



Newsletter No. 29

29 November 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.

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



I take this opportunity to wish each and every member of our community, a heartfelt blessing for Christmas and the New Year. May the knowledge that Our Saviour, Jesus Christ was born in the small town of Bethlehem, bring much joy and comfort to us all as we await His second glorious coming. God bless you all and keep you safe during the New Year and holidays.

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.

Andy Rooney

Inspiring Christ-centred Leaders.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and farewell a number of our community members. Our wonderful Year Six children will leave our school this year and take on the challenges of High School. I thank them all for their wonderful years here at St Lawrence, I pray they will carry with them the many lessons they have learned and always be mindful of embodying Gospel Values and Christian Principles in all they do.

We also farewell a number of school families. Your time here has been a blessing to our community, and we are grateful for your support of our school. I wish you all every happiness in your new journeys and may God's blessing be with you all.

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sunshine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

STAFFING 2024 (subject to change)

Position	Staff
Leadership	
Principal	Mr Sheldon Carey
Assistant Principals	Mrs Gabrielle Brennan Ms Kathleen Tranquille
Administration	
Finance Officer	Mrs Alica Mayo
Office Administrator	Mrs Lina Armstrong
Playgroup	Mrs Gillian Austin
Pre-Kindy Education Assistant	Mrs Rachel Wake Mrs Karyn Howley
Kindergarten Education Assistants	Mrs Tania Preston Mrs Michelle Seragusana Mrs Kayli Thompson
Pre-Primary Education Assistant	Ms Paula Christensen Mrs Lyn Staltari
Year One Education Assistant	Mrs Angela Carnevali (Monday-Thursday) Mrs Deborah Hogg (Friday) Mrs Angela Mattioli
Year Two Education Assistant	Mrs Gloria Edwards (Monday-Thursday) Mrs Kaylene Bozich (Friday) Mrs Pina Nyersh
Year Three	Mrs Roselyn Pizzino
Year Four	Ms Kathleen Tranquille Mrs Claire Major (Monday pm) (Wednesday)
Year Five	Miss Kayla Fogliani Mrs Frances Caruso (Tuesday)
Year Six	Mr Phil Haydon
Specialists	
Education Assistants	Mrs Gillian Austin Mrs Karyn Howley
Physical Education	Mrs Claire Major
Science	Mrs Stephanie Freeman
Library	Ms Louise Frenzel
Italian	Mrs Jenny Acquarola
Music	Mrs Rachel Wake
IT	Miss Kayla Fogliani
Uniform Shop	Mrs Angie Miola
Canteen	Mrs Christina Russo Mrs Frances Caccamo
Groundsperson	Mr Robert van Oosten

Catholic Pastoral Communities.

THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Here we are at the end of the school year. What does this mean to us?

Let's take a look at some of the words that say end.

MEND. This is a good time of the year to mend things before we finish up. We might need to mend some friendships that are broken, by saying sorry and parting on a friendly note.

SPEND. How are we going to spend the holidays? How can we use all the lovely time so that we enjoy the sunshine, get lots of exercise, have fun playing, spend time with friends and family, refresh our souls and our bodies?

ASCEND. Next year we all move up a class and some will ascend into a new school. It's an exciting time and part of a good life – that we keep moving on and upwards.

FRIEND. We all have good friends here at school. How will we keep in touch over the holidays? How will we keep in touch if we are in different schools next year?

SEND. The end of the year is a good time to send a message of thanks to people who have made a difference in your life. It is also a good time to send a card or letter to someone special you haven't seen for a while.

DEPEND. Who and what do you really depend on to make your life happy and useful? Make sure you keep the people and things you depend on part of your holidays too.

RECOMMEND. Find out what your teachers recommend you read over the holidays or how they think you can prepare for next year's work.

SPLendid. Congratulations to you all for a splendid year. Let's wish everyone a splendid holiday, full of all the good things that holidays, and the summer bring.



Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable.

