



Newsletter No. 3

15 February 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.

Dear Parents & Friends

Peace Within

May today there be Peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love That has been given you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God! Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul The freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us!



Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

As Principal I get the very real pleasure of doing playground duty, teaching in classes, and supporting learning opportunities throughout the school in a hands-on manner. This provides me with the opportunity to talk with our children and their teachers on the front line of their education. A chance to be ever present in their learning, receiving direct feedback, making observations and practicing my craft of "teaching". I am always very delighted to be in our exceptional Early Years and seeing the great foundations for future success in learning being nurtured and created in these very formative and pivotal years. In speaking with Ms Tranquille and Mrs Brennan, we recognise how pleased we are with how our Early Year's students have settled into their educational journey here at St Lawrence's this year.

Every morning when I arrive at school, usually between 6:30am and 7:00am, I take a walk around the school and through the classrooms. This provides me with the opportunity to see the classrooms first hand before the business of the day begins. I can read teachers Daily Work Pads, see learning areas set up from the afternoon before just waiting to come alive with our students when they enter. It's marvellous to see our staff preparing their rooms for the next day before they go home to their families.



I want to highly commend all our Staff for their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm. It is also wonderful to see so many very helpful parents offering their time and support in the classroom. Research abounds that the more parents are involved in the life of the school and supporting the teachers, the greater the success of their children. Thank you to all parents for their contributions to our class programmes. One of the aims of a Catholic education is to ensure the children flourish in all aspects of their lives. By being in the classes and experiencing the many learning opportunities I can see how well our students at St Lawrence are flourishing in their education.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Communication: It is extremely important to maintain open communication between parents and teachers. Parents are encouraged to notify your child's teacher of any concerns you may have and to discuss these concerns at a mutually convenient time before or after school. The easiest way to make an appointment is by email.

When emailing please consider what is appropriate to be emailed and what needs to be discussed face to face. In relation to emails, I need to reinforce that there is no expectation from me that staff members are to be communicating via email during the school day or after 5.00pm at night during the working week and not on weekends. Staff will respond to emails during working hours and in most cases a 48 hour turn around is acceptable. Our staff are very professional, and always endeavour to fulfil all their work obligations in a timely manner. However, their number one focus is the safety of the children and their education. This I am sure you all appreciate. I ask that you allow our staff reasonable time to address your queries professionally and realistically. With 30 children, normally 60 parents and or guardians plus work obligations, government requirements and system obligations....they are busy people. Not to mention doing duties, parents nights preparations for their daily teaching and reporting etc. Some of them even endeavour to have a personal life! Thank you all for your understanding.

I also ask people to be very mindful when using social media, particularly if discussing school matters. I can assure you I would never use social media to discuss a child or a parent of this school, or in any public forum for that matter. Such behaviour is absolutely unethical and not acceptable. So please afford our wonderful staff the same courtesy.

Catholic Pastoral Communities

THE ELEPHANT ROPE

A tourist was amazed to see in Thailand that a group of beautiful elephants was being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. There were no chains, no cages, just a short rope tethering each huge creature to a small stick in the ground.

It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from the rope but for some reason, they did not.

The tourist asked the trainer why the elephants just stood there and made no attempt to get away.

"It's simple," The trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. They try and try to get free but cannot. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to escape."

The tourist was astonished. These enormous animals could at any time break free but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

How many of us, like the elephants, go through life believing that we cannot do something, simply because of something that we thought we learned when we were young?

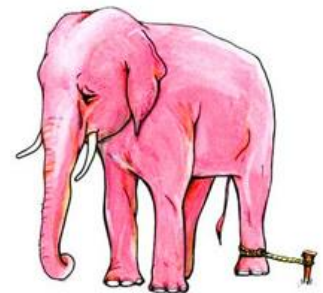
How many of us have in our minds a short rope we could easily shake off?

How many of us are capable of far more than we ever dream of?

Don't be held back. Don't be tethered in one place.

Believe in yourself. You may be surprised by how far you can go.

Acknowledgement: Original author unknown



Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

A reminder all our major school policies and procedures can be located on the school's webpage. Many policies now are systemic in nature and come directly from Catholic Education Western Australia. If you do have any grievances, concerns or complaints you can contact the teacher directly or make contact with the school office to organise a time to meet with myself.

