



Newsletter No. 1

10 February 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.

A prayer for 2021

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love
you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.
Send your spirit upon our students, staff and families
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.

Grant that our students may devote themselves to their studies
to experiencing the joys of play, and that they draw ever closer to you,
the source of all knowledge.

Let this be a year of learning. Open young hearts to new wonders.
Encourage parents to let children dream big dreams.
To play often and to find the truth.

We pray that students play and find joy in each day.
Let them make life-long friends.
Give parents extra energy to support their children.
Help the community find ways to support families.
Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth
teaching us your ways.

Look upon our staff.
Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience
and endeavour always to bring the truth to eager minds.
And when their burden is great, grant them strength,
Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life,
forever and ever.



Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

We welcome you all back to St Lawrence Primary School for 2021. I pray that your holidays have been restful and joyous, and that you all return renewed and invigorated for another wonderful year of growth, learning and personal best.

This Year we will be focusing on our School Values as we strive to enliven Jesus in our daily lives and live to our full potential.

The Newsletter is our number one means of communication and I strongly recommend you read the newsletter to keep abreast of what is taking place at St Lawrence. I like to have the newsletter set out under the four headings of the strategic direction of Catholic Education. I believe this helps to connect our school to the complete picture of Catholic Education and helps in articulating the news, events and direction of our own school by linking directly to the four strategic pillars of:

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders. Catholic Schools of Excellence. Catholic Pastoral Communities. Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable.

I wish to extend a special heartfelt welcome to our new families including our three year olds, and those new to our Kindergarten Program. I also warmly welcome our new staff members: Ms Danielle O'Donnell and Mrs Angie Mattioli and returning staff member Mrs Frances Caruso. A very warm welcome also to our grounds man Mr Jayden Lu. I pray that all of their time here at St Lawrence Primary School is rewarding and joyful and ignites a passion for lifelong learning and helps to build a wonderful connection to Jesus and The Church.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

COVID-19 Update: I sincerely thank all community members for working with the school to support all our undertakings to meet the current restrictions, procedures and protocols that are required. Western Australia remains in a "State of Emergency"

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020. On 15 March 2020, the Minister for Emergency Services declared a state of emergency with effect from 12 a.m. on 16 March 2020 in respect of the pandemic caused by COVID-19 pursuant to section 56 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005 (WA) (Act) (State of Emergency)*. The State of Emergency applies to the State of Western Australia.

Furthermore the School is considered private property being owned by The Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe SDB Archbishop of Perth. Accordingly I must abide by any extra requirements placed on the school by the rightful owner.

All actions are taken for the safety of our community members. I appreciate the difficulties some restriction might cause some individuals, however community safety remains the paramount undertaking at this time. So again, a sincere thank you to each and every one of you for your understanding and support.

Moving forward we will continue to respond to the changing landscape and move as rapidly as is possible to navigate changes smoothly and effectively.

A number of our usual Term One events will be impacted.

- Shrove Tuesday we are unable to supply cooked pancakes this year
- Restrictions to community members may still apply to the Ash Wednesday Mass
- The Welcome Back Picnic will not be taking place
- Parent Teacher nights are not able to go forward however all documentation will be sent to all families.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

I include a few very quick reminders for all members of our community.

- *We will be keeping our drop off and pick up procedures as we did in last year's response to COVID-19. Parents have greatly appreciated the current process and we will endeavour to keep it accordingly.*
- *Please be very careful when dropping off and picking up children and always follow the correct parking procedures.*
- *Utmost care should be taken at all times when operating vehicles on school premises.*
- *Children generally do not require a mobile phone (or similar device) at primary school. However, if there is a request for one please speak directly to the Principal. If permission is granted, they must be stored in the school office area.*
- *Please ensure you register all absences with the school.*
- *Any change in contacts details or of a child's health status should be recorded with the teacher and office directly.*

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

UNIFORMS: All students are to ensure that the summer uniform is worn correctly. It is important for all students to keep hair neat and tidy and that no jewellery is to be worn, except for a watch, one pair of studs or sleepers, a gold or silver necklace with a religious medallion or cross, kept tucked into shirt/dress. For girls, please ensure that hair accessories are kept to the school colours and appropriate. When wearing the sports uniform please ensure that sneakers are standard uniform sanctioned. It is imperative that we are in our correct school uniform. Thank you to all the wonderful families who always support our school by adhering to correct uniform policy.

I leave you with a powerful quote, one which reminds us all its OK for our children to attempt and then fail, in fact it is imperative that we all make attempts at new and different things, daily, and failure, well that's simply how we learn.

