



Newsletter No. 37

1 December 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.



Advent

The countdown to Christmas is on and, if you visit the shops, you can see that the Christmas decorations are out in full swing. For us, the coming of the Advent season is a very special time. It is one of hope and joyful expectation, as it looks to the coming of our saviour. Before we get caught up in the frenzy of Christmas preparations, it is a good time to stop and reflect and ask ourselves what we are doing to prepare for the coming of the Lord. May this Advent be a time of spiritual awakening and renewal for us all as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the World.

The Reading for the First Week of Advent reminds us all to be on our guard, to be mindful of the coming of Our Lord.

Mark 13:33-37 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

"Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

Please find below the 2022 St Lawrence School Staffing arrangements. These are always **subject to changes**, however at the time of printing the following applies. I take this opportunity to wish both Mr Haydon and Mrs Edwards a happy Long Service Leave (LSL) for the first semester of 2022.

2022 STAFF

Position	Current Staff
Principal	Mr Sheldon Carey
Assistant Principals	Mrs Gabrielle Brennan Ms Kathleen Tranquille
Pre-Kindy Education Assistant	Mrs Kaylene Bozich Mrs Michelle Seragusana
Kindergarten	Mrs Rachel Wake
Education Assistants	Mrs Michelle Seragusana
	Mrs Kayli Thompson
Pre-Primary	Ms Erin Healy (Sem. 1) Mrs Gloria Edwards (Sem. 2)
	Mrs Frances Caruso (Friday)
Education Assistant	Mrs Lyn Staltari
Year One	Mrs Tania Preston
Year Two	Ms Paula Christensen
Year Three	Mrs Roselyn Pizzino
Year Four	Ms Kathleen Tranquille
AP Relief	Mrs Claire Major (Wednesday) (Monday pm)
Year Five	Miss Kayla Fogliani
IT Relief	Mrs Frances Caruso (Thursday)
Year Six	Mrs Angela Carnevali (Sem. 1) Mr Phil Haydon (Sem. 2)
Play Group	Mrs Gillian Austin
Specialists	
Science/Music	Mrs Stephanie Freeman
LOTE	Mrs Jenny Acquarola
Physical Education	Mrs Claire Major
Library/Rainbows	Mrs Louise Frenzel
Education Assistants	Mrs Angela Mattioli
	Mrs Pina Nyersh
	Mrs Gillian Austin
	Mrs Karyn Howley
Administration	
Finance Officer	TBC
Office Administrator	Mrs Lina Armstrong
Administration	Mrs Marie Boyle (Wednesday)
Uniform Shop	Mrs Angie Miola (Weds 8.30am-9.30am & Thurs 2.30pm- 3.30pm)
Canteen	Mrs Christina Russo, Mrs Frances Caccamo and
	Mrs Antonella Crupi (Wednesday to Friday)
Groundsman	Mr Jayden Lu

As we speak of leaders, our Year Five children have been presenting their Leadership Speeches. I have attended all sessions and have seen the children flourish in their opportunities to participate in public speaking. Obviously not all students are successful in their attempts for formal leadership roles. That said, all the children will have opportunities for leadership. This is part of the learning attached to such opportunities. We build resilience by how we learn to handle outcomes and events in childhood. Building resilience is aimed at giving children skills to face more difficulties and challenges later in life, to help to even the playing field. Each of us must learn how to handle the outcomes of events that happen throughout life. We build upon these skills, and this builds resilience. Many studies abound about our young adults lacking in the skills to handle life's setbacks. This is a concerning trend in society.

One of the reasons schools undertake such leadership programmes is for building resilience and setting up our boys and girls for success later in life, when disappointment and struggles will occur. The building blocks and scaffolding laid in childhood set the children up for success as they navigate the world later in life.

I commend all the boys and girls who put their hands up for a leadership position. I look forward to seeing the outcome of the voting procedure before I make my final decision to endorse the candidates that were put forward by the process.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

This week our Year Six school leaders accompanied Ms Tranquille and I to visit Parliament House for lunch with our local member Mr David Michael MLA. It really was a very special outing.

I was so proud of how well our students represented our school. They spoke extremely well, asked exceptional questions and their table manners were delightful. I walked away from this occasion a very proud Principal indeed.

