SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 10 2026
Thursday 5th November

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

NOV		NOV	
Wed 4th	Assembly – Year 4 Showcase – 9am	Wed 18th	Assembly – 9am All Welcome
Fri 6th	Kinder Transition / Orientation Session 2	Thu 19th	Kinder Orientation / Session 4
Fri 6th	Regional Tennis, Basketball and Cricket Trials	Fri 20th	COLOUR RUN
Tue 10th	Year 5 Leadership Applications are due today	Fri 27th	Swimming Carnival – Years 1 to 5
Wed 11th	Remembrance Day Liturgy	DEC	
Fri 13th	Kinder Orientation / Session 3	Tue 1st	Diocesan Debating
Fri 13th	Year 6 Transition Day @ St Joseph's Lochinvar	Wed 2nd	Final Assembly for 2026 – 9am
Mon 16th	FACE Meeting – 5:30pm @ Rosary Park	Thu 3rd	Andrew Chinn Concert
Tue 17th	Regional Debating – St John's Maitland	Fri 4th	**PUPIL FREE DAY**

Principal's Message

We give thanks for this community. Bless our efforts to serve one another and to do good works in Your name.
Amen

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE RESTRUCTURE

You may have heard recently that Catholic Schools Maitland-Newcastle, the Diocese in which our school is based, recently underwent a restructure. Financial sustainability was the trigger for the change, however, educational improvement is the purpose.

This has meant staffing has changed.

- The Teacher Librarian role has ceased in all Primary Schools, therefore Mrs Flynn will sadly leave us at the end of the school year.
- The English As a Language / Dialect (EAL/D) Teacher role has ceased in all Primary Schools, replaced by regional teachers. Miss Percival will unfortunately be leaving Rosary Park at the end of the year.
- Aboriginal Education hours at all Primary and Secondary Schools were revised. As a result, Miss Katrina Easton will work 4 days per week in the role. She has been thankfully retained as a class teacher on Fridays.
- There has been a reduced Pastoral Care Worker allocation at all schools. Mrs Charmaine Clark will be retained for one day a week in 2027.

These changes have been difficult for staff at the school, hence the length of time I have taken to communicate this to families. We wish Miss Percival and Mrs Flynn all the very best in their future endeavours and will farewell them in an appropriate way, towards the end of the year. They have been excellent servants of Rosary Park.

NEW ROLES

Two new roles were created, to replace the Pedagogical Mentor roles within the school.

- Mrs Paige Pringle will become the Curriculum and Pedagogy Teacher for Literacy
- Miss Danika Graham will become the Curriculum and Pedagogy Teacher for Numeracy

We congratulate these teachers on significant roles within the school for 2027.

LEARNING SUPPORT HOURS

Due to changes within the NDIS system and the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data in all Australian schools, the Learning Support funding model has been amended also, which has meant that our school have had a re-allocation of hours. Unfortunately, this meant that Ms Linda Museth has had her hours cease with the school.

We always value Mrs Museth and her work with the school and we wish her all the best in her endeavours.

POSITIONS ADVERTISED

It is that time of the year when positions are being advertised across the Diocese. Due to job-shares, departures of Mrs Burgess and Mrs Parkes, earlier this year and re-staffing, Rosary Park has the following positions to advertise:

- 2 x Permanent Full-Time Roles
- 1 x Permanent 0.6 (3 days per week)
- 1 x Temporary Full-Time role
- 2 x Temporary 0.4 (2 days per week role)

When the outcomes of interviews, to be held this week are known, we will update you as soon as possible. At times, these results can take up to two to three weeks to become known, due to administration issues.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER 2027

We are still in the process of aligning classes and teachers. When staffing is more clear, we will update families. Miss Dever has been enjoying transition with her Kinder 2027 students, and we hope to find a suitable partner for her shortly.

