

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 3 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***

Dear Parents/care-givers,

I hope to see many of you this Tuesday evening at our first *Parents In Partnership Evening* for 2020 at 6.30pm in The Light of Christ Centre. Parking will be available on the Basketball Courts.

The format for the evening will be:

- 1) Introduction - our developments and our plans for 2020
- 2) Showcasing Compass (new students management and communication around attendance, reporting etc)
- 3) Voluntary Training session detailing Parental Compass accounts
- 4) Meeting Yeargroup parents and the Leader of each Year (refreshments provided)

#### **The College Opening Mass:**

Many thanks for those 30 parents who attended and participated in our College Opening Mass last Wednesday with Bishop Anthony Randazzo and Fr Peter deSouza, Dean of the Cathedral). It was great to see you there lending your prayers to our very exciting 2020 Year here at St Leo's. I am sure you would agree the Mass and pre Mass events certainly "*set the bar*" for a high achieving year.

#### **What are the Opportunities that are Currently on Offer?**

Here at St Leo's we are a firm believer in the holistic growth of the student, across the 6 College Growth Domains - Spiritual, Academic, Cultural, Environmental, Social/Emotional and Physical Growth Domains.

I also hear many times from our students and parents in various interviews - particularly in my interviews with Yr 12 students that "*I wish I had taken this opportunity....*"

Some of these opportunities may get "lost" in the busyness of the new school year. I have outlined them here - so you as parents are aware of these opportunities and it may give you some additional areas to explore in conversation with your daughter or son over the next week or so.



### **Spiritual Growth Domain Current Opportunities:**

**Youth Ministry Meeting** - youth group style activities open to all students: games, fellowship, discussion, prayer. Monday lunchtimes in the Youth Ministry Room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 to Yr 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Rev Adrian Gomez](#)

**Social Justice Group:** Tuesday lunchtimes in the Youth Ministry Room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 to Year 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Kerri-Anne Ramsay](#) or [Mr Andrew Dumas](#)

**Annual Kiribati Immersion Experience:** For the past 6 years the College has sent a group of staff and students to the Islands of Kiribati - to live, work and pray with our Pacific friends from one of the most economically poorest countries in the world. This experience occurs in the Term Two Holidays and Week 1 of Term 3 each year.

**Targeted Students:** Year 8 to Year 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Mr Andrew Dumas](#)

**Chapel Mass Friday** lunchtimes in Chapel. **Open to all students, staff and parents.** Any student would like to get involved with music ministry, reading or serving please contact [Rev Adrian Gomez](#) or [Mr Nathan Smith](#)

**Nursing Home Visits** - Visits to McQuoin Park. Thursdays Periods 2-3.

**Targeted Students:** Year 9 students

**Teacher to contact** - [Rev Adrian Gomez](#)

**Streets of Sydney Retreat** - open to Year 10 students. A one-off visit to Woolloomooloo & Kings Cross to learn about homelessness. 1 school day, groups of 10 students.

**Targeted Students:** Year 10 students

**Teacher to contact** - [Mr Ralph Kershler](#)

**Youth Ministry Team** - formation and planning for Year 11 in Youth Ministry leadership of the College. Meetings TBC.

**Targeted Students:** Year 11 Students

**Teacher to contact** - [Rev Adrian Gomez](#)

**Sacramental Preparation** - for students who wish to be Baptised, have First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation.

**Targeted Students:** All Students

**Teacher to contact** - [Rev Adrian Gomez](#)

### **Environmental Growth Domain Current Opportunities:**

#### **Environmental Group**

Wednesday lunchtimes in Youth Ministry Room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 to Year 12

**Teacher to contact** - Ms [Kerri-Anne Ramsay](#) and [Ms Carolyn Scott](#)



## **Academic Growth Domain (Outside of regular timetabled academic program) Current Opportunities:**

### **da Vinci Decathlon**

The da Vinci Decathlon is an academic competition designed to challenge and stimulate the minds of students. Students compete in teams of eight across 10 disciplines: Engineering, Mathematics and Chess, Code breaking, Art and Poetry, Science, English, ideation, creative producers, cartography and legacy. The actual competition is Tuesday 26 May.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 & Year 8 (two teams needed of 8-10 students)

**Teacher to contact** - [Mr Raymond Zeaiter](#) or [Ms Helen Wessels](#)

## **Physical, Spiritual, Cultural and Social/Emotional Growth Domain Current Opportunities**

### **Public Speaking (Catholic Schools Debating Association) Competition:**

Selections are conducted for the actual competition starting on Friday 5 March.