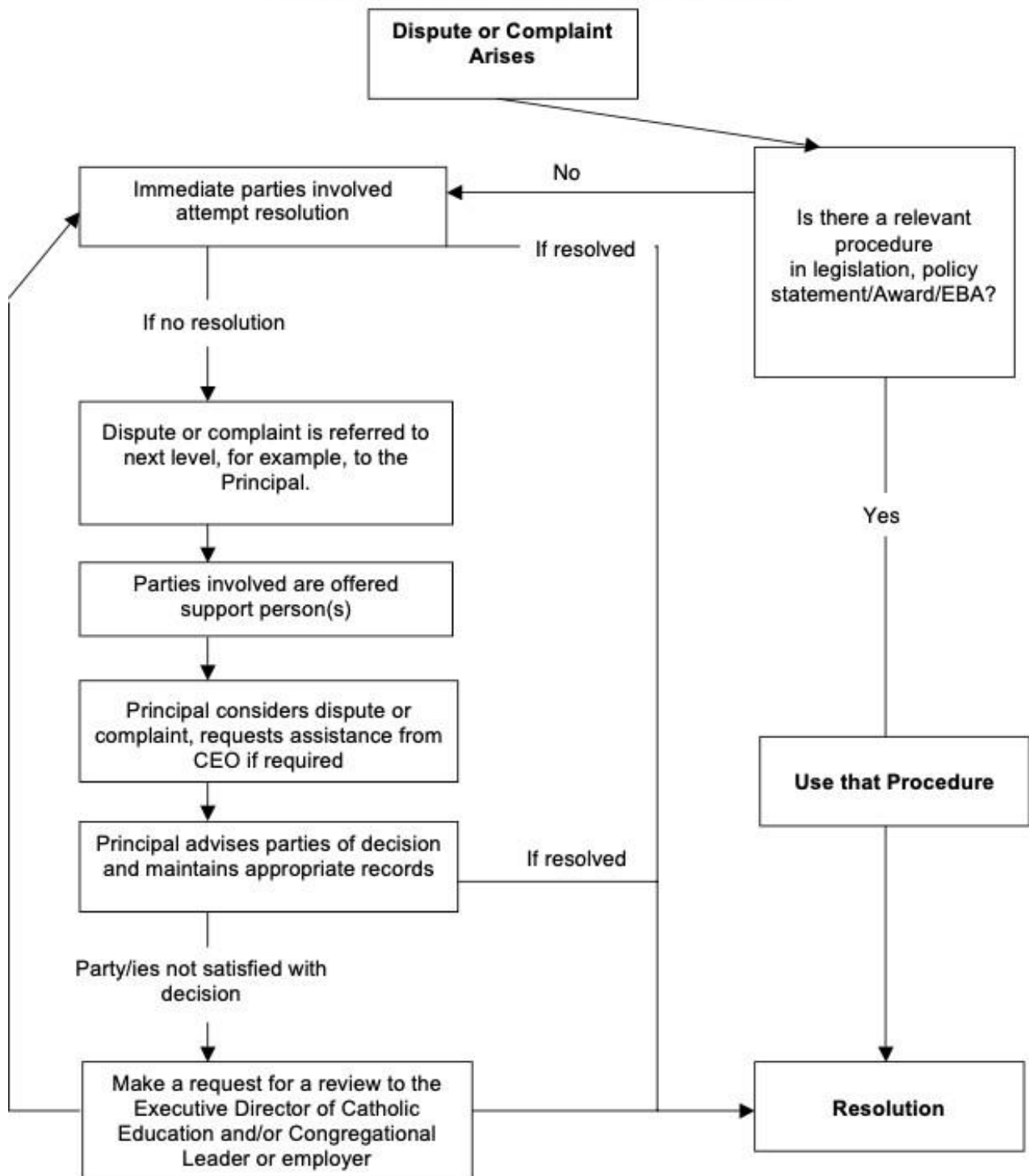


I often tell my family and friends that we have some very exceptional young people in this world of ours, young boys and girls who have great integrity and who will represent the youth of Australia as fine young men and women. All our Year Six Boys and Girls are wonderful examples of the good citizens that are about to take their rightful place in the world stage. I commend each and every one of them as they come to the end of their Primary School education. I wish them all God's blessing and ask Our Lord continues to hold them all in the palm of His hand.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

All Catholic Schools in Western Australia follow CEWA's Dispute and Grievances Procedures. The flow chart below provides a simple visual representation of the Dispute and Grievances Procedures. Please refer to the chart should you require any further information or speak directly to myself.

