



Newsletter No. 11

5 May 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.

St. Teresa of Avila penned this lovely prayer and I often reflect upon the words. It is true that with God all things are possible, so we must never forget the presence of the Divine in our lives. The words remind us to use our gifts and to pass on the love that we have been given to those we meet. Not a bad maxim for life.

*May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you
are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite
possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones,
and allow your soul the freedom to sing,
dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.*



Dear Parents & Guardians

COVID UPDATES

Please refer to our school's website for the current COVID updates. Please also continue to check the list of potential exposure locations online regularly at www.wa.gov.au.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

Our Pre-Kindy Program is second to none!! When I visit them on a Thursday and see the children creating, making and manipulating materials which lay foundations for future learning, I really can see firsthand what an exceptional facility and experience we provide for these little children. When you have such well qualified and dedicated staff, who work as a team, empowered by Christian beliefs you just know the children are getting the best start to their schooling possible. As I walk through their class, I am always in awe of the learning they do. It reminds me of the lovely verse from a beautiful song.

*"I hear babies cry....I watch them grow.
They'll learn much more....than I'll never know.
And I think to myself....what a wonderful world."*

I personally never went to Pre-Kindy, or Kindy....or Pre-Primary. But if I did, I would sure want it to be ours! Well done to Mrs Bozich and Mrs Seragusana.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Research clearly supports the reality that one of the key influences on student achievement at school is **“Their home life”**. Home life is a hugely significant factor on the success a child will experience at school. These factors that can greatly influence success at school e.g. bed times, quality of sleep, parenting habits and practices, relationships, discipline, quality time spent with children, diet, hygiene practices, and cleanliness. These are significant factors that greatly impact the success or lack of success a child will experience at school. A school has very limited influence on practices found within the home life of children.

Having said that nine key elements are identified for maximising whole school improvement and thus improving opportunities for student engagement and learning. These factors the school has control over to a far greater percent.

- 1. An explicit improvement agenda**
- 2. Analysis and discussion of data**
- 3. A culture that promotes learning**
- 4. Targeted use of school resources**
- 5. An expert teaching team**
- 6. Systematic curriculum delivery**
- 7. Differentiated teaching and learning**
- 8. Effective pedagogical practices**
- 9. School-community partnerships**

As Principal it is my challenge to work with staff, students and community within these nine areas and develop an explicit plan for improvement. As noted, the school cannot address the significant contributing factors found within the home, but we can endeavour to offer support and information and focus on the elements we have control over to enhance these to best support the opportunities for children to learn.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

Between May and August this year, students in Pre-Primary at St Lawrence Primary School will be taking part in the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), which is a nationwide census of early childhood development and helps our school and community understand how children are developing, what is being done well, and what can be improved. The AEDC is an Australian Government initiative run by the Department of Education and Training.

This year's AEDC is a great opportunity for everyone including parents, local communities, schools and other agencies to work together to bring long-lasting benefits to children and their families. If you would like more information about the AEDC, please refer to the frequently asked questions section on the AEDC website at www.aedc.gov.au.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

I leave you with a very empowering quote from the American inventor, engineer, businessman, and the holder of 186 patents. A quote that certainly motivates us all to aim high!!

**‘Do not tell me the sky is the limit,
when there are footsteps on the moon.’**

Charles Kettering

A Prayer for Mothers

*Lord, as Mary was the model of prayer, love and obedience to the will of God,
by your grace make mothers holy and rich with your gifts.
Bind families together in the bonds of peace and safety
so that mothers will feel nurtured by love.
**May all mothers enjoy good health and spiritual well-being
to enable them to care for their families. Amen***

God bless each and every one of you.



***Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal***



PASTORAL CARE



I ask you all to keep one and other in your prayers. At these difficult times many people may suffer quietly and unknowingly. The devastation that is being seen nightly on TV and in social media is upsetting and anxiety causing for many. We have been blessed in this country to a great extent.

