to the 2025 school year. I hope that you have enjoyed some quality time with family and friends over the Christmas break. It is wonderful to welcome back known faces and exciting to see many new faces in our grounds and classrooms. A very special welcome to our Kindergarten children who have their first full week at school this week.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you to reach out if there is anything you are unsure of or concerned about. The key to success for children at school is open communication between the home and the school. Please call or email the school if you have any questions or concerns and we can discuss ways to best support you and your child. I look forward to sharing an exciting and successful school year with you and your family.

School Rules and PB4L

At Rosary Park we follow a Positive Behaviour for Learning framework. This ensures that teachers interact with students in a positive way. The primary focus is on rewarding positive behaviours and specifically teaching children what these positive behaviours look and feel like.

In the first few weeks of the year, every classroom has a focus on building positive relationships. Your child's teacher will be working on getting to know your child better and building a positive relationship with them. If your child is having trouble with friendships or relationships with others in the classroom, on the playground or on the bus, we suggest you encourage them to discuss these concerns with their classroom teacher. This will assist the teacher to get to know your child and work together with them to solve any issues they may be experiencing.

To make things as simple as possible, we only have 3 basic rules -

I am safe, I am responsible and I am an active learner.

There are many positive behaviours we encourage for the students under these 3 rules. The positive behaviours are linked to our Mercy Values. (see below)

Rosary Park

PBYL RULES

I am Safe

"The Lord is like a strong tower. Those who do what is right can run to him for safety." Proverbs 18:10

I show compassion when I use safe hands and feet.

I show courage when I am in the right place at the right time

I show respect when I use equipment (including technology) correctly.

I show respect when I wear my uniform (including my hat) correctly.

I show courage when I make safe choices travelling to and from school.

I show justice when I follow rules in the classroom and on the playground.

I am Respectful

"Love your neighbour as you love yourself" Mark 12: 31

I show compassion when I give everyone a fair go.

I show hospitality when I say kind words and use my manners.

I show service to others when I follow instructions.

I show justice when I listen to others and value our differences.

I am an Active Learner

"They found Jesus in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions" Luke 2:46

I show respect by actively listening with my eyes and ears.

I show justice by having my equipment organised.

I show service when I stay on task and let others learn.

I show justice when I actively contribute to tasks and value others contributions.

I show courage when I use a growth mindset to persevere with challenging tasks.

I show hospitality when I include others and share ideas in group work.



Rosary Park Catholic School
PB4L and Mercy Value Scope and Sequence
Semester 1 2025

Term 1	School Rule	Behaviour Focus	Mercy Value
Week 1, 2, 3	I am Safe	I show justice when I follow rules in the classroom and on the playground.	Justice
Alternate 3			
Week 4 and 5	I am Safe	I show respect when I use equipment (including technology) correctly.	Respect
Alternate 5			
Week 6 and 7	I am Respectful	I show compassion when I give people a fair go.	Compassion
Alternate 7			
Week 8 and 9	I am Respectful	I show justice when I listen to others and value our differences.	Justice
Alternate 9			
Week 10 and 11	I am an Active Learner	I show service when I stay on task and let others learn.	Service
Alternate 11			
Term 2	School Rule	Behaviour Focus	Mercy Value
Week 1 and 2	I am Safe	I show courage when I make safe choices travelling to and from school.	Courage
Alternate 2			
Week 3 and 4	I am an Active Learner	I show respect by actively listening with my eyes and ears	Respect
Alternate 4			
Week 5 and 6	I am an Active Learner	I show courage when I use a growth mindset to persevere with challenging tasks.	Courage
Alternate 6			
Week 7 and 8	I am Respectful	I show hospitality when I say kind words and use my manners	Hospitality
Alternate 8			
Week 9 and 10	I am Safe	I show compassion when I use safe hands and feet	Compassion
Alternate 10			
Procedures			
<p>Every Monday morning the PB4L team will introduce the rule for the week during morning assembly. All staff take time to teach the rule in the classroom for 10 mins with a focus on the "Mercy language" and how the pillar fits.</p> <p>Gotcha tokens are given to students displaying the rule of the week.</p> <p>Mercy awards, with a focus on the Mercy Pillar, are given out at assembly along with class merit awards.</p> <p>Staff review behaviour data and choose possible alternate rules for the second week at the Monday morning meeting.</p>			

To help the children follow these rules and behaviours we have a school wide focus rule each fortnight. This means that each 2-week block has a focus rule and a value. This rule is announced at the Monday morning assembly and is specifically taught in each classroom in an age-appropriate way. The class discusses the rule and value, and may role play examples of what it might look like when this rule is followed and when it is not. Sometimes, incident data suggests there is a need to focus on a particular rule. When this happens, we change to this focus in the second week of the cycle, this way we ensure the focus rule is always an area of a current identified need.