"Every time we rescue, hover, or otherwise save our children from a challenge, we send a very clear message: that we believe they are incompetent, incapable, and unworthy of our trust. Further, we teach them to be dependent on us and thereby deny them the very education in competence we are put here on this earth to hand down."

Jessica Lahey's The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE



I extend, my heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all people across Western Australia. Recently we have all faced some challenging times. Some however have felt the full brunt of these challenges. May we all offer our prayers for the individuals truly suffering because of the COVID-19 impact also those affected by the recent fires. In these difficult times may our prayers be a sign of communion with all our fellow men and woman.

HOME LEARNING

LIMITS ON TECHNOLOGY USE AT HOME

There is credible research linking heavy technology use with the surge in a number of concerns for our youth, including, depression and other mental health issues. Suggested limits:

- No phones or tablets in the bedroom at night; use real alarm clocks to wake up.
- No use of devices within an hour of bedtime; the blue light and psychological stimulation interferes with sleep.
- Device use should be significantly limited (Some research suggest no more than two hours of leisure time a day, plus legitimate use for homework).

Compiled with reference to: "Put That Phone Away – Now" by Jean Twenge in *Time*, April 1, 2019

AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Last week the Wooroloo fire - the largest the city has seen in years - burnt through over 9,000 hectares and destroyed 86 homes.

Many people had to be evacuated, volunteers were exhausted, and wildlife populations devastated.

On **Monday 15th February** the St Lawrence community will rally together to raise money to donate to the Bushfire Fundraising Appeal. **Children will be allowed to wear free dress to school for a gold coin donation. The Faith Leaders will be selling cupcakes for \$2 each at recess. At 'Pick Up' before school and after school, staff will be collecting money from any families who would like to donate.**

Thank you in advance for your support.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Welcome Back

We extend a very warm welcome to all our returning students and families. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new families and staff who joined the St Lawrence Community this year. It was a unique start to the school year; however, we have been delighted to see the enthusiasm of all our students and how well they have adapted to their new teachers, classrooms and routines.

Bush fires

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in our community who continue to face devastation from the recent bush fires. We will investigate ways in which our school can support bush fire fundraising efforts.



COVID-19

Due to Stage 4 Covid-19 restrictions parent meetings scheduled for Tuesday 9 February and Wednesday 10 February have been cancelled. Information that would have been shared at the meetings will be shared by classroom teachers via Seesaw. Our welcome picnic scheduled for Friday 12 February will also not be able to take place. The P & F will look at possibilities for future events. Student Leadership badges will be presented at our assembly on Friday, unfortunately only students and staff will be able to attend this event.

Uniforms

Thank you to our parents for sending the children back to school smartly dressed in their summer uniforms. Please be reminded that the Uniform Shop is open on Wednesdays 8.30am – 9.30am and Thursdays 2.30pm – 3.30pm. The St Lawrence Primary School Uniform Policy can be located on our school website. Please find below an excerpt from the policy.

Uniform Requirements

School uniform is a sign of our community. It has been chosen by the community and all are expected to support it.

- *Children are expected to be attired in the correct and complete school uniform at all times.*
- *Early Years: St Lawrence sports uniform is compulsory in Pre-Primary Pre Kindy and Kindergarten children are not required to wear school uniforms*
- *Summer uniform is worn by Years 1 to 6 in Term 1 and Term 4. Winter uniform is worn in Term 2 and Term 3.*
- *Children are to wear the school sports uniform on the days they have Physical Education or Sport. Black sports shoes should be appropriate for Physical Education and white school sports socks.*
- *Hair must be neat and tidy and tied back if shoulder length or longer or if hair falls about the face. Hair should be checked regularly by families to prevent lice infestation.*
- *Hair ties should be in the school colours only: Blue or white with the summer uniform and navy blue or white with the winter uniform. Gold or red with the sports uniform*
- *Nail polish and make-up is not permitted.*
- *If an accident or problem prevents children from wearing their full school uniform on any particular day, an explanation note must be sent to the school.*
- *"No hat, no play" School hats are part of the school uniform and must be worn every day.*

Lost Property

Each term our lost property box is overflowing with lost items. Many items in the box are not labelled and therefore it is very difficult to return the items to the rightful owners. Please label all items that come to school so your child/children can identify their lost items.