**Targeted Students:** All students (representatives from each Year group are required).

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Lorraine Champ](#)

### **Debating:**

Catholic Schools Debating Association - Debating officially begins in Term 2, running for 6 consecutive Friday nights of that term. (starting from the 1st May, 8th May, 15th May, 22nd May, 29th May and 5th June). The College enters teams from Yrs 7 - Yr 12. We have already started to organise teams so that we will have a fighting chance at doing well. Our teams will meet every Tuesday at lunch in BGH06 for ongoing coaching. Mrs Laraine Boguradzki

**Targeted Students:** All students (representatives from each Year group are required).

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Laraine Boguradzki](#)

### **Dance Ensembles:**

**Junior Dance Ensemble** - Thursday Afternoon 3pm in the Theatre.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Year 9

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Maree Concato](#)

**Senior Dance Ensemble** - Friday Lunch time in the Theatre.

**Targeted Students:** Year 10 - Year 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Maree Concato](#)

We are seeking interest in the following Dance Ensembles (all students): **Jazz, Contemporary/Lyrical, Hip Hop.** Please see [Ms Maree Concato](#).

### **Music:**

**Symphonic Band** - Friday 7:30am in the Music Band room.



**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12 who play a band instrument

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

**Stage Band** - Audition ensemble for instrumental students. Wednesday 7:30am in the Music Band room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

**Concert Band** - Thursday 7:30am in the Music Band room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12 who play a band instrument

**Teacher to contact -** [Ms Fiona Milkins](#)

**Leo's Singers** - An ensemble for any students who want to sing. Thursday 7:30am in the Music rooms.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

**Max 12** - Audition ensemble for vocal students. Tuesday 7:30am in the Music rooms.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

**String Ensemble** - Any student who plays Violin, Viola, Cello or Double Bass. Thursday 3pm in the Music Band room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Ms Fiona Milkins](#)

**Male Vocal Group** - Students of St Leos who would like to sing. 3pm Tuesday in the Music Band room.

**Targeted Students:** Male students - Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

**Drum Line** - Students who would like to learn the fundamentals of drumming. Tuesday Lunch time in the Music Band room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

**Rock Band** - Any student who would like to participate in a Rock Band. Wednesday Lunch time in the Music Rooms.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

**Guitar Ensemble** - Any students who play Acoustic, Electric or Bass Guitar. Tuesday 11am in the Music Practice room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

**Girls Rock Band** - A Rock Band for girls! Friday Lunch time in the Music Band room.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)



**Accordion Group** - A specialised group for students wanting to explore the Piano Accordion. Monday Lunch time in the Music rooms.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Mr Vince Tavernese](#) (one of his specialties!!!)

**Private Music Tuition** - We offer a large range of Private Music lessons with specialised tutors who deliver one on one lessons. Individual lesson times.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Mr Vince Tavernese](#)

#### **Drama:**

**Junior Drama Club** - A club to be introduced to the world of Drama. Wednesday at 3pm in the Theatre. Mrs Murphy

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 9

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Susie Murphy](#)

**Theatre Sports** - Fun and various useful skills in the wonderful and limitless world of Drama

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 9

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Susie Murphy](#)

**College Drama Production for 2020** - The production for 2020 is *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon!* This will be publicly performed in Term Two 2020

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Fiona Milkins](#) or [Ms Susie Murphy](#)

#### **Visual Arts:**

**Ceramics** - Students wanting to learn how to create ceramics. Wednesday 3pm in the Art Rooms.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Claire Stevenson](#)

**Art Competitions** - Students interested in all aspects of Visual Arts. Thursday Lunch time in the Art Rooms.

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact** - [Ms Claire Stevenson](#)

#### **Duke of Edinburgh's International Award:**

The Duke of Edinburgh's international award is a personal challenge program for young people from 14 to 25 years of age. Participants undertake to develop a new Skill, participate in a Physical Activity, do Service to the community and challenge themselves with 2 Adventurous Journeys.

