



**ST LAWRENCE
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

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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.



*Happy St Lawrence
Feastday*

Saint Lawrence, (died 258, Rome Italy; feast day August 10), is one of the most venerated Roman martyrs of the Catholic Church. He is celebrated for his Christian valour and his great love of the poor. He is the patron saint of the poor and of cooks.

Lawrence was among the seven deacons of the Roman church serving Pope Sixtus II, whose martyrdom preceded Lawrence's by a few days: they were executed during the persecution under the Roman emperor Valerian.

The emperor believed the Church to have great wealth in gold and silver and captured Lawrence asking for "all the treasure of the Church." It is said that Lawrence gave the church's treasures to the poor and the sick before his arrest. The emperor then asked for the treasures and Lawrence assembled all the poor and presented them to the emperor saying. "These are the treasures of the Church."

Although Lawrence was probably beheaded, St. Ambrose of Milan and the Latin poet Prudentius, among others, recorded that he was roasted to death on a gridiron, remarking to his torturers at one point, "I am cooked on that side; turn me over."

Many conversions to Christianity throughout Rome reportedly followed Lawrence's death, including those of several senators witnessing his execution. He is named in the canon of the Roman mass.

St Lawrence is our school's patron saint, and we are very proud of our traditions and association with the name of such a great man and saint.

Through the intercessions of St Lawrence, I pray for the safety and wellbeing of you all.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

The Australian census on 10 August 2021 will provide a snapshot of who Australians are and what is important to us. The census is a key tool that government uses to determine how organisations, schools, church ministries and community groups are prioritised, funded and empowered to best operate in our State.

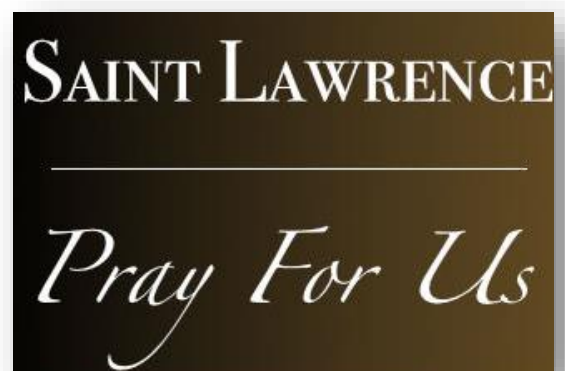
If your faith is important to you or if you identify with Christian values, please use your voice in the Australian census when asked your religion.

This is an important opportunity to demonstrate the significance of faith-based families in our West Australian community and will support endeavours to secure equitable access to opportunities and resources.

ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL FEASTDAY

The school will be celebrating St Lawrence Feast Day on **Friday 6th August**. The Feast Day is an opportunity to celebrate our Patron Saint, but also an opportunity to continue his work by donating funds to those most in need in our community. Money raised on the day, will be donated to the Kora Centre run by the Servite Sisters. The feastday will commence with a whole school Mass at 9.00am followed by Tabloid Sports.

Thank you to the Parents & Friends Association who will be providing lunch for the whole school. The day will conclude with a Mini Fete. To keep our community safe, this will be a staff and student only celebration.



Last week I attended the Catholic Primary Principals (CPPA) Conference. The theme was “*Never let a good crisis go to waste*”. Winston Churchill’s famous observation - made during the bleakest days of World War II - has a lot to teach us today, as we grapple with the new normal of self-isolation and social distancing and the implications to education of the current world crisis and the data we have on educational outcomes across the world in general. For me perhaps one of the most concerning points is the gap widening between the “haves” and the “have nots”. The wealthy are getting wealthier and this in turn means the education gap is also widening. More and more children worldwide are not in schools, are unable to read and write, or if they can it is at significantly reduced levels. This is a terrible fact and a reflection on our world. I hope and pray that resolutions can be found to solve this widening gap. We certainly have the resources and the know-how.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

CECWA Policy Implementation Transition

The new CECWA Policy and Executive Directives structure was promulgated throughout the Catholic Education System on 22 February 2021. All Catholic school principals must now lead the transition process, make sure any school-based policies are replaced by CECWA Policies and Executive Directives, with school-based procedures only being produced to provide additional guidance within their Catholic school community.