STUDENT FREE DAY TERM ONE: Friday 26 February 2021

2021 TERM DATES

- Term 1: Monday 1 February to Thursday 1 April
- Term 2: Monday 19 April to Friday 2 July
- Term 3: Tuesday 20 July to Friday 24 September
- Term 4: Monday 11 October to Thursday 16 December **tbc**

PUPIL FREE DAYS 2021 (dates are subject to change)

Friday 26 February
Friday 4 June
Monday 19 July
Monday 23 August
Monday 20 September

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan and Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals

The best thing you can do immediately after the disaster strikes is pray for the victims of the disaster and for those who will come to their aid. Prayer is powerful and can do more to help than most of us could ever imagine, especially in those moments when we feel most powerless to help. †

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2021 *subject to change*

CONFIRMATION

EVENT	DATE	TIME/
Enrolment Mass	Saturday 13 March/Sunday 14 March 2021	Saturday 6.00pm OR Sunday 5.00pm Mass
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 22 September 2021	7.00pm
Family Workshop	Wednesday 13 October 2021	5.30pm or 7.00pm
Retreat	Friday 15 October 2021	8.30am – 3.00pm
CONFIRMATION DAYS	Saturday 23 October 2021	4.00pm or 6.00pm

EUCCHARIST

EVENT	DATE	TIME/
Enrolment Mass	Saturday 13 March/Sunday 14 March 2021	Saturday 6.00pm OR Sunday 5.00pm Mass
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 28 July 2021	7.00pm
Family Workshop	Thursday 5 August 2021	5.30pm or 7.00pm
Retreat	Wednesday 11 August 2021	8.30am – 3.00pm
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS	Saturday 21 August 2021	4.00pm or 6.00pm

RECONCILIATION

EVENT	DATE	TIME/
Enrolment Mass	Saturday 13 March/Sunday 14 March 2021	Saturday 6.00pm OR Sunday 5.00pm Mass
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 26 May 2021	7.00pm
Family Workshop	Wednesday 2 June 2021	5.30pm or 7.00pm
Retreat	Wednesday 9 June 2021	8.30am – 3.00pm
RECONCILIATION NIGHT	Wednesday 16 June 2021	6.30pm

CLASS NEWS

PRE KINDY

Hello to everyone joining us in Pre Kindy this year – especially our little ones starting with us tomorrow. Welcome to all new families to our school community. We will share Thursdays with our new friends and have so much fun. Mrs Michelle Seragusana and I thank you for allowing us the privilege to share in your child's learning journey. We look forward to all the nice things we will be doing together. For the next five weeks we will complete our activities around the theme of MARVELLOUS ME.

In class we will use Seesaw, an app which enables us to communicate with you by sending photos of your children throughout the day. I urge you to reply to the email invitation to set this up on your phone or iPad if you have not already done so.

Mrs Kaylene Bozich, Pre Kindy Teacher

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to all of the lovely families and children in Kindergarten 2021. I feel truly blessed to be working with such dedicated and passionate teachers and I am so excited for all of the fun learning that is going to take place in this beautiful space! I would like to add to this space by creating a room that beckons the children to explore.

I have started gathering items from nature and loose parts for art, science and numeracy. If you could please contribute any pebbles, buttons, special stones, feathers, pinecones or any natural artefacts the children would find interesting that would be wonderful. All of these nature resources are fun for the children and they are free!!!

This week we sang, we danced and we explored our new learning environment with a lot of excitement. We have been proud of how the children are settling in this week and are looking forward to being with them for a half-day session on Friday. On Tuesday we commence our three full days each week! Next Wednesday Mrs Stanton will be taking the Kindys for their first Library lesson. This will be 8:30-9:30am each Wednesday. Mrs Stanton will be greeting all the children at the door as of next week and this time will be a permanent time slot throughout the year.

Over the coming weeks lots of discussions about our bodies will take place. I will be leading the children to focus on learning about 'Amazing Me'. It will be exciting to follow where this learning will take us. It could range from how we care for our bodies, our feelings or simply the anatomy of the human body. Have a wonderful week!

Kindy Tip: Read it again and again!

Go ahead and read your child's favourite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book.

Mrs Rachel Wake, Kindergarten Teacher

PRE PRIMARY

Welcome back to all children and families. A special welcome to our new students Daniel, Audrey, Beaza and Luke! We are so excited to have you join our beautiful class. It has been an amazing week so far and the children have settled into Pre-Primary really well. We have been busy learning classroom routines and expectations and discussing how a good friend is always kind. The children have created some wonderful paintings to share all their holiday fun with us and demonstrated their ability to write their names!

Just a few reminders:

Library book exchange is every Wednesday so please ensure that your child has their Library bag with them.

Each child has a note folder in which all classroom notes will be placed in for collection by parents. If these are sent home, please remember that they need to be returned the next morning and placed in the black basket in our classroom. (It is very important they come to school for further notes)

Mrs Staltari and I are looking forward to working with your child and helping them to be happy and engaged in Pre Primary.

