



Newsletter No. 2

17 February 2021

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

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

In 2020 one of our School Improvement Goals was to identify Core Values that would underpin our Vision at St Lawrence. Three Core Values were selected by the staff:

Joy, Courage and Unity

Our Core Values are based on Gospel Values. Statements were written to assist students in understanding each Core Value. Our Faith Leaders will introduce the Core Values to all students at our assembly on Friday. Our Values will be displayed on banners in the school hall and on posters at the front of the school. We will focus on one Value each term and then review all values in Term 4. Lawry Bear awards will now be presented to students who model behaviours linked with our termly core values.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Starting school involves a big change for your child. It is normal for children to have strong feelings as they start to think about these changes, such as excitement about the prospect of going to school as well as nervousness about what lies ahead. Your child may also be feeling sad or angry about leaving early childhood education and care. This includes letting go of relationships formed with educators and other children, as well as a change to their familiar routines. Some common feelings children have during transition to school can include:

- excitement
- sadness
- anger
- anticipation
- fear or anxiety

Understanding and helping your child to handle the feelings associated with starting school will help to reduce their stress and can provide them with positive coping strategies. If you have any concerns, I strongly recommend you meet with your child's teacher and talk through any of your concerns or observations. The first few weeks can be very difficult for many of us, both children and adults. Make sure you are proactive, can spot the warning signs and work closely with your teachers, they are there to help. Remember our teachers are fully qualified, have studied for many years at university to develop outstanding professional skills, knowledge and understandings, they constantly partake in professional development, are learned well-read individuals who have a wealth of experience behind them. Perhaps most importantly they are caring people who have answered a vocational calling to work in The Lord's schools. Tap into this outstanding resource. Our teachers are here for you and your child and are exceptional practitioners.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. It started on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter, lasting for 40 days (not counting Sundays). We prepare for Easter by fasting and practicing Spiritual discipline during this time and alms giving. Lent therefore can be seen as a time for "Spring Cleaning" our lives while giving thanks to God and strengthening our relationship with Him.

"Jellybeans" are a very simple way to make an analogy for the Season of Lent for our young children, a very simple way of teaching children all about what Lent really means. Using various colours of jellybeans to describe a virtue. The season is about changing ourselves and thinking of others.

Red for the blood of Christ
(A sacrifice)

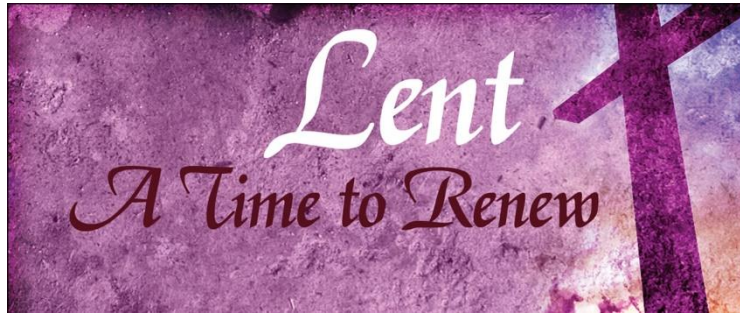
Green for the shade of the palm
(Doing a good deed)

Yellow for God's light
(Kindness to others)

Orange for prayers at twilight
(Good behaviour at bedtime
Prayers)

Purple for days of sorrow
(Apologizing to someone)

Pink for each new tomorrow
(Forgiving others)



CODE OF CONDUCT

I invite everyone to view our Codes of Conduct (students and parents). These documents pertain to all who enter our school, govern our behaviours whilst on school grounds. They are an ongoing document that will be reviewed and updated as the years progress. The purpose of the code of conduct is to provide students and staff with the right to work in a secure and orderly environment and parents the right to expect that their children will be educated in an environment in which the principle of care, courtesy and respect for the rights of others are valued. Please refer to the Code of Conduct which can be accessed via the school website or from the signs located around the school and the QR Code attached.

In line with our Codes of Conduct for Parents we also have Codes for our students. One such undertaking is the Students Parents Participation Agreement Years K-2 and Years 3-6. We ask all families and students, even our youngest ones to take part in the agreement. The reason behind this is the support of all school policies which is the expectation to maintain enrolment at St Lawrence.

