



Newsletter No. 20

21 July 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.

Dear Parents and Friends

As our new semester begins, perhaps it is time to think about tending the winter garden in preparation for spring. The following reflection may be helpful...

THE GARDEN OF OUR DAILY LIVING:

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul



PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

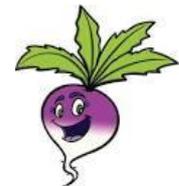


PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another



TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends



WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.

THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN.

BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

As we commence Semester Three it is a great time to review our school's progress working towards achieving our targets set in our School Improvement Plan for 2021. Below I have listed the Smart Goals we set and in red I have indicated our progress with each Smart Goal. Some of these goals flow on from the previous year and others are new to 2021. Smart Goals are a great way to look at targeted outcomes and improvement indicators and to help keep on track the progress towards desired outcomes.

<i>Specific</i> <i>Performance & development goal to be achieved (stated simply)</i>	
<i>Investigate and develop our Christian Service and outreach</i>	<i>We have completed extensive remodelling of our leadership programmes and this has included the investigation of Christian Outreach.</i>
<i>To develop the school Aboriginal Education Plan through engagement with AET and using the AEIM.</i>	<i>We have continued working towards developing the correct documentation and support the professional development in this area.</i>
<i>Complete Vision Statement informed CECWA Strategic Directions</i> <i>Implement Vision For Learning</i>	<i>This has been a significant area of growth and has been undertaken over the last few years. We aim to continue to develop a new cultural understanding linked to our Vision for learning.</i>
<i>Enhance relationships with families to support families in their parenting role</i>	<i>This has been work taken on by Staff, Board and P&F. Unfortunately, COVID has greatly impacted the events side of this goal but we have continued to work on the building of relationships and improved communication strategies.</i>

Working towards achieving our targeted outcomes keeps St Lawrence on a cycle of growth and improvement. Our Leadership Team is centred on maintaining St Lawrence as an outstanding school of choice.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

A “C” grade on a report...what does it mean?... It is important we have a clear understanding of what a “C” grade actually means on a report... receiving a “C” grade and maintaining that grade throughout the year is in fact expected progress. If a child receives a C grade in first semester and then a C grade in second semester then they have maintained expected progress and shown expected growth. Maintaining the C grade therefore is a very good outcome and shows growth from first semester to second semester. If a student has achieved this, we should be very satisfied as they have maintained, grown, enhanced and developed at the expected rates and achievement levels.

Another important matter to note is the growth of a student and not necessarily their attainment. Attainment is what is reflected in the current reporting documentation, e.g. a “C” grade is an attainment...it does not reflect the growth. Reports are a stagnate document and are unable to truly reflect the fluidness of student learning and growth. We focus far too readily on the attained grade and not the growth made by the individual student.

A report card is only one small tool used to give feedback on the learning process. The wealth of knowledge a teacher would harvest on a student’s learning cannot be simply put down on a tick in a box then assigned an arbitrary value. Eg a “C”. Reports serve as a tool to help communicate the learning and attainment of a student, but they are by no means the only reporting tool or the most comprehensive. They form part therein of the feedback on the learning process.

On Monday staff completed a Professional Development Day centred on **“Keeping Children Safe”** and the associated curriculum. The wellbeing and safety of all students is the highest priority for Catholic schools. Catholic Education Western Australia is committed to child safety and leading and supporting a child safe culture for all our schools, care centres and communities. Catholic Education Western Australia encourages and supports every member of our Catholic school communities to make good decisions that always keep the best interests of the child or young person first.

All our schools enact a Code of Conduct that promotes positive work practices and establishes expectations for personal and professional boundaries concerning appropriate and inappropriate behaviour for staff, students, volunteers, parents and guardians, and visitors. There are clear procedures for raising concerns, facilitating discussion, and promoting professional behaviours and healthy relationships.

Our schools meet registration standards and other compliance obligations, including Mandatory Reporting, Codes of Conduct for staff and students, protective behaviours curriculum, training for staff and students, and information for parents and carers.

All children are given opportunities to participate in the curriculum for child safety and all staff are supported to develop their understanding of the curriculum and the school’s responsibilities. Our Codes of Conduct are enacted to support the safety of all our children and community members.

