



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 7 Term 1 2020** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

From the Principal:

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Open Day 2020

Last evening we conducted our College Open Day for 2020. It was a great success - and an even better opportunity for over 200 students to show the great pride they had in their College.

I hope many parents/care-givers grabbed an opportunity to have a look around at the newly completely buildings and landscaping works - which are now just about completed.

Thank you to all of our students who took a role in the many different areas of the College last evening.

Thank you - Mr Luke Trotz

After 12 years of service and dedication to the community of St Leo's Catholic College, Mr Luke Trotz will be taking a position in another school. Mr Trotz first joined us here in August 2008 as the Sports Coordinator, looking after sport throughout Years 7-12. His expertise in all sports, but particularly Rugby League meant that our students received first class training and tactics to use in their games. Besides sport and his specialisation in PDHPE subjects, Mr Trotz also has been a valued member of our College Pastoral Team - being a Pastoral Year Leader. "Trotzy" will always be remembered for challenging our students whether it be on the sporting field or in the formal classroom - as he always contained in his speeches and presentations quotes from many worthwhile role models over the years.

On behalf of the College we wish Mr Trotz all the very best for the next stage in his career and thank you "Trotzy" for your time, effort and the care of our students.

NESA - Workshop with Prof Geoff Masters

Last Monday week I attended a workshop that Professor Geoff Masters conducted at **NESA** (*NSW Education Standards Authority*). It was a very robust and lively discussion about the possible implementations of the recommendations from the recent Curriculum review.

Geoff was addressing 22 people in the room - representatives from the NESA Board, and staff and parent representatives from different sectors across NSW.

He started off showing us a nine minute clip from Sal Khan (Khan Academy) YouTube clip - [Sal Khan: Let's teach for mastery -- not test scores](#)

On a personal basis - it was very satisfying that here at Leo's - we are definitely on the right track in terms of our direction in development of the whole person - in our 6 Growth Domain areas. Also his discussion was

centered around meeting each student at their own point in their learning journey. This is our main factor in our Intake 2020 initiative - particularly in our **ILiM** (Individual Learning in Mathematics) Program this year (and in Year 8 2020).

We also have a unique tool to support this direction - the **St Leo's Learning Den** - which is continually being updated by the College - to make it a worthwhile and relevant tool for our students and staff.

He spoke and presented in three areas:

1. We have serious problems - the numbers of students getting through the system - but not attaining minimum results (in literacy and numeracy). From PISA we know that 22% of our 15 year olds do not have the literacy skills to function well in society. In numeracy PISA results - 24% of our 15 year olds do not have the skills. **We as a community need to do something** - with both structure and curriculum content. Much of the problem is based around a *Fixed Time Period* issue - (as per the video) - we currently "batch up" the students by age - and pushing them through a system.
2. **Too much content** in our current curriculum. Professor Masters best described as "you only skate over the surface".
3. **Knowledge/skills dichotomy** - the skills are definite - but not "tacked on" (similar to the Australian General Capabilities) but rather imbedded into each subject - then use that skill - to be able to work across other subject areas. These skills should be integral to that subject - not sit outside.

He suggested a series of modules that students work through. **EVERY** student is given stretch material in terms of content. This obviously has many implications - to the role of the teacher - and to the current thinking.

I thought of the analogy - of a child riding a bike - something that I have used before:

Kids of all shapes and sizes all on the same size bike. Some can reach the pedals some cannot - some can balance - some cannot; difficulty reaching the handle bars etc.

Next to it - another image - these same students on all different sizes of bikes - so the bike is the right size for each one.

All bike riders can then learn (at their own pace) and then cover the same distance as they progress through the different sized bikes.

I actually want to get these two images going - with some of our students!!! But from what I see in the bike racks - they are all of similar size!

Camp Visit - Intake 2020

Last Wednesday night, I spent the evening with the staff and students at the Intake 2020 Camp. The students were engaged most definitely and were getting comfortable with the students that they will be with for at least 6 years - even life long friends!

Friday week (20th March) all Intake 2020 Parents, care-givers and families are invited to our *Paella Evening* in The Light of Christ Centre, where you will have an opportunity to meet other Intake 2020 parents and meet some of your young person's new found friends!

