



Newsletter No. 25

17 August 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.

Dear Parents and Friends

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu and commonly known as Mother Teresa of Calcutta, was an Albanian-born Indian Roman Catholic nun. "By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun." I often quote Mother Teresa in the newsletter, and that is simply because her wisdom, which was often reflected in her words, always provides me with great motivation and inspiration to be a better person. I am in awe of how one so humble could work so tirelessly for those among us who most need our service and support.



"The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted."

Mother Teresa often spoke words like those above, the need for us all to be loved and to love. She called for all people to remove the great deficit of love found in our world. But she also clearly articulated that we should start first of all in our own homes and then to our own neighbours to remove the loneliness and to provide the love.

"The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread."

Let each and every one of us strive to remove the loneliness of someone around us, to reach out and provide love to someone in our own community who is longing to know that someone else cares.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

You read a lot about the different parenting styles these days and how they impact strongly upon our children; the helicopter parent, the lawn mower parenting style and laissez-faire style, to name but a few. I'm not sure if there is a totally right way to parenting, but I am certain there are a significant number of things we can do as parents to support and encourage our children, to set them up for success and not failure, to build resilience and independence. I take this quote from an article:

“We have to be willing to let our children struggle and fail and make mistakes without always rushing in to protect them or fix the problem. We also have to be careful not to give the contradictory message that mistakes are OK, except when they count.”

“Why Wrong Is Not Always Bad” by Alina Tugend in Education Week, May 18, 2011

Far too often, I see parents overcompensating for a child’s mistakes, making excuses, or trying to right every wrong a child makes. These efforts are often done with good and caring intentions; however, they can be very unproductive for the child. We must allow our children to make mistakes, to seek to self-correct, to know that making a mistake is not the end of the known world. That we learn from our mistakes and can use them as springboards to greater learning. Children need to be given the opportunities to correct their own problems from time to time, to learn how to self-correct and to learn that it is ok to make mistakes. Give our children a safe environment, a place where mistakes are accepted as part of progress and learning.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

The commencement of Science Week was a successful special event last Friday involving the whole school and staff . The school hall was alive with Glass Inspired Science Activities and an invitation to explore “Glass” in the world around us.



Catholic Pastoral Communities

Our Year Six campers arrived safe and sound...all be it a little wet!
I know they all will enjoy the activities and adventures they get up to while at camp!
Happy Days.



Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

In closing, can I say a huge thank you to everyone for their continued efforts to prepare the children for their learning and your commitment to working hard in our wonderful school.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all to remain focused on learning and sports training. Despite the winter weather and associated colds and flus, most of our students are approaching their nightly reading and homework with a consistent effort and enthusiastic dedication. Congratulations to all our students and keep up the good work!

This quote is attributed to Socrates who was born C 470BC Died 399BC.

Thus, making his observations of the younger generation a very long time ago indeed. I cannot help but wonder if we would say similar things about today's young people.....So what has changed really?

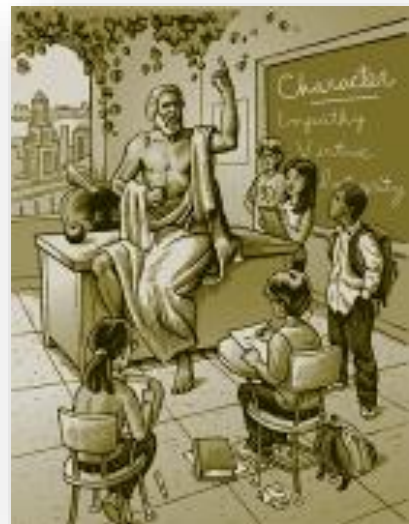
“The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers.”

Attributed to Socrates Born C 470BC Died 399BC.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE



We pray for all families, children and staff taking part in the School Camp for 2022. May they remain safe and joyous under the mantle of Our Lady.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



EUCCHARIST

May we continue to keep our Year 4 students in our prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the very first time on Saturday at 4pm. Thank you to Ms Kathleen Tranquille and Mrs Claire Major, for preparing the students so beautifully. We also appreciate the efforts of the additional staff members who have assisted Kathleen and Claire to make this a special occasion for the Year 4 students.

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

If you have not collected the free RAT tests, issued by the WA Government, please collect them from your child's classrooms. Please note that due to Department of Health guidelines, RATs cannot be given to students to take home. These RATs are the nasal swap variety and will support our students to continue to attend school and minimise disruption of their learning. You will be able to use the tests to test your child at home if they are feeling unwell or if they are a close contact and need to test daily.

Please continue to register your child's COVID-19 results via the CEWA Self-Reporting portal, located on the St Lawrence Primary School website and register any positive COVID-19 RAT results on the WA Health RAT Register, as is required by the WA Government.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our school Code of Conduct defines behaviours that keep our students safe at school, and elsewhere. It communicates a set of minimum standards and obligations to ensure that students are at the centre of our school and community decisions and operations. Children and young people supported by adult and peer behaviours as outlined in the Code are more likely to recognise and choose healthy relationships for themselves. For staff, the Code of Conduct is a lawful direction and for community members, compliance is a condition of school entry.



An Information sheet has been emailed to parents today about a survey that will assist our school to make informed decisions about how we can improve our school. All parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to complete the survey by following the directions on the information sheet. These surveys provide parents with an opportunity to feedback how things are going for them and their children at St Lawrence Primary School.

The school values parent feedback and will try to respond to the information that is provided through the surveys.

Please note the following:

- The Survey is completely anonymous. The feedback from the surveys does not include the data of individuals rather, feedback involves a graph based on feedback from all parents.
- There are no right or wrong answers to the questions asked.
- The response format for each question requires parents to consider how often each statement takes place in terms of: Almost Rarely, Sometimes, Often and Almost Always.