***Let us pray with gratitude for our blessings and keeping those
who are suffering in our thoughts and prayers.***



HOME LEARNING TIP

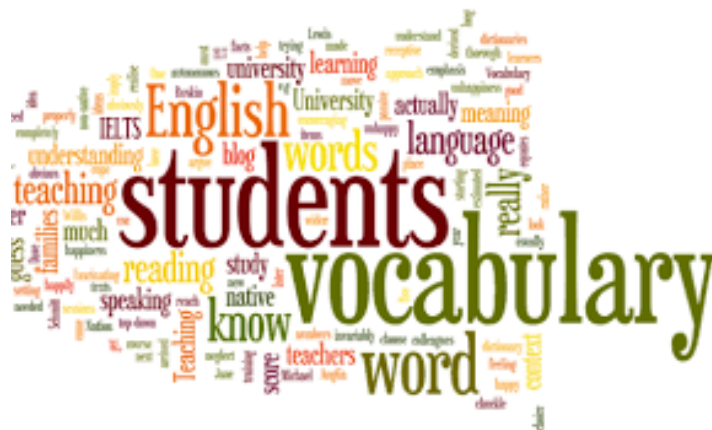
HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN NEW WORDS

HOW DO YOUR CHILDREN LEARN NEW WORDS?

- They understand the meaning of the word
- They are given opportunities to make connections to their existing knowledge
- They have multiple exposures to the word
- They have a chance to use the word and get feedback in conversation

You and your family are important teachers, helping your children recognise, use and learn new words.

For instance, if the new words for the week are tunnel, bridge, away, who and many, you can look out for tunnels and bridges in books, digital media and on trips. When you use *away*, *who* and *many* in conversation or reading, you can point this out to your children, or note them when your children use the words. This helps raise your children's awareness of these words.



WAYS FOR YOU TO HELP

- **Support learning word meanings.** Look for the words from a book the class is reading or the current unit of study, along with simple definitions, and ask children if they know what the word means. If they don't, you can help explain the meaning from your own knowledge.
- **Expose your children to the new words.** Remind children of words recently taught in class and use them as often as you can.
- **Practice new words.** Play a game spotting target vocabulary when it is used naturally in conversation or in a fun quiz. Keep it light and entertaining.
- **Connect words to existing knowledge.** You know your children's life histories and activities and can quickly make connections.
- **Trust your abilities.** You play an important part in your children's school experience and your actions make a difference. Your word awareness helps build your children's word awareness, boosting their vocabulary and their overall learning.

Acknowledgment: "Using Texting to Help Families Build Their Children's Vocabularies at Home" by Emily Snell, Barbara Wasik, and Annemarie Hindman in The Reading Teacher. July/August 2020

PARISH NEWS

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

The parishes of Balcatta and Nollamara will jointly begin the RCIA course later this year. An inquiry night will be held at St Lawrence and Mary Immaculate Church, 392 Albert St, Balcatta, on Wednesday 23rd June starting at 7.30pm. If you are interested in coming to see what Catholics believe or if you would like to become Catholic, please could you let us know by contacting one of the numbers below for further information.

BALCATTÀ:

Jo	0416 509 685
Bronwyn	0400 248 902
Parish Office	9344 7066

NOLLAMARA:

Cathy	0427 778 835
Terry	0413 389 773
Parish Office	9345 5541

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

ASSEMBLY

Our Year 3 students will be leading our assembly on Friday. Unfortunately, parents will not be able to attend the assembly, due to COVID restrictions still being in place.

SACRAMENTS

Students in Year 3 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this term. Please refer to the Sacrament information pack sent home with your child in term one for important information about preparing for and receiving this Sacrament. Please note Sacrament dates and times are subject to change. We pray that through Reconciliation the children will experience a sense of peace from admitting things they are sorry for, saying sorry and hearing the words of forgiveness.

