



Newsletter No. 2

9 February 2022

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.

Loving God,

*You are the giver of all we possess,
the source of all our blessings.
We thank and praise you.*

Thank you for the gift of our children.

*Help us to set boundaries for them,
and yet encourage them to explore.
Give us the strength and courage to help our children
come to know you in all we say and do.*

*May our children come to know you, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

*May your Holy Spirit help them to grow
in faith, hope, and love,
so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.*

*May their ears hear your voice.
May their eyes see your presence in all things.
May their lips proclaim your word.
May their hearts be your dwelling place.
May their hands do works of charity.
May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ,
your Son and our Lord.*

Amen.



Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

I would like to thank all the parents who read the COVID updates and adhered to all the Governments requirements. Being the first few days of the many amendments and new restrictions, I felt the children were calm and adapted well to the changes.

I would like to clarify some of the recent amendments to school practice, that have been mandated by the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Sue Ellery and the Minister for Child Protection and Community Services, the Hon Simone McGurk in light of the new high caseload protocols which are specifically for school and childcare settings.

- **Parents are basically not allowed onto school grounds unless in an emergency.**
- **Pick up and drop off points are the Church and Car Park.**
- **Early Years parents have received procedural update via sewsaw.**
- **If you need to collect a child for an appointment e.g. dental, please call the school office or email the teacher and admin to advise what time the appointment is and we will have your child waiting in the school office.**

If your child is returning to school, please call the school office so your child can be collected from the school gate.

- **We encourage parents to pre-order your lunches. Further information will be sent through seesaw.**
- **Uniforms can be ordered over the phone or through an email directly to Angie.Miola@cewa.edu.au**

I thank you all for the wonderful support you have given the staff. As you can image this swift change due to the High Caseload Level 1 requirements being introduced, have meant we have needed to act swiftly. There are almost daily changes coming through which must be acted upon. I greatly value your support and appreciation.

I am aware that some schools have put into place slightly different practices, interpretations and procedures. These are generally due to the logistical, geographical, and general building layouts. All of this impact the decision making implications for schools. I appreciate your understanding of the specific implications of St Lawrence Primary School.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

As you can see from this lovely photo we now have a beautiful garden bed in our Orchard.

The orchard has been completely remodelled and includes many new and wonderful areas for our children to enjoy.



Catholic Pastoral Communities

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 contact 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. They 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.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

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 principles 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.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



Active listening

Active listening is an important part of talking with your child and can encourage them to express how they are feeling. It helps them to feel that you understand what they are going through. Active listening involves the following steps:

Stop and give your child your full attention. This may involve moving away from a busy place where there are lots of other people. At a time when you cannot give your child your full attention (e.g. when caring for another child), let your child know that you want to listen and will give them your full attention after you finish.

Prioritising time to listen actively to your child will help to show them that their feelings are important.

Look at your child. If possible, get down to their level to show them you are ready to listen.

Listen carefully to what is being said in words and through your child's body language without interrupting. Listening involves eye contact and nodding where appropriate.

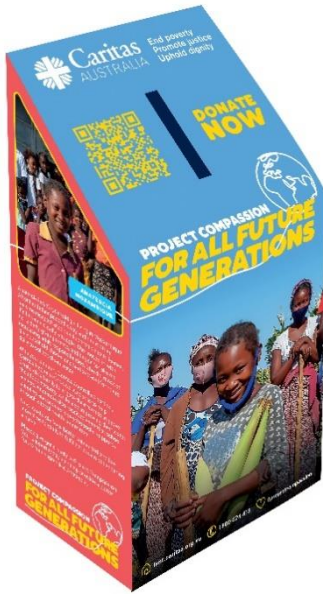


STOP.

LOOK.

LISTEN.

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.

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

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

MERIT AWARDS

Due to recent advice from CEWA regarding limiting the number of children in contact with each other, there will be no assemblies this term. Merit awards will still be given out and will be read out on our PA System. Mr Carey will present the merit awards to children in individual classrooms.

RAINBOW PROGRAM

A reminder that our Rainbow program 2022 is due to commence soon.

If you feel the programme may be helpful for your child/children, please email Mrs Louise Frenzel who will be coordinating the Rainbow Program this year.

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 procedure, guidelines and rules that they need to respect.

We ask all parents and students from Year 3 to Year 6 to read the Student iPad agreement 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.

P&F PICNIC

Just a reminder that due to COVID the P & F picnic scheduled for Friday 18th February has been cancelled.

PARENT MEETINGS

Due to the new COVID restrictions Parent Information Nights were cancelled this year. Teachers have posted their class information PowerPoints on Seesaw. Please read through the slideshows carefully to ensure you have a good understanding of your child's classroom routines and procedures.

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. We appreciate all parents and guardians wearing masks. Thank you all sincerely.



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 tap 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. If you have not had a chance to write your hopes and dreams on a strip of yellow paper please send me a seesaw message and I will send a yellow paper strip home in your child's bag this week. Please write on this and return to school as soon as possible.



Mrs Rachel Wake, Kindergarten Teacher

PRE PRIMARY

The Pre Primary children have had a fantastic week and all their teachers are blown away by how well they've settled into the classroom and routines.

