



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 2 Term 1** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

Blessings,

*Mr Daniel Petrie*, Assistant Principal

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## *From the College Principal:*

*Mr Anthony Gleeson*

### *Welcome to 2020:*

Welcome to not only a new year but a new decade. This summer in Australia caused us all to stop, consider our neighbours and broader community during the horrific fire storms that swept the country. Through these tragic circumstances we saw people living out the Gospel Values of service, community and sacrificial love. And here at St Leo's I will be using this as a reminder and motivator for students and staff to remember what is truly valuable in our lives.

### *Welcome to new students:*

Last Wednesday I had the opportunity of meeting most of the new students we have welcomed into Years 8-11. They come to us from overseas, interstate and from the Sydney region, and I look forward to meeting their families along their journey at St Leo's. Our 2020 cohort started with shiny shoes and nervous smiles and Ms Jessica Watt, Intake 2020 Leader has worked tirelessly to smooth their transition. I thank her and all of the parents and carers who are working behind the scenes to ensure their young person's start is positive.

### *Welcome to new staff:*

We have new faces joining the team at Leo's and you will have an opportunity to meet them over the coming year. I look forward to the depth of experience and enthusiasm they will contribute to our classrooms and co-curricular activities.





I am proud to introduce:

Ms Erica Butler, Leader of PDHPE  
Mr Daniel Lane, Leader of Science  
Ms Kerstin Cole, Learning Support  
Ms Kelly Li, joins our Mathematics KLA  
Ms Rachel Ann Palgan, English KLA  
Ms Simone Noel, Religious Education  
Ms Megan Tynan joins our TAS team as our VET Co-ordinator

***“More than one teacher in a class”:***

Sometimes there is more than one teacher in the classroom. This is called our “Co-Teaching Model” to deliver learning experiences for all our students. Parents often inquire about the use of this model across all years and subject areas. At St Leo’s we are lucky enough to have additional teachers timetabled in some classes on a permanent basis whilst other teachers join classes as needs arise such as assessment tasks or practical components of courses. The extra staff in these instances can provide additional assistance or instruction or the added benefit of another staff member assisting students complete practical elements of the curriculum in a more timely manner. The teachers can get around to more students or withdraw students for extension or extra instruction.

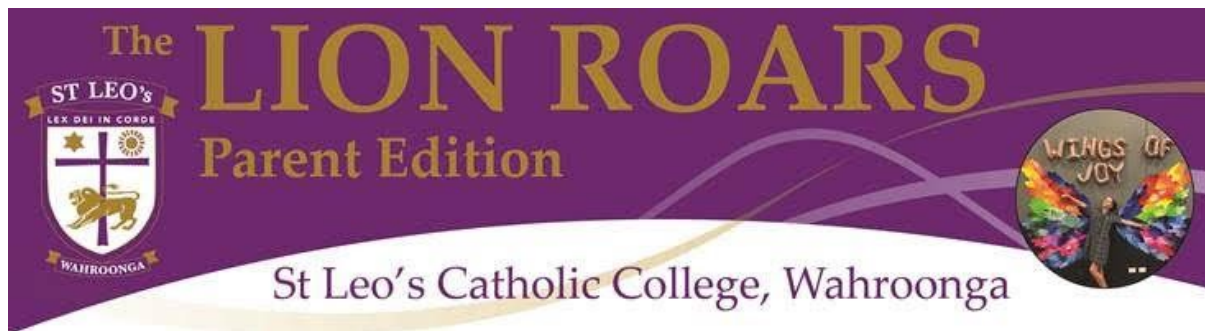
The inclusion of additional staff in a classroom not only supports all students in that class, but also the teachers themselves. The most valued benefit is the staff development between teachers in these environments, through collaboration. Teachers can see first hand how a colleague provides curriculum instruction or uses classroom practices for teaching and student management. In fact, NES (New South Wales Education Standards Authority) is increasingly encouraging teachers to learn and collaborate with and from one another. Teachers are encouraged to reflect and evaluate their knowledge, strategies and management skills with other teachers to further develop as professionals.

In the changing landscape of education, the role of the teacher has evolved and become much more fluid. Teachers are facilitators of learning in the classroom of students and each other. Learning from one another is essential for any growth of new and proficient teachers and the co-teaching model is a great environment to foster such learning experiences for students and teachers alike. Please support these rich learning environments by speaking about them positively with your children.

***Parent Partnerships***

**Parent Invitations for Term One Events 2020**

To assist parents to organise their own diaries and that of their family’s, the College has provided a Calendar of Events that parents/caregivers are invited to attend in Term One.



Please RSVP on the links provided if you are attending any of these events. We warmly welcome our parents and caregivers to participate.

