



Newsletter No. 1

7 February 2024

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.

A Prayer for 2024

*Lord our God,
in your wisdom and love
you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.
Send your spirit upon our students, staff, and families
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.*

*Grant that our students may devote themselves to their
studies and to experiencing the joys of play,
and that they draw ever closer to you,
the source of all knowledge.*

*Let this be a year of learning.
Open young hearts to new wonders.
Encourage parents to let children dream big dreams.
To play often and to find the truth.*

*We pray that students play and find joy in each day.
Let them make life-long friends.
Give parents extra energy to support their children.
Help the community find ways to support families.*

*Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth
and teaches us in your ways.
Look upon our staff.*

*Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience
and endeavour always to bring the truth to eager minds.
And when their burden is great, grant them strength,
Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life,
forever and ever.*

Amen.

Inspiring Christ-centred Leaders.

We welcome you all back to St Lawrence Primary School for 2024. I pray that your holidays have been restful and joyous and that you all return renewed and invigorated for another wonderful year of growth, learning, and personal best.

The Newsletter is our number one means of communication, and I strongly recommend you read the newsletter to keep abreast of what is taking place at St Lawrence.

Teachers will also use the Seesaw platform to communicate with parents and guardians and to demonstrate the learning and fun that is happening in their classrooms and around the school.

Our school staff started the school year off with two full days of learning. Staff completed their St John of God's training in first aid. They also completed part of a series of professional developments centering on the Berry Street Education Model.

The Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) builds on Berry Street Victoria's foundations of therapeutic and educational practice based on trauma-informed teaching and learning. This evidence-informed trauma-informed approach recognises that early learning settings are rich environments where children can develop the foundations they need to succeed in school and life.

The BSEM course develops educators' practice through a focus on trauma-informed strategies that promote the development of self-regulation and building strong, secure relationships as a therapeutic milieu in which the learning environment itself is a powerful intervention for learning.

Catholic Schools of Excellence.

I am very aware research clearly supports the 14 Areas all schools should focus on in order to build school improvement.

1. Shared beliefs and understandings.
 - A. Each student can achieve high standards given the right time and the right support.
 - B. Each teacher can teach to high standards given the right assistance.
 - C. High expectations and early and ongoing intervention are essential.
 - D. Teachers and administrators need to be able to articulate what they do and why they teach the way they do.
2. Embedded literacy/instructional coaches.
3. Daily, sustained focus on literacy instruction.
4. Principal instructional leadership.
5. Early and ongoing intervention.
6. Case management approach: Data walls, case-by-case meetings.
7. Professional learning at school staff meetings.
8. In-school grade/subject meetings: Collaborative Marking of student work.
9. Centralized resources.
10. Commitment of district and school budgets for literacy learning and resources.
11. Action research/collaborative inquiry.
12. Parental and community involvement
13. Cross-curricular literacy connections in each subject area.
14. Shared responsibility and accountability.

I feel at St Lawrence we are achieving all these points. We offer a vibrant learning environment, supported by dedicated and enthusiastic staff, who are kept at the cutting edge of their profession. Our Leadership Team focus on being "Instructional Leaders", who support and drive the learning

platform of the school. We are blessed to have a dedicated and talented staff who always go above and beyond in their efforts to support all families in the education of their children.



Our School motto is “With God’s Friendship and Love we Grow”, this reflects the important role of God in our lives and how deepening our relationship with the Father helps us on so many levels. St Lawrence himself, our patron Saint, is one of the most widely venerated saints of the Roman Catholic Church. His liturgical celebration on 10 August has the rank of feast. St Lawrence was known for his care and compassion for the poor and his attributed sense of humour.

Catholic Pastoral Communities.

I have included a few very quick reminders for all members of our community.