Activities are carried out in participants' own time and activities they are already participating in like music lessons, sporting endeavours, volunteering can contribute to the award.

Progress is tracked utilising an app/website. Those who wish to participate should join the



Duke of Ed 2020 Google Classroom using the code *1hd2xy9* or contact Mr Andrew Introna. An information evening will be conducted in the coming weeks.

**Targeted Students:** All Students from the age of 14

**Teacher to contact -** [Mr Daniel Petrie](#)

### **Cross Country Training:**

For students who wish to improve their general fitness (distance running) or specifically preparing for Cross Country Competition. Thursday morning 7am in Term 1 (commencing Week 4) and part of Term 2, weather permitting.

Google class link *o70x0o*

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12

**Teacher to contact -** [Ms Carolyn Scott](#)

### **Aerobics:**

Training for all teams - (Week A of the timetable - Tuesday - 7am - 8.15am; Friday - 7am - 8.15am) Week B of the timetable - Tuesday 7am-9.15am (permitted late start morning) and Friday 7am-8.15am

**Targeted Students:** Intake 2020 - Yr 12 - both Boys and Girls

**Teacher to contact -** [Ms Jessica Watts](#) or [Ms Tamara Bowman](#)

**The opportunities below are age based or based on interest. Please see contact the Leader of Sports -** [Mr Michael Kember](#)

There are trials beginning for the majority of sports that are being advertised in the Daily Notices for students. Other sport trials will be available to students in the next few weeks and will be advertised in the Daily Notices and Google Classroom pages.

### **Touch Football**

Open Boys and Girls - Tuesday Lunch (11th February)

U/13 Boys - Thursday Morning 7:00am (13th February)

U/13 Girls - Wednesday Morning 7:00am (12th February)

### **Rugby League**

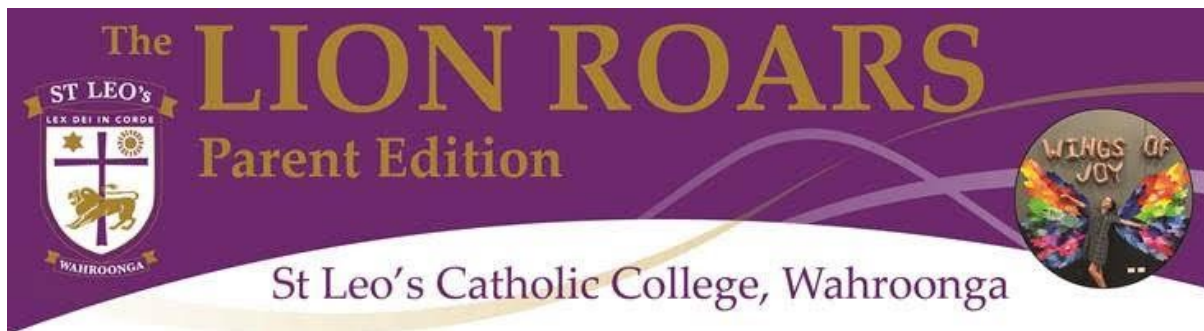
Any U/15 and Open Boys who plays Rugby League at representative or high level please see [Mr Michael Kember](#) about potential Broken Bay Trials

### **Triathlon**

All students who would like to enter the NSW All Schools Triathlon please see [Mr Michael Kember](#) by the end of the week. This can be individual or team entries.

### **Sprint Training**

We also have sprint training for students starting on a Monday morning at 7:00am. This is for any student to improve their speed for athletics, or winter sports.



All these opportunities are provided through the generosity and dedication of the College Staff. All are at no cost - except of course for associated tours, and private Music Tuition (which are provided by outside tutors).

I would hope that all students at least choose one area - so they can continue to grow in that particular (or combination of) Growth Domain(s). A holistic view of the education of a person is so important - so they can strive to make this and their future world a better place.

