



Newsletter No. 7

24 March 2021

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.



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Annunciation, also called Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary or Annunciation of the Lord, is the announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit to be called Jesus (Luke 1:26–38). The angel's pronouncement is met with Mary's willing consent ("Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word").

As we celebrate this great Feast in our Church may we all turn to Our Lady as loving children turn to their own mothers and give thanks for her steadfast love of us all and gratefulness for the protective mantle, she places over us all.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

The importance of the early years is pivotal to setting the foundations for the rest of our lives. An interesting analogy for a teacher's role is that they are in the business of "Growing Brains" Research indicates a child enters school with 25% of the brain already developed. That leaves 75% left to develop. Teachers can only do so much to ensure a brain develops. They can provide provocation for learning and skill acquisition, they can instruct, create lines of inquiry, review knowledge, practice skills, scaffold knowledge, and enhance meta- cognition. BUT none of this will be successful in maximizing learning if the fundamentals are lacking. So what are the essentials fundamentals requirements for learning?

- Healthy Diet
- Regular Sleep and plenty of it
- Exercise
- Stimulating Environments
- Calmness and not stress.

Without these elements being present no amount of after school tutoring, catch up lessons, extra homework will make for significant improvements or long term gains. Furthermore, without these essentials no class teacher will be able to maximize student gains. These essentials for learning are generated in the home. It is imperative children eat well, have regular sleep patterns that provide optimal sleep time, children need to be active, home life should include reading and writing opportunities and parental role modeling of reading and writing. Finally, an environment that is calm, routine, safe and supporting. Not even the greatest of teachers can make significant inroads to students learning and gains, without these elements being firstly present.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

We have had a smorgasbord of events and activities taking place at St Lawrence in recent weeks.

- Sacramental Enrolment Masses
- Feast of the Annunciation Mass
- P&F Meetings
- Board Meetings
- Parent/Guardian and Teacher Meetings
- Parish Council Meetings
- Cricket Days.
- Dance Concert and all the preparations for this amazing event.
- Harmony Day Liturgy and activities.
- Assemblies

And this list seems to go on....A huge shoutout to staff and families for all the enthusiasm and dedication given to our wonderful community. It has been extremely busy and as I am reminded by my superiors, schools are busy places, however recently we have certainly had a lot on. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the staff who spend long hours away from their own families and activities to support our school and community members. I see staff coming into work before 7:00am every morning and not leaving before 6:00pm, in on the weekend and working from home until late... And when I'm not watching they spend their own money on their classes....Just a big thank you to them all and I really appreciate everything our staff and community members do to support our children, families and school.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

All Catholic Schools are required to have an Evangelisation Policy. This policy helps our school to shape and form the Evangelising mission of a Catholic School within the Catholic Church.

The Principles underlining our Evangelisation Policy are:

- At St Lawrence we are called to share the word of God with those in the school community.
- God's message of hope will be shared with all.
- Every effort is made to please God as we imitate Christ in all we do and all we say
- The Evangelisation Policy sits within the Quality Catholic Schooling Domain Catholic Identity and encompasses the entire life of the School

The Procedure underlying our policy is:

At St Lawrence we endeavour to spread the mission of Jesus Christ in word and action; by offering students primary proclamation and initiatory catechesis

- Providing students with many opportunities to witness their faith
- Foster the sacramental life of our school community
- Pastorally care for all members of the school community
- Enable staff to participate in Faith Development opportunities
- Being aware of the global community and giving support where possible
- Ensuring the inclusion of the school community when appropriate
- By striving to live and model good Christian Witness.

Both Ms Kathleen Tranquille and I attended the Parish Pastoral Council meeting and Father Emil is on our School Advisory Council. We are very blessed to have a wonderful and strong association with our Parish Church and community. Father Emil and Father Adam and their team are tireless workers who are always here to help and support our School. Father and I work closely to ensure that our school and Parish walk the journey together as one.

