



Newsletter No. 22

9 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.

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, I am 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 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.

School Leadership has a significant impact in fostering student achievement. The impact of leadership is greatest where it is focused on improving teaching and learning and is amplified when responsibilities for leading teaching and learning are widely distributed across the school (AITSL 2018; Robinson et al. 2009, p. 40; Waters et al. 2003, p. 3). We here in Leadership at St Lawrence embrace the Instructional Leadership model as our preferred model for school leadership.

Instructional leadership is a form of school leadership that places teaching and learning at the forefront of school decision making (Andrews et al. 1991, p. 97; Gumus et al. 2018, p. 29). It is an overarching orientation that gives structure to a school's direction, evidenced by core leadership practices and skills that support teaching and student outcomes, and drive school improvement and sustained success (Hallinger & Murphy 1985).

Promoting professional development is an instructional leadership practice strongly linked to student outcomes (Robinson et al. 2008, p. 663; Tan et al. 2020, p. 13). Professional development is tailored

to address teachers' needs and changing practice (Duke 1982, p. 4). Instructional leaders not only outsource professional development opportunities for staff development, but lead in-service training, ensuring professional development is closely linked to school goals and relevantly structured to groups and individuals (Hallinger & Murphy 1985, p. 223). This is another area where leaders achieve line of sight on the conditions required for improvements in student learning, and where they can support and implement changes to class organisation, resourcing and assessment, working collaboratively with teachers (Robinson et al. 2009, p. 42; Timperley et al. 2007, p. 220).

Our Professional learning meetings, Staff Meetings, Data Wall Meetings, Visits by Leadership to observe lessons and provide feedback, align our practices eg Talk For Writing and Launch, Explore, Summarise and providing input from CEWA Inc Consultants and our Schools Support Consultant all form our Professional Development, along with our Professional Development Days. For example, Reverend Deacon Powell will present to staff on the last day of this term. The ongoing support of Assistant Principals and their hard work to ensure data is shared drives our agenda, and spending time enhancing and coaching staff, is also of significant importance. Staff must all have a Growth Plan and Programme Meetings with leadership.

Instructional leaders focus more on students. They are concerned with the teacher's and the school's impact on student learning and instructional issues, conducting classroom observations, ensuring professional development that enhances student learning, communicating high academic standards, and ensuring that all school environments are conducive to learning. – Hattie 2015. I share this with you, so we all have a clear understanding of the high quality of support staff are given in enhancing their pedagogical practice and ensuring our boys and girls have the best opportunities to flourish.

This has been a focus of Leadership and we are reaping the benefits. When I see our student's data, eg our 2023 NAPLAN it is extremely pleasing. This is because of the outstanding teacher practice and the support given to enhance this practice here at St Lawrence. The outcome of which is improved student performance which we are seeing across all areas in our data. I thank all staff who embrace the support and work diligently to always reflect on their pedagogical practice and who recognise the importance of a continual cycle of implement, review and improve.

As Principal of St Lawrence, I can honestly say **Well Done!** To each and every staff member who has who has continued their professional growth and development and who have supported and embraced the changes implemented. We now see the impact in our students' outcomes.

Added to this is the level of pastoral care given and the embracing of our Bishops' Mandate, under which we all operate and are obliged to fulfil.

A GOOD SCHOOL 19. For a school to be Catholic, it must first be a good school. Otherwise it will be unable to fulfil its mission.³⁵ With many other education traditions, the Catholic school's concept of education will be:³⁶ ...the development of (students) from within, freeing them from that conditioning which would prevent them from becoming fully integrated human beings. The school must begin from the principle that its educational program is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person.

The Bishops are clear in their mandate that we must aspire to be a "Good School" to be a Catholic School. I believe St Lawrence to be just that ...and it is my duty as Principal and the work of The Leadership Team to ensure we are not only a Good School.... but a Great School. Once again, I thank all the staff for their hard work and great effort, the boys and girls for always trying for their personal best and to the families who support us and the work we do.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

We have been reviewing our Newsletter and our School Yearbook. At this stage we have made the decision to move our Newsletter to a fortnightly publication and to reduce some of the content. This is in response to the feedback we received from families. I sincerely thank those who provided feedback and have factored many of your observations into my decision making. We will streamline much of the content and put more emphasis on identifying upcoming events, dates and points of interest occurring in the school. I will send out a letter, twice a term, directly from myself outlining any other items of interest or information I am required to share. The teachers will continue to use Seesaw as the main form of class communication.

