



Newsletter No. 36

24 November 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.



ADVENT REFLECTION

The Seven Great "O" Antiphons are an ancient part of the Advent prayer of the Church. For the seven days before the vigil of Christmas (December 17 to 23) all priests say (and many monks and nuns say or sing) special antiphons during vespers. Each antiphon begins with "O" and contains prayers and sentiments drawn from the Old and New Testaments referring to the hope for the coming of the Messiah. The Antiphons were always seven in number, and are first found in their present form in the 8th century A.D. although some scholars attribute them to the 7th century. Originally, of course, they were in Latin and sung in Gregorian Chant.

Dec 17 - O Sapientia

O Wisdom which came from the mouth of the Almighty God, reaching the world's furthest bounds, Gently ordering all things, Come teach us the way of prudence. You who reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Dec 18 - O Adonai

O Adonai and royal prince of Israel; who long ago revealed yourself to Moses in fiery flame and gave to him the law, come save us with your right arm extended. You who reign... Amen

Dec 19 - O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse sent to the nations of the world before whom let kings and rulers keep silent; to whom all peoples pray, Come free us do not linger. You who reign... Amen.

Dec 20 - O Clavis David

O David's key and sceptre of Israel you open and no one can close; close and no one can open, come and lead the prisoner from captivity, seated in gloom, and the shadow of death. You who reign... Amen.

Dec 21 - O Oriens

O Morning star splendour of light, eternal and shining sun of justice, come enlighten those who sit in darkness and shadow of death. You who reign... Amen.

Dec 22 - O Rex Gentium

O King of nations; hope of all the peoples and corner stone; bond that unites us, come and save mankind whom from the earth you formed. You who reign... Amen.

Dec 23 - O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, king and giver of the law; hope of all nations and their saviour, come O Lord and God and save us. You who reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever... Amen.

Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders

A huge thank you to all who attended our AGM this week.

Gratitude and thanks must be given to our School Advisory Council who at all times work diligently and enthusiastically with the School's Leadership Team to continue to set a strong and sound path forward for St Lawrence. I thank Fraser Clarke and Michael Mucciarone, who with myself form the Financial Sub-Committee, for all their dedication to our school and their skills in ensuring we are always well within our budget. They volunteer their time and exceptional skills and I along with all our community, are incredibly grateful to them for this as well as all Advisory Council Members. Our community owes them all a huge debt of gratitude. This year Johanna Carbone, Patrick King and Melinda Italiano step down from the Advisory Council. A heartfelt thank you for your tenure and support of our school.

I also dearly wish to acknowledge the dedication of our P&F who tirelessly strive to build community and support the school through fund raising events and community events.

The P&F is a key body of our school and I strongly encourage new members to step forward and join the committee. This year has been a challenge as we have faced the restrictions presented by COVID. However, the P&F managed exceptionally well and have been able to organise some outstanding events including the Fun Run, the Quiz Night, the Father's Day Lunch and Mother's Day morning tea.

This year Adele Cirillo, Renee Femia, Franzl Shannon, Lisa-Marie Fay and Tara O'Leary worked enthusiastically to build and maintain the P&F as the vibrant and empowering body it is. Their financial support of the school, including purchasing literacy resources, play equipment and class resources, and supporting all school undertakings are exceptional examples of their marvellous achievements. Thank you to all the committee members for your ongoing support and dedication. We greatly appreciate all you do for us.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

As our term comes to its final weeks, teachers are busily attending to assessments and the analysis of our students' progress. This is in preparation for the Semester Two Reports.

Staff will continue to work through until Friday 17th of December. Teachers are available to meet with parents regarding reports on Monday 13th of December.

Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment

Students in Years 3 and 5 completed the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment (BRLA) earlier this year. The BRLA is a curriculum-based assessment that reflects and supports the progressive nature of the K-12 Religious Education units. The assessment focuses on students' ability to recall content about the Catholic faith and their knowledge and understanding of Religious Education. It is not designed to measure a student's faith. The results from these assessments have been sent home with our Year 3 and 5 students today.

Catholic Pastoral Communities



St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal

Thank you to the families who have already contributed to the **St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal**.

All donations will be gratefully received and will be used to bring joy to others in our community.

Donations will be collected by St Vinnie on Thursday 9 December.

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable

Term Dates 2022

SEMESTER ONE 2022

Term One: Monday 31 January to Friday 8 April

Term Two: Tuesday 26 April to Friday 1 July

SEMESTER TWO 2022

Term Three: Monday 18 July to Friday 23 September

Term Four: Monday 10 October to Friday 9 December

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to all families who have finalised their fees for 2021.

A friendly reminder that all school fee balances need to be finalised by 30 November 2021. Please see Lina Armstrong, in the office, if you need a copy of your current statement or have any issues or concerns. Thank you.