Teachers reward children with a "Mercy Award" at assembly each week. This is for a child who has displayed this focus pillar in the classroom or on the playground.

See below for the list of focus rules for Semester 1.

"Gotchas"

There has been a change to the rewards connected to our PB4L expectations. Teachers give "Gotchas" (now small metallic tokens) to reward children for displaying the rule of the week. Children place these tokens in their colour house box and watch them grow. Every 2 weeks we tally the tokens and the colour house with the most is rewarded the "Spirit Cup" and they get a reward chosen by the students.

PBL Matrix

Occasionally there is a need for children to have a more focused reflection on our rules and consequences for continued poor choices. Our PBL Matrix outlines poor choices and consequences for these. Initially, reminders and reteaching of behaviours is offered to students.

Sometimes yellow slips are given when poor behaviours continue, or behaviours outlined on the matrix are displayed. When a child receives a yellow card, they also complete a restorative think sheet to help them unpack what happened, where things went wrong and what choices they could make to get the help and support they need to make better choices in the future. This sheet is sent home for child and parent reflection and the consequences for these behaviours include community service and time off playground to reflect.

Incidents of a more serious nature, or 3 yellow cards within a term, results in a red card. A red card means that a child receives an in-school suspension. The child will reflect on behaviours, remaining in the administration area to talk through how they can seek the supports needed to make better choices in the future.

On some occasions behaviour incidents may result in an immediate at home suspension. These behaviours would include a high risk to the safety of self or others and may involve inappropriate physical contact.

When it becomes evident that a child required further support in following expected behaviours at Rosary Park, an individualised behaviour support plan is devised for that student in partnership with the parents.

Our school follows the Diocesan Suspension, Expulsion and Exclusion Policy. In some cases, continued breeches of our PBL expected behaviours results in the need for advice and consultation with Catholic Schools Office Directors as to the continued enrolment of a child at Rosary Park.

Please see our PBL Matrix attached to this newsletter.

Traffic Management Plan

Rosary Park has a clearly defined Traffic Management Plan, developed in consultation with NSW Police, Cessnock Council and the Diocesan Safety and Wellness team. It is attached for your reference. As part of this plan, we regularly review safe travel and road safety with our children. Parents are expected to do the same; we know the best way of doing this is by actually abiding by the road rules and following our set procedures to ensure the safety of everyone.

The parent car queue and pick-up process is a streamlined and organised process which allows staff to monitor children's movements more closely to their homes with known adults and ensure their safety by minimising their interaction with traffic, crossing roads etc.

I encourage you to read and familiarise yourself with this document which outlines the following:

-Parents are always to abide by traffic laws during drop off and pick-up times. No U turns, follow the 40km zone, do not park in or obstruct driveways.

-The School recommends a "Kiss & Go" process at the front of the school in the **mornings** where students exit the vehicle on the passenger (kerb) side only. The area (gravel) beside St Nicholas Early Learning Centre is out of bounds for unaccompanied students due to the danger of crossing the St Nicholas Early Education Centre Driveway. If it is necessary to park in this area it is the School's expectation that a Parent/Caregiver will accompany the student to the school crossing to ensure their safety. As staff do not come on duty until 8:30am, students should not arrive at the school before this time.

In the afternoons, wherever possible we need to minimise children and adult interactions with the traffic and crossing the road. For those reasons, the following are your options for child pick up-

-Parent Car Pick up and Go is our **preferred method of pick up** and we appreciate Parents/Caregivers choosing this option to minimise children and adults interacting with traffic.

Vehicles queue from ten (10) minute zone to the southern side of the pedestrian crossing (right of the school). They are to wait there until directed by a Staff member (5 cars at a time) to move into the pick-up zone. Staff member will call the family name and students are placed in the vehicle.

