



Newsletter No. 8

22 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

The final few weeks of Term One are flying by. The teaching staff have been busy conducting parent and teacher interviews. These interviews are a great opportunity to speak with your child's teacher about how they have settled into the 2023 school year and how they are progressing in their learning. Please be mindful that interviews are scheduled, so please be punctual to meetings. If you need more time with a particular teacher, please arrange a separate time for a longer meeting.

Educating children is a partnership between school and home. We endeavour to work together with parents to provide the best learning opportunities for each child attending our school. We believe it is crucial to have clear and regular communication between families and the school to ensure the best possible learning experiences for our students. You know your children better than anyone and we value your input into their learning journey. We use a range of modes of communication to keep parents informed of their child's learning. This includes online tools such as Seesaw and TEAMS, Semester Reports, our school newsletter and website. We also encourage students to share their learning at home.

We are very excited to inform you that we have employed a new Grounds Person. Robert Van Hoosten will commence his employment on Monday 27 March. Please introduce yourself to Rob if you see him around the school and welcome Rob to our St Lawrence Community. Sincere thanks to the wonderful Mr Tonge for returning to St Lawrence to maintain the school grounds until we were able to employ someone in this position.

Christ Centred Communities

As we continue our journey through Lent, a big thankyou to all the families who have donated to Project Compassion. The funds raised are used by Caritas in lots of different ways which includes specialist rehabilitation devices for people living with disabilities. The purchasing of food for impoverished families and the purchasing of resources for schools.

Lent Reflection

Lent is a time to think about Jesus' life and suffering and the ways he continually showed compassion and forgiveness to those around him, even those who sentenced him to death. It is also a time to think about our own lives and the ways we need to share compassion and forgiveness with others like Jesus did. Through fasting, almsgiving and prayer we join in solidarity with people experiencing poverty. Sharing what we have, is an expression of our Christian commitment to Justice and a way of expressing appreciation for all that God has given us. Through our Lenten giving to charities such as Project Compassion we are invited to share in Jesus' promise of hope, that we may ***"have life and have it to the full"*** (John 10:10)



It is important to remember that the 40 days of Lent is linked to the time Jesus was in the desert. We have reached the point in our Lenten journey when we are finally able to catch a glimpse of the Easter light at the end of the days in the desert. We need to make the most of this time, praying, giving alms and fasting. During these last couple weeks of Lent, instead of thinking only of our own struggles, we need to contemplate Jesus and his lonely journey through the desert.

Lent and Easter are a significant time in our liturgical calendar. Students in Year 3 to Year 6 will present Liturgies depicting the important events of Holy Week leading to Jesus' death and resurrection. The rest of the school will join these students in the Church to observe the Liturgies. Parents and families are most welcome to attend the Liturgies on Wednesday 5 April at 2pm.

Dear God,

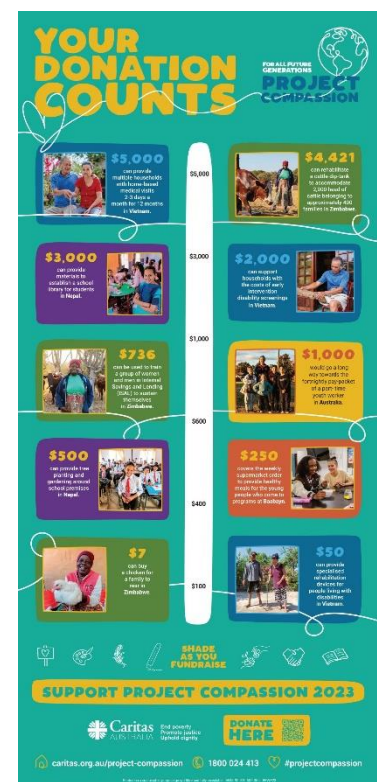
You give us the season of Lent to renew and restore our lives.

As we follow our Lenten journey, protect us,

strengthen us and give us hope when we become discouraged.

May the Spirit of Jesus be with us as we transform our lives and our world.

