



Newsletter No. 17

16 June 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.

Catholic Education CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

Faith in the future

This Year we in Australia celebrate 200 years of Catholic Education. What an absolute milestone this is. There are many wonderful stories about the early days of Catholic Education. In essence it was simply the Church's great desire that all people could access education. The Catholic Church has a long and illustrious tradition of Education. We have always been profoundly influential in Education and developing some of the greatest minds, hearts and leadership talents in all ages. Our universities alone stand as testament to our great educational achievements. Every year Catholic Schools do extremely well in all league tables, children educated in Catholic schools continue to make a huge impact on the adult world they enter.

Many Religious Orders came into being as a response to ensure the poorest of the poor could have access to the fundamentals of an Education. We are taught not to be boastful of our achievements and this is certainly true, however nor should we place our light under a bushel. Catholic Education is a resoundingly successful undertaking in ensuring all people have the opportunity of choice in their children's education. That all people can access the wonderful opportunities of a good education, and that through Catholic schools the knowledge and wisdom of the Church may be handed on and we can all come to know Jesus Christ better.

We pray for the students and staff of Catholic Schools in Australia, that inspired by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and 200 hundred years of Catholic Education, they will courageously promote the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church.

Amen

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

Our current school core value is **COURAGE**. Courage is a theme found throughout Scripture. From Old Testament to New...we hear of the great fortitude to be found in remaining courageous. Daily, we are all challenged with burdens and tasks, jobs and ordeals. Paul told the Corinthians in 1 16:13 "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."...In Chronicles we read David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished." And in Timothy "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." Jesus Himself said... "But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'"

Courage is a core value we strive to have in our work here at school. In facing the challenges of learning, of playing sport, or creating, empowering...of growing. I often say we should be coming home from school having felt challenged, having completed a day's work, of pushing ourselves to be the best we can be. The challenge is to be courage in yourself, in your efforts and in your deeds, no need to compare to the next person, only to yourself. Have you been better today than you were yesterday? Have you achieved to your full capacity? In doing this then you should be proud of your efforts, and perhaps a little weary as well.

Staff

We take this opportunity to wish Mrs Stephanie Freeman all God's blessing on the impending birth of her third child. Mrs Freeman will be taking leaving in Term Three. Ms Erin Healy will be stepping in to take over the teaching of the Arts, with a dance focus for Term Three. We welcome Erin and wish her all the best in Term Three.

Mrs Tania Preston, Pre Primary Teacher, will be taking two weeks long service leave in weeks 10 and 11. Mrs Giulia De Rizzo will be taking over the reins in Pre Primary for the two weeks. We welcome Mrs Rizzo and wish her all the best in Pre Primary.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Over the next few weeks, I will enjoy the honour of reading the **Semester One Reports** and I hope that as parents and guardians, you gain a greater insight of your child's strengths, skills and achievements over this first Semester when you read your child's report. The Semester One reports are to be issued online on **Friday 2nd July**. Our obligations as a school, and our "core business," is a commitment to providing best opportunities for our students to learn, to maximise their gifts and reach their individual potential and acknowledging each child's uniqueness.

The teaching and learning cycle is one that is driven by providing best opportunities for student engagement and accordingly learning. The teaching and learning cycle involve the effective practice in planning, programming, teaching and assessing in an integrated and systematic manner. Our teachers here at St Lawrence are consummate practitioners. They strive hard to always be reflecting on their learning cycles and making modifications to suit the students' various and varying needs as they manipulate their individual learning journeys. Reporting is one small aspect of this whole cycle and provides an opportunity for the teachers to collate and report on the data they have collected pertaining to students' outcomes, gains and achievements.

We know that some children flourish in the Arts, and others excel in the Sciences, some demonstrate wonderful skill development in the Physical Education Domain and others in their Religious Education classes. Some have the gifts of hospitality and in making people feel welcome. Others already speak two different languages fluently and some play musical instruments with great gusto. God so created us all differently through His great wisdom. The world would be ever so dull if we were all carbon copied and mass produced. The beauty in God's great creation is in the individuality of every unique gift a person has been bestowed. Our children, each, and every one of them have many gifts, all as unique as they are. When reading your children's reports, I ask you all to remember this.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

When I visit classrooms and work with our staff and children, I am always delighted to see the high levels of social justice and community mindedness that our students display. Our Christian values are articulated and lived by our students, their sense of justice for all and equality. Many adults fail to display these essential and critical values. Our students are striving to navigate what they learn and the unfortunate realities they see around them through social media, TV, and such. I know from time to time children sometimes fail to make good choices, this is all part of the learning and growing journey undertaken by our children daily. The key and essential role models in their lives provide the foundations for the acquisition of strong social and justice ethics.



Catholic schools have an explicit agenda for sharing Gospel Values and these are supported by our school's Core Values. They are further strengthened by our motto "In God's Love We Grow". We can take great pride in our students and their development into fine young people of quality, who display respect, reverence and are developing a deep sense of social justice. These attributes grow and develop over time, may each of our children continue to enhance their values, principle believes and values. Central to the journey they undertake, may they always know that Christ provides the perfect example. His life, actions, and teachings offer a flawless role model of compassion, courage, justice, joy, and the purposeful attainment of a common good through unity with the Father and those with whom we live in community.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year with all schools within Australia. The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability.
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Below is a link to more information for parents, guardians and carers interested in learning more about the NCCD.

