



Newsletter No. 9

30 March 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.



Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. It is a period of preparation to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. As well as fasting from food we might also:

Fast from criticism, feast on praise

Fast from self-pity, feast on joy

Fast from ill-temper, feast on peace

Fast from resentment, feast on commitment

Fast from jealousy and feast on love

Fast from pride, and feast on humility

Fast from selfishness, and feast on service

Fast from fear, and feast on faith



Dear Parents and Caregivers

It is hard to believe that we are heading into the final week of Term One next week. Thankyou once again to all parents for following our procedures related to COVID-19 so diligently. We continue to have a number of positive cases being reported. When these cases impact on a classroom or students we will communicate with parents/caregivers who are required to take action. This week, so far, we have had three classes identified as close contacts. It was great to see how quickly parents responded to the SMS messages and emails sent. Each child was tested, and most children were returned to school to continue their day within a very short time frame. We thank you for your ongoing support.

Please inform the school of a positive test result for a child before posting COVID results on social media sites so that we have time to follow due process. It will also prevent heightened anxiety in our school community. Each time there is a positive case a detailed process is followed to determine who is a close contact to the positive child. All children, in Year 2 and below who do not wear a mask are determined as close contacts. We are aware that some children in the early years are wearing masks, so when we have notification of a positive case, we speak to the teacher to determine if their mask wearing has been consistent throughout the day.

It takes time to identify close contacts, to work out isolation periods, send letters to parents in addition to responding to emails and taking phone calls throughout the day. We are grateful to families who are patient and understanding of this communication process. We recognise the impact of isolation on families and children and therefore do everything possible to balance the requirements of close contact isolation, children's health, and staff wellbeing. Your children are being resilient, patient, and understanding of all the changes they have faced, you have much to be proud of.

The school continues to follow the advice of the Chief Health Officer and is implementing high level safety measures to keep our students and staff as safe as possible. A reminder that if your child is unwell, please do not send them to school. If a child becomes unwell whilst at school, their parents/caregivers will be contacted. Parents are asked to ensure sick children have recovered before sending them back to school. Written or email notes should be sent to administration and your child's teacher.

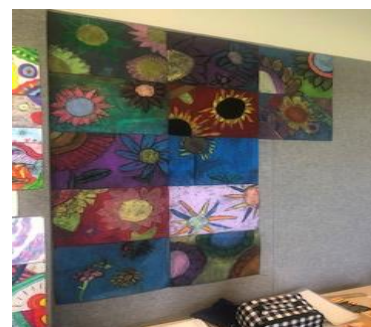
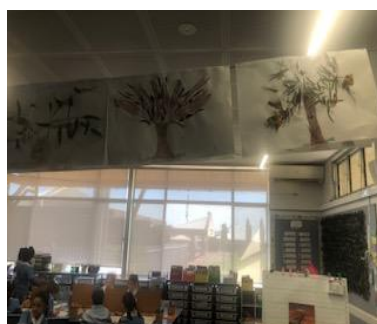
We are committed to keeping you updated during these unique times through SMS messages, emails, seesaw and our school website. Information related to COVID-19 is uploaded regularly in the COVID tab on the home page of the St Lawrence Primary School Website.



We have had very positive feedback this week regarding Parent/Teacher interviews. These were moved online to cater for COVID restrictions and form part of our responsibility to report to parents. Thank you for partnering with us in the education of your child.

We are very proud of our teachers and staff who continue to provide a consistent routine and safe environment for the children at St Lawrence. The teachers and education assistants are making sure that all our children have bright and engaging environments to work in. The teachers, despite all their additional responsibilities have continued to focus on the children's learning by planning highly engaging lessons each week.

Here are just a few examples of the great work on display around our school and some of the wonderful teaching taking place at St Lawrence.



Communication

Effective communication with parents, is always a high priority at St Lawrence. The staff use various modes of communication to keep parents and the wider school community informed about events and activities taking place at the school and to communicate important information. We have worked hard to streamline our communication processes so that they are unified. The following means of communication are used throughout the year.

School Website

Our St Lawrence Primary school website contains school information including newsletters, policies and guidelines, our school calendar, information related to COVID-19 and enrolment information.

SEQTA emails and notices

The Leadership Team, teachers and office staff use email to communicate administrative information with parents.

Seesaw

Each Class from PK – Y6 has a Seesaw App. Seesaw is a simple way for teachers and students to record and share what's happening in the classroom.

Weekly Newsletter

The St Lawrence Newsletter is emailed to parents/caregivers on Wednesday afternoon each week. The newsletter is also uploaded to our school website.

www.stlawbal.wa.edu.au/community/newsletters

Electronic Calendar

We have an electronic calendar on our school website. Dates and events are subject to change, especially under the current circumstances so please check this calendar for the most up to date information.

<https://stlawbal.wa.edu.au/community/calendar>

Social Media

St Lawrence Primary School has an official Facebook and Instagram page to celebrate our wonderful school and build a strong community spirit.

Parent Teacher Information Sessions

Year One to Year Six parent information sessions take place early in the year to discuss the expectations in each class. The Pre-Kindy, Kindergarten and PP meetings are held in December so that information provided can assist with transition to the school or to a new class.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent-teacher interviews throughout the year provide opportunities for the exchange of information.

