



Newsletter No. 32

26 October 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.



**Let us ask the Lord for the grace not to speak badly of others,
not to criticize, not to gossip, but rather to love everyone.**

Pope Francis.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to Mrs Gabrielle Brennan who during my absence was appointed Short Term Principal of St Lawrence. Mrs Brennan is highly regarded in Catholic Education, and we were blessed to have her in the role of Principal.

Mrs Brennan was ably supported by Ms Tranquille, our Assistant Principal and all the staff. We are very fortunate to have all our staff at St Lawrence. I have worked in numerous schools throughout my career and can honestly say a finer and more dedicated team of professional does not exist.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Here at St Lawrence Primary, we provide many wonderful opportunities for our children to continue to come to know our Lord. Our Religious Education program includes many opportunities for children to strengthen their understandings of God and to ponder life's questions. Often formed in the mode of "wonder questions", where children are encouraged to ask questions and articulate their own wonderings about God. All our Gatherings, Assemblies, Masses and Prayers lead our children to come closer to God. Visits by Father Emil and Father Adam also offer the children that deeper connection to God. As we develop a personal relationship with God, we are able to become more attuned to the working of the Lord in our own lives.

It is my personal long held belief that children are in fact masterful theologians. If we follow these definitions of theology:

Theology (from Greek Θεός meaning "god" and λογία, -*logy*, meaning "study of") is the systematic and rational study of concepts of deity and of the nature of religious truths, or the learned profession acquired by completing specialized training in religious studies.

Augustine of Hippo defined the Latin equivalent, *theologia*, as "reasoning or discussion concerning the Deity"; Richard Hooker defined "theology" in English as "the science of things divine"

When our children are talking about God, wondering in awe about God, articulating in their own words their understandings of the Divine. Then to my mind of thinking our children are in fact being theologians. It is the most special thing for me to listen to our little children tell me about God. You would be surprised what I have learnt from our students over the years about God, where He resides and how He is thinking and feeling. I was in our Three-Year-Old Kindy once when one of our children told me, and I quote. "God sits on my shoulder." Now I ask you, how precious is that inspired line of thinking that was articulated by a three-year-old.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Parents are invited to attend the **School Advisory Council AGM**, immediately followed by the **Parents & Friends AGM** on **Tuesday 22 November 2022 commencing at 7pm**.

We are currently working on the 2023 School Budget, finances, staffing, forward planning and the 2023 school year in general. If finalised staffing for the coming year is announced at the AGM. Reports from the School Advisory Council Chair, Treasurer, P&F President, Principal and Parish are presented at the AGM.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

I stumbled across this little image the other day... I thought it to be very apt...I often speak to our boys and girls about all our actions having consequences. The same applies to us as adults. All choices we make, all actions we take, all have consequences.

The food we eat, the exercise we do or don't do, the narratives we repeat, what we say about people, what we post on social media...all these choices, all have consequences.

**WELL, WELL, WELL,
IF IT ISN'T THE
CONSEQUENCES
OF MY OWN ACTIONS**

Sometimes we unwittingly make choices that have very profound and negative consequences, but sometimes we make these choices and we have simply failed to appreciate the potential consequences of the action taken. My point being...we should always think things through. Make the wise choice, the informed choice, the choice that we are happy to live with the consequence of, whatever that may be.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our Student leadership model has been in place for three years now. Our boys and girls are busy preparing for their speeches and the election process. I include the following information taken from the Student Leadership Policy.

The Election Process:

- Each applicant must make a 2-minute maximum speech in the school hall to the Years 4 and 5 students and class teachers, Education Assistants and the Leadership Team.
- A bell will sound 30 seconds before concluding your speech.
- All speeches must be concluded within the 2-minute timeframe.
- The speech schedule will be as follows:
 - Day One – Faith Leaders
 - Day Two – Environmental Leaders
 - Day Three – Student Leaders
 - Day Four – Sport Leaders
- The new leaders will be announced at the End of the School Year.
- At the first mass of the following year the leadership badges will be blessed and presented to the leaders.

The Voting Process:

- The election process will commence in Term 4.
- Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 students and class teachers, Education Assistants and the Leadership Team will have the opportunity to vote for Environmental, Faith and Student Leaders.
- Students from Years 6, 5, 4 and 3 from Faction groups will vote for Sport Leaders
- As with all matters in the school “The Principal will have the final say.” The principal reserves the right to do so based on any grounds he/she perceives as relevant. These may be bound by privacy and confidentiality clauses.
- A digital voting slip will be created using Google Forms for each Leadership Role.
- An email will need to be sent to the co-ordinators with the list of candidates for each role.
- A link will be created and sent to the Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 class teachers and the Leadership team.
- It is a requirement that Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 class teachers post this onto Teams so students can access the link. Students and staff will click on the link, tick the boxes of three candidates they would like to vote for and press submit.

Conditions of Applying:

The maximum number of leadership roles any student can apply for is two .

A student can only be appointed one leadership role.

SEQTA data and records will also be considered when judging the suitability of a candidate. (These may be bound by privacy and confidentiality laws.)

The Principal will have the final say and the right to appoint all school leaders.

If leaders lose their badge the cost of the replacement badge will be at their own cost.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Students not returning in 2023

Student positions at St Lawrence's are highly sought after in the community. If you are not returning to St Lawrence's in 2023, please notify the office as soon as possible. This allows us the opportunity to offer positions to families on our wait lists.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



Popcorn is prepared in the same pot, in the same heat, and in the same oil, yet the kernels do not all pop at the same time. Do not compare yourself to others. Your turn to pop is coming.

PASTORAL CARE



During October our prayers have been focussed on the Rosary and our devotional practices for Our Lady.

May many people come to know Mary and see her as a role model of piety and love for all.



AWARD WINNERS – 21 October 2022



HOME LEARNING TIP

Cyber Safety

The internet provides an opportunity for children to interact and learn on a global scale. However, the internet also provides complete strangers with a direct line into your home, and your child's life. This cannot be underestimated, so you need to educate yourself and your child about the potential dangers

Some simple strategies can be implemented including setting strict rules for usage and regular supervision in order to ensure they are being adhered to:

- Have your computer set up in a family area so it must be used openly
- Set time limits and identify sites permitted for visiting
- Teach your child not to open mail from unknown sources
- Encourage students to use an anonymous, online name that is not gender specific
- Be vigilant about only using a webcam under supervision
- Encourage your children to come to you if they encounter any inappropriate or disturbing content that makes them feel uncomfortable

Numerous apps can be installed on your devices that limit access to different functionalities, apps, and the internet etc. They give you the control to automatically limit their use or turn them off completely. At school we employ Zulu Desk for this purpose. I strongly encourage you to look into these options and decide as a family what would work best for you.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL NEWS

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations and God's blessing on our Year 6 students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 29 October at 4pm. The photographer will be available in the Alverna Centre an hour before and an hour after the Celebration. Thank you to all the teachers and families who have contributed to the growth and understanding of our children since beginning their journey at St Lawrence. Our appreciation is extended to Father Emil and Father Adam for their ongoing encouragement and collaboration with the school in preparing our students on their sacramental journey. We look forward to joining the Year 6 students and their families on Saturday.

May God bless all our Year 6 students and their families abundantly at this special time in their faith journey.

A PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lord Jesus Christ,
Send down your Spirit upon me.
When I am uncertain, grant me wisdom.
When I am confused, grant me understanding.
When I am ignorant, grant me knowledge.
When I am wandering, grant me counsel.
When I am afraid, grant me fortitude.
When I am separated from you, grant me piety.
When I am selfish, grant me the fear of the Lord.
I ask for an outpouring of your Spirit with all of
these gifts in your name.
Amen.

REPORTS

Semester two reports for students in Pre-Primary to Year six will be available on SEQTA at the end of this term. Families should have access to the electronic reports via SEQTA at <https://stlawbal.coneqtt-p.cathednet.wa.edu.au>. Prior to the reports being electronically distributed on Friday 9 December please ensure that you are able to log in using your log in details. If you are unable to log in, please follow the process below to create a new password. Please contact the school office 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 your password according to the instructions in the email.

Please be aware that the password reset email will expire after 1 hour of being generated.

WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

On Tuesday 1 November we celebrate All Saints Day with a whole school mass at the Church. We invite our parents and friends to join us for this very special mass celebrating the saints in our church and all those that have attained heaven. In the readings for All Saints Day, we are reminded of the Beatitudes in the Gospel. Jesus gave us these beatitudes at the Sermon on the Mount. He did not give us these beatitudes and then want us to fail. He wanted to give us something to aim for, to work on our whole life to try to achieve. These beatitudes are a beautiful reminder of what we can become if we trust and believe. Thousands of years later, they still speak to us and call us to live more fully as Christian people.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day. All year round, the Outdoor Classroom Day community campaigns for more time outdoors. We will celebrate Outdoor Classroom Day on **Thursday 3 November** with a range of events. One of these events includes our Fun Run, organised by our P&F.

Sponsorship forms have been distributed to all students.

Parents will also be informed of the times each class will complete their fun run. Children are allowed to have crazy hair and wear crazy socks on this day. Please make sure if you are spraying your child's hair that you do this at home as no aerosol spray cans are allowed on the school premises.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

As I am sure you are all aware from the school calendar, the NECPSA Interschool Athletics Carnival will take place on **Wednesday 2 November**.

Please note that there will be a new venue this year due to resurfacing. The event will be held at HBF Arena, Joondalup.

The selected competitors will travel by bus to and from the venue and we would love to see any parents who are available to come along and support the students.

Time: Bus leaves school at 8.45am
Venue: HBF Arena, Kennedya Drive, Joondalup
Clothes: Red skort or shorts, Yellow shirt (no graduation shirts), Tracksuit top and school hat
Bring: Morning tea, Lunch, full drink bottle

Students are allowed to wear alternate trainers to compete in, as long as they are suitable.

Parents may take children straight home from the event, but they must sign out with one of the Assistant Principals.

Good luck to all competitors.

SCHOOL T-BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This Friday **28 October** a selected group of year 5 boys will be taking part in this event. It will be held at Empire Ball Park, Thornlie and the students will travel to and from the venue on the school bus.

This is the first time that we have entered this competition and I am confident that the boys will have a great day.

Time: Bus leaves school at 8.40am
Venue: Empire Ball Park, Corner Nicholson and Wilfred Roads, Thornlie
Clothes: Grey long t ball pants, yellow shirt, tracksuit top and school hat
Bring: Morning tea, Lunch, full drink bottle
Optional: Own bat, glove, helmet

Please feel free to come along and spectate if you are available on the day.

Best of luck boys!

FREMANTLE DOCKER GIRLS LIGHTNING CARNIVAL

On **Monday 31 October** a group of girls from year 5 and 6 will represent the school playing football in this carnival. We have not been able to enter for a few years so it is exciting that the girls will once again get this opportunity. It will be a tough day of competition but I'm sure our girls will give it their all and give a great performance.

Time: Bus leaves school at 8.40am
Venue: UWA Sports Park, McGillivray Rd, Mount Claremont
Clothes: Red skorts, yellow shirt, tracksuit top and school hat, you will be given a school footy jersey * Mouthguards compulsory
Bring: Morning tea, Lunch, full drink bottle

Give it your best girls and just have fun!

Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher

PHYSICAL EDUCATION *Thank You!*

Girls Football

A huge thankyou to our ex students Mia Russo, Anthony Russo and Marcus Ewen who are giving up their time twice this week to come in and help coach our girls in preparation for the Freo Dockers Girls AFL carnival on Monday. Marcus and Mia both play for WA now and had some valuable coaching tips for them.

So great to see these kids giving back, I'm sure we are all very proud of them.



Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

KINDY STUDENTS 2022

Please note that a compulsory uniform is required for commencement to Pre-primary 2023. Please place your uniform orders by the 11 November and orders are then packed and payment is required at collection by late November.

PRE-PRIMARY STUDENTS 2022

A compulsory uniform is required for commencement to Year one 2023.

Please place your uniform orders as soon as possible. For any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me on Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au or come into the Uniform Shop to arrange sizes for your child.

Please let me know if you will not be placing a uniform order. Orders will be packed and payment is required at collection by mid November.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS 2023

Students commencing Pre Kindy and Kindergarten in 2023 are not required to wear a compulsory school uniform but are encouraged to wear a Red Early Childhood t shirt or track top.

Library Bags are compulsory to purchase for kindergarten.

Stock is available to purchase directly from Uniform Shop. Order forms are available from school office or uniform shop.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Mrs Angela Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

Kindergarten & Year One News



Congratulations to the Fazari family on the arrival of a beautiful baby :
Isaac Michael Fazari.

Baby brother to Emilia - Year One and Luca - Kindy.

CANTEEN NEWS

THANK YOU to my helpers last week Lilly and Anna S - very much appreciated.
If you can help on Thursday for a couple of hours please let me know.

FRIDAY

Pre Primary students are now able to come out at lunchtime. Students will then be able to purchase their lunch from the canteen.

We have ice creams ranging from 50c to \$2.50 and drinks for \$2.50.

Parent helper will be required at this time (12.40pm to 1.20pm) to assist the children with their purchases for Term 4 each Friday. If you are able to help, please text me on 0408834774. Thank you always for your help.

Menu A new item for this term is our crunch and dip pack - Carrot and cucumber sticks, rice crackers and French onion dip - in a convenient pack.

Pre order for recess or add to lunch order for \$2.



- This Friday the Year 5 boys have an all day t-ball carnival, therefore there will be no lunch orders.
- Next Thursday, Outdoor Classroom Day, recess will be as per normal. Lunch can still be ordered from the canteen.

Mrs Christina Russo and Canteen Staff