

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 8 2026

Thursday 11th June

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

P: (02) 4938 1541 E: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

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

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

JUNE		JUNE	
Mon 15 th	Year 2 Excursion Phoenix Park Farm	Tue 30 th	NAIDOC Celebrations
Mon 15 th – Wed 17 th	Year 5 Great Aussie Bush Camp - Kincumber	JULY	
Fri 19 th	Lower Hunter Spelling and Maths Bees	Thu 2 nd	Regional Athletics Carnival – Maitland Athletics Centre
Wed 24 th	Semester One Reports	Fri 3 rd	Vinnies Winter Appeal – Beanie and Pyjama Day
Wed 24 th	Awards, Athletics Awards and School Brand Showcase	Fri 3 rd	Year 6 Canteen Meal Deal Fundraiser – orders close Mon 29/6
Fri 26 th	Diocesan Spelling & Maths Bee	Fri 3 rd	LAST DAY OF TERM 2
Mon 29 th	PUPIL FREE DAY – Student Led Conferences	Mon 20 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 3

Principal's Message

ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNTER VALLEY BUS CRASH

I begin this edition of the newsletter on a very solemn and reflective note. Thursday this week in 2023, was one of the most tragic days in our country's history, with the Hunter Valley Bus Crash in Branxton.

This incident has had a lasting effect on our community here in Branxton and I am sure some of you will have known some of the victims and the injured.

As a former member of the Singleton Roosters AFL club, this tragedy hit me personally, with the death of Nadene (Nads), Kyah, Tori, Zach, Andrew (Chiz) and Lynan (Doona) cutting quite deep. Without going into too many details, I either played AFL with, umpired, and or had a connection with the members listed and remember them in my prayers daily.

Their passing reminds us all that life is short, fleeting and only God knows when your time is up in this world, so I pray that we all work together in harmony, peace and with the common good of your children at heart.

God bless all the families who continue to grieve and mourn the loss of their loved ones in this tragedy.

May they and the souls of all the faithful departed in the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace.

UNIFORMS

It has been great to see the presentation of the winter uniform with majority neat and tidy. Thank you to the families who supported the tougher stance with this. Especially thanks to the students, who are almost automatic in their tucking in.

A note about hair: We are not dictating the types of hair cut your child should have but if a boy's hair is past the collar, the expectation is that it is tied back so it is neat and presentable (including the mullet style). Student's hair should not have lines shaved into it or any "decorative lines". If these are already in place, then I would politely ask that these grow out.

Headbands / Ribbons / Bows etc: Any of these decorative types that go in girl's hair (and some boys) need to be the same colour as the school uniform (either BLUE or WHITE)

As I said to Year 5 / 6 the other day, the standard you walk past is the standard you expect.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES – CLOSE JUNE 19

Please ensure that all appointments for the Student Led Conferences are made before June 19.

These are a very important part of our Leading Learning Collaborative journey, where your child will facilitate the session with their teacher and yourself alongside.

Please speak with your child's teacher if you need a late appointment and if this can be accommodated.

ENROLMENTS AT ROSARY PARK

This Friday afternoon, the 12th of June will see offers of enrolment for Kindergarten 2027 sent to families, which is very exciting!

Our Year 1, 2 and 3 classes are at capacity, which is fantastic for the school and we anticipate having 400 + students in 2027.

STAFFING AND CASUAL TEACHERS

From time to time, staff, per the Enterprise Agreement for Teachers, are entitled to sick leave, long service leave, etc, as per any other employee. This is unavoidable.

Unfortunately, we are short of casual teachers and there will be times where a class is split.

If this occurs, we will endeavour to give families notice.

Please know that we do our absolute best to accommodate all our families and put our children first in these scenarios. Splitting classes is the LAST decision we make, and we don't take it lightly.

GREAT AUSSIE BUSH CAMP – KINCUMBER

We wish our Year Five students and the staff all the very best for the trip to Kincumber, on the Central Coast for the Great Aussie Bush Camp.

