



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 1 Week 6 2026  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

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

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

<b>MARCH</b>		<b>APRIL</b>	
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Cross Country	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Greta Tree Planting Event
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Borg on leave	Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Holy Thursday Liturgy – 9:00am
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	School Assembly – All Welcome	Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM 1</b>
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	Total Excursion – Year 1	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM 2</b>
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Harmony Day Celebrations at Rosary Park	Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Athletics Carnival – all grades
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	Young Leaders Day	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b>
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday Liturgy – 11:00 am	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
		Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anzac Day Liturgy – 9am

## Principal's Message

### **A PRAYER FOR A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

Jesus, during these 40 days, I desire to grow closer to You. Help me to spend more time in prayer, silence, and reflection. Let my heart be open to Your voice, guiding me in Your ways.

*Amen*

### **FIRST FACE MEETING**

Thank you to those people who expressed an interest in working in our FACE (Family and Community Engagement) team for fundraising opportunities in 2026.

For interest:

EASTER RAFFLE – 2 APRIL

MOTHER'S DAY STALL – 7 MAY

FATHER'S DAY STALL – 3 SEPTEMBER

COLOUR FUN RUN (THE BIG ONE!) – 20 November

As always, if there are any people who wish to help with these, please contact the office.

Please ensure you are fully registered to be a volunteer. You may do this HERE:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>

### **Parent Teacher Conversations**

The beginning of each school year is such an important time and one whereby teachers are working hard to formulate positive relationships with their students. A learning environment based

on trust, where students feel safe to share their ideas and comfortable to make mistakes can set the scene for a successful school year, for each child.

Our teachers have been forming these positive relationships over the last few weeks by getting to know your child; finding out their strengths as learners, their passions, hobbies, challenges and goals they have for the year ahead. It has been a joy to watch Kindergarten begin their journey of primary school. The provocations set up by our Kinder teachers (as part of Successful Foundations) has created a wonderful space for our little ones to play.

Research has shown that students achieve more in school when their parents are actively involved in their education. Parental involvement not only enhances academic performance but also has a positive influence on a child's attitude and behaviour. A parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can influence the child's attitude towards school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, absenteeism, and motivation in a positive manner.

As per last year, student led conferences with the involvement of your child will be on JUNE 29 (pupil free day). A document explaining these will be disseminated via Compass very shortly. We remain focussed however on an open dialogue between home and school so if there is anything of concern that you wish to discuss with us, please make contact via [admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au).

As an executive, we have decided to not renew the phone calls to parents in the Early weeks of Term Two. Our method of communication is always open, should you wish to know more about your child's learning. An email to our admin email is always passed on and our teachers are always happy and waiting to chat to you if you need to.

### **Volunteers at Rosary Park**

If you wish to volunteer in our school (canteen, etc) you need to complete our Diocesan Volunteer clearance. The link below contains a number of questions to be answered and whether a police check is required will be determined by your answer to question 5. The large majority of cases will require the answer to be "None of the Above and will NOT provide transport". This will also reduce the time it will take for safeguarding to clear the application.

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>

### **2026 Athletics Carnival**

This will again be held at Maitland Athletics Centre for K-6 children on Tuesday 21 April. You are most welcome to join us as all children compete on the day! It was an outstanding day from memory last year, and extremely well organised.

### **Kindergarten Enrolments 2027**

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2027 are now open! If you have a child to enrol for kindergarten, visit our Rosary Park Website on [www.branxton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.branxton.catholic.edu.au) to enrol.

Under the Enrolment tab you can select Enrol Online Now. This page will offer instructions on how you are to enrol onto the system.

Please also let any family, friends or neighbours know about these dates. As always, you can contact the front office with any questions.

Applications for 2027 Kindergarten and Year 7 enrolments open in 2026 and are managed in two rounds.

