



Newsletter No. 5

2 March 2022

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.



This Wednesday classes will be staying in their own year levels to celebrate Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday involves applying ashes, made from blessed palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass, to a person's forehead. The ashes applied to the forehead symbolise the dust from which God made us. The priest speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

The Lenten season is a good opportunity for us all to spend time in prayer, to give to others in need and to 'fast' or 'give up' something as a commitment to becoming a better person.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

COVID UPDATE

I have included a copy of the Western Australian Governments Level 2 Guidelines and Restrictions. Please note it is now mandatory for students in Year Three and above to wear face masks. If your child has a medical exemption correct verified proof must be supplied. I appreciate your support and understanding as we aim to keep St Lawrence safe, and our children's and community members wellness is always paramount in my decision making.



Catholic Schools of Excellence

Bishops Mandate

Catholic schools in Western Australia have a distinctive ethos and are mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia. Each member of the Catholic school community strives to give Christian witness through words, attitudes and actions.

The Bishops Code of Ethical Conduct clearly states that all those in Catholic Schools in WA must uphold the following - Gospel values, dignity, giftedness, relationships, confidentiality and accountability. The St Lawrence community works together as a professional team, collaboratively, respectfully, openly, honestly and energetically, upholding the vision of the school as well as the expectations of the Bishops Mandate.

Strategic Plan and Annual School Improvement Plan

All schools are always on a continual journey of improvement. We have a Catholic School Improvement Plan which provides direction for the year ahead. This plan is based upon our Strategic Plan, which you can view on our school's website.

Annual School Improvement Plan 2022

Our **Catholic Identity** goals are:

Staff and community develop an enhanced understanding of Catholic education Principles permeating all elements of QCE.

Develop an enhanced understanding of Catholic Education Principles.

Embed core values across the school.

Our **Education** Goals are:

Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.
Embed RISEUP into our cultural practices to enhance student outcomes.

Our **Community** Goals are:

Facilitate the process to develop goals to generate activities and targets to develop staff cultural competencies.
Increase knowledge of child safe practices to enhance student wellbeing.

Our **Stewardship** Goals are:

Review compliancy practices and ensure all aspects of the school fall within mandated and lawful legislative requirements.
Ensuring the school is appropriately resourced and financially sustainable.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

St Lawrence Primary School Website

Please take the time to read through the **school website** as it offers a lot of information about our school including the history, traditions, routines and practices here at St Lawrence Primary School. Upon enrolment at St Lawrence Primary School all parents sign the enrolment form whereby it stipulates that parent will agree to abide by the **policies and directions of the school** and Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA). The school website is a handy reference for the year ahead and any updated information will be provided via the newsletter or email informing you of any alterations to procedures and policies.

*"In our families we learn to love and to recognise the dignity of all,
especially of the elderly"*

-- Pope Francis

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE



*Holy and Gracious God
We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia;
for their countries and their leaders.
We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms
hold them in this time of great fear.
We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that
they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.
We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by
the wisdom and courage of Christ.
Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.
And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.
Lord have mercy. Amen*

HOME LEARNING TIPS

Lent provides a great time for a family to reflect on what it means to truly be a Christian. Maybe for the Forty Days of Lent you could plan to do some special activities together as a family focusing on others, prayer, alms giving.

A Forty Bag Challenge where every day you try to bag up clothes old toys or items you no longer use or need, and then give to charity.

Spend some time exploring the Bible as a family. YouTube also has some great scripture based animated presentations.

Give up something as a family. Screen time might be a good place to start.

Make a prayer chain adding a new link each day of Lent.



There really are some wonderful ideas out there to celebrate Lent as a family.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday begins our forty-day season of Lent that leads to Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we come together like the people of the Old Testament to remind ourselves that we do not always follow God's ways and that we need to ask for God's mercy and forgiveness. Like God's people in the time of the prophets, we wear ashes to show that we want to turn away from whatever keeps us from God, and to have a change of heart, so that we can live in peace and in joy with God and with each other.

Today the teachers celebrated a Liturgy in their classrooms. Ashes blessed by Fr Emil were placed on each child's forehead by their teacher using a cotton bud, in line with Catholic Education directives.



NAPLAN Online 2022

Our school will be participating in NAPLAN Online in Term 2. Our Year 3 and 5 students will complete the NAPLAN Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy tests online, excluding the Year 3 Writing test which will be a paper test. To find out more information about NAPLAN Online, visit www.nap.edu.au.

NAPLAN assessments provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The data is also used to determine the effectiveness of our academic programs at the school. NAPLAN is not a test that can be studied for. At St Lawrence we prepare students by embedding the skills and knowledge required for NAPLAN in our teaching and learning programs. Teachers will be working with students to ensure they are familiar with the test format, but it is important not to overstate the importance of the tests or to build up anxiety in the children. Our message will be "Just do your best."