Note – A Staff member will place your child/ren in the vehicle on the kerb side (NOT roadside). Where possible, the child's seat should be on the curb side. Parents/Caregivers are to REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLE, place the vehicle in "park" and engage the handbrake. Whilst a Staff member can assist a child with their belt (if they are seated on the passenger side), it is appreciated if children are able to do this themselves in order to ensure the swift and smooth running of this procedure.

All five (5) cars wait and leave this zone at THE SAME TIME before the next five cars are directed to the pick-up area. **To ensure the safety of all, please do not pull out from behind another car.**

-Meet and Greet is the best option for families who have an afternoon commitment and need to leave the school promptly. Parents/caregivers are to park their cars on the school side of the road and wait beside the staff car park where children will be walked down to you by a staff member at the 3pm bell. Any child whose parents/carers are not there will be walked back to school for parents to pick them up via Parent Car Pick Up & Go. Staff will not make multiple trips to this area for parents who arrive after the agreed time. **Please park on the school side of the road as parents crossing the road should be avoided.**

-Walkers/Bikes is the for parents to meet their child on the cemetery side of the road. Our preference is that you park on the cemetery side of the road wait near the church or old St. Brigid's school and teachers will bring the children to meet you. Children who are walking or riding home will be dismissed by staff past the driveway at St. Brigid's.

Parents are asked NOT to park in St Nicholas car park as it is a private carpark. If you are heading in the direction of the train station, you can meet your child past the St Nicholas driveway. A teacher will see the children safely past the driveway to you. Unless your child is walking or riding

home alone (notes required), if you are not there, the teacher will bring your child back into the school grounds for safety until you arrive.

Please park on the cemetery side of the road as parents crossing the road should be avoided.

As per the Catholic Schools Office and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Government guidelines, parents must give annual written permission for their child/ren to ride their bike or walk to/from school, with parents aware that children are under parent's duty of care once they leave school grounds. The School and TfNSW recommends that children under 10yrs DO NOT ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult. Children under 12yrs should ride away from busy roads. They may ride bikes on the footpath unless there are signs that specifically prohibit cycling. These permission notes are sent home in the early weeks of the school year.

If for a very *specific reason* you need to pick up your child early one day from school, this must be done before 2:30pm.

Please do not call the school office after 2:15pm asking for a message to be relayed to your child about a change to pick up arrangements, **UNLESS IT'S AN EMERGENCY.**

We thank you for your cooperation with this plan to ensure the safety of our children & all members of our community.

THESE LINES WILL RUN EVERY AFTERNOON, REGARDLESS OF WEATHER!

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day. This includes **limiting jewellery**, ensuring earrings are safe (not hoops or dangles), **tying hair back** if it is long enough to touch the collar and ensuring the **correct shoes and socks** are worn. If your child is not in full uniform for any reason, we do ask that you write a note or send an email explaining the reasons for this. If you have any questions about uniform, please contact us at school.

Warm Regards,

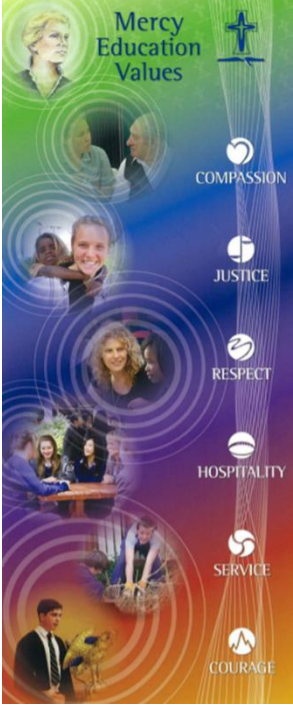
Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Rosary Park Mercy Charism

At Rosary Park we celebrate our Mercy Charism by recalling the life of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy. At the beginning of the year, we focus on lessons that outline some of the positive impacts of the Sisters of Mercy throughout our world. Each grade at Rosary Park has a focus mercy pillar to specifically teach and demonstrate throughout our school community. With the exception of Kindergarten who focus on God's love for us.

You might like to have a conversation with your child/children about their mercy lessons, identify people they know who show these values and discuss ways they think they could demonstrate this value in their school and home communities.