All Teaching Staff are Mandatory Reporters and are legally bound to report any and all suspected child safety concerns and we have stringent procedures we follow in enacting this process.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

As we return to school, I take this opportunity to remind all the importance of sleep.

Sleep

Sleep is the secret weapon of cognitive success. Across a range of activities, involving not just language but mathematics, logic problems and spatial reasoning, sleep has been shown to enhance our brain power. That is why we are told to 'sleep on it' when we have a problem. The solution is often obvious in the morning.

Young people need much more sleep than adults for the health of their bodies and their minds.

Prioritise your sleep and your happy brain will help you get a lot more done, and done well. Ensure your children have an abundance of sleep to organise their minds and you are all but guaranteed a great term ahead.

Acknowledgement: The Organized Mind: Thinking Straight in the Age of Information Overload, a book by neuroscientist Daniel Levitin reported on by Laura Vanderkam.

I strongly encourage all parents to ensure your children have the adequate hours of sleep to support their learning at school. Tired children simply do not learn as well as rested children. Set sleep times, patterns and processes are required. e.g. go to bed at the same time every night, start by brushing teeth, preparing school bag and uniform for the next day. Try to read to your children every night, it really does improve a child's reading if parents read to them at home regularly. Once children are in a pattern it is much easier to follow the routines and attain the correct amount of sleep.

We continue to monitor the developing situation pertaining to COVID-19 and the unfolding events on the East Sea Coast.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

During the school holidays Mr Lu attended to a number of maintenance works around the school.

1. Significant tree pruning and removal of garden waste.
2. Review of orchard and potential redesign of this facility.
3. Replanting of garden beds.
4. Mulching.
5. Cleaning of sand pit in Early Years.
6. Removal of storage items and de-clutterisation of storage facilities under classrooms.

The maintenance and upkeep of the school comes under the functions of the School Advisory Council and I thank the School Advisory Council for their diligent support in maintaining our school. I also sincerely thank Jayden for all his outstanding efforts to ensure St Lawrence looks as good as she always does! Well done Jayden.



God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



Lord, as we commence a new semester, make us ready, attentive and available to hear you. Thank You for the gift of being part of the St Lawrence community. May we meet each day knowing the assurance that You walk through it with us. Thank You for the gifts of creativity and uniqueness, and the energy to put them to good use.



Home Learning Tip

PARISH NEWS

Special Events for St Lawrence Feast Day and 60th Anniversary of Balcatta Parish

This year is a very special one as Balcatta Parish celebrates its 60th anniversary. The following events have been planned in honour of this milestone.

On **Friday 6th August** the *St Lawrence Dinner Dance* will be held in the Alverna hall at **6.30pm** to celebrate both the Feast of St Lawrence and the 60th anniversary of the Parish. Tickets are \$45 per adult (wine and soft drinks included) and are available from the Social Committee:

Marie B 9244 9212, Mary L 9446 9816, Anna D 9345 5271, Nancy B 9349 1020, Maria M 9349 6374, Kath G 9349 5028 and John D 9349 7361.

On **Sunday 8th August** for the *Feast of St Lawrence* there will be a multicultural **Mass at 9.30am** followed by a **Eucharistic Procession** on the streets near the church. This is a great way to demonstrate our faith publicly by walking with the Blessed Sacrament, praying and singing together, finishing with a light **shared lunch at about 11am** in the Alverna hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and bring a plate of some traditional food from your country of origin to share, if you can.

On **Sunday 17th October** for the **60th Anniversary** of the Parish there will be a multicultural **Mass at 10am** followed by a **picnic** for all parishioners.

Please join us for these special events of thanksgiving for the whole parish community.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to Term 3. We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable mid-year break. We have had a smooth start to Term 3, with students settling back quickly into their classroom routines.

BISHOPS' RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENT

At the request of the Western Australian Bishops, our students in Year 3 and Year 5 along with students in Catholic schools across Australia will take part in the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessments this term.

	Practise Test	BRLA Assessment
Year 3	Friday 30th July	Thursday 5th August
Year 5	Wednesday 28th July	Wednesday 4th August

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING

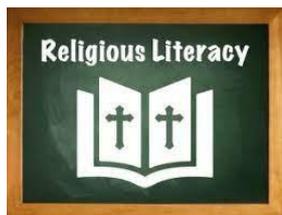
A reminder that the First Eucharist Parent meeting is on Wednesday 28th July in the school hall at 7pm. A representative from each family is required to attend.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS

Will be held on **Saturday 21 August at 4.00pm**. For the children receiving their First Holy Communion, we pray that they will experience the promise of Christ in a unique way. Please see important **EUCHARIST** dates below.

