



## Newsletter No. 19

**21 June 2023**

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.



Pope John XXIII was a much-loved Pontiff of our great Church. At the onset of his Pontificate, he was thought of as a possible caretaker Pope after the long reign of his predecessor. Little did people know God had great plans for this wise man. He is quoted as saying he had wanted to open the windows of the Church and allow some fresh air in. These simple words he once said I believe to be very powerful impetus for motivation. We should focus on what we can do, not what we failed at, what we can achieve not our disappointments.

*Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.*

*Pope John XXIII*

## **Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders**

I still remain very concerned at the number of children who are accessing TikTok and other inappropriate internet sites when at home. You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

I remind parents and guardians that users can watch musical clips, record clips, edit them and add special effects.

So why should you be concerned? You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and inappropriate imagery, which simply is not suitable for your child to view.

There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child.

I ask all parents to be aware of their children's internet searches and the activities they are involved in. It is very concerning that children of primary school age have access to adult content.

Of even greater concern is the potential for total strangers to be communicating with your children.

Parents should be aware of what their children see and hear online, who they meet, and what they share about themselves. Talk with your children, use appropriate tools to protect them, and keep an eye on their activities.

If your children are using the Messenger Kids App, I strongly encourage you to monitor the content of the conversations. Though there are no ads or purchases, the privacy policy states that all content (message content and app usage details) is stored and that the information is used to develop new products, which could mean that data will follow your child into Facebook/Instagram use later on.

Parents should weigh the pros and cons of introducing your children to social media environments, given concerns about children's health and well-being in relation to social media use. Though Facebook designed the app for children ages 6-12, the recommended age is 13+.

You should read the developer's privacy policy for details on how your (or your children's) information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

The school has strong internet filters and safety measures in place to stop children from intentionally or accidentally entering inappropriate sites. These measures may not be the same as the safety measures you have at home. Please be vigilant in monitoring your children's internet and social media usage.

## **Catholic Schools of Excellence**

Continuing with our Code of Conduct over the next few Newsletters we shall explore each conduct statement and help expand upon the meaning and responsibilities associated with that specific statement.

### **Conduct Statement No. 3**

**You act in accordance with the values of the Gospel as defined in the Code of Ethical Conduct. Guidelines**

1. You are mindful that your decisions and behaviour are opportunities for students and others to see Gospel values in action and how faith integrates with life. Therefore, you are responsible for educating yourself and anyone you lead on the content of those values, and their practical application in your decision making.

2. You acknowledge that as a member of a Catholic school community, you are required to strive to develop and live out your relationships with all people in a manner that is based on Gospel values as defined in the CECWA Code of Ethical Conduct.
3. You accept that as a member of a Catholic school community, your conduct reflects on Catholic Education and the Church, and therefore you must strive to uphold the letter and spirit of the Code of Ethical Conduct.
4. You are called upon by the Code of Ethical Conduct act in a manner that is:
  - Based on Christian ethics
  - Professional
  - Timely
  - Contextually appropriate
5. The Code of Ethical Conduct requires you to take an ethical approach based on the living out of Gospel values which find expression in:
  - Respect for the dignity of each person
  - Acknowledgment of the giftedness of each person
  - Commitment to building positive relationships
  - Confidentiality
  - Accountability
6. Respecting dignity is based on:
  - A conscious appreciation of the sacredness of the individual's creation
  - A sensitivity to the fact that each individual has emotions, fears, hopes and an innate goodness which flows from creation in the image of God
7. Recognising the giftedness of others involves:
  - Discerning these gifts
  - Naming and acknowledging these gifts
  - Empowering individuals and groups to use their gifts
8. Fostering positive relationships which flow from being:
  - Welcoming and open
  - Honest and loyal
  - Trusting and trustworthy
  - Willing to share knowledge, skills, resources and insights
9. Committing to appropriate confidentiality based on:
  - Respect for others
  - Professionalism
10. Committing to:
  - The Mandate of the Bishops of Western Australia
  - The acceptance of responsibility for any action or initiative at a personal and professional level.

### **Specific Behaviours: Staff**

All members of our school community are encouraged to model our MJR (Making Jesus Real) values and to always strive to be a good person in the spirit of Jesus.

### **Parents**

Modelling good behaviour for students demonstrating Gospel values in all interaction with all members of the school community.

### **Students**

Treat others as you would like to be treated.

### **Volunteers and Visitors**

Expectation of positive behaviours and practices. Further clarification can be sought from staff if required.