## Round 1 (Priority Round)

- **February 23:** Enrolment opens
- **May 22:** Round 1 applications close
- **June 12:** Round 1 offers sent
- **June 26:** Round 1 acceptance deadline

## Round 2 (Ongoing Placements)

- **May 23:** Round 2 applications open
- **June 27 – December 18:** Offers are made on a rolling basis as places become available

## NAPLAN 2026

NAPLAN 2026 Year 3 and Year 5: 11th March till the 23rd of March

Whilst as a Principal, I pay a lot of attention to the results we get for NAPLAN, I would like to reiterate, that as a school, we are ALWAYS proud of our students. They come with varying abilities, needs and dispositions and NAPLAN **NEVER** takes into account:

- A student's wellbeing
- Their strengths and qualities
- Their ability to work with others
- Their unique personalities
- How kind a student is to others

As much as we use the data from NAPLAN to give teachers goals for their student's future learning, we want to ensure that a child is worth SO MUCH MORE than the marks they get.

If you have any questions or queries about NAPLAN, please let the school know, so we can help you.

## Our Commitment to Learning

It is extremely important that children are at school every day and they are there for the *whole* day. As you know we have a brief Monday morning assembly only as we make a school wide commitment to commencing literacy teaching promptly each morning- that is Spell Ex in Years 3-4, Spelling Mastery Years 5-6 and Initial Lit in Kindergarten -year 2. If your child is late, they are missing vital and explicit learning in spelling and reading.

Similarly, their learning continues until 2:55pm. Normally our afternoon timetable consists of HSIE, Science and Creative Arts activities which are also a very important part of a child's learning with creativity, collaboration and problem solving forming key aspects of these lessons.

You are discouraged from continually taking your child early as not only is it disrupting your child's learning, it interrupts other children's learning and the class teacher's focus on teaching with constant phone calls to the classroom. If there are extenuating circumstances as to why your child needs to leave early, please write to your child's teacher giving reasons why. Our staff and children thank you in anticipation for your commitment to learning for all our children.

Please ensure that you explain your child's absence from school preferably via Compass. You have seven days to do this. The Education Act mandates that we as a school and system are to monitor children's attendance at school.

Children with excessive days off school may be asked to provide medical certificates.

Our diocesan policy directs that parents receive a letter from the school if their child's attendance is not satisfactory and you may need to work with us in formulating an Attendance Improvement Plan for your child if their attendance does not improve.

Kind regards and God Bless,

Mr Ashley Borg

PRINCIPAL

## **Assistant Principal's Message**

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the coming weeks, our Year 3 and Year 5 students will undertake the NAPLAN assessment. NAPLAN, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, is an important tool that helps us understand and support our students' learning journeys.

At Rosary Park, we believe in nurturing the whole child, and while NAPLAN provides valuable data on literacy and numeracy skills, it is just one aspect of our students' education. Our dedicated teachers work tirelessly to create a balanced and enriching curriculum that fosters academic growth, spiritual development, and personal well-being.

We encourage our students to approach NAPLAN with confidence and a positive mindset. It is an opportunity for them to demonstrate their learning and for us to identify areas where we can provide additional support. Remember, NAPLAN is not about ranking or competition; it is about understanding and improving.

Parents, your support is invaluable. Ensuring your child gets a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast, and arrives at school on time can make a significant difference. Encourage them to do their best but also remind them that their worth is not defined by a test score.

### **Key NAPLAN Dates for 2026:**

- **Test Window:** 11–20 March 2026

Thank you for working in partnership with us to support your children.

Maryanne Hacker

Assistant Principal

## **Religious Education Coordinator**

### **Project Compassion - Rosary Park Lenten Charity**

## **Long Walk for Water!**

On Thursday 2nd April (last day of Term), students at Rosary Park will take part in a Long Walk for Water. They will walk a set course around the oval to show support for people in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific who must travel long distances each day to collect clean water.

Our walk and every dollar we raise will help create lasting change and empower communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

We are asking that children/families make a small donation via QKR before this day to raise money for those mentioned above. If you wish to send in coins, there are also project compassion boxes in every classroom that your child can directly donate into. We are extremely grateful for Any donation/s that are received from our families.

**\$40**

can give 2 families in Fiji a set of vegetable seedlings, including cucumber, pumpkin and eggplant, so they can grow their own nutritious food

**\$64**

can restore water sources and promote tree planting to improve irrigation, drinking water, and biodiversity in vulnerable communities in Bangladesh

**\$100**

can establish a saving and credit group with necessary kit and basic training on group and business management, helping low-income women and girls in Tanzania

## **Year 6 Mass last week:**

Year 6 facilitated our Thursday Parish Mass last week and did this with reverence and leadership. Well done to all of our children who took up roles of ministry for the Mass and we thank our parents, families and Parishioners for attending.

