



## Newsletter No. 7

15 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.



Dear Parents and Caregivers

### **Christ Centred Communities**

St Lawrence Primary School in partnership with our parents and parish, educate and form students to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In a Catholic school, students learn about and experience the Catholic faith, its history, teachings, rituals and culture. A Catholic education is an invitation to warmly embrace the contemporary world with a Catholic lens and a hope-filled view of the world. Catholic schools educate young people academically, spiritually, ethically and religiously and encourage their students to use their gifts and talents for the good of all.

We are in the season of Lent, which is a perfect opportunity for all of us to stop and reflect on how we can bring hope to others. It is a time to think about the people we are becoming and how we can make a difference to the people around us. It is a time for us to pray, to do good deeds and to give to others in need.

For each of us, it is very easy to get caught up in both the busyness of life and work, and, at times, feel overwhelmed and exhausted by the fast pace of life. Lent is a time to remind ourselves of the importance of taking time out to pray and reflect. I recommend this short article ***How to Find Time in the Day for Lent*** as a way to refocus and as a way to include the Lenten practices of *prayer, fasting, and almsgiving* as part of each day during Lent.

**Loving God,**

**We thank you for our school.**

**We pray that we may walk the way of the Gospel together, as we accompany each other in our learning this year.**

**You sent forth your Son as a beacon of hope for all people. As Teacher, he has given us the prime example of the importance of education. As disciples, we look to him for inspiration and strength.**

**Thank you for the many Sisters, Brothers, Priests, and Laypeople who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic schools. Thank you for the teachers and support staff who continue to sustain our schools today. Thank you for the parents who have given their support and witness to the importance of Catholic education in their daily lives.**

**Bless our school Community. May our buildings be a home for those who seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and service of others. Fill our minds with knowledge and wisdom.**

**May our understanding of the world help us to grow in appreciation for it. Fill our hearts with gladness. May we always turn to you in times of need. Fill our hands with the tools we need to serve others.**



## **Sacramental Enrolment Masses**

On the weekend our Years 3, 4 and 6 students and their families attended Sacramental Enrolment Masses at the parish. Please pray for these students as they embark on their sacramental faith journey this year.

## **Making Jesus Real**

Catholic schools are inspired by Jesus with the aim to share His values in daily life. Making Jesus Real (MJR) is one way of doing that. At St Lawrence MJR is incorporated into our school community in a wide variety of ways and is aligned with our Religious Education programs.

Making Jesus Real is centred around the belief that we are the image of Jesus to all those people around us. We are His representatives, and our actions should reflect His values. Jesus also commented that we are part of his family and that the way we treat others should be reflective of this.



In Term One we go back to the basics of what MJR is all about at St Lawrence. It is a timely reminder that we all can 'Make Jesus Real' in the way we greet, treat and speak to one another each day. Every day I see children from Pre Kindy to Year 6 making Jesus Real by the way they greet, treat and speak to each other and the staff at St Lawrence. It always brings joy to my day, when I am greeted by children and asked how my day has been, or when a child opens the door for me and when I see children helping each other in the playground. At each assembly a child is selected for our MJR award and presented with a certificate and 'Lawry Bear' for exhibiting the qualities that Make Jesus Real in our school.

## **Catholic Pastoral Communities**

### **Grandparents Celebration**

Our Grandparents morning last week was an astounding success. We celebrated our Grandparents by inviting them into their Grandchildren's classrooms. They shared quality time with their Grandchildren, before they were treated to jam and cream scones and a wonderful performance by our children in the Church. It was fantastic to open our school, welcome in these important people in our student's life and enjoy a morning together to thank them for the love, support and guidance they provide to the children in our school community.

There were many excited children on this day waiting to spend time with their Grandparents. It was a fantastic morning with such a wonderful turnout, the hall and Church were overflowing! It is no wonder our children Make Jesus Real each day at our school. I was overwhelmed by the kindness shown by each and every Grandparent who attended on this day and the gratefulness they showed for our efforts. I would like to thank and congratulate Ms Frenzel, Mrs Austin and Mrs Freeman who volunteered to plan and organise this event. They spent many hours meticulously planning each part of the morning and remained very calm even when plans had to change, due to the ever-increasing numbers of Grandparents who registered to attend.

