



Newsletter No. 26

18 October 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.



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-centred Leaders.

I wish to acknowledge both Kathleen Tranquille and Kaylene Bozich who both received a highly commendable citation on the milestone of 30 and 40 years respectively for their dedicated and highly accomplished service to Catholic Education in Western Australia. We are incredibly blessed here at St Lawrence to have staff of such a high calibre and who have made a lifelong commitment to providing an outstanding Catholic Education for their charges.

As many of you would be aware, fewer young people are going into teaching, a phenomenon not just curtailed to Australia but worldwide. The demands on teachers are incredible and their workloads ever increasing. This means many young people are thinking twice about pursuing a vocation in education. So how blessed are we to have staff who are so talented and committed to their vocational calling in Catholic Education. I wish to extend my personal gratitude to both Kathleen and Kaylene for their services, support and dedication. May God's blessings to them and their families be many.

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 the below 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 21 November 2023 commencing at 7pm.**

We are currently working on the 2024 School Budget, finances, staffing, forward planning and the 2024 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, as well.

We also have some vacancies on our School Advisory Council, if you are interested in joining our other parents, please forward an expression of interest by email to admin@stlawbal.wa.edu.au.

Catholic Pastoral Communities.

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. 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.

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

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING IN 2024

Student positions at St Lawrence are highly sought after in the community. If you are not returning to St Lawrence in 2024, please notify the office as soon as possible. This allows us the opportunity to offer positions to families on our wait lists.

God's blessings to you all



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

“Popcorn is prepared in the same pot, in the same heat, in the same oil, and yet, the kernels do not pop at the same time. Don't compare your child to other children. Their turn to pop is coming.”

Unknown



PASTORAL CARE

During October, our prayers are 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.



Deepest sympathies and condolences to Mrs Bozich on the passing of her beloved father.

Eternal rest grant unto Him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon Him. May His soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

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 source.
- 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.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



Traditionally the Church each month has a special devotional focus. May and October are thought of as Marian months, where we spend extra time in prayer and strengthening our relationship with Jesus through Our Lady. We are blessed in many ways here at St Lawrence. One such blessing is the Church bell that chimes daily at 12:00 noon. This bell reminds us to stop and ponder the love and devotion Mary had towards her most cherished Son, Jesus. This is a great opportunity for us all to spend a few moments in prayer, to stop, retreat from the hustle and bustle of the world and be at peace.

The Hail Mary is the most familiar of all the prayers used by the Catholic Church, in honour of our Blessed Lady. When we think of Mary, it would be easy to think of her as some divine being that was able to become perfect through some mystical gift, however, it is in understanding her as a human being with human limitations, that we truly recognise the power of her belief and faith in God. It is in her faith that she is blessed and holy and through such faith and humility, she became the perfect instrument of God's will and was the obedient and willing servant of God.



ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY

Aid to the Church in Need invite us all to join the prayer campaign; One Million Children Praying the Rosary. Families, parishes, catechists and teachers are invited to pray together with children for peace and unity in the world on Wednesday 18th October. Our school took part in this wonderful initiative today in the Church. All the children and staff at the school joined together to say the rosary. Thank you to Mr Haydon for organising this special event and to our wonderful Year 6 leaders for leading the school in prayer. To learn more about this initiative please visit www.aidtochurch.org/one-million-children.

TERM FOUR PLANNER

The Term Four Planner is available to view on the school website. Please take the time to diarise the dates applicable for your children. As calendar dates can be subject to change, please confirm events by checking the online calendar at - www.stlawbal.wa.edu.au/community/calendar

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

We Celebrate Outdoor Classroom Day on Friday. Thank you to our leading teachers and our Year 5 and 6 students for organising the events on this day. Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to encourage schools to make the outdoors part of every child's day.



UNIFORMS

A reminder to parents and students that in Term 4 all students should be wearing the full summer uniform. We encourage all our students to wear their uniform with pride. Please ensure that your child has an appropriate hair style, and that jewellery and hair accessories are in line with school guidelines. Information regarding Uniform requirements are on our school website.

REPORTS

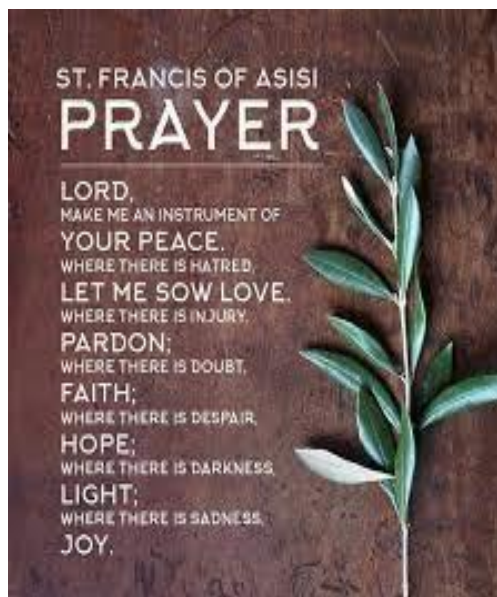
Semester two reports for students in Pre-Primary to Year Six will be available on SEQTA on Friday 8 December. Families should have access to the electronic reports via SEQTA at <https://stlawbal.engage.cewa.edu.au/> Prior to the reports being electronically distributed, please ensure that you are able 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.

