



Newsletter No. 5

24 April 2024

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.



*And said unto them, thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:
And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.*

Lk 24: 46-48

Loving God, at the beginning of this new term, help us to keep the Easter message in our hearts and to give witness to it through our lives.

As a Resurrection people, we always set our sights on hope for the future. When all seems dark and uncertain, draw our attention to the rising of Jesus your Son.

When we reflect on the challenges that we all face in life at different times, may we always remember we are people of the Resurrection, let us celebrate the new growth that is being cultivated in us by working together.

Open our eyes to the new and exciting opportunities that this new term will bring.

Scripture Reading Mark 12:28-31

One of the scribes who had listened to them debating appreciated that Jesus had given a good answer and put a further question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?'

Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one, only Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders.

I wish to welcome you all back to Term II. You have all been in my prayers and thoughts and I am looking forward to seeing you all in person in the coming days and weeks.

As you would all know as a school, we reviewed our Vision for Learning. One aspect of this review saw the introduction of our Core Values. School values can help pupils understand how to make good choices in life and they can also help to shape the mindsets and behaviour of future adults. So, their importance should not be underestimated.

As educational practitioners know, a large percentage of students' learning comes from watching behaviours of those around them. Children love to copy and act out being older than they are.

Embedding school values in day-to-day life can help shape each child's understanding of the world. Character and values are an essential part of the hidden curriculum but also need to be explicitly taught. Everyday activities that focus on developing character and values will embed them as an underpinning part of boys' and girls' lives.

With a strong foundation, children will develop core values of their own. Schools play a significant part in preparing the future generation for their life as adults. This is a responsibility that we are very mindful of in Catholic Education. If a school's vision and values are clear and well thought out, our message will be simple and inherent. Gospel values and the teachings of Jesus Christ underpin all we do in a Catholic school. Our core values of Joy, Courage, and Unity are rooted in our Catholic culture and Gospel values.

All of these can go a long way to developing our students' abilities to show initiative, contribute to others, and gain respect and tolerance.

*Joy, Courage, and Unity, a simple acronym to remember our values is "Jesus Christ Unites. This term our core value focus is **COURAGE**. You will notice our school banner has been displayed with our new focus, teachers will be working through this value with their children and the meaning of courage and how we can embed a courageous outlook in all our undertakings.*

Catholic Schools of Excellence.

Our staff work hard to be at the cutting edge of education, this allows us the abilities, skills, knowledge, and expertise to support our children in their learning. To respond to the individual learners and offer different opportunities to support the different learning styles that present in a classroom full of our wonderful students. As principal, I am extremely proud of our staff and the hard work they put into ensuring our students have the best opportunities to maximise their learning potential. I am also totally impressed by the learning gains of our students as they journey through their early education here at St Lawrence.

A reminder that Term II and Term III require students to be wearing their winter uniforms. Please ensure correct uniforms are worn, (We offer a two week period of change over from the summer to winter uniform, should warmer days continue). High standards of presentation and grooming are expected at all times. I have noticed a number of students acquiring the tracks through their hair and the length of some of the “mullet” styles are getting too long. Please address these matters. Failure to comply with our school policies can impact your enrolment status at St Lawrence. Thank you to all our families who always present correctly and adhere to our school’s policies. Well groomed children in their correct uniforms not only set the high standards that we expect here at St Lawrence but also help to build school pride, form unity and support children in their learning endeavours.

Catholic Pastoral Communities.

As we move into the cooler seasons, we know coughs, colds and flus abound. It is imperative that children who are unwell remain at home. This reduces the infection rates to others and helps with the children’s overall recovery. Unwell children simply cannot learn and must not be at school. As COVID is still a significant health risk factor, please ensure you maintain thorough hygiene practices and test regularly.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable.

We are currently finalising our Kindy and Pre-Kindy enrolments for 2025. We have very strong enrolment numbers and continue to be a school of high demand. If you have young children looking for future placements, I strongly encourage you to ensure you have completed an application form as our positions are very limited.

God bless each and every one of you.