EVENT	DATE	TIME/LOCATION/PRESENTER
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 28 July 2021	7.00pm – School Hall
Family Workshop	Thursday 5 August 2021	5.30pm or 7.00pm – School Hall
Retreat	Wednesday 11 August 2021	8.30am – 3.00pm
First Holy Communion Mass	Saturday 21 August 2021	4.00pm St Lawrence Church Balcatta



THE BISHOPS' RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENT

At the request of the Western Australian Bishops, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 9 students in Catholic schools across Western Australia will take part in The Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment (BRLA) from the week commencing Monday 2 August. The assessment will be accessible to students online. Students enrolled in Year 3, Year 5 and Year 9 who are following a regular classroom program are expected to participate.

The BRLA provides a 'point in time' snapshot of student performance in RE. Students' knowledge and understanding of the content of the RE curriculum is assessed using a combination of multiple choice, short and extended response items. Students' faith is not assessed. The use of the BRLA complements the school-based assessment programs in RE.

ILLNESS

For the benefit of your child, other students and staff at St Lawrence in preventing the spread of illnesses and viruses, if your child is unwell, please do not send your child to school. If you are feeling unwell and have no other options for drop off and pick up, please maintain physical distancing from other parents and staff.

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals

CLASS NEWS

PRE KINDY

We are back! Term 3 promises to be exciting with our first four weeks looking at *Sensational Shapes*. Hopefully, everyone had a terrific two-week break and is ready to come back to some happy times at Pre Kindy. Welcome to Juliana who joins us tomorrow. How very exciting to have a new friend!

Our Parent Meeting about our Take Home Story Books is next Thursday 29th July and will be in the Library at 2pm just prior to pick up. You will receive your child's first book and information to take home.

Let's hope the sunny weather comes back so we can enjoy our outdoor play time.

Mrs Kaylene Bozich, Pre Kindy Teacher

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome back to Term Three! The children were all so excited to share all of the wonderful things they got up to in the holidays. I hope everyone enjoyed the break and feel ready for fun filled term of learning in Kindy!

In religion we are learning about Growing and Changing. We are identifying each child's special gifts and brainstorming ways to care for each other. We are exploring ways of showing love, including people and forgiving as Jesus did. This is great opportunity for discussion at home with your child.

We will begin our focus 'Farms' and this week we are reading big book Up the Haystack by Sally Moss. We will expand on this by focusing on different farm animals and what farms are used for. Next week we will learn about the life cycle of a chicken.

In numeracy we are learning about chance and data and sequencing numbers. We had fun building farm fences by putting the numbers on the pop sticks in order. In literacy we are learning about concepts about print. This means pointing out full stops, exclamation marks, question marks, capital letters and so on. We are learning that when we read words we follow with our eyes from left to right. Pointing to words as you read at home will reinforce this concept. Take Home Story Books went home today, we hope you enjoy sharing the pillow at night with your child and reading together!

I will send information out via Seesaw and email if you were unable to make the meeting today so keep a look out. Have a great week everyone!

We have been absolutely loving using our new farm / farmers market role play area and small world farm 🐱🐶🐷🐔 What a joy it brings on the first day of term three as the children are so excited to see how this area has changed! I've observed lots of rich conversations about how careful we need to be when collecting eggs from the chicken coop, how much money we need for the fresh fruit and vegetables grown on the farm and how tricky driving the tractor is 🚗.... Look out for the animals!

*Mrs Rachel Wake
Kindergarten Teacher*



PRE PRIMARY

Welcome back to Term Three! The children all came back to school with big smiles, it was lovely to see them so happy. This term, our theme is 'Fairy Tales.' We will be engaging in many different stories and demonstrating our learning through oral retells, procedure writing and recount writing.

Next week, we are celebrating 100 days of school on Friday the 30th July. We will be coming to school in our Pyjamas and learning all about the number 100!

Just a reminder that our Home Reading Session is next Tuesday at 8.45am in our classroom. The children begun their home reading journey last term with decodable readers but will be bringing home predictable readers this term as well. This will require new strategies during the reading process which will be explained at the session. It will be great to see you there. They are getting so clever!