Thank you very much to Ms Jess Watts and her team that are able to provide this fantastic opportunity to our Intake 2020 students.



From the Assistant Principal:

Mr Daniel Petrie

Open Day & Expo

Congratulations to all 200 student volunteers who conducted themselves with professionalism and passion during the Open Day Expo. College enrolments continue to be in high demand and waiting lists apply for multiple year groups. Enrolments are being accepted up until 2030. Please find below a snapshot film of yesterday's festivities: [Open Day Expo Reel](#)

Covid-19 Precautions

Any students with flu-like symptoms should NOT be sent to school. If your daughter or son is feeling ill, please keep them at home and see your doctor. Students may only return to school once they have been cleared and can provide a medical certificate.

If your child is home from school, you can contact their teachers via email and their lessons will be provided via Google Classroom.

The College would like to emphasise that good hygiene is imperative in this current climate. Please encourage your daughter or son to follow basic hygiene measures by:

- thoroughly washing their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- coughing into their elbow or a tissue and then disposing of the tissue in the bin. Coughing into their hands is not encouraged

We ask that you visit [NSW Health](#) for up to date information and refrain from using social media for information on the Novel Coronavirus.

College Winter Uniform

A reminder that students commences Term 2 in the College winter uniform. Year 7 and Year 11 are required to wear the new winter College uniform. Year 10 are permitted to wear the new uniform also. Current supply levels of this uniform do not appear to be affected by a delay in manufacturing connected to the Coronavirus.

Device Usage during Recess and Lunch at the College

A reminder that devices are not permitted at the College during recess or lunch unless they are specifically used for school work. Students are reminded that this policy is directed at maximising the development of social skills.

Homework Assistance in the Aquinas Resource Centre on Wednesday Afternoons

The College offers homework assistance in the Aquinas Resource Centre from 3:15 -5:00pm each Wednesday. Students are encouraged to make use of this resource.

St Leo's Learning Den

Students in Years 7-10 should be presently selecting samples of work to be uploaded to their Electronic Learning Portfolio within the Learning Den. These work samples should be uploaded for the six growth domains, the six deep learning skills and as evidence for their personal and academic goals within their Personalised Learning Plans (PLP's). Such evidence should then be accompanied by a student reflection on the extent to which they have achieved growth in this area and an evaluation as to the extent of their success or the reasons as to why they may have fallen short. Such evidence will then be used during their Student Led Conference. In addition to working on their Electronic Learning Portfolio during mentor, students should be utilizing personal time.

Y12 Mid Year Examinations

The Year 12 Mid Year Examination Period commences on Monday 30th March. Students are encouraged to engage in a rigorous revision schedule that makes use of practice responses. Students are encouraged to provide their practice responses to their teachers early to provide sufficient time for marking and feedback. A reminder that the Aquinas Resource Centre is open until 5.00pm each afternoon for study and homework.

College Events Term 1

Please find below events that parents and their guests are most warmly invited to attend:

Info night for Duke of Edinburgh:

The College will be hosting an information evening for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme in the Aquinas Resource Centre tonight. This particular program is recognised by university early entry schemes.

Venue: Aquinas Resource Centre

Time: 6:30 - 7:30pm

Date: Thursday 12 March

Year 12 Stage Night:

Parents and students are warmly invited to the Year 12 Stage Night from 6:30pm-7:30pm on Wednesday 18th March in the Mary MacKillop Centre

Venue: Music Rooms, Mary MacKillop Centre

Time: 6:00 - 7:30pm

Date: Wednesday 18 March

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 6Cs and their own personal achievements.

Venue: Mary MacKillop Centre

Time: 12:00pm - 8:30pm

Date: Wednesday 8 April

RSVP: *The booking system will open and instructions on how to book SLCs will be sent closer to the event.*

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 9 April

RSVP: [Holy Thursday Liturgy](#)

From the Acting Director of Evangelisation & Catholic Formation:

Mr Nathan Smith

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion

Throughout Lent, the College will be supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion fundraising appeal. This appeal sees millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

As we know, the Lenten period calls us to fast, to give alms, and to reconcile. Contributing financially to Project Compassion is just one way of almsgiving to those who need it most.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings our Year 12 Leaders will visit mentor groups with Project Compassion money boxes to collect any loose change that students might have and wish to donate. Every little bit helps and we thank you for your support of this worthwhile cause.