We would also like to thank Father Thomas for his commitment to regular classroom visits with our students. Father Thomas visits our classrooms every second Thursday and discusses aspects of the children's RE units and answers any questions the children may have. The children have also been very excited to find out that Father Thomas also has his very own Youtube Channel! He may now have a few more followers since announcing this.

Families, please know that you are always welcome to attend these Masses. I have made a Mass Roster below for the rest of the term so that our families know when these are occurring and when your child/children may be involved in some capacity:

Week	Visit/Class Facilitating	Date
4	Opening Liturgy	20/2
4	Year 6 Class visit with Father Thomas	19/2
5	Year 6 Mass Year 5 attending also	26/2
6	Year 4 Class Visits with Father Thomas	5/3
7	Year 4 Mass attended by Year 2 also.	12/3
8	Year 3 Class Visits with Father Thomas	19/3 20/3 Harmony Day Liturgy Fr Thomas Welcome
9	Year 3 Mass Year 1 attending also	26/3
10	Holy Week no Parish Mass attendance	Palm Sunday Liturgy 30/3 (Year 3 Facilitating) Holy Thursday Liturgy 2/4 (Year 1 Facilitating)

**A message from the Parish - Sacramental Program News:**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We invite you to attend an information meeting regarding the **2026 Sacramental Program** at St Brigids Parish, Branxton.

This meeting is an essential first step for families wishing to enroll their children in the upcoming program. We will outline the journey of preparation, key dates for the year, and how we can work together to support your child's faith development.

**Meeting Details**

- **When:** Tuesday 17 March 2026
- **Time:** 4:00 PM
- **Where:** St Brigid's Church, Branxton

**What to expect at the meeting:**

- An overview of the Sacraments to be celebrated this year (Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion).
- Distribution of enrolment forms and program calendars.
- Information on preparation sessions.
- An opportunity to ask questions regarding the process.

We understand how busy family life can be, so we aim to keep the session concise and informative. Your presence is greatly valued as we begin this special journey with your children.

Fr Thomas and the Parish Sacramental Team look forward to seeing you there.

### **Harmony Day:**

As we move on with our Term, we look forward to events such as Harmony Day where we will be celebrating with a Liturgy, open classrooms and followed by a shared lunch on our playground and some games organised by our staff team. This will take place on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and will begin at 10am.

### **Palm Sunday Liturgy:**

Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March @ 10:30am facilitated by Year 3 students and teachers. All welcome.

### **Holy Thursday Liturgy:**

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April @ 10:30am facilitated by Year 1 students and teachers. All welcome.

Nick Redgrove  
Religious Education Coordinator

## **Year 3 News**

Year 3 students have been exploring how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples map Country and Place using traditional knowledge and symbolic representations. Drawing on what we have learned, as well as our own understanding of place, we created personalised maps inspired by the vibrant artwork of Bronwyn Bancroft.

### **Miya W**

*"My artwork represents Branxton using Aboriginal symbols like a tree. I used a flower symbol as a meeting place. This place is very special because it has lots of Aboriginal species and lots of nature in it."*



**An N**

"The artwork is the picture of the Hunter River in Branxton. It is significant natural landmark in Branxton. Here you can see dark coloured sand and bright coloured water. I used some triangle patterns on the river to represent little waves flowing around the river."



**Tanner H**

"This artwork represents the Hunter River and the Branxton Community. I used Aboriginal symbols to represent trees, Elders, snakes and bush tucker."



Miss Danika Graham  
Year 3 Classroom Teacher

## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards.

