



**ST LAWRENCE
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

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Newsletter No. 8

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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.



Dear Parents and Guardians

I take this opportunity to wish you all God's blessings for Easter. This is a very Holy and Sacred time as we celebrate the Death and Resurrection of our Lord. May God's blessings be with you all.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

Please read the below letter from our Archbishop, The Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB



**EASTER MESSAGE FROM:
The Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth**

According to the gospel of John, Jesus spoke the following words to his disciples on the night before he died:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me (John 14:1).

These words were spoken in the context of the Last Supper. During that meal Jesus had taken bread, broken it and given it to his disciples, telling them to eat it because it was his body which would be given up for them. He had then taken a cup of wine and invited them to drink from it, telling them that it contained his blood which would be poured out for them and for many (Mark 14:22-25; Matt 26:26-29; Luke 22:19-20). In the context of the growing opposition to Jesus from some of the religious leaders of his time, the apostles would have understood from these words that a crisis was coming which would engulf not only Jesus but them as well. In telling them not to let their hearts be troubled Jesus was speaking into their fear, uncertainty and doubt.

Jesus says the same words to us this year when we, too, are facing uncertainty, and even fear, because of the ongoing crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic which, in spite of the great progress being made in relation to vaccinations, still continues to ravage many parts of the world and threatens to again come and disrupt our lives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, he says to us. Trust in God still and trust in me.

It is not always easy to follow this advice given to us by Jesus. The challenges we face, not just because of the pandemic but because of the many other difficulties and problems that each of us faces in our personal, family and community lives, often overwhelm us. As is the case in so much of what we say about our Christian faith, our lived experience differs from the high ideals we profess. The reality for many of us, at least some of the time, is that we **are** afraid and we **are** uncertain. We can often feel as if God is not there or does not care.

This, in fact, is not the case. God is closer to us than we are to ourselves. The faith we seek and the peace which Jesus promises to give us are precious gifts, always on offer to us – but they are never forced upon us. It is good to remember that, in the context of telling his disciples not to have troubled hearts, Jesus goes on to remind them that he is the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). In saying this Jesus is suggesting that if we were to follow some other way rather than his we might well get lost – and, as most of us know from experience, when we get lost we easily become disoriented. We lose our bearings, wander around aimlessly and sometimes even begin to panic and despair. Keeping to his way, and returning to that way once we realise we have strayed, is our sure method for stilling our troubled hearts and receiving the Lord's gift of peace. Similarly, if we commit ourselves to some other truth rather than the truth which Jesus makes known to us about who he is, about who God is, and about who we are in relation to God, then we run the very real risk of building our lives on a mirage or, as Jesus would put it in the gospel, on shifting sands rather than on solid rock (Matt 7:24-27). If we have to spend our lives struggling to maintain our balance because our foundations are so shaky, then we will not have untroubled hearts or that deep peace which is the Lord's gift. And again, if we fail to unite ourselves with the Lord in such a way that our life is enriched and deepened by the presence of his life within us, the serenity and trust which enabled him to endure the opposition, the cruelty and the violence of those who were determined to destroy him, will evade us. Our hearts will remain troubled and they will not be at peace.

When Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his disciples his first words to them were, "*Peace be with you*" (John 20:20). Because of their love for him and because of the time they had spent with him the disciples were able to receive his gift of peace and their lives were transformed. May this be your experience, too, as we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus this year.

+ Timothy Costelloe SDB

+Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB **Archbishop of Perth**

A huge thank you to all involved in our Dance Extravaganza last week. It was so wonderful to see so many families represented in the audience and the delight on both families and children's faces was worth the effort alone. Our staff certainly represented Sweden well in their Dance Presentation, it always amazes me the talent we have at St Lawrence. A huge thank you to the staff who coordinated this event particularly Mrs Thompson. A job well done. May I also thank Mr Clarke and Mr Bilic who came early to help put up the tents for the day.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Our staff have been very diligently working through a new and exciting mathematical teaching approach. Here at St Lawrence, we value the time we take to research and explore any new endeavours we might be thinking about embracing or introducing. Staff have been working with their classes through a series of lessons targeting a "Launch, Explore and Summaries" approach to mathematics. It is an opportunity for the teachers to firsthand try out a new approach, collect data to see how the approach was received and most importantly the outcomes for the student learning.