Flowchart for Dealing with Disputes and Complaints



Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

May I express my sincere gratitude to all families who have attended to school fees in 2021. Our school relies on income from Federal and State Grants based on a per-capita formula and on income we receive from other sources. We operate as a not-for-profit organisation and aim to spend all our income accordingly while being mindful of future planning and obligations. We receive utility bills e.g., power, water, land rates and the like which must be paid. We must manage our school grounds, facilities and building maintenance and up-keep and plan for future developments.

We also have our core business of education services to supply to families. This includes purchasing licences for copyright obligations, resources in general, books, stationery, the ever-increasing ICT costs and keeping our staff at the cutting edge of education through professional development. Staff wages generally account for approximately 75% of a school's income. So, it is a large and significant undertaking to manage the financial obligations of a school.


The St Lawrence Advisory Council support the Principal in this function and the school's Financial Officer (Lina Armstrong) provides the book-keeping and accounting support required to meet the arduous legal and financial obligations. I thank both the Advisory Council and Lina for their support in ensuring the sound financial standing of our school. I also again thank all community members for following through in meeting your requirements.

This hard work and commitment to St Lawrence helps keep our school not only in exceptional condition financially and physically but also maintain our outstanding achievements through our students and community in general.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal

Peace I leave with you
MY PEACE
I give unto you: 
Let not your heart be
TROUBLED
neither let it be afraid.
John 14:27

PASTORAL CARE



Thank you to the wonderful people who have taken a tag from our Christmas Tree and arranged for gifts for those in need of support at this time of the year. I am so very touched by the magnitude of the response from our community members.

May we keep those who find this time of the year difficult or who rely on the kindness of others to be able to have a special time. *May our prayers be for those who have to share with those who do not.*

HOME LEARNING TIP

The holidays are just around the corner, and as parents, you'll be looking forward to a bit of time off. One of the more daunting challenges you may be facing during this holiday period is how to keep a routine, especially when everyone wants to come over and your family has been invited to an array of events. It doesn't have to be daunting and here are some hints that may help.

Why should we continue to practice our routine?

Practising a routine is just as important during the holiday season as it is any other time of the year. A routine helps your child meet and reach developmental milestones which allow you and your child's educator to measure their progress and wellbeing. This routine also provides stability and normality to your child's life which allows them to feel comfortable and not stressed or fearful. Keeping the routine over the Christmas holidays also reduces the likelihood of your child burning out or having a temper tantrum.

What can we do to keep a routine?

Hint 1. Plan with your child

Planning with your child makes them feel included and helps them understand what is going on. By having a plan, they will be able to recite to you what exactly you are up to for that day or week. When creating a plan for the holidays, **ask them what they want to do**. They may have heard of a park they want to go to! Or they may want to schedule the day they see Father Christmas. Their plans may even revolve around what food they want to eat or what game they want to play at home. You might be pleasantly surprised at how creative, thoughtful and organised your child is. Another good way to involve them in the holiday schedule is to plan play dates in advance. This will help them begin to understand dates and times and will give them something to look forward to during this time away from their friends.

Our top tip is to make sure you have an agenda each day so you don't lose track of time!

Hint 2. Maintain regular sleeping patterns

Sleep is one of the most important aspects of a child's development. Sleep helps your child grow and learn and most young children need up to 13 hours of sleep per day. Over the holiday period, maintaining that bedtime routine is critical as your child needs time to wind down and the bedtime routine provides them with a sense of comfort and normality. Maintaining your bedtime routine will also prevent your child from experiencing overtiredness and you having to deal with the aftereffects.

Hint 3. Set a screen time limit

It's natural that your child may be exposed to more screens while at home for an extended period, but it is incredibly important that we don't let our children spend all day watching TV or playing on an iPad. Studies have shown that too much screen time exposure can result in your child being sleep-deprived, inattentive and unable to self-soothe. One of the best ways to combat this challenge is by being a role model and minimising the amount of time you spend on your own screens. Play is a crucial part of a child's development as it enables them to reach milestones such as walking, tying shoelaces and holding a bottle of water.

Hint 4. Have consistent eating habits

One of the biggest concerns we hear from our parents is how do we stop our children from filling up on all the sugary treats? By maintaining a routine and providing similar breakfasts and lunches every day, your child is less likely to indulge heavily in tempting treats. Keeping a routine and eating healthy meals also promotes the idea that foods such as a piece of cake or a piece of pizza are a treat and are something to be treasured.

