



Newsletter No. 15

24 May 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.



We prayer for all the boys and girls who will be celebrating Confirmation this coming weekend.

The Roman Catholic Church views confirmation as a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ. It confers the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord) upon the recipient, who must be a baptized person at least seven years old.

A bishop normally performs the rite, which includes the laying on of hands and anointing the forehead with chrism (holy oil). Confirmation is a Christian rite by which admission to the church, established previously in baptism, is said to be confirmed (or strengthened and established in faith).

Our Confirmation falls on the Great Feast of Pentecost which is seen as the first confirmation and the birth of the Church. It must have been an overwhelming experience. It was just nine days after Christ ascended into heaven, and the apostles were still unsure of what to do. They had gathered in the upper room with Mary, the room where the Last Supper had happened. On the day of the Feast of Pentecost, one of the biggest Jewish High Holy Days, when Jews from across the ancient world would gather in Jerusalem, suddenly, in the Upper Room, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles as tongues of fire and they were filled with the Spirit of God.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

I have taken the below statement from The West Australian (thewest.com.au)

McKinsey & Company acknowledged “compensation is a top driver for both attrition and retention” but was “likely to be insufficient” without increased investment in other forms of teacher support, including extra specialist and administration staff.

These reforms will take time and our teacher shortage crisis is now.

And that crisis has a direct impact on student outcomes.

As parents concerned about our children getting quality education, it is within our power to support our teachers and our schools. At the very least, we can take responsibility for not adding to the problem.

We need not just to be kind, but to demonstrate respect and gratitude for our teachers, their expertise and their capacity to make good decisions in the interests of our children.

We should consider the impact of our own behaviour, the behaviour of our children and the right of a teacher to feel safe and be treated with dignity at work. A teacher has a right to non-working time.

We should consider the broader context of a teacher already working overtime to educate our children and whether our request/demand is warranted, fair or constructive.

We should consider supporting school disciplinary strategies designed to deliver consequences for the disruptive behaviour of our children.

We should consider whether we would tell a pilot how to fly a plane, a surgeon how to conduct an operation or a CEO how to run her business.

Teachers are highly trained, well-educated professionals who are fast becoming an endangered species.

How we treat them matters.

There is currently a shortage of teachers and fewer graduates entering Teacher Training at universities. This is a worldwide phenomenon and one with potentially devastating consequences. An inability to attract people to the profession of teaching and to retain teachers has far reaching consequences. I am very aware of the demands placed upon our teachers, data collection, testing regimes, professional development requirements, long hours of preparation and marking. This is compounded by the large amount of paperwork and compliance obligations that are required.

I read in last week's newspaper that a teacher is attacked every 40 minutes somewhere across our state. Not a headline that would be attractive to a young person considering teaching as their vocation.

When I reflect on my 30 plus years in education, I can certainly see the changes in the landscape of education, and unfortunately not all for the better. I must however say, when I look at our community of St Lawrence, I see the positive relationships between school, home, and families.

All research indicates the more positive the relationship between these factors the better the outcome for our students. It strengthens my believe in our community when I hear our staff talk about the children with care, respect and a genuine desire to see the children thrive, when parents stop me and thank me for all we do. When children leave school smiling and happy, having learnt new and wonderful marvels.

I am encouraged and motivated by what I see here at St Lawrence. By and large our school and families working together for the best outcomes of our children. Positive relationships, enhancing the learning opportunities of our children. This aside, I see the demands placed upon our teachers, I see their cars here at 6:00pm at night and back at 7:00am in the morning. I see them here on the weekend, away from their families preparing lessons, marking, and spending time interrogating data to implement learning opportunities designed to cater for the many different individuals in their classes.

I know firsthand how much a teacher appreciates the support of a family, we know that as part of our professional standing we must feedback information to parents that you may find upsetting and concerning, we know children will make poor choices, we know we must respond to disruptive behaviour and ensure the learning environment remains stable and that these environments are safe. We value and appreciate when we have the support of families in responding to all these nuances of the vocation of teaching. Working together and walking in the same direction is the key to success.

I share this reflection with you not to lament over the state of education in general, but to share my thoughts. Our St Lawrence Primary School is a beautiful school, our children are truly gifts from God, yes, we all make poor choices from time to time, but this is part of the learning and growing process. My prayer is simple, we as a school community continue to walk in the same direction, embracing the blessings of family life and the life of the school, the aims of education and the ideals and values we strive to help our boys and girls come to embrace.

