



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 6 2025
Thursday 21st November

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

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

IMPORTANT DATES 2025

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

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Thu 21 st	PEG School Disco	Mon 1 st	Diocesan Debating Yrs 5 /6 only
Tue 25 th	ATSI additional high school transition day	Fri 5 th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Thu 27 th	Final Kindergarten Orientation	Tue 9 th	YEAR 6 GRADUATION
Fri 28 th	Swimming Carnival – Yrs 1 to 5	Wed 10 th	SPECIAL ASSEMBLY - Howard Ward Music Extravaganza
Fri 28 th	Last Day for External Providers on site.	Thu 11 th	STEP UP DAY 9:15AM
		Fri 12 th	PRESENTATION DAY 9:45AM

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026:

Monday 2 February 2026 – First Day of School for Years 1 to 6

Wednesday 4 February 2026 – Kindergarten commences with part day

Monday 9 February 2026 – Kindergarten FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

Friday 24 April 2026 – PUPIL FREE DAY

Monday 15 – Wednesday 17 June 2026 – Year 5 Great Aussie Bush Camp (Kincumber)

Wednesday 19 – Friday 21 August 2026 – Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

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

Help us to always follow Your example in being

Loving and caring

Calm and confronting

Gentle and kind

Help us to always help each other.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers,

2026 Class Preparation

On the morning of Thursday 11 December, we will spend time in our 2026 classes (and classrooms) with our 2026 teachers for our 'step up' morning 9:15-11 am. If your child is in YEAR 3 – 2026, their step-up day will be on WEDNESDAY 10 December, so that the children can meet Miss Meave Lawson, one half of the Year 3 group.

If you are leaving Rosary Park and your child/children will not be returning to school in 2026, please ensure that you have notified us as we have families looking for enrolments for next year and we're in the process of concluding our class lists for 2026.

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

Kindergarten 2026 Orientation

We will be soon concluding our formal Kindergarten 2026 orientation sessions. These were held over 3 sessions and gave parents and children the opportunity to visit in both large and small groups, becoming more familiar and comfortable with their new school setting. I thank Kylie Lunn and Ellen Rae (Kindergarten 2025 / 2026 teachers) for the enormous amount of work they put into these sessions. Any feedback on these sessions is always appreciated.

Swimming Carnival

Our carnival will be held on Friday 28 November at Singleton Pool. As this event is for Representation for Primary students in 2026, our Kinder or Year 6 children will not attend the carnival. Instead, they will remain at school.

Supervision of Students Before 8:30am

We have recently noticed an increasing number of students arriving and waiting on school grounds near the office before 8:30am, which is before the commencement of school supervision and school operations. This rule has not changed in over a year.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students, we ask that children are not dropped off before 8:30am, as staff supervision does not begin until this time. Students who arrive early are unsupervised, which presents a potential safety risk.

Families who require care before 8:30am are encouraged to access St Nicholas OOSH Branxton, located on site here at Rosary Park. For details, please contact oosh-branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all our students. Please contact the school directly if you have any questions or require further information.

Advanced Notice

In 2026, our year 5 students will attend Great Aussie Bush Camp 15-17 June in 2026 (approx. cost \$450/child) whilst our year 6 students will have their excursion to Canberra on 19 – 21 August 2025 (approx. cost \$500/child). As these excursions are a significant financial commitment for families (not covered by our resource fee), I am giving you advanced notice so that you are able to budget for them.

School fee information for 2026 will be sent out once received by the Catholic Schools Office. Our school resource fee is \$610.

Semester 2 Student Reports

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

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

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

End of Year Teacher Gifts

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

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

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

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

Canteen Changes

Our last canteen day is Friday 28 November. It will open Friday 12 December for ice blocks, with the Pupil Free Day being 5 December.

Social Inclusion Week- 'Impact matters'
22 - 30 November 2025

Social Inclusion Week is about showing that we not only care about our own personal safety and wellbeing but that of others too. It's about encouraging all Australians to be inclusive of all cultures, age groups, gender, nationalities, and abilities.

At Rosary Park, we embrace our different cultures to ensure students and staff are socially inclusive and feel safe at school.

