

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 5 2024
Thursday 27 February

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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.

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

FEBRUARY		MARCH	
Fri 28 th	Lower Hunter Sports Trials	Thu 6 th	Lower Hunter Soccer, Netball and Hockey Trials
MARCH		Thu 6 th	Year 1 Total Excursion
Tue 4 th	Shrove Tuesday	Fri 14 th	PUPIL FREE DAY – NO STUDENTS REQUIRED TODAY
Wed 5 th	Ash Wednesday	Fri 21 st	Harmony Day at RPB

Jubilee Prayer

Father in Heaven, may the faith you have given us
 In your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled
 In our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the Blessed hope
 For the coming of your Kingdom.
 May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
 May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
 In the sure expectation of a new Heaven and a new Earth
 When with the powers of evil banquished, you glory will shine eternally.
 May the grace of the jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope

A yearning for the treasures of Heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer

Throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

AMEN

Principal's Welcome

I sincerely hope that everyone has had a terrific fortnight, as we journey through to the fifth week of school. It has gone quite quickly and, in the speediness of life, we try to take time to pause and celebrate the great achievements and milestones our children have had so far this year.

Swimming Success

Congratulations to our swimming team on their efforts at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival recently. We had some excellent efforts and positive results. Thank you to Miss Dever for assisting with the supervision of the Lower Hunter team.

As you may or may not be aware, the Regional Carnival was cancelled this year, due to inclement and potentially dangerous weather, so all qualifiers went from the times they swam at the school carnival. This is a terrific lesson for all here. At every event you run, swim, jump or throw at, you need to try your best on EVERY occasion. The same thing will occur at the Athletics Carnival, so please make sure you instruct your child, if they are competitive, to perform at their absolute best, no matter what the opposition.

Called To Serve Mass

Rosary Park had one of the best contingents at the Called to Serve Mass a couple of Tuesdays ago. It was wonderful to see so many of our staff, willing to give up their evenings to celebrate Mass with the Diocesan community. It is a great tribute to the dedication and enthusiasm for teaching and faith formation, that our staff valued this above their own needs.

Assemblies

I've been so impressed with the student's behaviour during Assemblies. Kindergarten have been at school for a very short period of time, and they are ultra impressive! It is an absolute credit to our teachers and learning support staff, as well as you, our families, for giving them the best possible start, for teaching them correct manners and etiquette during public gatherings. The same could be said about last Friday too, at the Opening Liturgy at Rosary Park.

Early Learning Visit

Miss Rae and Mrs Lunn received a visit from the Catholic Schools Maitland Newcastle Early Learning Team. The Successful Foundations program has been highly effective at transitioning students from pre-school and early learning facilities to primary school demands. The play-based element of the program keeps children engaged, gives them the chance to demonstrate cooperation, turn taking, and other social skills, which are beneficial for future learning.

From all reports, Rosary Park is the place to be for Early Learning!

Opening School Liturgy

Our Opening School Liturgy was sensational! The beautiful service gave our 2025 school leaders an opportunity to be presented with their badges by their parents, as well as have them formally introduced to the whole school.

Thank you to Ms Gageler for her organisation as Religious Education Coordinator. The service was reverent as well as engaging for children.

We thank Father Thomas Chirackal from the Parish for celebrating Liturgy with us. We hope to see you as often as possible, Father!

The students were amazing during Liturgy and they are to be commended for their behaviour and participation.

Thank you to all our parents, and families who were in attendance at the Liturgy. You make them that little bit extra special.

Phone Calls / Emails

Something I wish to address quite early is emails and phone calls. Our Code of Conduct for families is very clear in its wording and interpretation, especially around phone calls and emails and how they are to be conducted.

Parents/Carers and volunteers in Catholic school communities agree to:

- ▶ Understand and abide by all diocesan policies, procedures and guidelines, which are available on the CSO website www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/policies
- ▶ Model positive behaviour to their child and all children in the school community.
- ▶ Ensure children attend school on time, every day the school is open for instruction.
- ▶ Take an active interest in their child's school and their learning and to engage positively in all aspects of their child's learning.
- ▶ Participate in the Liturgical and Faith Life community of the school including participation in all aspects of the Religious Studies program regardless of personal beliefs.
- ▶ Work in a positive manner with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child.
- ▶ Communicate constructively, respectfully and in a spirit of partnership with the school and use processes and protocols outlined in the CSO Complaints Resolution Policy documents when raising concerns.
- ▶ Communicate with their child's teacher or the Principal directly regarding any concerns about their child, other students, staff or community members.
- ▶ Reject aggressive, abusive and confrontational language and behaviour, as this is counterproductive to the sustainability of any relationship. Approaching students, community members and/or staff in a confronting manner will not be tolerated.
- ▶ Support all school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.
- ▶ Treat all school staff, students, other members of the school community, visitors and volunteers with respect in all dealings with them both personally and through the use of all social media technologies at all times.
- ▶ Discuss with the Principal any barriers to meeting the financial obligations agreed to at the time of enrolment and seek to form an agreement with the school to meet these.
- ▶ Ensure any agreement made with the school is honoured.

