



Newsletter No. 5

1 March 2023

The vision of St Lawrence Catholic Primary School, Balcatta is to share the message of God's love and friendship in a community of learners, developing the full potential of each child.



Lenten Prayer

Lighter of lights –illumine us

Fire of fires – thaw us

Power of powers – strengthen us

Lover of lovers – warm us

Teller of tales – encourage us

Destroyer of darkness – save us

Touchstone of truth – examine us

Summoner of stars – amaze us

Wellspring of wisdom – weather us

Water of life – refresh us

Dancer of days – delight in us

Breath of the universe – bless us

Dear Parents and Friends

Mr Sheldon Carey has commenced his period of System Leaders Renewal Leave. Renewal Leave is part of a Principal's professional development, further developing their own faith development and spiritual renewal. Mr Carey will be participating in a Pilgrimage through Europe. I have been appointed as Short Term Principal for the next few weeks. I am blessed to have Ms Kathleen Tranquille working alongside me during this time. Kathleen has a wealth of experience as a Leader in Catholic schools and I greatly appreciate her support and guidance.

Inspiring Christ Centred Leaders

Lent is the 40 days before Easter and is a time for reflection, growth and new beginnings. The 40 days before Easter represents Jesus' time in the desert and wilderness where he spent time in solitude, prayer and fasting. Traditionally, we replicate these actions during Lent by spending more time in prayer, mindful fasting (giving up something) and giving to those less fortunate than us (almsgiving). The Lenten Season is a time to reflect on ways we can be more like Jesus. Lent is also a time to refrain from excess as well as give more to those who have less. Project Compassion is one of the many Catholic charities that we can donate to over Lent.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

Project Compassion is an initiative of Caritas, Australia to raise awareness and much needed funds for both local and global communities fighting poverty. The theme for Project Compassion this year is "For all Future Generations". It reminds

us that what we do today can make a difference in the lives of others less fortunate than ourselves. This message invites us to step up for those who do not have the essential resources they need for their survival and those whose needs at this time are far beyond ours. By putting compassion into action, we can start making a difference today.

Families at St Lawrence are invited to donate loose change over the coming weeks to Project Compassion Boxes. By this simple act of kindness, you are teaching your children that it is possible to contribute towards making the world a better place and instilling in them that the good we do today will extend and impact the lives of many people. We ask that you support the school in our aim to help Caritas Australia in this most worthwhile endeavour.

*"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all."
(Galatians 6:9-10)*

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of St Lawrence Catholic Primary School, Balcatta is to share the message of God's love and friendship in a community of learners, developing the full potential of each child.

MOTTO

'With God's Friendship and Love we Grow'.

Our school motto and vision statement are evidenced in all that we do at St Lawrence. They provide the context for the living out of our core values Joy, Courage and Unity. Our Vision has its foundation in the belief that we are created in God's image and likeness. We recognise our responsibilities to share the message of God's love and through this develop the full potential of every child.

Catholic schools in Western Australia have a distinctive ethos and are mandated by the Bishops. All Staff at St Lawrence strive to give Christian witness through their words and attitudes. They work together as a professional team, collaboratively, respectfully, openly and energetically upholding the vision of our school as well as the expectations of the Bishops' mandate.

'Love one another; you must love one another just as I have loved you.' (John 13:34)

