



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 6 2026

Thursday 27th August

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

SEP		SEP	
Tue 1 st	Lower Hunter Region Public Speaking	Fri 18 th	Stage 3 Hunter River Health Check Incursion
Wed 2 nd	Soccer Gala Day – Stage 3	Fri 18 th	Year 3 Taronga Zoo Excursion
Thu 3 rd	Father's Day Stall (closes on QKR Mon 31 st Aug)	Tue 22 nd	Kindergarten to Oakvale Farm
Fri 4 th	Father's Day Lunch and Sports Activities	Thu 24 th	Talent Quest
Mon 7 th	F.A.C.E. Meeting – PB4L Chart and Resilience Project	Fri 25 th	Catherine McAuley – Mercy Day (Afternoon Activities)
Tue 8 th	5:30pm Years 4 – 6 Families for BYOD portal presentation – next technologies.	Fri 25 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 3
Wed 9 th	Assembly 9am – Year 5 Showcase	OCT	
Thu 10 th	Year 6 – Interrelate Incursion	Mon 12 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 4
Thu 17 th	Year 6 – Interrelate Incursion		

Principal's Message

Sports Aerobics - National Titles

Good luck to our four teams competing in the FISAF Sports Aerobics National Titles this Saturday 12 September. Thank you to the parents for showing such commitment in taking them to the Gold Cost

for this event and to Kimberley Gargan, Grace Dever, Danika Graham and Chelsea Edwards who has worked so hard in training these teams over many months. Regardless of the outcome, I am immensely proud of you all and know you will represent our school with persistence and fairness.

Public Speaking

During the past weeks, students have been learning many terrific lessons, skills and drills around Public Speaking. The teachers and students are to be commended on their outstanding effort, dedication and diligence.

Congratulations to the Public Speaking Champions, who will go to St Aloysius Chisholm, to take on the best of the Region, next Tuesday 1 September:

KINDER: Nora Duncan

STAGE 1: Ally Cortis

STAGE 2: Scarlett Simkin

STAGE 3: Mackenzie Hammond

A massive thank you to Miss Nellie Connolly, who organised the entire competition, having no knowledge of it previously. I think we would all agree, it was smooth, seamless and a sensational job.

Father's Day Stall and Lunch Celebration

A reminder the Father's Day Stall is on Thursday 3 September. Big thanks to all of our families who were able to help, as well as the staff involved.

We would like to invite all Father's, Grandfather's and Father figures of our students at Rosary Park to our Father's Day celebrations for 2026.

Details below:

Date: Friday, 4th September

Time: 1pm start

Location: School Hall

What to bring: A picnic lunch to share with your child/ren. Picnic rugs or deck/camp chairs to sit on.

PLEASE ENSURE there is no alcohol brought into school grounds.

STUDENTS are to dress like their dad (or their father figure) on the day.

Please join us for an afternoon of fun, a shared picnic lunch on school grounds and games with the special men in our students' lives.

FACE MEETING

The majority of families have asked for Monday evening offerings for the FACE meeting, so we will trial the next meeting at the following time:

The next meeting is: **MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 at 5:30 – 6:30pm.**

We will be hosting the meeting on Teams, so there is no compulsion to attend the school on this occasion, we are very happy, however, to see any potential parents and friends at the school from that time. The link will go out on Compass shortly.

The two major items to be shown at this meeting are:

1. PB4L Behaviour Chart – I'd like to note that in the past four weeks, we have seen the LOWEST amount of yellow / red cards than in any other time in the past 5 years, which is a real credit to the staff and students, as well as the overwhelming support of parents to back the school. I will take people through the chart, the theory base behind it and the reasoning behind decisions.
2. The Resilience Project – Miss Danika Graham will be taking parents through the Resilience Project, a brand new program to be introduced at Rosary Park next year, which we have very high expectations for!

There will be a short time for any QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE, so please send those through to ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au before WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2.

School Attendance

Supporting positive school attendance is a shared responsibility - everyone has a role to play in promoting the regular attendance of students. All children should be at school on time each day and remain until the conclusion of lessons in the afternoon. This ensures a consistent routine for students which helps children feel secure, as well as allowing children to learn and grow. Days off school not only contribute to significant gaps and lost opportunities in learning, it is also hard for children to establish, develop and maintain social connections.