God bless each and every one of you.



Sheldon Carey
M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip
Principal



PASTORAL CARE



We pray for all those in our community experiencing difficulties.

May God's loving arms reach them.

*"You may slip, but God will not let you fall.
His loving arms will always be there to catch you"*

HOME LEARNING TIP

As holidays loom I thought I would start running some hint about keeping learning opportunities flourishing at your homes during the holidays. Holidays are certainly a time for rest, relaxation, family and celebrations. But routines and keeping the children active engaged and...yes learning... are also essential. Learning should never stop when the school gates close...never! Each one of you can and should still foster in your children over the holidays a love of learning. And if done well, they won't even know it! Here are some hand hints I have sourced from a quick internet search for you all to ponder.

1. Go to museums

Research greatly supports the educational and personal benefits of visiting museums.

One study found that kids who do:

- demonstrated stronger critical thinking skills,
- displayed higher levels of social tolerance,
- exhibited greater historical empathy, and;
- developed a taste for art museums and cultural institutions.

Not much more to say on this one!

2. Take them to the supermarket

A study into childhood learning involved placing signs with questions on items around a supermarket.

Questions like 'where does milk come from?' and 'what else comes from a cow?' These were designed to encourage dialogue and evoke curiosity and inquisition from the children.

The results saw a one-third increase in conversations between parents and children — a pivotal form of informal education.

3. Let them be bored

No apology with this one...The holidays can often be a constant battle of finding new and interesting things to keep the children entertained.

But there's a lot to be said for leaving them to their own devices and letting them just be.

'Children need time to themselves – to switch off from the bombardment of the outside world, to daydream, pursue their own thoughts and occupations, and discover personal interests and gifts', explains Teresa Belton.

Children of the digital age are used to having constant entertainment and instant gratification.

Being bored and stimulate creative thinking and problem solving.

4. Make reading part of your daily routine...EVERY DAY!

If I could help parents understand one thing...it is the significant positive impact daily reading has on children....and adults!

Regular routines can go out the window when school stops...

But you can still keep a sense of routine, and important daily rituals, all through the holidays.

5. Discuss current events

Dialogue, as evidenced in The Supermarket Study, referred to previously is an often-overlooked opportunity for teaching and learning.

Discuss timely, relevant events from the media (or otherwise) with your children.

Of course, your discussions should be age appropriate...

But you will find that there are appropriate news-worthy topics to discuss with young children and older teenagers.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

The Graduation Liturgy and Presentation Night will be held at Servite College Auditorium, 134 Cape Street, Tuart Hill on Wednesday 8 December at 6pm (Please arrive at 5.45pm) Parking is available on Morgans Street or at Grenville Oval.



ST VINNIE'S APPEAL AND THE GIVING TREE

As we draw closer to the season of Advent when we prepare ourselves for Jesus' birth, we are provided with the opportunity to consider those who are less fortunate than us and to donate to the St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal

and the Giving Tree. All donations will be gratefully received and will be used to bring joy to others in our community. Please leave your food items on the ledge in the Learning Centre and your gifts under the Christmas tree labelled and wrapped.

Our school community is always so generous, thank you in advance for your donations which will make a big difference to a family. Donations will be collected on Thursday 9 December.

Suggestions for the food hamper include plum puddings, Christmas cakes, tinned hams, tinned fruits, jellies, lollies, boxes of chocolates, cool drinks, Christmas crackers, custards (premade), fruit juices, and biscuits.

WHOLE SCHOOL NATIVITY



We are all very excited about our upcoming Whole School Nativity and Presentation Ceremony on Thursday 9 December at 6pm. The Whole School Nativity is a compulsory event for all students. Mrs Freeman will communicate information regarding costumes to each class. Thank you for your co-operation.

SEMESTER 2 REPORTS

St Lawrence Catholic Primary School utilises SEQTA for parents to access student reports for children in Pre-Primary to Year 6. If you have not already done so, please log in to SEQTA to ensure you are able to access your child's report. To do this you need to go to the following site:

<https://stlawbal.coneqt-p.cathodnet.wa.edu.au>.

YEAR 6 REPORTS

Parents of students in Year 6 will need to either print off their child's reports or save them as soon as possible, as reports will not be able to be accessed once children leave the school.

WEEK 7

- **Kindy Nativity** Friday 26 November at 9am

WEEK 8

- **PP Nativity** Friday 3 December at 8.45am

WEEK 9

- **Graduation Liturgy and Dinner** Wednesday 8 December at 6pm
- **Whole School Christmas Nativity and Presentation Ceremony** Thursday 9 December at 6pm
- **Reports** available online Friday 10 December at 4pm
- **End of Term Students** Friday 10 December



Mrs Gabrielle Brennan & Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Assistant Principals

CLASS NEWS

YEAR THREE

What an extremely busy Wellness Week we had last week with Outdoor Classroom Day, our Coles Excursion, our Cooking Session and the School Disco. This week hopefully we are back to normal. Thank you to all the parents who helped make the Coles Excursion a wonderful experience for the Year 3 students. They had so much fun shopping and cooking. This term in Digital Technologies we have been working with Scratch Junior and Ozobots to become familiar with how to use coding strategies to program characters and robots.