Caritas Friday Lunchtime Mass

All students are warmly invited to attend the Lunchtime Mass that is held in the College Chapel every Friday during school term. Mass commences at 1.20pm.

This Friday, we will be celebrating St Thomas Aquinas' Feast Day during Mass. We extend a special invitation to all students in Aquinas House to attend this Mass.

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

Upcoming Events

TERM 1:

Thomas Aquinas Feast Day Liturgy: Friday 13 March

The College will celebrate St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day on **Friday 13 March (updated)** during our weekly Friday lunchtime Mass. A special invitation will be extended to Students who are in Aquinas House to attend the Mass.

St Patrick's Day: Tuesday 17 March

Year 8 Spirituality Day: Friday 27 March

World's Greatest Shave: Wednesday 8 April

Holy Thursday: Thursday 9 April

Good Friday: Friday 10 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 12 April

TERM 2:

Year 12 Retreat: Tuesday 28 April – Thursday 30 April

Year 12 students will attend the annual (and their final) St Leo's retreat at The Tops Conference Centre.

Official Blessing of the Mary MacKillop Centre: Thursday 21 May

The College, led by Bishop Anthony Randazzo, will celebrate the official opening and blessing of the newly refurbished Mary MacKillop Centre on **Thursday 21 May**. This will be a whole-college event with various celebrations throughout the day. More information on this event will be distributed accordingly.

Year 11 Retreat: Wednesday 27 May – Friday 29 May

Year 11 students will attend the annual St Leo's retreat at The Tops Conference Centre.

From the Dean of Curriculum

Mr George Morad

Student Led Conferences for Years 9-10 – Wed 8 April

Year 9 and 10 students have been given a presentation on how to run a Student Led Conference. Please have a look at what students were presented by clicking the image below:



**Student Led Conference - Wednesday, April 8
(12.00pm to 8.30pm)**

What they are and how to lead one

Just a reminder that a Student Led Conference is where:

- Parent-teacher-student conferences are where the teacher is not the focus, the student “runs the show.”
- The student must be present and in charge of explaining his or her progress, reflecting on areas of success as well as areas requiring growth.
- The student presents short and long term goals linked to specific aspects of their learning.
- This conference model effectively positions students as experts in their own learning, and highlights their voices and insights to drive a rich discussion.

A good example of an SLC can be seen in the video clip below (*click the image below to view*):



It is from the Chicago School System but it is the type of model we have aimed for at St Leo's as it allows students to set learning goals for their teachers to be able to track.

Bookings for this evening will open early next week via our online booking system (similar to Parent/Teacher evenings).

From the Director of Pastoral Care & Wellbeing:

Mrs Lindy Sykes

Pastoral Care & Wellbeing Program this week

Year 7: Students will be guided through an introduction to the *Learning Den* growth domains in preparation for developing their own *Personalised Learning Plans*. *The Yard* performance based incursion will also take place this Wednesday addressing the issues of bullying, social exclusion, peer pressure and resilience.

Year 8: During the extended Mentor time students will be involved in anti-bullying activities in preparation for the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Domestic Violence next week. Students will also participate in *The Yard* performance based incursion addressing the issues of bullying, social exclusion, peer pressure and resilience.

Year 9 & 10: Both year groups will be guided through how they as students are experts and have a voice in their own learning during extended Mentor time. The focus is on empowering and enabling students in the critique and reflection of their own school work and their own learning within each of their Stage 5 subjects. They will be reminded of how the *St Leo's Learning Den* is paramount as a showcase of their *Deep Learning* Achievements. This preparation will take place over the next few weeks as they get ready for the Student Led Conferences with their parents/caregivers and teachers in Week 11.

Students will be able to showcase their learning improvements, extra curricular involvement, achievements and goals.

Year 11: The focus this week is on personal health and wellbeing. Students will meet with local GP's and discuss areas of health and wellbeing in small groups on Wednesday. Topics discussed include: Medicare, the difference between bulk billing and private practice, confidentiality, physical health, mental health, drugs and alcohol, sexual health, stress management and anything else they want to talk about!