We ask that you try to limit appointments through the school day where possible. These appointments are important for your child to attend.

Frequent lateness should also be avoided, as children need to get into a good routine each morning. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school on time, please talk to their class teacher.



Road Safety

We have recently had several concerned members of the public contact us about our children walking and riding bikes to and from school. We have spoken to groups of children at school to

remind them of safety in crossing roads and ensure that this is done at traffic lights and crossings, as well as when riding in suburban streets to be aware of driveways. PLEASE remind your children of these important messages.

Parents need to be VIGILANT when dropping children near St Nick's. PLEASE watch them cross the driveway.

There have also been concerns of late with St Brigid's / Walker's lines, where parents are asking their children to cross the road, whilst pick up is at its peak. The car park inside the old St Brigid's school is an excellent place to park. We ask that ALL parents get out of their cars and wait underneath the COLA (Covered area) to pick up their child. We will not be releasing children to cars across the path.

Uniform

We begin the transition to summer uniform from 31 August

FULL Summer uniform to be worn from Monday 14 September

Our students adhere to our school's Uniform Policy with a high degree of consistency, and we greatly appreciate parental support shown in this aspect of school. Adherence to our policy strengthens pride in our School and promotes a positive image.

Just a few reminders regarding jewellery and nail polish

- Students may wear one small stud or one sleeper in each ear lobe (silver or gold)
- One necklace of a religious significance (e.g. cross)
- One single signet ring
- One plain gold or silver golf bangle
- *No nail polish* to be worn at school

Hair must be neat and tidy. Collar length hair must be worn in a ponytail or plait. Scrunchies, hair clips, rubber bands, ponytail holders, etc must be **blue/white** in colour and is to be worn in the hair and **not worn on the wrist**.

Tracks, rats tails and patterns cut into the hair are NOT permitted. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard. If children have a mullet it must be blended at the sides and CANNOT touch the collar (or it must be tied back).

Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

As we move through the second half of Term 3, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the growth, learning, and achievements that have already taken place this term. Classrooms across our school continue to be busy places filled with curiosity, creativity, and determination as students engage in challenging learning experiences and work towards their personal best.

One of the strongest contributors to student success is regular school attendance. Every school day provides valuable opportunities for learning, developing friendships, building confidence, and participating in the rich experiences that make school such an important part of childhood. While

occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable, attending school every day possible helps students stay connected to their learning and their classmates.

Families play a vital role in supporting positive attendance habits. Some simple ways to support your child's attendance include:

- Establishing consistent morning and evening routines to help children arrive at school on time and ready to learn.
- Scheduling appointments outside of school hours wherever possible.
- Encouraging a positive attitude towards school and talking about learning in a positive way.
- Ensuring children get enough sleep and are prepared for the school day.
- Communicating with the school if attendance challenges arise so we can work together to provide support.

Every day at school counts. By working together, we can ensure our students have every opportunity to learn, connect, and thrive. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping your child make the most of their learning journey

Maryanne Hacker
Assistant Principal

Public Speaking

This past week, we held our School Public Speaking Finals, where students showcased their talents by inspiring, persuading, informing, or entertaining the audience through their speeches. It was wonderful to see the confidence, creativity, and preparation that students brought to the stage.

Congratulations to all students who competed, and a special congratulations to our stage winners:

Nora D (ES1), Ally C (S1), Scarlett S (S2) and Holly N (S3), who will now progress to the Regional Finals at St Aloysius, Chisolm on September 1st. Thank you to Mackenzie H (S3 Runner-Up), who will be taking Holly's place at Regionals.

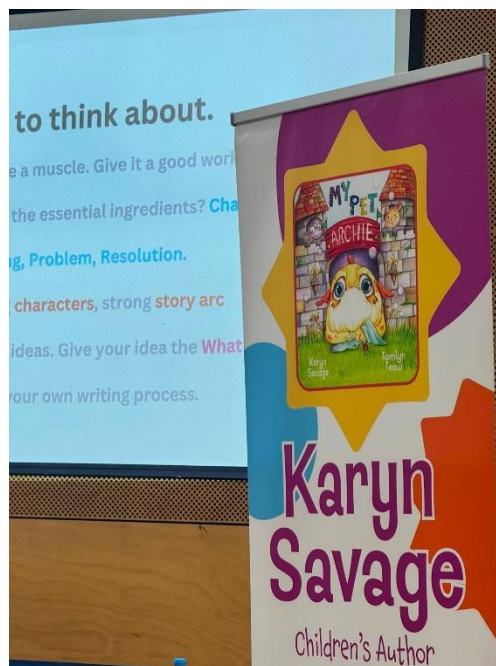
We wish them the very best as they represent our school at the next level!

