



Newsletter No. 23

11 August 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.



The Assumption of Our Lady

The Church celebrates the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady on the 15th of August. According to our faith, the Holy Mother, “having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory”.

Although defined as an article of faith by Pope Pius XII just over half a century ago, the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven has been accepted from back to the earliest of Christian times. The Assumption signals the end of Mary's earthly life and marks her return to heaven to be reunited with Jesus. While the bodies of both Jesus and Mary are now in heaven, there is a difference between the Assumption and the Resurrection. Where Jesus arose from the tomb and ascended into heaven by his own power, Mary's body was taken up to heaven by the power of her Son.

For this reason, we use different words to describe each event. One is the Ascension of Christ and the other, the Assumption of Mary.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

COVID-19 Safety Update: As you are all aware we at St Lawrence are navigating the current prevailing circumstances. These realities change almost daily. All staff have been instructed to ensure if a lock-down is called that a swift and seamless transition to remote learning could occur within hours. This is not an easy undertaking and requires our staff to be preparing for different modes of learning and to be able to modify and adapt to an online method of delivery or remote method of instruction as well as the current in class face to face learning experiences. Our staff are working tirelessly to be prepared, they are vigilant in the enthusiastic commitment to ensure learning prevails under any potential change to circumstances.

I wish to acknowledge all the staff who have so diligently and with enthusiasm maintained their professional obligations and ethical commitments to ensure our children are provided for in any potential set of circumstances. This truly is no easy or simple task, yet they have and continue to do so with gusto. They have and continue to maintain stringent hygiene and cleaning regimes, which are well above their designated work obligations to ensure St Lawrence remains a safe and healthy haven.

I am aware some of the lawful fulfillment of Government and System requirements and mandates have put, at times, duress onto families. Particularly pertaining to being able to enter school grounds or attend events in full numbers as we once were allowed. I am also sure, however, as we watch events unfold on the Eastern Seaboard, that we can all see the importance and magnitude of our endeavours and undertakings to maintain the safety and the health of all community members. As a school we are responding to Government Requirements, System and Bishops' Mandates and the necessity of the prevailing circumstances.

I wish to thank you all for your absolute understanding of all our measures and undertakings to ensure safety and for your dutiful response to be in line with safety measures that have been applied from time to time. As Principal of St Lawrence, I have always tried assiduously and with great concern and commitment to maintain the safety and wellbeing of all 257 students, 31 staff and all community members, which effectively numbers in the 1000's. I truly value and appreciate the support of you all and your diligence in doing your bit to support our efforts to keep St Lawrence Primary School a safe environment.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

All our classes structure their workday to ensure the children have access to solid sessions of dedicated learning time. Our teaching staff structure and plan for blocks of Literacy Dedicated Time and Mathematics Dedicated Time at St Lawrence. Within these sessions, your children engage in independent and guided learning tasks. Teachers assess students to find their levels of competencies, proficiencies and skills and to identify any areas that may need extra support or revision and extension. All learning is driven by the data we gain from different forms of summative and/or formative assessment. Students for example in literacy may focus on set writing genres, and their learning is supported by frequent practice of learned skills, through structured and spontaneous opportunities to write, read, share, create, research, explore, navigate, infer, recall, review, evaluate...the list is endless!

Through the Australian Curriculum we are required to embed ICT into all general capabilities and ensure all students have well developed and ethical ICT skills. Your children enjoy the best learning opportunities and are supported by our outstanding teaching and learning team.

"There are three teachers of children: adults, other children, and their physical environment."

Loris Malaguzzi

The environment as The Third Teacher has long been acknowledged in most educational circles. It is a principle particularly embedded in the Reggio Emilia Approach which is an educational philosophy applied to many preschool and primary education settings. It was developed by Loris Malaguzzi, who was a teacher himself, and the parents of the villages around Reggio Emilia in Italy after World War II. After such a great and destructive event, people believed that children were in need of a new way of learning: the assumption was that people form their own personality during early years of development and, moreover, that children are endowed with "a hundred languages". The aim of this approach is teaching how to make them useful in everyday life. The program is based on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community through exploration and discovery in a supportive and enriching environment based on the interests of the children through a self-guided curriculum.