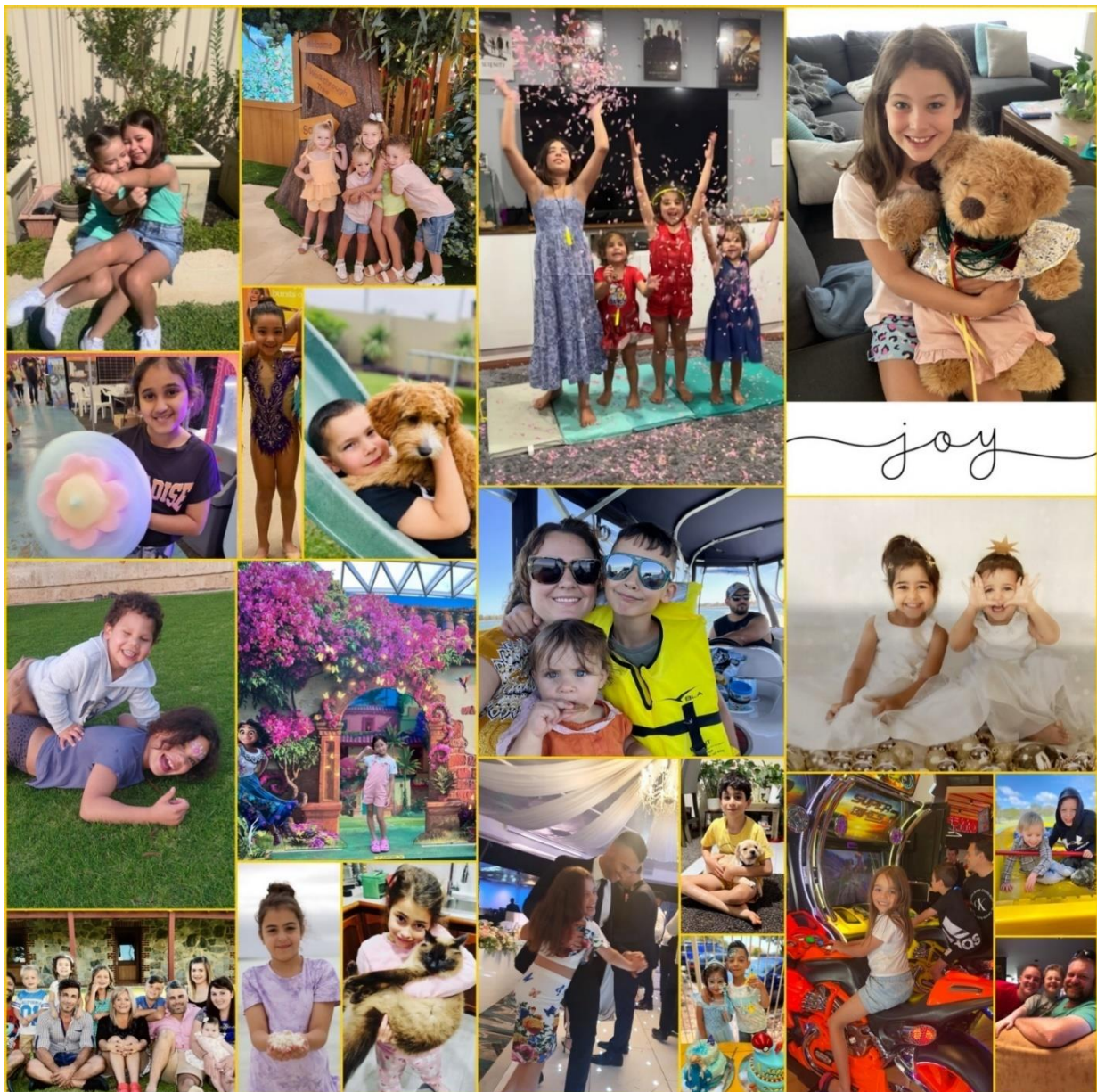
Core Values

We have three Core Values: **Joy, Courage and Unity.** The core values are based on Gospel Values. and Statements were written to assist students in understanding each Core Value. This Term we are focusing as a school on our core value of **Joy.**

When focusing on this Core Value in Term One, we promote to our students the importance of celebrating the good news in ourselves and others. We are working hard to embed our core values through our everyday language in both the classroom and playgrounds whilst encouraging the children to model these values in their lives outside school. We see the children every day celebrating the good in others, we are now encouraging them to ensure that they celebrate the joy and the good news they also bring to their peers, friends, family and the wider community.

We have a school improvement team at St Lawrence who meet regularly to discuss and review school improvement goals. When reviewing the progress we are making in embedding Core Values in our school, they came up with the idea to ask parents of children in different year levels to share images of their children, demonstrating our termly core value at home.

The **Year 3 class** are the first-year level to share photographs. The photographs below are perfect examples of the Joy our children are experiencing outside school and the Good News they are sharing with others. **Thank you to Mrs Pizzino** for introducing this new initiative and thankyou to all the parents of children in Year 3 who shared their photographs.



Catholic Schools of Excellence

A school curriculum needs to be broad and balanced, engaging the children in activities that are appropriately challenging and in contexts meaningful to the students' own lives. It goes without saying that the core business of schools is 'teaching' and 'learning'. There is a wealth of research and knowledge in the field of education to inform teachers.