As we draw closer to the season of Advent, children have been asked to show an act of kindness by either donating food items for the St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal or buying a child a gift from the Giving Tree.

The Year 3 students will be going on our end of year excursion on Monday 29th November to 'Latitude' Bounce, Climb and Fly Centre in Edgewater. Permission slips were sent home on Tuesday and are due back by Friday this week. Children will be allowed to wear their sports uniform on that day.

Parent interviews are taking place in week 8 and 9. They are not compulsory. Parents will be notified by me if an interview is required. If you do not receive an email by the end of the week and would like a meeting, please email me.



Miss Kathleen Tranquille, Year Three Teacher

YEAR FOUR

We had so much fun last Monday on Outdoor Classroom Day! We got to spend the day with our buddy class exploring planting seeds, Aboriginal chalk art, nature art and making seed balls.

In our English lessons, we have been learning about how to create informational reports. We have been researching our favourite Australian animal and have found very interesting facts about them! We will be working on presenting our information digitally using our iPads.

This term, we have been working closely with the Year 5 class exploring Micro:bits. We have absolutely loved it! This week, we learnt how to program a game code and then play it with our partners and our Micro:bits. It definitely is challenging and requires a lot of problem solving!

A reminder our excursion to Pasta in the Valley is next Tuesday. Please remember to bring the signed permission slip and lunch options in by Friday. Thank you to those who have already done so!



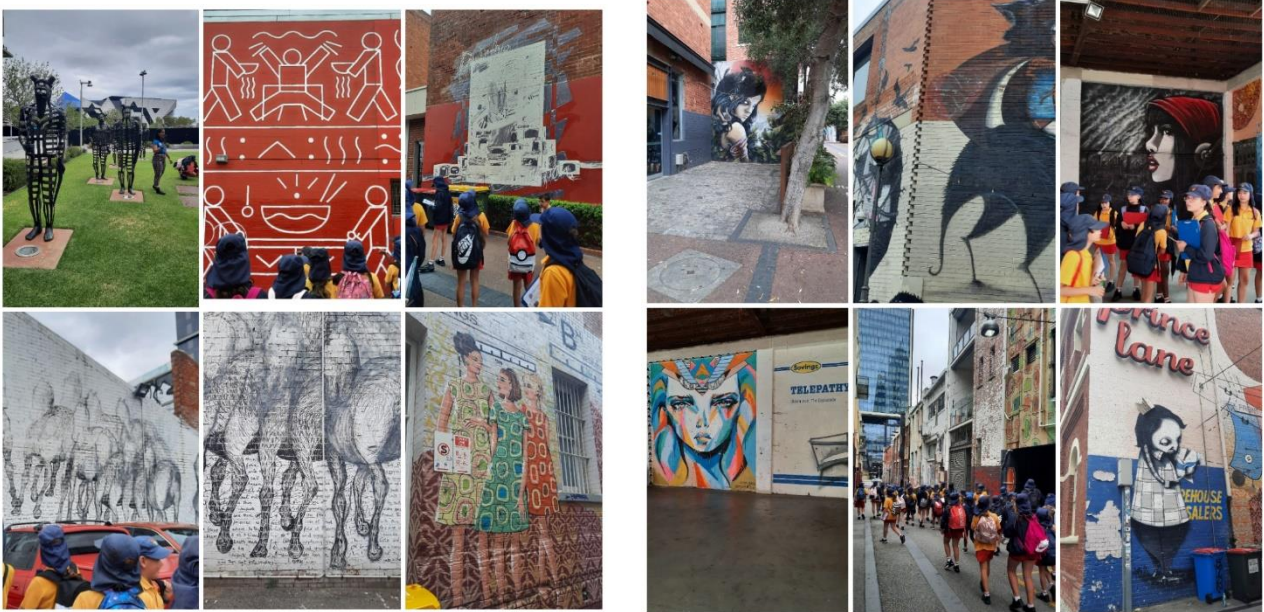
Miss Kayla Fogliani, Year Four Teacher

YEAR FIVE

WOW...who knew there was so much art to see in the Perth CBD!!!

Year Five had such a colourful excursion on Thursday. We went on a guided tour of our Perth CBD to view all the amazing murals and sculptures hidden around our city. Learning about artists including Alexis Diaz and the amazing technique of cross hatching. With every amazing art piece, came an even more intriguing story behind the piece. We learnt about so many different techniques that have been used by each of the artists. Also, we heard some interesting Aboriginal stories that were the inspiration behind a number of sculptures around Perth and Northbridge. Walking around Northbridge, we learnt about its multiculturalism and how stories and events from the lives of migrants were expressed in various art forms.

