



## Newsletter No. 3

**16 February 2022**

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.

### *Peace Within*

May today there be Peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God! Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.



*It is there for each and every one of us!*

### **Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders**

#### **COVID UPDATE**

Thank you to all families for responding so diligently with the restrictions that have been placed on schools by The Chief Health Officer. The conditions of entry to schools have become quite restrictive and I am aware of the difficulties this can cause.

As your child's educators, we rely on our partnership with parents to help us care for children during an unusual and confusing time. I therefore welcome parents seeking clarification of our decisions, so you can support us in keeping our children, staff, and families safe.

Our paramount consideration in all we do is the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care. Our expert advice is that the steps we have taken will help keep our school open, and our children, families, and community well. I think you will agree that our mutual child-focussed purpose should take precedence over all other inconveniences and adjustments to routines.

Once again thank you to all the wonderful families who are adhering to the new restriction's requirements. If I can reiterate, they often change, and I am obliged to work within all Government requirements. Some school may have slightly different logistical set ups that allow for different points of access. Unfortunately, we are quite limited, and many areas are enclosed, this causes a problem for access.

## Catholic Schools of Excellence

**Communication:** It is extremely important to maintain open communication between parents and teachers. Parents are encouraged to notify your child's teacher of any concerns you may have and to discuss these concerns at a mutually convenient time before or after school. The easiest way to make an appointment is by email.

When emailing please consider what is appropriate to be emailed and what needs to be discussed over the telephone, or (Once permitted by the Government) face to face. In relation to emails, I need to reinforce that there is no expectation from me that staff members are to be communicating via email during the school day or after 5.00pm at night during the working week. Likewise, enquiries sent via email cannot always be answered or responded to immediately. My expectation is that some kind of response, even if it is preliminary pending further follow up/investigation, should be received within a maximum of 48 hours of sending an initial enquiry. Our staff are very professional, and service focused, but they also have many multi-faceted daily requests, so I ask that you allow them time to address your queries professionally and in a realistic timeframe.

I also ask people to be very mindful when using social media, particularly if discussing school matters. I can assure you I would never use social media to discuss a child or a parent at this school. I would approach them directly myself, to hold a respectful and courteous conversation.

## Catholic Pastoral Communities

I have received a letter of complaint from a local resident about the driving of some of our families. I strongly encourage you all to remain patient during drop off and pick up times and to follow all the correct road rules.

## Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

A reminder of all our major school policies and procedures can be located on the school's webpage. Many policies now are systemic in nature and come directly from Catholic Education Western Australia. If you do have any grievances, concerns, or complaints you can contact the teacher directly or make contact with the school office to organise a time to meet with myself.

The following quote articulates the importance of getting things wrong if we are to move forward and learn. If students are getting everything correct all the time, then we are not stretching them to maximise their potential. One of my lecturers always told me learning means having "crunchy eyebrow moments". When we move from "I don't understand, I can't see the link" to "Oh I get it now!!"

**"If the students are answering every one of the teacher's questions correctly the teacher is surely wasting the students' time. If the questions are not causing students to struggle and think, they are probably not worth asking. Mistakes are evidence that the questions I asked are tough enough to make you smarter. Research indicates that long-term learning improves when students make mistakes and correct their answers."**

"The Right Questions, the Right Way" by Dylan William in *Educational Leadership*, March 2014



**“Fear is also part of life, and it too needs our prayer. God does not promise us that we will never have fear, but that, with his help, it will not be the criterion for our decisions... The power of prayer brings light to dark situations.”**

*Pope Francis*

God bless each and every one of you.



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



## HOME LEARNING TIP

### Setting up a learning environment

Every home is different but it's important to provide a quiet and comfortable space in which to learn.

Where possible, extended learning should take place in a space your family shares. For example, a lounge room or dining room. These spaces are preferable over a bedroom, where your child can feel isolated, and supervision can be more challenging.