<p>Grade specific Mercy Pillars</p> <p>Kinder – God's Love</p> <p>Year 1 – Respect</p> <p>Year 2 – Compassion</p> <p>Year 3 – Hospitality</p> <p>Year 4 – Justice</p> <p>Year 5 – Service</p> <p>Year 6 – Courage</p>	
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Vision and Mission Statement:

We have an ongoing focus and commitment to our school vision and mission statement. Which is drawn from the work of our school founder Catherine McAuley and the sisters of Mercy. In the light of Christ we love, serve and learn as a caring Faith community. Founded on the Mercy tradition Rosary Park educates and nurtures the faith and wellbeing of all through learning in:

Kindergarten: God's love

Year 1: Respect

Year 2: Compassion

Year 3: Hospitality

Year 4: Justice

Year 5: Service

Year 6: Courage

Our staff are on an ongoing journey with the students to make the vision and mission part of our everyday school language. Our Mercy pillars also linked with our PB4L rules of the week. At every Monday morning and Wednesday morning assembly our children and staff say our vision and mission statement during our prayer time.

Liturgies:

Opening school liturgy: Blessing our new school leaders

When: Friday 21st of February 9:15am

Who: all classes

Where: Rosary Park School Hall

All students will attend a special liturgy next Thursday to bless our school leaders and sport captains and present them with their badges. ALL families are welcome especially our leaders' parents as we present our year 6 leaders with their badges for the school year ahead.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy:

When: Wednesday 5th of March 9am

Who: All classes

Where: Rosary Park School Hall

Sacramental Program:

2025 Parish Sacramental Program Expression of interests are being sought for children in Year 3 and above in 2025 who are ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please email the parish office with your child's name, date of birth and parish. singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au

Any questions please reach out.

God bless.

Mackenzie Gageler

Religious Education Coordinator

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending Friday 14th February 2025 (Week 3)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Ava M	Jimmy S	Elias C
Kinder White	Reuben L	Alani B	Zachary N
Year 1 Blue	Mason P	Georgie-Lee K	Blaine S
Year 1 White	Dustin P Ivy T	Isla C Scott N	Titan L Olivia M
Year 2 Blue	Connor T	Zoey A	Darcy J
Year 2 White	Eva S	Amelia H	Jasper W
Year 3 Blue	Ayla B	Parker G	Theo C
Year 3 White	Eli B	Nicholas L	Maisy C
Year 4 Blue	Cooper S Baxter D	Indy M Jesse S	Aramaia M Liam H
Year 4 White	Baxter A Minh B	Hendrix B Lexi D	Aubree M Emily S
Year 5 Blue	Braxton T	Hunter I	Claire B
Year 5 White	Tao D	Fletcher B	Noah R
Year 6 Blue	Liam P	Sophie C	Johnny N
Year 6 White	Sam J	Owen G	Mia W

