



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 4 2025
Thursday 6th November

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

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

IMPORTANT DATES 2025

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

NOVEMBER		NOVEMBER	
Thu 6 th	Year 6 Interrelate Program	Fri 28 th	Swimming Carnival – yrs 1 to 5
Fri 7 th	Colour Fun run – 1:30pm	Fri 28 th	Last Day for External Providers on site.
Tue 11 th	Remembrance Day Liturgy	DECEMBER	
Thu 13 th	Year 6 Interrelate Program	Mon 1 st	Diocesan Debating Yrs 5/6 only
Fri 14 th	Second Kindergarten Orientation	Fri 5 th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Mon 17 th	Regional Debating Yrs 5/6 only	Tue 9 th	YEAR 6 GRADUATION
Thu 21 st	PEG School Disco	Wed 10 th	SPECIAL ASSEMBLY – Howard Ward Music Extravaganza
Tue 25 th	ATSI additional high school transition day	Thu 11 th	STEP UP DAY 9:00am
Thu 27 th	Final Kindergarten Orientation	Fri 12 th	PRESENTATION DAY 9:45am

Principal's Message

We give thanks for this community. Bless our efforts to serve one another and to do good works in Your name.

Amen

Netball Gala Day - Success

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

A massive thank you to the teachers and parent volunteers who were a part of the big day.

Colour Fun Run

A huge thanks to all who were involved in the Colour Fun Run tomorrow. It will be a fantastic afternoon, and I'm sure all children will have a wonderful time.

The fundraising efforts for Rosary Park have been very valuable in assisting the school to purchase the Spell Ex program, which is beneficial to all students who pass through the school. The initial purchase mostly benefits Years 3 and 4 in 2026, and it is moving into the Year 5 and 6 space in 2027.

The program will compliment the already successful Initialit program, which uses synthetic phonics to give students the best start in reading.

Staffing

We are still in the process of advertising and interviewing for teaching positions in 2026. Once this is done, we will begin assigning teachers to classes and begin the transition process for children.

Attendance at school

IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!!

At Rosary Park, we acknowledge that parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children. We strive to work in partnership with you to best enable you to raise your child. We can only work together if your child has regular school attendance.

The Education Act 1990 (NSW) states that 'the child attends the school at all times while the school is open for the child's instruction or participation in school activities.' This means that children are expected to be at school EVERY DAY that it is opened unless they have a specific medical reason not to be there. Where possible a medical certificate should be provided.

Remember, every day counts.

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

Classes 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.

We will hold a 'step up' morning on Thursday 11 December where 2025 staff will meet their classes.

If you are leaving Rosary Park in 2026, please let us know as we have families who are requesting enrolment places at Rosary Park for 2026.

Mr Borg on Long Service Leave

A quick message to let the community know that I will be on Long Service Leave from Monday 24 November – Monday 1 December (inclusive). I have received a unique opportunity to be the lead commentator at the Inaugural Asian Rugby League Championships in the Philippines. An opportunity to commentate sport at an international capacity is not something I ever had envisaged when I took up sport commentary as a hobby three years ago and I am personally very excited!

Mrs Dixon, Miss Gageler and Miss Groves will be available as usual, as the Executive Team, and the school is in great hands as always.

God Bless,

Mr Ashley Borg (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

Standardised PAT Testing

Your child may come home in the next few weeks and tell you that they have completed some online testing. Children in years 1-6 will be completing testing in the areas of reading, maths and spelling. The ACER tests are standardised, norm referenced tests, which means that they give

teachers lots of valuable information. Teachers gain a clear picture of which children are working at an appropriate level for their age, which concepts have been taught well across the grade, as well as areas that both individual and groups of children are struggling with. They also show if a child is growing in their skills from year to year and give an idea of how our school is achieving compared to other schools across the state.

Across our diocese, catholic schools complete the adaptive maths and reading tests. The adaptive tests are aligned with the new NAPLAN testing style and allow students an individualised test whereby the questions will get progressively harder if the child is answering correctly, or easier until the child is actually able to answer correctly.

Each school is also invited to choose a third test that aligns with a school focus. At Rosary Park we are completing the spelling test as our chosen focus. This will help us with decision making around our explicit teaching of spelling across the grades.