We gather in our PLC's, (Professional Learning Community) Meetings and all staff report back on their undertakings and findings. These are very powerful and though provoking discussions, they are data based and driven discussions. Data based decision making or data driven decision making refers to educator's ongoing process of collecting and analysing different types of data gathered on students and their learning. The data is processed and used to guide decisions towards improvement of the educational process.

Each staff member has an obligation to be part of this process and from these undertakings whole school decisions are made. The most effective schools showing outstanding gains in academic measures report that the wide and wise use of data has a positive effect on student achievement and progress.

Using data to inform decision making is an excellent tool to move educational organizations towards improvement and enhance education effectiveness. Data can be used to measure growth over time, programme evaluation along with identifying root causes of problems connected to education. Involving schoolteachers in data inquiry causes more collaborative work from staff. Data provides increasing communication and knowledge which has a positive flow-on across many aspects of a school.

When attending these meetings and watching and listening I am always so in awe of the quality of work being undertaken by our staff here at St Lawrence. Their commitment to self-reflection and growth is exceptional.

Teaching and learning is a cycle, we plan, we prepare, we teach, we assess and review and then plan again. In good schools it is an upward cycle of constant growth and improvement.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

You will notice around the classroom doors a contact list of class representatives. "Class Reps", This provides details of their contacts and in some cases a photograph for those new to our community to recognize who your "Class Rep" is.

COVID RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

Due to the current lifting of restrictions and CEWA's protocols, I am able to inform you that families may attend outdoor assemblies and gatherings e.g. Anzac Day Assembly & Prayer Service. As for events held inside, we still have a restriction on numbers. Therefore, parents of children in classes may attend their own child's assembly. At all times COVID safe restrictions and practices must continue.

SCHOOL WEBSITE CALENDAR - Term Two Planner

A reminder to access the website calendar for Term Two school events.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Thank you to all who have responded to our correspondence regarding school fees. We appreciate your swift responses. A reminder if any families are having concerns regarding fees to make an appointment with myself or Mrs Armstrong to discuss ways we can support and address such concerns.

I close today wishing you all God's blessings and keeping you all in my prayers as we begin the countdown to school holidays. May your Easter time be filled with much holiness and all the joy of our Risen Lord.



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE

A prayer this week for all of those who will be travelling over the school holidays, may you return to us safe and sound.

*"Lord, be our guide and our protector
on the journey we are about to take.*

Watch over us.

Protect us from accidents.

Keep us free from harm to body and soul.

Lord, support us with Your grace when we are tired.

Help us be patient in any trouble which may come our way

Keep us always mindful of Your presence and love.

Amen."



HOME LEARNING - Reading at Home

Your child will face many challenges as they grow, whether it is starting school, joining a sporting team or going to their first sleepover. The ability to make decisions and solve problems develops as your child learns to cope with daily challenges. Young children are not expected to sort through every issue on their own, and it is likely that they will require lots of guidance from their family. The good news is encouraging your child to take part in problem solving will help them develop this skill over time.

The following steps are a useful guide to teaching your child about problem solving. Encourage your child to take part so that they can slowly learn to do it for themselves.

Remember, it is best to begin when your child is feeling calm and relaxed. Start with an issue where you know they are likely to experience some success. If your child is very anxious or angry, help them to calm down first (eg having some quiet time, taking some deep breaths) or leave problem solving for another day or another issue when you know your child is ready to participate.

- Identify the problem. (Try to break it down to the simplest form...what is the heart of the problem at hand).
- Find Solutions. (Look at a number of solutions or desired outcomes, each will have potential consequences as well).
- Try them out. (If possible or plausible try different solutions out).
- Check in...How did it go. (If the problem is at school...ask how they went, was there an outcome)

It is important to keep the experience positive. Problems, issues, disputes and the like are all part of life. If we master how to handle them our lives become much easier to manage.

And remember small children take time to learn how to problem solve, but it is a key skill later in life when we are adults.

MERIT AWARD WINNERS



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

DANCE CONCERT

Congratulations to all the students and staff who worked so hard to learn and perform their dances. The children were wonderful. Thank you to all the family members who attended.