Principal's Awards: Ally C, Carter A, Vincent L

1. The Diocese of Maitland Newcastle Catholic Schools Office (CSO), both independently and through its schools, collects personal information, including sensitive information, about students and parents or guardians before and during the course of a student's enrolment at the school. This may be in writing or in the course of conversations. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable the school to provide schooling to students enrolled at the school, exercise its duty of care, and perform necessary associated administrative activities, which will enable students to take part in all the activities of the school.
2. Some of the information we collect is to satisfy the CSO and the school's legal obligations, particularly to enable the CSO and school to discharge its duty of care.
3. Compass is the diocese's centralised digital student information management system and CeD3 is our centralised digital storage system. Compass is owned and operated by a third-party service provider (LDF International) and CeD3 is owned and operated by the Catholic Education Network (CENet). The personal information in the system is accessible by:
 - ▶ Compass, for the purpose of providing technical support; and
 - ▶ CENet, to provide support to the diocese. CENet has access to the personal information from Compass when it is held in CeD3 as well as information collected from other sources and held in CeD3.
4. Laws governing or relating to the operation of a school require that certain information is collected. These include: Education Act 1990 (NSW), Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW) and Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW).
5. Health information about students is sensitive information within the terms of the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) under the Privacy Act 1988. We may ask you to provide medical reports about students from time to time.
5. If we do not obtain the information referred to above we may not be able to enrol or continue the enrolment of your son/daughter.
6. The CSO and school from time to time discloses personal and sensitive information to others for administrative, educational and support purposes. This may include to:
 - ▶ other schools and teachers at those schools
 - ▶ government departments
 - ▶ Catholic Schools NSW, the school's local diocese and the parish, other related church agencies/entities, and schools within other dioceses
 - ▶ medical practitioners
 - ▶ people providing educational, support and health services to the school, including specialist visiting teachers, sport coaches, volunteers, counsellors
 - ▶ providers of learning and assessment tools
 - ▶ assessment and educational authorities, including the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), NSW Education Standards Authority, and NAPLAN Test Administration Authorities (who will disclose it to the entity that manages the online platform for NAPLAN).
7. Personal information collected from students is regularly disclosed to their parents or guardians.
8. The CSO and school may use online or "cloud" service providers to store personal information and to provide services to the school that involve the use of personal information, such as services relating to email, instant messaging and education and assessment applications. Some limited personal information may also be provided to these service providers to enable them to authenticate users that access their services. This personal information may reside on a cloud service provider's servers which may be situated outside Australia. Further information about the school's use of online or "cloud" service providers is contained in the CSO's Privacy Policy.
9. The CSO's Privacy Policy, accessible on the CSO website, sets out how parents or students may seek access to and correction of their personal information which the school has collected and holds. However, access may be refused in certain circumstances such as where access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of others, where access may result in a breach of the CSO or school's duty of care to the student, or where students have provided information in confidence. Any refusal will be notified in writing with reasons if appropriate.
10. The CSO's Privacy Policy also sets out how parents and students can make a complaint about a breach of the APPs and how the complaint will be handled.
11. The school may engage in fundraising activities. Information received from you may be used to make an appeal to you. It may also be disclosed to organisations that assist in the school's fundraising activities solely for that purpose. We will not disclose your personal information to third parties for their own marketing purposes without your consent.
12. On occasions information such as academic and sporting achievements, student activities and similar news is published in school newsletters and magazines, on our intranet and on our website. This may include photographs and videos of student activities such as sporting events, school camps and school excursions. The school will obtain permissions annually from the student's parent or guardian (and from the student if appropriate) if we would like to include such photographs or videos or other identifying material in our promotional material or otherwise make this material available to the public such as on the internet.
13. If you provide the CSO or school with the personal information of others, such as doctors or emergency contacts, we encourage you to inform them that you are disclosing that information and why.

Rosary Park Catholic School Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Framework

