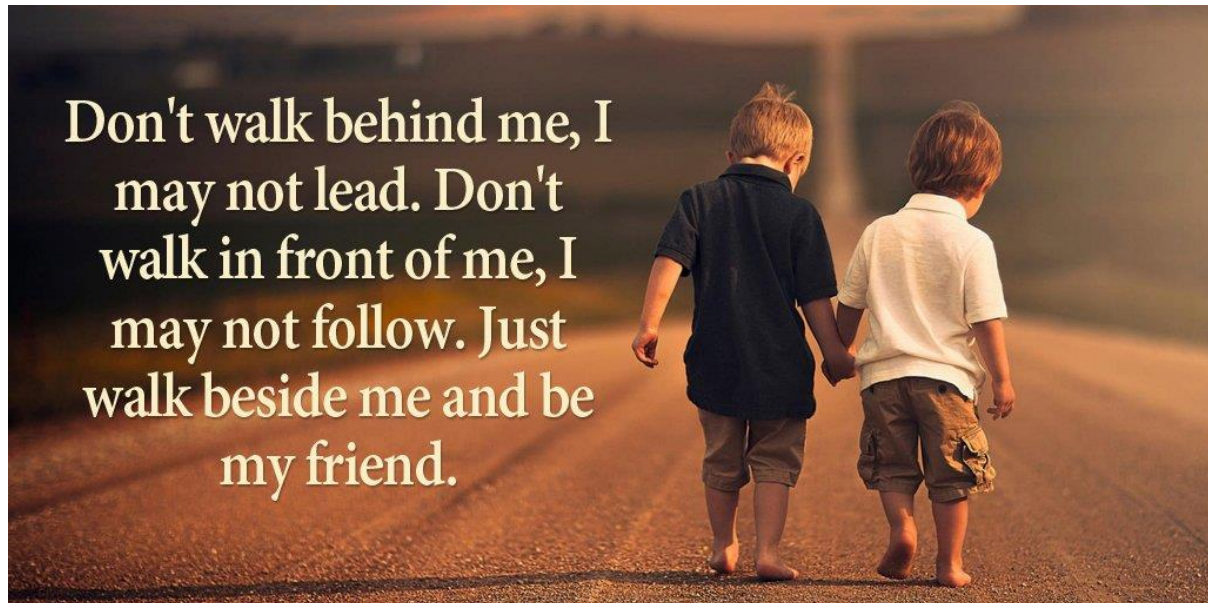




Newsletter No. 6

8 March 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 and Caregivers

Christ Centred Communities

I cannot believe that we are already halfway through Term One. How quickly the time has flown.

We are now in the second week of Lent. During Lent, St Lawrence takes part in the annual Caritas Australia, Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. Thank you to all our families who have supported this worthwhile cause by encouraging their children to donate their own money.

As Mother Teresa often shared, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."



During Lent, we often revisit the story of the Prodigal Son. Most of you are familiar with this story about a wayward son who makes some bad choices and eventually comes to his senses and comes home to reconcile with his father. One thing to reflect upon is which character are you in this story. Are you the wayward son? Are you the forgiving father? Or are you the jealous brother who always did the right thing and is never acknowledged? Maybe, we are all three characters at different times in our lives! This story sums up the love God has for us in a way that we do not often think about.

A LENTEN PRAYER: FAST FROM, FEAST ON

During Lent, let us...

Fast from judging others;

Feast on the Christ within them.

Fast from the emphasis on difference;

Feast on the unity of life.

Fast from apparent darkness;

Feast on the reality of light.

Fast on thoughts of illness;

Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words of pollute;

Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on patience.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from worry; feast on trust in God's Care.

Fast from unrelenting pressure;

Feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from facts that depress;

Feast on varieties that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from thoughts that weaken;

Feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow;

Feast on the sunlight of serenity.

Fast from problems that overwhelm;

Feast on prayer that undergirds.

Fast from bitterness, feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern;

Feast on compassion for others.

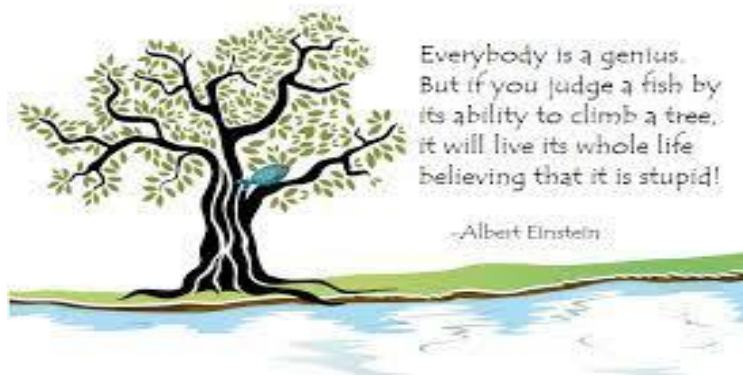
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Author: William Arthur Ward

Catholic Schools of Excellence

Students in Years 3 and 5 will complete NAPLAN tests in weeks 7 and 8. This is much earlier than in previous years. The reason for this change is to get the results back to schools earlier than usual so schools have more time to analyse and use the data. The NAPLAN assessments are linked to the Australian Curriculum. The aim of the tests is to determine whether students are developing the essential skills, predominately in Literacy and Numeracy that they will need in life. All the tests except the Year 3 writing test are completed on iPads. The Year 3 cohort complete the writing test using pen and paper. If any students are absent on any of the days of testing, they can sit the test when they return to school, if they return during the testing period.



