



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 4 2026

Thursday 15th May

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

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

MAY		JUNE	
Fri 15 th	Catholic Schools Week Liturgy (Newcastle)	Tue 2 nd	School Photo Day – WINTER UNIFORM
Mon 18 th – Fri 22 nd	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK	Wed 3 rd	After School AFL – 3:15pm – 4:15pm
Wed 20 th	After School AFL – 3:15pm – 4:15pm	Fri 5 th	School Maths Bee
Thu 21 st	School Spelling Bee	Mon 8 th	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Fri 22 nd	Walk to School Day	Tue 9 th	Biaime Cave – Year 4 - reschedule
Wed 27 th	Reconciliation Week Ceremony and Launch – 9:15am	Wed 10 th	Assembly – 9am
Wed 27 th	After School AFL – 3:15pm – 4:15pm	Wed 10 th	After School AFL – 3:15pm – 4:15pm

Principal's Message

Lord, we thank you for the grace and blessings of this day, and for the example of the saints, who we celebrate each day. We ask for your guidance and strength to live lives that are pleasing to you, reflecting your love and compassion. We pray for those who are suffering, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually, and we ask for your healing touch and comfort. Help us to grow in faith, love, and service, becoming more like your Son, Jesus Christ, and walking in the light of your presence. Amen

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks to all of the well-wishers for my time with the Polding Girls AFL Team at the NSW Championships this week in Tamworth. It is the VERY FIRST Polding Girls AFL team and I was honoured to coach the girls.

We won 4 out of 6 games, but due to the structure of the competition, our losses came at the wrong time and we ended up finishing 6th out of 9 teams. The eventual winner was Mackillop (Southern Catholic Schools).

For interest, 6 of the Polding teams came from the Diocese.

MOTHER'S DAY THANKS

I hope that all of our mums had a terrific Mother's Day recently. A huge thanks to the staff and students of Rosary Park for an amazing morning!

WINTER UNIFORM CHANGEOVER

As per Compass message last week, ALL students are expected in FULL WINTER UNIFORM.

We understand that at the moment, we are having issues with our supplier. Please check regularly with Lowes at Cessnock.

Please don't panic if you don't have the right uniform as yet. As long as we know there's efforts being made to source the uniform, then we have no worries in this space.

If this is a concern or an issue, please contact me as soon as practical.

SCHOOL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

Our Spelling Bee will be held on THURSDAY 21 May at school. If your child has been selected, you will receive a letter.

All winners (except for Kindergarten) will represent the school in the Regional Spelling bee, to be held here at Rosary Park, in the coming weeks.

This is part of Catholic Schools Week, which is on NEXT WEEK.

DIOCESAN CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our Cross Country Runners recently, on their efforts at the Diocesan Championships.

Our best finishers included:

Annie H (11 Girls) – 12th
William H (8/9 boys) – 15th
Kenny A (10 boys) – 25th
Zoe M (8/9 Girls) – 29th
Eli B (10 Boys) – 30th

Our other runners, Toby, Jett, Makayla, Lylah, Jenson, Layla, Sadie, Charli, Baxter, Will M, Shahaan, Holly, Noha, Noah, Ellie, Lucy, Charlise and Liam all tried hard and finished the course.

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY – MAY 22

Please read carefully, the flyer on Compass related to this event.

PROCEDURAL REMINDERS BEFORE SCHOOL / COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF

A couple of procedural reminders, regarding access to school and our teaching staff:

Before school drop offs - Students are to be dropped off at the bottom gate and walk up the ramp to get into the school gates. We are seeing increasing circumstances where parents are walking children to the top gate, which we don't generally mind, however, some parents are also walking the children to the classrooms. We have made no reference, since my arrival as Principal, to this being standard practice. Our teachers are not there to supervise interactions between parents and children during this time and are there to ensure student safety. Due to child protection and safety issues, we ask that if you must drop your child inside the school gates, that you do this promptly and leave as quickly as possible to avoid students getting separation issues.

This allows our staff to adequately support your child to transition into class if required, assist with any issues that arise from separation issues and gives students independence, which is vitally important to success. If issues arise and your child is struggling to transition to class, we will call you to support.

We wish to welcome parents and carers to our school, but we need to do so, in a safe manner, which puts our student's needs, first.