Rosary Park Catholic School Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Framework			
Behaviour Status	Possible Behaviour's Patterns	Management Strategy (Proactive & Reactive Examples)	Key People Responsibilities
<p>At Rosary Park Catholic School we promote positive student behaviour to support a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. The students are encouraged to show respect, act safely and be prepared to learn at all times. This is achieved through following the Mercy Values of our school, sharing God's love and demonstrating respect, compassion, hospitality, justice, service and courage in all that they do. Teachers at Rosary Park Catholic School promote positive behaviors by awarding student merit certificates and a weekly Mercy award to a student who has displayed the Mercy value for that week. Teaching staff also give out gotchas in the playground and classroom to students displaying positive behaviours. The gotchas are tallied at the end of the term and the colour house that displays the most gotchas will be presented with the Spirit Cup.</p>			
Initial Concerns	<p>Chatting/moving around the classroom, off task, work refusal, calling out, initial excluding others/name calling, consistent incomplete work, out of character behaviour (minor hands on).</p> <p>If initial concerns continue, parents should be notified at the discretion of the teacher (discuss with grade partner or stage leader if unsure).</p>	<p>The management strategies identified in initial concerning behaviours may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved within the classroom Seated separately to prevent interruptions Time to think about and discuss behaviours individually with class teacher Time out with another class/teacher Walk with teacher at lunch time Community service – assist younger students, sweep, clean up. 	<p>Student - Listen to teachers, follow prevention strategies to improve behaviour.</p> <p>Classroom Teacher – communicate with child to unpack reasons for behaviours, put management strategies in place, debrief with student behaviour motivators, keep records of behaviours, contact parents if behaviours continue, find ways to praise and reward the child.</p> <p>Grade partner – support classroom teacher, offer a time out space in their classroom.</p>
Minor <small>(note: this may not mean a definite yellow card)</small>	<p>Repetitive calling out, showing disrespect to adults, playing in toilets, using equipment in a dangerous/unsafe way, inappropriate language, hands on, contact (including barging), defiance, property misuse, continuously off-task, Cyber Safety breach (where individuals are not impacted), inappropriate use of technology devices (not impacting others), inappropriate bus behavior, disrespecting property (own or others).</p>	<p>The management strategies identified in a Minor incident may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time off playground – minimum 1 session off play Community service – assist younger students, sweep, clean up. Class teacher notification Minor slip issued and recorded on PBL matrix Restorative conversations between staff and students involved – and sheet filled out 	<p>Student - Listen to teachers, follow prevention strategies to improve behaviour.</p> <p>Relevant Teacher – inform classroom teacher of incident</p> <p>Classroom Teacher - communicate with child to unpack reasons for behaviours, put management strategies in place, debrief with student behaviour motivators, keep records of behaviours on Compass, inform parents, discuss behaviours with stage leader</p>
Major <small>(Note: this may not mean a definite red card) - 2 red cards in 1 term results in a 2 day out of school suspension. A second out of school suspension (regardless of timeframe) will progress to 5 days.</small>	<p>Abusive language, physical fighting, physical contact with intent to harm, using equipment in an unsafe/intentionally dangerous way, inappropriate physical contact- (including, but not limited to genitals), repetitive defiance and disrespect, Cyber Safety breach (where individuals are impacted), inappropriate use of technology devices (impacting others), dishonesty (stealing, lying, cheating), repetitive harassment or bullying (including racial slurs), inappropriate bus behaviour, leaving school grounds without permission, vandalism or willful damage of property. Note: continued major behaviours will result in a behavior plan meeting including Exec, CT, CSO Behaviour Partner and parents.</p>	<p>The management strategies identified in Major incident may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Notified by duty teacher (supported by exec) Major slip issued and results in 1 day in school suspension (all class and playground time is spent in admin area-no contact with peers) Minimum one school reflection session having restorative conversations with teachers and/or exec Teacher on duty records on Compass. Restorative conversations between staff and students involved – and sheet filled out 	<p>Student -Engage in restorative conversations with staff and impacted students</p> <p>Parents/Guardians – support school processes</p> <p>Relevant teacher - record behaviour's on Compass, inform class teacher, discuss with exec, inform parents of incident and agreed consequence</p> <p>Class Teacher – involvement in discussions/decision making, follow up with positive parent communication in a timely fashion</p> <p>LST – behaviour support if required</p> <p>Assistant Principal/Principal – support class teacher</p> <p>School Counsellor – assist classroom teacher and parents with supportive strategies</p>
Behaviour Plan <small>A plan will be written up for parents to sign upon return from home suspension. (Unless a plan is already in place)</small>	<p>Implications if consistent behaviour in colour status</p> <p>Students may not be eligible for participation in representative sport, extra curricula activities and other school activities (this includes overnight camps/treats).</p> <p>Students also may not be eligible for involvement or nomination in Leadership roles, Sport Captain or School Leadership.</p> <p>Participation in curriculum related excursions/incursions/activities may be conditional after discussion between AP/Principal/Parent/Student.</p> <p>Individual time frames to be determined Potential suspension (internal/external) Potential alternate enrolment/expulsion from Rosary Park Catholic School.</p>	<p>The Management Strategies identified in Meeting Expectations, Mild and Moderate are applicable in this behaviour status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative Meeting/Mediation Individual Behaviour Plan – Parent Interview (including student) Internal/External suspension Risk assessment NV/CI – Crisis Management Review of enrolment/expulsion 	<p>Student /Parents/Guardians - participate in behaviour plan meetings- set goals, be open to try supports/strategies suggested</p> <p>Class Teacher – set goals and follow behaviour plan guidelines</p> <p>Assistant Principal/Principal - participate in behaviour plan meetings, support teachers and LSA's to implement the plan</p> <p>School Counsellor - support teacher and student with strategies to limit outbursts/encourage positive behaviours</p> <p>Student Support Unit/CSO - provide guidance and support for exec and staff dealing with highly challenging behaviours, commit to attending behaviour meetings where possible.</p> <p>Relevant external agency – e.g. Police Liaison Officer</p> <p>Regional Service Advisor RSA – support enacting details of behaviour plan</p>

Note that not all behaviours or patterns of behaviour need to be allocated to a status. External agencies could be consulted at any level. Repetitive behaviour in any category will automatically move a student up to the next level.