It should be a place:

- that can be quiet at times
- that has a strong internet signal, if possible
- where you or another adult is present as you would normally when your child is online, dependent on age.

It's important to be aware of exactly where your children are when learning at home and that includes where they are when on-line. It is also beneficial to build a pattern into the children's home learning. Eg come home from school have a 30-minute break then focus on homework or school related work. It's also incredibly important to factor in down time and family time.

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

### GROWTH MINDSET

We encourage all our students at St Lawrence to have a Growth Mindset. Striving for and working towards improvement is a key element in developing and maintaining a Growth Mindset. In classrooms around the school, teachers have been talking to students about a 'Growth Mindset', thinking positively about how mistakes are part of learning and developing the confidence in having a go. This can also be supported at home. Here are some tips of how you can support our work at St Lawrence in assisting to develop a growth mindset in your child.

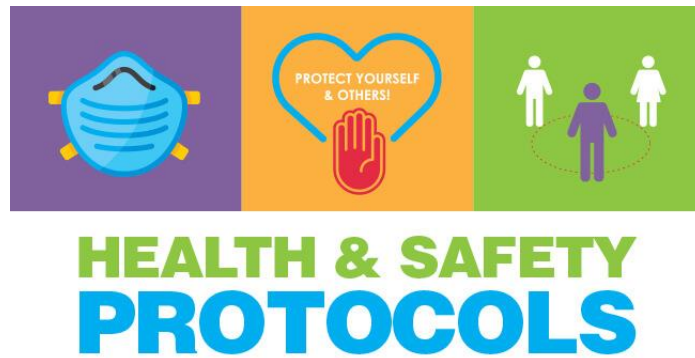
1. Help your child understand that the brain works like a muscle, that can only grow through hard work, determination, and lots and lots of practice.
2. Don't tell your child they are smart, gifted, or talented, since this implies that they were born with the knowledge and does not encourage effort and growth.
3. Acknowledge when your child demonstrates a growth mindset, Praise the process not the results.
4. Help your child to embrace failures and mistakes. Children sometimes learn the most when they fail. Let them know that mistakes are a big part of the learning process. There is nothing like the feeling of struggling through a very difficult problem, only to finally break through and solve it! The harder the problem, the more satisfying it is to find the solution.
5. Teach your child to love challenges and be intrigued by problems.



### PICK UP PROCEDURES

A reminder that all parents need to pick up their child from one of our designated drop off and pick up zones at the School Carpark or the Church. An increasing amount of our students are being picked up at the gate near the school hall. This gate is not supervised by a staff member. Our duty of care is to ensure that the children leave the school safely and therefore children need to be collected directly from the correct pickup points by driving through or walking to the gate opposite the school office. We thank you for your understanding.





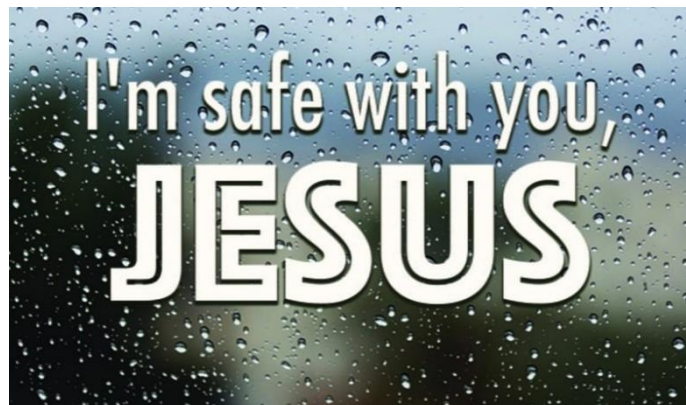
A few COVID reminders:

- Mask wearing for parents in the outdoors on school site where 1.5m distancing cannot be maintained. Please leave your mask on when you are speaking to others if you are not 1.5m distancing outdoors.
- Gathering of parents is to be avoided at pick up and drop off.
- Only attend the school office in the event of a significant pastoral/welfare issue related to your child.
- Interactions between staff and parents should take place via emails or over the phone.
- Parent teacher meetings are restricted to online or telephone.
- All parents need to use the kiss and ride in the morning and afternoon.