Thank you to all community members who have supported our school during 2023. We greatly value and appreciate all the support, help and time our community members give to our wonderful school. SAC and P&F Members, attending excursions, helping in classes, canteen, at carnival, giving of your time and talents to support across our school. We really do value and appreciate your efforts. These wonderful undertakings are part of the success of Catholic schools and as I have said many, many times, we all know the more parental fingerprints are found across a school, the better the children's educational experiences and outcomes are. Thank you all.

May I also extend my sincere gratitude to all staff of our school. My job is made so much easier knowing that dedicated, and highly competent staff fulfil their duty and employment obligation above and beyond the requirements. They constantly give 150% in all their undertakings. Well done staff and God bless you all.



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

PASTORAL CARE

We keep in our prayers all those impacted by the recent fires. May immediate help come to their aid and may long term generosity support their recovery.



Amen



Congratulations to our new bundle of joy:



Cirillo family – a new baby brother – Chaz to Italia in Yr 7, Layla in Yr 6 & Mia in Yr 2.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

ADVENT

Advent begins on Sunday 2 December. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning 'coming' and during this period we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. Advent is a time to reach out to others in the Spirit of love and share what we have been given. Advent is a time to remember all that God has done.

During this time families start preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Suggested activities:

Attending Mass regularly

Being kind to our family and friends

Recalling our sins and repenting

Loving our neighbours by helping those in need

Praying regularly

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all the families who have donated food and bought a present for a child from our Giving Tree. Your donations will make a difference to a family this Christmas. Our school community is always so generous. The food hampers were collected on 28 November. The Giving Tree presents will be collected on 7 December. Last minute presents can still be placed under the Christmas tree until that date.



GRADUATION CELEBRATION

The Graduation celebrations will start with the Year 6 students celebrating mass with the St Lawrence school community on Tuesday 5 December at 10am in the church. All parents are welcome to attend.

The Graduation Liturgy, Presentation Night and dinner will be held on Wednesday 6 December at the Servite Auditorium at 6pm. Year 6 students will be presented with their awards. Students need to be in full summer uniform.

The St Lawrence medals will be presented at the Christmas Nativity on Thursday 7 December.

BOOKLISTS

As per last year, the Pre Primary to Year 6 student booklists will be ordered in bulk and all items will be dispatched directly to the school. The classroom teachers will send children's books home in week 9 to be labelled and covered. The books will need to be returned to school on the first day of 2024.

PRE PRIMARY NATIVITY

The Pre Primary students will be presenting their Nativity assembly on Friday 1 December. Parents are welcome to attend.

WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

The St Lawrence students have been working hard this term in preparation for the Christmas Nativity Concert. They are looking forward to sharing the story of the First Christmas as well as getting you singing and moving to entertaining Christmas tunes.

In preparation for the big event Mrs Freeman has emailed the costume requirement for each year level. Students are to come dressed in their costumes on the night of the concert and meet their classroom teacher in their class between 5.30pm-5.45pm. They will walk to the Junior Oval with their class, prior to the concert commencing and stay with their class for the entirety of the concert. Parents will be permitted to bring low back chairs and rugs to sit on.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 7 December for an evening full of Christmas cheer and fun.

Year	Costumes
Kindy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plain Red t-shirt (or Kindy top)• Black shorts
Pre-Primary Christmas Elves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green Top or Dress (preferably plain in colour or can have a Christmas theme to it; please avoid other motifs as much as possible)• shorts (any colour)• Christmas Accessories Encouraged (optional)
Year 1 Christmas Cheer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas Top or dress• Shorts (any colour, welcome to match Christmas Theme)• Christmas Accessories Encouraged (optional)
Year 2 Santa Inspired	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red top or dress• Dark Bottoms (black or navy preferable)• Christmas Accessories Encouraged especially Santa hats (but optional)
Year 3 Rock n Roll Inspired	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White top (plain or Christmas Motif optional)• Denim or Navy Bottoms• Sunglasses (encouraged)• Christmas Accessories Encouraged (optional)
Year 4 Rock n Roll Inspired	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White or black top (plain or Christmas Motif optional)• Denim or Black Bottoms• Sunglasses (encouraged)• Christmas Accessories Encouraged
Year 5 Christmas Cheer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dancers: PJs (They can be long or short but dancers have been asked to wear bike shorts under shorts. PJ shorts/pants with a plain colour top or a full set of PJs - Christmas theme encouraged, but optional)• Band: All black (shorts or pants with a t-shirt)
Year 6 Christmas Cheer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas Top (please aim for Red, White or Green; plain or Christmas motifs only-no soccer tops)• Black or Dark Bottoms• Christmas Accessories Encouraged (optional)