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## *From the Assistant Principal:*

*Mr Daniel Petrie*

### **Uniform:**

Thank you to all parents and caregivers for ensuring that their children have returned to the College with a high standard of personal presentation.

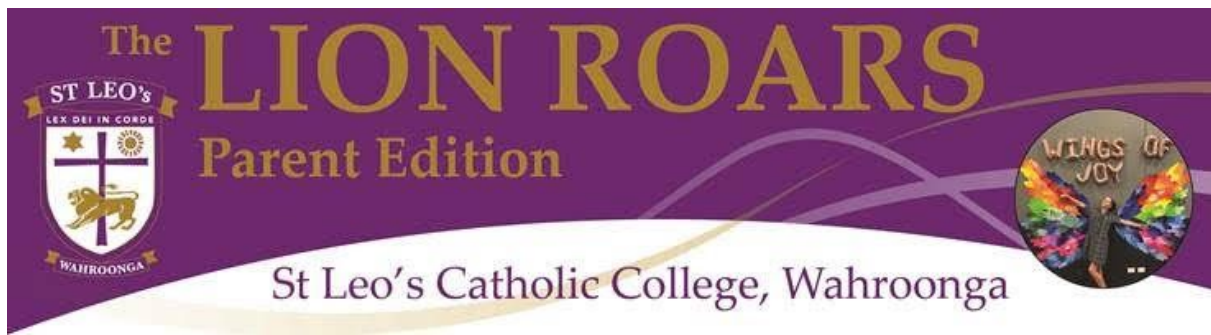
A few items of clarification regarding the uniform:

- Year 7 and Year 11 require the new College Uniform
  - This requires short navy socks for the boys both junior and senior
- Year 10 have the option of wearing the new senior uniform as they are now in senior school
- Ties are now a 'year round' item of the uniform for both junior and senior school
  - Male students (junior and senior) wearing the new uniform require a tie for both summer and winter
  - Female students (senior) wearing the new uniform require a tie for both summer and winter
  - Female students (junior) wearing the new uniform do not require a tie due to the design of the lapel
  - Male students (junior and senior) wearing the previous uniform require a tie for both summer and winter

In the event of extreme heat, students will be granted permission to remove their ties as we have done over the past 10 years. The College is proud to provide a fully air conditioned campus which has contributed to this change to the uniform.

### **Sporting Programs at the College:**

The College has a long and proud history of quality and specialised sporting programs. By way of background, a number of years ago schools were required to include a minimum of 2 hours physical activity as part of the Commonwealth Government Funding Agreement. This is no longer a requirement given the other demands on the curriculum. The College meets the various standards and hours regarding Sport in the curriculum. With the enhancement from a 6 period day to 5 longer periods, the College continues to meet these set hours, while delivering a sporting program that is recognised for its excellence in catering for a very wide range of abilities and interests of our students.



### Calendar and Events:

Please find below invitations to important events taking place during Term 1 as well as a calendar listing events and items pertinent to your son/daughter. Assessment schedules will be published on the College Website separately.

Link to the Calendar for Term 1:

[Term 1 Parental Calendar](#)

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### College Opening Mass

Please join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new decade and academic year with our Opening College Mass. We are blessed that our newly installed Bishop of Broken Bay, Bishop Anthony Randazzo, will be our celebrant.

Venue: The Light of Christ centre

Celebrant: Bishop Anthony Randazzo

Time: 10:00 am

Date: Wednesday 5th February

RSVP: [College Opening Mass RSVP](#)

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### 7-12 Parent Information Evening - Compass

Parents are encouraged to attend this important evening where information and training will be provided regarding the introduction of Compass. Compass will replace Edumate as the new database and interactive platform for **attendance, awards, reporting, pastoral, academic and co-curricular data**. This new system provides a parent portal that is visible in real time, and will provide important live and current information on your child/children.

The evening will begin with a **brief overview of College initiatives and improvements that will take place during 2020**. Following this will be the informative component of the evening showcasing how Compass works and how parents can best utilise this new resource. Finally, the evening will conclude with a voluntary training session with staff who can assist parents to set up their Compass account, while **refreshments will be provided for parents to socialise with one another and with the staff**.

Venue: The Light of Christ Centre

**Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm**

**Date: Tuesday 11th February**

Parking: Parents are invited to park on the lower oval adjacent to the Light of Christ Centre

RSVP: [Compass Parent Information Evening](#)

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### **Laureate Assembly**

Parents of the Graduating Class of 2019 are warmly invited to join the College in celebrating their success at the Laureate Assembly. The Laureate Assembly is open to all Y12 students who wish to return to share their accomplishments and their plans for 2020 and beyond.