NAPLAN is only a small window into the children's development and should only be used as an indicator of where they are at in the subjects tested. It is important to understand that this is one form of assessment that is used to gather data about your child's attainment. At St Lawrence we use a variety of ongoing assessments and reporting procedures to inform our teaching and support student learning.

The best data we have is this ongoing data our teachers collect all year long, on each child, using a variety of assessment methods.

Students and parents can access the public demonstration site to familiarise themselves with NAPLAN and the types of questions and tools available. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required or recommended.

www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site

Professional Learning Day

On Friday we had a student free day. The staff who attended analysed mathematics data from assessments administered at the end of 2022. It was very pleasing to see all staff collaborating effectively and to hear all the rich conversations about data which led onto discussions about pedagogical practice. The Spirit of collegiality between staff at St Lawrence was evident through the many professional conversations taking place on this day. A shared sense of common good is a strong theme in our Gospels and seeing all staff work together so effectively was a wonderful reflection of this.



Catholic Pastoral Communities

Maths Parent Workshops

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Numeracy workshops last week. It was wonderful to see parents so engaged, learning about pedagogical practice in Numeracy at St Lawrence. We continually strive to continue to develop our strong home/school partnership so that we can support our children together. We respect our parents and caregivers as the children's first educators and want to ensure we work together for the best interests of all our students.

Thank you to Mr Haydon for organising the workshops. I am sure parents attending would have seen first-hand his passion for this area of the curriculum. Thank you to all the staff who participated in this worthwhile event, your support in strengthening our partnership with our wider school community is always greatly appreciated.



Our Maths programs at St Lawrence provide our students with opportunities to play, construct, describe, explain and analyse their mathematical understanding. Our students are motivated to “love maths” through active and relevant activities that are differentiated so all students feel and achieve success. During the Early Years, our students learn the language of mathematics and begin to see it everywhere in the world around them. The students are engaged in hands on learning through games, manipulatives and real-life connections. Through the Middle and Senior years our students apply these connections and build upon numeracy concepts to develop their procedural and problem-solving thinking.



Wellbeing

A reminder that as per our normal guidelines, any child who is unwell should stay home until well enough to return without spreading unnecessary germs. At school we make sure all students are washing their hands often throughout the day and surfaces are cleaned regularly.

Parents can best assist our efforts in ensuring the safety of our students by keeping them home if they are unwell. Children with serious colds, flus or other debilitating illnesses should always be kept home.

This week it is Wellness Week at St Lawrence. This initiative supports the wellness of our staff, students, and community members. Students and families have a break from homework and instead focus on using that time to play games, go for a walk, read together or watch a movie. Staff make sure that they also spend quality time with family and friends. We aim to support the emotional and mental health of all our community members. During this week there are no meetings for teachers after school, and no homework for the children, reading should not be seen as homework – just what we do for enjoyment.

Affordable, Sustainable Schools

A reminder that we are bound by the local council parking regulations and restrictions. The council sends parking inspectors on a regular basis, and they do issue infringement notices and fines with regularity. These restrictions particularly apply to parking on the footpaths and paved area in front of the Church Car Parking and stopping in no-stopping zones.



A reminder that all road laws apply to Albert Street including speed restrictions, using mobile phones while operating a vehicle etc. Regulations also apply to the land owned by the Church and School. The Principal can apply added legal restrictions accordingly, as the land is privately owned.

We ask that all users of the school lands abide by all road use laws and adhere to the added restrictions on parking and safety on this land. All these undertakings are in place for the safety and wellbeing of all community members and particularly the small children. Thankyou to all our families that always do the right things and set such good examples for us all to follow.

“The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love”
Pope Francis

God bless each and every one of you.

Mrs Gabrielle Brennan
Short Term Principal

Message from Mr Sheldon Carey



“Arrived in Warsaw Poland, after visiting many sites in Germany. Missing you and saying prayers for you all at every Church I visit.”

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

WELLNESS WEEK

This week is Wellness Week. With the prevalence of mental health issues affecting many of our young people, it is important to teach our children to take time out to relax and enjoy leisure time particularly time away from screens.