SWIMMING

Swimming lessons will end at the end of this week. Certificates and progress reports will be sent home next week. The children adapted to the changes to routines during swimming lessons extremely well and we were very proud of their excellent behaviour. It was very pleasing to see the older students Making Jesus Real by helping our younger students each day. The holidays are a perfect opportunity to take your children swimming so they can consolidate what they have learnt.

REPORTS

Reports will be accessible to parents via SEQTA on Friday 8 December at 4pm, using your current username and password. All parents are encouraged to log on and try their passwords before this date.

Please note that access to SEQTA will be revoked by 9pm on Monday 18 December 2023 for students not returning to St Lawrence in 2024 (either graduating Year 6 students or students attending another school next year). Please make it a priority to ensure you have downloaded and saved or printed copies of all reports by this date.

TERM 4 ENDS 8 DECEMBER, 2023



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

SACRAMENT DATES 2024 (Subject to change)

CONFIRMATION

EVENT	DATE	TIME/LOCATION/PRESENTER
Enrolment Mass	Saturday 9 March Sunday 10 March	Saturday 6.00pm OR Sunday 5.00pm Mass (Candidates and Family)
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 24 April	3.30 – 4.30pm School Hall (Parents/Carers only)
Retreat	Thursday 9 May	8.30am – 3.00pm - (Candidates only)
CONFIRMATION CEREMONY	Saturday 18 May	6.00pm – St Lawrence Church

EUCHARIST

EVENT	DATE	TIME/LOCATION/PRESENTER
Enrolment Mass	Saturday 9 March Sunday 10 March	Saturday 6.00pm OR Sunday 5.00pm Mass (Candidates and Family)
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 31 July	3.30 – 4.30pm School Hall (Parents/Carers only)
Retreat	Thursday 8 August	8.30am – 3.00pm (Candidates only)
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS	Sunday 25 August	8.30am – St Lawrence Church

RECONCILIATION

EVENT	DATE	TIME/LOCATION/PRESENTER
Enrolment Mass	Saturday 9 March Sunday 10 March	Saturday 6.00pm OR Sunday 5.00pm Mass (Candidates and Family)
Parent Meeting	Wednesday 9 October	3.30 – 4.30pm School Hall (Parents/Carers only)
Retreat	Tuesday 15 October	8.30am – 3.00pm (Candidates only)
RECONCILIATION NIGHT	Wednesday 23 October	6.30pm – St Lawrence Church

Ms Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Gabrielle Brennan
Assistant Principals

STEM SHOWCASE

In 2023, STEM Club was started at St Lawrence Primary School, and this term STEM Club students showed off their creative, innovative, and inspiring ideas in our school's first STEM Showcase.

Across Term 1, 2 and 3, twenty students from Year 5 and 6 combined, were presented with a theme specific to our school environment, "Outdoor Classroom Day", "Sustainability at St Lawrence" and "Our School's Outdoor Spaces" respectively. Teams identified 'problems', gathered data, including student and staff voice, and decided on a 'solution', planning, and designing an idea that would better their given theme.

After 8 weeks in STEM Club and some enthusiastic lunch times creating, Teams presented their ideas to a panel that included School Leadership members and a representative of our P&F in a shark tank style afternoon. Questioning and feedback from the shark tanks gave students an opportunity to innovate and further develop their ideas, before putting on this term's showcase.

Students took on the challenge in front of them with eagerness and excitement, and I am proud of the way that Teams in each term's STEM Club conducted themselves throughout the stages of the process, particularly at the Showcase. A BIG Congratulations to all Year 5 and 6 students for not only their commitment to STEM but the outstanding outcomes of each idea.