Mrs Tania Preston, Pre Primary Teacher

YEAR ONE

Welcome to Year One 2021. The children have all been working hard and getting used to the way Year One works. They have all settled into their routines beautifully and have been working hard. Mrs Bozich, Mrs Mattioli, Mrs Baker and I are looking forward to a great year of learning with the children this year in Year One.

Mrs Gloria Edwards, Year One Teacher



YEAR TWO

Welcome to the 2021 school year! We have had an exciting start this week getting to know each other. I would like to thank all the parents and wonderful students for making me feel so welcome at St Lawrence, I'm thrilled to be here. This week the students are getting used to the new routines and expectations of Year Two. I am so proud of the efforts they are making already. Our sport lessons this year are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also have Library on Tuesdays, so library bags will need to be brought to school on this day. We learn Italian on Wednesdays and music on Fridays. A reminder that instead of the usual parent night, important information will be posted onto Seesaw. Seesaw will also be used for regular class updates, so please check it out. I am looking forward to working alongside you and your child this year as they continue to grow independence and a love for learning.

Ms Danielle O'Donnell, Year Two Teacher

YEAR THREE

Welcome to the 2021 school year! We hope you have all had a safe and happy extended summer holiday and are enjoying the excitement of the start of the school year as much as we are. Thank you to all those parents who made sure that their child had a hat, art smock, library bag, tissue boxes and headphones on the first day of school. If any of these items have been overlooked, we would much appreciate them being brought into school as soon as possible to ensure a smooth and happy start to the year for students....and their teachers! On Friday children will be bringing home their pencil case with their new stationery. Please label each item with your child's name and return it back to school on Monday.

Be on the lookout for weekly Seesaw posts to keep you updated of the interesting events going on in our classroom. Communication is essential in making sure we have a smooth school year, so we will do our best to make sure you know exactly what's going on. We are looking forward to spending this new year teaching your children and helping them grow in independence.

*Miss Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Frances Caruso
Year Three Teachers*

Zulu Desk YEAR THREE Parent Night

On **Tuesday 16th February at 6.30pm** a consultant from IT Dynamics will present to parents information about Zulu Desk and how to set it up at home. Zulu desk empowers parents to manage their children's school-issued devices by restricting which apps, games and social media children can access on their devices and schedule homework time or bedtime to allow or restrict certain apps. Please come and join us to find out how to keep homework sessions focused and eliminate distraction while at home.

Date: Tuesday 16th February

Time: 7.00pm

Place: School Hall

YEAR FOUR

Welcome back to another school year! It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to Year 4 2021 with Miss Fogliani and Mrs Caruso. This will be a wonderful year full of learning and fun. The first few days of Year 4 has been fantastic. We have been learning so much about each other and our goals that we want to achieve this year. Please ensure you are connected to our class Seesaw. This is where I will communicate regularly with parents updating you on events, classroom information and learning. It is also a great opportunity for you to see what your child does in Year 4. Due to COVID-19, the parent information evenings will not go ahead this year at school. Please keep your eyes on SeeSaw on Wednesday where I will post all the information required. I am looking forward to working alongside you and your child and developing their love for learning.



Miss Kayla Fogliani, Year Four Teacher

YEAR FIVE

A very big and warm welcome to Year Five, 2021! The Year Five children have had a wonderful start to the school year. It was fabulous to see so many smiling faces on our first day together. We welcome Elizabeth to our classroom and hope that she enjoys her time with us here at St Lawrence. The children are getting used to the routines and expectations of Year Five and I am very proud of how they are taking ownership of their own learning. We have talked about always doing our best and being proud of what we do.

Our sport lessons this year are on a Tuesday and Thursday. Library lessons take place on a Tuesday and Italian lessons are on Wednesday. This semester we will have Music on a Friday.



As the Year 5 Parent Night has been cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions, a Parent Information PDF will be sent out this afternoon on Seesaw. Please read through the information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for having your children all ready for the school year ahead. I am looking forward to an action-packed year of learning and fun.

Mrs Roselyn Pizzino, Year Five Teacher

YEAR SIX

Thank you for having your children so well prepared to begin Year Six and linking up with our Year Six Seesaw account. By now you will have received the Parent Night PowerPoint as a PDF via Seesaw. Hopefully, this answers many of the matters you would have been interested in at a face-to-face meeting. I have been through this PowerPoint with the students, so they should be able to answer further questions.