- Please all be mindful of our Codes of Conduct. These can be easily accessed from our webpage and the QR Codes strategically located around the school. They are also published in our newsletter from time to time.
- Please be very careful when dropping off and picking up children and always follow the correct parking procedures.
- Utmost care should be taken, at all times, when operating vehicles on school premises.
- Children generally do not require a mobile phone (or similar device) at primary school. However, if there is a request for one, please speak directly to the Principal. If permission is granted, they must be stored in the school office area.
- Please ensure you register all absences with the school.
- Any change in contact details or of a child’s health status should be recorded with the teacher and office directly.
- Children must be in their correct school uniform, at all times.
- Students need to follow the appropriate grooming and presentation requirements. Occasionally some of our haircuts attempt to push this barrier. If you are in doubt about the haircut style, speak to the teachers before getting the haircut.
- A reminder enrolment is dependent upon adhering to our policies.
- A huge thank you to all the vast majority of community members who always follow the correct policies and procedures.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable.

I leave you with a powerful quote, one which reminds us all that it's OK for our children to attempt and then fail, in fact, it is imperative that we all make attempts at new and different things, daily, and failure, well that's simply how we learn.

"Every time we rescue, hover, or otherwise save our children from a challenge, we send a very clear message: that we believe they are incompetent, incapable, and unworthy of our trust. Further, we teach them to be dependent on us and thereby deny them the very education in competence we are put here on this earth to hand down."

Jessica Lahey's The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed

God bless each and every one of you.



**Mr Sheldon Carey. M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal**

PASTORAL CARE

May we offer our prayers for students who started back at school this week. May their learning be joyful and bountiful and may this develop a love of being a lifelong learner.

Amen



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Father,

*We thank you for the opportunity to begin this new school year,
and we ask that you bless the students, staff, and student families
that make our school a great place. We pray that you will guide us in your ways,
and strengthen our school community, so that we will seek your will
in everything that we do, and love others as you love us.*

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Welcome back to another year at St Lawrence. We would like to extend a warm welcome to new families who have joined the St Lawrence Community this year. It is always a pleasure to observe the children return to school looking well rested and eager to learn. We are very blessed to have a wonderful school community who always make time to greet staff when dropping off and picking up their children each day.

WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

Our Year 1 – 6 students and staff joined the Parish at Mass last week. At the beginning of each year, our Year 6 leaders are presented with their Leadership badges after Mass and the staff receive a blessing for the year ahead. Congratulations to all the students who have been selected as leaders.

*“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more,
you are a leader” – John Quincy Adams.*

PARENT MEETINGS

Educating children is a partnership between home and school. Parent meetings are held at the start of the year for parents of children in Years 1 – 6. The Parent Information meetings were well attended. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet teachers and for teachers to give an overview of the school year and discuss expectations. We thank parents who were able to attend these meetings for their ongoing support.

COMMUNICATION

It is important that parents and teachers are able to communicate with each other. Parents are encouraged to notify their child’s teacher of any concerns they may have and to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time before or after school. The easiest way to make an appointment is by email or Seesaw. When messaging teachers, there is no expectation for staff to reply during the school day. Our expectation is that a response should be received within 72 hours of sending an initial enquiry, unless it is a matter that needs urgent attention. As you can imagine our staff are busy during the day dealing with many students, so we appreciate you allowing them time to reply.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Thank you to parents for sending their children back to school smartly dressed in their summer uniforms. Our uniform is a sign of our community, and all families are expected to support it. Children are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times. Summer uniform is worn in Terms 1 and 4 and winter uniform in Terms 2 and 3.

Hair must be neat and tidy, and tied back, if shoulder length or longer, or if hair falls about the face. Hair styles should be of a conservative nature (no tracks, no hawks, no undercuts etc). Only natural hair colour permitted (no tints, streaks, tips etc). Minimal gel may only be used on the fringe, no other part of the hair.

Hair ribbons should be in school colours only: blue or white with summer and winter uniforms: gold, white, or red with sports uniform.

Jewellery: Plain small sleepers or small gold, silver or small stone studs, only one per ear

One Cross or Christian religious medal on a chain tucked under the shirt/blouse may be worn.

No rings or bracelets to be worn.

Nail polish and make-up is not permitted.

Hats are part of the uniform and need to be worn every day. **"No hat, no play"**.