Why do we ask the children to sign? So they are part of the conversation, so they have active participation in the process. Naturally our youngest cannot always physically sign their own name, a parent's signature or even an "X" marks the spot is sufficed. The reason is to follow our keeping children safe procedure, so they are part of the conversation. We begin these mandated programmes from the onset of children coming to school.

Our undertaking is to ensure children are constantly growing and learning how to ensure their personal safety and others safety. Again, these always need to be aimed at the developmental level of the child. Parents should be having safety conversations with their children, developmentally appropriate, to ensure that our children are given every opportunity to build their capacities to keep safe. The online world does present many potential areas for children to navigate that will require they are informed and able to regulate, seek support and reach out appropriately should the need present.

If you ever have any questions you are always best asking the teacher directly and not seeking information from other sources, they may not have the correct data themselves. This potentially only causes much discombobulation or miscommunication. Always go directly to the teacher first if you have questions or concerns. It circumnavigates the misinformation that may prevail elsewhere. Thank you to all families, parents and guardians who always do the right thing.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

In closing, can I call for prayers for all families within our school community who may need them. I thank you all for your hard work in getting the children back to school so well prepared and fully equipped. All children are better able to focus and remain productive and gain the most benefits from their time at school if they are well rested, have had healthy and nutrition meals and have all their correct equipment. This is helping to set our children up for success at school, and that is what we all want. Thank you.

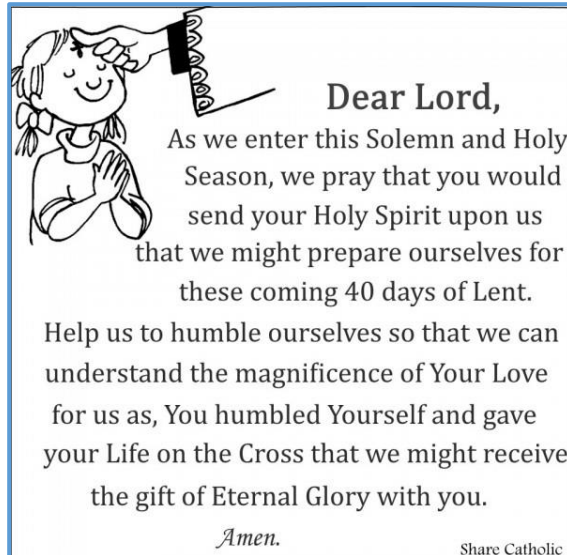
HEALTH CARE CARD

If you are a holder of a **Health Care Card** or **Pensioner Concession Card**, you are entitled to a discount on your school fees. An application form must be completed, and a copy of your current card supplied. Further information and application forms are available from the school office. **Please supply this information to the school office by 5 March 2021.**

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE

*We pray for all members of our community who need our prayers.
As we begin the Season of Lent may we all be renewed by the Spirit*

**“GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO THE WORLD BY
YOUR LIFE... DO NOT ABANDON THE PATH
OF LOVE”**



HOME LEARNING

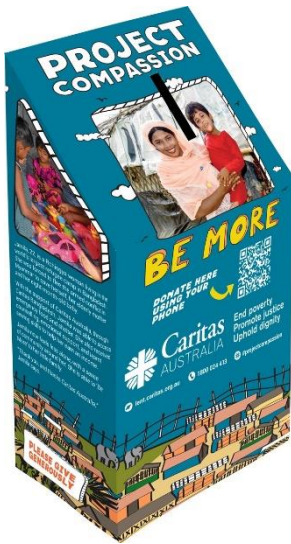
Talking with your Children

Talking with our children comes naturally and sometimes we don't often give it a great deal of thought. It's something we just do. However, the quality of our communications does make a great deal of difference. Good communication helps children shape positive attitudes about themselves, allows a parent a window into the child's thinking and promotes good relationships.

Some handy hints to enhance good conversations include:

- * Use meals times not just as a refueling stop. Talk about each other's day, the high lights and the low lights. Share your own day with your children.
- * Try talking over a snack or while doing other activities. Boys, in particular tend to open up more while their hands are busy. Go for a family walk.
- * If "Nah" and "Yep" are your only responses, rephrase your question. The, Who? How? Why? What? and Where? questions lend themselves to deeper conversations.
- * Talk with your children on their turf, children often feel more relaxed and secure in their own rooms.
- * Respect children's boundaries. There is a time when a good listener knows when to keep quiet.
- * Lecturing children can be counterproductive to open communication.
- * Using a quiet voice is far more effective to get a point across than a raised voice.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. A pamphlet and poster will go home today.