Off the cuff meetings with teachers - This is occurring after the "drop off" in the morning and is not best practice for anyone involved. Teachers are working hard to cater to all children's needs, often being at school before 7:30am to commence preparation. They unfortunately are unable to assist during the time frame of 8:00 - 9:00am, in particular, 8:30am - 9:00am. If the matter requires attention, please email admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au and make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher and we can make necessary arrangements before school if required, as we have the resources and the pre-warning to cover staff.

Communication with Teachers - It has come to my attention that teachers are receiving emails directly from parents. It is school procedure that ALL emails, unless prompted by the teacher, be sent to the admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au email address. There are two reasons for this:

- It allows for our administration / office staff to best direct the content of the message, as well as offer assistance to teachers if required.
- There is currently new legislation which states very clearly about a teacher's right to disconnect from work. This also goes the other way when emailing or phoning parents. We try to do this within the confines of the 8am - 5pm guideline.

Please adhere to these guidelines. Our staff work extremely hard at Rosary Park for the benefit, safety, wellbeing and to give the best of themselves for your child. Demonstrating respect for our teachers creates the essential positive working partnership we require, to benefit your child.

We appreciate that you are looking out for your child's best interests. As a parent myself, I fully empathise with you wanting the best for your child and access to their teachers. Ultimately, they are not 24/7 workers and deserve the right to disconnect.

If a matter is urgent, I ask that you email me directly at ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au, where I am willing to discuss the matter in person.

My door is generally always open and I am here to listen and assist.

NATIONAL SORRY DAY – RECONCILIATION WEEK

Please join us for our Reconciliation Week ceremony which will be held on the grass field between Year 3 and 4 on Wednesday 27th of May - 9:15am start. All families welcome. Special guest Uncle Warren Taggart, one of our Wonnarua Elders.

All present will be invited to participate in the smoking ceremony. Students with asthma will be monitored by their classroom teacher for the duration of the event. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please email admin with the classroom teachers name in the subject area.

UNIFORMS

It is great to see so many people in their winter uniforms. They look very smart and when worn well, gives a terrific first impression of our wonderful school.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT INTERVIEWS

If you have a sibling, who is supposed to be starting school in 2027, please ensure you have your enrolment submitted AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I am starting the process of interviews for over 85 students this year (and counting).

AFL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Please see the flyer on Compass for details. We thank Matt Haines and the AFL Hunter Central Coast for this amazing opportunity to have AFL Football at Rosary Park. I would love to have a Paul Kelly Cup AFL team in 2027 if at all possible!

ROCK STAR IN THE MAKING

Bruno was a GRAND FINALIST in the ASPIRE Songwriters Competition for 2026.

The Primary Song Category criteria was:

- What is a memory?
- What makes something memorable
- Examples of good memories

Bruno's song, given he is still in Infants (Year 2), was an amazing performance to even get into the Grand Final! I have been sent a few emails from people at the venue, who told me that Bruno was "phenomenal", "rock star in the making", "prodigious talent".

Some marvellous words from people who are very much connected to the ASPIRE program.

Although Bruno didn't end up as the winner, he has won the hearts of many in the Diocese with his performance.

Congratulations, Bruno – YOU ROCK!



Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

We have almost reached the mid-point of the term! It is amazing how quickly the year is flying by.

Our Year 4 students have been diligently completing their CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) assessments. These tests help us better understand each student's learning profile and support their academic growth. Thank you to Mrs Caroline Donohue who has been working hard with the Year 4 teachers to facilitate these assessments.

Student Learning and Progress

Teachers are currently actively engaged in assessing and monitoring student learning across all key areas. A range of formative assessment strategies are used in classrooms to gather evidence of what students know, understand and can do. This ongoing monitoring allows teachers to plan targeted instruction to support each student's progress and growth.

Assessment is an important part of the teaching and learning cycle. It helps ensure that all students are supported appropriately, whether they are consolidating foundational skills or being extended in their learning.

At the end of this term you will receive a formal report of student achievement through the Semester One report. Student achievement will be reported based on the work demonstrated in class. Grades are allocated according to the level at which a student is currently performing against the expected outcomes for their year level. It is important to note that grades reflect demonstrated achievement and not effort, attitude or potential.

For students who are performing below the expected outcomes for their year level, grades will reflect this level of achievement. However, this should not come as a surprise. If your child is experiencing difficulty, you should have already received information about their learning needs and the support strategies in place.

I have included below an explanation of the A-E Grading Scale which teachers in NSW schools use when reporting on student achievement. I will include these again in a newsletter closer to the release of reports.