Our school’s “Policy” Team have successfully navigated the first half of the policy suite updates. You will now be able to see on our school’s homepage a link to the policy suite. We will now begin the process of uploading any procedural operations specific to St Lawrence Primary School. This process does take some time and I thank you all for supporting CEWA and St Lawrence Primary’s policies and procedures at all times. I thank Ms Tranquille, Mrs Brennan, Mrs Boyle and Miss Fogliani for their hard work and leadership in this process.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

Did you know that the games you play with your toddlers and preschoolers can influence their interest in learning maths and science as they grow older? Young children can learn such concepts as big and small, high and low, fast and slow, and heavy and light. By helping your children learn these concepts, you are helping them begin to learn about math and science.

According to educational experts from the National Science Foundation ("Helping Children Learn at Home," 1997), "young children are natural mathematicians and scientists" because of their curiosity and their desire to explore and experiment.

When parents encourage their children to ask questions and help children explore and discover the natural world, they are helping build an interest in math and science. Many experts say that children who have such experiences when they are very young develop an enjoyment for and a confidence in math and science that pays off as they get older. Here are some ideas for what you can do to develop your pre-schooler’s interest in math and science.

- Go for a walk with your child. Take time to stop along the way and watch things that children notice, such as flowers, animals, and bugs. Talk with your child about what you see and ask about what he sees.
- Draw pictures together. Draw a picture of what you have seen whether it was on your walk together, on your front steps, in the backyard, or from your window. Ask your child to draw a plant, an animal, or a favourite place, and then ask her to tell you about the drawing.
- Turn a drawing into a story. Write down what your child says about the picture he just drew. Ask him to make up a story about the picture and save it with other artwork and stories he has developed.

- Listen to your child and ask questions about what she is seeing and doing. Children need to have time every day to tell another person about what they have seen or what they think. When you ask your child to tell you about a walk or a trip to the zoo, you are encouraging her to think and choose words.
- Choose toys that help your child learn. Young children learn about the world primarily by playing. As a result, they need toys that encourage them to imagine and explore, which are not necessarily those that are advertised on television. Some ideas for toys include:
 - Balls. They can be bounced, rolled, thrown in the air, the grass. Which bounces the highest? Lowest? Which ones sink in water? Which ones float?
 - Blocks. Building blocks can be a great math and science toy because they help children learn about engineering and geometry. You can make your own out of egg cartons, cereal boxes, or wood scraps. For young children, make sure the blocks are big enough to handle easily and keep out of mouths. Have enough blocks in different shapes and sizes to build unusual structures. Have children paint the blocks in bright colours.
 - Puzzles. Puzzles help children learn to solve problems as well as learning about shapes, sizes, and colours. For toddlers, make sure the puzzle has some large pieces. You can make your own puzzle by pasting a magazine picture onto a piece of cardboard, then cutting it into large pieces. Or make a puzzle from one of your child's drawings. As children get older, they can do more difficult puzzles.
 - Plant a garden with your child. Planting a garden, any size, is a great family activity. A garden can be a back yard or a container on a windowsill, and it has a season of math and science lessons in it. Measure the space or container, determine where the plants will get sunlight, find out how much seeds will cost, count the seeds, measure the rows, watch the plants grow and chart their growth, pick vegetables, look for insects, and learn what plants need to be healthy.
 - Read to your child. Read books aloud every day. Look at picture books and talk about what you see. Alphabet and counting books are always popular, and you'll experience a sense of pride as you watch your children learn. Plan a regular time to go to the school library or public library. Enlist brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and grandparents to help read stories. Have your child read to you if he wants to or tell you a story based on the pictures in the book. Monitor TV watching. Turn off the TV and limit viewing. Too much TV viewing takes time away from other activities. Many experts have shown that children who do things other than watch TV usually do better in math and science in school. When you do let your child watch TV, look for high-quality educational programs, and watch and discuss programs with your child to help build a habit of critical reflection.