Further information about Caritas and the projects they support can be found at

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>

ASH WEDNESDAY

Today is Ash Wednesday. This day signifies the beginning of Lent. All students from Years 1-6 have received ashes at the Parish Mass. The Kindy and Pre-Primary classes received ashes in their classrooms.

Lent is the six weeks period leading up to Easter. It's one of the most important times of the year for Catholics around the world. During Lent we prepare for Holy Week by fasting, praying and reconciling with God. Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and body resurrection. These forty days are a wonderful time to use our daily reflections and acts of generosity as a way to put others first during preparations for Easter.

ASSEMBLY

Friday assemblies will begin this week. The leaders will introduce the new core values of the school: JOY, COURAGE and UNITY. Due to COVID parents are still not able to attend.

STUDENT IPAD AGREEMENT

The school's One-to-One iPad Program affords the opportunity for our students to enter a new world of curriculum possibilities, allowing engagement and involvement in their learning. In this way, each student learns to develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, practices and attitudes necessary to be an engaged, 21st Century citizen capable of shaping our future. To enable your child to be a good 21st Century citizen there are procedures, guidelines and rules that they need to respect.

This year we have updated our student iPad agreement. We ask all parents and students from Year K to Year 6 to read the document carefully with their child. After your child has a thorough understanding of the school's expectation with regard to iPad usage at St Lawrence, please sign the document and bring it back to school. By signing you are indicating that you have read, understood and accept the student/parent participation agreement.

BUSHFIRE FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Thank you to all the children and parents who donated money to help the families affected by the fires. We raised appropriately \$800. Mrs Adele Cirillo, P&F President, will forward the money to Dandelions WA.



Dandelions WA aims is to help anyone in recognisable need in WA whether that be caused by fire, drought, homelessness, poverty, domestic or family violence etc. They guarantee that every single dollar donated will benefit someone in need and will not go towards any admin costs.

RAINBOW PROGRAM

A reminder that our Rainbow Program 2021 is due to commence soon.

If you feel the program may be helpful for your child/ children, please obtain a form from the front office and complete the form and return it to Mrs Baker as soon as possible.

CHANGE OF DATE

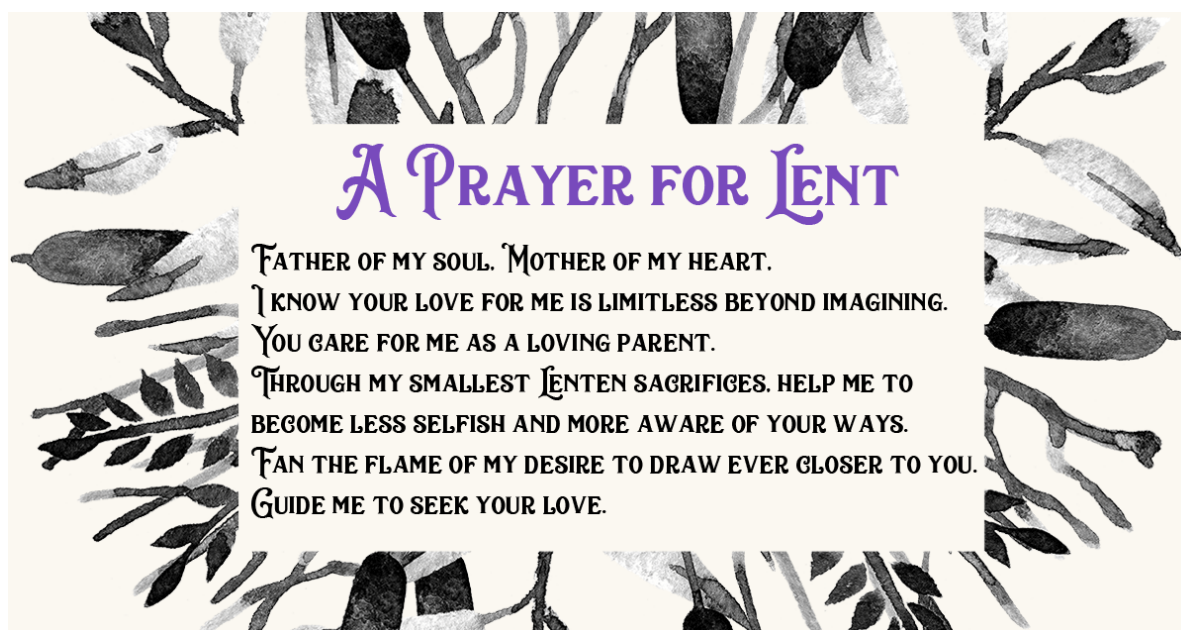
The end of term Dance Concert has been changed to Wednesday 24th March at 2pm.