Year 12: As student leaders of the College, extended Mentor time this week will be devoted to planning whole school activities for the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Domestic Violence next Friday 20 March. The aim is to highlight the various forms bullying and domestic violence can take, the impacts for young people on their mental health and wellbeing and strategies that can be used to stand up to bullying.

If you have any concerns please feel free to contact the relevant Year Leader or myself.

From the Leader of CAPA:

Mrs Fiona Milkins

Year 12 HSC Music Night

Next week, on Wednesday 18 March, our HSC Music students will put on a series of wonderful performances. The night will be held in the May MacKillop Centre, Room MML04 from 6pm. All are welcome. Come along and enjoy wonderful music by our talented students. They would appreciate your support as they work towards their final HSC performances.

Accordions Wanted!

Our new Accordion Ensemble has proved so popular that we are short of accordions!

If any parents, grandparents or friends have an accordion they no longer use and would be willing to donate to the College, it would be very much appreciated and well used. Thank you!

Leo's Singers' Rehearsals

The Leo's Singers have changed their rehearsal to Wednesday mornings. The ensemble is open to all students in Years 7 - 12 who enjoy singing. Mrs Milkins is the new conductor and is super excited to be working with our keen vocal students. If you would like to join, please attend our next rehearsal on Wednesday morning 7:30am in the Theatre.

From the Debating Coordinator:

Mrs Lorraine Champ

Public Speaking

St Leo's sent nine students to the first round of the Catholic Schools Public Speaking at St Augustine's on March 6 – From L to R: : Year 7: Eve K and Joseph W; Year 9: Zinta H; Year 12: Cameron H and Isabella R-O; Year 10: Mattia C and Matteo D. The competition is an opportunity to speak on a subject of interest to young people - to find their voice...

The competition showcases the talents of two students from each year group and Joseph W, in Intake 2020 (Year 7) was chosen to compete in the next

round - the Zone Finals on Friday 13 March. He is speaking about social justice and Kiribati. He will cover how social media clouds our ability to truly see what we already have in a speech called 'The Grass is Greener'. Good luck Joseph!

Thank you also to his English teacher Mrs Burrowes who has given up her time to refine his speech.



From the Aquinas Resource Centre:

Ms Michaela Hashim

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge is once again up and running. This challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for pleasure. It aims to get students to not only read but to read a variety of genres. If your child is in Year 7 or is new to St Leo's and is participating, can you please email me michaela.hashim@dbb.catholic.edu.au so that I can transfer their records over to our school.

Community Notices:



**YOUTH
WEEK
2020**

**COMEDY
NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 3 APRIL, 6.30PM-9.30PM
PENNANT HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE
RAMSAY ROAD, PENNANT HILLS**

**TICKETS \$5 - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. DOORS OPEN FROM 6PM. FREE FOOD AND DRINK ON ARRIVAL.
AGES 12-24 ALL FUNDS GOING TO CHARITY.**

Drug and Alcohol free event.
For more information contact Sue Downing
on 9847 6889 or sdowning@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/youthweek

YOUTH WEEK LINE UP



GARY ECK

Edinburgh, Melbourne and Sydney Comedy Festivals,
Rove, The Footy Show, Spicks & Specks
Tropfest winner, Aria nominee, Writer of Happy Feet Two

"Spellbinding charm, sharp-witted lines coupled with an out-of-the world sense of humour" - Time Out
Totally original and clever..funny til it hurt" - Daily Telegraph



DAVID SMIEDT

Sydney and Melbourne International Comedy Festivals
Opening act for Joan Rivers and Martin Short
The Today Show, Stand Up Australia

"A living, breathing joke machine" - Adam Hills



MAT WAKEFIELD

Sydney Comedy Festival - Sold out
Sydney Fringe Festival - Sold out

"One of the rising stars of Australian comedy" - The Laugh Garage

"A genuine alternative way of thinking, reminiscent of comedy legend Doug Stanhope" - Weekend Notes



OLIVER PHOMMAVANH

Sydney Comedy Festival,
Melbourne International Comedy Festival,
The Footy Show,
Stand Up Australia