### **LEARNING CONTINGENCY PLANS**

Learning contingency plans are in place for remote learning, if required, which may include hardcopy learning packages and/or access to online learning resources. If there are any updates from CEWA regarding COVID and further procedures and protocols Mr Carey will update parents via email or Seesaw as soon as possible. Please continue to read our weekly school newsletters.

We thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our students, staff members and school community safe.



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

# CLASS NEWS

## YEAR THREE

The children have been working hard and have completed some fantastic work. Our focus in writing has been on narratives and I have been so impressed with the stories I have read this week. In maths we have been looking at place value and learning to tell the time. In Religion we have discussed the importance of belonging to a community and the various communities we are a part of, such as our beautiful school and parish.

A reminder that homework is due on Friday. Homework consists of Reading, Spelling and Maths each night. It was great to see how enthusiastic the children were to show me their completed work. I have been super proud of their efforts and the way they have settled into Year 3.

*Mrs Frances Caruso, Year Three Teacher*

## YEAR FOUR

The children have settled in beautifully and we have been so impressed of how hard they are working. The last couple of weeks we have been learning about adjectives and applying this knowledge to write well-structured descriptive paragraphs. During Maths we are investigating place value and becoming more proficient with expanded notation of 5 and 6 digit numbers. This year our focus will be on developing a Growth Mindset. Having a growth mindset helps us overcome obstacles when learning something new or challenging. It places an importance on persistence and determination. By changing the way we think we can change the way we learn. One way we can change our growth mindset is changing the way we speak. In class we have been learning a song called 'The Power of Yet.' I don't understand..... YET!



*Miss Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Claire Major  
Year Four Teachers*

## YEAR FIVE

In Year 5, we have named each day after ways that "Make Jesus Real". Our favourite day of the week is "WESTIE WEDNESDAY". WESTIE stands for Welcoming, Encouraging, Saying Sorry, Thanking, Including and being Enthusiastic. Every Wednesday, a student is chosen who has shown each of these traits and is named WESTIE for the week. We then reflect on how we can do this in our everyday life to live more like Jesus.

In Numeracy, we have been working on reading, writing and saying large numbers and identifying their place value. We have also been learning how to round numbers to the nearest tens, hundreds, thousands and ten thousand. We have been enjoying problem solving with our "Number of the Day" questions and love to be challenged.

A reminder that children must complete 4 Lexile quizzes this term. A pass rate is 70%. The books that they choose can be 50 below their level or 100 above their level. A chart has been put in the classroom for children to track how many quizzes they complete.



*Miss Kayla Fogliani, Year Five Teacher*



## YEAR SIX

We are steaming right ahead with our learning in Year Six...

Last week, in Art, the students learnt about the 'rule of thirds' and got the opportunity to apply this to their own artwork. They have done an amazing job on these drawings! It's safe to say that there are some brilliant artists in Year Six!

The students are excited about completing their 'Food Art Creation' this week for T&E. The class has been busy planning a food creation made out entirely of fruit and/or vegetables to entice children to include more fruits and vegetables into their diet. I can't wait to see their final creations!

Keep working hard Year Six!



*Mrs Angela Carnevali, Year Six Teacher*



# MUSIC NEWS

This term in Music students are combining their knowledge of Music and Movement in a Dance unit. The theme is “At the Movies” and each class has been given a selection of songs that are famously linked to a popular family movie. The selection of songs has a common theme to create each year group’s “Movie Music Mash Up”.

From songs about Friendship (like “You’ve Got a Friend of Me”/Toy Story) to songs about being an Individual (like “The Family Round Up”/Enchanto) and songs that you can’t help but Dance too (like “Boogie Wonderland”/Happy Feet and “Footloose”/Footloose).