"The role of the Catholic school is to work in partnership with families and parishes in order to bring young people to God. Catholic schools complement parishes and support families by forming and developing young people in the Catholic faith. By the nature of their mission and mandate Catholic schools assist parishes in their responsibilities to parents by providing the knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith including knowledge of the sacraments." ~ **CEO Website.**

The above quote articulates the strong bonds between school and parish. I strongly encourage all members of our school community to reflect upon the great joys that being an active member of a parish can bring to one's life. There are many ministries available for people to participate in, the strong sense of community and belonging can be a great support network for all people. By being involved in parish life we have the opportunity to come to know Jesus better and to experience the awakening of our spirituality. To allow Jesus into our hearts and to travel life's journey in the comfort and knowledge we are with the Lord.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Both our Advisory Council and P&F Meetings take place this week.

At the Advisory Council Meeting on Tuesday night, school financial reports, Parish Report and Principal's Reports were tabled. Prior to COVID the School Advisory Council and P&F were involved in a number of special joint meetings to look at initiatives and possible undertakings to continue building our wonderful school's community engagement.

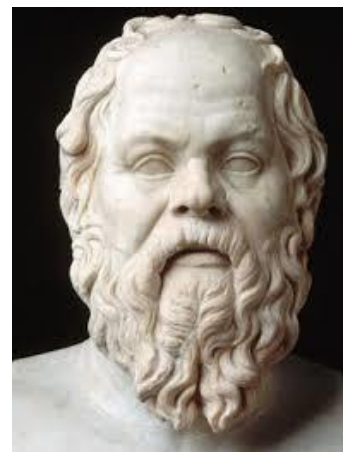
PMIs were completed and the meeting facilitator pulled together the threads to come up with some target areas to help enhance our school. The Advisory Council has now, post-COVID, begun looking at this data and actions that can possibly be put into motion to continue our journey of self-reflection, improvement and growth.

The P&F Meeting will be held on Thursday 24 March. We are blessed to have a small but dedicated team of community members who strive to build community and support the school by providing resources for our children and school. Mrs Adelle Cirillo is the President for 2021 and her committed Team have already been busy with our annual Easter Fundraising and were especially kind to support the school's response to the dreadful fires that wreaked destruction through a number of Perth's outer suburbs including The Vines, Ellenbrook, Gidgegannup, Upper Swan, Baskerville, Aveley, Henley Brook, Bullsbrook, Brigadoon and Wooroloo. The P&F donated monies targeted for, but not spent due to COVID restriction, from our Welcome Back Picnic. This combined with a donation from the Advisory Council and monies raised by students reflect our greater call to support others in times of need and our Lenten commitments to alms. I find these actions of our community a touching and wonderful living example of how we can "Make Jesus Real".

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;" Matthew 25:35.

This is just a small example of the wonderful and heart-warming undertakings of so many members of our community. Actions that occur on a daily basis to support and reach out to those in need. I see this daily in so many ways, from our children, staff and community. Thank you all for your generous and caring support.

"The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers." — Socrates

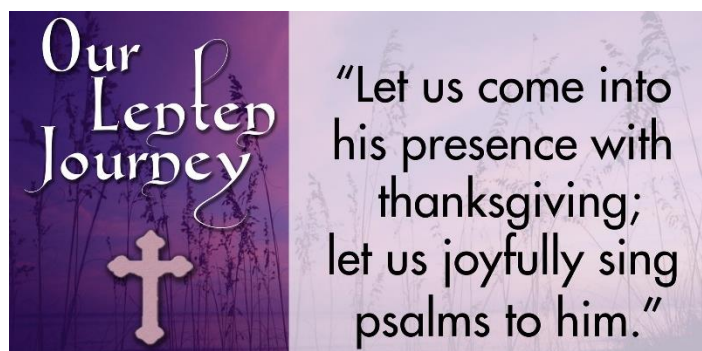


This quote is *attributed* to Socrates (much debate surrounds this) who lived from 469 BC to 399BC. However, I find the content of the quote most interesting, he laments about many of the things we adults of today complain about our younger people. The language may differ from today but the sentiment is the same.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal





PASTORAL CARE

We pray for all our community, especially for those who have recently incurred injuries; giving thanks for their speedy recovery.

Amen

HOME LEARNING

Attendance of students at school is critical: Whilst I understand some absences can't be avoided, I urge all parents and caregivers to consider the following statistics.