<https://www.nccd.edu.au/sites/default/files/fact%20sheet%20for%20parents%20guardians%20and%20carers.pdf>

Student Background Data Collection

St Lawrence Primary School, along with other Catholic, Independent and Government schools, collects Student Background Data (SBD) on behalf of the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Data collected is used for calculating the Index of Socio Educational Advantage (SEA) model that determines schools that qualify for special assistance.

Collected student background data include the following: • The gender of your child; • The country of birth of your child; • Aboriginality, or other ethnicities; • Your occupation and educational qualifications (in very broad terms); and • The main languages/dialect spoken at home by parents/guardians and your child.

This information was provided when your child was first enrolled at St Lawrence. If there have been any changes to your situation or the data is not currently accurate, please complete the attached form and return to the school office by Friday 25 June 2021.

Collected information will be confidential and used for its intended purpose only. No individual person or school will be identifiable and linked with the results.

We appreciate your support and cooperation in achieving this outcome through our data collection. If there are some questions regarding the data requested, please feel free to contact myself to discuss.

For more information regarding the data collection, you may refer to:

<https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/data-standards-manual-student-background-characteristics>

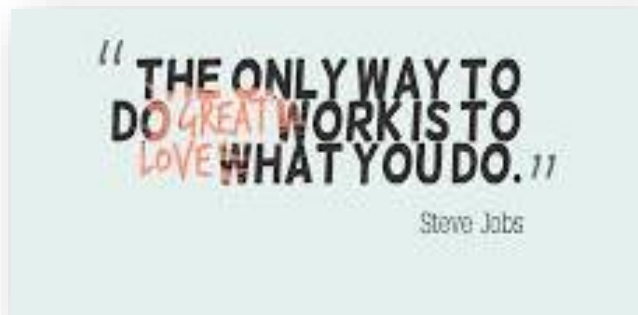
The quote below from Steve Jobs, resounds true for me. I have been in education for over 25 years. A great part of my life in fact, not counting my own days as a student, in Primary, in High School and then in University. For me my heart knows that I have been truly blessed to have found the right place for me to serve.

Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE



We pray for all our children who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. May they be strengthened greatly by this sacrament and may they always know the great love of Jesus in their lives and the wonderful joy found in cultivation the relationship.

HOME LEARNING TIP

ENCOURAGE your child to read or write with a specific purpose in mind.

Some ideas include:

Read a book or film review or create your own review.

Listen to and view texts on the internet, MP3 or other digital audio players.

Read, collect, experiment with and write recipes to create a cookbook.

Find out facts about the world, share them with family members by putting post-it notes on the fridge.

Use instant messaging to communicate with family and friends!

Keep a diary where your child can record events, feelings etc.

Make and write greeting cards.

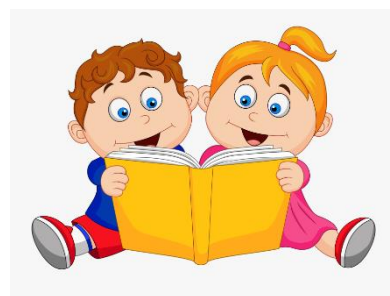
Write a shopping list for a recipe you and your child wish to make.

Capture video of your own review using a web camera, or the movie function of a digital camera or mobile phone.

Play appropriate computer games that require reading.

Download podcasts to listen to and discuss.

Join a blog to read and to make contributions to together.



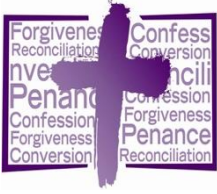
SAFETY REMINDERS

- Please follow the correct procedure when ‘dropping off’ and ‘picking up’ your children. Children are to be accompanied by an adult in the carpark area. Parents need to be in control of their children’s behaviour while under their care and supervision at all times.
- A reminder that children **are not permitted to ride their bikes, skates or scooters** while on the school grounds.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

RECONCILIATION



The Year 3 children will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time today at 6.30pm at the Church. 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. Thank you to Miss Tranquille, Mrs Caruso, the Parish and school for the work that has been done in partnership with families to prepare the children for the celebration of the Sacrament.

ASSEMBLY

Our Year 6 students will be leading our assembly on Friday. Parents are welcome to attend this assembly. Merit awards will be presented at the assembly.

LITURGY

Our Year 2 students will be celebrating their class liturgy on Thursday 17 June at 9am in the Year 2 classroom. All parents and friends of Year 2 students are welcome to attend.

THE BISHOPS' RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENT

At the request of the Western Australian Bishops, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 9 students in Catholic schools across Western Australia will take part in *The Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment* (BRLA) from the week commencing Monday 2 August in Term Three. The assessment will be accessible to students online. Students enrolled in Year 3, Year 5 and Year 9 who are following a regular classroom program are expected to participate.

