

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 2 2024

Thursday 1st August

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: 5pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta

AUGUST		AUGUST	
Wed 7 th	PEG Meeting @ 6pm in the school staffroom or via Zoom	Thu 22 nd	Years 3 & 4 Touch Football Gala Day
Wed 7 th	Diocesan Athletics Carnival	Mon 26 th	Father's Day Stall
Thu 8 th	Green and Gold Olympics Day	Tue 27 th	Years 3 & 4 Soccer Gala Day
Fri 9 th	Netball School State Cup Round 1	Wed 28 th	Catholic Schools Visit (brief assembly – no awards)
Wed 14 th	Assembly – Aerobics Teams performing	Thu 29 th	Years 5 & 6 Touch Football Gala
Thu 15 th	Year 4 Excursion – departs 6:30 am returns approx. 4pm	Fri 30 th	Father's Day celebrations. Sausage sizzle @ 11:30am followed by a game's afternoon.
Thu 15 th	Parish Mass -Kinder and Year 6 attending Parent Welcome	SEPTEMBER	
Fri 16 th	Year 3 Excursion – departs 6:00 am returns approx. 4:30 pm	Tue 10 th	Years 5 & 6 Soccer Gala Day

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 27th November – Christmas Concert with Andrew Chinn starting at 5:30pm

Tuesday 10th December 2024 – Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner

Friday 13th December 2024 – Whole school End of Year Awards at 9:45am (school hall)

Monday 16th December- Swimming carnival (Singleton).

Year 6 participation in MAT workshop at school on this day.

Principal's Message

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,

Your kingdom come;

Give us each day our daily bread,

And forgive us our sins,

For we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.

And do not put us to the test"

Luke 11:1-13

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope all families had a restful, relaxing holiday. We were certainly treated to lovely weather of cool mornings and some beautiful, sunny winter days.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) and Consequences

Our values and behaviour framework at Rosary Park is titled *Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)*. It is formed around our six pillars of Mercy (respect, compassion, courage, service, hospitality, justice). This promotes, rewards and expects that children display positive behaviours. Each Monday at our assembly the student PBL leaders outline the rule of the week. This rule becomes the focus across the school and is unpacked and discussed in each class with age-appropriate lessons taught. These rules for the fortnight are devised according to behaviour data collated and what teachers notice whilst on playground duty as areas that need to be a focus and require improvement.

Whilst our PBL framework (attached) promotes positive behaviours, it also has consequences when behaviours are not acceptable. These are titled yellow for minor behaviours and red for behaviours displayed that are major. We have recently revised the consequences that I wish to make all parents aware of.

In summary:

Yellow cards are given for minor breaches of the PB4L matrix. The consequence for such behaviours is time off play (at least one play time), community service or walking/reflection time with a duty teacher. Where possible parents will receive a call or email from the investigating teacher. A restorative reflection sheet (attached) will be completed and sent home for further discussion and parent signing. If a child receives three (3) yellow cards in one term this automatically becomes a red card ('major') incident.

If your child receives a 'red card' for what is seen as a serious breach of our positive behaviour expectations, you will receive a call from the investigating teacher about this incident. This red card will result in your child receiving an immediate in school suspension. So, for the entire next school day, your child will complete all class and playground activities in the office overseen by a member of the executive. They will also complete the reflection sheet outlining **their** actions in the incidents. This sheet will be sent home with the child, and you are expected to discuss it with them, sign it and return it to school the next day.

If your child receives a SECOND red card in the term, this will result in an out of school suspension for two days. This will mean that your child will stay home for the next two school days, completing all

schoolwork set by their teacher, as well as a reflection sheet. Upon return to school, the parent/s and child must attend a meeting with the principal as per the Diocesan suspension policy. This meeting may include the setting of a behaviour plan that the child is expected to adhere to. Any further out of school suspensions will be of five days' duration and referred to the Catholic Schools Office as per the policy.