You may also like to add in some resources:

Kids Helpline has a great resource for kids aged 5-12 years - Being ok with being different

Here is a short and easy to understand video on Human Rights for everyone - What are Human Rights

World Children's Day- 20 November

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

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

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

Kids Helpline has a great resource for kids on their rights which you regularly make our children aware of: Kids 5-12 years - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids/issues/what-are-my-rights>

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

Parents/Carers need to be aware that as teachers in the state of NSW we are required by law to report certain information to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). Reports to the Child Protection Helpline (Ph. 132 111, 24 hrs/7 days) must be made where we have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm and our concerns are current. Risk of significant harm may occur from a single act or omission or to a series of acts or omissions.

We can get help to determine whether we need to report by using the DCJ online Mandatory Reporters Guide: <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/>

We can also contact the Office of Safeguarding (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri). Information about the roles and functions of the Office of Safeguarding can be found here: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

Social Media – New regulations what you need to know

As you may already know through the news, from 10 December 2025, the Australian Government will introduce new laws designed to protect young people online by restricting access to social media for those under the age of 16.

The question parents regularly ask is "What do we need to know?"

SchoolTV has a special report, which you might like to access, by clicking the link below:
https://branxton.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-new-social-media-regulations-what-you-need-know

SCHOOLTV is a free service that Rosary Park Branxton has access to, which you can use anytime, by clicking the following link (save in your browser for future reference):
<https://branxton.catholic.schooltv.me/>

LAST ASSEMBLY OF THE YEAR

Our last assembly for AWARDS for the year will be held **Wednesday 3 December**. All Principal's Awards must be handed in **before TUESDAY 2 December** to avoid missing out.

LAST DAY FOR EXTERNAL PROVIDERS FOR 2025

The last day for any student who utilises External Providers is FRIDAY 28 November.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Christmas Concert is on Thursday 4 December, please ensure you READ the Compass posts for details. The band will make a special appearance from 4:45pm – 5:15pm, so please get in early to watch the children!

All band members, please be at the concert by 4:30pm. Howard will also speak with you about this in advance.

PUPIL FREE DAY

We have a Pupil Free Day on Friday 5 December, the day AFTER the Christmas Concert, so staff can commence planning for their 2026 classes.

MR BORG ABSENT – WEEK 7

A reminder that I will be away for all of Week 7 and including the Monday 1 December, due to my trip to the Philippines to commentate at the Asian Rugby League Championships. Mrs Dixon and the Executive Team are very much able and ready to work with families, as always.

HOWARD'S MUSIC SHOWCASE

For the families interested, all of our wonderful music students and band will be performing at a special showcase, to be held WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER, commencing at 9am, as per our Assemblies. ALL FAMILIES ARE WELCOME.

We thank Howard for his outstanding work in teaching the children musical skills which will stay with them for life. How do I know? Because I haven't picked up a guitar for many years and was still able to play songs I'd learned 10-15 years ago!

End of year liturgy and awards

We will come together as a school community to celebrate our academic year from 9:45am on Friday 12 December.

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.

*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.

Have a terrific fortnight ahead, God Bless.

Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

St. Joseph's Community Engagement Program

As a part of their weekly "Flexi Learning" a number of students from St Joseph's College at Lochinvar have chosen to take part in the community engagement program. These students give their time on Wednesday mornings to visit and support students in local schools as well as visiting the Sisters of St Joseph. We would like to thank the students and teachers from the college who have assisted some of our younger students during their visits this term. We have enjoyed your company and your guidance in supporting our reading, writing, spelling and oral language through games and play. Thank you for coming to Rosary Park. We hope we can be part of this program again next year.



End of Year Awards

Reminder that the end of year awards will be held at school on Friday 12th December at 9:45am. There will be assigned seating for the children receiving awards and some general seating. There will also be a section of seating assigned for Yr5 parents of children who prepared and delivered speeches for 2026 leadership roles. Please note that parents will NOT be informed if their child was successful in obtaining a leadership role prior to the ceremony. All 2026 student team and sports leaders will be announced as a part of this end of school liturgy and awards ceremony.

End of Year PB4L Reward – Water Play Day

On Tuesday 16th December we will celebrate our year of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) rewards with Water Play Day. There will be a timetable giving each grade time to participate in water fun games outside for a period of the day. Our Year 6 PB4L team and teachers will run the games for the children.

Children need to come to school in old clothes or swimmers with board shorts, a t-shirt AND a hat. Children will not be able to be in the sun without a hat, shorts and a t-shirt (shoulders covered). They will also need to wear closed in shoes for the water activity. After the water activities children will change back into their sports uniform. They will need a towel and dry clothes, shoes and socks to put on to return home. They will also need a bag to put their wet belongings in to bring home.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Please Note: all items will get wet! Including shoes and socks!)