STUDENT FREE DAY

A reminder that there is a **Pupil Free Day** on Friday 26th February.
Staff will be participating in First Aid Training.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 1 March – Labour Day



Miss Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Gabrielle Brennan
Assistant Principals

CLASS NEWS

PRE KINDY

Pre Kindy children had an enjoyable start to their year last Thursday, becoming acquainted with some new friends and staff. Our focus is *Marvellous Me* and we will look at the exciting things we can do as well as the special things we can learn especially starting off with Colours.

A reminder that if your child is absent, or late or unwell please email – kaylene.bozich@cewa.edu.au for the purposes of staff keeping our class roll up to date and accurate (this is also a legal requirement for the school) Please cc the admin into your emails - admin@stlawbal.wa.edu.au

Sincere thanks for your cooperation with this. Thanks also to all parents with the drop off and pick-up last week. This ran very smoothly. See you tomorrow.

Mrs Kaylene Bozich, Pre Kindy Teacher



KINDERGARTEN

This week has been our first full week of Kindy and the children have done an outstanding job learning our routines and rules. They are beginning to settle in, and it is very important to focus on social skills during this time. This week we are learning how to be a good friend and to use the different materials within the Kindy classroom responsibly. As the children show me they can respect and look after all the wonderful resources within the room, more items will be added or taken away if this trust is broken. This is a very important life lesson for our little people and discussions about these topics at home would help to reinforce this.

This term in literacy our focus is learning about 'Syllables', which is the beats in words. We are learning the beats in our own names first. For example, "Josh-u-a" has three beats and "Sa-rah" has two beats. They will learn to clap out the syllables in the words. We will also be doing lots of fine motor activities to develop finger strength for holding pencils and for cutting.



Here is a picture of our Hopes and Dream Chandelier – the children loved watching it being put together and this week we will be reading your hopes for your child to them. Have a wonderful week everyone!

Mrs Rachel Wake, Kindergarten Teacher

PRE PRIMARY

The children have settled in so well into Pre Primary. Although it has been a big adjustment coming in five days a week, I think they have made a very smooth transition!

This week we continue to practice our name writing, practising our counting skills and discussing the wonderful families that God gave us. On Tuesday, we met our Year 5 buddies for the first time. We learnt about Shrove Tuesday and then ate pancakes! Afterwards, we did a colouring in page with our buddies and really got to know each other. We really loved meeting our buddies!

I have begun the On Entry Assessment and I will feedback your child's development stage to you in a few weeks. There is no fail or pass, this is a starting point to build on. I will continue with the assessment next week and the children will be having Ms Christensen during this time.

A few reminders:

Please remember to send in a family photo if you have not already done so.

Library book exchange is every Wednesday so please ensure that your child has their Library bag with them.

Reading Eggs login will come home this week. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions.



Mrs Tania Preston, Pre Primary Teacher

YEAR ONE

In Religion we have been talking about all the special gifts we have that help us to learn imagination, memory and understanding. Today we did a special activity to mark the beginning of Lent and talked about Lent being a special time of forty days where we begin to prepare for the special celebration of Easter.

The children should have brought home their reading folders last night, could I please ask that these be returned to school each day. We will also send any notes home in this folder.

Thank you to all parents for linking up to Seesaw. Mrs Bozich and I will continue to update you on the happenings in our classroom so please remember to check Seesaw.

Mrs Gloria Edwards, Year One Teacher

YEAR TWO

We are busy learning and growing in Year Two! Over the past week we have been looking at three-digit numbers and using the MAB Blocks to consolidate our understanding of hundreds, tens and ones. It has been lots of fun too. In Literacy and Art, we have been learning the poem 'The Crayon Box that Talked'. We created a wonderful classroom display, showing what makes us each unique, but united. In Religion we have been learning about Families, how Jesus belonged to family and how we are all part of the family of the Church. Science has taken an interesting start to the year as we explore, the chemical science of mixtures. We are looking forward to all the learning ahead in Term. **"We are a box of crayons each of us unique, but when we get together the picture is complete."**

Shane DeRolf

Ms Danielle O'Donnell, Year Two Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

SUMMER UNIFORM

Please ensure the correct uniform is worn. Refer to the School Uniform Policy on website.