Mr Anthony Gleeson

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### *From the Assistant Principal:*

*Mr Daniel Petrie*

#### **College Uniform:**

Thank you for the swift support that you have made towards College uniform requirements. The College is aware that Cowan and Lewis are awaiting another shipment of junior student ties as global production and shipping have been impacted by the virus. Students who are awaiting ties to arrive are requested to have a note in their diary. The College will inform all parents and caregivers when the shipment has arrived.

#### **Compass Parent Login Details:**

Following the Parent Information Evening on Compass tomorrow night, parents will be sent via email their login details. These details are most important and will include instructions on how to access the new system. Please ensure these details are kept secure and private.

#### **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.

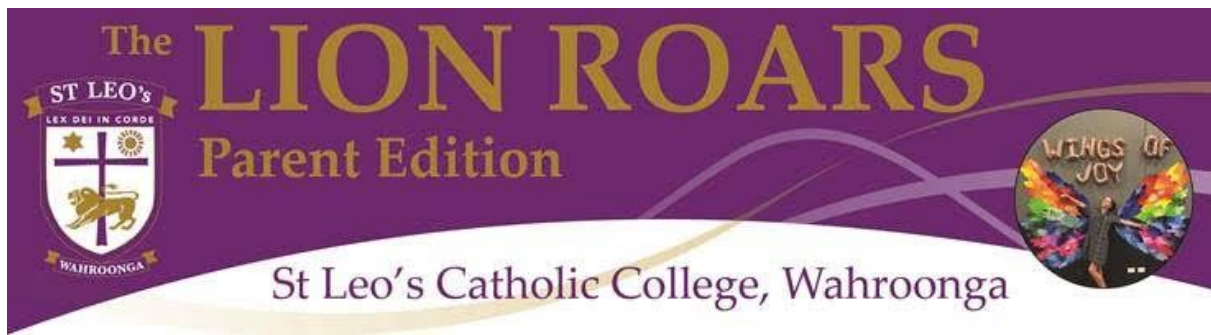
Link to the Calendar for Term 1:

[Term 1 Parental Calendar](#)

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#### **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](#)

**Mr Daniel Petrie**

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## ***From the Director of Evangelisation and Catholic Formation***

***Mrs Nathan Smith***

### **Opening School Mass:**

Last Wednesday the College celebrated the Opening School Mass for the year in the Light of Christ Centre. We were incredibly fortunate to have Bishop Anthony Randazzo celebrate Mass with us on this day and the students certainly showed Bishop Anthony what it means

The **LION ROARS**  
Parent Edition  
St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga



to be part of the St Leo's Pride Lands. Not only did we celebrate a wonderful liturgy with full participation by students, but we showcased some of the amazing creative and performing art talents possessed by our students. Bringing our College theme for the year to life – ***“Launch Out into the Deep”*** – some of our drama students performed a wonderful interpretation of St Peter being called out of his boat, by Christ, during a wild storm and to take a leap of faith and believe in Christ. This is something that we will be challenging our students to do this year – take a leap of faith and challenge themselves.


Following this, some of our talented dance students performed a moving liturgical piece where they brought the Word of God to life and symbolically represented the passing of the Word on to others; on to the newest members of our community – the Year 7 students.

The Mass also saw our new Intake 2020 Year 7 students process into the Light of Christ Centre and ring the Bell of Discipleship for the first time; signalling their arrival to the College and the commencement of their faith journey at St Leo's.

Overall, the entire celebration was a beautiful way to begin a new school year and we are confident that the level of energy and excitement that was evident at the Mass will continue on throughout the entire school year.



The **LION ROARS**  
Parent Edition  
St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga



College Theme for 2020 – “Launch Out into the Deep”:





This year, our College theme of **“Launch Out into the Deep”** has been chosen for a number of reasons. To begin with, we know that in order to grow and develop as individuals (both spiritually and personally), we need to leave the safety of the harbour and explore areas uncharted. It requires us to take a leap of faith and challenge ourselves. To cast our nets wide and go deeper... As individuals, we are reluctant at times to take ourselves out of our comfort zones. It is human nature to stick with what we know as the anxiety and uncertainty is too hard to bear when we push ourselves. However, in order for us to evolve, we need to go beyond our limits at times and have faith in what God has in store for us. This is ultimately the premise of what God calls us to hold true; to have faith in eternal life once we are called to his side. The ultimate leap of faith.

