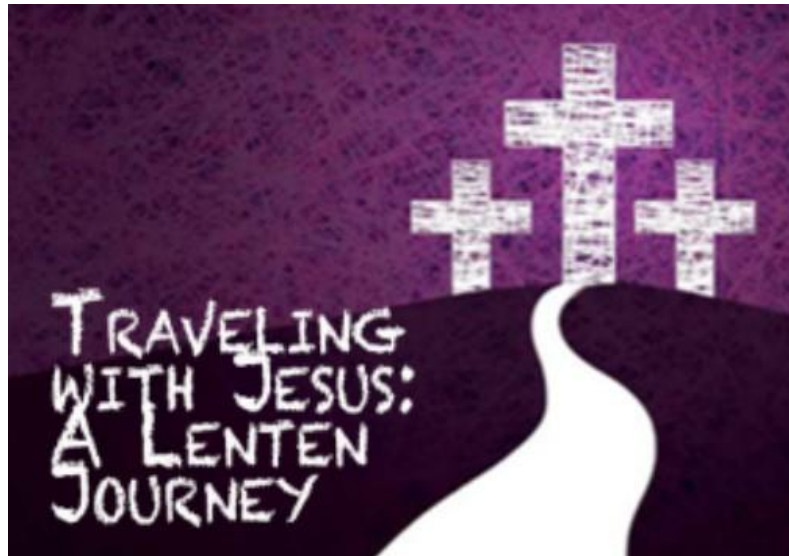




Newsletter No. 5

9 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.



Heavenly Father,

As I enter another week of my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as I strive to become the-best-version-of-myself, honestly admitting my shortcomings and sins.

*As I renew my resolve each day to become a better person, let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart.
Give me rest in you.*

Help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment.

*Stay with me through the busy days this week and remind me that when I need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance,
I can always turn to you.*

Help me develop discipline and generosity through fasting and almsgiving and come closer to you through prayer this Lent.

*In your name I pray,
Amen.*

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This week Mr Carey is following health directives and isolating after being deemed a close contact of a positive COVID case. I have the pleasure of writing the Principal's section of the newsletter on behalf of Mr Carey this week.

Lent

Lent is a time when we try to get closer to God. As adults we understand these acts to be FASTING, PRAYER and ALMS GIVING.

FASTING: Fasting is an ancient action linked to Lent and is considered a sacred act. The goal of fasting is connected to prayer. The pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God and prayer and fasting brings us to what Lent is about – a deeper conversion and relationship with God.

PRAYER: Fasting and almsgiving are merely actions we do out of tradition, if not connected to prayer. Prayer is our conversation with God. In these conversations we find the strength to fast, to develop a closer and more intimate relationship with God. This relationship makes us grateful for our many blessings and motivates us to give to those less fortunate.

ALMSGIVING: This is simply a response by us to God, a response that we have through prayer and fasting. It expresses our gratitude for all we have been given. We come to a realisation that we all make up the Body of Christ and with this realisation there is a responsibility. That responsibility is to all who are part of the Body of Christ. This means that our acts of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life.

The Lenten season is a great 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. Children at St Lawrence will be encouraged to do things for others and to pray for others, especially those less fortunate. This Lent, consider finding more time each day for quiet. Make space for God in your interior life so that you can hear his voice, notice his goodness and beauty.



Inspiring Christ Centred Leaders

COVID-19 UPDATE

This week St Lawrence joined the many other schools who have been impacted by COVID-19 as we experienced our first positive cases in the school community. The families were not at school when they were infectious which has prevented isolation in their year levels.

Students in Years 3 – 6 have adapted to wearing masks to school each day extremely well.

It has been great to see the willingness of so many children to embrace this change and practice a few different masks to find out what works best for them.



INFORMATION TO PARENTS

Updates will be provided to parents as new information becomes available.
All information will also be available on the school's website.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Please note that the State Government has announced that school continues to be compulsory and that students are expected to attend. If parents choose to keep students home long term as a precaution, this is not currently supported by government requirements and schoolwork will not necessarily be provided. School work can be provided for students who are close contacts and are isolating or for students who have tested positive for Covid-19 and are unable to attend school.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

MATHEMATICS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Last Friday, our staff gathered to continue our work on our Vision for Learning and how this is reflected through the learning area of Numeracy. Online learning was facilitated by Benjamin Saulsman, one of the mathematics consultants at Catholic Education WA. We continued our journey in exploring the Launch, Explore and Summarise model. Teachers with Ben's guidance, worked together collaboratively to plan lessons using this model.