Amen



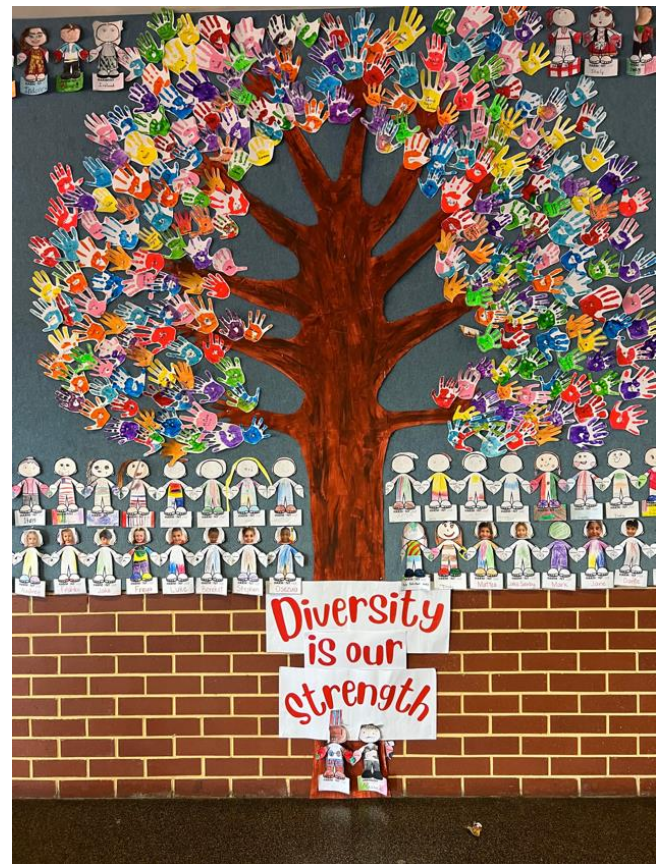
Harmony Day

On Tuesday the school celebrated Harmony Day. Harmony Day forms one part of Harmony Week. Created in 1999 to celebrate unity and diversity, Harmony Day was originally an Australian celebration but is now marked worldwide. Harmony Day was created to encourage everyone to respect each other and appreciate the country's multicultural background. Our school community is all the richer for its multicultural nature and we would like all members of our community to celebrate our diversity through all students and staff showing their pride in their own family's cultural and ethnic origins. This year's theme 'Everyone Belongs' aligns well with one of our Core Values 'Unity'.

Yesterday the children and staff at St Lawrence dressed in orange clothes, costumes from their countries of origin or chose to wear a colour from the flag of their country of origin. The colour orange is worn on Harmony Day because orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversation. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

The children participated in two incursions, both highlighting the different cultures within Western Australia. We had a wonderful Aboriginal dance troupe performance. Children also joined African drumming Workshops throughout the afternoon. Leah Justin, one of our Year 5 students performed an Indian Dance in front of the whole school. Well done Leah! We really enjoyed your performance. Throughout the day the children really found their rhythm and thoroughly enjoyed all the experiences.

Students also completed Harmony Day activities in their classroom. Please take time if you are on school grounds, to have a look at the wonderful display we have in the hall. All children from Pre-Kindergarten to Year Six painted a handprint in a variety of colours. Each child wrote their name and their country of origin on the handprint. All the handprints were used to create a wonderful tree display to represent the diversity of cultures and traditions we have at St Lawrence.



In the past, on Harmony Day we have asked for a gold coin donation. This year family groups are encouraged to donate native plants for a new Aboriginal Garden in our school grounds. To cover the cost of a native plant multiple family groups may join to donate plants. We will write the names of families who donate on labels that will be placed on the plant/s. Our Environmental student leaders will assist classes in planting the plants in the Aboriginal garden.



Thank you to all the families who have already donated plants, we really appreciate your support. Please leave any plants you wish to donate to our garden in the alcove near the front office.

A big thankyou to our Aboriginal Education Team who organised our celebration of Harmony Day this year: Mrs Major, Mrs Wake and Ms Tranquille.

Dear God

We thank you for the variety of cultures in this world.

Enrich our lives by ever widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who are most different from us.

Help us to love and care for each other just as you care and love each one of us.

You call us to live in peace and harmony within our beautiful multicultural country, and may we show true justice as we are called to recognise and respect the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Cultures and societies.

As we walk together, strong in faith on this Harmony Day, let us turn to God with our hopes and prayers.

Help us to always show compassion and kindness and grant us the strength to help carry the burdens of others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Every Thursday I visit our Pre-Kindergarten to see some of our youngest children at our school. There is so much to learn in one day for the children in Pre-Kindy and most of this learning is through play. Play experiences in our Pre-Kindergarten classroom are based upon the children's needs and their current interests and passions. Oral language skills, self-management skills and social emotional skills are developed.