A uniform infringement letter will be sent to the parents of any children who are not adhering to our uniform guidelines. A full version of the school dress code is available on our website. If there is a reason that your child is temporarily out of school uniform, we require an email or a signed note. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

MOBILE PHONES/WATCHES

If students have to bring a mobile phone to school, they are asked to drop it off at the office each morning and pick it up at the end of the day. This includes watches with communication features.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

If your child is Catholic and in Years 3, 4 or 6 they are in a Sacrament year in 2024. 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 9 March at 6pm or Sunday 10 March at 5pm.

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.



- Friday 9 February – Assembly (Merit Awards will be presented at this assembly)
- Wednesday 14 February - Whole School Mass (Ash Wednesday)

2024 SCHOOL TERM DATES (Subject to change)

	First Day for Students	Final Day for Students
Term 1	Wednesday 31 January	Wednesday 27 March
Term 2	Monday 15 April	Friday 28 June
Term 3	Monday 15 July	Friday 20 September
Term 4	Tuesday 8 October	Friday 6 December

2024 PUPIL FREE DAYS & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (Subject to change)

Monday 4 March – Public Holiday - Labour Day
Thursday 28 March – Pupil Free Day
Thursday 25 April – Public Holiday - Anzac Day
Friday 26 April – Pupil Free Day
Monday 3 June – Public Holiday - WA Day
Tuesday 4 June – Pupil Free Day
Monday 19 August – Pupil Free Day
Monday 7 October – Pupil Free Day



**ST LAWRENCE
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

JOY
Celebrating the good news
in ourselves and others



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web.stlawbal.wa.edu.au



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UNITY
Working in harmony
with one another



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**ST LAWRENCE
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COURAGE
Having the inner strength
to be the best we can be



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**ST LAWRENCE
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**LEARNING
THROUGH
JOY, COURAGE
AND UNITY.**



(08) 9344 4944
web.stlawbal.wa.edu.au

*Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Ms Kathleen Tranquille
Assistant Principals*

PLAYGROUP

The St Lawrence Playgroup recommences for the year next Monday 12 February, 2024.



ST LAWRENCE PLAYGROUP

Mondays
8:40am - 10:30am

St Lawrence Primary School
Enquiries:
gillian.austin@cewa.edu.au

Mrs Gillian Austin
Playgroup Facilitator

LIBRARY NEWS

It has been wonderful to welcome all students back to the library and we hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break. We are excited to start the year off with some great new resources for the students.

LIBRARY SESSIONS

Library sessions have commenced. All students will require a library bag, from the uniform shop, to be able to borrow books. Books will need to be returned the following week to allow students to take new books.

Library days are as follows:

TUESDAYS:

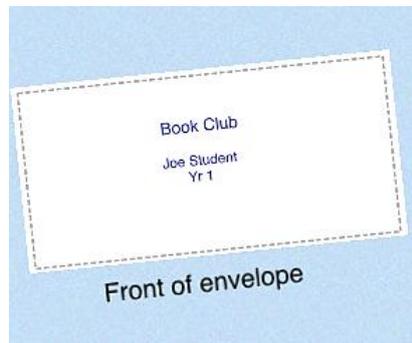
Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6

WEDNESDAYS

Kindy, Pre Primary, Year 1, Year 2

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Club brochures have gone home this week. All Book Club orders earn the school rewards, which go towards purchasing valuable resources for our students. Orders can be made either online via LOOP or can be returned to the school in an envelope marked Book Club, with the student's name and year level, clearly marked on the front of the envelope. If returning orders to school, please make sure that all details are completed on the order form along with a contact number.



Orders for this issue are due back Tuesday 13 February.

****Please note that all orders are always due back by 3.30pm on the Tuesday of the following week****

A colorful Scholastic Book Club Student Order Form. At the top, it says "ISSUE 1 2024" and "Book Club Student Order Form". Fields for "Name: Joe Student", "Class: Yr 1", and "Phone: 0421 934 494" are filled. The "HOW TO ORDER" section includes instructions on how to fill out the form. A table lists items to order: "Pig the Pug" with a page count of 12, a code of 78, a quantity of 1, and a price of \$9.00. Below the table, there is a "SCHOLASTIC REWARDS" section stating "Every order earns FREE books and learning resources for your school!". The "HOW TO PAY" section lists three options: 1. CREDIT CARD, 2. CASH, and 3. CREDIT VOUCHER. The "TOTAL Payment to School" is \$9.00.