Respectful, open dialogue, good communication and mutual support and understanding are key to a thriving school. The outcome of a thriving school, the best possible opportunities for children to learn, and dare I say....have some fun! To the staff, parents, community, and our boys and girls, thank you for the support, joy and commitment you all bring to our community. Not every day will be perfect, not every conversation to our liking, not every decision pleasing everyone. However, with respect, consideration and an open mind to try and understand, we stand on firm ground. I leave you with some words from Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



WELLNESS WEEK

Next week is Wellness Week. The following Holy Scripture quotes remind us all of the importance of rest, sabbatical, fallow times. These were important concepts of Biblical times and Jesus himself was very aware of the importance of rest, time to rejuvenate, renew, and revitalize.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Leviticus 25:3-4

For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.

The purpose of Wellness Week is to give everyone, students, families and staff, an opportunity to slow down and take time to focus on our mental health and wellbeing. During this week no homework is to be given to students. Families will be encouraged to take this opportunity to spend time with each other, visit grandparents, go walking, have a midweek picnic, spend time in prayer and generally spend quality time together and downtime to reboot our mental health.

Another great idea is to have deviceless evenings, where all family members place their devices aside for the night and engage in activities involving each other's company, support and develop togetherness.

As Reading is not homework, just something we should always be doing, please ensure you all continue your home reading....as I have said before why not start a family book club night and spend time sharing your reading!

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Schools are mandated to teach “Protective Behaviours” as part of the national curriculum. The Protective Behaviours Program teaches children, young people and adults a range of skills and strategies to help prevent and reduce child abuse and violence in our communities.

Whilst the task of preventing child abuse appears daunting for most parents, teachers and service providers, Protective Behaviours provides a framework that can be easily adapted to home, school and community environments.

Children who have been taught Protective Behaviours are more able to discern threats to their safety and are more likely to suggest using personal safety strategies than comparison children.

(Johnson, 1985)



Catholic Pastoral Communities

A huge thank you to the vast majority of parents who are adhering to the car park rules. You are to be applauded for your patience and understanding. I know that waiting can become frustrating but as we all know it takes time for little children to get into cars, put their belts on and attend to their bags.

I would ask the parents who do not abide by the rules of the car park to consider others the next time they use the Church car park drive through. At the end of the day, it is the safety of our children that is paramount to me. If that costs an extra few minutes in the waiting, then the investment is well spent! Thank you.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Our boys and girls have commenced the new term at St Lawrence in their full **Winter Uniform**, looking very smart and wearing their uniforms with pride. Parents are reminded about our School Uniform guidelines.

Please ensure your children are wearing their correct school socks, and black leather school shoes, not black sports shoes instead of the required black leather lace-up school shoes on non-sports uniform days. School shirts are to be worn tucked in, and with the top button fastened to accommodate the school tie correctly. Parents are asked to attend to incorrect items before children receive a uniform notice.

Enrolment at St Lawrence is dependent upon upkeeping our policies and procedures and I greatly appreciate your support on this matter. Haircuts should also not be of the extreme and hair should be pulled back off the face.

Thank you to all the wonderful families who always ensure your boys and girls are well presented and in their correct uniforms. We have a lovely uniform, and our children look so smart when they are all well presented. This reflects the high standards long associated with St Lawrence in our locale community.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



Merit Award Winners – 19.5.2023



Mathletics Awards – 19.5.2023

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

YEAR 5 ASSEMBLY

Our Year 5 students will lead our assembly on Friday. Merit awards will also be distributed. Parents are welcome to attend this assembly.



CONFIRMATION

Our Year 6 students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday at 6pm. In preparation, the children will attend a Retreat Day on Thursday in the school hall. Thank you to Mr Haydon for organising the Retreat. Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation. The school supports the family and parish in the faith development of the students. Please keep the children in your prayers.

REPORTS

Semester one reports will be available on SEQTA on Thursday 29 June. Most families should have access to electronic reports via SEQTA at <https://stlawbal.coneqt-p.cathednet.wa.edu.au>

All Pre-Primary families who do not have an older child in the school and new families will be sent a 'Welcome Email' to register for a SEQTA Engage Account. Existing families with a current account should check that they can log in prior to Thursday 29 June. If you are unable to log in, please follow the process below to create a new password. Please contact the school office if you have any concerns or queries.

1. Click on the "Forgot your password? Link"
2. Enter your email address into the relevant box and click on "Reset my password"
3. Go to your email inbox and reset your password according to the instructions in the email.

Please be aware that the password will expire after one hour of being generated.



Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, in line with the *NCCD guidelines (2019)*.