Netball Gala Day - Success

Last week a large group of our primary children participated in a netball gala day with our neighbouring Lower Hunter primary schools. Purposely we made teams of mixed abilities with some children having little or no experience playing the game. I was immensely proud to receive such positive feedback about the sportsmanship of our children and the way our parents helped our staff on the day to make it such a smooth and enjoyable day. Even more so, the fact that staff and parents from other schools gave similar positive comments about our children's co-operation, fair play and the spirit of inclusion they showed on the day. We are blessed to be part of such a supportive and welcoming community. Thank you!

A massive thank you to the teachers and parent volunteers who were a part of the big day.

Colour Fun Run

A reminder our Colour Fun Run will be held November 20. Start time will be 1pm.

Attendance at school

IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!!

At Rosary Park, we acknowledge that parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children. We strive to work in partnership with you to best enable you to raise your child. We can only work together if your child has regular school attendance.

The Education Act 1990 (NSW) states that 'the child attends the school at all times while the school is open for the child's instruction or participation in school activities.' This means that children are expected to be at school EVERY DAY that it is opened unless they have a specific medical reason not to be there. Where possible a medical certificate should be provided.

Remember, every day counts.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to school every day, PLEASE contact us and we can help you.

Classes 2026

Your child's class and teacher for 2026 will be sent home later in term 4 and these placements will be final.

We will hold a 'step up' morning on Thursday 10 December where 2026 staff will meet their classes.

If you are leaving Rosary Park in 2026, please let us know as we have families who are requesting enrolment places at Rosary Park for 2027.

UNIFORM
A reminder as we draw closer to the end of the year, it is important that children continue to wear their school uniform, including the correct socks. It is not expected that parents buy new shoes at this time of year. If children grow out of shoes or the shoes break, the child must bring in a note stating that the child is not in the correct shoes. Thank you for your understanding in this. Please ensure your child has a school hat to wear during break times and sport lessons. To remain sun safe all children must wear a hat on the playground. Anyone without a hat must play under the COLA or shade shelter.

We have a few hairstyles which are not part of the uniform policy, including shaved in lines and patterns, colours which aren't natural hues and rat's tails / mullets, which aren't being tied back. Please ensure our policy is followed to avoid any unnecessary negative communication.

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding your child, their learning or social interactions at Rosary Park, please do not hesitate to reach out via the admin email. We are here to support, nurture and help.

FACE Meeting - Monday November 16 5:30pm
Our FACE Meeting will be held at school at 5:30pm - 6:30pm. We will have an online link for those interested.

Any questions with notice should be sent to ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au by Monday 9 November.

An agenda will be posted on the Friday before the meeting, for viewing.

FAREWELL FATHER THOMAS AND WELCOME FATHER PETER
By the time this publication goes to email, Father Thomas will have returned to India, having concluded his 8-year ministry in the Parishes of Branxton and Singleton.

On behalf of Rosary Park, we wish to thank Father Thomas and pray for him on the remainder of his journey and ministry in India.

We held a wonderful Mass and tribute to him two Friday's ago, which I know he genuinely and greatly appreciated.

We also heard the news on Friday of last week that Father Peter Street has been officially commissioned to serve as Parish Priest of the Singleton and Branxton Parishes. We are very happy and grateful for Father Peter, and he has already made his presence known to students and families across the school.

Please make him feel welcome and say hello when he is here.
God bless you Father Thomas and Father Peter.

Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

Vivace Band Showcase

On Tuesday 3rd November, 19 students proudly represented our school at the Vivace Band Showcase, at Newcastle City Hall. The students combined efforts with St Therese's New Lambton and performed with enthusiasm, skill and confidence. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school community and should be extremely proud of their efforts.

A huge thank you to Mr Ward for his dedication in preparing the students, and to our families for their flexibility in transporting and supporting students to ensure they could participate in this special event.



Aspire Production Auditions

Recently, auditions were held for the Aspire Production, which will be presented in July and August next year. Positions within the Aspire ensembles are highly sought after, with hundreds of students from across the Diocese auditioning each year.