I would also like to thank all the staff who contributed in many ways to make this event a success. Finally, I would like to thank all Classroom Representatives for promoting this event to our wider school community. Our Core Value this term is Joy (bringing joy to ourselves and others). It was so wonderful to witness all the joy our Grandparents brought to our school on this day. Here are a few photographs that exemplify this.



**“Grandparents are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they're there.”**

*The PowerPoint created from the photographs families emailed to the school and the video of the children's presentation in the Church will be posted to our St Lawrence Facebook account.*

## Catholic Schools of Excellence

### Talk for Writing

We introduced the Talk for Writing program at St Lawrence two years ago. Students across all year levels are taught writing using the Talk for Writing approach. It is a program that was developed in the United Kingdom by Pie Corbett and has benefits for children across all ranges of abilities and backgrounds.

Talk for Writing allows students to orally learn the language needed for a particular topic or text, before reading it and recreating it in their own writing. It focuses on high level vocabulary and is also very hands on and interactive. Talk for Writing is a very engaging way of learning to write different text types.

The Talk for Writing approach enables children to read and write independently for a variety of audiences and purposes within different subjects. A key feature is that children internalise the language structures needed to write through 'talking the text', as well as close reading. The approach moves from dependence towards independence, with the teacher using shared and guided teaching to develop the ability in children to write creatively and powerfully.

There are several key phases of the Talk for Writing process, the stages enable children to imitate orally the language they need for a particular topic, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their own version. To engage the creative minds of our young writers, at the start of each new talk for writing process, they use a "hook" to give the writing context and provide the children with exciting new opportunities.

### Pre-Primary

Ms Christensen, our Pre-Primary teacher is focusing on the story of the *3 Little Pigs* in her Talk for Writing lessons. The children were so excited by the hook Mrs Christensen used to engage them. She built a pile of bricks outside the classroom with sticks on the floor and a bale of hay. She then pretended to the children that she had heard a scratching noise and an 'eeeeee' sound close by.

She asked the children what they thought it could be. The children explored ideas such as it could be a fairy, a princess or a truck cutting all the trees down. The hook worked its magic as the children were desperate to hear why the bricks, hay and sticks were in their playground. Mrs Staltari then read the abridged version of the *3 Little Pigs* whilst Ms Christensen drew a story map. Following this the children followed the story map to orally tell the story together. The children could then re-enact the story using costumes and props Ms Christensen and Mrs Staltari had organised in the Pre-Primary classroom. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged!

I think Ms Christensen has missed her calling, she could have easily been an actress, she was so believable as the Big Bad Wolf!