I look forward to another wonderful semester with your amazing children. If you would like to help out in the classroom, please put your name on the Parent Roster on our classroom door.

Thank you - many hands make light work!

Mrs Tania Preston, Pre Primary Teacher

YEAR ONE

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing break. It was lovely to see the children again and hear all about their holidays. They have all settled back into our Year One routine beautifully.

This term in Numeracy the children will be learning more about addition and subtraction. We will be learning how to structure a narrative as part of our Talk For Writing unit in Literacy.

In Religion we will explore the Year 1 Unit Prayer and talk about how God's family learn and pray together. We will explore the "Our Father" as a way that God's family show love and respect for God.

Mrs Gloria Edwards, Year One Teacher

YEAR TWO

It is hard to believe the Year Two children are halfway through 2021 already and there's so much more action-packed learning and fun planned for this term!

In Religion we are covering a unit on 'Prayer' to learn that just as people talk to their parents and friends every day, Jesus told his friends to pray to God every day also.

In Health and Digital Technologies, we will learn to keeping safe, even when we are using the internet.

Our Mathematics program will start with basic multiplication and division.

Also included, is our Science program called, 'Watch it Grow' here we will explore how all living things have their own life story, and all species share in the same cycle of growth, change, reproduction, and death.

Not to mention Reading, Writing, Geography, Dance, Sport, Art, Italian, Library Lessons, St Lawrence Feast Day activities, Cross Country and more!

Looking forward to sharing the children's learning journey with you.

Mrs Paula Christensen, Year Two Teacher

YEAR THREE

Welcome back to a very wintery start to Term 3! I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing break over the holidays and the children are ready for this exciting new semester ahead. This semester, Ms Healy will be teaching dance classes on Fridays. Due to these lessons children will be allowed to wear their sports uniform for an extra day this term. In Maths we will continue to focus on multiplication and division and will be working on solving word problems. During our Literacy lessons we are learning to write well-structured informative reports.

On Thursday 5th August the children will be participating in the Bishops Religious Literacy Assessment, this will test the children's understanding of Religious concepts covered throughout their school life.



The Year 3 students will be running a chocolate coin toss stall and a jelly cup stall for the St Lawrence Day Mini-Fete. In preparation for the fete which will be held on Friday 6th August, could the children please bring to school, a 180g block of chocolate (nut free) and a packet of jelly crystals. If you could please send these items to school as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated!

Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Year Three Teacher

YEAR FOUR

Welcome back to Term 3! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. To begin this term, we will be focusing on multiplication and division in Mathematics. We are learning different strategies that we can use to help us learn our times tables and related division facts. In English, we are starting our new Talk for Writing text type looking at narratives. In Religious Education, we will be continuing to learn about the Eucharist in preparation for our First Holy Communion this term. The children will commence their dance classes on Friday.

Children will now be required to wear their sport uniform on Friday's as well as the usual sport days.



First Holy Communion Information:

The First Holy Communion mass will be held on **Saturday 21st August at 4:00pm**. Further information will be provided as soon as possible. Please see below important dates in preparation for the Sacrament:

Wednesday 28th July 7pm - Eucharist Parent Meeting

Thursday 5th August 5:30 or 7pm - Eucharist Family Workshop

Wednesday 11th August (all day) - Eucharist Retreat (children only)

Miss Kayla Fogliani, Year Four Teacher

YEAR FIVE

A very big welcome back to everyone. We are all very thankful to be starting the new term together, especially because we were unable to end it together last term.

This term we welcome Mr Howley to our classroom. Mr Howley is completing his final teaching practise and will be with us all term. The children have quickly settled back into the routine of the classroom and we are already working hard.

In Religion we began working on masks that reflect our families, friends, culture and communities to tell others a little bit more about us. Our Maths focus is on graphing and today we constructed pie charts from data we collected.

This term the children will need to wear their sport uniform on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as they will have a dance lesson on Friday with Ms Healy. A reminder that all children must have headphones with them at school each day. We often complete activities that require their use. Please talk with your child and ensure that they have a set with them at school.

On Thursday the children will take part in Cross Country and next week we will do the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment Practise test before completing the Assessment in Week 3. Have a great week.