Further information to follow on Compass.

Warm Regards,
Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Remembrance Day liturgy:

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

Thank you to our Year 1 students and their teachers for leading this meaningful liturgy. Your thoughtful preparation and reverent participation helped us all to connect with the significance of this day.

Year 5 RE Curriculum Update

Next year, Year 5 will begin the new *Pedagogy of Encounter* units. Our Year 5 teachers for 2026 will be attending training in the coming weeks to prepare. This approach is already used in Kindergarten to Year 4, and we are excited for Year 5 to join this journey, with Year 6 to follow in 2027.

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

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

Week ending Friday 14th November 2025 (Week 5)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Sophia F	George H	Reuben L
Kinder White	William C	Noah B	Polly L
Year 1 Blue	Hunter B	Ally C	George A
Year 1 White	Dustin P	William H	Archie M
Year 2 Blue	Zoe C	Hunter W	Armaan S
Year 2 White	Harvey C	An N	Johnny L
Year 3 Blue	--	--	--
Year 3 White	Sonny R	Lauren M	Maisy C
Year 4 Blue	Cooper S	Allie D	Annie h
Year 4 White	William M	Jack C	Addison B
Year 5 Blue	--	--	--
Year 5 White	Ella Y	Hudson W	Amarlie K
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending Friday 21st November 2025 (Week 6)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Zara S	Alexander H	Eleanor S
Kinder White	Savannah R	Sebastian K	Lucy P
Year 1 Blue	Emily G	Harvey D	Pearl B
Year 1 White	--	--	--
Year 2 Blue	Amari J-B	Winnie C	Hugh M
Year 2 White	Porter S	Claire D	Charlie L
Year 3 Blue	Reeve W	Gus W	Sawyer D
Year 3 White	Dominic P	Charli C	Olivia D
Year 4 Blue	Noha M	Baxter D	Zoe H
Year 4 White	Mackenzie H	Landyn W	Annabelle L
Year 5 Blue	Luke H	Tuan N	Claire B
Year 5 White	Tao D	Susan P	Noah R
Year 6 Blue			
Year 6 White			

Principal's Awards

Hunter B, Stella G, Imogen Mc, Charlie L x 2, Charlize L, Sophie C, Baxter A, Dustin P, Zoe M, Thomas E, Lucy P, Angus M, Layla Mc, Elke B, Xavier H, Ivy T, Madi N, Eleanor C, Elias C



Christmas

Gift & Food Appeal

Donations will be distributed to four community organisations who will deliver to those doing it tough in our community

Drop-off point for your donations of new, **unwrapped** toys and non-perishable food items:
Council's administration building
(under the Christmas tree)

Accepting donations until 8 December

A big thank you to the following organisations:



CESSNOCK DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE NETWORK

CESSNOCK WALKS KAWUMA

FREE

ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD & DRINKS

SERVICE STALLS & ACTIVITIES



A peaceful walk to raise awareness of the prevalence and impact of domestic and family violence within the Cessnock community

WEAR WHITE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

*Our
Community
says*

NO
to
**Domestic
and
Family
Violence**

Cessnock Domestic and Family Violence Network

**THURSDAY
27TH NOVEMBER
2025**



Starting at **10.30am** in the courtyard between
Peden's Hotel & Cessnock Performing Arts Centre
Castlemaine St Cessnock .. via Vincent Street
Finishing at **CESSNOCK TAFE**



Hunter Valley 2025

International Day of People with Disability

**Entertainment | Games | Session Stalls
Prizes**

Register to get involved:



Where?

Join us in celebrating disability inclusion at:
Gillieston Heights Community Hub

When?

03/12/2025
9:30am – 11:30am



International Day of
People with Disability

Organisers:



Helix Support Services



Flourishing Lives
DISABILITY SERVICES





Staying Active this Summer

Being active is good for your body, mind and mood. As the weather warms up, it's the perfect time to get outside, have fun and enjoy the sunshine!

Here are some outdoor activities your child and family can try to stay active in the warmer months. Just remember to slip, slop, slap, seek and slide!

Summer sports include:

- Touch Football
- Cricket
- Surf Life Saving
- Athletics
- Beach Volleyball
- Tennis
- Twilight netball, soccer or basketball



Summer family activities include:

- Making a slip and slide
- Frisbee golf
- Going to the beach or lake for a swim
- Going on a family bike ride
- Going for a hike or bushwalk
- Beach volleyball or cricket



Hunter New England
Local Health District

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

Good for Kids acknowledges 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.