Don't forget... Remember to Play

While plans and maintaining a routine are great, remember your child is a child and possibly doesn't understand time yet. Play is one of the best ways to keep them entertained and happy over the summer holidays and one of the ways you can help your child develop even further. During the holiday period take trips to the park, get outside and run around. Let them explore and plan different activities to keep them excited.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

ADVENT

This weekend we commence the Liturgical season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning 'coming' and during this period we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. Advent is a time to reach out to others in the Spirit of love and share what we have been given. Advent is a time to remember all that God has done.

One of the symbols of Advent is the wreath

Without beginning or end symbolises God's unending love for us. The evergreen in the wreath represents growth and the hope of eternal life. Purple the colour of our prayer cloth and candles is the Church's colour for preparation and sacrifice. The lighting of candles each week in Advent marks our growing anticipation of the coming of Christ, light of the world.

During this time families start preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Suggested activities:

- Attending Mass regularly
- Being kind to our family and friends
- Recalling our sins and repenting
- Loving our neighbours by helping those in need
- Praying regularly

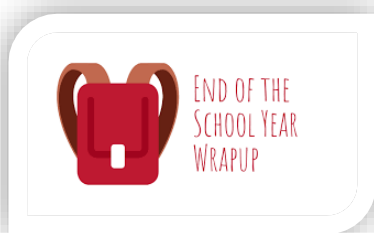


GRADUATION CELEBRATION

This year the Graduation celebrations will start with the Year Six students celebrating mass with the St Lawrence school community on Tuesday 7th December at 10am in the church. The Graduation Liturgy, Presentation Night and dinner will be held on Wednesday 8th December at the Servite Auditorium at 6pm. The St Lawrence medals will be presented at the Christmas Nativity on Thursday 9th December.

BOOKLISTS

As per last year, the Pre Primary to Year Six student booklists will be ordered in bulk and all items will be dispatched directly to the school. The classroom teachers will send children's books and stationery home in week 9 to be labelled and covered and items to be returned back to school on the first day of 2022.



WEEK 8

- PP Nativity Friday 3 December at 8.45am

WEEK 9

- Graduation Liturgy and Dinner Wednesday 8 December at 6pm
- Whole School Christmas Nativity and Presentation Ceremony Thursday 9 December at 6pm
- Reports available online Friday 10 December at 4pm
- End of Term Students Friday 10 December

Miss Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Gabrielle Brennan, Assistant Principals

Christmas Nativity Costumes

The St Lawrence students have been working hard this term in preparation for the Christmas Nativity Concert. They are looking forward to sharing the story of the First Christmas as well as getting you singing and moving to entertaining Christmas tunes.

In preparation for the big event Mrs Freeman has emailed the costume requirement for each year level. Students are to come dressed in their costumes on the night of the concert and meet their classroom teacher at their class between 5.30pm-5.45pm. They will walk to the Junior Oval with their class prior to the concert commencing and stay with their class for the entirety of the concert. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 9th December for an evening full of Christmas cheer and fun.

Kindy Christmas Cheer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Theme T-shirt (this can be Christmas colours or a Christmas pattern/motif) Shorts
Pre-Primary Christmas Cheer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Theme T-shirt (this can be Christmas colours or a Christmas pattern/motif) Shorts Santa Hats (encouraged, if you have one, but not compulsory)
Year 1 ANGELS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Clothing (Dress; Shorts & T-shirt; Skirt & T-shirt) Halo and/or Wings (optional)
Year 2 ANGELS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Clothing (Dress; Shorts & T-shirt; Skirt & T-shirt) <i>Halo and/or Wings (optional)</i>
Year 3 ANGELS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Clothing (Dress; Shorts & T-shirt; Skirt & T-shirt) Halo and/or Wings (optional)
Year 3 Star, Mary, Joseph, Three Wise Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plain clothing Costume to be supplied by School
Year 3 Sheep/Shepherds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White/Stone Clothing (Dress; Shorts & T-shirt; Skirt & T-shirt) Costumes/Accessories to be supplied by School
Year 4 CHRISTMAS CHEER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Theme T-shirt (this can be a Christmas colour: red, white, green, gold etc.; or have a Christmas theme pattern or motif) Board Shorts or Summer Shorts Optional: Halo/Wings/Hats/Sunnies
Year 5 Christmas Cheer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Theme T-shirt (this can be a Christmas colour: red, white, green, gold etc.; or have a Christmas theme pattern or motif) Denim Bottoms (short/skirts/jeans) If Denim is not possible, Black please Christmas Accessories (hair/jewellery/tinsel) is encouraged
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Theme T-shirt (this can be a Christmas colour: red, white, green, gold etc.; or have a Christmas theme pattern or motif) Black Bottoms (short/skirt/jeans) Christmas Accessories (hair/jewellery/tinsel) is encouraged