## **Reports for 2023 - UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S REPORT**

Parents will receive 2 formal academic reports this year:

### **JULY – MID YEAR REPORT**

This report provides parents with a 'snapshot in time' of how their child is progressing in relation to the end of year achievement standard for each learning area for their year level. The grade provided is taking into account the curriculum which has been taught and assessed to that point in time.

### **DECEMBER – END OF YEAR REPORT**

This report provides parents with an overview of how their child has progressed, across the entire year, in relation to the end of year Achievement Standard for each learning area for their year level. The grade provided is taking into account the curriculum which has been taught and assessed across the entire year, not just Semester 2.

### **Understanding the Grading System**

Is a 'C' grade good? Yes, you should celebrate C grades as this indicates that your child has progressed to the desired level of understanding for his/her year level. A "C" grade is the **expected** Achievement Standard for each year level and each Learning Area.

Does an 'A' or 'B' grade mean my child is working a year or two above their current grade? No, an 'A' or 'B' grade means that your child is responding to the content taught to a deeper level. They may be thinking more critically about the content, which is a wonderful skill to demonstrate.

How are final grades determined? Teachers collect numerous samples of work and assessments to determine the final grade. The grade is determined with the use of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's (SCSA) Judging Standards. For more information on this go to <https://parent.scsa.wa.edu.au/>

The reporting requirements have change over the years and are very different from when you were at school. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority's (SCSA) Judging standards is a tool to support teachers when reporting against the achievement standards for each year of schooling; when giving assessment feedback; and when explaining the differences between one student's achievement and another's. The achievement standard describes an expected level that the majority of students are achieving or working towards by the end of that year of schooling. Some students will have progressed beyond the achievement standard; others will need additional support. The expected standard for each year is described as 'C' or Satisfactory.

'As reporting student achievement in terms of grades is a broad classification of performance, each grade represents a wide range of student ability. Many students will be given the same grade in semester 1 and semester 2, even though their teachers will have observed growth in learning. Bearing in mind that work in Semester 2 builds on Semester 1, maintaining a grade indicates students have held their own in the face of more advanced material and in this way have grown in their learning' (Taken from The School Curriculum and Standards Authority's (SCSA)

### **Catholic Pastoral Communities**

**"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child."**

The above words really start me thinking about how important it is that we never forget the fact that childhood is a period of time in a person's life, it is not solely about learning the lessons found in the classroom. Yes they are very important, no doubt, but so too are the lessons we learn while fishing with dad, reading with mum, playing with imaginary friends in the back yard, cooking with nana or sitting on pop's shoulders as we walk around the garden. This window of life is a short time only. A small period of time that we each must pass through and once gone we can never get it back. Enjoy your opportunity as parents to have a second look at childhood, that period of time your own children currently enjoy. Let them be children, let them enjoy, let them play and inquire and find joy in the beauty of the world around them...this may even enkindle in us adults a sense of awe and wonder in God very own creation.

## Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Electricians have today worked and replaced all lights in the school hall. This forms part of our ongoing school maintenance programme. After the winter passes, we will recommence replacing the last of the tiled roof section of the school. We have also had an arborist inspect several of our trees to ensure their safety. Where applicable some pruning is expected to take place to keep our trees in tip top shape.

**"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life."** John 3:16



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



## PASTORAL CARE



***Congratulations to the following families on the safe arrivals of the new additions to their families:***

**Smoje** family - baby boy Antonio, brother to Mattea (Kindy) and Amelia (Year 1).

**Oswald** family – baby boy Alby, brother to Chase (Year 1).

**Brooklyn** (Year Three) on her beautiful baby sister Bella.

***Deepest condolences and sympathies to Mrs Seragusana on the sad passing of her most beloved Grandmother.***

*Eternal rest grant unto Her, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon Her.  
May the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
~Amen~*

*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine.  
Et lux perpetua luceat eis. Fidelium animae,  
per misericordiam Dei, requiescant in pace.  
~Amen~*



# Learning at Home Tips.....

Supporting your children's learning from home can help them develop better reading skills, studies have shown this to be the case throughout the schooling year. Anything you do to support home learning can have a lasting impact on your child's academic success.

Here are some tips to help you create an effective home learning environment.

## **1. Use routines to structure your at-home learning.**

Children work best with a routine where they know what to expect every day. Help your child create a structured schedule for their learning in a way that works best for them.