WHO IS IT FOR?

The Concert Band is a Diocesan ensemble for students in Years 5 – 12. It is suitable for students who can at least play at a 1st grade (AMEB) level as well as students of a more advanced ability, 4th grade (AMEB) and above. The ensemble is not suitable for beginner students.

Instruments include: Flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, cornet, trombone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, mallet/auxiliary percussion and drum kit. The band is not suitable for string or piano players.

Students must know how to read traditional music notation.

The concert band will be playing a variety of repertoire including music for film and television, jazz, rock and pop music, classical music, and music specially composed for concert bands. There will be performances and events the concert band will be part of.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE REHEARSALS?

There are 3 rehearsals per term, specific dates are available on the ASPIRE website:

2 afternoon rehearsals (Mondays, 4-6pm)

1 whole day rehearsal per term (Tuesday, 9.30am - 2.30pm)

Rehearsals are held at Trinity Catholic College, Adamstown (formally known as St Plus X High School)

DIOCESAN INSTRUMENTAL SHOWCASE

The concert band hosts the diocesan instrumental showcase "Vivace". This is a showcase of instrumental groups from across the diocese, featuring a variety of performances and ensembles.

Vivace- City Hall Newcastle

Tuesday 11th November 6pm

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

There is no cost to be involved in the Concert Band. Students will receive a Concert Band polo shirt. Sheet music will be provided.

HOW TO REGISTER - ASPIRE CONCERT BAND 2025

The following QR code will direct you to the:

2025 ASPIRE CONCERT BAND REGISTRATION FORM



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code:

<http://mn.shoebn/ASPIREConcertBand>

2. FILL IN THE FORM TO APPLY

Contact jessicalopez@mn.catholic.edu.au for more information.

SONG COMPETITION 2025

WHAT ARE EMOTIONS? WHAT DO PEOPLE REBEL AGAINST?
WHAT EFFECT DOES ART HAVE ON PEOPLE?

Aspire 2025 is set in a post-apocalyptic future where young people are not allowed to feel any emotions. When mysterious artworks start appearing around the city questioning whether this is right, a small group of rebels are inspired to challenge the decisions of their leaders.

The Song Competition will be broken into 4 categories- Primary School (individual), Primary (class), Year 7-9 and Years 10-12. These allocated year groups will use themes from the 2025 production, listed below, as a song writing focus.

PRIMARY SCHOOL (INDIVIDUAL AND WHOLE CLASS CATEGORIES): EMOTIONS

What are emotions?

Select an emotion to be the focus of your song

Different ways of expressing emotions

YEARS 7, 8 OR 9: REBELLION

Using 'rebellion' as a theme for lyrics and/or music

Think about making a stand

What do people rebel against and how might they go about it?

YEARS 10, 11 OR 12: ARTWORK

Using 'artwork' as a theme for lyrics and/or music

You may be inspired by a particular artist or artwork

What effect does art have on people

CRITERIA: LYRICS AND/OR MUSIC REFLECT THE CATEGORY THEME. QUALITY AND CREATIVE USE OF MUSICAL CONCEPTS E.G. MELODY, CHORDS, STRUCTURE, RHYTHM AND DYNAMICS. INTERESTING AND ENGAGING SONG.

Once entries close, shortlisted finalists will have the opportunity to workshop their song with industry musicians and ASPIRE Musical Director Jessica Lopez. The winner for each category will be decided at a live concert where a guest panel will judge the songs. There will be 4 winners, one for each category (Primary- Individual, Primary- Class, Years 7-9 and Years 10-12).

Prize is a \$300 Musos-Corner voucher and song professionally recorded.

CONDITIONS: Music and lyrics must be created by the nominated students. Some students, particularly classes and younger students, may use backing tracks, or samples they have arranged themselves, but must create the lyrics themselves. Some students may seek feedback from their teachers or tutors, but the final product must be the students' own work. Submissions may be lyrics and music, or music only. Artificial Intelligence is not to be used in any aspect of the work submitted. The quality of the performance or recording will not impact selection.

