



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 2 2025
Thursday 23rd October

Rosary Park Catholic School

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults - particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese. All employees are required to undergo a National Police Check and, where legislated, hold a Working with Children Check. Diocesan workers are expected to personally adopt and enact the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement.

IMPORTANT DATES 2024

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

OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
Fri 24 th	Book Fair Wish Lists	Tue 11 th	Remembrance Day Liturgy
Fri 24 th	First Kindergarten Orientation	Thu 13 th	Year 6 Interrelate
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st	Book Week – Scholastic Book Fair	Fri 14 th	Second Kindergarten Orientation
Mon 27 th	Regional Cricket Trials	Mon 17 th	Regional Debating Years 5 / 6
Tue 28 th	Year 1 & 2 League Tag Gala	Thu 20 th	Year 6 Interrelate
Fri 31 st	ASC Netball Gala Day	Fri 21 st	Lower Hunter Hockey Gala Day
NOVEMBER		Fri 21 st	PEG School Disco
Thu 6 th	Year 6 Interrelate Program	Thu 27 th	Final Kindergarten Orientation
Fri 7 th	Colour Fun Run – 1:30pm	Fri 28 th	Swimming Carnival – Yrs 1 to 5

Principal's Message

End of year awards

Our end of year awards, liturgy, and announcement of our 2025 leaders will take place in our school hall on **Friday 12th December at 9:45am.**

As we do as a Catholic community, we will begin with a liturgy to celebrate all the blessings bestowed on us throughout our 2025 school year. This will also include the naming of our 2026 school and sports leaders (from our year 6 2026 cohort).

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

*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.

Parents, grandparents, and friends are welcome to join us for this celebration on 12th December. We will contact families of awards recipients before the day (NOT those receiving a student leader role for 2026) so that they can attend this event if they wish. These parents will be given priority seating on the day as will year 5 parents whose children are part of leadership nominations (2 seats/child).

Obviously, seating will be at a premium so we will prioritise families whose children are receiving awards.

Kindergarten Orientation 2026

Today we began the orientation for our new Kindergarten 2026 children with their first visit to Rosary Park. It was so lovely to see them all again and their year 5 buddies were so beautiful, welcoming and caring to each of them and their families. Friday 14 November and Thursday 27 November, we will hold small group visits in the hall for the children to become more familiar with their teachers and our school

Ms Ellen Rae will teach Kindergarten next year. The other Kindergarten teacher should be announced as early as next week.

Classes 2026

There will be fourteen classes at Rosary Park in 2026. 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 2026 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 2026 that is based on your **child's specific educational** needs, please address this to me in writing (via email: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au) by **Friday 7 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 2026 will be sent home later in term 4 and these placements will be final.

As is our practice at Rosary Park on **Thursday 11 December** we will hold our Step-Up morning so that children spend some time meeting their new teacher and classmates for 2026. This includes new staff who are included in this meeting.

Additional supports are also put in place for those children who may need it, so that the transition to their new class is as smooth as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this.

As we begin setting classes for 2026, if you are moving your child/ren to another school for 2026, please make us aware of this as soon as possible as we have enrolment inquiries from new families for 2026.

Safe and Respectful Peer Relationships



The Kids Helpline website has a number of great resources that are child friendly to help support safe and respectful relationships. Some topics

include:

- Fights with friends
- Bullying is not ok
- Making friends
- Being ok with being different
- How to be happy being yourself
- My friends are fighting
- Wanting to fit in
- Treating others well

Please take some time to show your child the Kids Helpline website so they can learn to navigate through these resources should they ever want to know more information on some of these topics or others. - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids/issues>

Australia World Teacher's Day- 31 October 2025

<https://worldteachersday.edu.au/>

World Teacher's Day

Quality teaching is at the heart of our work. We continue to reflect on our practices and develop our expertise so we can better educate, inspire and support our students and make them feel safe.

As Principal I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the dedicated teachers and support staff at Rosary Park who work so hard to support our children and their families every day. It is my privilege to lead such a wonderful team.

Rosary Park Bushfire Survival Plan

Our school is in a bushfire prone area. As a result, we have a clearly defined bushfire survival plan, attached to this newsletter. The plan has been developed in consultation with NSW Fire and

Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Services, local Police and the Safety and Wellness team from the Catholic Diocese. Copies of this plan have been provided to these organisations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mobile Phones at School - "SWITCHED OFF AND AWAY"

As our Mobile phone policy states, if children need a mobile phone at school for safety when travelling to/from school, it is to be kept in their school bag for the entire day. Our policy remains that if you need to get a message to your child about travel arrangements, you are to do this via the office staff. Children are NOT permitted to use their phone during the school day to contact you if they are unwell etc. Once again, our preference is that smart watches are left at home, however, if your child must wear one to school, the mobile phone facility must be de-activated or on '**do not disturb**' for the duration of the school day. Thank you to the parents whose children are wearing these devices and have already done this. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Uniform Expectations

Whilst we are reaching the end of our school year, it is still important that we uphold our high standards of uniform. If your child has grown out of their school shoes it is expected that parents will provide the class teacher with a note of explanation.