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

Children will take part in the Holy Week re-enactment on Thursday 1st April. Just a reminder that due to the COVID restrictions parents will be unable to attend.

WINTER UNIFORM

Children will need to wear full winter uniform in term 2. There will be a two week grace period. We expect that all the children will be wearing the winter uniform by week 3 (3rd May 2021)

ANZAC DAY



Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in [Australia](#) and [New Zealand](#) that commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and the contribution and suffering of all those who have served. This year ANZAC day falls on Sunday the 25th April.

On Friday 23rd April the Faith Leaders will lead the school in our ANZAC Prayer Service in the undercroft. Parents are welcome to attend as it is in an outside location.

NAPLAN

A reminder that students in Years 3 and 5 will participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. NAPLAN online testing will take place next term between the 11 May and the 21 May. All of the tests for our Year 5 students and most of the Year 3 tests will be completed online. The only paper test will be the Year 3 writing test.

The NAPLAN assessments provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. However, NAPLAN is only one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

Date	Tests
Tuesday 11 May	Y3 Writing (Paper Test) Y5 Writing (Online Test)
Wednesday 12 May	Y3 & Y5 Reading (Online)
Thursday 13 May	Y3 and Y5 Conventions of Language (Online)
Friday 14 May	Y3 and Y5 Numeracy (Online)
17/5 – 21/5	Catch up tests

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

NAPLAN

How can I help my child prepare?

Help your child prepare by reassuring them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program and by reminding them on the days of the tests to simply do their best. Our Year 3 and 5 teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions asked in the tests and will provide the children with the appropriate support and guidance. ACARA (The Australian Curriculum and Standards Authority) who are responsible for NAPLAN do not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN. You can view the type of questions and related functionalities available in the NAPLAN Online assessment at www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site

TERM DATES

Term One ends on Thursday 1 April

Term Two commences on Monday 19 April

Monday 26 April – PUBLIC HOLIDAY ANZAC DAY

Friday 4 June - STUDENT FREE DAY

Monday 7 June – PUBLIC HOLIDAY WA DAY

Term Two ends Friday 2 July



*Mrs Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Gabrielle Brennan
Assistant Principals*

CLASS NEWS

PRE KINDY

It is great to welcome our newest class member joining us tomorrow- Edward Pass. We hope you have a wonderful time with us Edward. We have spoken to the children about Jesus dying on the cross on Good Friday and then the celebration of Easter Sunday – and how the Easter eggs we receive signify new life.

As I have previously mentioned, although the children may be only small, it is important we discuss this so they begin to have an understanding of our celebration of this special time in the church calendar.



Term One has flown by and we have had wonderful days together. The children have been wonderful and have truly settled into Pre Kindy and our routines. I hope you will enjoy your holiday break and look forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks. My only advice for the holidays is spend time together, play and read to your children during quiet moments – the precious time you share with your little ones is very important for you all. God Bless, stay safe and be happy! Have a very Happy and Holy Easter.

Mrs Kaylene Bozich, Pre Kindy Teacher

KINDERGARTEN

Parent Helper Roster will commence in week three of term two. We are looking forward to having you to help in our classroom. During the first week of term two please keep a look out on the kindy veranda for the roster and place your name down on one day to start off with. This allows families that have not yet placed their name down to have access to the roster. If by the end of the week the roster is not full the following week then you are welcome to place your name down again. We do not do Parent Roster during the first two weeks as we will be completing special mother's day gifts. It also allows the children time to settle back in and remember the class rules. We are also happy to have grandparents in if mum or dad cannot make it. Thank you for your ongoing support in our classroom.

This week we have been focussing on words that rhyme and the children had their speech and occupational therapy screening. At the start of term 2 we will start to focus on 'Families'. I will also be meeting with parents to discuss your child's development at the beginning of term two. Last week we began focussing on 'Easter'. We have been talking about the real meaning of Easter and how Jesus died for us giving us New Life. We have been learning about the events of Holy Week and have been using story stones to retell the events of this important time for Catholics.

We are continuing focussing on the pre writing movement *"Zig zag lines going up and down"*. Practicing saying these movements at home when we make marks in sand or on paper will help us later on when we are learning to have a go at letter formation. Please try to use the same language at home.