Mr Borg and Mrs Hacker will both be on the excursion with the students. Mr Redgrove will be the designated Acting Principal during this time.

PHOENIX PARK FARM EXCURSION – YEAR 2

We also wish the Year 2 students, Mrs Allen and Mr Standing the best for their trip to the Phoenix Park Farm in Morpeth on Monday next week.

LOWER HUNTER SPELLING AND MATHS BEES

We wish Lucy, Aiden, Sofia (Spelling Bee) and Kylan, Maddy N and Noah (Maths Bee) all the very best for the Lower Hunter Spelling and Maths Bees next Friday, to be held at the school hall.

An exciting time for all, we are hoping to see some great competition. Our students were very strong in this year's bees, so fingers crossed for some Diocesan Finalists!

REPORTS

Reports go out on June 24, via Compass. Student Led Conferences are the time to discuss reports. If your teacher required to speak with you earlier, you will have either received a phone call or an email to discuss your child's academic progress.

Have a wonderful fortnight,

God Bless,

Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

As we move well into the second half of Term 2, many students are beginning to feel the cumulative effects of a busy semester. While there is still much learning to be done before the term concludes, this is often the point at which tiredness, reduced motivation and increased emotional sensitivity can begin to emerge. For schools and families alike, maintaining consistent routines becomes increasingly important.

Children thrive when they know what to expect. Regular bedtimes, healthy eating habits, opportunities for physical activity and predictable morning and afternoon routines all contribute significantly to student wellbeing. When routines are maintained, students are often better able to regulate their emotions, manage challenges, engage positively with others and remain focused on learning.

At school, we continue to work closely with students to reinforce positive behaviour expectations, resilience and respectful relationships. These skills are strengthened when the messages children receive at home and school are consistent. Simple routines such as preparing for the next day, limiting screen time before bed and ensuring children have opportunities to talk about their day can make a significant difference to their wellbeing and readiness to learn.

A reminder that Student-Led Conferences will be held later this term. If you have not yet made a booking, we strongly encourage you to do so. These conferences provide a valuable opportunity for students to share their learning, celebrate their growth and discuss future goals with the important adults in their lives.

As Semester One reports are prepared, I would also like to reiterate that grades are awarded according to the level of achievement demonstrated against the outcomes expected for a student's year level. In particular, a grade of C represents sound achievement and indicates that a student is working at the expected standard for their stage of learning. Further information about the A–E grading scale will accompany reports later this term.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. By working together to maintain positive routines and high expectations, we help create the conditions in which every child can flourish both academically and personally.

Maryanne Hacker
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinators Message

Vinnies Winter Appeal 2026 – Rosary Park Community Call to Action

As the winter months approach, Rosary Park invites our school community to come together in support of the 2026 Vinnies Winter Appeal. This important initiative helps people experiencing homelessness and hardship during one of the most challenging times of the year.

Winter can be especially difficult for individuals and families who are already struggling. Access to warm clothing, blankets, and nutritious food becomes essential. To support this cause, we are collecting donations of non-perishable food items such as canned goods, pasta, rice, and long-life milk, as well as winter essentials including warm clothing, blankets, and jackets.

These simple but meaningful contributions can make a real difference—offering comfort, dignity, and hope to those in need within our local community.

Next term, we are excited to welcome representatives from St Vincent de Paul Cessnock, who will visit Rosary Park to receive the generous donations collected by our student Mercy Team. This visit is a wonderful opportunity for our students to see the impact of their service and to connect faith with action.

We encourage all families to participate in this appeal and give what they can. Together, as a Mercy community, we can embody compassion and care, ensuring that no one is left to face the cold alone this winter. Every class will be allocated a hamper tub for donations to be placed in by our students.

Let's make a difference—every donation counts.