Venue: The Light of Christ Centre

Time: 8:30am

Date: Wednesday 12th February

RSVP: [Laureate Assembly](#)

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### **Semester 2 2019 Academic Awards Ceremony:**

Parents of students receiving awards will be emailed directly. This important celebration will take place during the Laureate Assembly.

Venue: The Light of Christ Centre

**Time: 8:30am**

**Date: Wednesday 12th February**

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### **Ash Wednesday Mass**

Parents are warmly invited to join St Leo's, Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School and the Cathedral Parish Community for the Ash Wednesday Mass. Please join us as we begin our lenten journey together.

Venue: The Light of Christ Centre

Time: 9:30am

**Date: Wednesday 26th February**

RSVP: [Ash Wednesday Mass](#)

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### **College Open Afternoon and Expo:**

The College will be hosting its annual Open Afternoon and Expo in the Light of Christ Centre alongside College tours of our fabulous new campus. **Students will be dismissed at 2:00pm on this day.**

Venue: The Light of Christ Centre

Time: 4:00pm - 7:00pm

**Date: Tues 10th March**

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### **Stage 5 (Years 9 + 10); Student Led Conferences (SLC):**

Years 9-10 will be hosting their first Student led Conference where they will take their mentor and parents through their ePortfolios. Students will be required to independently discuss and



showcase how they have grown and met their goals in the growth domains, the 6C's and their own personal achievements.

Venue: Mary MacKillop Centre

Time: 12:00pm - 8:30pm

Date: **Wednesday 8th April**

RSVP: *The booking system will be open and instructions on how to book an SLC will be distributed closer to the event.*

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### **Holy Thursday Liturgy:**

Parents are warmly invited to join us in marking the solemn events of Holy Week with our liturgy on Holy Thursday in the Light of Christ Centre.

Venue: The Light of Christ Centre

Time: 11:15am

Date: **Thursday 9th April**

RSVP: [Holy Thursday Liturgy](#)

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## ***From the Director of Pastoral Care and Well Being:***

***Mrs Lindy Sykes***

### **Intake 2020 Transition Program:**

The transition program for Intake 2020 so far has engaged students in a range of activities under the care of their Mentor Teacher and coordinated by Ms Jess Watts, Year Leader. The students have settled in very well and are really starting to get excited about being here. They have learnt about the history of St Leo's and the house patrons and have enjoyed activities including an amazing race around the College grounds with their Peer Support buddies. As they adjust to high school procedures there is likely to be some tears and anxiety at times. Please encourage your son / daughter to speak with their Mentor teacher or Ms Watts who are more than happy to assist and will be able to refer to the relevant pastoral support person.

### **College outdoor Education Program and Senior Retreats:**

These programs are an essential component of the College's Pastoral Care & Wellbeing Program involving progressive skill development. They are designed to develop a strong sense of community, provide opportunities for student-student and staff-student relationships to be built and strengthened. An outline of the camps and retreats for this year follow. Further information in relation to activities, permission notes, medical and dietary requirements will be communicated by the relevant Year Leader closer to the time.



**Intake 2020 (YEAR 7):**

*Active Ed Morisset Centre*

3 days in Week 6 Term 1 (Wed 4 – Fri 6 March 2020)

Outdoor activities. Comfortable accommodation

**YEAR 8:**

*Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre, Colo River*

4 days in Week 3 Term 2 (Tue 12 May – Fri 15 May 2020)

Adventure style program in tents

Teachers accompany a program staff member from the Centre with a group of 18 students.

**YEAR 9:**

*Active Ed Morisset Centre*

3 days in Week 2 Term 4 (Wed 21 October – Fri 23 October 2020)

Outdoor activities. Comfortable accommodation

**YEAR 10:**

*Urban Challenge: Sydney CBD, East & Northern Beaches*

3 days in Week 6 Term 4 (Wed 18 November – Fri 20 November 2020)

Active supervision of a group of 15 students around the city.

Comfortable accommodation accompanied by a staff member & Program guide.

**YEAR 11 RETREAT:**

*The Tops Conference Centre*

3 days in Week 5 Term 2 (Wed 27 May – Fri 29 May 2020)

Comfortable accommodation

**YEAR 12 RETREAT:**

*The Tops Conference Centre*

3 days in Week 1 Term 2 (Tues 28 April – Thurs 30 April 2020)

Comfortable accommodation

The Pastoral Team look forward to working with you in supporting student needs and maintaining positive mental health and wellbeing. Please don't hesitate to contact the relevant Year Leader or myself if you have any pastoral concerns.

Kind Regards

Lindy Sykes

Director of Pastoral Care & Wellbeing