We are delighted to announce that **Zoe Harrison (Year 5)** has been offered a place in the instrumental ensemble. Congratulations, Zoe! This is a wonderful achievement, and we are incredibly proud of your success. We look forward to following your Aspire journey and seeing the production at the Civic Theatre next year.

End of Year Preparations

There are also many exciting activities taking place across the school as we move through the term. Our Kindergarten Transition Program is well underway, with our newest students beginning their journey into school life. At the same time, staff are working carefully through the process of planning classes for 2027 and are beginning to formulate end-of-year reports, which will provide families with an overview of each child's growth and achievements throughout the year.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of our school community as we approach the busy and exciting final weeks of the year.

Maryanne Hacker
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Congratulations to Father Peter Street:
We recently farewelled Father Thomas Chirackal at our Feast Day a few weeks ago. Father Thomas passes on his sincere gratitude to our Rosary Park community and says he has been truly blessed to have spent the past 8 years of his ministry in our local Parishes. He returned home to India and family on 3/11 last week.

We congratulate Father Peter Street who has been appointed by the Bishop as Parish Priest of Singleton and Parish Administrator of Branxton and Great Parish. The Rosary Park community officially welcomes him and thanks him for the work he has done with our school community so far.

Father Peter works with our school weekly with fortnightly visits to the school, speaking with the children about their current RE units of work and answering any questions our student may have about their learning. On alternate weeks, 2 grades attend and facilitate Parish masses on Thursday mornings at 9:15am.

A message from Father Peter:



Andrew Chinn Christmas Concert 2026 (3/12/26 5:30pm Rosary Park School Grounds:

On Thursday 3rd December, Australian religious songwriter and singer, Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to lead an Advent/Christmas Concert with our children. Andrew's songs, such as "These Hands", "Rainbow", "An African Blessing" and "Rise Up!" are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. Parents/parishioners are warmly invited to be a part of the celebration of faith and fun. There is no charge for adults. The concert will take place on school grounds, from 5:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Children will spend the day with Andrew in class time rehearsing their performances.

Jodie's Place Christmas Charity. A message from our Mercy School Leaders:

Written by Elke Bereza

This year, Rosary Park is fundraising for Jodie's place! Jodie's place is a local organisation, for women and children experiencing difficult circumstances, needing some extra help. When fundraising, you can bring baby, toddler and women's items, such as; books, puzzles, soaps and other useful essentials, such as; stationery and personal care items. When bringing them in you can take the items into Rosary Park School Office. Every donation counts, and this Christmas you can make a difference! Proudly supported by Rosary Park and St Bridgid's Parish.

Please see flier following in the newsletter.

Nicholas Redgrove
Religious Education Coordinator

LIBRARY NEWS

The last week for library borrowing in 2026 will be week 6 - Thursday the 19th of November.

This allows for the yearly stocktake to be completed and for all books to be returned before the end of the year.

PLEASE NOTE - library borrowing will continue in 2027. Looking forward, Mrs. Jenny Bailey is remaining at RPCS as the Library assistant and will be managing the library in the absence of a Teacher Librarian.

Thank you.

Melanie Flynn
Teacher Librarian

OOSH Vacation News

Dear families,

To help you plan for the summer school holidays, please see the Vacation Care Arrangements for St Nicholas OOSH Branxton below.

We plan our operating days around families' care needs and anticipated attendance. Where fewer children require care, we may reduce operating days or support families to access another St Nicholas OOSH service. This helps us provide a sustainable program while continuing to support our families.

December 2026

- Vacation Care will operate on Wednesday 16, Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December.
- Friday 18 December** will be our final operating day before Christmas.
- Families needing care from Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 December are welcome to attend St Nicholas OOSH Lochinvar, subject to enrolment and availability.

January 2027

- Vacation Care will resume on Monday 11 January.
- We will operate Monday to Thursday, excluding public holidays.
- We will be closed on Fridays throughout January.