A decision on the School Yearbook has not been made at this stage. If you have any further feedback regarding the Yearbook please let the school office know. A decision will be made soon as to whether or not we continue with the Yearbook and if so what format it may take. Many schools have already discontinued School Yearbooks in light of the amount of online information and photos that are shared. Once again, your feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

Over the last few months, I have had several arborists attend the school to complete our annual tree Audit. The safety of our students, staff and visitors is always paramount in my decision making and I seek informed and sage advice before making any decision that would impact our school. Working with the arborists, and under their advice, the removal of the tree next to the walkway in front of the hall has been recommended. The tree poses a significant level of risk from falling branches and its root system is potentially impacting the structural integrity of some parts of our walkway. It has caused me much angst deciding to remove a tree. It is not a decision I take lightly. However, in the interest of safety and our school's structural integrity the tree must be removed. I have made a commitment to plant more appropriate trees around the school to maintain our canopy coverage. The trees along Main Street will be attended to by a tree surgeon and will remain. We have also planted some more saplings in this area. Thank you for your understanding on this matter. I know that you all appreciate that safety is my number one priority.

As you can see from this image, large trees falling can cause catastrophic damage and or injury.



Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable.

School Education Act 1999

An Act to make provision —

- *for education in school or by home education with education, training and employment alternatives at the senior secondary level;*
- *for the establishment and operation of government schools and for parent and community involvement in school affairs;*
- *for the registration of non-government schools and the funding of such schools;*
- *for the registration of community kindergartens; and*
- *for administrative responsibilities for school education; to repeal the Education Act 1928 and consequentially amend certain other Acts, and to make related provisions.*

Under the School Education Act of 1999 Children must attend school and during the times of operation of the school, for the duration of the hours of instruction.

When enrolment is compulsory (1) A child is to be enrolled in an educational programme for each year of the compulsory education period for that child.

What constitutes participation

(1) A child is taken to be participating in a course for the purposes of this Subdivision if the child —

(a) is enrolled in the course with the relevant provider; and

(b) is complying with — (i) the provider's requirements about physically attending, at particular times, the provider's premises or another place for the purposes of each such course; (ii) in the case of a course of distance education, the provider's requirements about completing and returning the assigned work for the course; or (iii) in the case of any other external course, the provider's requirements about communicating with or contacting the provider for the purpose of participating in the course.

Parents and guardians acting under The School Education Act of 1999 must ensure their children are at school for the assigned times. Coming late does not fulfil this requirement. When children are late, they potentially miss out on significant information needed for learning. This can potentially impact a child's learning in a negative manner.

I have noticed a significant number of children are coming to school late. I do appreciate the cooler weather and the difficulties of get a number of children ready on time. However, parents have a lawful duty to our children to be on time.

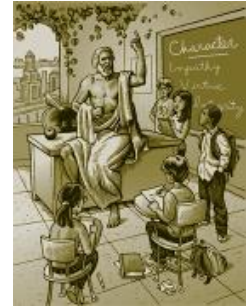
In closing, can I say a huge thank you to everyone for their continued efforts to prepare the children for their learning and your commitment to working hard in our wonderful school.

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 can not 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.



Sheldon Carey

M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal

PASTORAL CARE



I ask you to keep in your prayers, all the boys and girls who across the world are not able to access a suitable standard of education. Who, through no fault of their own, are unable to learn to read or write. I pray we may find a solution to this crisis and heal the gap growing between those who can and cannot.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL FEAST DAY

The school will be celebrating St Lawrence Feast Day on **Friday 11 August**. The Feast Day is an opportunity to celebrate our Patron Saint, but also an opportunity to continue his work by donating funds to those most in need in our community. Money raised will be donated to the Kora Centre run by the Servite Sisters. Children will be participating in games and purchasing yummy goodies from our stalls. They will also be permitted to wear free dress.

Time	Scheduled events
9.00am	Whole School Mass Children are permitted to wear free dress
10.00-10.40am	Buddy Time
11.00-11.45am	Year PP-2 Music/Dance
11.50-12.40pm	Year 3-6 Music/Dance
12.40-1.00pm	Lunch provided by P&F
1.00-1.20pm	Outdoor play
1.20-1.30pm	Line- up
1.40-2.40pm	Mini Fete- Parents are welcome to attend.
2.40-3.00pm	Pack up stalls and clean up

The St Lawrence celebration will continue on Sunday 13th August where the School Choir will be singing at the St Lawrence Parish at 8.30am. Families are welcome to attend.