Data is gathered from this testing for teachers and leaders to analyse growth, guide future learning and plan for improvement at a class, school and system level. Specific marks for these tests are not shared with parents, however significant areas of growth, strengths, or areas of need may be communicated by your child's teacher. If you have any questions regarding the PAT testing, please feel free to contact the school.

Teacher Release from Face to Face

Over the next few weeks, you may notice your child's teacher is not on class every day. There are a number of reasons that teachers have days in the office.

Firstly, we will be conducting PLT (Professional Learning Team) meetings and CMM (Case Management Meetings). These meetings are led by our pedagogical mentors and attended by the principal, learning support teacher and any other school personnel who might be able to help put strategies in place to help support a particular child's learning.

In PLT's we analyse both individual and whole class data to ensure we are following a continuum of continual improvement. This analysis of data allows us to reflect on our current realities and hold robust discussion around how we can refine classroom teaching and structures that will help improve student learning outcomes.

During our CMM's, we focus on the learning of one particular child. We bring in as many personnel as possible to discuss and identify the needs of the child and ensure we have plenty of ideas for strategies and support that will be written into a plan to ensure continued improvement for this specific child. Even though these meetings focus on one specific child, the strategies discussed often support the learning of a number of students with similar needs across a cohort of children.

Classroom teachers will also be using their allocation of release from face to face (RFF) days to collate data, moderate grades and write comments for the end of year reports.

Please know that wherever possible we attempt to maintain continuity with classroom casuals. In the current climate, with limited available casual teachers available, this is not always possible. Unfortunately, our current reality is that casuals are not generally available so if a teacher is sick, we often have no option than to split a class. In this instance, children are handed a booklet of relevant tasks across subjects, and they sit in small groups in other classrooms and independently work their way through the tasks that have been left for them.

Colour Run This Friday

Friday is our colour run. It will be a fun and exciting day for all involved! Just a few reminders to ensure the smooth running of the day. The children WILL GET WET and COLOUR STAINED!!

- The run will start after an early afternoon tea at **approx. 1:40pm.**
- Children should come to school dressed in a white t-shirt (or lighter coloured) if they have it as the colour will be more effective on white.
- It is our suggestion that children wear a pair of shorts other than their school sports shorts as the colour may stain.
- If your child owns old joggers or closed in shoes, these may also be a better option, rather than wearing their white school sport shoes.
- Please send a pair of old sunglasses for your child to wear if you have them as they have not been provided this year
- As there will be water involved in the run, children need to **bring a change of clothes** (old ones), another pair of **shoes** and a **towel** (that may end up colour stained) to clean themselves up for their journey home. **If parents are coming to the colour run and taking their children home, there is no need for a change of clothes. (although we do suggest a towel for the car seat). All children catching a bus home will need to get changed out of wet clothes before afternoon dismissal.**
- Children will need a plastic bag to put wet/coloured clothes and towel in.
- There is powder involved, if your child is asthmatic, please ensure your child has their puffer on the day.

End of Year Uniform Expectations

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

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

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Year 5 leadership day:

Our Year 5 students recently took part in an inspiring Leadership Day, where they explored the qualities that make a compassionate and effective leader. A key focus was on *servant leadership*—leading with kindness, empathy, and a dedication to helping others. Together, they looked at the life and legacy of Catherine McAuley, the founder of our school, who continues to guide us in living out the Mercy values of respect, compassion, hospitality, justice, service, and courage. Catherine's words, *"We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us,"* resonated

as a powerful reminder of the positive impact we can have in the lives of others. Through teamwork challenges, our students learned the importance of supporting one another and understanding each other's unique strengths. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and commitment to becoming the next generation of Mercy-inspired leaders in our school community. Year 5 will continue their leadership journey and begin preparing speeches next week.

All saints and All souls:

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

God of Heaven and Earth

We give you thanks for the Saints who encircle my life.

May their courage, compassion and commitment strengthen me

when my faith flags and my hopes dim.

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

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

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

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

Amen



October Month of the Rosary:

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

God Bless,

Mackenzie Gageler



SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT & CARNIVAL

We warmly invite you to our end-of-year Christmas celebration!