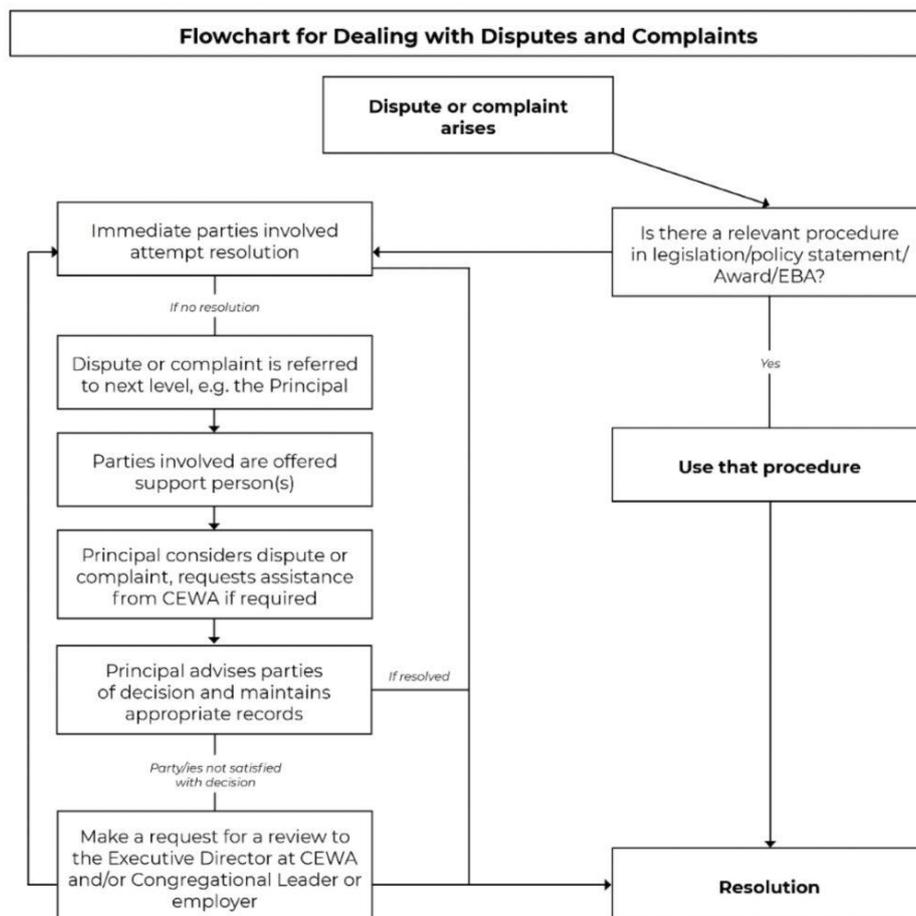
# Affordable Sustainable Schools

## COVID Reporting

In 2023, COVID-19 community case numbers have remained manageable. For this reason, the Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form and CEWA COVID-19 Portal will be decommissioned. Student absences due to COVID-19 must be reported to school via normal attendance procedures.

## Disputes and Complaints

All Catholic Schools in Western Australia follow CEWA’s Dispute and Grievance procedures. The flow chart below provides a simple visual representation of the Dispute and Grievance Procedures. Please refer to the chart and should you require any further information please contact the school. Parents/caregivers can view the full Catholic Education WA Disputes and Complaints Policy on our school website.



God bless each and every one of you.

**Mrs Gabrielle Brennan**  
**Short Term Principal**



## *Message from Mr Sheldon Carey*

*“Arrived in Budapest and enjoyed a lovely cruise down the Danube passing the Houses of Parliament and former Royal Palaces that used to dot the river.*

*Crossed the border in Vienna and  
thinking of you all and keeping the school community in my prayers.”*



# FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

## SACRAMENTS

Thank you to all the families who attended the Sacrament Enrolment masses on the weekend. Please continue to take your child/children to Mass each week and remember to encourage your child to take their sticker book with them.

## NAPLAN

The next couple of weeks the Year 3 and 5 students are participating in national testing in Literacy and Numeracy. Please ensure your children get a good night's sleep and eat their breakfast before coming to school. It is important that children do not feel extra pressure placed on them during this time.

All Year 3 and Year 5 students will be assessed between Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 23 March. Catch up tests will be completed on Friday. Results will be forwarded to the school later in the year and will be sent to parents.

## FATHERING CAMP

A group of children and their fathers or father figures are off to Moore River for their Annual Fathering Camp on Friday 17 and 18 March. We know they will have a marvellous time and make some very special memories. We wish them well. We also hope their Mums enjoy the peace and quiet!

## PTO (Parent Teacher On-Line)

Parent-Teacher face to face interviews will be held for Kindy to Year 6 students from Monday 13 March to Friday 24 March. Interviews will be of 10 minutes duration.

For these interviews we are using the online booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). It will save time for parents, staff and students. Information on how to book an interview was emailed to parents on Monday.

## HARMONY DAY



The school will be celebrating Harmony Day on Tuesday 21 March. Harmony Day is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. Children will be allowed to wear orange or a costume from their country of origin.

We are happy for children to wear clothing in the colour of the flag from their country like green hat, white t-shirt and red shorts to represent Italy. However, a soccer jersey without the appropriate flag colours is not permitted.