This information assists schools to:

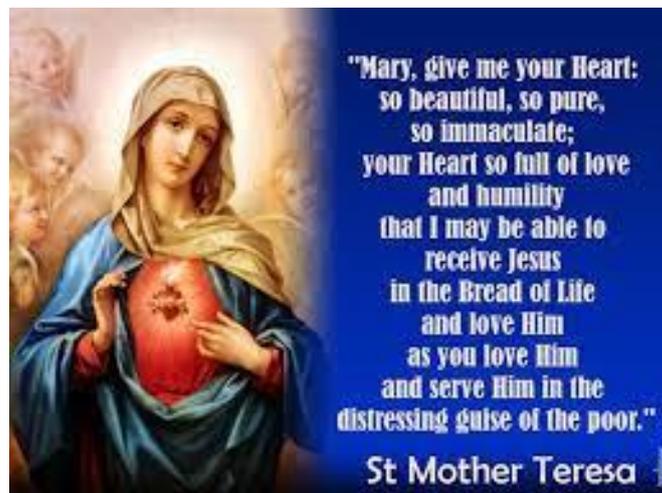
- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

It will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process.

The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information.

To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>). Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](https://www.nccd.edu.au) (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>). If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.



Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals



“Our Lemon Tree”

SCHOOL PHOTOS

The school photos are scheduled for Friday 16th June 2023.

Kindy, Pre- Primary and Year 1 to 6 classes will have their photos taken on Friday 16th June.

The Pre-Kindy class will have their photos on Thursday 15th June.

Children from Year 1 to 6 will need to be in their full winter uniform with their school jumper (No vest). Year 6 students will wear their leavers jacket. Children with long hair must have their hair tied up with blue or white accessories. Pre-Primary will need to wear their sports uniform.

All photo envelopes will be going home this week. Please return all envelopes on photo day.

Every student must return their envelope even if they are not buying photos.

The instructions on how to order online are on the envelopes and are self-explanatory. If parents require further ordering information, please contact Photo Hendriks on 9361 3206 or

www.photohendriks.com.au/faq-for-parents/

Family Portraits

These envelopes will be handed out to students who present to the photographers for family photos on Photo Day. These envelopes will have pre-assigned Shoot key to order online.

Lost Envelopes

A small bundle of replacement envelopes are in the office for families who misplace their envelopes.

New Student

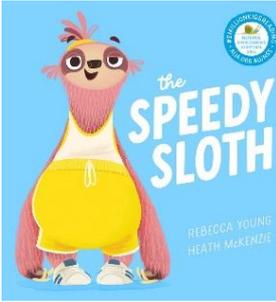
Students who are new to the school and did not receive an envelope will be handed out an envelope by the photographers on Photo Day. The envelope will allow them to order online.



St Lawrence play group is a great way for parents and children to socialise in a fun and relaxed environment. Our sessions run on a Monday morning from 8:40am - 10:30am in the pre-kindy/kindy classroom. St Lawrence play group is open to anyone in the community. If you have a friend or neighbour that you think might be interested, feel free to pass on the details. Grandparents and caregivers are also most welcome to join us. For all enquiries or to book please email gillian.austin@cewa.edu.au.

Mrs Gillian Austin, Play Group Facilitator

LIBRARY NEWS



NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME 2023

This morning the library was transformed into an athletics event extravaganza and was overrun by sloths when our very sporty Year 1 class joined more than 2.2 million children from across the world to take part in the National Simultaneous Storytime.

All participants join in reading the same book at the same time! Our Year One students looked lightning fast in their sports uniforms and headbands as they enjoyed the story, *The Speedy Sloth* by Rebecca Young, read by Mr Carey.

After the story, students were able to take part in many sloth related activities including colouring in, word searches, mazes and dressing the sloth.



A very big thank you to Mr Carey, Mrs Hogg and Mrs Mattioli for helping make this event so special for our students. Special thanks also to the parents, grandparents and carers that were able to join us this morning.





Mrs Louise Frenzel, Library Officer & Rainbows Co-ordinator

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

NETBALL UNIFORM

Netball Jackets are to be worn during netball game days.

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

CLEARANCE SALE

SECOND HAND uniforms are available for purchase.

Please note there will be NO exchanges or refunds.

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

CANTEEN NEWS

THANK YOU very much to my helper last week Jess, your help was much appreciated!

Thank you to those who have put their name down to help in the canteen this term.

Help is still needing the following dates:

Thursday 25th May Year 3

Thursday 15th June Pre-Primary

Thursday 22nd June Year 6

Thursday 29th June - all years – as this is last day of term, three helpers will be required.

To date, there is only one helper. If you are able to help, please contact the canteen. This will be the last day of term, we do require extra helpers. Thank you for your support.

Please note we are still having trouble getting Frankfurt's from our supplier. This week, we will have a BBQ sausage instead of hot dogs.

Birthday orders - Please pre order one day prior; or icy poles two days prior

Brownies or Icy poles \$15

Cupcakes or M & M Cookies \$20

Thank you for your support, 2023 Canteen Staff

thank you

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

It was wonderful to see many mothers and grandmother at the Mother's Day Breakfast.

We thank **Umberto's Bakery** for supporting the breakfast with their delicious pastries.

It was indeed a very special morning.



Thank you all for your support.

Mrs Natasha Raso & Committee Members