Source:

Helping children learn at home. (1997, March 27). Pointers for Parents (National Science and Technology Week Publication SP/96-8). Arlington, VA: National Science Foundation.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Our school has extremely strong enrolment demands. Obviously as a single stream school we have limited places. I strongly suggest if you are interested in securing future positions that you ensure applications have been placed on the wait list through the office. We have very limited positions available in the coming years across the school and early years demand is very high.

God bless each and every one of you.



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

**Your end can be greater
than your beginning:
butterflies are the
greatest proof of this.**

-Matshona Dhliwayo

PASTORAL CARE



I ask you to keep in your prayers all the boys and girls who across our world are not accessing a suitable standard of education. Who for no fault of their own are unable to learn to read and write. I pray we may find a solution to this crisis and heal the gap growing between those who can and those who cannot.



MERIT AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to our Merit Award Winners

Home Learning Tip



Parent-teacher meetings can be dreaded on both sides, and in some cases can escalate into anger, blame and a breakdown in communication. But there are simple things we can do that can make those awkward conversations much easier.

Matt Sanders, the director of the Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland, said parents were far more likely to contact their child's teacher about their concerns than they were 20 years ago. "These days because there are many parents who, rather than side with the school and the teacher, will assume that the school is not handling the problem in the way they would like or to their child's advantage," he said. "It may be the child is not doing well at something or is not selected for something or has problems with peers." "You can get parents becoming quite upset quite quickly over what they see as unfair treatment or perhaps the school not responding to something they have identified as quite important.

Where the tension comes in is usually where there is a misunderstanding, so then the parent comes down hoping to clarify that. Sometimes we do not handle these conversations very well. We may become aggressive, searching for blame, or through being miss informed and not prepared to listen effectively we miss information. None of this impact the conversation positively. When we are armed only with what our children have told us, we often fail to see we only have one set of information, this information was gained through the eyes of one participant, and very naturally, will be biased by their interpretation and often their desired outcomes.

So, the question is how to have this conversation positively and with the view to resolution, understanding and not blame. How do you have a good conversation with your child's teacher? Here are some pretty standard tips that may come in handy....

Check out the story

If your child has come home from school and reported something that concerns you, try to clarify what has happened as much as you can before approaching the school. Children very often are simply unable to recall the narrative associated with the day's events. Also, and perhaps most significantly...remember their narrative is just that...theirs! There will be other interpretations and recollections of events...And the poor teacher must try to piece all these conflicting tales together...

Talk to the right person

Then as parents determine who is the appropriate person to speak to, and the general advice would be the child's teacher. The parent who jumps straight over and goes to the principal rather than the most important person in the child's school life is making a generally mistake. Of course, follow up with the principal if the need be, but start with the class teacher.

Don't barge in or fire off an email

Arrange a time to speak to the teacher face to face, and don't try to chat in a busy classroom at drop-off or pick-up time. Emailing the teacher can be an OK first step, but it's not a great way to have a conversation and resolve problems.

Write down your concerns

Prepare an agenda of what you would like to speak to the teacher about. If you narrow it down to a particular set of issues to discuss, it's much easier to get a resolution than if you use the opportunity to bring up 10 issues that you can never get through.

Stay calm

Talking about our children, especially when it comes to behaviour problems or poor academic performance, can be enormously stressful for all parents but it's important to try to stay calm. Don't allow yourself to become angry where you are feeling anxious in a situation where you are trying to advocate for your kids. Always listen to what is being said, try to hear and understand what is being communicated.

You will have a more reasoned discussion, you are more likely to be listened to and to get another person's perspective, and you can avoid the blame game. If teachers are under attack, it's not surprising that these conversations can go a bit pear-shaped. After all, teachers are also only human...they feel and hurt just like the rest of us!

Be thoughtful about what you share with your kids and on social media!