February 2027

- Vacation Care will also be available on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 February.

Operating hours: 7am–6pm, unchanged.

We understand that changes to care arrangements can affect your family's plans. Please speak with our team if you have any questions or need support exploring care options.
Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to a fun summer with your children

ROSARY PARK

Christmas Giving Tree

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
— Matthew 25:40

This Advent and Christmas season, we are called to share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ with those in need.

Rosary Park Catholic School & St Brigids Parish is proud to support

Jodie's Place

a local women and children's shelter providing care and support for women and children experiencing difficult circumstances.

As we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas, we invite our school and parish community to help bring hope, dignity and joy to others by donating new, unwrapped gifts or essential care items.

IDEAS

Babies & Toddlers
Wipes · Baby lotion · Soft toys · Board books

Women
Shampoo · Conditioner · Deodorant
Hairbrushes · Toiletry packs

Children
Books · Puzzles · Craft kits · Games

Other Essentials
Stationery · Nappies · Personal care items
Gift bags & wrapping supplies

Please bring donated items to:

- Rosary Park School Office
- Under the Christmas Giving Tree at the Christmas Concert

Thank You

Thank you for helping us put our faith into action and share the love of Christ this Christmas. Through your generosity, we can remind local families that they are known, valued and loved. Together, let us be the hands and heart of Jesus this Christmas.

ROSARY PARK

ST BRIGID'S PARISH
BRANXTON AND GRETA

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.
Week ending 30th October 2026 (Week 3)

Class	*Class Award One*	*Class Award Two*	*MJR Award*
Kinder Blue	Brianna D	Jonty C	Zeppelin M
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Sophia F	Ava M-Z	Zoe S
Year 1 White	Asha W	Riley M	Isabella B
Year 2 Blue	George A	Ally C	Scott N
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	--	--	--
Year 3 White	Zoey A	Mason B	Lotti F
Year 4 Blue	Parker G	Will M	Reeve W
Year 4 White	Charlie D	Lauren M	Aerith J
Year 5 Blue	Reni S	Indy M	Will M
Year 5 White	Ken P	Nick S	Baxter A
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending 6th November 2026 (Week 4)

Class	*Class Award One*	*Class Award Two*	*MJR Award*
Kinder Blue	Charlee R	George B	Kai B
Kinder White	Abbigail N	Evie L	Freya M
Year 1 Blue	--	--	--
Year 1 White	--	--	--
Year 2 Blue	Angus M	Dustin P	Arabella D
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	--	--	--
Year 3 White	Miya W	Porter B	Carter M
Year 4 Blue	Olivia D	Brynn S	Josie W-H
Year 4 White	Dom P	Grayson B	Eleanor C
Year 5 Blue	Mackenzie H	Lexi D	Louella T
Year 5 White	Indigo G	Hudson L	Alfie T
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Principal's Awards: Ava G, Riley Mc, Zavier A, Isabelle R, Zac A, Charlize L, Sophia F, Kai B, Layla Mc, Johan C x 2, Liam D, Lleyton L

BUS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Applications are now open for 2027 SSTS travel

Applications for 2027 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel are now open.

Students in the Opal network applying for a School Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address from mid-January 2027.

Students must re-apply or update their details before the end of term 4 if they:

- are changing schools or campus location
- are changing home address
- are repeating a year
- have received an expiry notification for their school travel entitlement.

Students who meet the distance eligibility requirements will have their entitlement updated automatically. Students who no longer meet the distance requirements will receive an expiry notification. Please note that minimum distance requirements vary depending on the year/grade the student is enrolling in.

Re-applying or submitting updates before the end of Term 4 allows schools to endorse applications before the end of the year and helps ensure approved travel entitlements remain valid for the start of the 2027 school year.

Students with an entitlement approved under a medical condition that is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

Term Bus Pass holders will also receive a notification to re-apply.