There is much research about pertaining to the 21st Century Learning Space. The 21st Century classroom should not look like the classrooms that were around 100 or 50 or even 20 years ago.

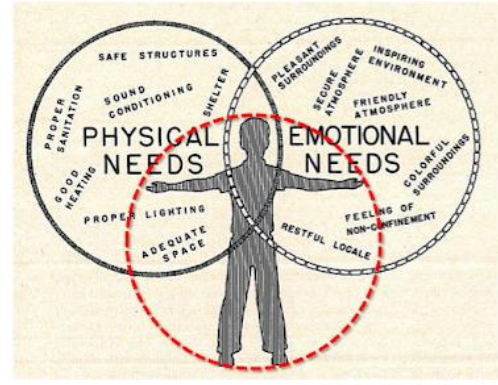


Looking at these three images one might ask how much has really changed? Sepia, black and white and colour!! The layout and functionality of the class certainly has not.



The 21st century classrooms are evolving to respond to our ever-growing understanding of how people learn, of how children best learn and can maximise their full learning potential. Spaces that are flexible, safe, vibrant, providing provocation for learning, rich in print, technologically relevant to today's world. Opportunities for explicit teaching and guided discovery of learning all come together. Classroom furniture is now responding to research on learning and child development.

Smaller workstations and clusters of ergonomically designed chairs/stools replace children sitting in conventional rows. For many of us as adults we have a mindset on how a classroom should look. Often a traditional picture is formed. Today's classrooms are different. It is a great privilege of my job to access each class regularly and see the exciting and vibrant learning spaces our teachers are creating and the empowerment of learning that transpires.



Catholic Pastoral Communities

A reminder Wellness Week is fast approaching. We had embedded this wonderful initiative into our school term in an effort to support the wellness of our children and community members. Wellness Week this term falls in Week Six. Students and families have a break from homework and instead focus on using that time to play some games, go for a walk, read together or watch a movie. Staff too share in this week by limiting the number of meetings and making sure that they also spend quality time with family and friends. We aim to generally 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 shouldn't be seen as homework – just what we do for enjoyment). Please continue to read with your child each night. It is an opportunity for families to spend the time they would have dedicated to homework and other school centred activities and spend time with each other. It provides a great opportunity to introduce “Reading Night” to your families- a night where the TV and other electronic devices get switched off and the family comes together to read, discuss books and share the joy of literature. Have a “screen free pledge night” with your children where you all pledge a night free of screen time, that so encroaches our lives, perhaps go for a family walk or midweek picnic, visit other family members like grand mum and dad that you don't normally catch up with midweek. Have a family cooking night! Maybe walk or ride your bike to school with the children. Plan healthy recess and lunches and prepare them with the children. It's all about our wellness and finding time to take care of our own health and wellbeing.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Absences and Late Arrivals

We are required by the Education Act (1999) 28 to keep accurate records of student absences and the Attendance Register kept by each class teacher is a legal document. A note explaining the absences needs to be produced on return to school. This explanation of an absence needs to be in written form (phone calls, SMS or a word to the teacher is not an acceptable substitute.)

An email meeting the following criteria, is also acceptable:

- ✓ The name of the student
- ✓ The class of the student
- ✓ The reason for the absence
- ✓ The full name of the parent/guardian at the end of the message (the 'from' email address is not sufficient as it does not necessarily have the full name of the person who is sending it)

Thank you to all the families who ensure the legal requirement for school attendance are met. Schools are audited yearly and have a registration audit every five years. This documentation is part of the lawful requirements for schools to remain in operation.

The Australian census on 10 August 2021 will provide a snapshot of who Australians are and what is important to us. The census is a key tool that government uses to determine how organisations, schools, church ministries and community groups are prioritised, funded and empowered to best operate in our State. If your faith is important to you or if you identify with Christian values, please use your voice in the Australian census when asked your religion. This is an important opportunity to demonstrate the significance of faith-based families in our West Australian community and will support endeavours to secure equitable access to opportunities and resources.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE



I ask you to keep in your prayers all the boys and girls who across our world are not accessing a suitable standard of education. Who for no fault of their own are unable to learn to read and write. I pray we may find a solution to this crisis and heal the gap growing between those who can and those who cannot.