As a follow-up to our excursion, the students have started to practice the technique of cross hatching and are now using this technique to create their own art piece.



Mrs Angela Carnevali, Year Five Teacher (Relief)

YEAR SIX

The disco was a blast thanks to nearly every student at St Lawrence being present and the many talents of DJ Steve Patino. We witnessed amazing group dances from the Year Six students, who will repeat them at Graduation for their family members.

As it was the Solemnity of Christ the King last Sunday, the Year Six students made crowns for their Year One buddies – the photos show how ‘kingly’ our young buddies look and is a reminder that we share in the kingship of Jesus through baptism.

Permission slips have come home for attendance at the final excursion on the last day of term (and school!) to Lazer Blaze. Parent interviews will be held over the next two weeks – I encourage all parents to book an interview as we will be sadly farewelling our senior students shortly.



Mr Phil Haydon, Year Six Teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

This week has been a very busy one in the library. Mrs Frenzel ran her ever-popular Craft Club on Tuesday, and Philosophy Club was held on Wednesday. The children were very excited to make elf hats in Craft Club



We also had a couple of budding architects in the library. Tory and Sebastian are very proud of the tower they constructed.

Mrs Jane Stanton, Teacher Librarian

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to our families for raising **\$4,255** during this year's **Fun Run!** We are so blessed to be part of such a generous community! The children did an outstanding job running their hearts out and it was a fun afternoon to be part of.

The winner! It was a close call but ultimately the winner who raided the most money was Angela Di Trento, Year 5 student - thank you for such an awesome effort in your fund raising!

RECIPE BOOKS

Recipe books are now selling from the school office and from the school canteen. Thank you to Christina Russo who has generously offered to sell them. Don't miss out on a copy for \$15 before sell out!

Thank you to the families who contributed to the book with recipes and to Melissa Cumace for bringing this idea to life.

Finally, a last word from me as I wrap up the year and step down from the P&F.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way, you know who you are. I will be forever humbled by this experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the school, our children and community. To the 2022 P&F, my best wishes and enjoy this rewarding experience.



Mrs Adele Cirillo (0412 658 884)

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

2022 PRE-PRIMARY & YEAR 1 STUDENTS

Students commencing Pre-Primary and Year 1 in 2022 will be wearing a compulsory school uniform. Please ensure that uniform is purchased as soon as possible.

COLLECTION OF UNIFORM ORDERS

Parents who have placed uniform orders may now come to the Uniform Shop to collect the uniforms. Payment is required by EFTPOS or cash.

Please contact me ASAP on Angie.miola@cewa.edu.au for any enquiries.

SUMMER UNIFORM

Year 1 to Year 6 students commencing Term 1, 2022 return back to school in Summer Uniform.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS

Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten students may purchase a Red Early Childhood T- Shirt, available from Uniform Shop, please note it is not compulsory.

A St Lawrence School Library Bag for Kindergarten students is compulsory and available from the Uniform Shop.

BOYS RED RUGBY SHORTS

Please note that boys red rugby shorts were discontinued at the beginning of this year.

Red Sport Shorts (Microfibre with gold "St Lawrence Primary School" printed on shorts) are available and are compulsory to wear in Pre-primary to Year 6 for commencement of school in February 2022.

RED RUGBY SHORTS (old style) are NOT allowed to be worn in 2022.

LAST DAY UNIFORM SHOP OPEN FOR 2021

Please note that the Uniform Shop will be **open until Thursday 9 December from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.**

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

Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager

SPORTS NEWS

We have had so much fun in sport these last few weeks.

Connor, our professional baseball player has returned to school this year to give us some excellent coaching and we all gave squash a try last Thursday on the indoor inflatable courts.

The Years 5 & 6 classes have also started volleyball and are already getting very competitive and ready for games over the net tomorrow.

Please remember your hats and drinks bottles, it's getting pretty warm out there!

Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Teacher

SQUASH INCURSION



PIC•COLLAGE

CANTEEN NEWS

Thank you to my helpers last week Kayli Thompson and Adele C, very much appreciated!

Christmas Raffle tickets are now on sale at the canteen for \$5 each.

Fabulous prizes to be won:

- \$300 Scooter Hub Voucher kindly donated by David Michael MLA
- A gorgeous Almond and Mint Hamper donated by Renee Femia and Family
- 2 x \$50 Wish Gift cards donated by Woolworths Roselea
- Wine, and a Wine Traveller donated by Mrs Frenzel

Thanks so much to our generous donors!

Please note: A message will be sent out soon in regards to **last day of term special**.



2021 Canteen Staff