2026 JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT CESSNOCK CITY LIBRARY:

CHILDRENS EVENTS:

NATURE AND NURTURE: MY PLACE ART WORKSHOP – for children aged 7+			FREE
Wednesday 7 January	Cessnock Library		10.30-12pm
Wednesday 7 January	Kurri Kurri Library		2.30-4pm

Create a mixed-media artwork celebrating the places you love most! Bookings essential.

LEGO CLUB – for children aged 5-12			FREE
Monday 5 January	Kurri Kurri Library		4-5pm
Tuesday 6 January	Cessnock Library		4-5pm
Monday 12 January	Kurri Kurri Library		4-5pm
Tuesday 13 January	Cessnock Library		4-5pm
Monday 19 January	Kurri Kurri Library		4-5pm
Tuesday 20 January	Cessnock Library		4-5pm

We supply the Lego, just bring along your imagination. No need to book, just come and join in the fun!

SLIME FEST WORKSHOP- for children aged 6-12			FREE
Thursday 8 January	Cessnock Library		2-3pm
Thursday 22 January	Kurri Kurri Library		2-3pm

Concoct your very own slime masterpiece that you can take home. Bookings essential.

FAMILY CODE CLUB – for children aged 8+			FREE
Thursday 8 January	Cessnock Library		4-4.45pm
Thursday 15 January	Cessnock Library		4-4.45pm
Thursday 22 January	Cessnock Library		4-4.45pm

It's informal, fun and very interactive. Have fun, make friends and build cool stuff with us! No coding experience required!

SILENT DISCO – for children aged 5-12			FREE
Tuesday 13 January	Kurri Kurri Library		5-6.30pm

Enjoy a fun mix of games, movement activities and dance, led by a professional kid's entertainer! Bookings essential.

FILM & CRAFT @ BRANXTON HALL – for children aged 5-12			FREE
Tuesday 20 January	Branxton Community Hall		2-4.30pm

Come along for a viewing of an epic adventure alongside a most unlikely Viking hero and his fierce, yet misunderstood dragon companion. Bookings essential.

BEAT IT MUSIC AND MOVEMENT – for children aged 5-12			FREE
Tuesday 20 January	Kurri Kurri Library		10.30-11.15am
Tuesday 20 January	Cessnock Library		1.30-2.15pm

Get ready for a high-energy music and movement adventure using bucket drums, shakers, scarves, and sticks. Bookings essential.

DINO DETECTIVE TRAINING CAMP – for children aged 6-12			FREE
Wednesday 21 January	Cessnock Library		10.00-11.30am
Wednesday 21 January	Kurri Kurri Library		2-3.30pm

Get ready for a high-energy music and movement adventure using bucket drums, shakers, scarves, and sticks. Bookings essential.

Book under "What's On" at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries or call Cessnock Library on 49934399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 49371638.

2026 JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT CESSNOCK CITY LIBRARY:

TEEN EVENTS:

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS – for ages 10+ FREE

Tuesday 6 January	Kurri Kurri Library	4-5pm
Wednesday 7 January	Cessnock Library	4-5pm
Tuesday 13 January	Kurri Kurri Library	4-5pm
Wednesday 14 January	Cessnock Library	4-5pm
Tuesday 20 January	Kurri Kurri Library	4-5pm
Wednesday 21 January	Cessnock Library	4-5pm

Learn the basics of the game, make new friends and embark on exciting adventures in a fun and safe environment. Immerse yourself in a world of fantasy and adventure! No need to book, just come and join in!

UNWIND AND PAINT FOR TEENS – for children aged 11+ FREE

Friday 9 January	Kurri Kurri Library	10-12pm
Friday 9 January	Cessnock Library	3-5pm

Use acrylics for a guided painting session with artist Llynda Nairn. Bookings essential.

BREAKFAST CLUB SCREENING – for ages 11+ FREE

Wednesday 14 January	Cessnock Library	2-3.30pm
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Grab your snacks and discover what happens when five high school stereotypes- the scholar, the athlete, the outcast, the princes and the criminal, are forced to share a Saturday!

STRANGER THINGS TRIVIA – for ages 10-18 FREE

Monday 19 January	Cessnock Library	2-3pm
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Enjoy games, snacks and prizes as you put your Stranger Things knowledge to the test! Bookings essential.

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