 **Date:** Thursday 4th December 2025

 **Location:** School Playground

 **Time:** Gates open at 4:45 PM

 **Cost:** \$5 per adult (pay at the gate)

Event Schedule for Families

Time	What's Happening
4:45 PM	Gates open — families are welcome to come enjoy our outdoor gallery, <i>sausage sizzle available for purchase</i> , and music! Parents are responsible for supervising their children during this time.
5:30 PM	Students report to their teachers in their classrooms or designated areas to prepare for the performance. Please ensure your child is there on time.
5:45 PM	Our concert begins! Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. Bring a picnic rug or chair for your comfort.
End of show	At the conclusion of our show, one parent per child will need to collect them from their classroom.



What to Bring

- Picnic rug or folding chairs
- Water bottles
- Picnic dinner / snacks (optional)
- Christmas cheer! 🎅🎄



Important Notes

- Parents are responsible for their children until 5:30 PM. Teachers will not be supervising games during this time.
- *Sausage sizzle will be available for purchase throughout the Qkr App. Families are also welcome to bring their own snacks*
- There will be soft drinks on sale for \$1 on the night. Cash only.
- In the event of bad weather, updates will be sent via Compass.
- Students are asked to wear Christmas Clothes, unless told otherwise by their teacher (some acting roles might require something different!)
- Entry fee goes towards covering costs for the night, including staging, lighting and sound.
- All classes have one performance act as part of the show (either a dance or a song). Stage 3 also have some acting roles.
- Please let us know if, for any reason, your child cannot attend the event as soon as possible, particularly in the older grades (as we are in the process of assigning roles).

Weekly Awards

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

Week ending Friday 31st October 2025 (Week 3)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	George H	Ari P	Hudson W
Kinder White	Kelsie L	Levi W	Reo G
Year 1 Blue	Aurora M	Lewis S	Zoe M
Year 1 White	Scott N	Ayla D	Angus M
Year 2 Blue	Tanner h	James D	Myla W
Year 2 White	Millah L	Oliver T	Eva S
Year 3 Blue	Ava W	Dylan R	Grace S
Year 3 White	Harley R	Alexis I	Isaac K
Year 4 Blue	Imogen M	Jesse S	Matilda M
Year 4 White	Elliana D	Kade B	Emily S
Year 5 Blue	Hannah C	Lachlan B	Sasha A
Year 5 White	Liam D	Paige L	Fletcher B
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending Friday 7th November 2025 (Week 4)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Hazel S	Alayah G	Jaxon D
Kinder White	Henry W R	Alani B	Ariella L
Year 1 Blue	Mason P	Oliver C	Georgie-Lee
Year 1 White	Ivy T	Blair C	Lara A
Year 2 Blue	Kobe M	Zoey A	Madi N
Year 2 White	Jesse J	Amelia H	Indy M
Year 3 Blue	Jordie D	Grayson B	Jenson F
Year 3 White	Thomas E	Eli B	Eleanor C
Year 4 Blue	Willow J	Cruz J	Alfie T
Year 4 White	Caelan G	Sofia P	Baxter A
Year 5 Blue	Braxton T	--	Hunter I
Year 5 White	Aria G	Lucy S	Matthias K
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Principal's Awards Blake C x 2, Aubree M, Isaac L, Lottie L, Zachary N, Holly N, Hendrix B, Lewis S, Matilda C, Alyssa B, Lachlan B, Indi M, Lleyton L, Charlize L, Fletcher B x 2, Logan D x 2, Sage L, Lauren M, Frances M, Aiden L, Alex L, Lewis S, Evangelica S, Noah L x 2, Alayah G



Summertime Snacks

Healthy, refreshing, and easy snacks are perfect for keeping kids energised during summer play.