Regards,
Nellie Connolly



Children's Author Visit

What a wonderful way to celebrate Book Week with a visit from the incredibly talented Kaz Savage! Our students loved the opportunity to hear from such an inspiring author and celebrate the magic of books and storytelling.



ROSARY PARK



**THURSDAY 24TH
SEPTEMBER**

2 ACTS PER GRADE SELECTED IN
WEEK 9. CAN BE GROUPS OR
INDIVIDUAL. MUST BE UNDER 4
MINUTES



Weekly Awards

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

Week ending 21st August 2026 (Week 5)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Olli H	Onyx W	James D
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Kelsie L	Sohpia F	Levi W
Year 1 White	Sebastian K	Owen E	Noah B
Year 2 Blue	Ayla D	Aurora M	Arabella D
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Myla W	Johan C	Bonnie D
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	--	--	--
Year 4 White	Jenson F	Aerith J	Ava W
Year 5 Blue	Campbell C	Addison R	Lexi D
Year 5 White	Jesse S	Annie H	Matilda M
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending 28th August 2026 (Week 6)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Elouise S	Zeppelin m	Zahlee R
Kinder White	Bentley F	Abbigail N	Vinnie A
Year 1 Blue	Ari P	Ava M-Z	Logan D
Year 1 White	Zachary N	Tillie E	Gordon H
Year 2 Blue	Mason P	Kylan K	Georgie-Lee K
Year 2 White	Ayla K	Isla H	Eva N
Year 3 Blue	Oliver T	Evie E	--
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Ava M	Angus W	Scarlett S
Year 4 White	Hallie D	Nic L	Grayson B
Year 5 Blue	--	--	--
Year 5 White	Zoe H	Holly N	Ellesse S
Year 6 Blue	Tao D	Paige L	Jye D
Year 6 White	Susan P	Hannah C	Addi K

Principal's Awards: Zahlee D, Addison R, Nora D, Myla W, Alfie T, Zara B, Lara T, Armaan S, Baxter A, Allie D, Zachary N, Angus M, Evie L, Lexi D x 2, Hudson W, Hendrix B, Luca C, Mia H, Charlee R, Aubree M



Veg-tastic Classroom Breaks

Primary school kids need 4-5 serves of vegetables everyday. Most kids don't eat enough.

Veg, fruit and water breaks during class are a great way to get a serve in during the school day!



A serve is around half a cup of cooked veggies or one cup of raw salad veggies.

Pack veggies to snack on at school with these tips:

- Chop carrot, cucumber, capsicum or celery into sticks
- Pack small, bite sized veggies in containers - try snow peas, cherry tomatoes, baby cucumbers, green beans or broccoli
- Let your child help choose and prepare veggies



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.



ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

DIO DANCE ENSEMBLE

Aspire invites students to spend **2 days** working on a **dance performance** to represent our diocese in the **2026 MOMENTUM** Showcase.

Every ensemble member will play a vital role in our piece and have an opportunity to showcase their talent in a group setting. This will be a fast-paced two days; we are looking for dancers who thrive in that environment and can bring energy and positivity to the rehearsal room. Prior dance experience is necessary.

Director: Lauren Harvey

Available to: Students in years 5 - 12

Fee: \$120

Students can register for the program by filling out an application form [here](#)



PROJECT DATES

Rehearsals
Newcastle (Venue TBC)

During School Term 3 Week 9 - Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th September

9.00am – 3.00pm

**Technical run &
Performance:**
MOMENTUM
@ Civic Theatre Newcastle

Monday 2nd November

5:30pm – 9.00pm (TBC)

Scholarship places are available for students in genuine need of financial assistance. Please contact Anne Atkins for further information via anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au or 02 4979 1331



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the most up to date photos and information.