If a student attends school 90% of the time, we regard them as attending regularly, but they will miss;

- 1 day a fortnight
- 1 week a term
- 4 weeks a year.

If a child attends 80% of the time, they are in the lowest risk category, but will miss;

- 1 day a week
- 2 weeks a term
- 8 weeks a year
- 1 year by the end of Year 4.

If a child attends 60% of the time, they are in the moderate risk category, but will miss;

- 2 days a week
- 4 weeks a term
- 16 weeks a year
- 1 year by the end of Semester 1, Year 3
- 2 years by the end of Year 5.

These school days missed cannot be regained.....the more time missed from school the more learning opportunities which are also missed, these may lead to gaps in learning, missing chunks of information, knowledge and skills. The problem can continue to compound, and the gap may widen between students and achievement. This has the potential to become a downward cycle. Please ensure your children attend school regularly.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY

On Friday 19th March it was National Ride2School Day. This day was the perfect opportunity to kick-start new healthy habits and promote the many benefits of active travel. 68% of our students left their car at home or at a nearby park and rode, walked or scooted to school. We were very impressed with the excellent behaviour of our students when riding into school in the morning and leaving at the end of the day. Thank you to Mrs Pizzino for her excellent organisation of this event.



HARMONY DAY

On Monday children were allowed to wear orange or a cultural costume from their family's country of origin to celebrate **Harmony Day**. We began this special day with a whole school liturgy in the hall, beautifully led by our wonderful Pre-Primary students. All students decorated a hand template to represent themselves and their cultural background. The handprints are now on display around the world map located in the Learning Centre. A big thankyou to Mrs Preston for all her hard work organising the events on Harmony Day.



DANCE CONCERT

Today all our students and staff members participated in the St Lawrence Dance Concert. Our theme this year was Dancing Around the World. The children did a wonderful job performing in front of so many spectators and the St Lawrence staff raised the bar from previous performances, with their exceptional dance moves to a medley of Abba songs. Thank you to all our parents and families for supporting our dance extravaganza and for practising social distancing and hygiene requirements.

KINDY SPEECH & OT ASSESSMENTS

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday this week KZ Speech and OT therapists will be screening our Kindergarten students. Feedback will be given to the school and parents.



*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Miss Kathleen Tranquille &
Assistant Principals*

CLASS NEWS

YEAR THREE

It's been a busy and hectic few weeks with lots of changes to our day to day routine.

We had our class Liturgy last week, the children read and sang beautifully. Thanks to Father Emil who guided us to a deeper understanding of the importance of Lent.

A reminder that the Year 3 Parent interviews are happening at the moment. If you would like a meeting please book on the PTO link.

Next Thursday the children will be participating in Holy Week Liturgies. Children will be taking home specific readings that they need to practice for their Palm Sunday recital. Unfortunately due to COVID, parents will not be able to attend this event. No homework will be set for the last couple of weeks of term. Children will still need to read every night and record the title of their book on their Reading Log.



Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Year Three Teacher

YEAR FOUR

Every week the children in year four amaze me with the development of their growth mindset. This week, I set the children a challenge - Navigating through a Number Maze! The children worked hard using trial and error methods to see if they could find the correct pathway. I was blown away by the dedication and persistence that the children put into this activity! I encourage you to ask your child about it and see if you can navigate through the maze.

In Religion, we have been looking at the ways in which people show love to one another. This is an important aspect leading up to the time of Easter.

The children have been working so hard to learn their Edu Dance. I hope you enjoy it as much as I and they have!



Miss Kayla Fogiliani, Year Four Teacher

YEAR FIVE

Congratulations to all the Year Five students for their wonderful efforts during today's dance concert. The children have worked very hard to learn their dance and I am very proud of them. A big thank you to Mrs Thompson for all her hard work in helping the children prepare. It was lovely to get together with our buddies on Monday to celebrate Harmony Day. We talked about our cultural backgrounds and our similarities and differences that make us special. In Maths we continue to look at multiplication and division, the way that they are related and how we can use them to solve problems. We are excited that next week Vince Connolly MP – Member for Stirling will be coming out to visit our class and talk to us about his role as an elected member of Parliament. Good luck to all the cricket carnival competitors who will be taking part in the Cricket Carnival on Friday.



