



## Newsletter No. 13

10 May 2023

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.

### *A Prayer for Mothers*

*Lord, as Mary was the model of prayer,  
love and obedience to the will of God,  
by your grace make mothers holy and rich with your gifts.  
Bind families together in the bonds of peace and safety  
so that mothers will feel nurtured by love.  
May all mothers enjoy good health and spiritual well-being  
to enable them to care for their families.*

*Amen*



*I take this opportunity to wish all our  
mothers, grandmothers  
a wonderful and love filled Mother's Day.*

## Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

Research clearly supports the reality that one of the key, if not the most influential condition impacting on student achievement at school, is **“Their home life”**. Home life is a hugely significant factor on the success a child will experience at school. Such considerations as e.g., bedtimes, quality of sleep, parenting habits and practices, relationships, discipline, quality time spent with children, diet, hygiene practices, and cleanliness. A school has very limited influence on practices found with in the home life of children.

Having said that nine key elements are identified for maximising whole school improvement and thus improving opportunities for student engagement and learning.

These factors that the school has control over include:

1. **An explicit improvement agenda**
2. **Analysis and discussion of data**
3. **A culture that promotes learning**
4. **Targeted use of school resources**
5. **An expert teaching team**
6. **Systematic curriculum delivery**
7. **Differentiated teaching and learning**
8. **Effective pedagogical practices**
9. **School-community partnerships**

As Principal it is my challenge to work with staff, students, and community within these nine areas and develop an explicit plan for improvement. As noted, the school cannot address the significant contributing factors found within the home, but we can endeavour to offer support and information and focus on the elements we have control over to enhance these to best support the opportunities for children to learn.



*Our Early Years  
'quiet time'  
&  
'happy day'*



## Catholic Schools of Excellence

Our Pre-Kindy Program is second to none!! When I visit them on a Thursday and see the children creating, making and manipulating materials which lay foundations for future learning, I can see firsthand what an exceptional facility and experience we provide for these little children. When you have such well qualified and dedicated staff, who work as a team, empowered by Christian beliefs you just know the children are getting the best start to their schooling possible. As I walk through their class, I am always in awe of the learning they do. It reminds me of the lovely verse from a beautiful song.

**“I hear babies cry..... I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more.....than I'll never know  
And I think to myself .....what a wonderful  
world.”**

I personally never went to Pre-Kindy, Kind or Pre-Primary to think of that matter. But if I did, I would sure want it to be ours! Well done to Mrs Caruso and Mrs Seragusana.

## What is Prime?

Prime is the wonder product of a couple of very successful YouTubers - Logan Paul and KSI - who have launched a highly coveted, caffeine-rich energy drink, as well as a non-caffeinated variety promoted as a hydrating sports drink.

It is the energy variety of Prime that has propelled it into cult status with teens and even pre-teens desperate to try for themselves the latest hot thing in energy drinks. With 200mg of caffeine, or that in a double shot of espresso, Prime Energy is certainly a concentrated source of the stimulant caffeine, and as such has been deemed unsafe for anyone under the age of 18.



## Why is Prime Energy a concern?

Young children simply can not tolerate such high levels of caffeine, they may be able to endure caffeine consumed via cola drinks, coffee, tea, and even chocolate, the issue with children and teens consuming such high concentrations in relatively small volumes of liquid is that high doses of caffeine can result in an irregular heartbeat.

This is of particular concern for younger consumers of energy drinks, as it is not uncommon for children to follow a 'more is better' approach with such drinks. In caffeine terms, this can equate to several hundred milligrams of caffeine being consumed in relatively short periods of time. In extreme scenarios, for a child who may have a yet-to-be-diagnosed underlying heart condition, such high amounts of caffeine can be fatal and there have sadly been a small number of teen deaths associated with abnormal high caffeine intakes courtesy of energy drinks.

Prime is not permitted at school and this included using the bottle for water or other fluids. I thank you all for understanding my concern and supporting this decision.

## School Curriculum and Standards Authority

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is responsible for Kindergarten to Year 12 curriculum, assessment, standards and reporting for all Western Australian schools

**The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority)** requires all schools to implement the **Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline (the Outline)** which can be located at [www.scsa.wa.edu.au](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au) to meet the learning needs of all students.

The Outline is informed by Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and the Australian Curriculum. The Outline includes Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines, but these are not mandated because Kindergarten is a non-compulsory year of schooling.

The Outline sets out the mandated knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes that Pre-primary to Year 10 students are expected to acquire in the eight learning areas identified in the Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration (2019), Principles of Learning, Teaching and Assessment, expected standards of achievement, and requirements for reporting on student achievement.

Schools are required to provide plain language reports to parents/carers at the end of each semester. The reports need to provide an accurate and objective assessment of the student's progress and achievement and include an assessment of the student's achievement in terms of the Western Australian achievement standards.

To meet the Pre-primary (PP) to Year 10 policy requirements, written reports should include: • report on achievement in all areas taught (PP minimum reporting requirements are Religious Education, English and Mathematics. • a teacher assessment of the student's attitude, behaviour and effort; • a description of the student's progress in personal and social learning (mandated for PP–Year 2; however, schools are encouraged to continue this up until Year 6); and • any additional information the school considers relevant, including an overall teacher comment.

**The achievement standards describe the expected achievement for students who have been taught the curriculum content for the full year of schooling. Therefore, for the Semester 1/Mid-Year reports, teachers make a professional judgement in relation to the year level Achievement Standard to that point in time.** The Semester Two (End of Year report) must reflect achievement of the year long Achievement Standards in each learning area/subject.