As stated in our uniform policy, socks are to be plain with NO brand names. Sports shoes are to be predominantly white.

Hair is always to be tidy and pulled back (this includes boys with longer hair). If a child wants a mullet haircut, it must not reach the collar and must be blended in. It cannot be cut very short over the ears etc. NO tracks, mohawks or patterns to be cut into the hair.

Uniform News

Due to personal circumstances, Flanagans, our current supplier of all uniforms at Rosary Park, have decided to close their uniform sales. The change will be in effect from OCTOBER 31 2025.

Whilst this is very sad news for the school, as Flanagans (and in particular Rob) have been outstanding supporters of our school, we accept Rob's decision and wish him all the very best for his future endeavours.

From NOVEMBER 1, 2025, our new supplier will be LOWES CESSNOCK. In having dealt with LOWES at a previous school, I can say with great confidence that the company will do its absolute best to provide us with the same quality of uniform as Flanagans did and it will be BUSINESS AS USUAL for us. In fact, they will be carrying the previous stock from Flanagans until sold out.

When we receive further information about how this change will be implemented throughout and in between Lowes and Flanagans, we will pass this on.

Please be in touch with me directly if you have any questions.

Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Our Lady of the Rosary:

Last Friday we celebrated our Lady of the Rosary feast day as well as Socktober. It was so wonderful to see so many students join in on the fun and activities we had planned. A huge thank you to Year 5 staff, families and children for their contribution to our cake stall. The money raised was a \$660.85 which will go straight to Catholic Mission.



Congratulations to all our students who participated and made it to the finals of our whole school Talent Quest!

A special congratulations to the following:

Infants:

1st Place: Isla C Dance

2nd place: Lucy P and Savannah R Dance

3rd place: Jax B Jokes

Primary

1st place: Holly N, Annie H and Brailyn L Dance

2nd place: James S DJ
3rd place: Ruby N and Shelle C dance

God Bless,
Mackenzie Gageler

Library News

Dear Parents and carers,

For book week 2025 we are celebrating a Vocabulary Day on **Thursday the 30th of October at 9:15am on the basketball court (weather dependent)**

All students and staff will need to choose a word and dress up representing their chosen word.

There are only TWO RULES for making a costume:

1. Show your **WORD** on the costume you are wearing.
2. Write the **definition of your word** on the costume somewhere, so the children can share the meaning with their class.

This can be a very simple activity, and we encourage the children to choose a word, design how they will represent it and what they will wear on the day.

Here are some examples below,



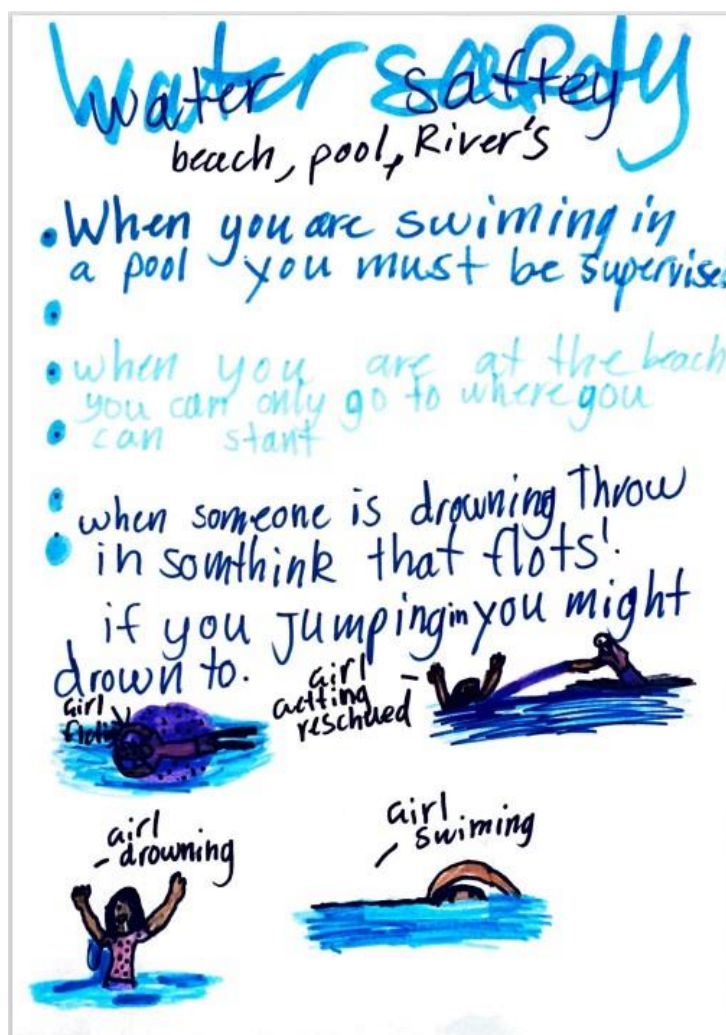
Parents are welcome to come and view this parade starting at 9.15am.