PICK UP PROCEDURES

Thank you to families for adhering to the correct procedures at Pick-Up last week. A gentle reminder that adults parking on the Junior Oval and in the carpark need to exit their car and walk to pick up their child/children. If you are using our drive through systems, please ensure you always remain in your cars when dropping off and picking up your children. This assists us with the smooth flow of traffic.



*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille
Assistant Principals*

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY



On Friday 20 October, St Lawrence Primary School will be celebrating Outdoor Classroom Day. Each class will participate in a range of activities, throughout the day. In the afternoon, we will celebrate as a school community, by walking down to Grindleford Reserve and eating lunch together before spending time playing outside.

Students will wear their sport uniform on this day and will need to bring their lunch, water bottle and hat with them in a small backpack. All students **MUST** have a hat and will be responsible for carrying their own bags. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Lunch orders may still be purchased from the canteen on this day. Thank you for your support.

2023 YEARBOOK

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, the status for the 2023 Yearbook was under review. Due to an overwhelming response by parents and students, we are happy to report that the 2023 Yearbook will again be in publication.

Some changes have been implemented with the main one being that the 2023 Yearbook will be distributed in February 2024 when we return to school. This decision has been made to capture all events in 2023 including Graduation, Christmas Concert, Nativities, School Disco and End of Year excursions, to name a few.

Our Year 6, 2023 cohort will be able to collect their copy of the 2023 Yearbook once it has been delivered. We will be in touch, early in 2024, to let you know when to collect this very important memento of your final year at St Lawrence.

SPORTS NEWS

MORNING ATHLETICS TRAINING

Students in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to come along and train for the Interschool Athletics Carnival on a Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8.30am. There will be no team games, just individual events.

TEE BALL COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Yr 6 boys who represented St Lawrence in the baseball carnival today. It was the first time we had used the pitching machine but the boys did amazingly to be beaten by just one run in the grand final. A huge thankyou to Amanda Murabito who gave up her whole day to coach alongside Daniel (the captain). So proud of them all, they were fine ambassadors for our school !



*Mrs Claire Major
Physical Education Teacher*

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

GIRLS SKORTS

Girls Red SKORTS are discontinued and are no longer available to purchase. They have been replaced with the Red Microfibre Sport Shorts. Skorts may be worn for the rest of this year, however, commencing Term 1, 2024, it will be compulsory for all girls to wear red Microfibre sport shorts. Skorts are not allowed to be worn in 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on angie.miola@cewa.edu.au for any uniform enquiries. Order forms are available on the school's website and from the school office.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours:
Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am & Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Mrs Angie Miola
Uniform Shop Manager

CANTEEN NEWS

WELCOME TO TERM 4



The menu has changed!! Please see the school website for the current prices.

QUICKCLIQ

Quickcliq is now up and running. You can order online for your Canteen menu items as well as ordering birthday treats for the class. If you need to amend your order, just look for the + sign to find further options. For Example, when ordering a Sandwich – Chicken & salad, once you click on the + sign you can choose a Roll or Wrap. Any problems or issues, please do not hesitate to contact us.

SPECIAL EVENT ORDERS

On Wednesday 8 November (Week 5) we have a Special on - Chicken Cutlet Roll (lettuce and Mayo) with a juice box for \$7.00 (if you don't want lettuce or Mayo just specify in the instructions). This can be preordered online by changing the date to 8/11/23 and ordering for the Special Event. Alternatively, you can order in person at the canteen. Please have all orders in by Friday 3 November

Outdoor classroom day - this Friday 20 October - children can still order from the canteen. If anyone would like to purchase ice creams or drinks on this day, please ensure you preorder it.

HELP REQUIRED

If anyone can help in the canteen this term, please let us know, especially looking for helpers on Wednesday 8 November.

Thank you for your continued support.

Christina and Fran - Canteen Staff

P&F NEWS

CAN YOU HELP!



The P&F are holding a fundraising sausage sizzle at Bunnings Balcatta on 21 October. We are in desperate need of helpers. Please contact Laura Siciliano to nominate your time (only 1.5 hours on the day). Please click on the link below and add your name to the roster. Many hands make light work.

[P&F Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Sign Up Sheet](#)

We are also in need of donations of soft drink cans and water bottles to sell on the day. If you would like to donate a carton of soft drink or water bottles, please bring them to Lina at the front office.

TEA TOWEL FUNDRAISER

The P&F have organised a whole school tea towel fundraiser. A link will be sent out through the class reps for ordering purposes as well as at the bottom of this newsletter.

Please have responses back by Friday 27 October. Please respond "Opt Out" if you do not want a tea towel.



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Mrs Natasha Raso, P&F President