Thank you to Elke and Francis, some of our Year 6 Mercy Leaders who have designed the below fliers for our Winter Appeal:



Strengthening Faith Through Parish Partnership

We are delighted to continue nurturing our strong connection with St Brigid's Parish through regular visits from our Parish Priest, Fr Thomas. Beginning this term, Fr Thomas will visit one grade every second week, building relationships with students and supporting their faith formation in a meaningful and personal way.

Following each visit, the same grade will take an active role in preparing and facilitating a school Mass at St Brigid's Church in Branxton the following week. This provides a wonderful opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the liturgy and to live out their faith in a practical and engaging way.

Students will be involved in a variety of roles, including reading during the Mass and thoughtfully selecting the music that will accompany the celebration. This participation empowers our students to take ownership of their learning and to contribute to a vibrant and prayerful community experience.

We warmly invite parents, family members, and friends to join us for these special celebrations. Your presence helps strengthen our sense of community and supports our students as they grow in confidence and faith. Dates for Parish Masses with students attending will be placed on compass for our community to use. In coming weeks, some dates for priest visits and Masses are:

- Thursday, 25th June Year 1 Father Thomas visiting classrooms (Year 1)
- Thursday, 2nd July @ 9:15am Year 1 facilitating Mass. Year 3 Students and staff attending.

Nicholas Redgrove
Religious Education Coordinator

Reconciliation Week

On Wednesday 27th of May, we were lucky to have Uncle Warren join us for a smoking ceremony. Students, staff, and families gathered together, and it was a calm, meaningful way to start the week. A big thank-you to all the families who came along to celebrate Reconciliation at Rosary Park.





On 3rd of June, our Year 6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students represented Rosary Park at the Cessnock City Council Reconciliation Morning Tea. They showed great leadership and were wonderful ambassadors for our school, learning about artefacts, engaging in cultural dance and listening to young leader's ideas and reflections of the 2026 theme "All In".





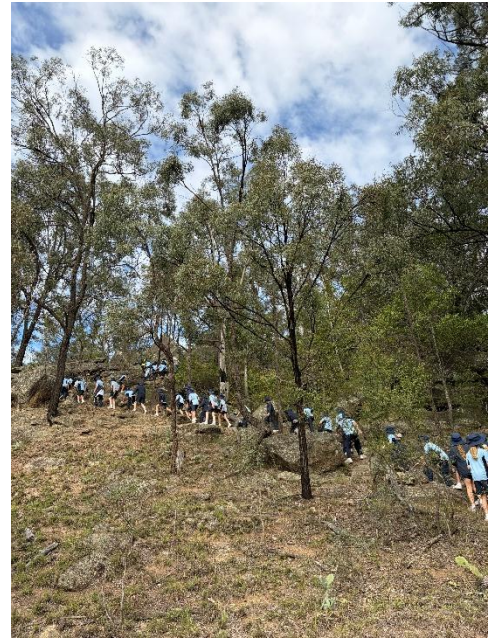
Year 4 Baiame Cave Excursion



Baiame Cave

Year 4 students spent a meaningful day on Country at Baiame Cave, guided by local Elder Uncle Warren. They listened to the creation story, explored the cultural importance of the site, and strengthened their understanding of Aboriginal storytelling, heritage, and the deep connection the Wonnarua





Something Entertaining!!!

If you are looking for some wholesome entertainment in the month of July you could go and watch ex-Rosary Park student Halle Garth in Matilda Jr the Musical. Playing at the Hunter Theatre from the 9th to the 18th of July. Use the QR code below to order your seats. Great work Halle and keep chasing those dreams!