Students at St Lawrence are engaged in a range of learning experiences in maths lessons that develop skills, understandings and confidence to be successful mathematicians today and in the future. Students explore, engage in and develop important mathematical ideas, knowledge and skills that they will draw on in their lives. We focus on providing students with hands on learning experiences using a wide variety of resources to support and develop their understanding of key concepts in Mathematics.

The Launch, Explore, Summarise model of teaching mathematics immerses students in an environment of problem solving that promotes structured and purposeful investigations. There are three phases in a Launch, Explore, Summarise maths lesson:

Launch

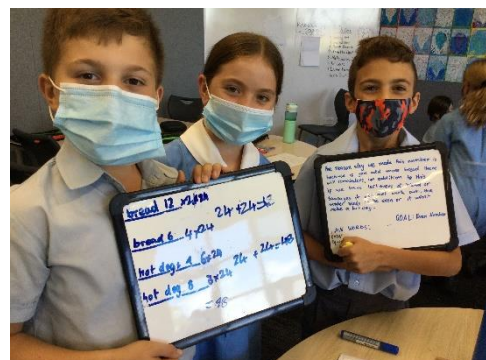
The teacher discusses a problem without giving the children instructions on how to solve it. Teachers scaffold the learning required so the children can solve the problem successfully.

Explore

Students are given time to explore and engage with the task.

Summarise

During the summarise phase the teacher selects students to share their thinking and solutions. Teachers use enabling prompts to help students who are having difficulty with a task and extending prompts to extend student thinking.



WELLNESS WEEK

This week we are celebrating and highlighting Wellness Week at St Lawrence. Our Staff Wellbeing Team has planned various activities for the children with the spotlight on the wellbeing of all. Wellbeing can be defined as being healthy and happy. It includes having good mental health, a sense of meaning or purpose, and the ability to manage stress. In its simplest form, well-being is just feeling well. Over the week, the children will be engaging in a variety of activities to support their mental, physical and emotional wellness. It has been wonderful to see the children actively participating in a range of the different activities offered. We hope wellness week each term provides the opportunity for our staff, children and their families to reflect on their overall wellness.

NAPLAN ONLINE

From May 10 to May 20, students in Years 3 and 5 will be participating in NAPLAN Online testing. One of the main features of the NAPLAN Online format is that it is a tailored (or adaptive) test. This was introduced a few years ago and will still be a feature this year. The tailored test provides a more precise assessment of your child's performance in the areas of Reading, Language Conventions (Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation) and Numeracy by adapting to responses. As your child progresses through the test, questions may be easier or more difficult, to better assess his or her ability. Your child should not be concerned if he or she finds the questions more difficult than expected – the pathway may be more challenging.

Many of the same questions appear in both paper and online tests, but not every student doing the online test will be answering the *same* questions in the *same* order.

Your child's NAPLAN results and scores are based on the number and complexity of questions he or she has answered correctly.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

Digital technology is a part of our lives. Whichever way we may look at it, devices are here to stay and will continue to evolve. We cannot hide from them, nor should we. Let's face it, when used correctly, the educational benefits of digital technology are obvious. In saying this, there are without doubt many risks when young people are given autonomy with a device such as an iPad.

'Digital Citizenship' in education is extremely topical and like all things with young people, parameters must be set to maintain safety and well-being.

Professor Donna Cross, who is an expert in the field of social and emotional well-being in young people and the contribution that digital technology plays, used the analogy that digital technology is very much like a swimming pool. Swimming pools are entertaining, exciting, they encourage collaboration and are obviously loved by young people. On the flip side, they require direct supervision, structured learning and boundaries to ensure they are used appropriately. When children use a swimming pool, strict parameters are generally in place, and for good reason.



You are the light of the world.

Let the light of Christ shine through you to others

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

KINDERGARTEN APPLICATION FOR 2023

Applications for Kindy in 2023 are currently being processed.

Even if you have siblings at the school you still need to fill out relevant application forms for your child.

If you have a child ready to commence Kindy in 2023, please visit the school's website for enrolment information and application form or contact the school office.

If you know of other families within the community that would like to attend our Kindergarten programme for 2023, please let them know that they need to visit the school's website or contact the school for an application form.

Applications close Friday 18 March 2022

PRE-KINDERGARTEN (3yr old) APPLICATION FOR 2023

If you have a child ready to commence Pre-Kindy in 2023, please visit the school's website for enrolment information and application form or contact the school office.

If you know of other families within the community that would like to attend our Pre-Kindergarten programme for 2023, please let them know that they need to visit the school's website for enrolment information and application form or contact the school.