KINDERGARTEN



We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and are excited to see all the well-rested little faces back at school for a fun filled term two!

Mrs Rachel Wake, Kindergarten Teacher

PRE PRIMARY

The last 2 weeks have just flown by. It was great to get time to sit and meet with so many parents. Thank you for making the time to come in and discuss your child's first term in Pre Primary. It has really been a great term and the children have grown so much socially, emotionally and academically in just 8 weeks! We are very proud of all their successes. The children enjoyed acting out the Last Supper this week and sequencing the Easter Story. They are counting down the days until Easter is here!



Mrs Staltari and I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Easter. Enjoy special moments with your children, we look forward to seeing all their smiling faces next term!

Mrs Tania Preston, Pre Primary Teacher

YEAR ONE

The children have worked very hard this term and are well deserving of a break. They did a wonderful job with their performance in the dance concert and at our assembly. I was very proud of their efforts.

Thank you to all parents for their support during the term, I hope that everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable break. Wishing you all a safe, happy and Holy Easter.

Mrs Gloria Edwards, Year One Teacher

Well, Term One certainly flew by. However, the children worked very hard and showed great enthusiasm in all that they did. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone when we return and the new challenges we will encounter next term. I hope all families have a truly wonderful break – stay safe and enjoy a very happy and holy Easter.

Mrs Bozich, Year One Teacher (Mondays)

YEAR TWO

How time flies when we are having fun! We can't believe it's the end of term 1 already. These past few weeks have been full of learning. In English we have been concentrating on writing narratives and have a very special piece published that we have worked hard on. We planned, wrote, corrected and typed it! Make sure you check these on Seesaw. Art has been lots of fun, learning about Henri Rousseau a French painter famous for using his imagination and bright colours. We were then inspired to create our own imaginary landscape. From recent learning in science, we know that oil and water do not mix. We experimented this in art, creating our images with oil pastels then brushed the whole landscape with water-based paint to create an oil resistance masterpiece! What beautiful backgrounds this created. Ms O'Donnell is very proud of each of the year twos, they have challenged and pushed themselves this term working very hard and achieving success. Well done year twos, continue to shine bright!



Ms Danielle O'Donnell, Year Two Teacher

YEAR THREE

As we approach the end of term 1, I look back on the hectic but amazing start your children have had to Year 3. They have been involved in a wide range of exciting and challenging activities and have already started to bloom as responsible and respectful Year 3 students. I have enjoyed getting to know them better and have been rewarded with their kind gestures and positive words throughout the term. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have helped with our excursion and the Palm Sunday liturgy. Your support and generosity is extremely appreciated and we look forward to your ongoing assistance next term.

Wishing all of our St Lawrence community a relaxing and safe Easter break.

Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Year Three Teacher

The children have worked so hard this term and I have been super impressed with all their efforts. Our highlight of the term was learning the dance for the Dance Concert. They all worked together and had so much fun in the process. They were fantastic on the day and I was so proud of them. I have enjoyed my time with them immensely and I look forward to seeing them all back next term ready for another great term of learning. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Mrs Frances Caruso, Year 3 Teacher (Wednesdays)

YEAR FOUR

During our last week of Term 1 we have been learning all about Holy Week and practising for our Liturgies on Thursday. Due to COVID restrictions, parents will be unable to attend the liturgy, however, they will be filmed and posted onto Seesaw for you to watch.

I am extremely proud of all the efforts the children have put into their learning this term. It is great to see their personalities and minds grow! I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing holiday break and a very Happy Easter!

Miss Kayla Fogliani Year Four Teacher



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the children this term. They have showed great enthusiasm with their learning throughout the term, particularly during our Science unit Plants in Action. I'm sure you have heard all about their beans that they have so eagerly been caring for in the classroom. They will be bringing home their beans tomorrow. Planting their bean in soil and watching it grow would make an excellent school holiday activity. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Mrs Frances Caruso, Year Four Teacher (Thursdays am)

YEAR FIVE

It was wonderful to end our term with a visit from Vince Connelly MP – Member for Stirling. The Year Fives had lots of great questions about voting and Mr Connelly's role in Parliament. Mr Connelly happily answered all our questions and may have even inspired some future politicians. To end our Civics and Citizenship unit of work we will be visiting the Electoral Education Centre and Constitutional Centre on Wednesday 21st April. Permission slips have been sent home. Please ensure these are signed and returned promptly.