Tabloid Sports – St Lawrence Feast Day

HOME LEARNING



A key to success is being organised. To avoid the last minute meltdowns about incomplete homework.

Tips for all ages

These tips are relevant for all students Kindergarten to Year 12.

- Ask your child about their homework, know what they are learning about and when assignments are due.
- Use a Term Planner or scheduled so you can help your child prepare in advance. Make 'to-do' lists to spread out the workload.
- Get into a routine of doing homework at a set time, ideally a little each day.
- Have a set place where the kids can do their homework, with the equipment they'll need
 - pens and pencils
 - highlighters
 - scissors
 - glue
 - scrap paper
 - ruler
 - calculator
 - printing paper
 - computer and internet access
 - a printer.
- Turn mobiles to 'aeroplane mode' or off so there are no disruptions.
- If there's no set homework, encourage your child to do some reading. For younger children, it's great for them to read aloud to you. For older kids, ask them to tell you about what they have been reading.
- Don't jump in and give answers, homework is about helping kids become independent learners.
- Encourage your child to start assignments as soon as they receive them -this will reduce any night-before stress.
- Your child needs to do their own projects and assignments. There's no point submitting work done by anyone other than the student. Teachers need to know what students can do independently.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday the St Lawrence Cross Country team will represent the school in the Interschool Cross Country. We wish them all the best and we know that they will show amazing sportsmanship.

FACTION SHIRTS

Children are to wear their coloured faction shirts on their designated Sports days from Monday 12th August. Faction shirts are available from the uniform shop for \$12 each.

CAMP

We wish our Year Sixes well as they prepare to head off on their long awaited camp next week. We know they will have a marvellous time and make some very special memories with their friends.

FEAST of the ASSUMPTION

On the 15th August we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, where all the Faithful are expected to celebrate Mass. On Friday 13th August the whole school will celebrate this special occasion by going to St Lawrence Parish to attend mass at 9am.

BOOK WEEK CHARACTER PARADE

To celebrate Book Week in week 6 children will be allowed to dress up in a book character. On Wednesday 25th August the school will have a Book Character parade in the school hall. Mrs Stanton will give you more information in the next couple of weeks.

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

Today the Year 4 students participated in their First Eucharist Retreat Day run by 24/7 Youth Ministry. They were involved in activities to help them strengthen their understanding of the Eucharist. On Saturday 21st August they will celebrate their First Holy Communion.



*Miss Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Gabrielle Brennan
Assistant Principals*

CLASS NEWS

PRE KINDY

Our days at Pre Kindy are always fun. Next week we will have activities and games working around the theme of *Terrific Transport*. It won't be very long until it is Father's Day - so we will be talking about that very soon.

Our children are working hard. We look forward to the remainder of the year and seeing the class grow in happiness, confidence and friendship.

A reminder – please place your child's Take-Home Story Books in the basket at our entry when you are ready to have them exchanged. Mrs Seragusana will organise the new books for the children. We hope you are enjoying the experience at home of sharing these books. These can be changed weekly or every two weeks if you wish. Any queries please speak to me and I will try to help.

Mrs Kaylene Bozich, Pre Kindy Teacher

KINDERGARTEN

This week in religion we continue to learn about Growing and Changing. We have looked at life cycles and discussed how God has enabled animals and plants to change over time. We created the plant life cycles and next week we cannot wait to plant seeds and watch them grow!

In literacy we continue revising the sounds and writing the letters we have been learning so far: s a t p i n. Please ensure the SATPIN and MRCHED letter prompt cards are taken out of your child's bags and kept at home as a reminder of the sound and actions that match each sound.

This week we are learning to form the letter a. It is important at this age to focus on correct pencil grip, posture and make sure more of a focus is placed on learning to write lowercase letters. Once lowercase letters are able to be formed correctly then we can move on capital letter formation.