Applications close Friday 18 March 2022

2022 Student Residential Address and Other Information, Collection Notice for parents/guardians – please see attachment.



God bless

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan
Assistant Principal

Prayer of Consecration

We turn to you, Lord Jesus Christ, Word of God made flesh for us, and we entrust the people of Ukraine to you who once said to your disciples, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you" (Jn 14:27). Hear the cry of your people; change the hearts of those who have unleashed such suffering on the innocent; strengthen the resolve of those who are working to bring the conflict to an end; be close to those who have been driven from their homes and from their homeland; heal the wounds of mind and heart inflicted on the children; comfort the frightened and the lost; strengthen the faith of those who are bereaved; give eternal rest and joy to those who have died.

In your own agony on the cross you entrusted your mother to the beloved disciple, and entrusted him and all disciples to your mother's care (Jn 19:26). It was through Mary's faith that you, the Word made flesh, came to dwell among us. That same faith strengthened Mary as she stood at the foot of the cross. We pray that your suffering people in Ukraine may know and experience that Mary stands with them, too, in this time of their great distress. You have given Mary to us as the Mother of the Church and the Help of Christians. With great confidence in the power of her prayer, in accordance with the tradition of your Church, and in communion with our bishop and all the Holy People of God, we consecrate and entrust the people of Ukraine to Mary and ask that our prayers might be joined with hers as we come before you now in hope and in trusting faith. Hear our prayers, O Lord, and raise up champions of peace, of justice and of healing, so that the weapons of war may be silenced and the people of Ukraine may know the peace that only you can give.



**Mary, Mother of the Church, Help of Christians,
Mother of the Ukrainian people, pray for us.**

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.

PARISH NEWS

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

If you would like to give yourself and your spouse quality time over a weekend that will focus on love, caring and relationship, you are invited to the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on **29th to 31st July** at the Atrium Hotel, Mandurah or **5th and 6th November** at Prendiville College, Ocean Reef (live-out).

This may be the best gift you can give to each other in a long time. To book your place, contact Valerie and Brendon on 0424 220 625 or email WAb bookings@wwme.org.au.

Visit the website www.wwme.org.au for more information.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

PARENT TEACHER ONLINE BOOKING

An email was sent last week explaining the log in procedure for the Parent- Teacher Online (PTO) booking system. Parent Interviews will be held during weeks 7 and 8. Classroom teachers will be calling parents to discuss their child's progress over the term. These interviews form an important part of our Reporting policy and are essential component in developing open communication between home and school. Each Year level teacher will be allocated a day to complete their phone interviews. These interviews are compulsory. Interviews will be of 10 minutes duration. If you are having issues logging into PTO please contact me.

Teachers	Day
Kindy- Mrs Wake	Tuesday 15th March
Pre-Primary	Friday 25th March
Year 1	Tuesday 22nd March
Year 2	Wednesday 23rd March
Year 3	TBC
Year 4	Friday 25th March
Year 5	Wednesday 16th March
Year 6	Friday 18th March

VISOR SIGNS

Thank you to the parents who are displaying their visor signs at Pick Up. It is helping improve the flow of traffic during the peak pick up period. A reminder to 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. The additional sign is for other family members who may pick up your child. Thank you for your continued support.

WELLNESS WEEK

This week, our school celebrates Wellness Week. During this week our community is reminded of the importance of maintaining balance in our lives and taking time away from the everyday busyness to reconnect with our families and ourselves. There will be no homework during this week.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion inspires so many communities to come together to raise much needed funds for the most vulnerable women, children and men in Australia and around the world. Together, we can all help to break the cycle of poverty and injustice. Please donate generously to Project Compassion during the Season of Lent.

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.

Unwell Students 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.

WINTER UNIFORM

Students return to school next term in their winter uniforms. Winter uniforms are available for purchase through our Uniform Shop. Please refer to the Uniform Shop News for placement of orders.

Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principal

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

Parents, **please note** that we require pre-order only for recess. This is especially for Years 1 & 2.

Due to staggered recess times, this will now be the only way to order.

Pre-orders for recess can be done the same way as lunch - envelope, zip lock bag or even a brown lunch bag (available from Coles or Woollies). Please place into the lunch basket in front of the classroom.

Year One: Mrs Preston has asked that we no longer sell Nippys Frozen Juice cups at lunch, due to the length of time the students take to eat.

Supplies: We are experiencing difficulties in supplies. We will endeavour to replace with a similar item where possible.

Menu until the end of term: Fish Fingers will be available on a Wednesday.

(\$4) Froyos flavours available - fairy Floss, bubble-gum, caramel cheesecake, cookies and cream and Tropicana.

We thank you for your support, Canteen Staff