AUDITIONS 2027

Registrations for the Aspire 2027 auditions are now open for current and new students from Years 4 and up. The auditions will be held at the Warners Bay Theatre, Lake St, Warners Bay (Drama, Dance, Vocal ONLY) or Diocesan Resource Centre - Corner of Tudor Street and Parry Street, Newcastle West (Instrumental ONLY).

Registrations for auditions close on Friday, 25 September 2026. Once our ASPIRE Administration receives the registration, applicants will receive all relevant audition information during the first week of the school holidays. This will include the audition allocated dates and times.

DRAMA Ensemble Audition

Monday 26 October 2026 & Tuesday 27 October 2026

Location: Warners Bay Theatre, Lake St, Warners Bay

The drama auditions consist of a half-hour workshop featuring a series of drama exercises in movement, voice, character work, and devising (creating short scenes). Students will also be required to prepare a short one-minute monologue. A list of topics for junior applicants will be on the ASPIRE website at the end of Term 3, whilst Senior applicants will be required to source a monologue of their choice.

DANCE Ensemble Audition

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Location: Warners Bay Theatre, Lake St, Warners Bay

The audition is entirely workshop-based. Students will be taken through some skills-based exercises before learning some new choreography. They may have an opportunity to add their own choreography, so it's a good idea to have some ideas ready about what they might like to do.

INSTRUMENTAL Ensemble Audition

Wednesday 28 October 2026

Location: Diocesan Resource Centre, Cnr Tudor Street and Parry Street, Newcastle West

All instrumental auditions are 10 minutes. Students are required to prepare a short piece that they feel shows their ability. After performing the piece for the panel, students will either be given some music to sight-read or asked to improvise a melody/rhythm whilst accompanied by another instrument.

VOCAL Ensemble Audition

Thursday 29 October 2026

Location: Warners Bay Theatre, Lake St, Warners Bay

For the one-hour vocal audition, students will be placed in a group of up to 20 students of similar age. The first part of the audition will comprise of learning a new song as a group and some simple movement to go with it. This allows the panel to see how well students pick up new music, lyrics and movement and place them together. In the second half of the audition, students will be required to sing the first verse and chorus from the audition song list. The list of songs will be available on the ASPIRE website at the end of Term 3. A link will be provided to each applicant, including song selections and backing tracks for practising.

1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: [Aspire Production 2027 Auditions](#)
2. Fill in the form to apply



If you require further information, please contact ASPIRE phone 02 4979-1331 or email: anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au

Positions are given in order of registration. Scholarship places are available for students in genuine need of financial assistance. Please contact ASPIRE for information.

*Please note: Audition applications must be completed by parents/carers of students enrolled/enrolling in a Catholic School of the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle 2026/2027.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the most up-to-date photos and information.
To find out more about ASPIRE Catholic Schools, visit mn.catholic.edu.au/aspire

ASPIRE
ARTS & PERFORMING INSTEAD **Catholic Schools**
DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

INFORMATION SHEET 2027

ASPIRE is the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Creative and Performing Arts program

"TO SPARK A LIFELONG PASSION AND APPRECIATION FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS IN ALL OUR STUDENTS."

SAVE THE DATE

2027 Aspire Production at The Civic Theatre Newcastle

Wednesday 28 July 2027 - 11.00 AM

Thursday 29 July 2027 - 11.00 AM

Friday 30 July 2027 - 11.00 AM

Friday 30 July 2027 - 7.00 PM

Saturday 31 July 2027 - 7.00 PM

AUDITION DATES

Registrations for the Aspire 2027 auditions are now open for current and new students from Years 4 and up. The auditions will be held at the Warners Bay Theatre, Lake St, Warners Bay (Drama, Dance, Vocal ONLY) or Diocesan Resource Centre - Corner of Tudor Street and Parry Street, Newcastle West (Instrumental ONLY).

DRAMA Ensemble Audition - Monday 26 October 2026 & Tuesday 27 October 2026

DANCE Ensemble Audition - Wednesday 28 October 2026

INSTRUMENTAL Ensemble Audition - Wednesday 28 October 2026

VOCAL Ensemble Audition - Thursday 29 October 2026

HOW TO AUDITION FOR ASPIRE 2026

The Aspire Audition Application is an online process.

1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: [Aspire Production 2027 Auditions](#)
2. Fill in the form to apply



Registration for auditions close on Friday, 25 September 2026. Once our ASPIRE Administration receives the registration, applicants will receive all relevant audition information during the first week of the school holidays. This will include the audition allocated dates and times.