We aim to work with each family in the spirit of partnership and ensure that every family is heard, validated and gets the opportunity to have their opinions considered, in the learning, social, emotional, spiritual and physical dimensions of their child. Rosary Park recognises wholeheartedly that our parents are the FIRST educators of their children. Your decision making is always respected.

The expectation at Rosary Park is that all communication is considered, respectful and driven by the desire for actions which are productive and promote a positive partnership between all parties. Rosary Park staff, your child's teachers, have a right to come to work and have a safe

environment presented to them, so they can teach, assess, and help your children to be their best.

Kind regards,
Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message



Harmony Day 2025

At Rosary Park we will celebrate national "Harmony Week" during week 8 of Term 1 from March 17th-21st. During Harmony Week we acknowledge the diverse backgrounds of the people that call our country home. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we celebrate this during Harmony Week. The very first Harmony Week occurred in 1999 and since then government agencies, churches, schools and other community organisations hold events celebrating the core values of inclusiveness, respect, and belonging for all Australians regardless of cultural background, language or beliefs.

At Rosary Park we will celebrate Harmony Week with a number of activities designed to acknowledge the cultural diversity of the families within our school community. On **Friday 21st March** we will celebrate with a fun day where we encourage children to **wear orange to school** as a visible sign of our commitment to embrace what makes each of us unique and promote the acceptance of diversity in our school community.

HARMONY WEEK

Rosary Park Harmony Week Activities

Cultural backgrounds and ancestry map

For Harmony Week we will be conducting a range of activities to celebrate diversity. We will be asking families to discuss cultural heritage with their child/ren and will plot on a map of the world all the wonderful places the children in our school are from. This map will be completed at school during Harmony Week.

Poster/Display -

Children will also be encouraged to complete a poster or display of the important or valued aspects of their family ancestry. This could include places the family ancestry comes from (including a map), customs and traditions from this place, foods, climate and/or distinctive architecture from the area. This will be a home task and not compulsory. Posters can be brought into school on any day during Harmony Week.

Further details about Harmony Week to follow on Compass.

For more Information about National Harmony Day – see the following website

EVERYONE BELONGS
www.harmony.gov.au

Restorative Questions

- What happened?
- What were you thinking/feeling at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by your choice?
- In what way?

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

In the last newsletter and at our parent information night, we shared information around our PB4L and how our focus at Rosary Park is on encouraging and rewarding positive behaviours. When children make choices that fall outside our PBL positive behaviours our first focus is on restorative questions (listed below). These help a child to identify and own their choices, outline the impact these choices have had on the people around them and make a plan to move forward in a more positive way.

As previously communicated, our school rules fall under 3 main areas. I am safe, I am respectful, and I am an active learner. Each week we focus on a different rule. This rule is explicitly taught in every classroom so that every child builds their knowledge of the rules. Each rule is also linked to a mercy pillar. These mercy pillars form part of our mission statement. The mercy pillars are respect, compassion, hospitality, justice, service and courage. These are taught in our Religion lessons as well as at our Monday gathering.

Our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) rule sequence is linked with the mercy pillars. Even though there is a set order of rules to be taught, when playground and classroom incident data shows a pattern of inappropriate behaviours, teachers may decide to spend some time focused on reteaching and addressing these areas of need.

Afternoon Dismissal Changes

At Rosary Park there are a number of ways children can leave the school for their journey home. I am sure you can appreciate, ensuring over 360 children are as safe as possible is a priority for us all. For this reason, we are regularly reviewing our procedures.

In the interests of children's and staff safety and to minimalise interaction with the road, we are making some changes to our afternoon pick up.

CAR PICK UP

Children remain under the Rosary Park COLA and parents line up in cars to be called forward to collect their children. Please display your name in the window of the car and follow directions from staff.

Teachers will help children into the car. Please ensure the child has access to the car from the passenger side as staff cannot go to the other side of the car as this is a safety concern.

AFTERNOON WALKERS LINE

To St Nick's and along Station Street towards the train station

Staff walk children across the crossing to parents/carers waiting in front of St Nicholas Centre and to parents parked on that side of the road towards the train station. Parents and children are reminded of the need to be aware of the driveway to the carpark, as this is a busy area. Teachers will stand in this area as children go past to parents or to walk home on this side of the road.

REMINDER – Rosary Park parents are asked not to park in the St Nicholas carpark unless they are picking up children from the Centre.

To the Church, St Brigid's School and down to the New England Highway

Parents who wish to meet their child at the Church, are able to wait on the cement at the front to collect their children as they walk past.

For parents parked at St Brigid's - Staff will now walk children into the grounds of St Brigid's from the main gate, along the hall veranda and will assemble underneath the COLA. Parents are asked to come and collect their children from the COLA and walk them to their cars. We ask that you refrain from calling out to your child from the car park, as this has been identified as a safety issue with cars moving during this time.

Parents parked past the main gate to St Brigid's are asked to meet their child at this gate or under the COLA. This is to prevent children from walking near the driveway as this has also been identified as a safety issue with cars moving during this time.

Children who are walking along the New England Highway, will be taken by a staff member to the gate on the highway, where they can continue safely walking along the footpath. This is to avoid any unnecessary interaction with the car park driveway.