Children in PK also get time to play outside. Spending time outdoors is vital in early childhood. It helps foster children's interactions with others, builds confidence and competence in children as they start to take risks. The development of Gross and fine motor skills is also an important focus of PK.

The children use their bodies and hands to do many different things. They build blocks, make sandcastles, pedal bikes, jump, roll and run around the playground. They use big and small movements throughout the day. They are also making sense of the world through fun activities such as water play, counting games and exploring colour through art using a variety of materials.



Catholic Pastoral Communities

Making sleep a priority is important for parents who want their children to succeed in school. We have noticed some children who appear tired during class time. Sleep experts say that a lack of sleep may reduce cognitive abilities and can impair school performance over time. Sleep needs vary by age. For school age children the National Sleep Foundation recommends approximately 9 – 11 hours of sleep each day. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school each day refreshed and ready to learn.

Sustainable Catholic Communities

Families are invited to support the Ride to School Day on Friday. Each year St Lawrence gets involved with this important initiative. Children who walk and ride bikes to school increase their physical activity, alertness at school and develop resilience. We encourage parents to also participate and ride with their children. Thank you to Mrs Pizzino for coordinating this event each year and to all the staff who assist in the morning and after school.

God bless each and every one of you.

Gabrielle Brennan
Short Term Principal

Message from Mr Sheldon Carey

*"Greetings from Dublin, driving from Dublin to Cork on motorway M7
doing 120 km an hour while sightseeing and navigating my Google Maps.*

*Ireland is as pretty as one imagines. Still cold but spring has certainly sprung!
Just an Irish spring and a Perth spring are a tad different.*

I am thinking of you all and always keeping you in my prayers."



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

HARMONY DAY

A huge thank you to all the families that donated native plants for our Aboriginal garden. A name plaque will be placed under your plant in our garden to acknowledge your contribution. Thank you once again for your generosity.

It was great to see the children embrace the individuality and uniqueness of all nationalities.



RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY

On Friday 24 March it is National Ride2School Day. This day is the perfect opportunity to kick-start new healthy habits and promote the many benefits of active travel. We encourage all students and their families to leave the car at home or a nearby park and give riding, walking, scooting or skating to school a go. It is sure to be a fantastic day. Students are permitted to wear sport uniform to school on this day.

DANCE CONCERT

On Friday 31 March your child will be participating in the St. Lawrence Dance Concert for 2023. Our theme for this year will be 'Four Seasons in One Day'. You will be wowed with our creative and groovy dancers.

Please read the costume table in this section.

- Each class has a simple costume for their dance. Feel free to use items of clothing that you already have at home that are as close as possible to the description below.
- You are NOT required to buy any new items.
- Leggings/shorts must be worn under any skirts/dresses.
- Comfortable footwear needs to be worn when performing as we are dancing outside on pavement.

Please collect these items in a bag, label the bag clearly with your child's name, and bring the bag to your classroom teacher by Wednesday 29 March.

Students will change into their costumes after lunch on Performance Day.

To make it a little easier on the day of the Dance Concert children will be allowed to come to school in their sport uniform.

The concert begins at 2pm on the Junior Oval and all family and friends are welcome to attend. We are looking forward to celebrating music and movement with you.

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES



The whole school will take part in the Holy Week Liturgies on Wednesday 5th April. The children from Year 3 to Year 6 will re-enact Jesus' journey to his crucifixion. Parents are welcome to join us in the St Lawrence Church at 2pm for these liturgies.

YEAR TWO LITURGY

The Year Two Liturgy will be held in the school hall on **Thursday 30 March** commencing at 9am. All parents are welcome to attend.

