



Newsletter No. 25

19 August 2020

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 Friends

A friend of mine, when describing why she readily let someone back into her life after they did something really rather silly, said "We all deserve a soft landing". I always thought that was a noble gesture. I think this parable from Jesus is also about the soft landing we should make for those people who, for whatever reasons, may need that second chance. I do believe that from time to time each and every one of us needs a soft place to land.



The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons'.

The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.'
So he divided his property between them'.

A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' Luke 15:11-32

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Welcome to Week Five: I was impressed with so many wonderful things I saw last week happening at our very lovely school....Let me share...

- Children attending Mass for the Assumption.
- Children banging nails into boards with a Mercy Sister over seeing them, now that took me back to another time and place.
- Children applauding the attempts of others to complete a huge cross country run...I puff out getting to the letter box some days!...
- Teachers in other teachers' classrooms providing performance appraisal and feedback to enhance pedagogical practice.
- A child showing me the book she had made in class with a smile wider than the Nile itself because of her delightful achievements. Now that is pure joy for a School Principal.
- A whole school singing hymns of praise to Our Lord.
- A little one asking me when he would get his Gold Award for mathematics, elated he was doing so well.
- Buddy classes sharing reading times with each other.
- Brollies over children's heads so they don't get wet as they get out of their cars...while the staff member was getting a right royal soaking, and not a single complaint was offered about that....
- The sound of joy coming from classrooms as children were learning...and learning so much in so many different ways.
- It really is a delight to walk around this school. Well done to you all.

A huge shout out to all staff for ensuring the school is presented in such a lovely manner. If the buildings are well presented and cared for, then the safety of staff, children and visitors is also better provided for. It also means we all take a highly vested interest in the learning of our children, as it is reflected in the visualisation of the efforts of both staff and child alike. Numerous studies indicate clearly the links between classroom presentation, order and the aesthetic of the learning environment. The Reggio Emilia philosophy testifies the importance of the environment...

The Reggio Emilia philosophy views the environment as the third teacher, a space for providing numerous opportunities for children to explore, experiment, develop their ideas, and test their theories. It should encourage collaboration and communication, exploration and discovery, inspiration and intrigue, and be a place for research.

Well thought out aesthetically rich environments readily engage the children's attention. The teachers take time to consider what proposals they may offer the child, which will support and challenge them in the development of their ideas/theories. The environment is the third teacher of the child.

“Deeper consideration of the environment can enable teachers to conceptualise their role less as a teacher controlling the group, and more as a partner with the children in the social construction of knowledge, and the exploration of working theories and areas of interest.”

– Core Education, 2019

I express my gratitude again to all staff for taking the time to ensure our learning environments are always rich in aesthetic appeal and thus maximizing our students learning opportunities and ensuring their safety.

Can I also give Mrs Gabrielle Brennan a huge commendation. Her work to ensure our school is always well presented is exceptional. Our Board Room is really looking sensational as a collaborative space. We held our first “School Improvement Team” (SIT) Meeting there last week and it really is a marvelous environment. Mrs Brennan has overseen this work as part of her Assistant Principal portfolio and the outcomes have been sensational. This space will continue to be developed into a more user-friendly area and thus become less of a ceremonial locality.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders



Our wonderful Year Six children will be off to camp 2020! It always is such a lovely time for all the children and a time full of excitement and great anticipation. Obviously due to the prevailing circumstances of 2020 some changes to camp have needed to occur, however it is still full steam ahead...minus a few changes! Please keep our boys and girls and their teachers in your prayers.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

THINKING BEFORE POSTING

Before posting anything online, people should ask themselves the following questions:

- Do I have the right to share this?
- Is this the right thing to do?
- Am I willing to take responsibility if this post goes viral or is shared without my permission?
- Will I regret this tomorrow when I am not angry or upset?
- Is the risk worth the reward of 15 minutes of fame or shame?
- Am I ready for the social, emotional, verbal or legal battle that may ensue?

“Rated ‘R’ Social Media” by Daphne Donaldson in Education Week, April 14, 2019

The above quote serves as a gentle reminder for us all to be mindful of what we post on line. This includes Facebook and other forms of social media. I am aware the temptation to place frustrations on line, to put them out into the digital world can be a strong one. I am aware sometimes venting our concerns may even make us feel better, maybe. However, it does not make it right, it does not make it the correct platform and it is not good modelling for our children. In fact, it is simply wrong. It can never be justified as appropriate. If you have a concern or question or matter you want addressing please go directly to the teachers. The school affords all people this same dignity and I do not believe it inappropriate to expect anything less in return. A sincere thank you to all community members who genuinely follow the appropriate protocols. It is greatly appreciated.