YEAR SIX CAMP

On Wednesday **16th August** our Year 6 students head off to camp for three days of fun and adventure. This camp will be something these students will remember forever. Students will be challenged to develop and foster a sense of belonging, community, cooperation, friendship and leadership.

We know they will have a marvellous time and make some very special memories with their friends. We wish them well.

We sincerely thank Mr Haydon, Mrs Major, Mrs Austin, Mrs Seragusana and Mr Tonge for giving up their time, so that our students have this memorable experience.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The **15th August** is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Students from Pre-Primary to 6 will be attending the parish mass on Tuesday to celebrate this occasion.

CATHOLIC DAY

Just a reminder that on Monday 21st August, students and teachers will have a day off to celebrate Catholic Day. School will re-commence on Tuesday.

YEAR THREE ASSEMBLY

Our Year three students will be presenting an item at the assembly on Friday 18th August. Merit awards will also be presented at this assembly. Parents are welcome to attend.

*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille
Assistant Principals*

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK WEEK

This term we celebrate Book Week. Children will be able to come dressed as either a character from a book or something related to this year's theme **Read, Grow, Inspire**. Please note that celebrities or social media influencers are not acceptable. Costumes will still need to be within the school dress guidelines – leggings/bike shorts under short skirts/dresses/shorts etc, singlets under midriff/crop tops, no high heels etc.



Students are more than welcome to come and see me in the library at lunchtime on Tuesday or Wednesday or during their library sessions if they would like some ideas for characters to dress up as.

Our dress up day will take place on Wednesday 23rd August and will commence with a parade in the school hall at 9am. Parents are welcome to attend the parade.

ST LAWRENCE MINI FETE

During our mini fete on Friday we will be selling discarded books and DVD's for 20 cents each. Please be sure to pop by the stall, which will be located in the learning centre, and grab yourself a book or DVD bargain.

Ms Louise Frenzel
Library Officer

CHOIR – CATHOLIC PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

Our St Lawrence Choir will once again be performing in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival this year. Our choir sessions, Thursday lunchtimes, have been used to prepare songs “Top of the World” (from Lyle, Lyle Crocodile) and “Listen to the Rain” for the upcoming event to be held at the Vasto Club, Balcatta Friday August 25th, 2023 in the 1pm-2.30pm time slot.

This is a ticketed event that parents are welcome to attend and watch. Tickets can be purchased through <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1075819> by choosing the correct date (Fri, August 25th) and the correct timeslot (1pm-2.30pm). Tickets are only \$4 each and help support the running of the festival.

Please note you may find using Safari will cause issues with ticket bookings; if so, please try through google chrome. Further information regarding dress code and particulars for the afternoon will be sent closer to the date.

Mrs Stephanie Freeman
Music Teacher

MUSIC

MAKING MUSIC

This Term, our music focus across Pre Primary to Year 6 is the toolbox for quality music making – known as the Elements of Music. Kicking the term off with rhythm activities, students have been working on listening, creating, and performing rhythm sets appropriate for their age.

We will continue the journey ticking off tempo, pitch, dynamics, and performance structure over the next six weeks.

Be on the lookout for original compositions shared via Seesaw towards the end of term.

Exciting things happening for Choir... our School Choir rehearse Thursday lunch times weekly. Our choir members have several opportunities this term to participate in singing around our community, including the Parish's St Lawrence Feast Day Mass, supporting our Year 4 students through collaboration with the Parish Choir at the upcoming Holy Communion Mass, and showcasing their creative performance skills at this year's Catholic Performing Arts Festival. A big thank you to our Choir members with their families support for their commitment over the next fortnight of events.

Mrs Stephanie Freeman
Music Teacher



SCIENCE

SENSATIONAL SCIENCE

Term 3 Science is an exploration of our Physical World. For lower primary, students have been engaged in activities exploring how things move, especially using “push and pull” forces. And our upper primary students, have focused on the different forms of energy, such as heat energy, electricity, magnetism and so much more.

Already this term, our Year 6 class came up with the goods as they designed, created and tested Rube Goldberg-inspired machines. Our Year 2 class enjoyed using recyclable materials to create Marble Runs. Our Year 1 class have shared in some Light Play and our Year 5 class have explored the science behind puppet shows. With so much more to come, this term is definitely buzzing in the Science realm.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK IS FAST APPROACHING

National Science Week kicks off August 12 to August 20, at St Lawrence our annual Staff v Student STEM Challenge will take place next Monday. Students will participate in Science Week themed activities through Week 5 and 6.