SACRAMENTS

Enrolment masses for all Sacraments will be held this weekend, **11th and 12th March**. Mass times are **Saturday 6pm and Sunday 5pm**. Please bring your child to the service that best suits your family. Sacrament information packs were sent home last week with children in Years 3, 4 and 6. In the pack, there is an enrolment form that will need to be completed and handed to Father Emil during one of the enrolment masses. There is also a Mass Attendance booklet, which your child will need to take to each Mass. Fr Emil or Fr Adam will give each child attending mass, a sticker to stick in their Mass attendance booklet.

NAPLAN

The next couple of weeks the Year 3 and 5 students are participating in national testing in Literacy and Numeracy. Please ensure your children get a good night's sleep and eat their breakfast before coming to school. It is important that children do not feel extra pressure placed on them during this time.

All Year 3 and Year 5 students will be assessed between Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 24th March. Catch up tests will be completed on Friday. Results will be forwarded to the school later in the year and will be issued to parents in Term 4.

GRANDPARENTS MORNING

The students are very excited to welcome their Grandparents into their classrooms this Thursday. We have had over 170 Grandparents registering to attend. The morning will begin with Grandparents visiting the classes of their Grandchildren and then they will be treated to a lovely morning tea of scones, jam and cream followed by a special assembly. We look forward to welcoming our Grandparents into our school on Thursday 9th March at 8.30 to 10.30.

Thank you to Mrs Austin, Ms Frenzel and Mrs Freeman for organising this event.

ASSEMBLY

The Year 4 Assembly is scheduled for this **Friday 10th March**. Children will be presented with merit certificates. Parents are welcome to attend.

PTO (Parent Teacher On-Line)

Parent-Teacher face to face interviews will be held for Kindy to Year 6 students from **Monday 13th March to Friday 24th March**. Interviews will be of 10 minutes duration.

For these interviews we are using the online booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). It will save time for parents, staff and students. Information on how to book an interview was emailed to parents on Monday.

Ms Kathleen Tranquille Assistant Principal

2023 SCHOOL FEES – Family Payment Option Form

Family Payment Option Forms are due by **Friday 10 March 2023**. These forms were emailed last week to all families; attached to your annual billing Statement.

Please return completed forms to finance@stlawbal.wa.edu.au or they may be handed into the school office.

Thank you to all the families that have returned their forms to date.

If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Alica Mayo, Finance Officer

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

YEAR 2 & YEAR 4 FAMILIES

As part of Biological Science, the Year 2 and Year 4 class are looking at the Life Cycles of Living Things.

In varying activities, they will be looking at their own Life Cycle - how they have grown and changed from when they were a baby and predicting their future growth and changes.

To help with these activities (starting in Week 7), could you please email stephanie.freeman@cewa.edu.au or message via Seesaw the following photos -

- A Baby Photo
- A Toddler Photo and
- A First Day of School (this is PK, K or PP)

Thank you to those who have already done so. And I look forward to collecting the rest prior to Thursday, Week 7 (16/03/2023),

Mrs Stephanie Freeman, Science Specialist Teacher

You Are Invited...

..... to our St Lawrence End of Term Dance Concert

"Four Seasons in One Day"

Week 9 – Friday March 31st
2pm start on the Junior Oval

Our creative and groovy St Lawrence students are working hard this term participating in a Movement & Dance Unit in Music each week.

I am so proud of the way students are working collaboratively in their weekly lessons to create and develop a dance routine for our 2023 theme "Four Seasons in One Day", songs with the weather. More details will be sent via Seesaw by the end of this week and updated in the school's newsletter regarding dress attire for students.



*Thank you!
Mrs Freeman*



PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS



What a busy first few weeks we have had in sport. It has been pretty warm, but all classes have worked extremely hard and been very committed to improving their skills.

Through the Sporting Schools initiative, we have been lucky enough to welcome Rebecca Seeber to our school to assist with the delivery of our t-ball programme. The younger students have picked the skills up quickly and the older students have had some great competitive games.

On Friday 24th March some of our Year 5 and Year 6 students will be participating in the Inter School Cricket Carnival so we are currently working on our cricket skills in preparation.



Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Assistant

CANTEEN NEWS

THANK YOU

To my helper last week Shonna, your help was very much appreciated!

Last day of term this year is Thursday 6th April, and we will have a sushi special. Details to follow next week.

2023 Canteen Staff

P&F NEWS



Please note that the chocolates will be distributed this week, given to the eldest child. Thank you for your support.

Natasha Raso, &F President

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

WINTER UNIFORM

Year 1 to Year 6 students commence Term 2 in full winter uniform. Pre-primary students remain in their sports uniform and track pants and jackets are available for winter.

Year 1 and new students who have commenced this year will need to purchase their winter uniform before end of this term.

Winter order forms are available from the school office and uniform shop.

Our Uniform Shop will be closed during the school holidays.
Last day Uniform Shop open this term is Thursday 6th April.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS

Pre Kindy and Kindergarten students are encouraged to wear the Early Childhood T-Shirt and an Early Childhood Track Top, which are available to purchase for winter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for all enquires or to place a 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