Our expectation is that positivity will be upheld, and children will demonstrate the pillars of Mercy in all their interactions and behaviours. Your support in upholding the expectations of the positive behaviours and reinforcing this with your child/ren is expected and appreciated.

Staffing

We welcome Mrs Tiffany Nolan's return from maternity leave to the role of Learning Support Teacher (LST) Mon-Tuesday. Mrs Nichola Ellis remains at full time LST.

Mr Jack Montgomery (1 White teacher) is still unwell with a pre-existing medical condition. He is still unable to return to work until his specialist deems that he is well enough to do so. In the meantime, Mrs Caitlin Brown (Mon-Tue) and Mrs Emily Capraro (W-Th- Fri) will teach 1 White. Please contact these teachers via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au should you wish to discuss anything about your child. I have made the children in 1 White aware of this plan and Mr Montgomery's absence.

Victoria Prosser has relinquished her permanent teacher role at Rosary Park. Mr Heath Turner (Mon-Thur) and Mrs Lauren Wicklein (Fridays) will remain teaching 4 White for term 3-4.

Important Safety update

There has recently been a car park added to the old St Brigid's school site next to the church. This is now an additional traffic hazard for our children and in recent days there have been cars exiting this driveway without necessarily displaying a duty of care to children. If you are parking in this area, please be diligent whilst entering/exiting the car park.

To avoid this area as much as possible, all parents are asked to move up to the church area to collect their children who are on walkers' line from the duty staff. We will also be directing our children on bikes to avoid the St Brigid's school grounds, so they are not interacting in the car park. Instead, they will continue around the footpath, avoiding the new car park area. The children will need to be vigilant crossing the driveway as there are cars coming in and out during this time.

We thank you for adhering to these new guidelines. Child safety is always paramount in decision making at Rosary Park.

PEG meeting for term 3

Family engagement in our school community plays a vital role in ensuring all Rosary Park students reach their full potential.

In term 3 our parent presentation in our PEG Meeting is a video presentation recording: **'Supporting your child to make friends and respond to social difficulties and bullying'** presented by one of Australia's leading experts on wellbeing and resilience, and the Director of Positive Minds Australia, Madhavi Nawana Parker.

All are welcome at our next PEG meeting **Wednesday 7 August 6pm** in the staffroom (and via Zoom)

Please send in any items for general business by 3pm Monday 5 August.

Change to Sports Shirt in 2025

Following a parent request and voting process in 2022, our school sport shirts will change in 2025. Flanagan's who stock our uniforms, are aware of this and we have been working with them since 2022 to run down the stock of our old sports shirts.

Online Games

A reminder to parents to monitor closely your child's online interactions. As I have said many times before, devices should always be used by children in a public place in the home, not in bedrooms. That way, adults can monitor children's online interactions. Also, please remember that most social media and games like Fortnite have a minimum age of 12, which means most of our children in primary school *should not* be playing these. For further information, visit: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/kids>

Contacting Teachers

The best outcomes occur for our children when school and home work together. We look forward to continuing to build the strong links between families and school. Your child's teacher is obviously an integral part of this and there may be times during the year, aside from our scheduled parent interviews in term 1, that you need to contact your child's teacher. If so, contact can be made via the school's administration email: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au . These emails will be forwarded to the relevant teacher by me or Janelle Dixon (Assistant Principal). Teachers will respond to your email within 2 business days and during the hours of 8am and 5pm.

You can also contact your child's teacher through our office, by leaving a message for them. They will return your call as soon as possible. As you can appreciate, teachers are very busy during the school day so any 'urgent' messages for your child regarding travel arrangements, medications, lunches etc. should be made by calling the office.

School Attendance

If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Education in NSW is compulsory. Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance. The principal has the right to question parents or carers requests for their child to be absent from school. Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason for absence is justified.

Parents and carers are asked not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. If your family holiday is in school time, inform the principal in advance and request leave and/or exemption from school. Any absence from school for 10 school days or more requires an application for exemption. Forms are available from the office. These exemptions *cannot* be issued retrospectively.