Innovation: Powering Future Industries’ is the school theme for National Science Week in 2023. It incorporates advances in technology in all industries.

*Mrs Stephanie Freeman
Music Teacher*



SPORT

On Thursday 10th August in the afternoon, we have the St Lawrence Cross Country Carnival. This is a fun event where students are encouraged to give their best and win points for their faction for participation.

It is hoped that all students will participate, even if they have to walk for part of the course. Please ensure that your child is wearing their faction coloured t-shirt and their red shorts or skorts. If it is cold in the morning they can wear their tracksuit over the top or get changed at lunchtime. It is very difficult to run in track pants.

Students may also wear their preferred running shoes for this event, provided they are suitable.

At running club on Thursday morning, students will be allowed to run a few easy laps but they will finish early to preserve energy for the event.

Please see the order of events below.

It would be great to see any parents who are available to support the students.
Thank you for your continued support

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

Claire Major
Physical Education Teacher / Year 4 Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

SPORTS CARNIVAL

The Sport Faction Carnival will be held on Friday 15th September.

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

Kindy students are also welcome to wear a faction T-shirt.

All sizes available from Size 4 to Size 16 for \$12.00 each.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at angie.miola@cewa.edu.au for any uniform enquiries. Winter Price Lists and 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

HELPERS

As always, we rely heavily on our wonderful school community to help us in the canteen.

If you can spare a couple of hours this term, please get in contact with us.

We mainly need help on a Thursday but if you are free Wednesday or Friday, your help would be greatly appreciated as the children love seeing their family helping in the canteen!

BIRTHDAY ORDERS

If you would like your child to celebrate their birthday with their class, we have the following available to order:

Icy poles or Brownies (dairy and egg free) \$15

Cupcakes or M&M cookies \$20

Kindy - mini cupcakes \$12

Please preorder at least one day prior - 0408834774.

Thank you

Christina and Fran - Canteen Staff

P&F NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER

25-08 Father's Day Breakfast. If anyone has any donations for the raffle, please leave them at the front office.

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

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

*best
DAD
ever*

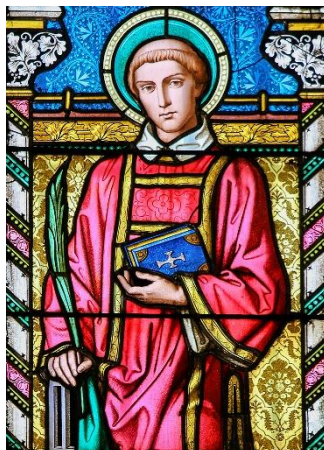
BRING COINS FOR THE RAFFLE

25
AUG
23

PARISH NEWS

ST LAWRENCE FEAST DAY MASS

On **Sunday 13th August at 9.30am** join us for a Multicultural Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Lawrence. Following Mass there will be 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. All children are invited to participate in the procession with their parents. After the procession everyone is invited to gather for a light shared lunch at about 11am in the Alverna Hall. Please bring a plate of food of your country's cuisine to share if you can.



WELCOME TO NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Last Sunday, at the 5 pm Mass we officially welcomed and Commissioned nine of our young parishioners who became Altar Servers. They are: John Pash, Mia Pash, Nikkola Duignan, Thalia Duignan, Leah Justin, Luis Cardulas Aquillon, Leonardo Orea Zapeda, Aurora Nobile and Amellie Carre.

We congratulate them and hope that by doing this important service for our St Lawrence Community, they will grow in their understanding and appreciation of our beautiful Catholic Faith and what it has to offer.

A big thank you to John Harris and Lucy Cianfagna who were involved in preparing and training of the new Altar Servers. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the parents, who have supported their children in this process and, I hope, will continue to do so, helping them to fulfill their role of serving.

*Fr Emil
Parish Priest*



COMMUNITY NEWS



It's never too early!

**Year 7
2026 + 2027**

APPLICATIONS OPEN

servite.wa.edu.au/enrolments
2024 AT CAPACITY. 2025 FILLING QUICKLY

The banner features a black and white photograph of two young boys in school uniforms looking at a tablet. The text is overlaid on the image, with a green diagonal bar at the bottom containing the website URL and capacity information.