Furthermore, as an educational institution, we far too often hear that society is letting young people down and that we, as educators, are not doing enough to help students develop resilience and problem-solving skills. Therefore, one way that an individual can develop these skills is to take a chance and go beyond what we know.

It is hoped that the theme for the year will provide our students with the motivation and tangible opportunities so that they can push themselves beyond their comfort zones and launch out into areas of the unknown so as to grow and develop as followers of Christ.

#### **Friday Lunchtime Mass:**

All students are warmly invited to attend the Lunchtime Mass that is held in our Chapel every Friday during the school term. Mass commences at 1:20pm. There was a large gathering last Friday for the first Mass of the year and we look forward to maintaining the momentum.

Should any students wish to be involved in the Mass as readers or musicians, please see Mr Smith or Deacon Adrian.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

##### **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](#)

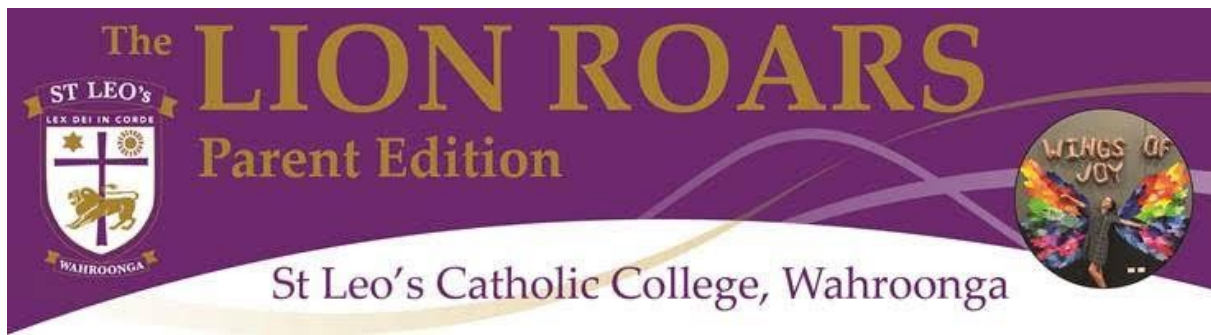
##### **Holy Thursday Liturgy:**

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](#)



Brightest Blessings,

**Mr Nathan Smith**

*"The Eucharist... is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak..." Evangelii Gaudium (2013) 47.*

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## ***From the Director of Teaching and Learning:***

***Mrs Josephine Cali***

### **Year 8 Language Electives:**

All students received either their first or second language preference. Education Perfect will be used as the basis for our Year 8 Language Courses. While parent accounts are not available, parents are welcome to ask their son/daughter to login in to their student account to see what they are learning. Ask your son or daughter to login to [www.educationperfect.com](http://www.educationperfect.com) then look over their shoulder to see their progress and what they are learning.

### **Year 9 Electives:**

Students are settling into their elective courses. From time-to-time, students may need to change elective courses. If this is the case, students are asked to collect a Change of Subject Form from the Aquinas Resource Centre to request such a change. While it is not the norm to change electives, where there is a genuine reason for this, and if the change is possible, we will work with students and parents to accommodate the request.

### **Year 10 Electives:**

Students are settling into their elective courses. As students chose their Year 10 Electives at the end of Year 8, we understand that there may be a small number of students who wish to change their elective/s. If this is the case, students are asked to collect a Change of Subject Form from the Aquinas Resource Centre to request such a change. While it is not the norm to change electives, where there is a genuine reason for this, and if the change is possible, we will work with students and parents to accommodate the request.