Structure could take many forms: even making sure that your child works on assignments at the same time every day can go a long way. Whatever form of consistency you can provide for your child will help them learn better at home.

## **2. Create a designated learning space for your child.**

This tip ties into creating a structure for your child's learning routine. If you can find a space where your child works on their homework every day, they'll be able to get into a learning mindset faster.

When possible, create an area that is dedicated solely to your child's learning. If you don't have the space in your home, however, any table or desk with free space can work well. The important thing is using the same space every day.

## **3. Remove distractions when possible.**

Once you've set up your home learning space, brainstorm any potential distractions with your child so you can remove them from the area. For some children, this could involve blocking certain websites while they're using a computer to complete work. Others might need you to move toys out of the room, so they're not tempted to play during homework time.

Keep in mind, though, that some kids might work better with a little music or noise in the background.

Eliminating distractions is all about determining what helps your child work at their highest potential and avoiding things that detract from that.

## **4. Teach your child the importance of time management.**

Sometimes if a child has more than one set of homework, they may feel overwhelmed and have trouble determining where to start. That's where time management comes in.

Help your child arrange their homework from most to least important to finish today. That way, they can work independently in a way that helps them get the most out of each day.

## **5. Think about home learning beyond school assignments.**

Home learning doesn't always begin and end with homework. Try to practice what your child is learning throughout the day, so they understand that these concepts have a place in real life—not just at school.

If your child is learning about counting, for example, they could help you count up change at the supermarket checkout. Or if they're learning about different kinds of clouds in science class, you could help them identify the clouds that they see outside.

## **6. Allow some flexibility in your home learning space.**

Although consistency is important for a good learning routine, some flexibility can help your child stay refreshed and ready to learn.

## **7. Set regular learning goals.**

In the classroom, learning progress often feels more clear-cut because students are graded by their teacher and often have learning intentions set at the beginning of lessons, so the students know the intended outcome. At home, you and your child may not know how to measure progress.

Setting a specific goal every day or week can help you track your child's growth. It can also help to set a goal for the school year that your child can work towards each day. If you're not sure what your child's daily, weekly, or long-term goals should be, ask your child's teacher for help.



# FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

## ACCESSING REPORTS

Semester one reports will be available on SEQTA on Thursday 29 June. Most families should have access to electronic reports via SEQTA at <https://stlawbal.engage.cewa.edu.au/>

All Pre-Primary families who do not have an older child in the school and new families have been sent a 'Welcome Email' to register for a SEQTA Engage Account. Existing families with a current account should check that they can log in prior to Thursday 29 June. If you are unable to log in, please follow the process below to create a new password. Please contact the school office if you have any concerns or queries.

1. Click on the "Forgot your password? Link
2. Enter your email address into the relevant box and click on "Reset my password"
3. Go to your email inbox and reset your password according to the instructions in the email.

Please be aware that the password will expire after one hour of being generated.

## NAIDOC WEEK



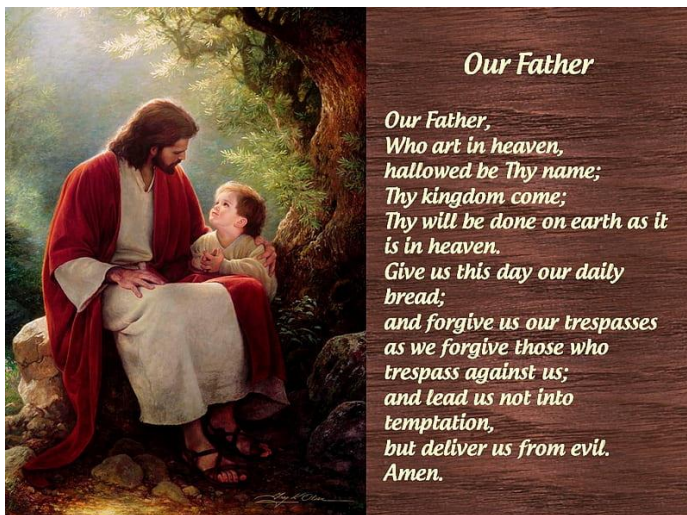
The school will celebrate NAIDOC week next week. Children will be involved in a variety of activities to celebrate the diversity and rich cultural heritage of this great country of ours.

On **Thursday 29 June** we will be celebrating NAIDOC day. Children will be permitted to come to school wearing colours of either the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders flags (red, yellow, black or white, green, blue).