A reminder, on the odd weeks of the school term (fortnightly) children will need to return there take home story books (bright green bag). Have a wonderful week everyone!



*We had fun learning letter sounds!
Mrs Wake called the sounds and
we had to swat the flies with that
sound.*

*In Numeracy we enjoyed singing
10 Green Bottles and acted out the
song together.*

*We learnt the importance of being
able count forwards and
backwards.*

Mrs Rachel Wake, Kindergarten Teacher

PRE PRIMARY

In Pre-Primary we have been talking about our feelings through our Religion lessons as well as in our Keeping Safe health lessons. This week we will be focusing on identifying our bodies Early Warning signs which helps us identify when we feel unsafe. Children are learning to identify that sometimes that means that their heart begins to beat faster, they feel butterflies in their stomach and can even feel a little dizzy.

Our Talk 4 Writing is at its innovating stage where the children are having fun changing the characters in The Gingerbread Man story to create their own version!

In Mathematics, we are learning to categorise, sort and collect data. We will be learning to put this information into a graph and answering questions about the information we have collected.

Last week, the children enjoyed St Lawrence Feast Day with their buddies. Thank you so much for all the cupcakes, we sold out, so it was a huge success!

Fairy tale Day will be on the 17th September. The children can come in their favourite fairy tale costume, and we have booked a special visitor for an incursion!

Don't forget to put you name down on the parent roster- many hands make light work!

Mrs Tania Preston, Pre Primary Teacher

YEAR ONE

In Year One we have been learning how to write a narrative. We have acted out the story The Tiger Who Came to Tea using key vocabulary from the story. We use words like, once upon a time, one day, unfortunately eventually. The children have had fun with this.

The Year Ones enjoyed celebrating St Lawrence Day last Friday. In the afternoon there were a variety of games for the children to participate in at our mini fete and many different stalls offering some delicious treats. Our lolly stall was a great success. Thank you to all the families who kindly donated. The tabloid sports was another great event on the day; we had a lot of fun and enjoyed the sunshine.



Mrs Gloria Edwards, Year One Teacher

YEAR TWO

The 'St Lawrence Feast Day' celebration was a blast!!!

Over the last couple of weeks, the Year Two class has been very busy preparing for the 'St Lawrence Art Competition' and class display.

Being the "treasures of St Lawrence", the class based their self-portraits on a Brazilian artist, Romero Britto. Combining elements of cubism, pop art and graffiti in their work, they used vibrant colour and bold patterns as a visual expression of hope, dreams, and happiness. The newspaper backing paper behind the artwork symbolised the spreading of the good news to others.

Our budding Year Two artists did such an amazing job that Father Emil and I had a very difficult task of choosing two winners.

Congratulations to Kiana Rupalia and Leonardo Orea Zepeda for successfully winning the St Lawrence art prizes.

A big thank you to Father Emil for your time judging our art.

*Mrs Paula Christensen,
Year Two Teacher*



St Lawrence Play Group is a great way for parents and children to socialise in a fun and relaxed environment. Our sessions run on a Monday morning from 8:40am - 10:30am in the Pre Kindy/Kindy classroom.

St Lawrence Play Group is open to anyone in the community. If you know of a friend or neighbour that may be interested, please feel free to pass on the details. Grandparents and caregivers are also very welcome to join us.

For all enquiries or to book please email gillian.austin@cewa.edu.au.

Mrs Gillian Austin, Play Group Facilitator

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK WEEK is fast approaching. We will be celebrating and recognising good quality Australian children's books, and their authors and illustrators.

As part of our special week, the children will have the opportunity to dress up as a character from a book. The theme this year "**Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds**" is quite broad.

Some character suggestions include:

Old Worlds – fiction books set in the past, historical non-fiction books or prehistoric people and animals, or ancient cultures.

New Worlds – any characters from the modern world or future characters

Other worlds – anything mystical and magical. Themes from outer space, witches, monsters, unicorns, or fairies.



Our Book Character Parade will be held in the hall on Wednesday 25th August at 8:45am.