It does give me great joy to announce that our St Lawrence Day Free Dress donations raised \$331.00. We will forward this money to Sister Chitra for the wonderful work she does with the Kora Centre. Many charities and relief organisations have been very hard hit by the impact of COVID-19. As you can imagine they are so much in demand at the moment because of the very nature of their support and people they help. Any monies we can support, with certainly will go to help those in need. Thank you all for your kind and wonderful support.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Wellness Week



We have completed enrolments for 2021.

Our 2021 Pre-primary, Kindy and Three Year Old are full or very close to full. Thank you to all the families who continue to support our school. Our wonderful reputation combined with our dedicated staff, outstanding equipment, programmes and resources keep St Lawrence as a school of choice. The community feel and spirit throughout the school and parish all come together to make the magic that is St Lawrence. I am

immensely proud of all our children and their wonderful achievements. Perhaps, however, the most joyous celebration for me is how polite, happy and delightful our children are. A credit to themselves, their families and their school. God bless you all.

Absences and Late Arrivals

We are required by the Education Act (1999) s28 to keep accurate records of student absences and the Attendance Register kept by each class teacher is a legal document. A note explaining the absences needs to be produced on return to school. This explanation of an absence needs to be in written form (phone calls, SMS or a word to the teacher is not an acceptable substitute.)

An email meeting the following criteria, is also acceptable:

- ✓ The name of the student
- ✓ The class of the student
- ✓ The reason for the absence
- ✓ The full name of the parent/guardian at the end of the message (the 'from' email address is not sufficient as it does not necessarily have the full name of the person who is sending it).

First Eucharist

The Sacrament of the First Eucharist will be celebrated this **Saturday 22nd August** at 4pm and 6pm. We pray that when our students receive their First Holy Communion that they will draw even closer to Jesus and that they will always live as children of God.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE



We pray for all children and staff who are attending Camp 2020. May they travel safely, enjoying the new experiences and opportunities and return to us all renewed, refreshed, healthy and safe. Amen

Congratulations on the safe arrival of Aria Jade Khalil born last week. Big sister to Athena (Kindy) and Onjelle (Year 2)

Home Learning Tip

Did you know that the games you play with your toddlers and preschoolers can influence their interest in learning math and science as they grow older? Young children are capable of learning such concepts as big and small, high and low, fast and slow, and heavy and light. By helping your children learn these concepts, you are helping them begin to learn about math and science.

According to educational experts from the National Science Foundation ("Helping Children Learn at Home," 1997), "young children are natural mathematicians and scientists" because of their curiosity and their desire to explore and experiment.

When parents encourage their children to ask questions and help children explore and discover the natural world, they are helping build an interest in math and science. Many experts say that children who have such experiences when they are very young develop an enjoyment for and a confidence in math and science that pays off as they get older. Here are some ideas for what you can do to develop your pre-schooler's interest in math and science.

- **Go for a walk with your child.** Take time to stop along the way and watch things that children notice, such as flowers, animals, and bugs. Talk with your child about what you see, and ask about what he sees.
- **Draw pictures together.** Draw a picture of what you have seen, whether it was on your walk together, on your front steps, in the backyard, or from your window. Ask your child to draw a plant, an animal, or a favourite place, and then ask her to tell you about the drawing.
- **Turn a drawing into a story.** Write down what your child says about the picture he just drew. Ask him to make up a story about the picture, and save it with other artwork and stories he has developed.
- **Listen to your child and ask questions about what she is seeing and doing.** Children need to have time every day to tell another person about what they have seen or what they think. When you ask your child to tell you about a walk or a trip to the zoo, you are encouraging her to think and choose words.
- **Choose toys that help your child learn.** Young children learn about the world primarily by playing. As a result, they need toys that encourage them to imagine and explore, which are not necessarily those that are advertised on television.