Why not try these tasty summertime snack ideas:

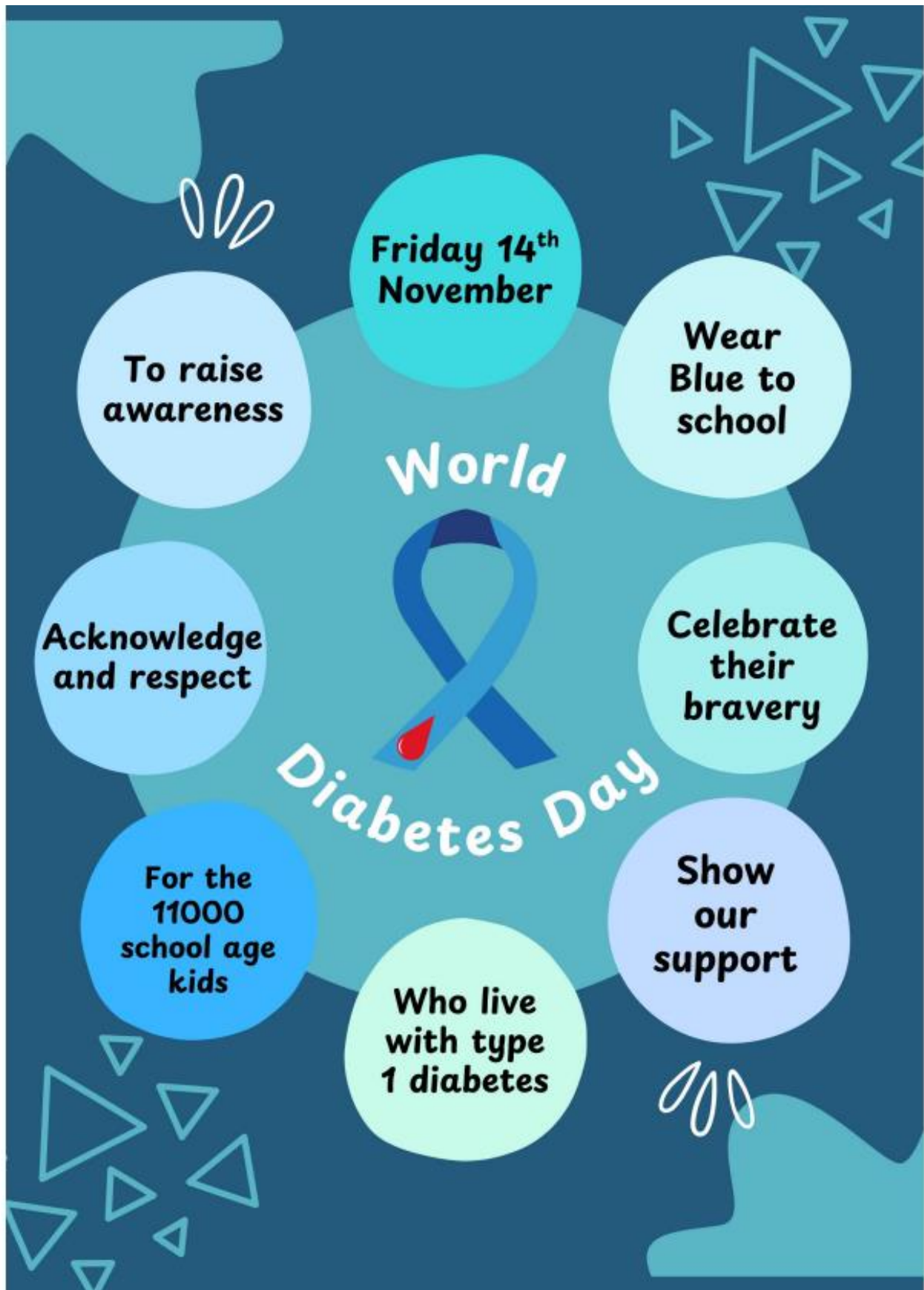
- Make fruit skewers from slices of watermelon, berries, grapes, and pineapple
- Freeze grapes or mango for an easy grab-and-go snack
- Blend yogurt with fresh fruit and freeze in moulds to make smoothie popsicles
- Freeze plain milk poppers or reduced fat yoghurt pouches
- Add frozen berries to reduced fat yoghurt
- Veggie sticks with hummus
- Water with fresh frozen berries or lemon
- Frozen fresh juice ice blocks or cups
- Smoothies made from frozen fruit and milk



Hunter New England
Local Health District

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

Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



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