As the newsletter is issued fortnightly, reminders of the due date will not always be possible so please keep this in mind.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept late orders.

HELPERS REQUIRED

If you have some time available to help with the shelving of books or book covering, it would be greatly appreciated and means resources are available to our students quickly. Books and covering materials can be sent home if it is easier for you. If you would like any further information, please come and see me in the library or email me on louise.frenzel@cewa.edu.au

*Ms Louise Frenzel
Library Officer*

ITALIAN



Benvenuti a tutti! Welcome everyone!

I wish everyone a wonderful and productive 2024.

I look forward to students increasing their use of the Italian language.

Some useful Italian words we can use in our daily lives are:

Buongiorno - *Good morning*

Arrivederci - *Goodbye*

Ciao! - *Hello!/Hi! /Bye!*

Signora - *Mrs/Madame* _____

Signorina – *Miss* _____

Signore – *Mr* _____

Per favore - *Please*

Grazie - *Thank you*

Prego - *don't mention it/you're welcome*

Mi chiamo _____ - *My name is* _____

Buon Anno Scolastico a tutti!
Che Dio vi Benedica!

Happy school year to everyone!
May God Bless you!



*Signora Jenny Acquarola
Italian Specialist Teacher*

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Dear Community Member.

I trust my correspondence finds you well.

This letter is to inform you all that Mrs Angie Miola has completed her term of employment at St Lawrence and has decided to leave. I take this opportunity to wish Angie all God's blessings as she takes on a new and exciting time in her life.

A decision on how to move the Uniform Shop forward in 2024 will be made once we have completed investigating every option available to us and selecting the one which is best suited to us here at St Lawrence.

Until this decision is made, Mrs Michelle Seragusana will take over the position of Uniform Shop Manager. We thank Michelle for coming on board.

Moving forward, the uniform shop will now only be open on Thursdays between 8:00am to 10:00am. Orders can be emailed to Michelle on michelle.seragusana@cewa.edu.au and can also be placed with Mrs Armstrong in the Administration Office.

A reminder that all children must be in the correct uniform and enrolment at St Lawrence is linked to adherence to our policies and procedures.

Yours in Christ.

Mr Sheldon Carey.

CANTEEN NEWS

WELCOME BACK

The canteen is back up and running, as per normal, and operating on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Quickcliq is the preferred method of ordering. Cut off time is 8.30am.

If you have any questions, please contact me - Christina.russo@cewa.edu.au

CLASS REPS

Could all class reps please add me to your group chats so I can send any important information - 0408834774

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday 14 February is Ash Wednesday. There will be special menu items available:

Fish burger (crumbed fish, lettuce, mayo) \$5

Fish fingers (x5) \$4 add sauce for 50c

Please note there will be no meat options on this day.

Christina and Fran - Canteen Staff

P&F NEWS

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and can't wait for all the exciting events and fundraisers for 2024.

WELCOME BACK PICNIC

Unfortunately, the Welcome Back Picnic has been cancelled due to the extreme heat conditions predicted for Friday 9 February.



LOCAL MATTERS

Thanks to those who purchased from Grill'd during the month of December and placed their token in our school's jar. We came second and will be receiving a \$100 donation to the P&F as a prize.



CADBURY EASTER EGG FUNDRAISER

Want to satisfy that chocolate craving and raise money for the P&F at the same time? Thought so. An RSVP link will be provided on the Facebook Group for you to be able to order your box of chocolate goodness. Please keep an eye out for this next week.



CLASS REP MORNING TEA

A morning tea is being held for the 2024 Class Reps Friday 16 February straight after drop off. If you are a class rep, please come to the hall for a quick chat and morning tea.



COMMUNICATION FOR P&F ITEMS

You should have already been notified by your class rep regarding the private P&F Facebook Group. If you haven't already, please join the group so you can be kept up to date on important dates/fundraising events. If you need any assistance with joining the group, please reach out.



Mrs Natasha Raso, P&F President