The BRLA provides a 'point in time' snapshot of student performance in RE. Students' knowledge and understanding of the content of the RE curriculum is assessed using a combination of multiple choice, short and extended response items. Students' faith is not assessed. The use of the BRLA complements the school-based assessment programs in RE.

ILLNESS

For the benefit of your child, other students and staff at St Lawrence in preventing the spread of illnesses and viruses, if your child is unwell, please do not send your child to school. If you are feeling unwell and have no other options for drop off and pick up, please maintain physical distancing from other parents and staff.

NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC Week 2021 will be held from Sunday 4 July to Sunday 11 July. NAIDOC week is an opportunity for all Australians to come together to celebrate the rich history, diverse cultures, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A NAIDOC prayer service will be held on Friday 2 July in the school hall. To raise awareness of NAIDOC week we invite children to wear clothes in the colours of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island flag, black, yellow, red, blue, white or green. Students are invited to make a gold coin donation on this day. All gold coins collected on this day will go to the LifeLink agencies.

A Prayer for the Reconciliation Candidates

*Loving God help us to teach our children that you love us totally and unconditionally.
Help us to encourage our children to grow in love and to learn how to say sorry, knowing that you always forgive.
Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals

YEAR THREE

In Year 3 we have been busy preparing for our First Reconciliation. Thank you to all parents who attended the Reconciliation Family Workshops. It was great seeing families working together to complete activities as we learnt valuable information about this special Sacrament.

In Maths we are starting to learn our 2, 3, 5, and 10 times tables. It is encouraged that children also practise at home to help increase automatic recall of these multiplication facts. In Literacy we are investigating the structure of Informational Reports and will be writing reports about mythical creatures.

A reminder that we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation today in the St Lawrence parish at 6.30pm. Children will need to be at the church at 6.15pm and will be required to sit in the front two pews with me for the ceremony. The children are permitted to wear neat casual attire for this occasion.

Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Year Three Teacher

YEAR FOUR

We have had some very busy weeks in Year Four. In Numeracy, we have been learning about angles. We have been identifying, classifying and comparing angles using symbols.

In Religion, we are wrapping up our Confirmation unit, looking at Jesus' Two Great Commandments.



We had a discussion about our emotions and how sometimes when we are not aware of how we feel, or we don't talk about them, they can 'bottle up' inside of us. We looked at the importance of sharing how we feel with those special people around us - family, close friends and teachers.



In Art, we have been looking at the famous artist Vincent Van Gogh and some of his artwork; in particular - A Starry Night. The children are re-creating their own versions of this painting and they are coming along quite nicely!



A reminder our Brownes Incursion is this Thursday. As previously mentioned, there may be an opportunity for the children to milk a live cow as well as a blind tasting kitchen session where the children will get to taste test different Brownes products. Please inform me in writing (via email) if you do not wish for your child to take part in the incursion.

Miss Kayla Fogliani, Year Four Teacher

YEAR FIVE

A big welcome to our newest class member Elene. We hope that you enjoy your time at St Lawrence. The Year Fives had a wonderful time at the Telethon Kids Institute last week where we explored the Discovery Centre and took on the roles of researchers to extract the DNA from strawberries. I think we have some future researchers among us! A big thank you to Mr Tonge for driving the bus and Mr Clarke, Mrs King and Mrs Pushnick for their help on the excursion. Today the children took part in their rescheduled Sacred Saints matches against St Denis. Well done to everyone for their wonderful efforts. On Friday we are playing against Majella in our last Sacred Saints match before the Winter Carnival next Wednesday. Tomorrow we have the Brownes Dairy incursion. As per previous correspondence, please let me know in writing if your child is unable to participate. In Maths the children are working on calculating the Area and Perimeter of the Zoos they have designed. During Religion we are looking at the definition of Sin and how we need to say sorry when we sin to restore our relationship with God. We are keeping the Year Threes in our prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time tonight. Have a great week.



Mrs Roselyn Pizzino, Year Five Teacher

YEAR SIX

The students have begun work on their Asian country project which is due for presenting to the class on Monday 28th June. I hope you will be able to come to the Year Six Assembly in the Hall this Friday at 8:45am to see the students perform their Battle of Hastings play. We had our delayed Sacred Saints fixture with St Denis today. The Sacred Saints Winter Carnival will be next Wednesday, 23rd June.



Mr Phil Haydon, Year Six Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

Today Year One played some old fashioned games during their library time. They played games such as knucklebones, fishing, and tiddly winks to see how children spent their leisure time during the olden days.



Mrs Jane Stanton, Teacher Librarian

CANTEEN NEWS

Thank you to my helpers last week, Anita & Renee. Your help was very much appreciated!

Year 4 parents - if anyone can help from 9-11am on Thursday or Friday next week, can you please make contact with the canteen staff.

Reminder: Canteen will be open on Tuesday 22/6; Thursday 24/6 and Friday 25/6 for next week.

Last day of term Friday 2 July - orders are now being taken - Sausage Sizzle and Juice box \$5.00.



***Last day of term
2/7/21
Sausage Sizzle &
Juice \$5***

***Preorder by
25/6***

PIC•COLLAGE