### Week ending 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Term 1 Week 5)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Lucas Q	Zara B	Fletcher B
Kinder White	Callan BS	Stevie B	Lennie C
Year 1 Blue	George H	Zoe S	Sophia F
Year 1 White	Tillie E	Harvey M	Zachary N
Year 2 Blue	Astrid C	Knox M	Indy H
Year 2 White	Troy S	Eva N	Oliver B
Year 3 Blue	Evie E	Indigo M	Myla W
Year 3 White	Ava G	Mason B	Lara T
Year 4 Blue	Ava M	Scarlett C	Amelia H
Year 4 White	Nic L	Emily R	Ari S
Year 5 Blue	Sofia P	Caelan G	Indy M
Year 5 White	Baxter A	Indigo G	Liam H
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	Shahaan S	Hannah C	Charlize L

### Week ending 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 (Term 1 Week 6)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Jonty C	Mia H	Zarlia D
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Liliana H	Logan D	Ava M-Z
Year 1 White	Anakin K	Ivy T	Emmett B
Year 2 Blue	Harvey D	Astrid C	Luca C
Year 2 White	Titan L	Isla h	Ayla K
Year 3 Blue	Hunter W	Hugh M	Zoe C
Year 3 White	Miya W	Millah L	Carter M
Year 4 Blue	--	--	--
Year 4 White	Dylan R	Dom P	Ava W
Year 5 Blue	Jayden M	Will M	Addison R
Year 5 White	Aramaia M	Nicholas S	Noha M
Year 6 Blue	Blake C	Ella Y	Jaiden X
Year 6 White	Susan P	Liam R	Hunter I

### Principals Awards:

Zoe S, Ava M, Evie E, Sophia F, Alfie T, Eli B, Piper R, Savannah R



Hi, my name is Leigh Taylor.

This month of March, we are fundraising for Epilepsy.

Every Friday and Sunday evening in March, we will be at Miller Park Hotel, doing the Meat Raffles.

Tickets on sale from 5:30pm.

Drawn at 7pm.

Our son, Morgan, passed away from SUDEP and we will be raising awareness and raising funds for the whole month of March.

Come on down and have a fun night out.

Wear purple if you wish.

Let's Make March Purple for Epilepsy. ❤️❤️❤️

Thank you Leigh





## Move, Play, Learn

**Active kids are ready to learn.** Being active helps build strong bodies, happy minds and better focus in the classroom!

When children move every day - at school, at home or with friends - they're setting themselves up for success, both now and into the future.

### Keep kids active by trying these fun activities:

- Running
- Jumping
- Climbing
- Dancing
- Bike riding
- Playground games

Children and young people should aim for at least **60 minutes** of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day.



Source: <https://www.health.gov.au/>



Hunter New England  
Local Health District

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

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



**Develop your drama and performance skills and meet fellow creatives as part of Aspire's Junior Theatre Makers Program. Interested students in Years 5 to 8 are encouraged to sign up today!**

The program runs throughout Terms 2 and 3 2026. Term 2 will be all about developing skills with a focus on creating original work. Ensemble members will work through an array of exercises relating to character, including physical and image-based theatre. The ensemble will be run by experienced drama tutors who will ensure ensembles are fun and inclusive.

Term 3 will be spent creating an original short performance piece which will be performed on Thursday 17th September 2026 at Warners Bay Theatre, Warners Bay. All groups will come together to rehearse at the theatre on the day.

Places in the program are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

#### HOW TO REGISTER

To register please complete the application form here:



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code:  
<http://mn.schoctn/JTMregistration>
2. FILL IN THE FORM TO REGISTER

Cost: \$350 (scholarships are available for those in financial need)

#### 2026 SCHEDULE

##### NEWCASTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS - TOOHEY ROOM, NEWCASTLE  
WEST TERMS 2 AND 3 - WEDNESDAYS 4:00PM - 5:30PM

##### UPPER HUNTER

ST CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, SINGLETON TERMS  
2 AND 3 - THURSDAYS 4:00PM - 5:30PM

##### LAKES/WEST LAKES

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, BOORAGUL  
TERMS 2 AND 3 - THURSDAYS 4:00PM - 5:30PM

##### MANNING

ST CLARE'S HIGH SCHOOL, TAREE  
TERMS 2 AND 3 - THURSDAYS 4:00PM - 5:30PM

##### PERFORMANCE

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2026  
WARNERS BAY THEATRE, WARNERS BAY

[mn.catholic.edu.au/aspire](http://mn.catholic.edu.au/aspire)



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