



Newsletter No. 23

23 August 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.

My prayer this week is quite simply a reflection on the words of one far greater than I



Anne Frank

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

Amen

Inspiring Christ-Centred Leaders.

Recently I read an article pertaining to home/family/school partnerships and how to improve the educational experiences of our students. The author was discussing the characteristics of children who achieve well at school and one common thread was that they all seemed to have supportive parents. So, what characteristic do supportive parents have?

“When I felt my son was not doing his best at school, I drew on my experience of these terrific parents to rethink what we could do as a family to support him. I realised I was inspired by these parents, and this is what struck me:

- ✓ *They saw education as a partnership between school, home and their child. Everyone was equally responsible.*
- ✓ *They made it clear that education was a wonderful opportunity to be seized by the student.*
- ✓ *They believed that effort, self-discipline, listening and respect are key features of a receptive mind.*
- ✓ *They trusted and supported teachers and acknowledged their professionalism and expertise and sought their counsel.*
- ✓ *They displayed realistic expectations of their children's strengths and weaknesses and supported and resourced those.*
- ✓ *They focused on self-improvement in their child, not comparative worth in relation to others.*
- ✓ *They worked with their children supportively to ensure homework was completed, that their children were organised, well-rested and ready for learning.*
- ✓ *They addressed significant issues at school as respectful advocates for their children.*
- ✓ *They contributed to the school community through classroom support programs, by participating in festivals, creative pursuits, fetes, sporting teams and working bees."*



(Taken from Scribe Education Magazine)

Supportive parents create better chances for students to achieve. We can see from the above that students' parents who worked with the school in conjunction with the teachers, and who valued education and respected the expertise and professionalism of the staff, had a significant impact on the successful education of their children. If we all work together then we are all more likely to be moving positively in the right direction with improved achievement and happier children, parents, and staff.

Catholic Schools of Excellence.

Before posting anything online, people should ask themselves the following questions:

- Do I have the right to share this?
- Is this the right thing to do?
- Am I willing to take responsibility if this post goes viral or is shared without my permission?
- Will I regret this tomorrow when I'm not angry or upset?
- Is the risk worth the reward of 15 minutes of fame or shame?
- Am I ready for the social, emotional, verbal or legal battle that may ensue?

The above serves as a gentle reminder for us all to be mindful of what we post online. This includes Facebook and other forms of social media. I am aware the temptation to place frustrations online, to put them out into the digital world can be a strong one. I am aware sometime venting our concerns may even make us feel better. However, it doesn't make it right, it does not make it the correct platform and it is not good modelling for our children. In fact, it is simply wrong. It can never be justified as appropriate. If you have a concern or question or matter, you want addressing, please go

directly to the teachers. The school affords all people this same dignity and I do not believe it inappropriate to expect anything less in return. A sincere thank you to all community members who genuinely follow the appropriate protocols. It is greatly appreciated.

Catholic Pastoral Communities.

This Sunday we celebrate our Year Four Children's First Holy Communion. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all the staff who have supported our Year Four's. It is a wonderful time in the lives of our students as they come for the first time to receive Jesus fully in communion. I ask all members of our community to keep our communicants in your prayers.

A reminder: Our teachers work hard and spend a lot of time out of hours preparing for lessons, marking, moderating, and programming. As you can imagine at any given time numerous emails are sent to our teachers requiring a response. If the matter is not urgent, then I believe a 72 hour turn around is reasonable to expect, given the exceptional workloads placed upon our teachers. I also believe that it is not appropriate to expect a reply outside of working hours e.g., after 5:00pm and before 8:00am or over the weekends and holidays periods. Our staff have the right to their own down time and time with their families and to maintain strong mental health and rest and recuperation is required. Thank you for understanding this matter, and I feel sure you totally understand the importance of respecting our staff's out of hours' time.

I have a great job! I work with a team of outstanding professionals who are deep thinkers and really strive to enhance the educational experiences of our children. I don't know how many people truly love their jobs, but I know I do mine. Yes, there are days when I ask myself, "Why me?" but they are few and they are needed, to help me appreciate the days when I am in awe of how the Lord has blessed me to be here at St Lawrence. Every day the children remind me of the true joys of life. To see the world from a child's view, often helps an adult to greater appreciate the real joys this world has to offer. The way children see the world, the clouds that move in the sky, or the invisible wind that moves the trees, colours found in flowers or the tadpoles that swim in the ponds. The child sees these as gifts, appreciates their beauty, and inquires as to why they exist. It is this child like innocence that we as adults often seem to lack. From time to time, we all need to get in touch with our inner child and reflect on the beauty that surrounds us and allow our minds to marvel in awe of all that is good.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable.