Teachers at St Lawrence are constantly striving to learn more about how children learn and the skills they need to be capable and competent learners into adulthood. The teaching and learning cycle is one that is very familiar to the teachers and one that we are constantly engaged in.

It is important to identify how the particular needs of students can be met throughout the teaching and learning cycle. Through assessment, planning, programming, implementation and evaluation, a learning environment can be created that supports students to achieve relevant outcomes.

Over the past few weeks, teachers have been working closely with their students and one another to collect and analyse data about what the students know and what their 'where to next' is.

I spend time each week walking around the school, and it always fills me with pride when I visit a classroom and see the children engaged in their learning and having fun along the way.



Catholic Pastoral Communities

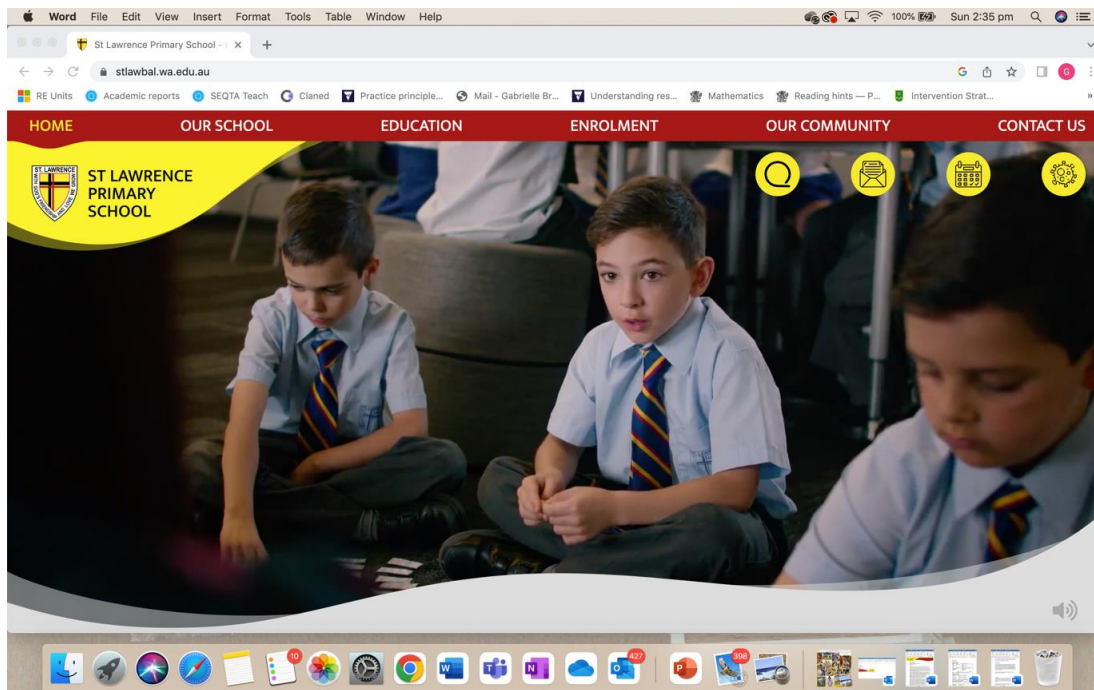


Within a Catholic school, the inspiration of Jesus must be translated from the 'ideal into the real'. This translation of the Gospel values should be evident and integral to the daily life of the school to promote ways of living that are life enhancing. Each member of the community needs to feel loved by others, just as Jesus' disciples felt loved by Christ. Through this love, they may be inspired to love others in return. Pastoral Care encompasses the love shown within the school community and is experienced whenever people of the school interact positively.

Pastoral Care is, in essence, the face of Christ for the whole community. It is given its spirit by trying to become a genuine Christian community of faith energised by Christ's vision of love and compassion. Pastoral Care is part of the evangelical ministry of the Church and is driven by the power of love to transform every member of the school community. Through our Pastoral Care processes at St Lawrence, we endeavour to respond to the particular needs of each person in the school community. Pastoral care is key to our strong sense of community across the school. All our pastoral care processes have the intention of addressing the well-being of each student at their individual point of need.