MEET AND GREET

Due to limited car parks on the Rosary Park side of Station Street, we will be reviewing our "Meet and Greet" line.

As of MONDAY 3 March, the Meet and Greet line will be pausing operations, whilst we gather further input from families around its continuation.

A survey will be put out shortly and we welcome your input. Please discuss as a family and communicate with your child's teacher, your intended pick-up option during this time (eg. Car Pick Up, Walkers)

These changes have been made in consultation with the Diocesan Safety and Risk Unit, as well as our WHS team.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator

Last week, our school community gathered for our Opening School Liturgy, embracing this year's theme, *Pilgrims of Hope*. It was a special occasion to welcome all students and families—especially those joining us for the first time in 2025—as we embarked on a new journey of faith, learning, and growth together.

During the liturgy, we also celebrated and blessed our new school leaders, both in student leadership roles and as sports captains. As *Pilgrims of Hope*, may they lead with courage, kindness, and a commitment to serving others.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this beautiful and prayerful start to our school year. May we all walk together in faith and hope throughout 2025.

School Leaders 2025

Mercy team leader: Ruby Nevin

Active Lifestyle team leader: Jesse Cavanagh

Environmental team leader: Luke Wright

PBL team leader: Sam Jacka

Sport Leaders 2025:

Freeman House: Shelle Cole and Logan Carroll

Thorpe House: Mia Wells and Sam Dodd

Bradman House: Taylah Bishop and Darby Thomas

Fearnley House: Georgie Ward and Hudson O'Connor

Sacramental Program:

2025 Parish Sacramental Program Expression of interests are being sought for children in Year 3 and above in 2025 who are ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please email the parish office with your child's name, date of birth and parish. singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Information Meeting

WHEN
Monday 3 March 2025
5.30pm

WHERE
St Brigid's Church,
Station St, Branxton



Children living in the Branxton Parish, aged in Year 3 or above who are ready to receive the Sacraments of *Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion* in the catholic church, are invited to join our **Branxton Parish Sacramental Program for 2025**. Parents or Guardians are asked to attend our information meeting to receive the details for this year's program.



ST BRIGID'S
PARISH
BRANXTON AND GRETA

www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au

ASH WED NES DAY

Join us on Wednesday, 5th
March, at 9:15 am in the
school hall for a short but
meaningful Ash
Wednesday liturgy.

Lent Begins



Diocesan Launch of the Jubilee Year:

This year, Pope Francis announced a Jubilee Year – 'Pilgrims of Hope'. As a school community we invite you and your children to join in our official diocesan launch of this year as per the details below.

When: Sunday 2nd of March

Time and place: 8:00am – Pilgrim Prayer at Nobbys Beach (Foreshore Park) – keep an eye out for

Rosary Park staff who will have our school banner.

8:15am – Pilgrimage along the Harbourfront (Honeysuckle) – please wear casual clothing (students included), with appropriate footwear to walk the few kilometres.

10:00am – Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral

11:00am – Festival in the Cathedral Precinct with the 2025 Launch of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Lenten Appeal.

We understand that this is a weekend event and that many families have prior commitments. However, if there is any part of the day you are able to attend, your presence would be greatly appreciated.

We hope you can join us for this wonderful occasion.

To find out more information visit: [Join us at the Diocesan Launch of the Jubilee Year](#)



Sports News

Congratulations to all the students who attended the Diocesan Swimming Carnival and represented our school with great sportsmanship. Also, a special congratulations to those students who have made it through to Polding. We wish you all the best of luck and know that you will represent yourselves and our school with pride.



In more swimming news, on the 14th of February, Matilda M qualified to compete at the NSW Country Swimming Championships at the Sydney Aquatic Centre. Her final results from the day are listed below and show what talented swimmer she is. Well done!

Final Results:

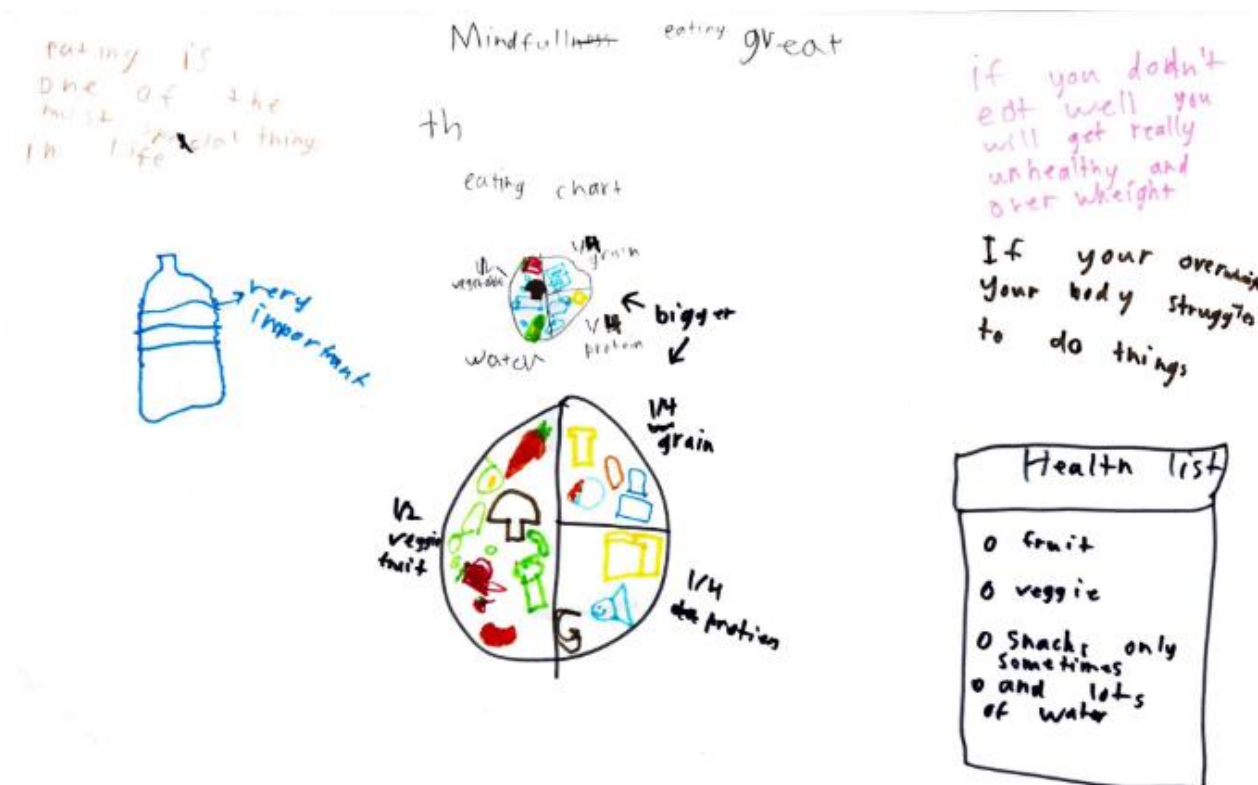
7th place - 9yr 50m backstroke in 42.32sec

8th place - 9 yr 50m Freestyle in 35.66sec



News from Year 3

In PDH, **Year 3** has been exploring the mind-body connection. They learned about the importance of good sleep, mindful eating, and physical exercise. The students then created posters about their chosen focus area and set personal goals related to these three key aspects of well-being. This activity has helped them understand how making healthy choices can positively impact both their body and mind.



a lot of exercise
 in your sleep.
 Harley

you feel amazing
 in the morning.
 Lilly

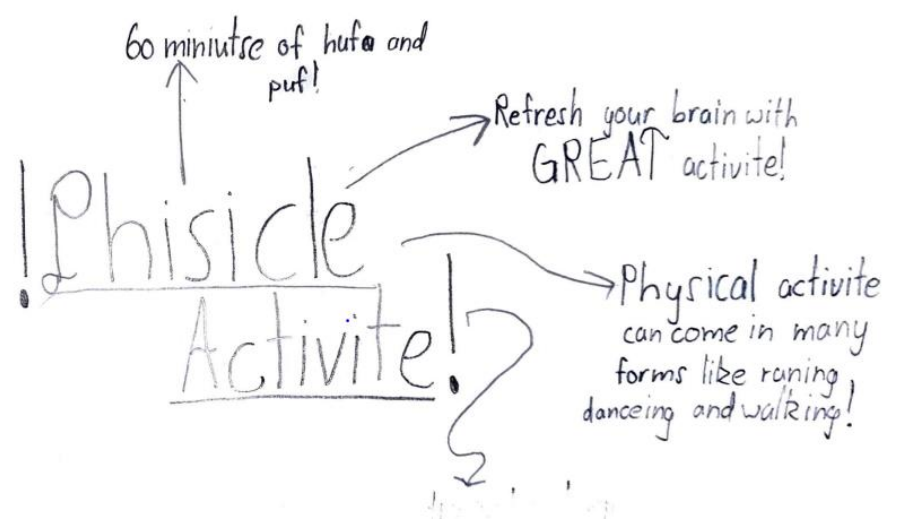
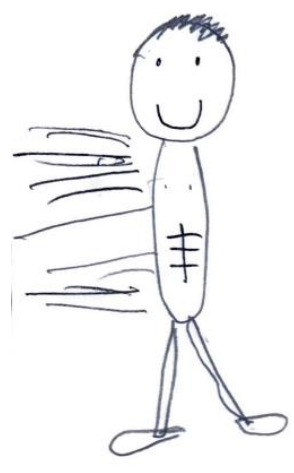
Not lazy at daytime
 Kenny

exercise to
 wind down
 Lilly

**GOOD night
 sleep!**

Do exercise through
 out the
 day to get energy
 ↑

eat good and healthy food!
 ↓



Weekly Awards

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

Week ending 20th of February 2024 (Week 4)