Religious Education: Reporting in Religious Education requires that each student from PP to Year 10 be graded against a five-point scale, as per other learning areas. Five Point Scale: • In the PP year, schools must report using achievement descriptors but without letter grades. The achievement descriptors must align with the achievement descriptors described in the Pre-Primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting Policy. • In Years 1 and 2, schools must report using letter grades (A-E) or achievement descriptors. • In Years 3 to 10, schools must report using letter grades (A-E).

These policies are mandated by the governing body for Schools “The School Curriculum and Standards Authority” and ratified under the *School Education Act 1999* and subsequent updates to this Act, including but not limited to the following Legislation and other regulatory frameworks: Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth), Australian Education Regulation 2013 (section 59) (Cth), Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth), Disability Standards for Education 2005, Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA), National Education Agreement Public Sector Management Act 1994 (WA), School Curriculum and Standards Authority Act 1997 (WA), School Education Act 1999 (WA), School Education Act Employees’ (Teachers and Administrators) General Agreement 2014.

## Catholic Pastoral Communities

The month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. During this month, we offer up to Our Lady special prayers and loving homage.

Throughout the month of May at school, all classes daily will be continuing with their Marian devotional prayers. On Fridays after lunch the whole school will gather for the Rosary or Angelus prayer. We encourage all families to do the same at home.

We ask Mary, our Mother, to help us pray with a humble heart.



## Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

We are currently finalising our Kindy and Pre-Kindy enrolments for 2024. 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.

St. Teresa of Avila penned this lovely prayer and I often reflect upon the words. It is true that with God all things are possible, so we must never forget the presence of the Divine in our lives. The words remind us to use our gifts and to pass on the love that we have been given to those we meet. Not a bad maxim for life.

May today there be peace within.  
May you trust God that you are exactly where you  
are meant to be.  
May you not forget the infinite  
possibilities that are born of faith.  
May you use those gifts that you have received,  
and pass on the love that has been given to you.  
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.  
Let this presence settle into your bones,  
and allow your soul the freedom to sing,  
dance, praise and love.  
It is there for each and every one of us.



God bless each and every one of you.



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



*Almighty God, we give you thanks for Charles your servant and our King,  
for his devotion to his family, nation and Commonwealth and to the Earth,  
our fragile home.*

*Bless and protect Charles in all the years to come,  
grant him long to reign over us and give him gifts of wisdom and  
discernment as together we face the opportunities and challenges of our age.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

# FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

## MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

We look forward to celebrating the special ladies in our lives on Friday morning. Following the P&F Breakfast you are invited into the classrooms from 8.15am to spend time with your children before heading to the school hall at the 8.40am bell for a Liturgy presented by the students.

*We wish all our Mums a happy Mother's Day and hope they enjoy their special day on Sunday.*



## 2023 REPORTS

Parents will receive two formal academic reports this year, a mid-year report which will be available on Thursday 29 June and an End of Year Report in December. Please find information below that explains each Semester report.

### 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 is taking 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 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/>**

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 Thursday 29 June. Most families should have access to electronic reports via SEQTA at <https://stlawbal.coneqt-p.cathednet.wa.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 prior to Thursday 29 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 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 that the password will expire after one hour of being generated.

### **ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

The Ascension is the event, where Jesus arose into heaven, at the end of his time on earth. On the third day after his death and burial, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, an event we call the Resurrection. He spent the next 40 days preaching and preparing His disciples to perform the work of preaching and baptising all people. At the end of this 40-day period, Jesus ascended into heaven. We will celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven on Thursday 18 May at a whole school mass at 9am. Parents are welcome to join us for this special celebration.

### **MONTH OF MAY**

During the month of May we dedicate our prayers to Our Spiritual Mother Mary. Each year level has been taking turns leading the school in a decade of the Rosary on Friday afternoons at line-up. We will continue doing this every Friday throughout the month of May.



*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals*

# UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

## NETBALL UNIFORM

Netball dresses are to be worn on game days for Junior & Net Set Go competition.

Netball jackets are available for purchase from the Uniform Shop and are to be worn during netball game days.

Please note that Year 6 Leavers Jackets and School Navy Track Jackets are NOT PERMITTED to be worn on Netball Game Days.

## SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

CLEARANCE on SECOND HAND uniforms are available for purchase.

Please note that there will be NO exchanges or refunds.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for all enquires or to place a Uniform order, please EMAIL me on [Angie.Miola@cewa.edu.au](mailto:Angie.Miola@cewa.edu.au).

### Uniform Shop Opening Hours:

Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am & Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

*Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager*

# CANTEEN NEWS

**THANK YOU** to those who have put their name down to help in the canteen this term.

**Volunteers** are still required for the following dates:

Thursday 18th May Year 4

Thursday 25th May Year 3

Thursday 15th June Year PP

Thursday 22nd June Year 6

Thursday 29th June - all years. As this is last day of term, **three** helpers would be required.

**BIRTHDAY ORDERS** - We ask that you please pre order **one** day prior; icy poles **two** days prior


- Brownies or Icy poles \$15
- Cupcakes or M & M Cookies \$20

We are still having **supply issues**; hot dogs were not delivered today. Therefore, this week there will be BBQ sausage in a bun for \$4, in place of hot dogs. We thank you for your understanding.

Thank you for your support. We really appreciate your help.

*Christina and Fran, 2023 Canteen Staff*





join us for a

# A Mothers Day Celebration

Breakfast with our mini's  
followed by a classroom visit  
and a whole school celebration  
in the Hall

There will also be coffee and  
raffle tickets available for purchase  
on the day

Friday 12th May at 7.30am  
RSVP on link provided by 5th May

We look forward to seeing all  
Mum's, Grandma's  
and carer's

 Greetings  
ISLAND