Communication

We have worked extremely hard to streamline communication at St Lawrence. Our weekly newsletter has very important information for our parents and carers. Please also take the time to read through our St Lawrence Primary School website. It offers a lot of information about our school including the history, traditions, routines and practices at our school. By reading this information you will see that our wonderful school offers innovative programmes, provides a safe and secure environment for all and encourages parents to become partners in their child's education. The school website is also a handy reference for the year ahead.



2023 Student Residential Address and Other Information, Collection Notice for parents/guardians – please see attachment.



God bless each and every one of you.

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan
Short Term Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Sacraments

The Latin word sacramentum means 'a sign of the sacred'. Sacraments are ceremonies that point to what is sacred, significant and important for Catholics. They are special occasions for experiencing God's saving presence and are signs and instruments of God's grace. The Sacramental programme at St Lawrence for 2023 will commence with enrolment masses. St Lawrence will work closely with the Parish Team to ensure that our children and families are fully prepared for all Sacraments.

Enrolment masses for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation will be held on **Saturday 11 March at 6pm or Sunday 12 March at 5pm**. All children in Years 3, 5 and 6 who are receiving a Sacrament are expected to attend one of these masses with their parents.

An enrolment form was sent home with children in Years 3, 4 and 6. Please ensure this form has been completed and your child brings it to the Enrolment Mass they are attending. Children will need to hand these forms to Fr Emil after the Mass. Fr Emil has also requested that all children are given a sticker book. Each time they attend Mass they will be given a sticker. Please encourage your child to bring their sticker book to one of the Enrolment Masses and take it to each Mass they attend.



Mathematics Parent Workshops



Building on the huge success of our Numeracy Parent information night in 2023 parents and carers are now invited to attend maths parent workshops for parents of children in Years 1 – 6. Parents will be able to see first-hand some of the innovative strategies that are being used throughout our school to develop mathematical skills and awareness. We also aim to provide support to parents with mathematics learning at home by showcasing resources that can be used at home and make learning fun. Thank you to Mr Haydon for organising this event.

Wellness Week

Each term in Week 6, we celebrate **Wellness Week**. During this week we emphasise the importance of looking after ourselves physically and mentally. The most important and positive thing any of us can do for both our children and ourselves is to provide "time out". We are human and humans need time to rest and reflect. Wellness Week is the perfect opportune time to plan how this time might look in your family. The benefits (especially in terms of mental health) we reap from ensuring that we have some time to rest are countless! Wellness Week runs from Tuesday 7 March to Friday 10 March.



"To be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today."
Barbara Johnson

Grandparents Morning

The students are very excited to welcome their Grandparents into their classrooms next week. We are looking forward to our Grandparents Morning next week. We have had over 100 Grandparents registering to attend. The morning will begin with Grandparent's visiting the classes of their Grandchildren followed by a special assembly and then they will be treated to a lovely morning tea of scones, jam and cream. We look forward to welcoming our Grandparents into our school on **Thursday 9 March.**

Thank you to Mrs Austin, Ms Frenzel and Mrs Freeman for organising this event.

PLEASE NOTE

**Friday 3 March & Monday 6 March
are PUPIL FREE DAYS**

Ms Kathleen Tranquille Assistant Principal

2023 SCHOOL FEES

School fees for 2023 have been issued today, electronically. Please check your email. I want to thank all the families that regularly and promptly pay their fees when due.

You will see in this years' family statements a **decrease** to School fees when compared with last year. This reduction was announced at the Annual General Meeting on 22 November 2022 to the school community.

If you wish to discuss this or any matter in relation to your family accounts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alica Mayo – Finance Officer

SENSATIONAL SCIENCE

Another sensational start to Science this year, as students from Pre Primary to Year 6 focus on the Unit of Study – Biological Science.



After considering what Scientist they would like to be, and what wonder questions about the world students have, we refreshed our minds on understanding Living and Non-Living Things, through the focus of what Living Things need to survive. Ask your child about MRS GREN during dinner conversations and they should be able to tell you she helps us remember the functions of Living Things.



As each group begins to dive into a particular focus of Biological Science, from what Living Things need to thrive; to Life Cycles, Adaptation and Habitat, Dinosaurs, and experiments to explore and explain why things grow; I look forward to sharing all our new learning and findings through Seesaw and our newsletter.