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

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

ANZAC DAY

We commemorated Anzac Day today with a special service in the Undercover Area. Mr Joe Knight-Smith joined us again this year and addressed the school. Mr Knight-Smith served in the Vietnam War. Mrs Anita Buchanan joined us for the first time this year and played an important role in our ceremony by playing the Last Post on her bugle.

We greatly appreciate Mr Knight-Smith, Mrs Buchanan and all the parents who joined us today.

Students made poppies for the ceremony. The poppies were placed in large jars and placed at the bottom of the flagpole during the ceremony. Thank you to our wonderful Faith Leaders for leading our commemoration. All students should be commended for their exceptional behaviour and reverent manner.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is one of the initiation Sacraments of the Catholic Church and helps the candidates be united more fully with Christ. Year Six students and their parents/carers participated in a Family Workshop today in the Alverna Centre and will take part in a Retreat Day on Thursday 9 May. The candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 18 May at 6pm. A photographer will be available to take photographs in the Alverna Centre an hour before the ceremony. Please keep the candidates and their families in your prayers.



EUCCHARIST

Please note: The Sacrament of Eucharist will now take place on Saturday 24 August at 4pm.



WINTER UNIFORM

Our uniform is a sign of our community, and all families are expected to support it. Children are expected to wear the correct uniform. Summer uniform is worn in Terms 1 and 4 and winter uniform in Terms 2 and 3. There is a two-week grace period, but the expectation is that all students need to be wearing the correct uniform by the start of Week Three.

Hair must be neat and tidy and tied back if shoulder length or longer or if hair falls about the face. Hair styles should be of a conservative nature (no tracks, no hawks, no undercuts etc). Only natural hair colour permitted (no tints, streaks, tips etc). Minimal gel may only be used on the fringe, no other part of the hair.

- Hair ribbons should be in school colours only: blue or white with summer and winter uniforms. Gold, white, red with sports uniform
- Jewellery: Plain small sleepers or small gold, silver or small stone studs, only one per ear
- One cross or Christian religious medal on a chain tucked under the shirt/blouse may be worn.
- No rings or bracelets to be worn.
- Nail polish and make-up is not permitted.
- Hats are part of the uniform and need to be worn every day. **"No hat, no play"**.

A uniform infringement letter will be sent to parents/carers of any children who are not adhering to our uniform guidelines. A full version of the school dress code is available on our website. If there is a reason that your child is temporarily out of school uniform, we require an email or a signed note. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

MOBILE DEVICES

If students must bring a mobile phone to school, they are asked to drop it off at the office each morning and pick it up at the end of the day. This includes watches with communication features.

REPORTS

Parents will receive two formal academic reports this year, a Mid-Year Report at the end of Term 2 and an End of Year Report in December.

MID-YEAR REPORT

This report provides parents with a 'snapshot in time' of how their child is progressing in relation to the end of year achievement standard for each learning area for their year level. The grade provided is taking into account the curriculum which has been taught and assessed to that point in time.

END OF YEAR REPORT

This report provides parents with an overview of how their child has progressed, across the entire year, in relation to the end of year Achievement Standard for each learning area for their year level.

The grade provided takes into account the curriculum which has been taught and assessed across the entire year, not just Semester 2.

UNDERSTANDING THE GRADING SYSTEM

Is a 'C' grade good? **Yes, you should celebrate C grades as this indicates that your child has progressed to the desired level of understanding for his/her year level.**

Is a 'C' grade just a pass like it used to be? **No, a C grade today, is the expected Achievement Standard for each year level and each Learning Area.**

Does an 'A' or 'B' grade mean my child is working a year or two above their current grade? **No, an 'A' or 'B' grade means that your child is responding to the content taught to a deeper level. They may be thinking more critically about the content, which is a wonderful skill to demonstrate.**

HOW ARE GRADES DETERMINED?