Students and staff at St Lawrence will also complete surveys and the Leadership Team and staff will look closely at all the data from the surveys and use this information to drive continuous school improvement.

NUMERACY PARENT MEETING – Thursday 1 September 2022

Parents, please check your child's bag for a flyer that has been sent home today with the eldest child. Please fill in the RSVP slip and return to the school by 25 August 2022.

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan and Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals

Home Learning Tip

Play is a way children can express their feelings even before they have the words to say how they feel.

In play children are in charge of what they do. Being in control in play helps them to learn to manage their feelings.

When children make or build things in their play, they are building skills and confidence in themselves.

In play children learn about the give and take of relationships with their friends. They learn to lead and follow and to care for others.

- Play helps children to think about what they want to do, to plan and to be patient.
- Through play children learn how to mend mistakes and to feel better after things go wrong.
- Indoor and outdoor play helps to reduce children's stress.
- Play is a way children make sense of their world and practise for their future of being mummies, daddies and workers.
- Play is for imagination and creativity. In play you can enjoy magical worlds of joy.
- Play is something children can own in a world where most things are organised by adults.
- Play is a time when adults and children can have fun together.
- Play is for pleasure. You play what you enjoy and you stop when you want to.

Children learn and develop their social and emotional skills though playing on their own, with other children and with adults. During wellness week why not spend some time in "play": with your children.

Congratulations to the Merit Award Winners



LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK WEEK

Book Week officially commences next week, although we have started celebrating early with students in Year 5 commencing the Lego Build in a Bag Competition today. Book Week is a time when we celebrate books and it brings children and books together.

There will be many activities on offer for our students next week:

- Tuesday:** - Lego Build in Bag
(Lego Books are some of our most popular in the library)
- Wednesday:** - Perform Ed will be coming in to perform a series of little skits taken from four of this year's short-listed books to students in PP-Year 6
- Chess Club
- Thursday:** - Continuous colouring in, reflecting that we are one big community made up of many different characters

Students from PP-Year 6 have been given the opportunity in the lead up to Book Week, to 'Guess How Many Rainbow Snakes are in the Jar'. The winner will be announced at line up on Friday 26th August.

Students in Kindy have also been given the opportunity to 'Pick the number of Rainbow Snakes in a Jar'. The Kindy winner will be announced during their library lesson next week.

Pre-Kindies will be joining us in the library on Thursday for a special storytelling and craft session.

We are excited for the rest of the activities to begin!



*Mrs Louise Frenzel
Library Officer*

SCIENCE WEEK

Last Friday we brought Science Week in with a bang! Celebrating National Science Week for the first time in our community, it seemed fitting to introduce the theme “Glass: More Than Meets The Eye” with a Staff v Students STEM Challenge.

Gathering in the hall after lunch, participating Staff teams, and Student teams from Years 5 and 6 were surprised by only two materials – marshmallows and pasta. With the whole school surrounding them in cheer and support, teams had 10 minutes to create the tallest free-standing pasta tower. Teams were encouraged to use their STEM minds – Science, considering the properties of the materials, the fragility of the pasta (like glass) and the texture of the marshmallows (acting like an adhesive). Technology, the problem solving, and teamwork involved to consider the design of the tower for strength and stability. Engineering, the calculations and planning involved to support the building process. And Making, the practical component of the challenge, working as a team to put the pieces together.

All participating teams embodied our school’s core values of Courage and Unity, working collaboratively within their team and having the inner strength to give the challenge their best go.

The hall came to life in a buzz of support and cheers of encouragement from students in Kindy right through to non-participating Years 5 and 6 students. Demonstrating our other core value, Joy, the whole school exemplified what it means to celebrate the good news in ourselves and others. The focus and determination of all teams to complete the challenge, inspiring. For an inaugural event that will open Science Week in our Primary School for years to come, it wasn’t meant to be for the staff, with students taking out the top 3 spots – the tallest tower standing at 61cm high.

Science Classes over the next couple of weeks are jam-packed with all things ‘Glass’, from our Early Childhood students observing different materials through a magnifying glass, to our Upper Primary, bending and playing with the elements of ‘Light’ using torches and mirrors.

Mrs Stephanie Freeman, Specialist Science Teacher



Music with Mrs Freeman



CROSS COUNTRY

CONGRATULATIONS to all students who participated in the St Lawrence Cross Country last Thursday. Everybody pushed themselves to give their very best and the results ended up being really close.

WELL DONE to all the students and particularly to the **Red Faction** who took out the trophy this year.

RUNNING CLUB has restarted with fantastic attendance on the first day. Let's commit to training now in preparation for Inter- School Cross Country Carnival to be held on 2nd September.

Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher



UNIFORM SHOP NEWS



The Uniform Shop will be CLOSED on Wednesday 24 August. The Uniform Shop will OPEN on Thursday 25 August from 8.30am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours
Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm
Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

P&F NEWS



FATHER'S DAY STALL

We are looking forward to our Father's Day Stall on **Friday 26 August**. Presents will range from \$1 to \$5.

BUNNINGS BBQ FUNDRAISER – Saturday 8 October

As it is a whole day event, we would appreciate helpers on the day.

Volunteers needed:

Four parent helpers are needed from each class for 1½ hours. We know that time is precious so any offer of help would be greatly appreciated to help make this a community event a success.

Class Reps have been emailed all the information. If you can help, please advise your Class Rep who will allocate a suitable time slot for you.

Donations of drinks to be sold on the day would also be welcome. Donations can be left at the school office. Drinks can include: Cans: Coke Zero, Sunkist/Fanta, Pasito

I thank all those family and friends for your support. Please contact me on 0422 043 716 if you require further information regarding our coming events. Thank you in advance.

Natasha Raso, P&F President and Executive