Progress Reports

Evaluation and reporting are important elements in the teaching/learning process. Teachers provide written reports for students in PP – Y6 at the end of Semester One and Two.



- On Tuesday 29 March, an announcement was made by Ministers for Health and Education, the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson and Hon Sue Ellery, about the new operating guidelines for very high caseloads, to be implemented in schools for Term 2. Importantly, current guidelines are still in place and will remain until the end of Term 1.
- Based on the latest health advice, effective from the beginning of Term 2 on Tuesday 26 April, very high caseload (Level 1) measures currently in place in schools will be eased. The modifications, while based on current modelling may be subject to change at any time, following advice from the Chief Health Officer and WA Health. Students in Year 3 and above, will continue to wear masks.
- The new operating guidelines for Term Two will be shared with parents/caregivers once we have received updated information.

Close Contacts

In line with new national guidelines, anyone who has recovered from COVID-19 is now exempt from being declared a close contact for the 12 weeks following their recovery – provided they do not have symptoms and are not immunocompromised.

This means that any students or staff who have had COVID will not have to complete the seven days of isolation required of the close contacts of a positive case within those 12 weeks of having had COVID-19 themselves.

More information on the current close contact requirements is also available at <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19->

COVID-19 Self-reporting portal and school holidays

We encourage families to continue to enter their children's COVID-19 positive information onto the Self-Reporting Portal located on our school website over the course of the school holidays. Doing so will allow for the Leadership Team to have a complete picture of students who have been COVID-19 positive and therefore, who are no longer able to be determined close contacts or deemed susceptible to the virus.

Mask Wearing

- Staff and students in Years 3 and above who are asymptomatic and return to school after having been COVID-19 positive, are required to wear a mask at all times, during the 7 days after their isolation period ends. This includes both indoors and outdoors when on the school site.

Cleaning

- Cleaning guidelines are being continuously reviewed in line with advice from WA Health.
- Cleaning of high-touch surfaces, including classrooms, meeting rooms and washroom/toilets is maintained on a daily basis.
- Hand hygiene before and after use of equipment is encouraged.
- High-use equipment is being cleaned after use.

We will continue to keep you updated of any changes that impact our school community and once again we thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes and God Bless

Gabrielle Brennan and Kathleen Tranquille
Short Term Principals



Recess at St Lawrence



*Our 'sparkling clean'
fishpond.
Thank you Mr Lu!*



'Orchard time' with our Year Fives!



*'Head, Shoulders Knees & Toes'
with Mrs Wake!*

GOLF at St Lawrence

Pre-Primary to Year 6 children participated in golfing lessons today run through Sporting Schools. They will be participating in golfing lessons tomorrow during sport as well as next Wednesday and Thursday. Children are welcome to wear their sports uniform next Wednesday for this lesson. They are still required to wear it on Tuesday and Thursday for their usual sport days.



Uniform Shop News

Uniform Collection Times

Collection of uniform orders will be processed during Uniform Shop opening times which are: Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Winter Uniform

Year 1 to Year 6 students commence Term 2 in their Winter Uniform. New students who have commenced this year will need to purchase their winter uniform before the end of this term.

Parents, please note that the Uniform Shop is closed during the school holidays. The last day the Uniform Shop will open this term is Thursday 7th April.

Important note for Year 1 students and new students who have commenced this year:

“GIRLS/BOYS”

Girls White Blouse is worn over their skirt (not tucked in).

School Tie is required:

Medium length usually for Year 1 to Year 3 and long length for Year 4 to Year 6.

Jumpers or a school vest may be worn with school uniform only.

Sports Track Jacket only to be worn with sports uniform

Girls may wear navy tights with school uniform. Tights may be purchased at any department store.

Navy or white hair ties with school uniform.

Boys blue shirt is worn for summer and winter uniform and must be tucked in school grey trousers.

COVID Restrictions

Due to current restrictions, the Uniform Shop is currently operating with orders **only** via phone or orders emailed directly to Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au, Orders are then packed and ready for collection from the front school gate at an arranged time . Payment can be made by EFTPOS ONLY.

Parents, if you have any enquiries regarding sizes, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above email.

Winter Price Lists are available on the school's website for you information. Thank you.

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

Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

CANTEEN NEWS

LAST DAY OF TERM: Friday 8th April –
Sushi Chicken Teriyaki, Tuna or Vegetarian
5 piece \$5.50 6 piece 6.50.

Or as an alternative -

Chicken Nuggets or Chicken Strips (non-spicy or
spicy) \$4 add tomato sauce 50c.

No other lunch items will be available on this day.

Please order by Wednesday 6th April.

Please note: Although recess is pre-order only, the children can come at lunchtime and order an ice-cream or drink. *Thank you for your support, 2022 Canteen Staff.*

**SUSHI SPECIAL
LAST DAY OF
TERM (8/4)
CHICKEN
TERIYAKI, TUNA
OR VEGETARIAN
5PIECE \$5.50
6 PIECE \$6.50**



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