It is required under the Education and Public Instruction Act 1987 that a written note explaining a child's absence from school be supplied by the parents or carers. Parents may also communicate absence via the Compass App, by a phone call or email to the school. If advice of absence is not forthcoming *within 7 school days*, then the child is marked 'Absent without Leave.' All absences must be recorded and kept by the school for 7 years.

Principals may request a doctor's certificate if leave is for several days OR there are patterns of absence e.g. every second Monday.

If a child arrives at school after 9.00am, please accompany them to the front office and sign them in on the Compass kiosk. If you are collecting your child before 3.00pm, please come to the front office and sign them out via the Compass kiosk and your child will be called from class to meet you there.

Kind regards,
Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal's Message

Year 6 Canberra Trip

Students from Year 6 are currently participating in an education tour of the national capital. Students have been given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding to our school in the amount of \$30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.



NAPLAN Results

Last week we sent home our 2024 NAPLAN results to families. Children are placed under one of 4 proficiency standards. Exceeding, strong, developing, and needs additional support. Overall, as a school we had some pleasing results, achieving above national average in many areas. This data helps to inform our next steps for curriculum focus areas moving forward.

It is important to note that NAPLAN is a "point in time" assessment and does not always give an accurate reading of how your child is achieving academically. There are many variables that can impact a child's result, and this is why any questions or concerns are best directed to the class teacher. Many assessments are conducted throughout a school year and all results need to be taken into consideration when reviewing a child's strengths and areas for development. If you would like to discuss your child's results, or you would like anything on the report explained please reach out to the school for support.

Label Uniforms

At this time of year when the morning is cold, and the day warms up we often have many jumpers and jackets left around the playground. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled. The names fade over time and are difficult to read. Please check that the name on items is still clear so we can return items to their owner. Thank you for assisting with this.

Warm Regards,
Janelle Dixon

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal:

We are thrilled to announce the success of our recent St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal and Pyjama Day! Thanks to the incredible generosity and support of our school community, we raised a total of \$334.05. This significant contribution has been donated directly to St Vincent de Paul, helping to provide warmth and comfort to those in need during the colder months.

Thank you for your support.

Parish Mass Times:

This term we have re-commenced attending our parish mass on a Thursday. Every grade will have the opportunity to attend Mass at 9.20am led by Fr Thomas. See below dates when classes are attending Mass. Parents are more than welcome to join us at the church on a Thursday.

Week and Date	Grade to attend Mass
15 th August Week 4	Kinder and Year 6
12 th September Week 8	Year 1, 3 and 5
19 th September Week 9	Year 2 and 4

Celebration of the Feast Day of Saint Anne and Joachim (Grandparents' Day)

As the grandparents of Jesus, Saint Anne and Saint Joachim are considered the patron saints of grandparents, with their feast day celebrated on July 23rd. Their love for one another and for Mary is an example to us of how God calls us to live. They also remind us to honour our own grandparents and to thank them for the blessings they have passed down to us in love.

It was lovely to see so many of our grandparents (and elderly friends) at Rosary Park last Thursday to celebrate this feast day, and the contribution of all grandparents in the lives of our children. The children loved having their grandparents and elderly friends to show around the school. A special thankyou to the Kindergarten staff and children for their hard work in preparing and running the liturgy. Here are some wonderful examples of the things our kindergarten students love about their grandparents:

Angus: I love my grandparents because they let me ride my buggy at their farm.

Tate: I love my grandparents because they give me chocolates and let me swim in their spa

Ivy: I love my grandparents because they spoil me, they show me cool magic tricks and they let me watch movies in bed with a drink.

Pearl: I love my grandparents because I get to spend lots of time with them and give me lots of yummy food like chocolate.

Dusty: I love my grandpa because he gives me lollies and lets me stay up late.

Mason: I love my grandparents because I get to clean the house with them, and they help me learn.