Positions are given in order of registration. Scholarship places are available for students in genuine need of financial assistance. Please contact ASPIRE for information.

*Please note: Audition applications must be completed by parents/carers of students enrolled/enrolling in a Catholic School of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle 2026/2027.

If you require further information, please contact ASPIRE phone 02 4979-1331 or email: anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au



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ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

2026 HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

School Holiday Workshops for Dance, Drama, and Vocal students who are in Years 4 to Year 7.

Creating a character - Monday 28th September 2026

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Catholic Schools (Toohey Room) - 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Cost: \$90

Bring all of your craziest character ideas along as you create original characters to use in a short workshop-style performance in the afternoon. Think about physicality and movement as well as how different characters speak and deliver their lines in this fun workshop that develops skills in a safe, supportive environment

Singing Sensations - Tuesday 29th September 2026

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Catholic Schools (Toohey Room) - 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Cost: \$90

Develop your skills as both an ensemble vocalist and a soloist as you come together with like-minded young singers to learn about using your voice to its fullest potential. Students will explore singing as a group whilst also getting the chance to think about solo performance and build confidence in their voice.

Storytelling Steps - Wednesday 30th September 2026

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Catholic Schools (Toohey Room) - 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Cost: \$90

Calling all dancers who love to create their own performances. This workshop explores how we tell stories through movement and can use our dance skills to convey character and situations. This fun workshop will encourage students to choreograph their own movement pieces using story as the inspiration.

Students can register by clicking [here](https://bit.ly/AspireHolidayWorkshops2026) or following the QR code —→ bit.ly/AspireHolidayWorkshops2026



If you require further information, please contact Anne Atkins phone 02 4979-1331 or email: anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au

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Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the most up to date photos and information.

WOW 2026 GALLERY

SUBMISSIONS OPEN

WOW GALLERY AT LAKE MACQUARIE MULTI-ARTS PAVILION (MAP MIMA)

4-5 NOVEMBER 2026

HOW TO ENTER

You can create as many artworks as you like, just remember all artworks must be submitted digitally and as individual images of each work.

WHO: All students across the Diocese

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE: 25th September 2026

DATE OF EXHIBITION: 4 – 5th November:
9am-6pm

SUBMIT NOW USE THE QR
CODE OR FOLLOW THE LINK
mn.shor.tn/WOWGallery



ABOUT SUBMISSIONS

Your submission should be your own personal interpretation of **THE WOW FACTOR. WHY DO SOME PAINTINGS MAKE US STOP AND SAY 'WOW!'**

This exhibition is all about making art that creates the WOW FACTOR. Artists are invited to be brave, playful, and free. Try new things. Take risks. Follow your ideas, your feelings, and your imagination. Don't worry about being perfect, make art that comes from your heart.

Your artwork can be created in any medium, it's completely up to you! You will just photograph or film your artwork and submit via the form. Accepted file formats: JPEG, PNG, MP4. Please ensure the artwork is of high resolution for optimal display. Click here mn.shor.tn/WOWHowToSubmit to see how to submit.

EXHIBITION TICKETS ON SALE AUG 10

USE THE QR CODE OR FOLLOW THE
LINK HERE BELOW

mn.shor.tn/WOWStudents

Exhibition will be open to schools in 30-minute sessions from 9:30am till 2:30pm. There will be an artmaking activity as part of the exhibition. The exhibition will then be open to the public from 3pm till 6pm.

We can't wait to see what makes you go WOW!





GRETA BRANXTON UNITED CRICKET CLUB

PLAY HARD. HAVE FUN. BE PART OF THE TEAM!

2026/27 CRICKET REGISTRATIONS





**JUNIOR
REGISTRATION** **\$210**

U10's | U12's | U14's | U16's
GAMES SATURDAY MORNING

INCLUDES ALL MATCH FEES, PLAYING AND CLUB SHIRT



**CRICKET
BLAST** **\$100**

FOR CHILDREN UP TO 10 YEARS
MONDAY AFTERNOONS IN TERM 4

INCLUDES PARTICIPANT PACK



ACCEPTING ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS 

All ages. All abilities.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

REGISTER NOW!

 www.playhq.com

 Greta Branxton United Cricket Club

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