A reminder that children in Pre-Kindy, Kindy and Pre-Primary must be accompanied by an adult when dropped off and picked up. Older siblings are not permitted to stand in for the adult. This is a safety concern and I ask all parents and guardians to abide by this requirement.

A big thank you to all who have paid their school fees for 2023 or are in the process of finalising their payments. If you are having difficulties in finalising your accounts, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs Alica Mayo, our Finance Officer. We are here to support where we can.



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

PASTORAL CARE

We pray for our Boys and Girls in Year Four who have been preparing for their First Holy Communion. May their celebration of the Sacrament bring them ever closer to Our Lord.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

CROSS COUNTRY

The re-scheduled Faction Cross Country will be held tomorrow, Thursday 24 August. There will be no running club on this day due to cross country. Inter-school Cross Country will be held on Friday 1 September.

YEAR	DISTANCE	RACE
2 Boys	1000m	1.25pm
2 Girls	1000m	1.30pm
3 Boys	1200m	1.35pm
3 Girls	1200m	1.45pm
4 Boys	1200m	1.55pm
4 Girls	1500m	2.05pm
5 Boys	1500m	2.15pm
5 Girls	1500m	2.25pm
6 Boys	1500m	2.35pm
6 Girls	1500m	2.45pm

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

It is that time of year when we acknowledge and thank the wonderful fathers and father figures in our lives. To celebrate this special day our students will share breakfast with the special men in their lives on Friday 25 August at 7.30am. Thank you to our wonderful P&F for organising this event. We wish all our Fathers and Father figures a wonderful weekend celebrating their special day.



SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST



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 Sunday 27 August at 8.30am. Thank you to Ms Kathleen Tranquille, Mrs Claire Major, Fr Emil and Fr Adam and our Year 4 parents and guardians for preparing the students for this special occasion. *May Christ bless and guide them during this special time.*

FATHER'S DAY STALL

On Friday 1 September the P&F will be running their Father's Day stall. Children need to bring their \$5 to collect their pre-ordered gifts for their Dad or Granddad.

SCHOOL DISCO

The School Disco will be held on Friday 8 September. The theme for this event is 'Neon Bright Colours'. The children will be allowed to dress up in appropriate costumes in-line with this theme. After each session, children will be able to be picked up outside the hall. Parents will need to find their child's teacher to sign them out before taking them home.

PP- Year 2 5.30-6.30pm

Year 3- 6 7.00-8.15pm

Disco tickets will be on sale before school and at lunchtime in the Undercroft from Monday 4 September (week 8). Tickets will cost \$3. The ticket will entitle your child to a juice box and a packet of chips on the night. This is a child only event. Teachers will be supervising each session. The Year 6 students will perform their dance routine to the Year 3-6 students at the Disco and their parents at the Graduation Dinner.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Over the coming weeks, classroom teachers will be inviting parents to meet with them to discuss their child's progress over the term. These interviews form an important part of our Reporting policy and are an essential component in developing open communication between home and school. This term we will be using a different booking system. An email, with a link, will be sent out in the coming days to enable parents to book an interview.

*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille
Assistant Principals*

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK WEEK

Characters stepped out of books, along with many inspirational figures, they all made their way to St Lawrence today to celebrate this year's Book Week theme READ, GROW, INSPIRE! It was wonderful to see so many students take part and a big thank you to all parents and carers who assisted students with their costumes and for supporting this main event of the library. Photos at the end of the newsletter.

Along with our character parade there have been many different activities happening in the library at lunchtime to celebrate books.

We are also running a Design Your Own Bookmark competition. Children will have until **Friday 1st September** to get their entries in. The winning entry will win a prize along with having their design used to make bookmarks which will be available for all students from the library circulation desk.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Club brochures have gone home this week. Credit card orders can be placed online via LOOP or order forms may be returned to the school with cash enclosed in an envelope marked Book Club, along with the child's name and year.

*****PLEASE NOTE: ALL ORDERS NEED TO BE ORDERED VIA LOOP OR RETURNED TO SCHOOL BY 3.30pm TUESDAY 29th AUGUST.*****

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept late orders.

*Ms Louise Frenzel
Library Officer*

STEM & ARTS NEWS

Some Big Events at the end of this week in the STEM and ARTS area of our school.

CEWA STEM Showcase – Year 5 and 6 classes

This Friday, all year 5 and 6 students will be attending the CEWA STEM Showcase as visitors (hopefully in future years will attend as presenters). Our year 5 and 6 students have been given an opportunity this year to be part of a STEM Club for a term, looking at one area of our school and coming up with an idea to change or improve that area – from activities on Outdoor Classroom Day, to Sustainability and our Outdoor Spaces. The CEWA STEM Showcase is a fantastic opportunity for our students to see what other schools are doing in the STEM realm, to speak to professionals in STEM and Science areas around Perth, and to come back to school with ideas for future STEM projects at St Lawrence Primary School.