Mrs Roselynn Pizzino, Year Five Teacher

YEAR SIX

The Vikings exhibition at the Fremantle Maritime Museum last Friday was fabulous; a big thank you to Mrs Murabito for filling in at such short notice. It has been an enriching experience for me to finally speak face to face with parents this week including the many dads who have taken time off to attend. There have been a number of changes recently from Mass booklets to uniforms; thank you for being patient and understanding. Assessments books will be coming home next week for you to view. The Year Six students had Reconciliation last week and will be attending Mass at 9am on Thursday to celebrate the feast of the Annunciation. On Friday, many Year Five and Six students will be participating in Sacred Saints Cricket. On Thursday 1st April, Years Three to Six will be presenting the Holy Week dramas at 2pm in the Church.



PIC•COLLAGE

Mr Phil Haydon Year Six Teacher



Wow! What a wonderful community effort. The response to Ride2School day on Friday 19th March was amazing. We had 68% of our school community participate. Well done and thank you to all the families who committed to riding, scooting, skating and walking. Congratulations to the Year 5 and 6 students who had 90% of their class take part in Ride2School Day.

2021 Environment Leaders

Mrs Pizzino, Isabel, Jayden, Luka and Theo

Harmony Day

PIC•COLLAGE

Some children also wore orange which is the colour of Harmony Day.

Play Group Facilitator

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

WINTER UNIFORM

Year 1 to Year 6 students return to school next term in their winter uniform. Last day that the uniform shop will be open this term is Thursday, 1st April, 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

The Uniform Shop is closed during the school holidays and re-opens in term two on Wednesday 21st April, 8.30am to 9.30am. Uniforms can be purchased directly at the Uniform Shop.

Please contact me to arrange uniform orders and collections if you are not able to come in to purchase uniforms before the end of term. Note that uniform order forms are available from the school office and website. Thank you. Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au

Uniform Shop Open Hours

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

Mrs Angela Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

P&F NEWS



P&F Meeting - Thursday 25 March 2:15 to 3pm

We are looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow at our first P&F meeting for 2021. Your input and support is very much appreciated.



REMINDER that all money for the Cadbury Easter fundraiser must be returned **this Friday 26 March.**

We thank everyone who took part in this fundraiser and for your generous support.

P&F President & Executive

WINTER NETBALL NEWS



Registrations are now open. Thank you for those who have already registered and paid. Could all members please ensure this is done prior to Thursday 1st April (any registrations received after this date will not be able to be processed)

Please use the netball link which was emailed along with team allocation details. If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee.

Cheryl & Nicole - SLNC Committee

Good luck to all Year 5 and 6 students competing in the Sacred Saints

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Reminder that the Cricket Carnival at Yokine on Friday.

Everyone has been practising hard and I am sure we will have a great morning of friendly competition. Sadly our t-ball programme with Connor has come to an end but we have all had a lot of fun improving our skills and game knowledge. *Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher*



CANTEEN NEWS

MENU - Last day of term -
Thursday 1st of April Lunch
Sushi - Tuna, chicken Teriyaki
or Veg
5 piece - \$5.50
6 piece- \$6.50
Pie \$4 or Sausage Roll \$3.50
(add sauce 50c)
Please order the day prior
by text 0408834774

Birthday Orders for the
whole class
M & M Cookies
or Cupcakes \$20
Icy Poles or Brownies \$15
Kindy - mini Cupcakes \$12
Please order the day prior
by text 0408834774

Chicken Fried Rice and Juice
\$5.50, available daily



Last day of
term Thursday
1st April
5 piece \$5.50
6 piece \$6.50
Chicken
Teriyaki Tuna
or Vegetarian
Or Pie \$4 ,
Sausage Roll
\$3.50



Year 5/6 - students are still able to order their lunch on Friday as they will return from the cricket carnival by lunchtime.

Last day of term - Thursday 1st of April Lunch
Sushi - Tuna, chicken Teriyaki or Veg
5 piece - \$5.50 6 piece- \$6.50
Pie \$4 or Sausage Roll \$3.50 (add sauce 50c)
Orders must be in by Friday

2021 Canteen Staff