The following quote articulates the importance of getting things wrong if we are to move forward and learn. If students are getting everything correct all the time, then we are not stretching them to maximise their potential. One of my lectures always told me learning means having "crunchy eyebrow moments". When we move from "I don't understand, I can't see the link" to "Oh I get it now!!!!"

"If the students are answering every one of the teacher's questions correctly the teacher is surely wasting the students' time. If the questions are not causing students to struggle and think, they are probably not worth asking. Mistakes are evidence that the questions I asked are tough enough to make you smarter. Research indicates that long-term learning improves when students make mistakes and correct their answers."

"The Right Questions, the Right Way" by Dylan William in *Educational Leadership*, March 2014

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



Merit Award Winners Friday 10 February 2023

HOME LEARNING TIP

Setting up a learning environment

Every home is different but it's important to provide a quiet and comfortable space in which to learn.

Where possible, extended learning should take place in a space your family shares. For example, a lounge room or dining room. These spaces are preferable over a bedroom, where your child can feel isolated and supervision can be more challenging.

It should be a place:

- that can be quiet at times
- that has a strong internet signal, if possible
- where you or another adult is present as you would normally when your child is online, dependent on age.

It's important to be aware of exactly where your children are when learning at home and that includes where they are when on-line. It is also beneficial to build a patterns into the children's home learning. Eg come home from school have a 30 minute break then focus on homework or school related work. It's also incredible important to factor in down time and family time.



Tree Climbing !!

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Grandparents Morning

We invite all grandparents to St Lawrence on **Thursday 9 March**. We are looking forward to celebrating the special relationship between our students and their grandparents.

The morning will begin with grandparents visiting the classes of their grandchildren followed by a special assembly and morning tea. For catering purposes attendance will need to be registered. The link is on the flyer included in this week's newsletter.

Parent Meetings

Educating children is a partnership between home and school. We work together to provide the best possible learning experiences. We held parent meetings for parents of children in Years 1 – 6 at the start of the year. It was fabulous to see so many parents in attendance at all meetings. I am sure you found the information provided of value.

Church Pick Up

For the safety of all our children who wait to be picked up on the Junior Oval, parents who park on this oval at pick up time will need to leave their vehicle and walk over to their child. No children will be allowed to walk to cars parked on the Junior Oval.

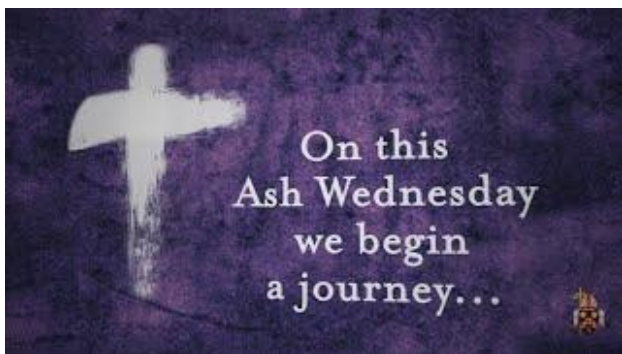
Sacramental Program

If your child is Catholic and in Year 3, 4 or 6 they are in a Sacrament year in 2023. All parents and children in Years 3, 4 and 6 will need to enrol for these Sacraments. Please choose one of the following masses to attend.

Saturday 11 March at 6pm or Sunday 12 March at 5pm

Early Childhood

The Early Years team at Catholic Education WA have developed a resource for Early Years Teachers that can be used to support teaching and learning in schools across WA sectors. Teachers from across WA submitted stories about their pedagogical approaches and some of these were chosen to appear in the final publication. Congratulations to our Year 1 teacher Tania Preston. Tania's submitted article will be included in the final publication. We congratulate Tania on this achievement and for being willing to share her Early Childhood Practice with other WA school communities.



Ash Wednesday begins our forty-day season of Lent that leads to Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we come together like the people of the Old Testament to remind ourselves that we do not always follow God's ways and that we need to ask for God's mercy and forgiveness. Like God's people in the time of the prophets, we wear ashes to show that we want to turn away from whatever keeps us from God, and to have a change of heart, so that we can live in peace and in joy with God and with each other.

WHOLE SCHOOL MASS – ASH WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday 22 February, students from Years 1 to Year 6 will attend the Parish Mass at 9.00am. Parents are welcome to attend.