Due to COVID restrictions, unfortunately parents will not be able to attend. We will, however, record the event for the school community to see.

CRAFT CLUB

Mrs Frenzel will be holding the ever-popular craft club in the library on Tuesday 24th August at 1pm. Mrs Frenzel will be asking each class if they would like to attend during library times this week and next week. As always, I am sure places will fill up very quickly.

Philosophy Club

Philosophy for Children, otherwise known as **P4C**, is a subject in which children participate in philosophical enquiry. This enhances children's thinking and communication skills and boosts their self-esteem. There are 4 skills of P4C which are:

caring, collaborative, creative and critical.

Here at St Lawrence Primary, we are running a Philosophy Club once a week for interested children from Years 1-6 in the library.

Each week we will be sharing stimuli and examples of questions that we can discuss as a group such as 'What is Art?', 'What is nature?', 'What is Beauty?'

Mrs Jane Stanton, Teacher Librarian



SPORTS NEWS

CROSS COUNTRY

This Friday 13th August 4 boys and 4 girls from year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will represent our school at the NECPSA Inter-School Cross Country Carnival at Yokine Reserve.

Competitors will be encouraged to have a large morning tea as we will be leaving school at 12.00pm. Students need to bring their lunch with them and will be encouraged to eat at appropriate times depending on their race start time.

Well done to all the children that have continued to turn up to training in the wild weather that we have had of late.

I wish them all the best of luck!

ST LAWRENCE FACTION CARNIVAL

Please note the change of date



Unfortunately, we have had to change the date for our faction carnival this year. Balcatta Primary School have their Inter School Carnival on the same day. We have only just become aware of this.

As a result, we have moved our Faction Carnival forward a week and it will now take place on **Friday 10th September**.

I apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause, particularly for working parents who may have taken time off work. I hope that this is sufficient notice for alternate arrangements to be made.

FACTION SHIRTS

Students will be required to wear their coloured faction shirts on Tuesday and Thursday for sport for the remainder of the term. Shirts are available at uniform shop, and I will ensure that class teachers all have a faction list for any students who are unsure.

After lunch on Friday, we will line up in faction teams in the under-croft. Staff will start giving out team points that will go towards the carnival trophies.

AFTER SCHOOL SOCCER COACHING

I am pleased to confirm that this will be going ahead due to fantastic levels of interest across the whole school. Football West are now working on allocating coaches to our school who will run the sessions. The plan is that we will have four groups running simultaneously on the oval. Kindy and PP, Years 1 and 2, Year 3s and 4 and Years 5 and 6.

Permission letters will be sent home shortly, but the plan is to start the sessions on Tuesday 24th August, and they will run for the rest of the term.

Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher

P&F NEWS



YOUR RECIPES!

❖ Thank you to those who have already submitted a recipe for the book we are creating. If you are hoping to have your recipe included, please note that the cut-off date is the 31st of August 2021. This date has already been extended from the end of July and unfortunately, we won't be able to extend the date beyond this point as we need to allow sufficient time to put the book together and have them printed.
Thank you in advance for your understanding.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- ❖ ***Father's Day Stall*** – Friday 27th August 2021
There will be gifts ranging from \$1 and \$5. This is not a money making event. This is purely a service we provide so that the children have the chance to go shopping for the special men in their life.
- ❖ ***Father's Day Afternoon Tea*** – Friday 3rd September 2021. 2.00pm to 2:45pm
Further information will be sent home to families.

CANTEEN NEWS

- ❖ **Thank you** to my helpers last week - Cilena, Sue and Adele - very much appreciated!
- ❖ **Year 5** - next week is your rostered week. Please advise me if you are available to help for a few hours on Thursday and Friday.
- ❖ **Birthday Orders**
Cupcakes or M & M Cookies \$20. Brownies, Honey Joys or Icy Poles \$15.
Mini Cupcakes \$12 (Kindy only).

Please preorder at least one day in advance – 0408 834 774



We will be having a Father's Day Raffle and Sports Carnival.
Orders will be taken soon!

2021 Canteen Staff