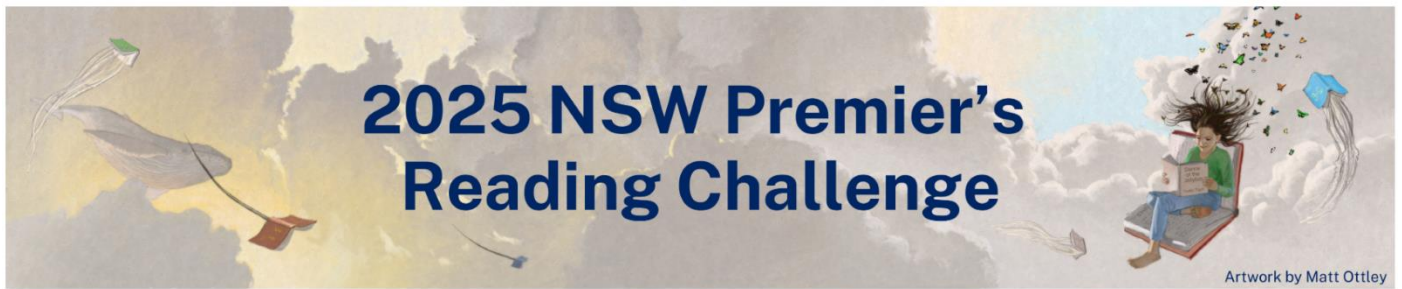
<i>Class</i>	<i>Class Award One</i>	<i>Class Award Two</i>	<i>Mercy Award</i>
Kinder Blue	Harvey M	Asha W	George H
Kinder White	Sebastian K	Ariella L	Reggie B
Year 1 Blue	Kylan K	Zoe M	Oliver C
Year 1 White	Mon B	Olivia M	Luca C
Year 2 Blue	Hunter W	Viv S	Winnie C
Year 2 White	Porter B	Johnny L	Indy M
Year 3 Blue	Brooklyn Y	Piper R	Jordie D
Year 3 White	Lauren M	Brynn S	Matilda C
Year 4 Blue	Mason C	Jaxon C	Noha M
Year 4 White	Landyn W	Sofia P	Annabelle L
Year 5 Blue	Hannah C	Elke B	Ruan N
Year 5 White	Ellie A	Aria G	Matthias K
Year 6 Blue			
Year 6 White	Georgie W		

Week ending Friday 28th of February 2024 (Week 5)

<i>Class</i>	<i>Class Award One</i>	<i>Class Award Two</i>	<i>Mercy Award</i>
Kinder Blue	Toby B	Zaylee D	Louis H
Kinder White	Kelsie L	Xavier H	Noah B
Year 1 Blue	Lewis S	Pearl B	Carter L
Year 1 White	Indy H	Bruno B-R	Isabelle S
Year 2 Blue	Myla W	Johan C	James L
Year 2 White	Claire D	Savannah H	Carley D
Year 3 Blue	Ethan T	Grayson B	Tristan C
Year 3 White			
Year 4 Blue	Ken P	Anderson P	Imogen M
Year 4 White	Campbell C	Layla M	Jenny N
Year 5 Blue	Noah L	Sasha A	Levi C
Year 5 White	Hudson W		
Year 6 Blue	Sam W	Elijah C	Eyden G
Year 6 White	Aleah D	Sam D	Taylah B

Principal's Awards

Ruby N, Piper R, Hudson W, Dominic P, Liam P, Blaine S, Savannah R, Hunter I, Lincoln H, Jett I, Sophie C



The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is now open and Rosary Park Catholic School is excited to be participating!

What is the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge?

The PRC is a statewide Challenge that encourages students to develop a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students and enables them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition, but a challenge to encourage each student to read, to read more, and to read more widely.

All students who complete the challenge and have their reading record validated by the school's PRC coordinator will receive a certificate signed by the Premier of NSW.

How many books do students need to read?

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 are challenged to read or experience 30 books. 20 of these books must be from the relevant Challenge booklists, and up to 10 books can be personal choice books. Books can be read with a parent, carer, teacher or another student.

Students in Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 20 books independently. At least 10 of these books must be from the relevant Challenge booklists, and up to 10 books can be personal choice books.

If a book is from an approved PRC series, students can enter up to 5 books as Challenge books, and can read up to 10 other books from the same series as Personal Choice books. More information on the rules of the Challenge can be found [on the PRC website](#).

Books must be added to a student's online reading record by **Friday 22 August 2025** in order for their reading record to be validated and receive a certificate.

How do students log their reading?

Students can access the PRC's [Student Experience site](#) via the Student Portal. A video guide explaining how to use the Student Experience site can be found [here](#).

How can students find books on the NSW PRC challenge lists?

To find an approved NSW Premier's Reading Challenge book at Rosary Park, all you need to do is search for one of the below age range stickers on the spine of our library books:



A quick guide for logging books:

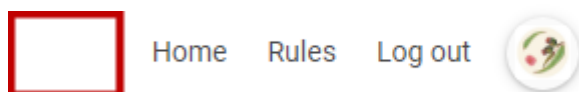
1. Log into the [Student experience site](#) using your DoE student username and password.
2. Use the blue search bar to search for books you have read.

Or just looking for a particular book ?

2a. If the title appears, click “Add to Reading Log” to add it as a PRC book.

