



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 8

Thursday 5th December 2024

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We acknowledge the Wonnarua people-the first custodians of this land

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

IMPORTANT DATES

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

DECEMBER		2025	IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025
Mon 9 th	Step Up Morning	FEBRUARY 2025	
Tue 10 th	Year 6 Farewell Liturgy and Dinner	Tue 4 th	First Day of School for Years 1 to 6
Wed 11 th	Last assembly and Band Concert	Thu 6 th	Kindergarten commences with part days
Fri 13 th	Whole School End of Year Awards at 9:45am (school hall)	Wed 12 th	Kindergarten FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL
Mon 16 th	Swimming Carnival Years 1 – 5 (Singleton)	Other 2025 Dates	
Mon 16 th	Year 6 MAT Workshop at School	Wed 11 th – Fri 13 th June	Year 5 Great Aussie Bush Camp
Wed 18 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 4, 2024	Wed 23 rd – Fri 25 th July	Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Principal's Message

Feast of Christ the King

O Lord our God, you alone are the Most Holy King and Ruler of all nations. We pray to You, Lord, in the great expectation of receiving from You, O Divine King, mercy, peace, justice and all good things. Protect, O Lord our King, our families, and the land of our birth.

Dear Parents/Carers

As this is the final Newsletter for 2024, I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of me, my staff, and our children throughout the year. It's been a hectic yet very productive and rewarding year. I wish all our year 6 children all the very best as they embark on the next phase of their school journey.

In addition, to those families leaving us at the end of 2024, I thank you for all that you have contributed to our community and wish you all the best for the future.

Throughout 2024, we have gathered as a community to celebrate liturgies, a Christmas concert, donated to St Vincent de Paul and Missions, attended excursions and incursions, sports gala days, choir and band performances and many, many more that would not be possible without the support and dedication of the parents and staff of Rosary Park.

I am truly grateful for all that we do together to enrich the lives and learning of the children in our community. Thank you to all students, families and staff who make Rosary Park such a fantastic place.

I would also like to thank Fr Thomas for his great support of our school this year. Finally, a big thank you to my wonderful colleagues who all work hard every day to deliver a quality education in a caring environment.

It is with a heavy heart that I will leave Rosary Park at the end of the school year to take up the principalship at St Therese's New Lambton. It has been my privilege to lead such a supportive and welcoming community for the last seven years. Thank you for the support of me personally, our staff and our school initiatives.

Most of all, thank you for the gift of your children who I have loved seeing and working with every day.

I wish all our children and families a safe and happy holiday break. I hope all families take the time to experience the great joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus, our saviour.

We look forward to you joining us for our end of year liturgy from 9:45am on Friday 13 December. We will also hand out our end of year awards and announce our 2025 leaders at this time.

Staffing 2025

Nichola Ellis (Learning Support Teacher) has taken a place as Learning Support Co-Ordinator at St Aloysius Chisholm for term 1-2. She will return to Rosary Park in term 3.

Mrs Kathryn Piggott has been appointed to the permanent FT Learning Support Teacher role starting in 2025. She currently works at Bishop Tyrell College.

Tiffany Nolan will leave Rosary Park at the end of the year to take a Learning Support Teacher role at St Patrick's Lochinvar. We thank Tiffany for her commitment to our school for almost 10 years and wish her well in her new position.

Heath Turner will leave Rosary Park to begin his teaching career at St Joseph's Merriwa.

We welcome Danika Graham to Rosary Park for 2025. She is currently teaching at St Therese's New Lambton.

Classes/Teachers for 2025

Kinder Blue: Kylie Lunn	Kinder White: Ellen Rae
Year 1 Blue: Louise Kevin	Year 1 White: Phoebe Bridge (Mon-Tue) Jess Dougherty (W-T-F)
Year 2 Blue: Emelia Lindus	Year 2 White: Nikola Groves is our Gifted Education Mentor and takes every Tuesday to fulfil this role Tuesday: Term 1 - Madelaine Percival
Year 3 Blue: Naomi Rodwell	Year 3 White: Danika Graham
Year 4 Blue: Grace Dever	Year 4 White: Chloe Morgan
Year 5 Blue: Mackenzie Gageler (M-T-W) Debbie Parkes (Thu-Fri)	Year 5 White: Simone Cameron
Year 6 Blue: Amber Van Duuren (M-Tue-Fri) Term 1 Kate Burgess (Wed-Thur) Term 2-4 Paige Pringle	Year 6 White: Nick Standing

RFF teacher: Chelsea Edwards (PE) M-T-W

Library teacher Melanie Flynn M-T-W

Learning Support Teacher- Kathryn Piggott

Pastoral Care worker – Kylie Johns

English As additional Language Dialect teacher 2 days/week- Janelle Dixon

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander teacher 9 days/fortnight- Katrina Easton

All parents will be notified today of their child's 2025 teacher and class via a note today. Please take a moment to use the QR code and share with their 2025 teacher some information, your hopes, and goals for them for the coming school year.