CLASS NEWS

PRE KINDY

Well, we only have two more Pre Kindy days and then it is time for our wonderful Christmas break before Kindy begins for all our children. We are having fabulous days with our friends, learning so much and becoming so grown up.

This week we will watch the story of Jesus' birth and in our craft activity we will make a Nativity scene. We have a lovely Nativity set in our class to play with. If you have one that you bring out in your home in the lead up to Christmas, ask the children to tell you about it, the people in the stable and the baby Jesus in the manger, and what they have learnt in class about Christmas.

Mrs Kaylene Bozich, Pre Kindy Teacher

KINDERGARTEN

Last Friday we had our Christmas Nativity Play and the children performed so well in front their parents, buddy class and the Primarys. It is a huge effort for Kindy to remember all of the parts in their performance in front of so many people. We are so proud of their accomplishments and how much they have grown! It was wonderful to see so many families including extended family there to support each child.

Reminder that the St Lawrence PS Christmas Concert will take place next week. All parents should have collected a letter outlining costumes and how the night will run in the children's note folders. **When: Thursday December 9, 2021 Time: from 5.30pm**

Next Friday is our last day together, I cannot believe it. We will miss those little faces next year. What a wonderful year it has been! We have decided to celebrate Jesus' birthday by providing a special lunch for the children on this day. The Kindy team will bring in some treats to share so lunch will not be needed on this day. Please send children dressed in Christmas colours and we will have a dance and sing along to carols in the afternoon.

Take home story books in the green bags were due to be returned this week. A gentle reminder for those that not yet returned. Have a great week everyone!



Mrs Rachel Wake, Kindergarten Teacher

PRE PRIMARY

Time is just flying by, and I cannot believe that we are approaching the end of the school year. Our excursion to Constable Care Safety School was a lot of fun! I was so proud of the children as they behaved so well. They had the opportunity to be pedestrians and cyclists and learnt so much about road safety! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the mums who came along to supervise. I hope you enjoyed the day also!

Over the past few weeks, the children have been practicing their Christmas Nativity presentation and are doing an amazing job! They will make you all very proud on Friday. The children will need to come to class at 8.30am so that we can do any final touches - please ensure that they come to school dressed for the Nativity concert. This will take place in the hall at 8.45am. I look forward to seeing you all there - the children are very excited to showcase their talents!

Next Wednesday, the Pre Primary children will be going to Hyde Park with their Year Five buddies. This will be our last excursion for the year and all parents are welcome to join us at the park. A note will go home this week with further details. Enjoy your weekend!

So much to learn at Constable Care Safety School!



Mrs Tania Preston, Pre Primary Teacher

YEAR ONE

In Year One we have been discussing Advent and how we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. We have learnt about the three purple candles and the pink candle on the Advent wreath and what they symbolise.

The Year Ones had a great night at our school disco last Friday everyone enjoyed themselves dancing and playing games. We also enjoyed a visit from our Year Six buddies together we made crowns for the Feast Day of Christ The King. We are very grateful for our buddies who have spent time with us and helped us with many different activities this year. We will keep them in our prayers as they prepare for their graduation. Tomorrow we will be visiting the Jo Wheatley Playground for our final excursion together our end of year picnic.

Mrs Gloria Edwards, Year One Teacher

YEAR TWO

Our school year is rapidly coming to an end and the Year Two children are still working extremely hard. They have been busily completing assessments as well as finalising the curriculum that has needed to be covered.

They are tired, so my homework for the last days of school is.... early night to bed.

Of course, the class is also a buzz with Christmas activities, including a visit from our naughty class elf. Children have been writing very entertaining 'morning reports' about our elf, while including some of the genres they have been taught throughout the year.

They have also explored how Advent is a special waiting time and our 'kindness Advent Calender' has guided the children with great ideas of daily acts of giving.