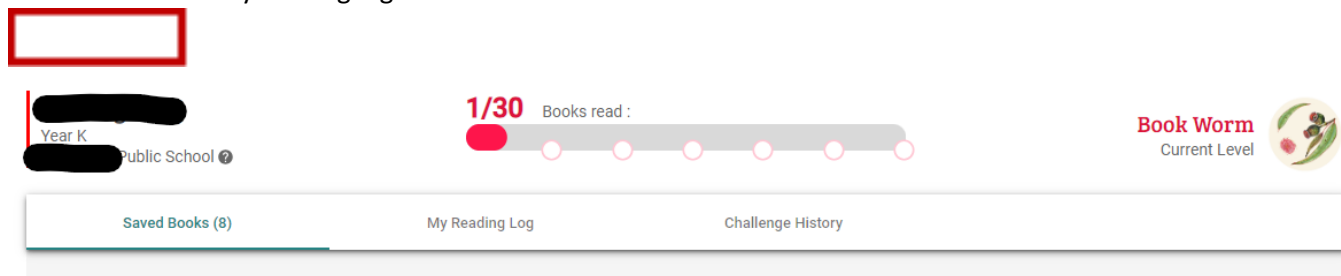


2b. If the title does not appear, you will need to enter it as a personal choice book.



To enter a personal choice book:

1. Click on the icon in the top right hand corner:
2. Click on “My reading log”



3. Fill in the book details under the “Add a Personal Choice book” field and click “add”

Add a PRC book

Add a Personal Choice book (Added 0 of 10 max)

If you have any issues with logging books, please speak to the Teacher Librarian Ms. Flynn.

Happy Reading!

Melanie Flynn

PRC Coordinator at Rosary Park Catholic School



Join Aspire's Junior Theatre Makers Program to develop drama and performance skills and meet some likeminded young creatives! Students in Years 5 to 8 are welcome to enrol.

The program runs throughout Terms 2 and 3, with several locations on offer. Term 2 will be all about developing skills with a focus on playbuilding. Ensemble members will work through an array of exercises relating to character, including physical and image-based theatre. The ensemble will be run by experienced drama tutors who will ensure ensembles are fun and inclusive.

Term 3 will be spent creating an original short performance piece which will be performed on Thursday 18th September 2025 at Warners Bay Theatre, Warners Bay. All groups will come together to rehearse at the theatre on the day.

Places in the program are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

2025 SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS - TOOHEY ROOM, NEWCASTLE WEST
TERMS 2 AND 3 - WEDNESDAYS 4.30PM - 6:00PM

UPPER HUNTER

ST CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, SINGLETON TERMS 2
AND 3 - THURSDAYS 4:00PM - 5:30PM

LAKES/WEST LAKES

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, BOORAGUIL
TERMS 2 AND 3 - THURSDAYS 4:00PM - 5:30PM

MANNING

ST CLARE'S HIGH SCHOOL, TAREE
TERMS 2 AND 3 - THURSDAYS 4:00PM - 5:30PM

PERFORMANCE

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2025
WARNERS BAY THEATRE, WARNERS BAY

HOW TO REGISTER

Please complete the application form here:



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code:
http://mn.shor.tn/ASPIRE_JTM
2. FILL IN THE FORM TO REGISTER

Cost: \$325



FEBRUARY

24-27
UPPER HUNTER CREATIVE ARTS PROJECT
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE ABERDEEN



JUNE

2-3
DIORAMA
PLAYHOUSE, CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE

4
SCRIPT WRITING COMPETITION
PERFORMANCE
PLAYHOUSE, CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE

5
DIOSOUNDS
CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE

10-11
CELEBRATE! CHOIRS AT THE CIVIC
CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE



OCTOBER

16
YOUNG SCRIPTWRITERS MANNING
REGION PERFORMANCE
FLETT STUDIO, MANNING ENTERTAINMENT
CENTRE TAREE

21-22
YOUNG SCRIPTWRITERS CENTRAL
NORTHS REGION PERFORMANCE
PLAYHOUSE, CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE

23
YOUNG SCRIPTWRITERS LOWER HUNTER
REGION PERFORMANCE
PERFORMANCE ARTS CULTURE CESSNOCK



MARCH

6
THEATRE SPORTS
TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE ADAMSTOWN

25-26
CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC STAGE 2:
STUDI-O GATESHEAD



JULY

2
BATTLE OF THE BANDS PERFORMANCE
WARNERS BAY THEATRE, BARAMYIBA

15-20
ASPIRE SCHOOL HOLIDAY REHEARSAL

27-2 AUG
ASPIRE PRODUCTION WEEK
PERFORMANCES 30 JULY - 2 AUG
CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE



NOVEMBER

4
CELEBRATE! CHOIRS IN THE CITY
NEWCASTLE CITY HALL

6
YOUNG SCRIPTWRITERS UPPER HUNTER
REGION PERFORMANCE
DENWAN MEMORIAL HALL

11
WVACE PERFORMANCE
NEWCASTLE CITY HALL

12-13
WOW GALLERY
MAP MIMA, SPEERS POINT

17-20
MANNING CREATIVE ARTS PROJECT
MANNING ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE TAREE

27
YOUNG SCRIPTWRITERS LAKES REGION
PERFORMANCE
WARNERS BAY THEATRE, BARAMYIBA



APRIL

1
COMBINED SCHOOLS ANZAC
PERFORMANCE
CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE

2-3
CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC STAGE 3:
STUDI-O GATESHEAD