Helping children learn at home. (1997, March 27). *Pointers for Parents* (National Science and Technology Week Publication SP/96-8). Arlington, VA: National Science Foundation.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

CAMP

This morning our Year 6 students headed off to Forest Edge camp in Waroona. The skills the students learn on this camp will assist them in their journey to becoming young adults and is a great way to bond with each other for the remainder of the year. We are happy to report that they are having a terrific time and making the most of their camp experience.

We sincerely thank all the staff members who have gone to camp for giving up their time so that our students have this memorable experience.



EUCCHARIST

Eucharist means ‘thanksgiving’ and when we participate in the Eucharist, we give thanks for all Jesus has done for us. We are united to God’s Son Jesus and made spiritually strong, when we receive His Body and Blood and the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

The Sacrament of the First Eucharist will be celebrated on **Saturday 22nd August** at 4pm and 6pm. Due to COVID families will only be allowed to have ten family members or friends present at these celebrations. As there will be an official photographer, parents are not to take individual photos during the ceremony.

We pray for the children in Year 4 along with their families and teachers during this special time. Please keep the First Communicants and their families in your prayers.



CONFIRMATION

As per the directive from the Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe SDB, Archbishop of Perth, the celebration of Confirmation remains temporarily suspended whilst Phase 4 of the Western Australian Government’s COVID-19 roadmap remains in place. Yesterday it was announced that Western Australia had delayed moving to stage 5 by two months. The new **tentative** start date of phase 5 will now be Saturday 24 October.

The full text of Archbishop Costelloe’s current and previous directives are available on the Archdiocese of Perth’s dedicated COVID-19 webpage:

<http://www.perthcatholic.org.au/COVID19.htm>.

The preparation meetings, workshops and retreat day will continue as planned this term. However, we are not at this stage able to confirm if and when the Confirmation Mass/Masses will take place. We will continue to keep parents informed when further updates are received. We thank you for your understanding and patience during these unprecedented times.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Important dates for Year 6 parents and students

Confirmation Parent information meeting	Wednesday 26 August	7.00pm School Hall
Confirmation Parent and student workshop	Wednesday 2 September	5.30pm or 7.00pm Location TBC
Confirmation Retreat Day for students	Wednesday 9 September	School Hall
Confirmation Mass/Masses	TBC	TBC

YEAR 2 BYOD iPad INFORMATION

The BYOD iPad information night for students in **Year 2 is on Thursday 27th August at 7pm**. The night will include a representative from IT Dynamics running through the Mobile Management system, ZuluDesk. This is an easy to use tool to allow teachers and parents full control over how a student's iPad is used. It has a range of features which allows it to 'Lock in' apps or specified website for an allocated time. A representative from JB HiFi will also explain the School Portal where you will be able to purchase iPads at a discounted educational price. We encourage all families to attend this information session to make the most of the expert help.

ASSEMBLY

Our Year Twos will be leading the Assembly on **Friday 21st August**. Due to COVID, parents are still not able to attend. Photos will be taken and posted.

LOST PROPERTY

The school office has a collection of various 'valuable' and personal lost property items. Please call into the office if you, your child or family have had a missing item.



**Please note that
Monday 24 August
is a pupil free day.**



Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals

YEAR THREE

In Year Three we have been learning how to write informational reports about mythical creatures. The children have written some amazing well-structured reports and will share them with you on Seesaw. During Maths, we are gaining a better understanding of the relationship between multiplication and division. We will be using this knowledge to solve sums and word problems using multiplication and division strategies.

With the help of Sister Elizabeth, we are creating nail and cotton Reconciliation art pieces. Some children are enjoying using hammers for the very first time.

As Wellness week is Week 6 of this term there will be no homework until 1st September. Children are encouraged to still read every night.

The Year 3 assembly is scheduled for 11th September.

The children will need a cowboy/cowgirl hat and a small umbrella for their performance. If you have any cowboy hats or small umbrellas can you please bring them to school. Thanks for your support.



Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Year Three Teacher and IT Co-ordinator

YEAR FOUR

I cannot believe we are already half way through Term 3.

It is crazy how quickly time flies by.

The Year Four class have been busy preparing for their Holy Communion this Saturday. We are all very excited to be making this Sacrament. We will be going to Reconciliation on Thursday in preparation for our Holy Communion.

On Friday, we attended mass for the Assumption of Mary. After mass, we teamed up with our buddy class and taught them how to use an app called CLIPS. Together, we created little presentations about the Assumption of Mary.