Senior Secondary Student Transport Concession cards

Delivery of the Senior Secondary Student Concession Entitlement Card will be paused from Monday 14 December 2026 and will recommence from 28 January 2027 (inclusive).

Applications will need to be submitted by 4 December 2026 to ensure cards are delivered by or prior to 14 December 2026.

Endorsing student enrolment details

When endorsing student travel applications in the School Portal, always remember to check that the student details match the school's records. You can correct the first name, date of birth, and grade if they're entered incorrectly. For details that cannot be changed, such as last name, address, or visa status, do not endorse the application. Instead, select "No," which will send an email to the applicant asking them to update their information.

More information about endorsing student enrolment details is available in the School Portal User Guide.

School Drive Subsidy attendance verification

Reminder: Please use the Transport for NSW School Portal to complete any outstanding attendance verifications for students enrolled in the School Drive Subsidy (SDS) program for Semester 1, 2026. Timely attendance verification helps ensure eligible students continue receiving their subsidy without interruption.

To update attendance records:

1. Log in to the School Portal.
2. Select 'Driving Subsidy Attendance' from the menu.
3. Use the dropdown list to view students and enter attendance details.
4. If a student has left the school or their circumstances have changed, update their details using the 'Advise Changes' function.

For guidance on submitting attendance information and managing student records, please refer to the School Portal User Guide. If you require assistance with the School Portal or School Drive Subsidy processes, please submit an enquiry via the Transport Info feedback form.

Online resources for School Administrators

A range of resources and information for school staff is available online, including:

- Answers to frequently asked questions about school travel, using the School Portal, and Concession Entitlement Cards
- Subsidised school travel applications forms and brochures
- Downloadable resources for school staff, include the School Bus Toolkit to help communicate important bus related information to students, parents and carers.

Good for kids
good for life

Lunchbox Friendly Snacks

Packing healthy snacks doesn't have to be complicated! Simple, convenient options can help keep children fuelled for learning and play throughout the day.

Some lunchbox-friendly snack ideas include:

- Apple slices
- Watermelon cubes
- Strawberries or blueberries
- Carrot sticks and Hummus
- Cucumber sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Capsicum strips
- Wholegrain crackers
- Corn thins or rice cakes
- Cheese cubes
- Boiled eggs
- Air-popped popcorn
- Unsalted roasted chickpeas
- Plain or reduced-sugar yoghurt








Mixing and matching different foods can add variety while helping children enjoy a balanced lunchbox. Small changes can make a big difference and help establish healthy eating habits for life.

Lunchbox Tip: Let your child help choose and pack their snacks. Children are often more likely to eat foods they've helped select themselves!

NSW GOVERNMENT
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.



SWIMVAC 2027

Royal Life Saving NSW is bringing SwimVAC to communities across NSW this summer!

SwimVAC provides intensive swimming and water safety lessons for preschoolers and school-aged children, supporting participants of all abilities to build confidence, develop essential skills, and become safer in and around the water.

Join us for two weeks of swimming lessons in January 2027. Limited places available!

Please note in 2027, a participation fee will apply to SwimVAC, as funding is not available this year.

Bookings Open
1 October 2026

11–22 January 2027

- Daily intensive swimming lessons over two weeks
- Delivered by qualified instructors
- Student-to-teacher ratios in line with the GSPO
- Build confidence and reach swimming & water safety milestones
- School-aged children: $55 per week | Preschool children: $45 per week

(02) 9634 3700
swimandsurvive@royalnsw.com.au
drowningprevention.org.au

Swim and SURVIVE

GIRL GUIDES MEET NEAR YOU



Branxton Junior Guides

Tuesdays 5.00 - 6.30pm

For girls 7-10 years old

Branxton Guides

Tuesdays **6.00 - 8.00pm**

For girls 10-14 years

Branxton RSL Hall

67 Maitland Street Branxton

CONTACT: 1300 447 548

guides@girlguides-nswactnt.org.au

GIRL GUIDES AUSTRALIA NSW ACT NT

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