3
SONG COMPETITION ENTRIES CLOSE

18
SCRIPTWRITING COMPETITION
ENTRIES CLOSE

28
WOW GALLERY
SUBMISSIONS OPEN



MAY

5
DRAMAFEST
NEWCASTLE CITY HALL

5-8
SONG COMPETITION FINALIST
WORKSHOPS

22
SONG COMPETITION PERFORMANCE
TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE ADAMSTOWN

26
DANCEFEST
NEWCASTLE CITY HALL



AUGUST

14
WAKAKIRRI
NEX NEWCASTLE

26-29
YOUNG ACTORS PROGRAM
PRODUCTION WEEK
PERFORMANCE 29 AUGUST
PERFORMANCE ARTS CULTURE CESSNOCK



SEPTEMBER

2-3
CREATE CONTENT CHOREOGRAPHIC:
SECONDARY

9-10
CREATE CONTENT CHOREOGRAPHIC
NOW! CITY BALLET NEW LAMTON

16
CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC (STAGE 2)
LOWER HUNTER REGION

17
CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC (STAGE 3)
LOWER HUNTER REGION

18
JUNIOR THEATRE MAKERS
PERFORMANCE
WARNERS BAY THEATRE, BARAMYIBA

23
CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC (STAGE 2 & 3)
UPPER HUNTER REGION

25
CREATE CHOREOGRAPHIC (STAGE 2 & 3)
MANNING REGION

29-2
SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS



DECEMBER

2
MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM
PERFORMANCE
PLAYHOUSE, CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE

16
SENIOR THEATRE MAKERS
PERFORMANCE
PLAYHOUSE, CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE



ASPIRE
MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

WOW 2025
GALLERY

ASPIRE'S WOW GALLERY IS BACK FOR 2025.

This event returns after the success in 2024, where the special program had 354 artworks submitted from students from Year 1 up to students in Year 12. We had both full class groups and individual students submit artwork from 24 diocesan primary and secondary schools.

This year's theme is '**FINDING WOW IN THE EVERYDAY** - How ordinary moments can be extraordinary!'

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: 28 APRIL 2025

EXHIBITION DATES: 12TH- 13TH NOVEMBER
AT MAP MIMA, SPEERS POINT.

TICKETS ON SALE 18TH AUGUST 2025.

Submissions open 28 April!
Scan the QR code or use the link
mn.shor.tn/WOWGallery to
submit when it's time



aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au



ASPIRE
MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA



LESSON PLAN 2025

This year's theme is **'FINDING WOW IN THE EVERYDAY - How ordinary moments can be extraordinary!'**

LEARNING INTENTION:

We are learning to create artworks that embody the theme of "WOW" using various mediums, fostering creativity and expression. This includes documenting and submitting work for the ASPIRE WOW Gallery.

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

I can make an artwork for the WOW gallery, which shows how I find the WOW in ordinary moments.

MATERIALS:

- Various art supplies (paints, brushes, pencils, markers, clay, etc.)
- Canvas, paper, or other surfaces for creating artworks.
- Inspirational materials related to the theme (nature photos, quotes, abstract art, etc.)
- Access to a space for art creation
- ASPIRE can be available for school visits throughout the process.

DESCRIPTIVE FEEDBACK:

- Evaluate students based on their creativity, technical skill, and ability to convey the theme of "Finding WOW in the Everyday" in their artworks. Use two stars and a wish.
- Assess their participation in brainstorming sessions, experimentation with different mediums, and willingness to revise and improve their artworks based on feedback and reflection.
- Consider the presentation of their artworks at the art exhibition and their ability to articulate their creative process and inspiration in artist statements or reflections.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- Invite local artists or creative professionals to visit the classroom and share their experiences with creating art and exploring themes of wonder and inspiration.
- Organise a follow-up discussion or reflection session after the art exhibition to debrief the experience and celebrate the students' achievements.

LESSON SEQUENCE

This year's theme is **'FINDING WOW IN THE EVERYDAY - How ordinary moments can be extraordinary.'**

SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

1. Introduce the theme of the art exhibition: "Finding WOW in the Everyday."
2. Discuss the concept of "How ordinary moments can be extraordinary" and how it can be interpreted in art. Encourage students to think about what makes something "wow-worthy" to them.
3. Show examples of artworks that evoke a sense of wonder and amazement, such as landscapes, abstract art, or innovative sculptures.
4. Brainstorm ideas as a class for artworks that could fit the theme, considering different mediums and techniques.

SESSION 2: EXPLORATION OF MEDIUMS

1. Provide an overview of various art mediums, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, etc.
2. Allow students to experiment with different mediums and techniques to create preliminary sketches or small-scale artworks.
3. Encourage them to explore how each medium can convey a sense of "WOW" in their artwork.
4. Offer guidance and support as needed, helping students develop their ideas and refine their techniques.

SESSION 3: CREATION OF ARTWORKS

1. Based on their experimentation with different mediums, have students choose one medium to focus on for their final artwork.
2. Provide time for students to work on their artworks, either individually or in small groups, depending on class size and available resources.
3. Encourage them to incorporate elements of nature, imagination, and individual experiences into their artworks, drawing inspiration from the theme of the exhibition.
4. Offer feedback and support as students work on their pieces, helping them overcome any challenges and refine their concepts.

SESSION 4 (OPTIONAL): PEER AND SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. If time allows, provide an opportunity for students to reflect on their artworks and the creative process.
2. Encourage them to consider how their artworks convey the theme of "Finding WOW in the Everyday" and what emotions or reactions they hope to evoke in viewers.
3. Allow students to make any final revisions or adjustments to their artworks based on feedback and reflection.

SESSION 5: PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION FOR EXHIBITION

1. Assemble all completed artworks and prepare them for documentation.
2. Photograph or scan artworks and upload to JotForm for submission. (ASPIRE can come to assist with this)
3. Encourage students to write artist statements or reflections to accompany their artworks, explaining their inspiration and creative process.
4. Discuss the importance of presenting their artworks with pride and confidence, as representatives of their school and creative community.
5. Attend the art exhibition as a group to celebrate the students' creativity and display their artworks to the wider community.



ASPIRE invites interested students to participate in the Create Choreographic Project which offers Stage 2 and 3 students the opportunity to participate in an intensive contemporary dance and collaborative choreographic program.

Students will be provided with a dance and performance art experience that is inclusive, non-competitive, creative and collaborative, and that reflects the working processes of the professional industry. Students will be encouraged to have a voice as they create an original dance work which will be presented in a studio setting at the end of the project.

The program will be delivered by **Aspire Dance Director, Lauren Harvey** and will take place at Studi-O 4/9 Oakdale Rd Gateshead

This opportunity is open to students in Stage 2 (year 3-4) and Stage 3 (year 5-6). Students must have a genuine interest in and flair for dance, but don't necessarily have to attend dance lessons outside of school.

Places are limited and will be given on a first come first served basis.

2025 PROJECT DATES

STAGE 2 – 1 DAY WORKSHOP

25TH OR 26TH MARCH, 9AM - 3PM

COST: \$60

VENUE: STUDI-O - 4/9 OAKDALE RD, GATESHEAD

STAGE 3 – 2 DAY WORKSHOP

2ND AND 3RD APRIL 9AM - 3PM

COST: \$100

VENUE: STUDI-O - 4/9 OAKDALE RD, GATESHEAD

HOW TO REGISTER

Please complete the registration form here:



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: <http://mn.shor.tv/CreateChoreographic>
2. FILL IN THE FORM TO REGISTER

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

Please note we will be offering Create Programs in the Upper Hunter, Manning and Lower Hunter regions throughout the school year.

Good for kids
good for life






National Lunchbox Week

9-15 February 2025

What children eat at school has a big impact on their learning and growth.

National Lunchbox Week is a great opportunity for schools to promote healthy eating by sharing important lunchbox tips with the community.

This event can help families like yours pack nutritious and balanced lunchboxes by:

-  Offering healthy lunchbox ideas and recipes
-  Encouraging a good balance of food groups
-  Raising awareness about food safety and hygiene



National Lunchbox Week

9-15 FEBRUARY 2025

www.lunchboxweek.org [#NationalLunchboxWeek](https://twitter.com/NationalLunchboxWeek) Nutrition Australia



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.

Woolworths NETSETGO!

Catch the Fun!

Join us for Come & Play Day!

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH

What is Come & Play?

New & existing teams and individual participants **aged 5-10yrs** with all levels of experience welcome!

Meet **new friends** and see why netball is for everyone.

Free fun – so bring a friend to join in!

Join us for Come & Play Day!

Singleton Netball Association
 Saturday 1st March 2025
 9am for 9:15am start - 12:00pm

For a morning of skills, drills, netball fun and FREE sausage sizzle lunch. See post for how to register.

Woolworths NetSetGo offers aged based stages for kids aged 5-10, no matter their previous experience. The fun starts here!

SINGLETON NETBALL ASSOCIATION



Reach Beyond | Celebrating Cessnock's Seniors

As part of the **2025 Cessnock Local Government Area Seniors Festival**, *Reach Beyond* honours twelve remarkable seniors through striking portraits and heartfelt interviews. This moving exhibition showcases their resilience, contributions, and deep community connections. Each portrait tells a unique story, exploring their past, impact, and hopes for the future.

Join us for tea, coffee, and cake at the official opening on **Monday, 3 March from 1pm to 2pm**. Featuring an address by Jessica Elliot and Delma Whyte.

No bookings necessary.



CESSNOCK AND WINE COUNTRY TOASTMASTERS

Why Toastmasters?

- ✓ Great for developing public speaking skills
- ✓ Overcome fear of public speaking
- ✓ A self-paced program
- ✓ Helps with presentation skills and confidence
- ✓ It allows you to practice in a supportive environment and best of all...It's FUN!

WHERE: Cessnock Leagues Club

WHEN: Every Monday 7-9pm



Anna.vannetten@bigpond.com | 0422 116 747 | www.cessnock.toastmastersclubs.org

WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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