If your child knows you have had a meeting with their teacher, they will likely ask you what was said, but that doesn't mean you should tell them everything. We need to use common sense and good judgment here, there are some things that might be said about other children, events that have occurred and what teachers are dealing with, that is not appropriate to share with kids, particularly if it is then passed on to anyone else.

Experts agree that the overwhelming majority of parents want to have good relationships with their child's school. I think as educators, if you come to the table with solutions focus and believe in resolving the problem in a positive way, there are not many problems you can't resolve. It can be hard for teachers when parents are demanding, entitled, pushy or overly angry. Especially when the information they may be establishing their beliefs on is incorrect.

Social media outlets are never the correct place to post information...ever!

Keep it positive, stay informed and go straight to your teacher if you have questions.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL FEAST DAY

The school will be celebrating St Lawrence Feast Day on Friday. The Feast Day is an opportunity to celebrate our Patron Saint, but also an opportunity to continue his work by donating funds to those most in need in our community. Money raised will be donated to the Kora Centre run by the Servite Sisters. Children will be participating in games and purchasing yummy goodies from our stalls. It is encouraged that children bring some of their pocket money so that they can partake in the celebration. To keep our community safe, we have decided to go with a staff and student only celebration. **Parents will unfortunately not be able to attend.**

Time	Scheduled
9.00-9.45am	Whole School Mass
11.00-11.45am	Year PP-2 Tabloid Sports- Organised by Claire Major
11.50-12.40pm	Year 3-6 Tabloid Sports-Organised by Claire Major
12.40-1.00pm	Lunch provided by P&F
1.40-2.40pm	Mini Fete
2.40-3.00pm	Pack up stalls and clean up.

SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

On Thursday 5th August parents and the communicants will be required to attend one of the Eucharist workshops at either 5.30pm or 7pm in the school hall. Please keep our Year 4 students in your prayers as they prepare to receive this Sacrament.

BISHOPS' RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENT

The Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment is an online standardised assessment that measures the students learning of the content of the Religious Education Curriculum. This week our Year 3 and Year 5 students will complete the online assessments.

LOST PROPERTY

Please make sure your child's school clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles and containers are clearly labelled. Each day different items are found and placed in the Lost Property Box or brought to the office. It is very difficult to return these items when they are not clearly labelled.

SOCIAL MEDIA

A Reminder that we have a school Facebook and Instagram account. These accounts are a great way to follow what is happening in our wonderful school.

First Eucharist Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist You left us the outstanding manifestation of your limitless love for us. Thank You for giving our children the opportunity to experience this love in receiving the Sacrament for the first time.

May your Eucharist presence keep him/her ever free from sin, fortified in faith, pervaded by love for God and neighbour, and fruitful in virtue, that he/she may continue to receive You throughout life and attain final union with You at death. Amen.



Miss Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Gabrielle Brennan, Assistant Principals

CLASS NEWS

YEAR THREE

A reminder that the Year 3s will be going on an excursion to the Telethon Kids Institute on Thursday 5th August. The children will have an early lunch before leaving for the excursion. Please pack your child's recess in a plastic bag clearly labelled with their name, as we will transport this to the excursion. They will only need to carry their drink bottle and hat. Bags will not be taken on the excursion because of limited storage areas at the Institute. Children will need to bring their iPads to school on that Thursday due to the fact that the Year 3s will be completing the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment before the excursion

On Friday we will be celebrating St Lawrence Feast Day. Lots of exciting stalls have been planned to raise money for the Kora Centre run by the Servite Sisters. Children will be participating in games and purchasing yummy goodies from our stalls. It is encouraged that children bring some of their pocket money so that they can partake in the celebration. To keep our community safe, it has been decided to go with a staff and student only celebration. **Parents will unfortunately not be able to attend.**

Thank you to all families who have sent in their block of chocolate and jelly crystal packets. Children had fun making yummy jelly cups for our stalls.



Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Year Three Teacher

YEAR FOUR

Last week, the Year 4 students, along with the Years 3, 5 and 6 students, visited Servite College to watch students perform Beauty and the Beast. What an amazing show they put on! We all had so much fun. Well done to all the performers.

We have been working hard to prepare ourselves for our First Holy Communion on Saturday 21st August. A reminder that our Eucharist parent workshop is on Thursday 5th August at 5:30pm or 7:00pm.

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on learning mental and written strategies of multiplication and division. We have also been looking at mapping and describing our location using directional language and compass points.



St Lawrence Feast Day is on Friday. The children will be in their sports uniform for the day. Thank you for donating the items for our stalls.

Miss Kayla Fogliani, Year Four Teacher

YEAR FIVE

Congratulations to all the Year Five students on their amazing efforts during the Cross Country. It was wonderful to see all the students take part and complete the run – what a bunch of Super Stars! We all thoroughly enjoyed watching the students at Servite perform Beauty and the Beast last week. A big thank you to Miss Fogliani for organising this.

Today, the students took part in the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment, and I was very proud that each one of them tried their very best during the test.

We are looking forward to celebrating our patron St Lawrence on Friday and are working hard to add the finishing touches to our St Lawrence Artworks. I can't wait to see the finished products.



A reminder that the students will need to bring along some money on Friday to be used at the mini fete in the afternoon. Thank you all for your continued support in ensuring students are completing their homework, reading and Mathletics tasks at home.

Mrs Roselyn Pizzino, Year Five Teacher

YEAR SIX

Our Year Six camp meeting will be held in the hall on Thursday at 2pm. Each student will sit with their parents at the meeting. Permission slips and medical forms will be given out at the meeting. If a parent is unable to attend, their son/daughter will bring home the forms and detailed information about camp.

The Year Six students will be offering face painting and goal shooting as activities to celebrate our patron's feast day on Friday. Many thanks to those who have contributed small prizes. Hopefully, each child will be able to make a contribution to the mission appeal and enjoy the fun.

Next week, I will be requesting each student intending to be confirmed brings in their Mass booklet for viewing. It has been wonderful to see students reading and discussing the many saints' books in our classroom. The time for choosing a saint and sponsor for Confirmation is fast approaching.



Mr Phil Haydon, Year Six Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

This week, I am continuing to showcase some of the short listed books we have in the library collection. The non-fiction category of the awards is called the Eve Pownall award. The information books in this section are recognised for their accuracy of information, design of the book and the illustrations and research involved in their presentation.

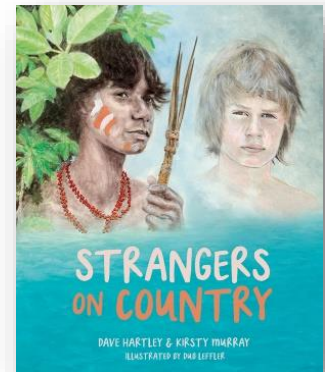
Dry to dry: the Seasons of Kakadu by Pamela Freeman Illustrated by Liz Anelli

This book beautifully illustrates the yearly weather cycle and attendant changing wildlife of Kakadu National Park. Beautifully written narrative that explores the unique story of one of Australia's most amazing landscapes.



Strangers on Country by David Hartley and Kirsty Murray Illustrated by Dub Leffler (suitable for Upper Primary)

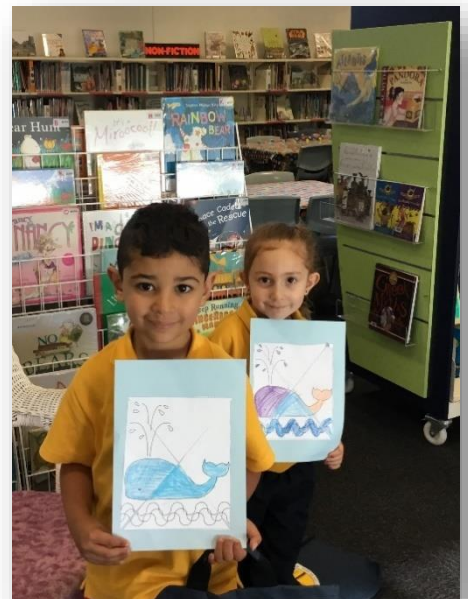
Giom, Anco and Duramboi are the names of just three young shipwreck survivors and convict escapees who were given refuge by Indigenous communities during the nineteenth century. No one knows exactly how many received sustenance from the local people, but there are some documented accounts of these experiences. *Strangers on Country* includes the stories of six Europeans and the people who cared for them.