## TERM DATES

**TERM TWO will end on Thursday 29 June**  
**Friday 30 June – STUDENT FREE DAY**

**TERM THREE – Monday 17 July**  
**End of Term Three – Thursday 21 September**



### *Our Father*

*Our Father,  
Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done on earth as it  
is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily  
bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us;  
and lead us not into  
temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.*

*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan &  
Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals*

# WINTER CARNIVAL

Tomorrow, **Thursday 22 June**, all students in year 5 and 6 will be participating in the Winter Carnival at Noranda Sporting Complex

We will be playing against St Denis, St Gerard's, Our Lady of Lourdes and Majella in netball, soccer and football. The aim of these fun matches is to:

- 1) Promote fitness and enjoyment
- 2) Provide children with the opportunity to participate in sporting events within the wider Catholic School Community
- 3) Foster a positive attitude towards physical activity within a healthy, competitive environment
- 4) Develop netball, soccer and football skills.

**TIME:** Students will travel by bus to and from the venue. They will leave school at approximately 9.00am. The matches will start at 10.00am and conclude approximately at 2:30pm. Students will arrive back at school by 2.45pm to be picked up as normal. Please allow for possible delays due to the weather.

**CLOTHING:** Children are to wear their sport uniform -yellow St Lawrence sports shirt (no graduation shirts), red shorts/skorts, tracksuit and school hat. I also strongly recommend bringing a warm waterproof jacket for between games. Soccer and football team will be provided with playing shirts. Students will be allowed to wear their own sports shoes for the matches but are **NOT** permitted to wear any sports shoes with spike or studs.

**PROTECTIVE GEAR:** All students participating in football must wear a mouthguard. These can be obtained through your dentist and are usually covered under health insurance or can be bought quite inexpensively at a chemist. If soccer players would like to wear mouth guards or shin pads this is their choice. Shin pads will require long socks (red would be best)

**WEATHER:** As this is a winter competition, students will be required to play in the wet weather. The event will not be cancelled unless the weather is too severe for the students to participate. Principals from the various schools will make the decision to cancel the event based on updated weather forecasts.

**FOOD AND WATER:** Students need to bring their morning tea and lunch with them, including a full water bottle. I recommend using the St Lawrence back-pack as there will be room for their warm jacket as well.

We look forward to a wonderful day and it would be great to see any parents who are available to come along and support our students. Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.

*Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Specialist*



# UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

## WINTER UNIFORM

Students in Year 1 to Year 6 return back to school in Term 3 in their Winter Uniform.

Parents, please note that the last day the uniform shop will be opened this term is Thursday 29 June 2.30pm to 3.30 pm.

The uniform shop will be closed during the school holidays and will be re-open on Wednesday 20 July 8.30am to 9.30 am.

**Please do not hesitate to contact me on [Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au](mailto:Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au) for any enquiries. Winter Price Lists are available on the school's website and from the school office.**

### Uniform Shop Opening Hours:

Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am & Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

*Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager*

## P&F NEWS



**THE GREAT GATSBY CASINO NIGHT** – due to lack of responses, unfortunately the event is cancelled.

**Thank you** to those who have so kindly replied. We will advise the school community of our next social event. Your support is very much appreciated.

## CLASS REP NEWS

**Year One 'Catch Up' Archie Brothers** – wonderful outing enjoyed by all.



We look forward to other Class Representatives sharing their outings. Thank you all for your support.

*Mrs Natasha Raso, P&F President*

# CANTEEN NEWS

❖ **BIG THANK YOU** to Sarah C for her help on Wednesday last week!

- If anyone is available to help on the last day of term, Thursday 29 June, please let me know, thank you in advance if you are able to help.

❖ **Last day of term** - Sushi special \$7 or Sausage Sizzle \$5 (see flyer below).

- Please note, this is the only lunch items available on this day. Please pre order by Friday 23 June.

❖ **Canteen open Thursday 22 June**

Apology for the confusion, but the canteen will be open tomorrow as per normal.

*Mrs Christina Russo, Canteen Manager*



**Last day of term special  
29th June**



5 piece Sushi and juice \$7  
Katsu Chicken  
Teriyaki Chicken (gluten free)  
Cooked Tuna (gluten free)  
Vegetarian (gluten free)



Or  
Sausage sizzle & Juice \$5

**Please preorder  
by Friday 23rd  
June**

PIC•COLLAGE

*Our wonderful students enjoying 'cooking in our orchard kitchen!'*