Advanced Notice

In 2025, our year 5 students will attend Great Aussie Bush Camp 11th –13th June 2025 (approx. cost \$430/child) whilst our year 6 students will have their excursion to Canberra on 23rd – 25th July 2025 (approx. cost \$480/child). As these excursions are a significant financial commitment for families (**not** covered by our resource fee), I am giving you advanced notice so that you are able to budget for them.

School fee information for 2025 will be sent out once received by the Catholic Schools Office. Our school resource fee is \$595/child in 2025.

Compass

Please be aware that if your child is leaving Rosary Park (**including year 6 students**) you will lose access to all your child's Rosary Park reports as of our last school day (Wednesday 18th). Please download and/or print the reports before this date.

Semester 2 Student Reports

The semester 2 reports will be available via Compass from Tuesday 10th December. Should you wish to discuss your child's report with the class teacher/s please contact them via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Canteen Changes

Our last canteen day is Friday 6 December. It will open Friday 13 December for ice blocks.

Wishing you a happy, holy, and safe Christmas,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal Message

End of term Child Protection and safety lessons

As always at Rosary Park we revisit our safety and child protection lessons at the end of each term before the holidays. Teachers will be providing the opportunity for students to identify safe people in their home circle, as well as safe behaviours when in the community. If you would like to have these conversations in your home, you may find the following resources helpful.

Kids Helpline online - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids>

The Kids Helpline website has an abundance of child friendly fact sheets and videos to support all areas of child and adolescent wellbeing and mental health. The resources are sorted into age ranges to ensure your child can access quality age-appropriate materials.

Road Safety - <https://www.safetytown.com.au/>

The Safety Town website is a NSW State Government initiative and has resources for students, parents and teachers. It has government videos and fact sheets about helping to keep your children safe as a passenger and pedestrian. Games and quizzes help to engage students in safety messages about bike safety and simple road rules.

Holiday Learning

Don't forget to keep learning during the holiday break. There are many simple ways to continue the learning for your child/children during the holidays. Never underestimate the impact of participating in simple learning games and activities with your child/children. One of the most valuable things you can do with your child/children is to read with them. Not only does this build their vocabulary, but also their oral language and comprehension.

For younger children

- Identify numbers and letters/words in the environment when driving in the car, walking around town or at the shops

- Play karaoke – let children read the words and sing, this builds graphological or picture (what a word looks like) knowledge to assist reading and spelling
- Build multiplication knowledge – identify grids or arrays in the environment how many rows and how many columns
- Cook together – talk about mass the meaning of kg, g, l, ml etc
- Use adjectives (describing words) to describe some objects in nature – who can think of the most describing words
- If you must watch something on a screen, turn on subtitles for more exposure to print
- Count down the days of the holidays on a calendar
- Use an analogue clock to identify bedtime, bath time etc Where is the big hand? What does it mean when the big hand is on 6? etc
- Categorise objects using various criteria eg. Size, shape, colour, manmade/natural
- Use items in the environment to create an artwork

For older children

- Estimate the total of a group of objects in the trolley
- Calculate the cost of a day out – movie tickets plus the cost of lunch for the whole family etc
- Cook together – double or halve the ingredients in a recipe to allow for more/less people
- Read the instructions to a new game
- Read a book with your child – you read left hand pages, and they read the right
- Design an outdoor obstacle course and time how long it takes to complete the activities – can you get faster over the holidays?
- Use a calendar
- Tell the time on an analogue clock

As we come to the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting Rosary Park with the education of your children. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with so many wonderful families and children every day.

To those leaving our community, I wish you every happiness for the future, may you always remember the lessons and values you've been taught at Rosary Park and for those returning next year, I look forward to working with you again in 2025.

I wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas time. I hope you have the chance to spend some quality time with your family and friends.

Warm Regards

Janelle Dixon

Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Andrew Chinn

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our wonderful Christmas concert with Andrew Chinn last week. The evening was a true celebration of the Christmas spirit, filled with joy, music, and the incredible voices of our students.

A special thank you to our talented students for their enthusiastic performances, to our dedicated teachers for their hard work in preparing the children, and to our supportive parents and families for being part of this memorable event.

It was a delight to see our community come together to celebrate the message of love and hope that Christmas brings. The smiles and laughter throughout the evening were a testament to the strength of our school community. We have had such positive feedback and have booked Andrew again for 2026.





Merry Christmas

Last Sunday was the first Sunday in Advent. This marks the beginning of the Church Year. This is where we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus over the next four weeks. The first candle, which is purple, symbolises hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.