- **A – Outstanding Achievement:** The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can apply this knowledge in a wide range of contexts. Their work demonstrates a high level of independence and originality.
- **B – High Achievement:** The student has a thorough understanding of the content and can apply their knowledge in most situations. They demonstrate strong skills and consistent performance.
- **C – Sound Achievement:** The student has a sound understanding of the content and is working at the expected level for their year group. This is the standard most students are expected to achieve.
- **D – Basic Achievement:** The student has a basic understanding of the content but may require additional support in some areas. They are working below the expected level.
- **E – Limited Achievement:** The student has a limited understanding of the content and requires significant support. They are working well below the expected standard.

We value strong partnerships between school and home and encourage families to continue engaging with teachers to support student learning.

Maryanne Hacker
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Mother's Day:

Last weekend, our Rosary Park community gathered with gratitude and joy to celebrate the beautiful vocation of motherhood. Mother's Day offers us a special opportunity to honour the mothers, grandmothers, carers, and nurturing women in our lives who reflect God's love through their sacrifice, kindness, and unwavering support.

We thank our mothers for the countless ways they guide our children in faith, model compassion in action, and nurture the growth of each child entrusted to their care. In the

spirit of Mary, our Blessed Mother, they show us what it means to live with courage, humility, and trust in God.

We also acknowledge that Mother's Day can be a time of mixed emotions for some within our community. We hold in our hearts those who may find this day difficult and extend our prayers and support to all.

May we, as a school community, continue to celebrate and uplift the women who help shape the hearts and minds of our children each day.

We especially thank all that attended our school Mother's Day breakfast last Friday and our dedicated staff that stayed back after school on Thursday and then arrived early to school on the Friday to prepare the croissant breakfast and set up the morning for our Mothers and other special women in our student's lives. A big shoutout to Mr Borg for doing a quick last dash to Coles to get one extra kg of ham when our croissant chefs ran low late in the croissant prep phase!

A special thanks to Elay High tea and The Grove Coffee van who also supported our morning.

I also wanted to acknowledge the Kindergarten students and the staff who facilitated a heartwarming liturgy dedicated to Mother's Day to finish our celebrations. Our school looked amazing also with all student artworks on display outside classrooms and in our school hall.

We would also like to extend a very warm thank you to Coles at Huntlee that supported and donated a percentage of funds to cover the costs of this celebration in honour of Mother's Day. This kind of community support is what makes our community that extra bit special and we thank Todd and Cecily, the managers of our local supermarket for their support of our school and wider community.

A Prayer for Mothers

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of mothers
and for the love they share so generously.

Bless them with strength and peace,

fill their hearts with joy,

and surround them with your grace.

May they feel appreciated, cherished, and supported,
not only today, but always.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



One of the great strengths of our Catholic schools is the way they create spaces of genuine belonging. They are communities where each person is welcomed, valued, and encouraged to grow.

Catholic Schools Week offers us a moment each year to pause and recognise this daily work: the teaching, guiding, and caring that shape the lives of our young people in ways far deeper than academics alone.

This year's theme, *A Home for All*, invites us to reflect on what it truly means to build communities grounded in the Gospel. A home is more than a place; it is an experience of being known, listened to, and loved. Our schools strive to offer that experience every day, becoming extensions of the first place where faith and hope are learned, the home of the heart.

(Foreword exert-Ryan Gato Head of Religious Education and Spirituality Team Catholic Schools Maitland Newcastle)

This year, we began our 2026 Rosary Park Catholic School journey with the theme of belonging, communicating to all that Rosary Park Catholic Schools is a "Home for All". This is the theme that is being advertised and lived out across our Maitland Newcastle Diocese this year and our schools will be 'on show' next week.

Our 4 leaders attended Newcastle's Sacred Heart Cathedral today to be apart of the official launch Mass and lunch of the 2026 Catholic School's Week tradition. Our 4 leaders, Ellie, Elke, Shahaan and Sasha represented Rosary Park with pride and a big smile as they attended with all of the other school leaders across our diocese.



One of the many attributes of Rosary Park will be on show next week when we have students partaking in our school spelling bee next week.

Every class will also be partaking in a Catholic School's Week Liturgy where students will be given the opportunity to reflect and learn more about what they love about their school and what makes Rosary Park Catholic the special place it is.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

We extend a big congratulations to our Year 3 students who completed their sacrament of reconciliation last Wednesday at St Brigid's Church, Branxton. They conducted themselves with pride and reverence and we thank their families for being by their side through this process and our wonderful sacramental team for facilitating this process.