Mrs Stephanie Freeman
STEM Teacher



Mud Day



Student Mural



Rock Painting



Sundae Bar



Water Slides



Bin System



School Lunchbox



Class Gardens



Plastics Robot



School Folders



Junior Oval



Cyclical Garden



Family Bricks



Smoothie Bar



Soccer Teams



School Mural



Soccer Goals

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Students from Kindy to Year 6 are busily preparing to share the story of the First Christmas, as well as spread some Christmas Cheer through song and dance, celebrate the achievements of individuals, farewell our Year 6s as a whole school and spend time as a community

Concert Particulars to be
shared through Seesaw this week

Thank you
Mrs Stephanie Freeman



PLAYGROUP

We have had lots of fun doing our Christmas activities over the last few weeks. We made Christmas Cookies and painted Christmas Stockings. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our play group families and the St Lawrence Community a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. I look forward to seeing you all next year.



*Mrs Gillian Austin
Play Group Facilitator*

LIBRARY NEWS

ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR

Our last sundae bar sitting has taken place with our Years One to Three making and enjoying their sundaes. A perfect way to help cool down during the hot weather we have been enduring.

PRE KINDY COME TO LIBRARY!

Last Thursday, Pre Kindy joined us in the Library for a special Christmas visit. We enjoyed reading "There's an Elf Stuck in my Book!" Pre Kindy helped to get the elf out of the book by blowing, shaking and making a wish. We have so many budding artists in Pre Kindy, we concluded our session by crafting our own elf pictures and the results were magnificent!



LIBRARY BORROWING CONCLUDED FOR 2023

We advise that student borrowing of library books has now finished for 2023. We ask that you help your child locate any overdue books and return them to the library as soon as possible. Lexile borrowing will continue until the end of the year.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to our volunteers who have helped with the shelving and covering of books this year. Your generous help ensured that our students could enjoy the wonderful resources our Library has to offer. Special thanks also to our students who have helped with jobs at lunchtimes, showing that they are truly Making Jesus Real!



Wishing all our students, families and the wider St Lawrence Community a very safe, happy and joyous Christmas and holiday break.

*Ms Louise Frenzel
Library Officer*

SPORTS NEWS

SWIMMING LESSONS

Congratulations to all students who have participated in swimming lessons over the last two weeks.

We have had some really hot weather and it's probably the best place to be!

Everyone has been working really hard trying to pass their levels and for the most part has been very sensible changing and travelling on the bus. We have had many compliments on the behaviour of our students.

Well done everyone, keep it up for the last few days.



*Mrs Claire Major
Physical Education Teacher*

ITALIAN

Buongiorno a tutti,
Congratulations to all students from
Pre-Primary to Year 6 for working
well in Italian classes this year.

We have had fun learning in various
ways including, songs in Italian,
dancing, games in the classroom and
outdoors (Bocce), cooking (Year 2
combined flour and water into Pasta,
amazing!), role-playing and watching
cultural videos about Italy.

The highlight of 2023 was the
participation in the Italo-Australian
Welfare & Cultural Centre Inc. Italian
Festival Primary School Students'
Competition 2023. The theme was
'Carnevale'. Competition pieces from
various year groups were submitted. Twenty two students were fortunate to be selected as finalists
from St Lawrence Primary School. Leonardo was the winner of the Year 4 level in Western
Australia. He received a winner's certificate, a plaque and a gift voucher. Congratulations! Ottimo!

Congratulations to Caoimhe (Yr 4), Leila (Yr 1) and Amelia and Alessia (Pre-Primary) who received
Merit certificates and finally to all the finalists listed below:

Year 6 - Amber, Adam, Georgia and Sadhbh

Year 4 – Matilda

Year 3 - Vivienne, Ellie, Tiffany, Shawn, Sophia and Allegra

Year 2 - Cristiano, Mia and Leo

Year 1 - Jameson, Hudson and

Pre- Primary - Giordana

I thank all our wonderful
students for a productive
year. I wish all students,
their families and our
school community a Holy
and Happy Christmas 2023.

Buon Natale e Buone
Vacanze!