With the support of dance warmups and teacher-led guidance, lower primary students are learning and developing dance routines to their given Medley. And upper primary students are having a more autonomous input in creating and developing their routines through group and whole class work. The students are showing a great enthusiasm to their Music Classes, and it is obvious that St Lawrence Primary School. is a school that loves to move!



*Mrs Freeman, Music Teacher*





# SENSATIONAL SCIENCE

Wow! What a sensational start the students at St Lawrence have made to Science this year. In Term 1, classes from Pre Primary to Year 6 will be focusing on Biological Science. Week 1, we pondered “What Is A Scientist?” and “If I Was A Scientist I Would...”. Students across all year levels had some fantastic responses. St Lawrence is full of curious minds. And who knows? Maybe some budding future Palaeontologists, Marine Biologists and Chemical Engineers in the mix. Students then explored how we characterise the things around us into Living, Non-Living and Once Living. From Flashcard Madness to Science Videos, lower primary classes can sort the world around us into Living and Non-Living, with upper primary classes learning to use ‘MRSGREN’ to classify Living, Non-Living and Once Living.

As each group begins to dive into a particular focus of Biological Science, from what Living Things need to thrive; to Life Cycles, Adaptation and Habitat, Dinosaurs, and experiments to explore and explain why things grow; I look forward to sharing all our new learning and findings through Seesaw and Our Newsletter.

## YEAR 2 STUDENTS

Could students from Year 2 please bring in a photo from when they were a baby this Thursday, February 17 please? It will need to be something that does not need to be returned – so photocopied or printed please.

If you have any questions/concerns with this, please email me [stephanie.freeman@cewa.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.freeman@cewa.edu.au) . We would like to use this photo as part of our learning in Science. Thank you

*Mrs Freeman, Science Teacher*



# UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Uniform orders can be ordered via phone or email directly to [Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au](mailto:Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au)

Orders will be processed on Uniform Shop opening times which are Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Orders will be packed and ready for collection from the school front gate at an arranged time.

Payment can be made by EFTPOS ONLY.

## SECOND-HAND UNIFORMS

A big thank you to the parents who have donated second-hand uniforms. Due to current restrictions, we are unable to accept any further second-hand uniforms at this stage.

***Uniform Shop Opening Hours***  
***Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm***

*Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager*



*Year Five “Maths Games”*



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Welcome back to everyone. It has been a really hot start to the term, but everyone has got on with things without complaining.

The Years 4,5 and 6 students have been working hard in the mornings to perfect our cricket skills in readiness for the Years 5 and 6 Interschool Carnival. Fingers crossed this will be allowed to go ahead in week 8 of this term.

The younger students have predominantly been working in the hall on our catching and throwing skills and striking with small bats. I have asked students to practice their skills at home as often as possible. This will help with fluency and control in game situations.

I have been particularly impressed with the attitude and behaviour of the Pre Primary students. They have been achieving some great things already this year.

Keep it up everyone!



*Mrs Major, Physical Education Teacher*



# CANTEEN NEWS

**Thank you** for your support with ordering.

If we could please move to pre-order only for recess to cut down on food wastage. This can be done the same way, snap lock bag, envelope or brown paper bag and into lunch order basket. Alternatively, the children can come and order in the morning.

We are experiencing supply issues. With certain items, we need to substitute. We will liaise with the children.

**Friday Menu** - we will add beef burgers for this week only.

**Ash Wednesday Menu** – please pre order ‘special’ as soon as possible. We need to prepare in advance in case of supply issues. Parents, please note there will be no meat sold on this day.

*Thank you all for your support!*

**Ash Wednesday  
2nd March**

**Fish Burger  
(lettuce & mayo)  
\$5**

**Fish Fingers (x5)  
Served with  
veggie sticks \$4  
Tomato  
sauce 50c**

**Preorder now  
By 25th Feb**



PIC•COLLAGE