RECONCILIATION

EVENT	DATE	TIME/LOCATION/PRESENTER
Enrolment Mass	Saturday 13 March/Sunday 14 March 2021	Saturday 6.00pm OR Sunday 5.00pm Mass
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 26 May 2021	7.00pm – School Hall
Family Workshop	Wednesday 2 June 2021	5.30pm or 7.00pm – School Hall
Retreat	Wednesday 9 June 2021	8.30am – 3.00pm – School Hall
RECONCILIATION NIGHT	Wednesday 16 June 2021	6.30pm– St Lawrence Church



NAPLAN

In Week 4, our Year 3 and 5 students are participating in national testing in Literacy and Numeracy. Please ensure your children get a good night's sleep and eat their breakfast before coming to school. It is important that children do not feel extra pressure placed on them during this time. All Year 3 and Year 5 students will be assessed between Tuesday 11th May and Friday 14 May. Catch up tests will either be completed during this week or the following week. Results will be forwarded to the school later in the year and will be issued to parents in Term 4. NAPLAN data provides our school with big picture data. NAPLAN is one test, that complements a suite of data that we collect at St Lawrence students throughout the entire school year.

Date	Tests
Tuesday 11 May	Y3 Writing (Paper Test) Y5 Writing (Online Test)
Wednesday 12 May	Y3 & Y5 Reading (Online)
Thursday 13 May	Y3 and Y5 Conventions of Language (Online)
Friday 14 May	Y3 and Y5 Numeracy (Online)

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Miss Kathleen Tranquille

CLASS NEWS

YEAR THREE

The Year 3s will still be having a Mother's Day assembly on Friday. However, due to COVID we will be unable to accommodate parents as well as children in the school hall. The Year 3s will have a special presentation of their assembly at 11am. Parents especially Mothers are encouraged to join in by connecting to a ZOOM call. This will enable you to watch the children perform.

Kathleen Tranquille is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Year 3 Assembly
Time: May 7, 2021 11:00 AM Perth

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74645675436?pwd=QU9tblNCRW1NTEZLYks2cFpNQWlQQT09>

Meeting ID: 746 4567 5436
Passcode: mRSk7t

The planned excursion on Friday has been cancelled; so children will be allowed to wear jeans and a white or black top with a cap, sunglasses and a gold chain (optional) for their assembly. Next week the Year 3 will be participating in NAPLAN testing.

Some helpful NAPLAN tips:

1. Reinforce that your expectation is for them to try their best.
2. Maintain a caring and positive attitude.
3. Keep perspective- This is just one test in time; just one form of assessment; success is not just determined by one test.
4. Prepare your child- Have your child go to bed early so they are well rested and make sure they have eaten a good breakfast.

Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Year Three Teacher

The children have settled into the term so beautifully and have been working hard.

Unfortunately, our excursion to the Telethon Kids Institute this week was cancelled. It is understandable being located inside a hospital with much stricter COVID regulations. I am hopeful that we can reschedule the excursion for a later date.

This term in Measurement and Geometry we will be measuring length, mass and volume and investigating 3D shapes. In Science we are focusing on the Chemical Science strand and we will be continuing on Geography in HASS. In Health the students will be examining their daily health, safety and wellbeing routine with an emphasis on healthy eating, and appropriate levels of exercise. Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful mothers!

Mrs Frances Caruso, Year Three Teacher

YEAR FOUR

Last week, the Year Four's participated in a STEM Challenge. Their challenge was to create a 'Water Transporter' out of sustainable materials. Their water transporter had to carry 50 millilitres of water over a distance of 50 centimetres. We discussed how our water transporters are much smaller versions of what farmers use to water their crops. I loved seeing the children work together on this challenge. A true growth mindset was shown by everyone. When their designs weren't working, they gathered together, discussed what they could change and tried again.

In Literacy, we have been using the reading strategy 'predicting' to help us infer meaning beyond texts.

YEAR FOUR (Cont.)

I encourage you to use this strategy at home when reading with your child by asking simple questions such as; What ideas do you get about the book by looking at the front cover? What do you think is going to happen next in the story? Why do you think this?

In Religion we are starting our new unit learning about Confirmation. We will be looking at the different emotions we have and how we can work together to manage our emotions.

In Numeracy, we are spending some time looking at 'partitioning' as a mental strategy to solve subtraction problems. We have also been looking at column subtraction where borrowing is involved. We are learning how to read scaled instruments such as kitchen scales focusing on kilograms and grams.