God Bless everyone!



Signora Jenny Acquarola
Italian Specialist Teacher

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

2024 PRE PRIMARY & YEAR 1 STUDENTS

Uniform orders placed for students commencing Pre Primary and Year 1 in 2024 need to be collected by **THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER**. Payment can be made via cash or card.

SUMMER UNIFORM

All students in Year 1 to Year 6 commence Term 1, 2024 in full summer uniform.

The final opening day for the Uniform Shop for 2023 is Thursday 7 December from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. and will reopen on Wednesday 31 January, 2024 from 8.30am to 9.30am.

JANUARY OPENING

The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 29 January, 2024 before school commences in Term 1, 2024. A text message will be sent out, the week before, to confirm opening times.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on angie.miola@cewa.edu.au for any uniform enquiries. Order forms are available on the school's website and from the school office.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours:

Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am & Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Mrs Angie Miola
Uniform Shop Manager

CANTEEN NEWS

Swimming Menu continues this week.

Friday 1/12 we have sushi available again,

5 piece packs in Gf Veg, Gf Tuna, Gf Teriyaki Chicken and Katsu Chicken for \$6. **Please preorder online or send money in by Thursday 9am.**

Last Day of Term - Sausage Sizzle & Juice Box \$5. Preorder by Wednesday 6 December. Online ordering now open, just change date to 8/12.

Please note: there will be no other lunch items on the last day.

Thank You to my helper today, Andrea. Much appreciated!

Help Required on Thursday 30/11, Friday 1/12, Thursday 7/12 and Friday 8/12. If you are available to assist in the Canteen, please let me know.

Please note, as it is the end of term, we are running our stock down, so you may notice some things are not available.

Thanks for your understanding and support.

Christina and Fran - Canteen Staff

SWIMMING MENU WEEK 7 & 8

Available everyday

Toasties - Cheese, vegemite & cheese, tomato & cheese \$4

Ham & cheese, ham, tomato and cheese \$4.50

Tuna or Chicken, cheese and Mayo \$5

Available Wednesday

Mac N cheese \$4.50

Lasagne \$5

Nuggets (5) \$4 add sauce 50c

Burger - Beef, lettuce, tomato, tomato sauce \$5 (add cheese 50c)

Burger - Chicken, lettuce, carrot, cucumber and Mayo \$5

Thursday

Chicken Strips (2) spicy or non spicy add sauce 50c

Butter Chicken & Rice (GF) \$5

Pie \$4.50 add sauce 50c

Sausage Roll \$4 add sauce 50c

Chicken strip wrap \$5

Friday

Chicken Strips (2) spicy or non spicy add sauce 50c

Pie \$4.50 add sauce 50c

Sausage Roll \$4 add sauce 50c

Vegetarian fried rice (GF) \$5

Sushi - vegetarian, chicken teriyaki or tuna (gf) \$6

Sushi - katsu chicken \$6

*please preorder sushi by Thursday 8.30am

P&F NEWS

2024 WELCOME BACK PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE

Please keep Friday 9 February, 2024 free for our Welcome Back Picnic. We have lots of fun activities planned and delicious food organised. More information to follow.

CLASS REPS

We would like to thank the Class Reps of 2023. We are now seeking 2024 Class Reps. If you would like to become a class rep next year, please let your current class rep know.

TEA TOWELS

The Tea Towel fundraiser was a great success and everyone agrees they look fantastic. There is still a few spare tea towels left, so if you would like one, please see Lina in the office.



GRILL'D INNALOO FUNDRAISER

St Lawrence P&F will be a part of the **Grill'd Innaloo Local Matters Fundraiser**, for the month of **December**. Please keep in mind, when ordering take away for the month of December, if you pop into GRILL'D INNALOO and collect a token in exchange for your meal, to put towards our P&F fundraiser.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The P&F Committee wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holidays. Thank you for your help and support in 2023. We look forward to 2024.

Mrs Natasha Raso, P&F President



LOST PROPERTY



**DRINK BOTTLES
GLASSES CASE
HAIR TIES
FORKS
CONTAINERS**