The children continue to work hard to practise for the Good Friday Lenten Liturgy that we will present tomorrow afternoon. Thank you to all parents who have supported their child to learn their parts at home.

Term One has flown by and there have been many highlights including last week's dance concert, our excursion to the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip, Harmony Day, Ride2School Day, meeting our PP buddies, WOW lunches, Cricket Carnival, our visit from Vince Connelly and getting two new class members. A big thank you to all parents for your continued support both in the classroom and at home. Wishing everyone a happy and holy Easter. Stay safe, enjoy the holidays and remember to read every day.

Mrs Roselyn Pizzino Year Five Class Teacher

YEAR SIX

We were fortunate to have a visit from Stephen and Cassandra from the Church Youth Group who played a game and invited the students to the Youth Group which meets each Sunday evening following the 5pm Mass. The students are excited to present the final Lenten Drama about the resurrection of Jesus, in the Church at 2pm tomorrow (Thursday).

Thank you to parents who came in for an interview recently, it was good to finally meet you after missing catching up with you earlier on. Assessment books will be coming home tomorrow for viewing and signing.



May the Risen Lord bless you and your family this Easter!

Mr Phil Haydon, Year Six Teacher

ITALIAN NEWS

Buongiorno a tutti,

Term 1 2021 has been very busy. Students are learning various topics according to their relevant year level. Also, students are working on a competition task for the Italo Australian Welfare Cultural Centre Primary School Students' Competition 2021 for the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables. Each year level has a different task. We will complete the entries in the first week of term 2.



La Colomba Cake - Traditional Italian Easter Cake.

The *Colomba* is a dove-shaped bread made with almonds, sugar and egg whites.

I wish everyone a Buona Pasqua! Cristo è risorto, viviamo nella gioia! Happy Easter! Christ is risen, let us live in joy!

Che Dio vi benedica! Buona vacanza a tutti.
May God bless you. Happy and safe holidays to everyone!

Signora Jenny Nicolao, Italian Specialist Teacher



UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

The Uniform Shop last day open this term is Thursday 1st April, 2.30pm to 3.30pm and is closed during the school holidays. The Uniform Shop opens in Term 2, Wednesday 21st April, 8.30am to 9.30am.

WINTER UNIFORM

Students in Year 1 to Year 6 return back to school next term in full their Winter Uniform. Please make sure correct uniform is worn at all times. Pre-Primary students remain in their current uniform.

PK & KINDY STUDENTS

Pre-Kindy and Kindy students are not required to wear the uniform but must be dressed in practical clothing.

The "Early Childhood T-Shirt" is available from the Uniform Shop as a uniform type option if desired, but it is not compulsory.

SCHOOL VESTS

School woollen vests are available for Year 1 to Year 6 students in Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14. Vests can be worn as part of our Winter Uniform.

The School Vest may be substituted or used as an option when weather is not so inclement. The School Jumper is the correct school uniform for all formal occasions and must be worn accordingly.

Wishing all families a Happy Easter. For any enquiries please contact me on

Angie.miola@cewa.edu.

Mrs Angela Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

Upcoming Events

Mother's Day Stall: Friday 30 April

Mother's Day Morning Tea Thursday 6 May
following the 9am Mother's Day Mass.

Further information available in the Week 1 Term 2 Newsletter.

CADBURY FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who participated so generously. A gentle reminder that all overdue money must be returned to the school office as soon as possible.



Mrs Adele Cirillo, P&F President & Executive

CANTEEN NEWS

- **Menu** A reminder that tomorrow is only sushi that have been pre ordered or sausage roll or pie (add sauce 50c).
- **Many thanks** to my helpers tomorrow, Annette T and Corrina, it is very much appreciated.
- Next term look forward to our specials and the wonderful Mother's Day Raffle.
- A very **big thankyou** to all who have supported the canteen this term. We wish you a Happy Easter and enjoy your holidays.

2021 Canteen Staff