Students in Pre-Primary must wear the St Lawrence Uniform every day. They may wear any colour sport shoes and socks or sandals.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS

Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten students are not required to wear a school uniform; however, they are encouraged to wear an Early Childhood T-shirt.

Price lists are available at front office and stock is available for purchase from the Uniform Shop.

DISCONTINUED RED RUGBY SHORTS

Boys Red Rugby Shorts are no longer available and are discontinued.

Red Microfibre Sport Shorts with printed school name will be replaced commencing this year for students in Pre-primary to Year 6 to wear. Girls have the option to wear these shorts or may continue wearing Skorts.

If you have purchased Red Rugby Shorts you may continue wearing these shorts until the end of year.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours:

Wednesday 8.30 am to 9.30am and Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Mrs Angela Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

A big welcome back to all the St Lawrence Sporting Super Stars. It has been a pretty warm start to the term, and everyone has been working really hard. We have had a lot of fun already in all classes, working on our t-ball skills with Connor (a professional Perth Heat baseball player) Year 3-6 have also been focusing on their cricket skills. The younger students are having a great time experimenting and working on ball skills and coordination with a variety of different equipment.

I have been really pleased with everyone's fantastic attitudes and enthusiasm. Watch out for running club starting up again in the mornings.

Keep up the great work Super Stars!

Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher

FATHERING PROJECT REMINDER

As we are getting closer to the camp date, a reminder that the fathering project camping trip will be held on the weekend of the 5-6 March.

WE HAVE LIMITED SITES, SO IT IS FIRST IN GETS A SITE.

I would like to have all deposits, into the office this week.

This will allow me to go back to the camp site and try and get extra sites.

So:

- Please pay a \$50 deposit ASAP
- Year 6 parents, this is your last chance to take your children, so let's see as many as possible.
- Year 1 & 2 Parents, if you have never been, this is a great chance to have some fun with your children.

Please contact Patrick King 0409296036, Camp Co-ordinator, for any further information.

P&F NEWS



Dear Families

All families will have received the Cadbury Flyer. A gentle reminder that all money from the sale of boxes and any leftover chocolates **MUST** be returned to the office by **Friday 26th March**.

The Cadbury Easter box will be sent home with your oldest child on the 5th of March 2021.

If the slip below has not been returned by Wednesday 24 February, a fundraiser box will be sent home to your family.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to another successful community year.

If you have any queries, please see one of the P&F committee at school or email

pandf@stlawbal.wa.edu.au Mrs Adele Cirillo, P&F President

CADBURY EASTER EGG FUNDRAISER

OLDEST CHILD FULL NAME: _____ YEAR _____

☐

I request ____ fundraising boxes

☐

I will prefer to donate the \$30 profit instead of selling a box. **Please include money with this slip.**

☐

I am unable to participate in this fundraiser

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Nominations are open for **Class Reps** for 2021. We look forward to working with the new class reps this year. Please complete the slip below and return to the school office. Extra slips are available from the office. We would like at least one volunteer from each class group from Kindergarten to Year 5 and three class representatives from Year 6 for this position. You will provide an invaluable link between the P&F and your class.

NOMINATION FOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE 2021

I _____ would like to nominate for the position of

Class Representative for Year _____

My mobile phone number is _____

My email address is _____

Signed _____



Mercedes College

OPEN DAY

16 March 8.30 - 1pm

PLEASE REGISTER ON-LINE



Celebrating
175 years
of Mercy education

CANTEEN NEWS

Friendly Reminders



The Canteen **will be open next week** on TUESDAY, Wednesday and Thursday due to the pupil free day on Friday.

Please note there will be a limited menu of Nuggets, Strips, Lasagne, Chicken Fried Rice, Toasties and Wraps on Tuesday.

Wednesday- Pizza will be available in addition to the normal Wednesday menu.

If anyone can help in the canteen this term, especially Thursdays, could you see me or text me on 0408834774 – thank you for your great support.

Please see below some of our winners from last year's Christmas Raffle! Congratulations and thanks everyone for their wonderful support.



*Christina, Fran and Antonella
2021 School Canteen Staff*