THURSDAY 3RD APRIL 2025

ASPIRE Song Competition Closing Date

MON 5TH MAY – FRI 9TH MAY 2025

Workshop Week

THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025

ASPIRE Song Competition Finalist Concert

HOW TO ENTER

1. Video or record yourself singing or playing your song.
File formats: MP3, MP4 or MOV
2. A copy of your lyrics File format: Word document
(NOT PDF or a photo)
3. If you can, include the chords or notation.
This is not compulsory
4. Your song must be no longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds.

CLICK BELOW TO REGISTER:

ASPIRE SONG COMPETITION 2025

The ASPIRE Song Competition Entry is an online process, upload via the ASPIRE website form.



1. Click the button above or scan the QR code: <http://mn.shorltn/SongComp2025>
2. FILL IN THE FORM TO ENTER AND UPLOAD YOUR FILE

For more details go to aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au



VOICEWORX 2025

The diocesan vocal program VoiceWorx is open to any diocesan student who wants to join a vocal group or choral ensemble and learn more about singing with like-minded students.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- Vocal technique, warmups and exercises for correct voice production and vocal hygiene
- Ensemble skills and learning about the roles of each part of a choir
- Dynamics, phrasing and expression
- Listening skills and reading notation
- Following a conductor
- Performance skills and preparation

WHERE?

There are 6 groups, one for each Region and a Secondary group - Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter, Manning, Lakes, Central/Norths.

You will only need to attend the rehearsals closest to you:

Upper Hunter: St James' Primary School MUSWELLBROOK (Year 8, Year 7, Primary)

Manning: St Clare's High School TAREE (Year 8, Year 7, Primary)

Lower Hunter: St Aloysius Catholic Primary School CHISHOLM (Primary)

Lakes: St Paul's Catholic College BODRAGUL (Primary)

Central/Norths: San Clemente Catholic College MAYFIELD (Primary)

HOW TO REGISTER FOR VOICEWORX 2025

Registration is an online process via the **ASPIRE** website.

The following QR code will direct you to the:

2025 VOICEWORX REGISTRATION FORM



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: <http://mn.abon.tn/ASPIREVoiceWorx2025>

2. FILL IN THE FORM TO APPLY

COST: The cost will be \$100 per year. A VoiceWorx polo shirt, sheet music, rehearsal and/or backing tracks will be supplied. *Financial support is available if needed.

Please contact Aspire Musical Director Jessica Lopez jessica.lopez@mn.catholic.edu.au for more information.

WHEN?

PRIMARY CHOIRS

Upper Hunter, Manning, Lower Hunter, Lakes, Central/Norths:
10 rehearsals (Week 6 Term 1 – Week 6 Term 2, Monday or Wednesday 4pm – 5.30pm)

Performance - Civic Theatre Newcastle,
Tuesday 10th or Wednesday 11th June

SECONDARY CHOIR:

Venue to be confirmed:

10 rehearsals (Week 4 Term 3 – Week 3 Term 4, 4pm – 5.30pm)

Performance - City Hall Newcastle,
Tuesday 4th November



COME & PLAY!

Netball Australia's
Official Introductory Program

Branxton District Netball Club

Branxton Netball Courts (Miller Park)

Saturday 15th February

830am - 930am

5 year olds to 9 year olds welcome

Event is FREE

More information and link to register for the event can be found on our Facebook page

 **Woolworths NetSetGO**

Singleton Roosters AFC

Registrations are now open for Junior players for season 2025.

Registration fee is \$120, which includes a Club polo shirt.



**REGISTER
YOUR
CHILD
TODAY!**



Age Groups - boys, girls & mixed

- U9s
 - U10s
 - U11s
 - U12s
 - U13s
 - U15s
 - U17s
- *Final age groups will be dependent on registration numbers

**FOLLOW THE LINK TO REGISTER OR
HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE**

[HTTPS://WWW.PLAYO19.COM.AU/REGISTE
R/317092](https://www.playo19.com.au/register/317092)

[HTTPS://WWW.SINGLETONROOSTERS.
COM.AU/?PAGE_ID=42](https://www.singletonroosters.com.au/?PAGE_ID=42)



**CONTACT SCOTT O'BRYAN
(JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT)
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

0408686974



@singletonroostersafc



Singleton Roosters AFL

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