Miss Kayla Fogliani, Year Four Teacher

It was unfortunate that our excursion to the Telethon Kids Institute this week was cancelled. It is understandable being located inside a hospital with much stricter COVID regulations. I am hopeful that we can reschedule the excursion for a later date.

This term in Science we are focusing on the Chemical Science strand. In Health we will be concentrating on strategies to ensure our safety and wellbeing. Promoting our health through regular exercise and identifying and choosing healthier foods.

Happy Mother's Day to all our amazing mothers!

Mrs Frances Caruso, Year Teacher

YEAR FIVE

The Year Fives continue to work hard in class. We have been discussing the importance of having a Growth Mindset when tackling challenging tasks rather than giving up and not having a go. This reflects our core value of **Courage** – having the inner strength to be the best we can be.

On Tuesday 11th May the children will begin their NAPLAN testing. There will be no set homework next week but the children will still need to read every night. This is because our focus will be getting a good night sleep to help the children approach each assessment relaxed and refreshed.

To all the Mums, Grandmothers, Aunts, Sisters and other women in our lives, here and in heaven, who care for us and love us unconditionally – Happy Mother's Day for Sunday!

Mrs Roselyn Pizzino, Year Five Teacher

YEAR SIX

Our first Sacred Saints afternoon will be on Thursday 13th May.

We have recently completed a number of assessments which will come home this week. English, Science and Religion books were sent home for viewing and signing yesterday.

I will be away from school from Friday 7 May to 21 May, having a minor health matter attended to. Mrs Angela Carnevali will be replacing me. Much of the work will continue to be accessible in OneNote for the students.

Many blessings to all mothers for a wonderful day on Sunday.

Mr Phil Haydon, Year Six Teacher



MOTHER'S DAY STALL

The stall was a **huge** success, we almost completely sold out of our stock! **Thank you** to the parents/guardians for their continued support of the P&F.

MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEA



Due to the current COVID restrictions, the Mother's Day Morning Tea had to be postponed.

However, as we would still like to acknowledge the mothers and mother figures in our community, we have arranged for each child to take home an individually wrapped cookie made by one of our St. Lawrence mums, Chantelle Mammoliti. Chantelle willingly took on the mammoth task to make 260 cookies.

We thank you very much Chantelle.



We hope you all have a wonderful Mother's Day.

St Lawrence Primary School P&F Committee

WINTER NETBALL

Congratulations to our Year 5 (U11) & Year 6/7 (U13) teams on their first win for the season.



Year 5 (U11) Team



Year 6/7 (U13) Team

We wish our Year 1/2 (U8), Year 3 (U9) & Year 4/5 (U10) teams all the best for their first game of the season this Friday. Good luck!

Cheryl & Nicole - SLNC Committee

CANTEEN NEWS

Raffle tickets for Mother's Day are still selling : \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The prizes will be drawn at line-up.

We THANK our generous donors:

- *Willow & Lace
- * O Leary Family, Cirillo Family
- *Woolworths Stirling Central
- *Northlands Pharmacy
- * Strandbags

Some fantastic prizes to be won, including:

- \$50 Willow and Lace Voucher
- \$50 Coles Myer gift card.

2021 School Canteen Staff



SPORTS NEWS

RUNNING CLUB

How fantastic it has been to see so many students arriving at school early to participate in running club.

Please note We will be moving the start time of running club back to **8.10am.**

Running club is available to all students at the school. The children meet outside the office and collect their cards. A staff member will then take them out to the oval to complete their laps.

It is a good idea to wear alternate socks and shoes as the grass is often damp at that time of morning. This means the children can change back into their black school trainers and school socks before school starts.

SACRED SAINTS

Notes will go home with the Year 5 and 6 students who will be participating in these Inter school fixtures. We wish them all the very best for their games.

FOOTY CLINIC

Last week we welcomed Brad from Subiaco Football Club to our school. He helped out with some football coaching for the year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students. Brad was very impressed by the enthusiasm and skill level of the St Lawrence students.

Another great fun week St Lawrence Sports Stars, keep up the excellent work!

Mrs Claire Major, Sports Teacher