An online demonstration site is available at www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site. This site allows students, parents/carers and teachers to familiarise themselves with the student test experience and functionality. Students will also gain familiarity with the different question types on the online NAPLAN tests.

Students will complete a NAPLAN practice test on Thursday 24 March. Please see below dates for all other NAPLAN tests. Due to current circumstances this information is subject to change. Parents will be informed if the school is made aware of any changes. Further information about NAPLAN will be sent home with children in Years 3 and 5 this week.

Test	Dates
Y3 and Y5 Writing Test	Tuesday 10 May
Y3 and Y5 Reading Test	Wednesday 11 May
Y3 and Y5 Conventions of Language Test	Monday 16 May
Y3 and Y5 Numeracy Test	Tuesday 17 May
Catch up tests	Wednesday 18 May – Friday 20 May

COVID UPDATE

Thank you to all families for responding so diligently with the restrictions that have been placed on schools by The Chief Health Officer. We are working to strict protocols for students who have been presenting with coughs, runny noses or high temperatures. The safety and wellbeing of all students and staff is our highest priority. As WA is now considered to be in a high caseload setting, we need to remain vigilant and monitor for symptoms. If your child is unwell, they should not attend school. Please notify us immediately of a positive test result. Please note that any communications with results, we will maintain identity confidentiality. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to keeping our community safe.

VISOR SIGNS

Current circumstances preventing parents from entering the school grounds has increased the number of vehicles entering our drive throughs. Visor signs will be sent home with the eldest child of every family at the school today. The signs display each family's surname. There is an additional sign for other family members who may need to pick up your child. Please attach the sign to your left-hand side visor so it is clearly visible to the staff on duty, blu-tack could be used to attach the sign. They will need to be displayed in your car when picking up children. Staff on duty will be able to call out the family name and hopefully this will assist in keeping school traffic flowing each afternoon. Thank you for your continued support

LET TODAY BE
THE DAY YOU
GIVE UP WHO
YOU VE BEEN
FOR WHO YOU
CAN BECOME

-<HALE ELROD

Ash Wednesday 'Liturgies'



UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

UNIFORM ORDERS

Uniforms can be ordered via the phone or email directly to Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au.

Orders will be processed on Uniform Shop opening times which are Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Orders will be packed and ready for collection from the front gate at an arranged time. Payment can be made by EFTPOS ONLY.

YEAR 1 & NEW STUDENTS WINTER UNIFORM

Year 1 and new students who have commenced this year need to purchase their winter uniforms by end of this term.

Due to current restrictions, we will start with Year 1 and new students to order winter uniforms. Please contact me if you are unsure of size.

Winter uniforms may be purchased and collected from the front gate at school drop off time on Wednesdays or pick up time on Thursdays. Payment by EFTPOS only, please. If sizes are incorrect, they may be exchanged. Please do not remove tags.

Winter Order forms are available on the school website, for your convenience.

BOYS RED MICROFIBRE SHORTS

The new red microfibre sport shorts are to be worn for students in Pre-Primary to Year 6. The old style red rugby shorts were discontinued in 2021 and should not be worn.

Parents, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above email.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours
Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm
Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

CANTEEN NEWS

RECESS PRE ORDERS

Due to the children eating their recess in the classroom, could I please ask that all items be pre ordered, especially in the year 1 and 2 classes. We are no longer making any extras as we are trying to limit food waste and only making to order.

Where an item is not available, we will endeavour to provide a replacement.

BIRTHDAY ORDERS

Cupcakes	\$20
M & M Cookies	\$20
Icy poles	\$15
Brownie	\$15 (dairy and egg free)

These will be delivered to the classroom, please order at least 2 days prior - text 0408834774.

We thank you for your support, Canteen Staff

WINTER NEBALL 2022

The 2022 Winter Netball season is fast approaching. The season will commence from 30th April and conclude on the 27th August.

Eligibility for teams are as follows:

NSG Set - Year 2 & 3

NSG Go - Year 4 & 5

Junior:

11U - born in 2011

12U - born in 2010

Fees for NSG is \$230.

Fees for Junior is \$260.

Fees are also subject to a PlayHQ surcharge of 2.03%.

Teams will train one day a week (day/time/location TBC)

Games will be held on a Friday afternoon/evening or Saturday morning. Please note the amended game times.

Friday Timeslots:

4:30pm: Y2 (Set) & Y4 (Go)

5:30pm: Y3 (Set)

6:30pm: Y5 (Go) & 11U (Junior)

Saturday Timeslots:

8.30am: 12U (Junior)

Last call to register your interest or a team to play.

Please contact: stlawnetball@gmail.com and include your child's full name, year level, DOB, contact phone number as well as if you are able to volunteer to manage or coach a team. Please note that parent involvement is **essential** and that without nominations for both a coach & manager we cannot allocate teams.

If you require any additional information, please contact a member of the committee.

Cheryl & Nicole - St Lawrence Netball Club