### **Year 11 Subjects:**

All students in Year 11 are required to study a minimum of 12 units to complete Year 11 (Preliminary Year). Parents are asked to check their son/daughter's timetable to ensure that they have 12 units. In early Term 1, Week 4, all Year 11 students will be asked to sign a Confirmation of Entry to verify their units and levels for Year 11 Course. In addition, students will need to confirm whether they are seeking an ATAR. If any student needs to change courses, they will be required to complete a Change of Subject Form. Changes will usually be permitted for the first three weeks of Term 1. In most situations, changes will not be permitted after this time



### **Year 12 Subjects:**

Year 12 students are required to study a minimum of 10 units in Year 12 to meet the requirements of the HSC. At the end of Term 4, 2019, students signed their Confirmation of Entry for the HSC. Students are asked to ensure that their 2020 timetable reflects their units and are asked to report any errors or changes as soon as possible.

iPad connections (Years 7-10) and MacBook connections (Years 11-12)

Each student in Years 7-10 is required to have an iPad connected to the College WiFi. Students in Years 11-12 are required to have either an iPad or a MacBook. Please do not purchase any technology other than what is specified in our College Technology List as they will not be connected to the College WiFi. There is an application form available for connection of other devices. However, this is for extreme circumstances and not all applications are approved. If you have any questions about devices, please contact me at the College.

### **Assessment Tasks:**

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning. Students are assessed in many ways and at different stages of learning. As such, students are required to attend school every day. Absences due to holidays or trips are not encouraged during term time. Our College Assessment Policy does not make allowances for assessment tasks for such absences. If however, there is a genuine need for an application for Illness/Misadventure, please collect an Illness/Misadventure Application form from the Aquinas Resource Centre and follow the completion instructions. In most cases, a Medical certificate is required to support an application. Further information is available on the form.

**Mrs Josephine Cali**

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

***Mrs Lindy Sykes***

### **Starting At A New School - Strategies:**

Moving to a new school is a big deal! Your child is going to meet lots of new people and be thrown into new situations. That's bound to make them feel lots of different emotions. They may feel worried and anxious, but also excited and happy – all at the same time!

It is considered to be one of the most important transition periods of a student's life and can present some significant psychological challenges for both students and parents.

Making new friends, learning new routines, discovering new environments, accepting new cultures and adjusting to new learning practices is all part of the process. Some children will sail through this period of change, whilst others may need a bit more guidance. It is important to give your child the chance to feel comfortable in their new space. This may take



a few months, but ensure you keep the lines of communication open and check in regularly with your child to see how they are settling in.

The following link offers some helpful strategies:

[https://stleos.nsw.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/moving-new-school](https://stleos.nsw.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/moving-new-school)

**Please make contact with the relevant Year Leader or myself if you have any concerns.**

**Information regarding further education for students who wish to leave school prior to turning 17 Years of age:**

I hope 2020 has started well for you and that your sons and daughters are settling in to the new school year. I have at times received requests for information around leaving school early.

I have attached the TAFE NSW – Sydney Region process for your students that may wish to leave school, prior to turning 17 years of age, and enrol at TAFE NSW-Sydney Region to continue with their education.

I am more than happy to speak with parents about individual students if it is of assistance. A reminder, students need to be 15 years of age at the time of enrolment.

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Py9J31llvMgTEFtz\\_mMno2oyvB-pUu\\_Y](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Py9J31llvMgTEFtz_mMno2oyvB-pUu_Y)

I look forward to working with you in 2020

**Lindy Sykes**

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***From the Director of Students:***

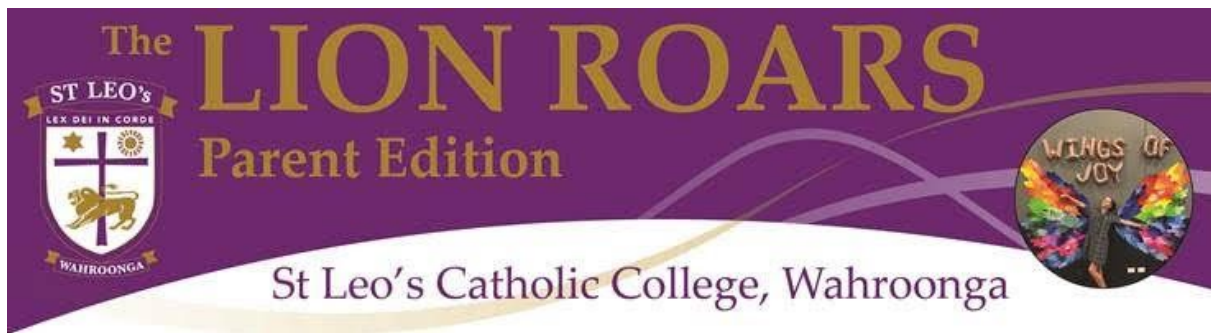
***Mrs Ashley Johansen***

**A new decade:**

It was wonderful to see our 7-12 students again after the recent holiday period. They appeared rejuvenated and ready for another term of opportunity at St Leo's. Over the last two weeks, I have spoken to a number of students both in/out of the classroom and it was pleasing that many want to **launch out into the deep** in 2020 academically, personally, and with their chosen co-curricular pursuits.