As always thank you for all your support,

Kind Regards
Melanie Flynn
Teacher Librarian

Year 3 News – Learning About Water Safety

To kick off the term, our Year 3 students have been exploring the important topic of water safety, especially timely as the warmer months approach! Through class discussions and activities, students have identified safe practices for a variety of water environments, including the beach, pools, rivers, lakes, dams, and creeks. It's been wonderful to see their growing awareness and thoughtful reflections on how to stay safe while enjoying water-based fun.



Sporting News

Congratulations to Aria G who had a great time competing in the ISHE (Inter-Schools Horse Extravaganza) in Tamworth recently.

She competed in show jumping, working horse, sporting and camp drafting. Aria placed in her sporting events and also placed 4th overall in the team mug race in the evening entertainment (alongside her sister Ella). She had a brief hospital visit after a fall but was cleared to compete the next day showing true resilience and persistence.

Thank you for representing Rosary Park so well Aria!



Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards at the end of Term 3.

Week ending Friday 17th October 2025 (Week 1)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Asha W	Tillie E	Aydin A
Kinder White	Elias C	Isabella B	Sage I
Year 1 Blue	Spencer C	Ally C	Lewis S
Year 1 White	Isla C	Toby B	Arabella D
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Ayla B	Charlie D	Matilda B
Year 3 White	Tony P	Matilda C	Aiden L
Year 4 Blue	--	--	--
Year 4 White	Ellesse S	Layla M	Jenny N
Year 5 Blue	Noah L	Levi C	Frances M
Year 5 White	Ellie A	Mijaihha R	Shahaan S
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending Friday 24th October 2025 (Week 2)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Zoe S	Gordon H	Zaylee D
Kinder White	Savannah R	Lottie L	Zac N
Year 1 Blue	--	--	--
Year 1 White	Luca C	Knox M	Jax B
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Tristan C	Amelia H	Hallie D
Year 3 White	Maici B	Emily R	Aerith J
Year 4 Blue	Holly N	Jaxon C	Ken P
Year 4 White	Reni S	Hendrix B	Minh B
Year 5 Blue	Leah W	Hunter B	Elke B
Year 5 White	Isaac L	Blake C	Jaxon B
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Principal's Awards:

Jayden M, Liam D, Eleanor S, Harley R x2, Savannah R, Jax B, Louis H, Jaxon K, Callum F, Addison K, Liliana H, Stirling R, Lukas E, Riley M, Aydin A, Georgie-Lee K, Amarlie K,



Seasonal Fruit and Veg

Choosing seasonal fruit and veg for your kids lunchbox can help keep costs low. Look out for regular specials on in season produce.

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner! Why not try some of our favourite seasonal fruit and veg options below.

Spring

Vegetables:

Asparagus, avocados, beetroot, broccoli, brussel sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, mushrooms, peas, pumpkins, spinach, squash.

Fruit:

Bananas, cherries, lychees, mangoes, mulberries, oranges, papaya, pineapple, watermelon, rockmelon.

Summer

Vegetables:

Asparagus, avocados, beans, beetroot, capsicums, carrots, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, snow peas, squash, tomatoes, zucchinis, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach.

Fruit:

Apricots, bananas, berries, grapes, melon, watermelon, lychees, mangoes, passionfruit, cherries, nectarines, oranges, plums, peaches



Source: <https://www.swapit.net.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.

SINGLETON NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Singleton Netball Association have commenced the process for their Representative teams for the 2026 season. We would love for your students to have the opportunity to trial and are after your support to distribute the invitation to attend. The students do not have to be playing in the Singleton competition this year but, if selected, they would need to be registered in 2026. We would love to see more local area students in representative netball programs and it is a good experience to attend trials.

Because our representative teams play their Singleton club matches on Monday nights, players who trial and are selected can continue playing with their existing club teams at other associations, like Maitland, which holds club games on Saturday. This means they won't have to choose between your current club and Singleton rep netball, they can be part of both.

Here's what our 2026 divisions are likely to be (subject to Netball NSW grading):

- 12U – Division 2
- 13U – Division 2
- 14U – Division 3
- 15U – Division 4
- 17U – Division 2 or 3
- Opens – Division 3

Training is designed to fit around players' busy lives, with:

- Seniors training Tuesday nights
- Strength & Conditioning on Wednesday evenings (exemptions available)
- Juniors training Thursday nights

Trial Day Details:



Saturday, 8th November 2025



Singleton Netball Courts



Starting at 8:00 am

 Full schedule and coach announcements will be shared mid-October.

If you're ready to take on a new challenge, or know someone who is, and want to be part of a club with deep roots and big goals, please nominate yourself or your player, or feel free to share this invitation using the link or QR code below:

👉 Nominate Here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/arNRdpFFbE>



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NOMINATIONS CLOSE
TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2025

APPLY NOW

LINK ALSO AVAILABLE IN POST

WOD
SINGLETON

Looking forward to another great season ahead.

Singleton Netball Association

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