DANCE CONCERT – Costume Table

Year	Song Inspiration	Costume
K	Rainbows	Please follow correspondence from Mrs Wake.
P	“Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head” into “In Summer” (from Frozen)	Plain White T-shirt (please no pictures/motifs) Black Bottoms (we would like to mimic a snowman look)
1	“Singing in the Rain” into “Blame It On The Boogie”	Bright Colours and Patterns (please ensure bike short or tights under skirts or dresses, if worn)
2	“Thunder in My Heart” into “Turn Up the Sunshine”	Sunset Coloured Top (yellows, oranges, reds) Black/Dark Bottoms (sunset type coloured dress/skirt is okay too)
3	“Umbrella” into “Sunroof”	Shades of Blue Top (e.g. light blue, navy, any blue) Black/Dark Bottoms (any shade of blue dress/skirt is okay too)
4	“Thunderstruck” into “Shotgun”	Plain White T-shirt Denim Bottoms (as close to white & denim if needed)
5	Student Choreographed Group Dances	Student Choice (currently in discussion) **will need to be appropriate for school and dance/movement**
6	Student Choreographed Group Dances	Student Choice (currently in discussion) **will need to be appropriate for school and dance/movement**

Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

Last week we celebrated **ST PATRICK'S DAY** early in the library!

According to Irish folklore people who do not wear green on St Patrick's Day will be pinched by a leprechaun. To help students avoid being pinched, they were all given an opportunity to borrow a book with a green cover, with "Pinch Protectors", and also had the opportunity to take a Pinch Protector bookmark.

We are very happy to report that no leprechauns were seen around the school on Friday and luckily no students were pinched!



This week we celebrated **HARMONY WEEK**. The children were given the opportunity to borrow books on inclusivity and stories from different cultures around the world. We also had Harmony Week activities during lunchtimes in the library on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Mrs Louise Frenzel, Library Officer

Harmony Week



RAINBOWS PROGRAM



It is not too late to register your child/children for the Rainbows Program for 2023. Our Rainbows Program is shortly due to commence in Term Two.

Rainbows is a peer support program for children living in a single parent or stepfamily, or who have suffered a significant loss in their life. Children meet in small groups where they are helped to identify what they may be feeling and are given some strategies to help process those feelings. It provides children with an opportunity to express their feelings in a safe and confidential setting. Grief is a normal reaction to a significant loss. Frequently children do not express their grief verbally, so it surfaces in their behaviour, schoolwork, as a physical ailment or it affects their emotional development.

If you would like to register your child/children for the Rainbows program or would like further information, please email myself at louise.frenzel@cewa.edu.au

Mrs Louise Frenzel, Rainbows Coordinator

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS



Several Years 5 and 6 students will be participating in the NECPSA Cricket Carnival this Friday 24 March at Yokine Reserve. We will be enjoying a morning on fun matches against St Denis, St Gerards, Majella and Our Lady of Lourdes.

I wish all students the best of luck and I am sure they will. have a great day and make us all proud. Congratulations to all students who were selected to represent St Lawrence.

Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

NETBALL UNIFORM

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

Please note that netball dresses are to be worn on game days for Junior & Net Set Go competition. Netball jackets are available and may be worn during netball game days and training for players, coaches, managers and parents.

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 dresses and netball jackets are available for purchase directly at the Uniform Shop. Netball order forms are available at the school office or website.

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 6th 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.

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

CADBURY FUNDRAISER – Final Day Reminder

Please note that all money collected must be handed in by **Wednesday 29 March**.

Mother's Day Stall – Friday 5 May

The children have been given the opportunity to pick their gifts early. Each child has chosen a gift/gifts for \$5. On the day of the stall could you please send your child with \$5 and they will pay for and pick up the gift they chose.

*Thank you for your support, Mrs Natasha Raso
P&F President*

2024 FATHERING PROJECT MOORE RIVER CAMP

Friday 15 March to Saturday 16 March

Organisation has commenced for the **2024 camp**. Parents, please note that there will be limited places, so first in best dressed!

*Please contact Marcello Murabito on 0417514224
to be added to the group chat and to arrange for your \$50 deposit per family.
Cut-off date for \$50 deposit will be Monday 10 April 2023.*

We will endeavor to book as many camp sites as possible. If we end up with too many families, deposits will be returned to the last families that paid.

This is a wonderful opportunity for new families to meet and greet at the beginning of the 2024 school year. 2023 camp was a great success, thank you to everyone who participated.

Marcello Murabito, Co-ordinator



CANTEEN NEWS

- Helpers needed: Thursday 23 March (Yr 6) and Thursday 30 March (Yrs 4/5)
- Children attending the cricket carnival on Friday are still able to order lunch as they will return to school by 12pm
- **Last day of term is 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.

Please note this is the only lunch item available this day.

Hot dogs this week are out of stock. We will instead have 'sausage sizzle.' Thank you for your understanding.

**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