Pre Primary

This term, Pre Primary have been looking at books about the sea. We had fun this week making a simple jigsaw puzzle after reading the book, "There's a whale in my bath," discussing the idea of what is real, and what is make believe.

Mrs Jane Stanton, Teacher Librarian



CANTEEN NEWS

Thank you to my helper last week Jess.C. This was very much appreciated.

Help is needed tomorrow morning. If anyone is available, even for a few hours, please advise the Canteen Staff. Thank you.

St Lawrence Feastday Friday 6 August

The children will be provided with lunch by the P&F Association. Choices will be Pie, Sausage Roll or Spinach & Ricotta Sausage Roll and a juice box. Sauce will also be provided.

Forms

If you have not completed and handed in the return form, unfortunately your child will miss out. There are no other lunch orders in this day. Recess will be on as per usual.

2021 Canteen Staff

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

SECONDHAND CLOTHING

If you have any unwanted uniforms in good, saleable condition, you may donate them to the school. Please place the uniforms in a bag and leave them at the school office.

Please ensure that all items are WASHED and IRONED.

Please...****NO** old school socks, school hats and school ties******

We thank the parents who have kindly donated to the uniform shop.

Second hand uniforms are sorted and placed on clothes rack in the Uniform Shop.

Items are available for sale at reasonable prices.

****The uniform shop has received numerous summer and winter second hand uniforms that are available for sale now****

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS

Enrolments are now open for VacSwim swimming lessons during the October and summer school holidays. VacSwim offers fun lessons at beach or pool locations. They are a great school holiday activity, and they teach valuable safety skills to help keep your child safe in the water.

Enrol at education.wa.edu.au/vacswim



SPORTS NEWS

There has been an over-whelming positive response to the soccer coaching sessions which will, hopefully, start in the next few weeks.

I am currently in the process of organising coaches and figuring out the most practical way to run these sessions.

I appreciate your patience and permission letters will be sent out as soon as I can get this organised. The students are super keen which is great.

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the students who placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th who will represent the school at this event. Permission letters will be sent out this week in readiness for the Inter School Carnival next Friday 13th August at Yokine Reserve.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

Events timetable

Events	Year Group		Distance
12.50pm	Year 3	Girls	1200m
1.00pm	Year 3	Boys	1200m
1.10pm	Year 4	Girls	1200m
1.20pm	Year 4	Boys	1200m
1.30pm	Year 5	Girls	1500m
1.40pm	Year 5	Boys	1500m
1.50pm	Year 6	Girls	1500m
2.00pm	Year 6	Boys	1500m

The weather has made training really difficult but I have encouraged all competitors to get out and run as often as they can and we have done endurance runs in all sport lessons.

Remember running club is also on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. I encourage all runners to try and be at these sessions as we are completing longer runs.

SPORT LESSONS

Please ensure that your child has their hat and drink bottle at every sport lesson. It is very disruptive when students need to go and get a drink in the under-croft. With the unpredictable weather at the moment we have had several indoor lessons lately, please do not assume that we will be indoors.

Hats are compulsory for all outdoor activity.

ATHLETICS

In Phys Ed lessons we have started training hard for our Athletics Faction Carnival. This will take place on Friday 17th September.

Please dig out your faction shirt in readiness or purchase one from the uniform shop as we will soon be moving to faction shirts on sport days.

If any parents are unsure of their child's faction, please feel free to contact me via email to confirm. Thank you.

Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher