



Newsletter No. 9

19 June 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.



Pope John XXIII was a much-loved Pontiff of our great Church. At the onset of his Pontificate, he was thought of as a possible caretaker Pope after the long reign of his predecessor. Little did people know God had great plans for this wise man. He is quoted as saying he had wanted to open the windows of the Church and allow some fresh air in. These simple words he once said, I believe to be very powerful impetus for motivation. We should focus on what we can do, not what we failed at, what we can achieve not our disappointments.

*Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams.
Think not about your frustrations, but about your
unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you
tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for
you to do.*

Pope John XXIII

Inspiring Christ-Centred Leaders.

I am aware that some of our children are accessing various social media sites when at home. Many of these are simply inappropriate for children to be viewing. In many cases, these sites have specific age-related restrictions, and these are in place to prevent minors from accessing them. Most of these sites require users to be over 13 years of age.

I remind parents and guardians that users can watch musical clips, video clips, edit them, and add special effects.

So why should you be concerned? You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and inappropriate imagery, which simply is not suitable for your child to view.

There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child.

I ask all parents to be aware of their children's internet searches and the activities they are involved in. It is very concerning that children of primary school age have access to adult content.

Of even greater concern is the potential for total strangers to be communicating with your children.

Parents should be aware of what their children see and hear online, who they meet, and what they share about themselves. Talk with your children, use appropriate tools to protect them, and keep an eye on their activities.

If your children are using the Messenger Kids App, I strongly encourage you to monitor the content of the conversations. Though there are no ads or purchases, the privacy policy states that all content (message content and app usage details) is stored and that the information is used to develop new products, which could mean that data will follow your child into Facebook/Instagram use later on.

Parents should weigh the pros and cons of introducing your children to social media environments, given concerns about kids' health and well-being in relation to social media use. Though Facebook designed the app for kids aged 6-12, the recommended age is 13+.

You should read the developer's privacy policy for details on how your (or your children's) information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

The school has strong internet filters and safety measures in place to stop children from intentionally or accidentally entering inappropriate sites. These measures may not be the same as the safety measures you have at home. Please be vigilant in monitoring your children's internet and social media usage.

Catholic Schools of Excellence.

Last week our school underwent the Quality Catholic Education Review and Principal Review. I wish to thank all members of our community who were involved. The panel collected data from staff, students, parents and the parish, in order to review the standards of education, pedagogy, community involvement, and my leadership. A detailed report will be finalised and presented to me at a later date. I am very pleased to inform you all that our school was highly praised and commended. Once the finalised report is completed, I will share more details with you all.

REPORTS for 2024 - UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S REPORT

Parents will receive 2 formal academic reports this year:

JUNE – 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 takes into account the curriculum, which has been taught and assessed to that point in time.

DECEMBER – 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. A "C" grade 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 final 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/>

The reporting requirements have changed over the years and are very different from when you were at school. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority's (SCSA) *Judging standards* are a tool to support teachers when reporting against the achievement standards for each year of schooling; when giving assessment feedback; and when explaining the differences between one student's achievement and another's. The achievement standard describes an expected level that the majority of students are achieving or working towards by the end of that year of schooling. Some students will have progressed beyond the achievement standard; others will need additional support. The expected standard for each year is described as 'C' or Satisfactory.

'As reporting student achievement in terms of grades is a broad classification of performance, each grade represents a wide range of student ability. Many students will be given the same grade in semester 1 and semester 2, even though their teachers will have observed growth in learning. Bearing in mind that work in Semester 2 builds on Semester 1, maintaining a grade indicates students have held their own in the face of more advanced material and in this way have grown in their learning'. (Taken from The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA))

Catholic Pastoral Communities

"Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child."

The above words really start me thinking about how important it is that we never forget the fact that childhood is a period of time in a person's life, it is not solely about learning the lessons found in the classroom. Yes, they are very important, no doubt, but so too are the lessons we learn while fishing with Dad, reading with Mum, playing with imaginary friends in the backyard, cooking with Nana or sitting on Pop's shoulders as we walk around the garden. This window of life is a short time only. A small period of time that we each must pass through and once gone we can never get it back. Enjoy your opportunity as parents to have a second look at childhood, that period of time your own children currently enjoy. Let them be children, let them enjoy, let them play and inquire, and find joy in the beauty of the world around them...this may even enkindle in us adults a sense of awe and wonder in God's very own creation.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable.

A reminder as winter progresses, flu, colds, and other afflictions prevail. If children are unwell, they must remain at home. Unwell children simply will not learn and they can also spread their own ailments to others. Please ensure that if your children are unwell, they remain at home.

God bless each and every one of you.



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

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life."

John 3:16

PASTORAL CARE

The Silvestro family welcomed a new baby brother, Anthony, for Leila, Alessia, Paul & Olivia.

Congratulations & welcome to the world, Little One.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



At St Lawrence, we prioritise student well-being. This year and in 2025, the staff are engaging in Professional Learning focused on the Berry Street Educational Model, to enhance their understanding of well-being strategies.

The Berry Street Educational Model provides schools with practical, classroom-based strategies to increase the engagement of all students whilst supporting their self-regulation, relationships, and well-being, leading to improved academic achievement.

We are dedicated to creating a safe and respectful learning environment for all our students. The following initiatives demonstrate our commitment to ensuring the safety of our children remains paramount.

- Student Code of Conduct
- St Lawrence Code of Conduct
- Keeping Safe Program
- Child Safe Framework
- Cyber Safety Awareness

MESSENGER KIDS APP.

We have been made aware of an increasing number of students using inappropriate language on the Messenger Kids App, which is a cause for concern. We kindly ask you to monitor your child's online interactions and remind them of the importance of respectful communication. Together, we can ensure a positive and safe online environment for all our students.

MID YEAR 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 have been sent a 'Welcome Email' to register for a SEQTA Engage Account. Existing families with a current account should check that they can log in prior to Friday 28 June. 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 concerns 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 will expire after one hour of being generated.

CHURCH PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Parents who park on the Junior Oval, please be reminded that you need to exit your vehicle to collect your child. Children are not permitted to walk across the oval without a parent or guardian.

Students who are picked up through the drive-through on the Junior Oval require a designated area where they can sit and wait to be picked up. Please do not park in the area marked by the red cones and flags in the photographs below. This is a safety hazard as children should not be sitting close to moving vehicles. Any parents parked in this area will be asked to move.

There are an increasing number of parents who park near to the flags where the children walk onto the oval. Children will not be allowed to walk across the oval to cars. Please pick up your child from the designated area opposite the Church.

The safety of your children is always our priority.

We thank you for your understanding.



TERM DATES

Term 2 will end on Friday 28 June

Term 3 begins on Monday 15 July and ends Friday 20 September

Term 4 begins on Tuesday 8 October and ends Friday 6 December



STUDENT FREE DAYS

Monday 19 August

Monday 7 October



SACRAMENTS

Term 3 - First Holy Communion – Saturday 24 August at 4pm

Term 4 – Reconciliation – Wednesday 23 October at 6.30pm

*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille
Assistant Principals*

SPORTS NEWS

It is so great to be back from my trip and to get back into sports lessons. The children have been so enthusiastic and have made me feel very special. It has been very uplifting and has confirmed to me how lucky I am to work with the beautiful children and staff at St Lawrence.

WINTER CARNIVAL

It was a huge shame that the Winter Carnival date had to be changed for reasons beyond our control. This has impacted many of our families, but we will go forwards with our slightly depleted teams and I feel confident that our year 5 and 6 students will perform extremely well and make us all proud. The new date is Thursday 18 July at Noranda Sporting Complex.

RUNNING CLUB

Running Club restarted last week and there has been a fantastic turnout despite the chilly, damp mornings. Please remember that it is a good idea to wear alternate shoes and socks for running club and then change into your St Lawrence sports shoes and socks after. Many children spent their day with soggy wet feet on Tuesday. This is not ideal as the weather is getting cooler. Thank you so much to the parents who have joined in or volunteered to help out in the mornings. Your support is greatly appreciated.

CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

Our St Lawrence Cross Country Carnival will also take place next term and then the Interschool Carnival is scheduled to take place at Yokine Reserve on Friday 30 August. So, let's keep up the training and hopefully have some fantastic results next term.

Mrs Claire Major
Physical Education Teacher

2025 FATHERING PROJECT CAMP



The Fathering Project Camp will be held on the weekend of March 14 & 15, 2025. Currently, there are a few spots left. If you are interested in joining in the fun, next year, please call or text Marcello on 0417 514 224 to organise full payment.

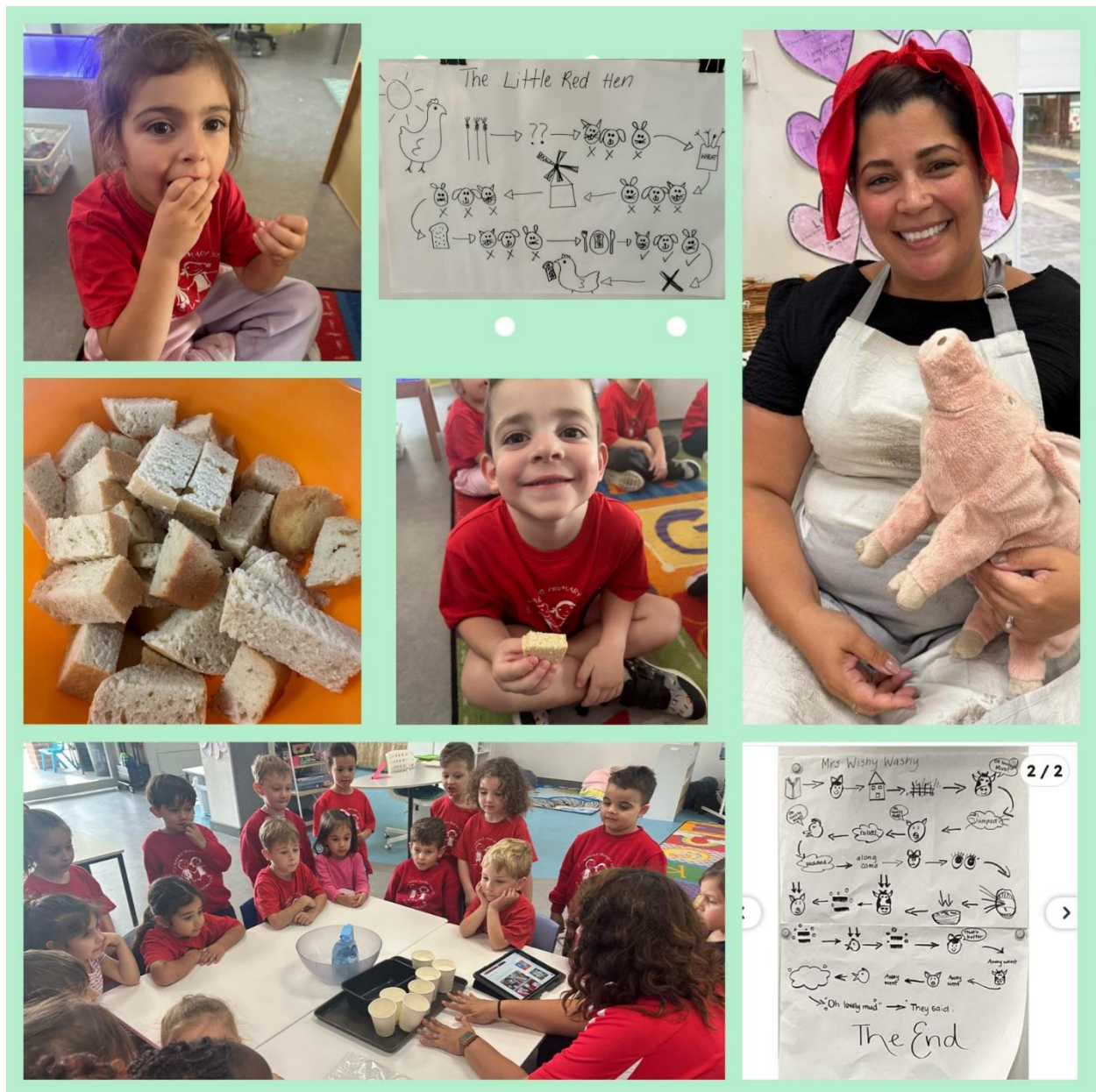
KINDY NEWS

In Kindy we have been imitating and innovating some great stories during our Talk for Writing sessions. We begin our story with a creative hook which engages the students, often with a sense of enjoyment! Then we introduce the story which the children learn through imitation and then innovate by changing the characters and settings in the story.

This term we began with the story Mrs Wishy Washy with Mrs Thompson dressing in character to create interest in the story. We innovated this story and changed it to Mr Splishy Sploshy.

Then we learnt The Little Red Hen with our hook being Mrs Thompson making bread with the children. Afterwards, this story was innovated to The Little Pink Piglet!

The purpose of Talk for Writing is to develop imagination, creativity and oral language skills and the children have embraced the program with enthusiasm and excitement.



*Mrs Tania Preston
Kindy Teacher*

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION**

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UNIFORM SHOP – SUPPLY CHANGES

Commencing Term 3, 2024 our Uniform Shop will no longer operate within the school grounds. The final day of our school shop's trading will be this Thursday 20 June, 2024 which will allow a transition period of changeover.

Our long-standing supplier of School uniforms, **JFE**, will commence as the school's contracted supplier of all school uniforms.

All future orders can now be made **online**, with payment made at the time of placing your order. Orders are to be in by midnight Wednesdays of School Term, with delivery of stock to the school the following day.

Alternatively, you may visit JFE, 1/85 Guthrie Street, Osborne Park, and purchase over the counter at a time to suit you. Their hours of operation are:

Monday – Thursday 8am – 4pm

Friday 8am – 1pm

The JFE website will be open for online orders commencing **8 July, 2024**.

The direct link for orders will be: <https://www.jfe.net.au/orders.html>

Please use our School Code: **4983**

**Final Uniform Shop Opening Hours on Thursday 20 June, 2024:
Thursday 8.00am to 10.00am**

Enquiries: michelle.seragusana@cewa.edu.au

*Mrs Michelle Seragusana
Uniform Shop*

CANTEEN NEWS

LAST DAY OF TERM

End of term special - Friday 28 June:

Sausage Sizzle & Juice \$5

Or

5 piece Sushi and Juice \$7

Varieties - Katsu Chicken, Vegetarian (GF), Teriyaki Chicken (GF), or Tuna (GF)

Please order online via Quickcliq or come and order at the canteen by Wednesday 26 June

Any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Christina and Fran - Canteen Staff



**Last day
of term
28th June**

**5 piece Sushi and
juice \$7**
Katsu Chicken
Teriyaki Chicken
(gluten free)
Cooked Tuna
(gluten free)
Vegetarian
(gluten free)

Or
**Sausage sizzle &
Juice \$5**

**Order via
Quickcliq now
until
Wednesday
26/6**

PIC•COLLAGE

P&F NEWS

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.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Mrs Natasha Raso, P&F President

ASSEMBLY AWARD WINNERS