In Religion we have been learning about how we are all unique and our families are also unique. We will be adding our photographs and drawings to our family tree, the children are so excited to complete their leaves. If you have not already sent in a family photo, please do so.

In Literacy the children have been consolidating their knowledge of the SATPIN sounds, practicing writing their names and discovering words and letters around the environment.

In Numeracy we have been focusing on counting, number recognition and ordering numbers. They have loved the challenge of finding the missing number from their line.

In both Literacy and Numeracy, the children have begun group rotations and they are doing a great job following these routines.



PIC•COLLAGE

Ms Erin Healy, Pre Primary Teacher

YEAR ONE

It has been a very busy week in Year One. We have been looking at the Bible in Religion and discussing how God gave the Bible to us to learn about Him and His love for all people.

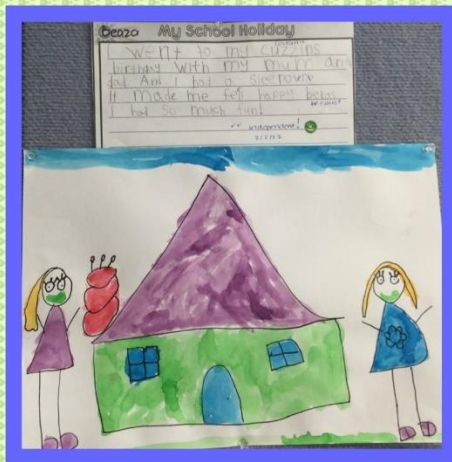
In Literacy, we are reading 'Giraffes Can't Dance' and we are discovering that when we encounter something difficult, we can either get frustrated or push through! We are deciding on personal learning goals this week that we can aim to achieve. The children have also learnt that a verb is a doing or action word and have been working hard finding verbs in sentences.

In Numeracy, we are practicing our counting skills, writing numbers in words and finding numbers on a 100 chart!

During Health, we discussed different feelings that we experience and how we can link them to our 'early warning signs' when we are feeling unsafe.

Finally, we have created some beautiful holiday pictures to go with our recount writing.

I have been so impressed with the way all the Year One children have adjusted to our new normal this week. They have shown great independence and resilience.



Mrs Tania Preston, Year One Teacher

YEAR TWO

The Year Two children have been very busy as our learning programs are now well under way.

In religion we are studying 'The Church' unit to understand that Jesus belonged to a family and the Catholic Church is like a family. Also, the Church building is a special holy place and God's family prays together.

In literacy, the children are learning various comprehension skills to assist us with their ability to identify main idea and key details in text; sequence text; answer direct recall questions; make inferences and/or predictions, as well as identifying unfamiliar vocabulary.

For numeracy, the class have been working on recognising, representing, and ordering numbers to at least 1000.

We have also been practising mindfulness, what it feels and looks like. Lots have spent some time in our little 'class calm corner'.

A quick reminder that we will be starting spelling as well as a general homework grid next week. A news roster will also start shortly.



Mrs Paula Christensen, Year Two Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

This week we welcome Kindy to the Library, as they get to borrow a book for the first time! Kindy students will need to bring both their bag and book back every week, on a Wednesday, so that they will be able to choose a new book to take home each week.

Scholastic Book Club brochures have also gone home this week. Should you wish to place an order, please make sure it is submitted by the following Tuesday. Parents can pay by credit card, via the LOOP online ordering system, or by cash. If you are paying by cash, please return the completed form with the correct money, in an envelope to your class teacher. Please make sure that the envelope is clearly marked Book Club, along with your child's name and year level on the front of the envelope. Please also remember to complete your child's full name and year level on the top of the order form, along with a contact number.



Book Club is sent home twice a term in terms 1-3 and once in term 4.

Book Club is always due the Tuesday of the following it from when the brochures go home. Unfortunately, we are unable to process late orders

Mrs Louise Frenzel, Library Officer



Our 'Pre Primary' enjoying the playground

CANTEEN NEWS

IMPORTANT COVID UPDATE

Lunch Orders: Due to parents not being allowed on school grounds, could you please send your child's lunch order and money in a zip lock bag, envelope or lunch order bag with your child's name, year and items ordered.

Recess: Drinks, icy poles etc. Could these please be pre-ordered and/or part of their lunch order. It will help your child from lining up and handling money.

See copy of current menu online for recess items. These vary daily and we will endeavour substitutes when necessary.

If you have any queries, please text me. We are here to help you and your child at all times.
Christina's 0408 834 774.

MENU: There is a new variety of ice cream - Vanilla or Chocolate cup \$1.50
Frozen Nippys Juice Cup \$1 / Calippo \$1, Icy Twist \$1.50 and Froyo (Tropicana, marshmallow, bubblegum, cookies and cream, fairy floss, caramel cheesecake) \$2.20

Ash Wednesday
1st March

Fish Burger
(lettuce & mayo)
\$5

Fish Fingers (x5)
Served with
veggie sticks \$4
Tomato
sauce 50c

Preorder now
By 25th Feb



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