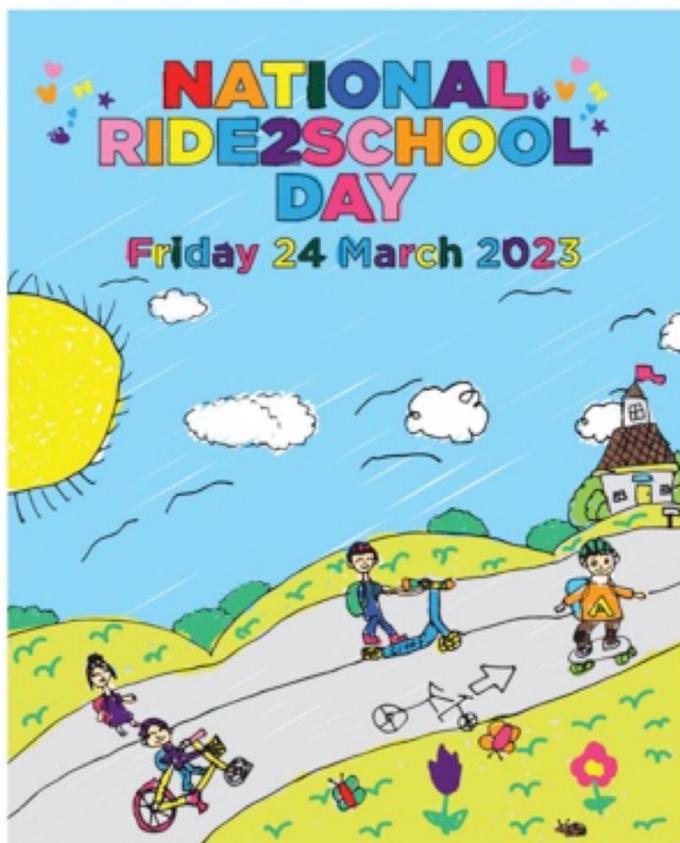
To celebrate our diversity two incursions have been organised for that day the Aboriginal Dance Troupe and the African Drumming Company.

Instead of a gold coin donation, this year family groups are encouraged to donate a native plant for our Aboriginal Garden. To cover the cost of a native plant multiple family groups may join together to donate.

*Examples of native plants:*

Native Hibiscus, Coastal Tea Tree, Pretty Pops, Candy Cones, Isopogon Pink Drumsticks, Little Red- Melaleuca, Grevillea, Everlasting straw Flower etc. Thank you in advance for your support.

*Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principal*



St Lawrence Primary School are excited to celebrate National Ride2School Day on Friday 24th March.

We encourage all students and their families to leave the car at home and give riding, walking, skating or scooting to school a go.

It's sure to be a fantastic day and we look forward to seeing you there!

Students may wear their sport uniform to school on this day.



*Mrs Roselyn Pizzino, Year Three Teacher*

# UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

## WINTER UNIFORM

Year 1 to Year 6 students will commence Term 2 in full winter uniform. Pre-primary students remain in their sports uniform and track pants and Jackets are available for winter.

Year 1 and new students who have commenced this year, will need to purchase their winter uniform before the end of this term in readiness for Term Two.

Winter order forms are available from the school office and the Uniform Shop.

**Please note:**

- The Uniform Shop will be closed during the school holidays.
- The last day the Uniform Shop will be open this term is Thursday 6 April.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS

Pre Kindy and Kindergarten students are encouraged to wear the Early Childhood T-Shirt and an Early Childhood Track Top, available for purchase for Winter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for all enquires or to place a Uniform order, please EMAIL me on [Angie.Miola@cewa.edu.au](mailto: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*

# P&F NEWS



Thank you to all the wonderful school community that supported our chocolate fundraiser.

## **Please note:**

Families who have chosen **donation of \$30 Option** or families with **Chocolate Orders**, all money must be handed in by **Wednesday 29 March**.

*Thank you, Mrs Natasha Raso*

*P&F President*

# CANTEEN NEWS

**THANK** you to my many helpers last week, Carmellina, Andrea and Bennie - your help was very much appreciated.

Help if still required for Thursday 15 March (Year 1), Thursday 23 March (Year 6) and Thursday 30 March (Year 4/5).

**Last day of Term - Thursday 6 April.** There will be a Sushi special - 5 piece Sushi and Juice \$7 Please note this is a new supplier (tried and tested) and they are bigger and more filling pieces. Choices are: Katsu Chicken; Teriyaki Chicken (Gluten Free); Cooked Tuna (Gluten-free) Vegetarian (gluten free). Please pre order by 31 March

**Last day of  
term special  
6/4/23**



**5 piece Sushi and  
juice \$7**  
**Katsu Chicken**  
**Teriyaki Chicken**  
**(gluten free)**  
**Cooked Tuna**  
**(gluten free)**  
**Vegetarian**  
**(gluten free)**

**Please preorder  
by Friday 31st  
March**

PIC•COLLAGE