Mrs Roselyn Pizzino Year Five Class Teacher

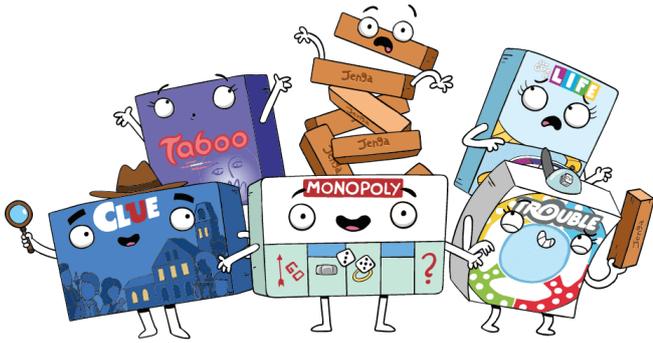
YEAR SIX

We have begun reading *'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'* by C.S. Lewis and will be comparing this with excerpts from the movie, *'Chronicle of Narnia'* as soon as the students have all permission slips returned. Year Six students will be assisting Mrs Major with running the St Lawrence Cross Country on Thursday afternoon. On Tuesday, 27th July we will be visiting WA Parliament House and doing the role play 'Dog Bill' in one of the chambers there.

A parent camp meeting will be held in the hall on 5th August at 2pm. Camp will be from Tuesday 17th August until Friday 20th August. Our thoughts will soon be turning to Confirmation, which will be early in Term Four. You may like to discuss a saint and sponsor for your child as each student will begin a project on their saint when they return from camp.

Mr Phil Haydon, Year Six Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS



Welcome back to Term 3. During the holidays, we purchased new **board games** for the library. These came in very handy this week with all the wet weather we are having.



BOOK CLUB

Issue 5 brochures for the Scholastic Book Club will be sent home this week. Orders can be made online using the LOOP system, or cash may be sent in with orders to the school. Please ensure your child's name and class are clearly marked on the forms returned to school. Orders are due back at school by next **TUESDAY, 27th July**. Orders can take up to three weeks to be returned to the school after this date.

Mrs Jane Stanton, Teacher Librarian

SPORTS NEWS

A big welcome back to everyone for what promises to be a very busy term for sport.

FACTION CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

- This Thursday afternoon we have our Faction Cross Country Carnival at school. This will be followed by the Interschool Cross Country Carnival for selected students at Yokine Reserve on Friday 13th August.
- We then look forward to the St Lawrence Athletics Faction Carnival on Friday 17th September. Lots of practices and training for everyone.
- Watch this space to find out about after school free soccer training sessions facilitated by a grant through Sporting Schools as the term progresses.

There will be **no running club this Thursday** as I want the students to all be fresh for their run in the afternoon but we will be restarting again in week 2 for interested students.

CROSS COUNTRY

Our faction carnival is all about trying to get students to push themselves to achieve their very best. All students are encouraged to give it a go with all participants earning points towards their faction tally regardless of where they finish. Every single point can make a difference as the final scores are often really close, usually separated by just a few points.

The program for Thursday afternoon will be:

Year 2 - 1.30	800m
Year 3 - 1.45	1200m
Year 4 - 2.00	1200m
Year 5 - 2.15	1500m
Year 6 - 2.30	1500m

Students will wear their regular sport uniform for this event but they can wear alternate running shoes that may be more suitable for distance running if they choose. They must all bring their hat and drink bottles.

I always do my best to keep these times but obviously it's not always easy to predict how long the students will take to run. I would never stop a child who is determined to complete the distance. You are welcome to come along and cheer on the students.

Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher

CANTEEN NEWS

WELCOME BACK to Term 3.

- The menu remains the same except the following change:
Thursday- Hot dog no longer available
Add: Arancini - meat & Cheese or plain cheese plus 2 pieces garlic bread \$4.50
- **Birthday orders still available** Cupcakes or M & M Cookies \$20, Brownies, Icy Poles or Honey Joys \$15. please allow ONE day notice and only available on Canteen Days
- **Roster** for the term will be sent out next week, first up for the term is Year 2. Help is needed on Thursday 29/7 or Friday 30/7 between 9-11 am. Please let me know if you are available.

Thank you to Nicole T for her help on the last day. This was very much appreciated.

I can be contacted on 0408834774. *Mrs Christina Russo, St Lawrence School Canteen*