In Talk for Writing, we are starting to brainstorm and plan our ideas to write our own narratives. Our theme for this narrative is focusing on adventure stories and the journey of an unusual event. The ideas are great already. I am very excited to hear the stories when they are complete!



Miss Kayla Fogliani, Year Four Teacher

YEAR FIVE

Last Wednesday we enjoyed spending time with our buddies and completing an activity to celebrate the Assumption of May.

We have begun a new unit in Health and are looking at resilience and wellbeing. In our lesson this week we talked about 'helpful thinking.' Helpful thinking assists us to calm down, solve problems, keep things in perspective, accept that bad times are normal for everyone, and makes us feel more hopeful.

On Monday we planted some plants that were donated by the City of Stirling. A big thank you to Mr Tonge for helping us.

On Wednesday 26th August we will be going on an excursion to the Electoral Education Centre and Constitutional House to consolidate our learning in HASS – Civics and Citizenship. Please ensure all permission slips are returned by Tuesday. The Zoo Camp parent meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th September at 2.10pm in the School Hall.

Mrs Roselyn Pizzino, Year Five Class Teacher



YEAR SIX

We are having a fabulous time at Forest Edge Waroona. The weather is perfect for enjoying the fabulous views and challenging activities here. We have already taken many photographs to share with you on our return which will be around 2:30pm on Friday. We have met so many new friends and have learnt just how important it is to listen carefully to instructions, clean up the kitchen and dorms, and most of all have fun! It is just as well we have a long weekend; we will need it to rest. The Parent Meeting in preparation for those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation will be in the school hall on Wednesday 26th August at 7pm.



Arrived safely at camp. Settled in, had lunch, all ready to start our first activities. Abseiling and Big Fox.

Mr Phil Haydon, Year Six Teacher

P&F NEWS

NEXT MEETING

There will be a P&F Meeting in the meeting room at 2pm on **Thursday 27 August**.

All are welcome. Any items that you would like to be discussed at the meeting, please email me before Wednesday 26 August. It will be added to the agenda.

New members are required for 2021. If you would like to be involved in this very worthy cause, nomination forms are available from the school office and any other details you require.

If you would like any further details prior to nominating, then feel free to contact me or a P&F Executive Member. We will be happy to answer any questions.

Mrs Penny Godfrey, P&F President and Executive.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

SPORTS FACTION CARNIVAL

This year's Sports Carnival will be held on **Friday 18th September 2020**. Students in Pre Primary to Year 6 are to wear their Faction T-Shirt on carnival day and on training days. Students will be advised when to commence wearing faction t-shirt on their sports day.

Kindy students may also wear a Faction T-shirt on their sports day.

Please note that Faction T-shirts are compulsory to wear and purchased from the Uniform Shop.

Cost of Faction T-shirts are \$12.00 each.

Colours are RED, GOLD, BLUE and GREEN. Sizes 4 to 16 are available for purchase.

Please note students in Gold faction are not to wear their yellow Sport Shirt or Leaver's Shirt.

GOLD faction t-shirt is required.

SCHOOL VESTS

School Vests for students are available to purchase from the Uniform Shop.

Sizes available are 6, 8 and 10 and selling price is \$56.00. The vest may be substituted or used as an option when weather is inclement. The School Jumper is the correct school uniform for all formal occasions and must be worn accordingly.

School Vests are 80% Wool & 20% Nylon and are machine washable on a wool/delicate cycle.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Wednesday 8.30 am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

CANTEEN NEWS



THANK YOU to my wonderful helpers last week - Lyan on Thursday and Sarah on Friday, very much appreciated!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS are still for sale. A reminder that it is now a 12 month membership from date of purchase.

The contribution to the school fundraising has been increased to \$10 a book to \$24. A greater incentive to purchase a book and enjoy the many offers available and updated daily.

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.entertainmentbook.com.au%2Forderbooks%2F861i18&data=02%7C01%7Cchristina.russo%40cewa.edu.au%7Ce1eeac5b59ac4029b8af08d842622b68%7Cc5852f2336334f29b38651da53e35e23%7C0%7C0%7C637332336719668141&sdata=2UvhE9gpu23a%2FI8%2BDr29byvGso%2FG7nkKFNP19ihFbU%3D&reserved=0>

*Christina, Fran and Antonella
2020 Canteen Staff*