Teachers collect numerous samples of work and assessments to determine the final grade. The grade is determined with the use of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's (SCSA) Judging Standards. For more information on this go to <https://parent.scsa.wa.edu.au/>

We hope this information assists you to understand the reporting process at St Lawrence. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

ACCESSING REPORTS

Semester One reports will be available on SEQTA on Friday 28 June. Most families should have access to electronic reports via SEQTA at <https://stlawbal.engage.cewa.edu.au/>

All Pre-Primary families who do not have an older child in the school and new families, will be sent a 'Welcome Email' to register for a SEQTA Engage Account. Existing families with a current account should check that they can log in. If you are unable to log in please follow the process below to create a new password. Please contact the school office on 9344 4944 if you have any issues or queries.

1. Click on the "Forgot your password? Link
2. Enter your email address into the relevant box and click on "Reset my password".
3. Go to your email inbox and reset you're your password according to the instructions in the email.

Please be aware, the password will expire after one hour of being generated.



Thursday 25 April – Anzac Day Public Holiday
Friday 26 April – Student Free Day
Friday 3 May – Mother's Day breakfast
Friday 17 May – Yr 5 Assembly 8.45am
Thursday 30 May – Yr 3 Liturgy 9.00am
Monday 3 June - WA Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 4 June – Student Free Day
Friday 7 June – Yr 4 Assembly 8.45am
Friday 28 June – Reports live 4pm (last day of term 2)

*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille
Assistant Principals*

LOOSE PARTS PROGRAM

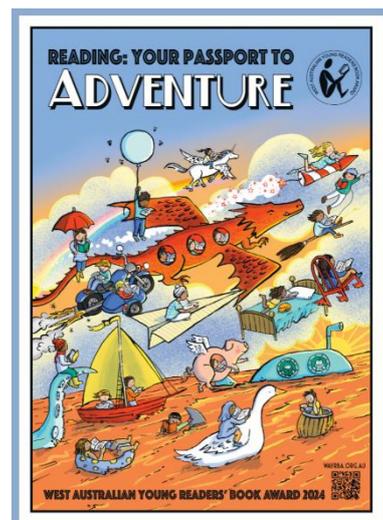
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the school community and the P&F for their generous support towards our Loose Parts program in the Early Childhood Years. Their contributions will undoubtedly enrich the learning experiences of our young learners. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our children's education.



LIBRARY NEWS

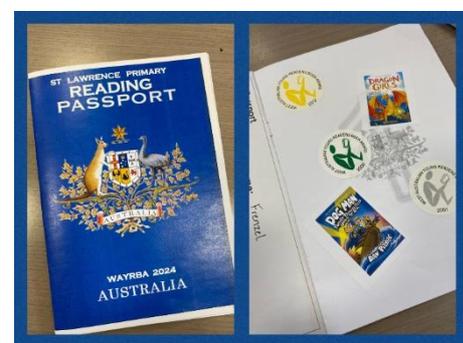
WEST AUSTRALIAN YOUNG READERS BOOK AWARDS

Welcome back! Term 2 in Library promises to be an exciting one. During Terms 2 & 3 our school will be taking part in the West Australian Young Readers Book Awards (WAYRBA). Each week we will share a picture book during our library sessions and students will then get to vote on that book. Students have also been given the opportunity to borrow one of the shortlisted books as their library book. At the end of term 3 all votes will be counted up and sent to the WAYRBA committee along with votes from several other schools to choose one winner for each of the selected categories.



READING PASSPORT

Students in Years 1-6 have all received a Reading Passport. For each book read, they will receive a sticker to place in their passports. Students who choose to borrow one of the shortlisted books over the next two terms will go into the draw to win a prize. There will be one prize for junior students, (Years 1-3), and one prize for the senior students, (Years 4-6). Good luck to everyone!



NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

This year's National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) will take place on Wednesday 22 May. NSS is now in its 24th year and was started to promote literacy among young children. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, preschools, childcare centres, family homes and many other places around the country, at the same time. In later years the event has also been held in other countries across the world including New Zealand. Last year saw 2.18 million participants at over 59,000 locations take part!



As is tradition here at St Lawrence, our Year Ones will again be taking part again this year. They will come together as we enjoy this year's nominated book to be read to us by a guest reader, after which, the Year ones will be able to take part in the several activities on offer.

Parents and guardians/caregivers are invited to join us in the library for this special session. More details to follow so please keep your eye out for further information in future newsletters.

Students from other years will not miss out as the link will be forwarded to classroom teachers, should they choose for their classes to take part.

*Ms Louise Frenzel
Library Officer*

SPORTS NEWS

What a great start to Term 2!

It was a little hot at the start, but everyone has been working really hard to improve their skills in netball, soccer, and football.

WINTER CARNIVAL

On Thursday 20 June, the Year 5 & 6 students have their Winter Carnival.

They will be playing the above sports against St Gerard's, St Denis, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Majella. We wish them the best of luck with their training.

PERTH GLORY SOCCER CLINIC

We had two coaches from Perth Glory come in to work with our older students this week. I was very proud when they told me that St Lawrence students were some of the best behaved that they have ever coached. Well done, you were great ambassadors for our school.

RUNNING CLUB

As the weather gets cooler, listen out for the announcement that we will be restarting our early morning running club. It is a great way to start your day and gets you ready and energised for a busy day of learning.

Keep up the fantastic effort and positive attitude everyone!





Perth Glory
Soccer Clinics



*Mrs Claire Major
Physical Education Teacher*

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

WINTER UNIFORM

If you need to purchase uniforms for your child, please come and see me on Thursday mornings from 8am - 10am. Alternatively, you can email an order to michelle.seragusana@cewa.edu.au or you can leave an order with Lina in the office, where you will also be able to make payment.

WINTER SKIRTS

Currently, we have stock starting at size 4. If you feel that this size is too big for your daughter, an order for size 2 skirts has been ordered and will be delivered in week 3 of term 2. Students can continue to wear the summer uniform until the stock arrives.

*Mrs Michelle Seragusana
Uniform Shop*

CANTEEN NEWS

Are you still looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift? Give the gift of endless experiences with an Entertainment Membership, filled with thousands of exclusive offers perfect for spending quality time with loved ones.

For a limited time, receive additional value with a bonus e-Gift Card of up to \$40 when you purchase a Membership. Not only will you be supporting our fundraising cause with 20% of your Membership cost, but Mum will also receive a bonus \$40 e-gift card with your purchase! Join today and create more cherished memories together whilst contributing to our cause.

Thank you for your on-going support!

Order Here – <https://subscribe.entertainment.com.au/fundraiser/861i18>

The advertisement is split into two main sections. The left section is a promotional offer with a light yellow background. It features the Entertainment logo at the top, followed by the headline 'Share more special moments with The Entertainment App'. Below this, it lists two membership options: 'Buy any Single City Membership' and 'Buy any Multi City Membership'. For each, it states 'Get a \$20' and 'Get a \$40' respectively, with the text 'Everyday WISH Bonus eGift Card*' underneath. A small image of the 'everyday WISH Bonus eGift Card' is shown, and a red button says 'Support us now'. At the bottom, it says '*T&Cs apply'. The right section is a photograph of two women, Christina and Fran, smiling and looking at a smartphone together. They are wearing blue and white striped sweaters. The background of the photo is a soft pink with large, faint heart shapes.

Christina and Fran - Canteen Staff

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Please RSVP as soon as possible via the link - <https://forms.gle/mq34P8dRMEVvrCNv7>



MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED

We would appreciate any donations for us to raffle off during the breakfast, big or small. Please hand to Lina at the front office ASAP.

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

This will be held on Friday 10 May. Please ensure your child has \$5 on that day to pay for their pre-selected gift.

FACEBOOK GROUP

You should have been informed by your class rep that we have a private Facebook group for P&F News. Please ensure you join this group to avoid missing out on any important information.



BBQ NEEDED

We are looking at upgrading the school BBQ. If you know of someone who is upgrading their own BBQ and the old one is in good condition, please let us know.

Mrs Natasha Raso, P&F President

ASSEMBLY AWARD WINNERS