Year 5 and 6 Families have been sent a Seesaw message regarding the particulars for Friday morning, and any further questions, please contact Mrs Freeman – Stephanie.Freeman@cewa.edu.au

Catholic Performing Arts Festival – Choir (this Friday)

Our School Choir will be travelling to the Vasto Club Friday afternoon to perform at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival.

They have been excitedly preparing two songs “Top of the World” from the hit movie Lyle, Lyle Crocodile, and “Listen to the Rain”.

Students are performing at 1pm, and tickets are still available through the Catholic Arts website or at the door on the day.

Students are asked to be in their full winter uniform (think photo day) for the performance.

Holy Communion Mass – Choir

Choir Students (in Year 3, 5 and 6) are also encouraged to come along and support our Year 4 class who will be receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion, this Sunday, at our Parish Church, 8.30am. They are asked to please meet Mrs Freeman at the choir area (side entry door) from 8am. We will be collaborating with the Parish Choir.

Neat, casual dress for the morning.

A big thank you to our Choir students who dedicate their Thursday lunch times to sing and prepare for events, such as these above, and to their families for your ongoing support.

*Mrs Stephanie Freeman
Music Teacher*

SCIENCE NEWS

National Science Week

This year's Science Week kicked off at St Lawrence with our annual Staff v Student STEM Challenge. With the rest of the school cheering them on, 9 student teams took on 4 staff teams – given a bag with popsticks, rubber bands, a plastic spoon and a bottle cap, teams were asked to design a catapult that would send a marble the furthest distance.

The competition was strong, the ideas creative – a big congratulations to all teams for their innovative ideas. No fails! Some inventive concepts! And a lot of scientific fun had by all!

Congratulations to the STUDENTS taking out the trophy for another year – well done Year 6 Boys, with a special mention to one year 5 Team for their original design sending their marble flying with only the snap lock bag in hand! Better luck for 2024, Staff!



Within the Science Classroom, lessons focussed on the National Science Week theme of Innovation: Powering Future Industries. Students discussed everyday things in our lives and their suggestions for making them better tomorrow. From coding friends like robots to paper planes and changing from electrical sources to more sustainable sources of energy, the Science Week theme will continue for the remainder of the term as students power on with a Physics mindset in their lessons exploring how we can continue to better our future world.



*Mrs Stephanie Freeman
Science Teacher*

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

SPORTS FACTION CARNIVAL

The sports faction carnival will be held on Friday 15 September.

Faction T-shirts are available to purchase from the Uniform Shop and are compulsory for students in Pre-primary to Year 6 to wear on sports days for training and on sports faction carnival day.

SUMMER UNIFORM

Students commence Term 4 in Summer Uniform. Please purchase summer uniforms required before end of this term. The last day for the Uniform shop to be open this term is Thursday 21 September from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. The uniform shop is closed over the school holidays.

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.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

Uniform shop has second hand uniforms for sale each week. All seconds have been kindly donated by parents. Thank you.

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

SPORTS CARNIVAL

Sports Carnival will be held on 15th September. Please see the attached flyer for lunch options on the day. This is available for students and spectators.

NEW MENU ITEMS

Wednesday- Gluten Free Chicken Nuggets (x5) \$4.00

Thursday- Butter Chicken GF \$5.00

Friday - Vegetarian Fried Rice GF \$5.00

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

If you can help in the canteen at all this term, please let me know, especially for Sports Carnival day (just to help with lunch) and last day of term - Thursday 21st September

Thanks for your continued support.

Christina and Fran - Canteen Staff

Sports Carnival 15th September



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



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

**Please preorder
by Friday 8th
September**

P&F NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER

25-08 Father's Day Breakfast. A reminder that the Father's Day Breakfast is this Friday at 7.30am. Please bring coins for the raffle. We look forward to seeing all fathers, grandfathers and male carers there!

01-09 Father's Day Stall. Children are required to bring a \$5 note in exchange for a pre-selected gift next Friday.

Mrs Natasha Raso, P&F President

SAVE THE DATE

ST LAWRENCE
FATHER'S DAY
BREAKFAST

FROM 7:30AM

IN THE
UNDERCROFT

BREAKFAST PROVIDED,
COFFEE AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE

25
AUG
23

best
DAD
ever

BRING COINS FOR THE RAFFLE

COMMUNITY NEWS

 Servite
College

Open Day

Thursday 7 September
Register at servite.wa.edu.au

Thursday 7 September
9.15am – 11.00am
Registrations essential
More details at
servite.wa.edu.au/open-day

ASSEMBLY AWARD WINNERS



BOOK WEEK PARADE



BOOK WEEK PARADE