Mr Nicholas Redgrove
Religious Education Coordinator



Year 3 Excursion - Biaime Cave

Year 3 students enjoyed their day on Country at Biaime Cave, learning about the creation story from local Elder, Uncle Warren. The children explored the significance of the site, deepening their understanding of Aboriginal culture, storytelling, and connection to the Wonnarua People.



Premier's Reading Challenge

How do I log my books online?

Visit the Premier's Reading Challenge site [NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2026 : Home](#)

Click on the log on link.

The screenshot shows the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge website. On the left, a navigation menu lists: Booklists, Rules, Teacher Notes, Privacy Information, Reading Log, News, Support, Logon (highlighted with a red arrow), Home, and Print this Page. The main content area is titled '2026 Premier's Reading Challenge' and includes a search bar, a banner for the 2026 challenge, a welcome message, dates, and a link to download the 2026 PRC poster.

2026 Premier's Reading Challenge

2026 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge
Click here for the Student Experience site!
Celebrating 25 years of reading

Welcome to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge
The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 10, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools. Now in its 25th year, the NSW PRC is the largest reading challenge in Australia!

2026 dates
Challenge opens: Monday 23 February 2026
Challenge closes to students: Friday 18 September 2026
Challenge closes to coordinators: Friday 25 September 2026

The 2026 PRC is now open!
To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge, we have developed a range of new resources to embed the Challenge and reading for leisure in your school.

The 25th anniversary resource kit provides an overview of all resources and direct links to all editable and adaptable canva designs. More information and all resources can be found on our [Teacher Notes](#) page.

Coordinating the PRC for the first time?
Register for our **Start of Challenge** information sessions via The Arts Unit website.
Public schools: Tuesday 24 Feb 2026, 3:30-4:30. [Register here](#)
Non-government schools: Tuesday 03 Mar 2026, 3:30-4:30. [Register here](#)

NSW Department of Education
2026 NSW Pre Reading Challe
Start reading now!
www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Click here to download the 2026 PRC Poster (PDF)

All students have a unique username and password. Please contact Ms. Flynn (Teacher Librarian) if you need these details.

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending 8th May 2026 (Week 3)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Onyx W	Connor S	Charlee R
Kinder White	Abbigail N	Noah H	Edie B
Year 1 Blue	Ivy E	Callum F	Reo G
Year 1 White	Sebastian K	Byron R	Savannah I
Year 2 Blue	Yuri K	Cali D	Arabella D
Year 2 White	Isabelle S	Zoe M	Emily G
Year 3 Blue	--	--	--
Year 3 White	Baylee H	Carter M	Porter B
Year 4 Blue	Tommy E	Kenny A	Angus W
Year 4 White	Aerith J	Eli B	Hendrix M
Year 5 Blue	Annabelle L	Sofia P	Keir N
Year 5 White	Matilda M	Noha M	Imogen M
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending 15th May 2026 (Week 4)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Navy W	Fletcher B	Jonty C
Kinder White	Lennie C	Freya M	Evie L
Year 1 Blue	Harvey S	Alani B	Jimmy S
Year 1 White	--	--	--
Year 2 Blue	Ivy T	Indy H	Isla C
Year 2 White	Toby B	Bentley k	Dylan J
Year 3 Blue	Lincoln H	Johan C	Vivienne S
Year 3 White	Darcy J	Lotti F	Jeft I
Year 4 Blue	Brynn S	Will M	Aiden L
Year 4 White	Eleanor C	Matilda B	Emily R
Year 5 Blue	Caelan G	Cooper S	Indy m
Year 5 White	Hudson L	Anderson P	Allie D
Year 6 Blue	Levi C	Jaiden X	Leah W
Year 6 White	James S	Max k	Noah R

Principal's Awards:



Healthy Food Choices at School

Healthy food choices can help children stay focused, energised, and ready to learn throughout the school day.

Packing healthier food options doesn't have to be complicated – small, simple choices can make a big difference! Aim to include a mix of **fresh vegetables and fruit, whole grains, and protein foods** each day.

You could try packing simple options like:

- A wholegrain sandwich
- Fresh, frozen or tinned fruit in natural juice
- Veggie sticks
- Yoghurt
- Cheese & crackers

Water is the best drink for school, helping children stay hydrated and focused.

Building healthy habits early sets the foundation for a lifetime of wellbeing!



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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