As we come closer to the end of the school year, I would like to take the time to thank you all for the generosity you have shown this year. We truly are a wonderful school community living through the Mercy Pillars of respect, compassion, hospitality, justice, service, and courage every single day.

May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and may God bless and keep you safe during the holiday season and all through the coming year.

God Bless
Mackenzie Gageler

Gifted Education Mentor News

Congratulations to Samantha R and Jaxon C for their excellent results in the 2024 ICAS competition, resulting in an invite to the ICAS All Stars Competition!

The ICAS All-Stars competition is a chance for students to push their academic boundaries, gain recognition at the state level, and be rewarded for their hard work. It's more than a competition—it's a celebration of excellence and a pathway to greater academic achievement. Students must qualify for the competition by completing the ICAS assessments at their school and achieving a Merit or above!

The ICAS All-Stars competition features three assessment tiers designed to match the academic abilities of participants based on their 2025 school year level:

- **Junior Assessment:** Years 3, 4, and 5
- **Intermediate Assessment:** Years 6, 7, and 8
- **Senior Assessment:** Years 9, 10, 11, and 12

Participants will have the opportunity to earn prestigious titles and generous prizes:

- **ICAS State Champion:** The top scorer in each year level per state will win **\$500**.
- **Top Tier Scorer:** The highest scorer in each assessment tier (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) per state will receive **\$1,000**.
- **Dual Honours:** Students achieving the highest score for both their year level and assessment tier will win **\$1,500**.
- **Participation Award:** All competitors will receive a digital certificate celebrating their achievement.

Prizes are awarded as Mastercard eGift vouchers, allowing students to use them for educational or personal growth opportunities.

Over the past 2 weeks, our two Virtual Academy students had the chance to present their Semester 2 learnings at the 2024 Virtual Academy Showcase. The showcase was a chance for students to share their research and showcase their creativity and critical thinking skills.

Both Harry and Evie presented with confidence, and we are proud of their efforts!

Nikola Groves

2024 Book Week





Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending Friday 22nd November 2024 (Week 6)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	--	--	--
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Addison M	Mason B	James D
Year 1 White	Charlie L	Eva S	Carter A
Year 2 Blue	Gus W	Koa VW	Lleyton L
Year 2 White	Jenson F	Eli B	Teagan S
Year 3 Blue	Minh B	Baxter A	Aubree M
Year 3 White	Anderson P	Jayden M	Imogen M
Year 4 Blue	Jaiden X	Lachlan B	Lucy S
Year 4 White	--	--	--
Year 5 Blue	Eyden G	Sylvester R	Charli F
Year 5 White	Evie S	Sam J	Alex L
Year 6 Blue	Ella R	Marley G	Aden P
Year 6 White	Ella Grace W	Sharni L	Aria B

Week ending Friday 29th November 2024 (Week 7)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	--	--	--
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Porter B-S	Claire D	Lylah H
Year 1 White	Hunter W	Xavier T	Amarni L
Year 2 Blue	Alfie W	Hendrix M	Lauren M
Year 2 White	Amelia H	Callum F	Scarlett C
Year 3 Blue	Liam H	Will M	Annabelle L
Year 3 White	Willow J	Brailyn L	Noha m
Year 4 Blue	Linda P	Lucy S	Liam R
Year 4 White	--	--	--
Year 5 Blue	Charlotte P	Luke W	Darby T
Year 5 White	Hudson O	Samuel D	Aleah D
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

O Come Let Us Adore Him

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Singleton: 19 Dec, 5.00pm
Branxton: 20 Dec, 5.00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

St Patrick's Singleton 6.30pm
St Brigid's Branxton 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

St Patrick's Singleton 12.00am
St Catherine's Greta 8.00am
St Patrick's Singleton 10.00am

A poster for a Christmas event. The background is a dark blue night sky with stars and a silhouette of Santa Claus's sleigh flying across the top left. The text is centered and reads: "NEWCASTLE PERMANENT" with a house icon, "Carols IN THE PARK" in large red and white letters, and "FREE Family Event!" in a green oval. Below this, it says "Celebrate Christmas under the stars with food stalls and live music!". A black banner contains the text "FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER CESSNOCK SPORTSGROUND" with small bell icons. Below the banner, it says "Gates open 5pm Carols from 6.30pm Fireworks at 9pm". A red box at the bottom contains the text "Please note that this is STRICTLY an alcohol-free event". At the very bottom, there are logos for Cessnock City Council, PAC, Hunter Water, and another organization.

 NEWCASTLE PERMANENT

Carols

FREE
Family Event!

IN THE PARK

Celebrate Christmas under the stars with food stalls and live music!

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER CESSNOCK SPORTSGROUND

Gates open 5pm Carols from 6.30pm Fireworks at 9pm

Please note that this is **STRICTLY** an alcohol-free event

   

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