We have begun thinking about our Leavers' polo shirt and you will be notified when fitting with Mrs Miola in the Uniform Shop will take place. The Leavers' jacket you ordered some time ago will probably have been distributed to students by the time you get this newsletter. Students have written all usernames and passwords into both their diary and iPad for easy access. This term we are reading about some of the key people from the Middle Ages, so I would encourage you to ask your son/daughter about what they are learning.

Mr Phil Haydon, Year Six Teacher

FATHERING PROJECT

The fathering project camping trip will be held on the weekend of the 5-6 March.

WE HAVE LIMITED SITES, SO IT IS FIRST IN GETS A SITE.

I would like to have all deposits, into the office this week.

This will allow me to go back to the camp site and try and get extra sites.

So:

- Please pay a \$50 deposit ASAP
- Year 6 parents, this is your last chance to take your children, so let's see as many as possible.
- Year 1 & 2 Parents, if you have never been, this is a great chance to have some fun with your children.



For any questions please contact Patrick King 0409296036, Camp Co-ordinator.

LIBRARY NEWS



Welcome to 2021, hopefully a less eventful year than 2020!

We look forward to the children commencing their borrowing next week during their library lessons or before or after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Children should have their library bags with them to transport their books to and from school. Books are loaned to the children for one week but may be renewed if more time is needed.

The first **Scholastic Book Club** brochures will be sent home next week. **Book Club** can take up to two weeks to be delivered to school after the orders have been submitted.

You can order books online through the Scholastic website using a LOOP system. You can also send an order in to school with cash. Please ensure your child's name, class and a contact number are clearly written on the order form, (along with their name and class on the envelope), that is sent into school. **Orders from the first issue will be due back at school next Tuesday, 23rd February.**

Mrs Jane Stanton, Teacher Librarian

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Welcome back to all families!

SUMMER UNIFORM

Students in Year 1 to Year 6 return back in Term 1, 2021 in full Summer Uniform. Please ensure correct uniform is worn.

It is compulsory for students in Pre-Primary to wear the St Lawrence Uniform everyday. They may wear any colour sport shoes and socks or sandals.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS

Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten students are not required to wear a school uniform, however they are encouraged to wear an Early Childhood T-shirt that you can purchase from the Uniform Shop. St Lawrence Library Bags are compulsory and required for students in Kindergarten and are available from the Uniform Shop.

Price lists are available at the front office and stock is available for purchase from the Uniform Shop.

BOYS RED RUGBY SHORTS

Please note that Boy's Red Rugby Shorts are no longer available and are discontinued.

Red Microfibre Sport Shorts with printed school name will be replaced commencing this year for students in Pre-primary to Year 6 to wear. Girls have the option to wear these shorts or may continue wearing Skorts.

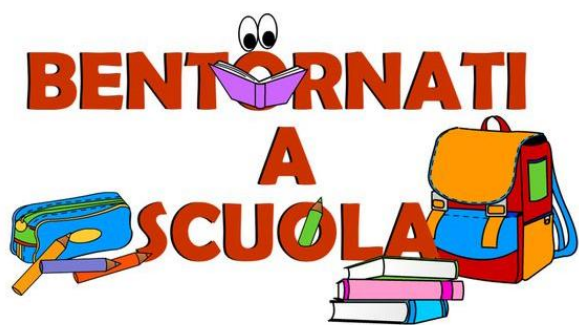
Unfortunately due to COVID-19 lockdown these shorts are not available until week ending 19th February.

If you have purchased Red Rugby Shorts you may continue wearing these shorts until end of year.

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

Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

ITALIAN NEWS



Bentornati a Scuola! Welcome back to School!

I wish everyone a great year ahead with lots of wonderful learning.

Buon Anno Scolastico a tutti! Happy school year to everyone!

I am looking forward to our Italian lessons in 2021.

Signora Jenny Nicolao, Italian Specialist Teacher



CANTEEN NEWS

CANTEEN DAYS for this year are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Please see website for **CURRENT MENU**

For this term we have added a Chicken Fried Rice for \$4.50 or in a meal deal with a juice box for \$5.50, available everyday.

We have our Birthday Special for the whole class - M & M Cookies or Cupcakes \$20, Brownies or Icy Poles \$15 or Mini Cupcakes for Pre Kindy/Kindy \$12, please order day prior at least.

ASH WEDNESDAY Special - 17th February

Fish Fingers (x5) and Veggie Sticks \$4 (add sauce 50c) Fish Burger (with lettuce and mayo) \$5.

Please pre order now! No meat will be served on this day.

*Christina, Fran and Antonella
2021 School Canteen Staff*