This Friday we are off on our end of year excursion to Latitude. The children will need to be wearing their school sports uniform. Please label their socks with a sharpie or something as socks have been lost or mixed up in the past.

Thank you for your ongoing support, Mrs Paula Christensen, Year Two Teacher

SEMESTER TWO REPORTS

Semester Two reports for students in Pre-Primary to Year Six will be available on SEQTA on **Friday 10 December** at 4pm. Families should have access to their electronic reports via SEQTA at <https://stlawbal.coneqt-p.cathodnet.wa.edu.au>. Parents of Year 6 students will need to ensure they download their child's reports as they will no longer be available once they leave the school. Parents have the opportunity to meet with teachers if required on Monday 13 December.

Please ensure that you are able to log in using your log in details. If you cannot log in, please follow the process below to create a new password. Click on the "Forgot your password?" link

1. Enter your email address and click on reset my password.
2. Go to your Email Inbox and reset your password according to the instructions in the email.

Please be aware that the password reset email will expire after 1 hour of being generated. If you are not able to access your child's report, please contact the school office.

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan, Assistant Principal

SPORTS NEWS

We have had some fantastic matches during our t-ball programme this week and it's great to see the improvement in skill level. The older students have also been giving volleyball a try and are starting to get some good rallies. Let's just say - the staff are in big trouble for the Year 6 versus staff challenge this year!

There are still students turning up to sport with no hat or drink bottles. It is very disruptive to send children to get drinks during lessons. For sun-safe reasons, I am starting to make children stand in the shade during lessons if they regularly forget their hat.

Please try to ensure that your child has their hat, it is a compulsory part of the school uniform. Thank you!



Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Parents, please note the last day the Uniform Shop will be open for this year is Thursday 9th December, 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Order forms are available from the school office or uniform shop.

2022 PRE-PRIMARY & YEAR 1 STUDENTS

Students commencing Pre-Primary and Year 1 in 2022 will be wearing a compulsory school uniform.

Please make sure that uniform is purchased ASAP!!

COLLECTION OF UNIFORM ORDERS

Parents who have placed uniform orders must be collected before end of term, please. Payment is required by EFTPOS or cash.

Please contact me as soon as possible on Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au for any enquiries.

SUMMER UNIFORM

All students in Year 1 to Year 6 commence Term 1, 2022 in their Full Summer Uniform.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS

Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten students may purchase a Red Early Childhood T- Shirt, available from Uniform Shop. Please note it is not compulsory.

A St Lawrence School Library Bag for Kindergarten students is compulsory and available from Uniform Shop.

BOYS RED RUGBY SHORTS

Please note that the boys red rugby shorts were discontinued at beginning of this year.

Red Sport Shorts (Microfibre with gold "St Lawrence Primary School" printed on shorts) are available and are compulsory to wear in Pre-primary to Year 6 for commencement of school in February 2022.

RED RUGBY SHORTS (old style) are NOT allowed to be worn in 2022.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

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

Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

ST LAWRENE PARISH

Children's Christmas Eve Nativity Mass

Meeting Tuesday 7th Dec 3.15pm

Calling all children who would like a costume to wear to the Nativity Mass (three wise men, angels, shepherds etc) or would like to do a reading or prayer of the faithful. The costumes and readings will be given out on **Tuesday 7th December at 3.15pm** at St Lawrence Church. As there might not be any rehearsal needed this year, all children who wish to participate must come along on this day!

For queries call Annalisa on 0402 217 266.

CANTEEN NEWS

Thank you to my helpers last week Jo C and Lucia C, we really appreciate you giving up your spare time to help us.

B –

Friday 10th December

Pizza and Juice \$5

Options of Cheese, Ham & Cheese,
Pepperoni & Cheese

Pizza supplied by a new local Balcatta
business Bytes Pizza

Please preorder by 8th December



Christmas Raffle tickets are now on sale at the canteen for \$5 each. Fabulous prizes to be won.

- \$300 Scooter Hub Voucher kindly donated by David Michael MLA
- A gorgeous Almond and Mint Hamper donated by Renee Femia and Family
- 2 \$50 Wish Gift Cards donated by Woolworths Roselea
- White wine and a wine traveller donated by Mrs Frenzel
-

If anyone would like to buy tickets and are unable to come into the school, please send money in an envelope with your details and place it in the lunch order basket. Tickets will be sent home with the children.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

Christina, Frances and Antonella
2021 Canteen Staff