YEARS 2 and 4 STUDENTS

Could students from Year 2 and Year 4 please bring the following into school –
A photo of when they were a BABY, a TODDLER, their FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

This can be sent via email to stephanie.freeman@cewa.edu.au

Students in Year 4 can store these photos on their school iPad ready for use, or hard copies can be brought in on their Science Day to be photocopied (with originals sent home).

We would like to use these photos in our Week 8 and 9 learning. Thank you in advance.



Mrs Stephanie Freeman, Science Specialist Teacher

RAINBOWS NEWS



Rainbows is a program, which has been created to assist in providing a path towards healing for those dealing with a significant loss or life altering experience. The core of the program is centred on trust, acceptance and sharing. It allows for those who are hurting to understand their feelings and to develop some tools required to move forward in helping to resolve their grief, loss or trauma.

Through Rainbows, children are helped to speak about their feelings, build a stronger sense of self-esteem and dispel their guilt and anger over the changes in their family. They no longer feel alone when they gather with other children who are facing the same or similar situations.

Many experiences, which may occur in a child's life, can be overwhelming for them to be able to cope with and to enjoy their precious years of childhood. Separation or divorce between parents, the loss of a family member/close friend, a serious illness or accident, a parent working away, moving house/school/state/country or any other significant change can be a crushing event in a child's life. These situations can affect children socially, spiritually, behaviourally and academically.

The adults and the children are bound by confidentiality.

If you feel your child may benefit from a program such as Rainbows, we ask that you register your interest by emailing Mrs Louise Frenzel at louise.frenzel@cewa.edu.au. Upon registering your interest, the forms will be emailed directly to yourself.

We ask that these authorities be completed and returned by Thursday 23rd March.

The program will start with some 'getting to know me' and art therapy sessions. It is anticipated the program will commence the first Friday of Term 2.

Ms Louise Frenzel, Rainbows Co-ordinator

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

NETBALL UNIFORM

The 2023 Winter Netball Season is fast approaching. The season commences 28th April to 26th August.

Please note that Netball Dresses are to be worn on game days for Junior & Net Set Go competition. Netball singlets are available for purchase and may be worn with red sport shorts (skorts are no longer available) and encouraged to be worn on training days.

Netball Jackets are to be worn during netball game days and training days. Also, Netball Jackets are available for parents, coaches and managers.

Year 6 Leavers Jackets and School Navy Track Jackets are not permitted to be worn on Netball Game Days.

School white sport socks are encouraged to be worn.

Netball uniforms may be purchased directly from the Uniform Shop. Netball Order forms available from the school office and school website.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for all enquires or to place an uniform order. Please EMAIL me on Angie.Miola@cewa.edu.au.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours:

Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am & Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

You Are Invited...

Dear Parents and Carers

You are invited to our St Lawrence End of Term Dance Concert

"Four Seasons in One Day"

Week 9 – Friday March 31st
2pm start
on the Junior Oval

Our creative and groovy St Lawrence students are working hard this term participating in a Movement & Dance Unit in Music each week.

I am so proud of the way students are working collaboratively in their weekly lessons to create and develop a dance routine for our 2023 theme "Four Seasons in One Day", songs with the weather. More details will be sent via Seesaw by the end of this week and updated in next week's newsletter regarding dress attire for students.

Thank you
Mrs Freeman



CANTEEN NEWS

THANK YOU to my helpers last week - Andrea and Sarah S on Wednesday and Bennie on Friday.

Your help was very much appreciated. If any parent is able to help next Thursday, please let me know

BIRTHDAY ORDERS:

- Icy poles or Brownies \$15
- M & M cookies or Cupcakes \$20

Please message at least one day in advance. Thank you!

2023 Canteen Staff

COMMUNITY NEWS

A poster for Servite College Open Day. It features four male students in school uniforms smiling and posing. A green circular graphic with the words 'OPEN DAY' in white is overlaid on the right. Below the students, the text reads 'Thursday, 23 March' and '9.30am - 11.00am' in large white letters on a black background. Below that, it says 'Register now at servite.wa.edu.au' in orange. At the bottom, it says 'We are enrolling now for 2024 and 2025' and 'enrolment@servite.wa.edu.au | 9208 0900'. The Servite College logo is in the bottom right corner.