**Uniform/grooming:**

Students are expected to be attired in full Summer uniform this term. It is an expectation that any student not in correct uniform reports to their Year Leader before 8:30am, with a valid



note, so that a Uniform Pass can be issued. Also note that **College spray jackets** are now available from our supplier (Cowan & Lewis - Turramurra) for inclement weather.

### **Student leave requirements:**

All student leave requests, in the first instance, should be communicated in writing to the Principal (Mr Gleeson) - an email to the College is acceptable. Students requesting leave should then see Mr Johansen (Director of Students) in Xavier Court to obtain the appropriate paperwork. There are two forms – *Exemption from Attendance* (under 10 days) and *Application for Extended Leave* (over 10 days). All completed leave forms should be returned to the Director of Students office as soon as possible for processing. It is important to note that leave beyond 10 days must be first considered by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) via the College. **The College Skoolbag app should not be used for any student leave requests.** \*\*Please note that the College does not support families taking extended holidays during term time and/or during College examination periods as it impacts on student learning.

### **SchoolTV - online wellbeing resource now available to the St Leo's community:**

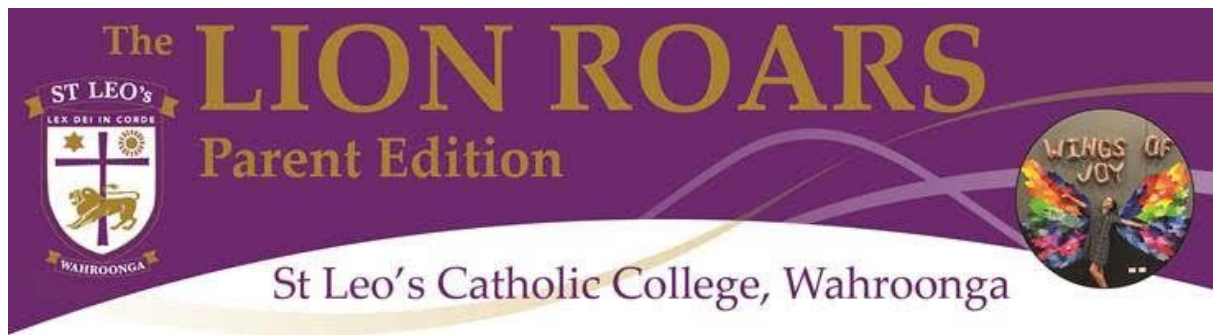
#### **Talking about bushfires:**

*The recent bushfire season in Australia has been catastrophic. It left in its wake a tragic loss of human life, native animals, livestock as well as many homes. Families have been either exposed or affected directly or indirectly, leaving many feeling overwhelmed and devastated. During such a traumatic event, children and teenagers are the most vulnerable. It is important to understand that they may not fully comprehend what they have seen either first-hand or in the media coverage. It can make them feel sad, anxious and even stressed. Whilst most will recover and resume normal functioning, there will be some young people that will be deeply affected and require psychological support. The University of Melbourne's 'Beyond Bushfire Project' found that mental health problems doubled in recovering communities up to 3 or 4 years after a bushfire. In order to support our young people during this time, it is also important for adults to manage their own shock, grief, anxiety and anger before talking to children about this tragedy. In the Special Report detailed below, parents/caregivers will be given some key strategies that can be implemented to support children who feel scared or worried as a result of this traumatic event. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this report, and as always, we welcome your feedback. If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.*

Here is the **SchoolTV link** to your special report:

[https://stleos.nsw.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-talking-about-bushfires](https://stleos.nsw.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-talking-about-bushfires)





Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to contact the College if there are any queries or concerns.

**Ashley Johansen**