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan, Assistant Principal

Grandparents play a very special part in our lives. As a thank you to our Grandparents for all their love, care and support we invite all Grandparents to our:

ST LAWRENCE PRIMARY GRANDPARENTS MORNING

THURSDAY MARCH 9, 2023

8.30-10.30AM

8.30 - 8.55 Grandparents are welcome to join students in their classrooms to share in some fun activities

8.55 Grandparents say goodbye to students and then make their way to the school hall

9.00 - 9.30 Grandparents assembly performed by students

9.30 - 10.30 Morning tea provided for Grandparents in the hall

Please RSVP by Thursday 2nd March, 2023 by scanning the QR code below:



*****Please Note:**

Due to classroom and hall capacity unfortunately parents will be unable to attend.***

LIBRARY NEWS

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

The library received two Book Club orders without the student's name or year group. If these orders belong to your child/children could you please email me on louise.frenzel@cewa.edu.au or come and see me in the library to ensure students receive their orders.

Ms Louise Frenzel, Library Officer



PLAY GROUP

Our Play Group for 2023 commenced on Monday with fun and many smiles!

Sessions will continue each Monday from 8:40am - 10:30am in the kindy classroom.



Mrs Gillian Austin, Play Group Facilitator

Math Night

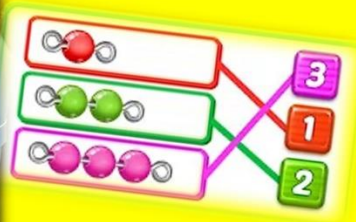
7 - 8 pm
Thursday 2nd March



Join in the fun!



Ideas for
home?



Adults only this time
Year 1 to 6



UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

YEAR 6 STUDENTS

Students in Year 6 may commence wearing Black Leavers Shirts on sports day and replaces their yellow polo shirts. Please keep yellow polo shirts for a school event.

UNIFORM PRICE INCREASE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there will be some uniform price increases which will commence March 2023. New price lists and order forms will be available on website and office.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for all enquires or to place an Uniform order, please EMAIL me on Angie.Miola@cewa.edu.au.

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

Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

WINTER NETBALL 2023

The 2023 Winter Netball season is fast approaching. The season will commence from 28th April and conclude on the 26th August.

Eligibility for teams are as follows:

NSG Set - Year 2 & 3

NSG Go - Year 4 & 5

Junior:

11U - born in 2012

12U - born in 2011

Fees for NSG is \$230.

Fees for Junior is \$260.

Fees are also subject to a PlayHQ surcharge of 2.03%.

Teams will train one day a week (day/time/location TBC)

Games will be held on a Friday afternoon/evening or Saturday morning. Times are subject to change due to the number of registrations.

Friday Timeslots:

NSG SET (Y2 & Y3) – 4.30pm

NSG GO (Y4 & Y5) - 5.30pm

JUNIOR 11U – 6.30pm

Saturday Timeslots:

JUNIOR 12U – 8.30am

Register your interest or a team to play by Friday 10th March to stlawnetball@gmail.com

Please include your child's full name, year level, DOB, contact phone number as well as if you are able to volunteer to manage or coach a team. Please note that parent involvement is **essential** and that without nominations for both a coach & manager we cannot allocate teams.

If you require any additional information, please contact a member of the committee.

Cheryl & Renee - St Lawrence Netball Club

P&F NEWS



Reminder to please RSVP for the **Welcome Picnic** to be held this Friday 17 February from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

We will be catering roast meat rolls with condiments; if you could bring a salad or sweets that would be much appreciated.

We ask parents with surname :

- **A-L** to please bring savouries
- **M-Z** to please bring sweets

❖ Don't forget to bring along your gold coins for the varied activities!

Mrs Natasha Raso, 2023 P&F President



CANTEEN NEWS

Thank you to my helper last week – Lilly. This was very appreciated!

Ash Wednesday special:

- Fish Burger - with lettuce and Mayo \$5
- Fish fingers (5) \$4 add sauce extra 50c
- Orders in by Friday 17/2 at the latest.

Please note no other menu items on this day and the canteen will not be serving meat on this day.

ASH WEDNESDAY LUNCH TIME SPECIAL

22nd February

Fish burger with lettuce \$5
Or
5 Fish fingers \$4
Add Sauce 50cents

No other lunch time menu items will
be available.

Recess items will be available as
per normal

Please preorder by Wednesday 15th



PIC•COLLAGE

Christina & Fran – 2023 Canteen Staff