Weekly Awards

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

Week ending 5th June 2026 (Week 7)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Olli H	Zarlie D	Arabella P
Kinder White	Lennie C	Bentley F	Nora D
Year 1 Blue	Toby B	Ava M-Z	Ivy E
Year 1 White	Lucas H	Emmett B	Tillie E
Year 2 Blue	Tyler T	Mon B	Archie M
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Connor T	Kobe M	Xavier T
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	--	--	--
Year 4 White	Charlie D	Dylan R	Grayson B
Year 5 Blue	Lexi D	Indy M	Hendrix B
Year 5 White	Baxter A	Kade B	Indigo B
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending 11th June 2026 (Week 8)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Isla C	Maxwell M	Brianna D
Kinder White	Levi K	Isabelle R	Vinnie A
Year 1 Blue	Liliana H	Ari P	Lottie L
Year 1 White	Alex h	William C	Lucy P
Year 2 Blue	Kylan K	Luca C	Astrid C
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Carley O	Jack C	Claire D
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Jordie D	Ava M	Charli C
Year 4 White	Theo C	Alexis I	Piper R
Year 5 Blue	William m	Jenny N	Addison R
Year 5 White	Alfie T	Franklin W	Ken P
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Principal's Awards: Mr Borg would like to congratulate the over 30 students who received a Principals Award last week.

NAIDOC FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday

July 4th

10am

TAFE Park Cessnock



KIRAY PUTJUNG ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



SATURDAY JULY 4TH 2025
10:00 AM - 02:00 PM

Join Us!

Come and join us to celebrate NAIDOC. Lots of fun, food and entertainment. A great family day out for the whole community.



NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
5-12 JULY 2025

FREE!

Event Highlights

Entertainment ◀

Aboriginal Dancers, Didgeridoo, music band,
Fire Brigade Informations

Food Stalls ◀

Get yourself some delicious food.
Sizzling BBQ and Potatoe on a Stick

Rides ◀

So many fun rides for the kids
Jumping castle for the little ones.

Cultural Demonstrations ◀

Basket Weaving, Jewellery making.

TAFE Park Darwin Street Cessnock



Blanket Ball

Physical games are a great way to have fun with family and friends. They can also enhance skills such as balance, creativity and strength.

Try **'Blanket Ball'** one afternoon this week –
A court game where a ball is passed over a net using a blanket. The receiving team tries to keep the ball off the floor. Play with 4 or more.



The Game:

- Work either in pairs (smaller blanket) or 4s.
- Teams begin with a ball each.
- Each team practises tossing and catching their ball in their blanket.
- Progress to working with another team – the ball is passed between teams. A barrier is not required for this stage.

Over-the-net play:

- The ball is passed over the net between teams.
- One point is scored if opponents fail to catch the ball, or if they pass the ball out of court.

Safety:

- A smooth surface and playing area free from obstructions.
- The court should be an appropriate size for the number and ability of players with adequate separation between groups.

Source: <https://www.ausport.gov.au/schools/resource-hub/p41>



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.

PUPIL FREE DAY

MONDAY 29 JUNE 6:30AM-6:00PM



ST NICHOLAS OOSH BRANXTON

MAD SCIENTIST DAY

Join us for a day of creative STEM fun where you will put on your lab coat and complete a range of exciting experiments.

WHAT TO BRING

- Wide-brimmed hat
- Morning tea and lunch
- Refillable water bottle
- Spare change of clothes
- Jumper/jacket

BOOK VIA THE ST NICHOLAS APP

KIDS, STRESSED or ANXIOUS?

- **Yoga poses (meridian-based yoga therapy) that relieve tension and stress on a physical, mental and emotional level.**
- **Breathing techniques that reduce anxiety and regulate emotions.**
- **Mindset activities to help create lasting change.**

Offering:

- **Classes within schools, during school term.**
- **After school classes that run throughout the term.**
- **1:1 private classes that target child's specific needs (Including special needs.)**

Janine De Jorge is a qualified Children's Yoga Teacher and Specialises in Yoga Therapy. Working with Children's Check (WWCC), police check and NDIS worker screening checks up to date.
For Bookings 0402 194 908



hunteryogasync@gmail.com

www.hunteryogasync.com

Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in this newsletter are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers or the services provided and makes no representation about these matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are subject of these advertisements