Weekly Awards

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

Week ending 5th July 2024 (Term 2 Week 10)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	Mercy Award
Kinder Blue	Blaine S	Lara A	Landon B
Kinder White	Eva N	Hunter B	Isla H
Year 1 Blue	Zoey A	Harvey C	Lylah H
Year 1 White			
Year 2 Blue			
Year 2 White			
Year 3 Blue	Hendrix B	Louella T	Vy N
Year 3 White	Anderson P	Mason C	Allie D
Year 4 Blue			
Year 4 White	Charlize L	Isaac L	James S
Year 5 Blue	Kingsley j	Karmichael A	Logan C
Year 5 White	Jacob L	Darcy H	Georgie W
Year 6 Blue			
Year 6 White			

Week ending 26th July 2024 (Term 3 Week 1)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	Mercy Award
Kinder Blue	Blaine S	Sophia S	Isabelle S
Kinder White	Astrid C	Ayla D	Henry C
Year 1 Blue	Baylee H	Harvey C	Ava G
Year 1 White	Jesse J	Eva S	Amelia H
Year 2 Blue			
Year 2 White			
Year 3 Blue	Aubree M	Addison B	Annabelle B
Year 3 White	Aramaia M	Alfie T	Willow J
Year 4 Blue	Hannah C	Amarlie K	Emmett C
Year 4 White	Addison K	Noah I	Claire B
Year 5 Blue	Taylah B	Cooper C	Kingsley J
Year 5 White	Jesse C	Laylah K	Georgie W
Year 6 Blue	Scarlett T	Piper J	Hunter G
Year 6 White	Ella-Grace W	Korban L	Asha J

Principal's Awards

Annabelle L, Ruby N, Tyler T, Noha M, Indy M, Zoe M, Mackenzie H, Tanner H, Jack C, Cameron D, Tate K, Spencer C, Charlie L, Levi C, Zoe H, Dustin P, Imogen M, Lara A, Ellie A, Darby T, Hugo S, Cameron D,



**NAIDOC inspired recipe:
Wattle seed & blueberry pancakes**

Serves: 10-20

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups lite milk
- 2 small bananas
- 1/2 cup blueberries (fresh, frozen or tinned)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups self-raising wholemeal flour
- 2 tsp ground wattle seed*
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp cooking oil for frying

Equipment:

- Blender or large mixing bowl
- Large frying pan

Method:

1. Place the milk, banana, egg and vanilla into the blender and blend until smooth, alternatively mix in large bowl until well combined
2. Add flour and ground wattle seed and blend until smooth
3. Fold in the blueberries
4. Add the oil to a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat
5. Pour the batter to make a 10cm pancake and cook evenly for approximately 2-3 minutes on each side.
6. Serve warm. Top with optional Greek yoghurt and honey.



*Wattle seed can be purchased at specialty supermarkets, native food stores or online.

Source: MindChamps (www.mindchamps.org)



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<https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>

Developed by Hunter New England LHD



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.

A blue poster for the Kurri Curry & Arts Festival. The title is in large white font with a rainbow brushstroke behind it. Logos for Cessnock City Council and NSW Government are in the top corners. The location is Col Brown Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri. The event runs on Saturday 17 August (5PM-10PM) and Sunday 18 August (10AM-3PM). Activities include face painting, belly dancing, fire twirling, live music, curry demos, and food vendors. A 'Free Entry' badge is in the bottom right.

Kurri Curry & Arts Festival
Col Brown Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri

SATURDAY 17 AUGUST | 5PM – 10PM

Face painting & balloon artists all day
Belly dancing from 7.15pm – 7.30pm
Fire twirling from 8.30pm – 9pm
Live music & performances from 5pm
Curry demos with Chef Gavin from 5.30pm
Fresh curry and a variety of food vendors

SUNDAY 18 AUGUST | 10AM – 3PM

Art & weaving workshops feat.
Mitch Revs, Jenny McCracken, Speaking in Colour, and 90 Degree Art

Chainsaw carving by Rob Bast all day
Face painting & balloon artists all day
Lawn games & craft activities from 10.30am
Live music & performances all day
A variety of food vendors

Free Entry

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