

The LION ROARS

Parent Edition



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 10 Term 3 2020** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,

Congratulations to all!

Congratulations to everyone - staff, parents and of course the students for not only getting over the line but doing it with flying colours!

We close the week and Term 3 with:

- Year 12 Spirituality Day and evening held yesterday (Mon 21 Sept). After a year that has tested these young women and men I was delighted to see them laughing, relaxing, meditating and finding inspiration from our ex-student and guest speaker Mr Stephen Ralph, who I would like to public acknowledge for his contribution last night along with Fr Joey Frez, who provided an opportunity for Reconciliation and a chat. Please refer to Deacon Adrian's reflection on the day's events as it was truly special.
- completion of the End of Preliminary Exams for Year 11
- submission and marking of the Environmental Growth Domain Project by our young people from Intake 2020 through to Year 10
- our Senior Debating team crowned CSDA Senior Team Champions of the Sydney Metropolitan Area.
- the Yamaha Revs your Heart Drone Program (this Thursday and Friday).

This is on top of all the 'normal' lessons, assessments and events that go on here day-to-day.

This productive Term has been successful because of the partnership of all students, staff and parents/caregivers working at their very best in order to develop our young people into confident, competent, Catholic-valued young women and men of conscience.

COLLEGE REPORTS

Intake 2020 to Year 11 *Interim Reports* and Year 12 *Yearly Reports* will be released on COMPASS (Parents' Portal) at the end of Wednesday 23 September. An advisory letter will be released by Mr George Morad, Dean of Curriculum on Wednesday giving access instructions.



The Labyrinth on Loyola Green was the centre of Year 12 Spirituality Day closing ceremony.

In fact, our adherence to our Mission statement was one of the questions in our Year 12 Exiting Survey. Here are some of our Year 12 students' thoughts:

"...After six years at the College, I believe that the College Mission Statement is good and accurate because it places emphasis on developing students as human beings, rather than just students. The statement places emphasis on the education which takes place outside of the classroom and acknowledges that if a person learns how to be a good human being with good soft skills, the academic will follow.... Yeah it's pretty good, I'd say I'm pretty confident and competent...solid...This statement is 100% true. As I have always said when talking to prospective parents - what we may lack in compared to other schools in our area, we make up for in the ability to provide the whole education of a young person ...I agree that this statement is evident in the Year 12, 2020 Year group. Having started from Year 7 within everyone you can see how everyone has developed into being more confident in themselves and being competent individuals...I think that the College Mission Statement does in fact create these young people. After my journey at Leo's I feel like the school has created a number of well educated, mature and responsible young adults. Having these qualities is significant and will allow us to gain jobs in the future and hopefully be successful in whatever our chosen career is. ..."



Our Mission

With Christ as our light, forming confident, competent Catholic-valued women and men of conscience, nourished within a loving, inclusive and welcoming community of grace.

Our Vision

To provide a passion-driven education of the whole person that is personalised, rigorous, innovative, dynamic and evangelising.

Debating – a photo says 1000 words!

Last Friday evening James, Annabelle and Cameron lined up for the CSDA Senior Debating Championships against Bede Polding College, South Windsor. The question was posed *"Is it our duty to be Provocative"* and as St Leo's were given the task of answering in the negative, the electricity in the room was tangible.

As the photo reveals ... winners are grinners! As Principal, I was extraordinarily proud of this achievement; the skills garnered and developed in debating are valuable throughout your life and I look forward to following these young people's journey beyond the gates of St Leo's.



Thank you to Mrs Lorraine Boguradzki, our Debating Coach, for leading this team to success.

On behalf of the St Leo's community, I wish you a safe two week break from school life (for most anyway - we are conducting Year 12 HSC MasterClasses over the holiday break) and if you are travelling, (albeit locally) safe journeys.

Thank you once again for your time, efforts and commitment to the College in the Catholic education of your young person.

See you in Term 4, which commences Monday, 12 October (Day 1 of the timetable).

Tony Gleeson
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie

Growth Domain Project Celebration

Here at St Leo's, we are passionate about the holistic development of your child. Each student in our care has unique, God-given talents that we aim to strengthen and stretch to new heights. We seek to develop not only the academic capacity of each student, but also their spiritual, physical, cultural, social emotional and environmental capacities. These are known at the College as our St Leo's Growth Domains. All learning and opportunities at the College flow through and are formed within these Growth Domains. This ensures that when our students ring the Bell of Discipleship at graduation, we have holistically prepared them to be the very change they wish to see in the world.

Inspired by Pope Francis' call to become ecologists and champions of sustainability, we developed the 'Genesis Project' to provide students with the opportunity to combine their passions and talents to solve an Environmental Growth Domain problem. This project-based learning challenge enabled students to combine their learning across a range of subjects and apply it in real time to a global issue with local and immediate impacts. Activists such as Greta Thunberg are a reminder that a single voice can quickly become a united voice, and when partnered with talent and passion - anything can be achieved.

During our remote learning period, the College developed the Genesis Project Hub, where the challenge was set for each year group. These ranged from seeking ways in which to renavigate global systems to become sustainable to water conservation and lifting voices for social change.

I would like to congratulate and celebrate the standard of the Environmental Growth Domain Projects. Students have gone above and beyond in their efforts to tackle issues related to climate change and sustainability. Staff were asked to nominate the best 2-3 projects from each Mentor class to be digitally exhibited. This exhibition will be opened Week 1 in Term 4.

In the meantime, please enjoy a short film highlighting some of the amazing projects created by our students from Intake 2020 to Year 10, by **clicking on this image above**.



Year 12 Departure

Today Year 12 completed formal classes and thus have concluded their high school learning journey. As they rang the Bell of Discipleship today on their way to the College gates, their spirits were high. We wish them every blessing as they prepare for the HSC.

Students can continue to attend the campus to receive assistance from their teachers during their normal timetable from tomorrow until the end of Week 1 Term 4 that concludes on Friday, 16 October. To further assist their HSC preparations, an HSC Masterclass schedule has been created for the Term 3 holidays.

The aim of the Term 3 MasterClasses is to get students used to writing under examination conditions in order to produce high quality responses. Mathematics will hold two Master Classes during this period with an external Mathematics teacher who is experienced at helping students achieve good Maths results at HSC level. Mr Morad has published the schedule of MasterClasses on Compass, or you can use the below.

Many congratulations go out to the students who have already secured themselves a place at university in 2021 due to early acceptance. Now is the time to aim as high as you can for HSC as it becomes a great forerunner to tertiary education. Let's see how high you can climb!

I actively encourage all students to attend the relevant MasterClasses offered. During this time of study, students should be sending their class teachers practice responses (preferably handwritten and completed under timed conditions) from past HSC papers in order to receive vital feedback.

[View the MasterClass schedule](#)

Term 4

A reminder that the first day of Term 4 for students is **Monday 12 of October (Day 1)**. Students are to return in their **Summer Uniform**.

We hope that you and your children enjoy a well-earned rest over the holidays.

Keep safe and stay well.

From the Youth Ministry Coordinator

Deacon Adrian Gomez

Year 12 Spirituality Day: New Beginnings

On Monday 21 September the Class of 2020 gathered from 9am to 9pm for a time of storytelling and sharing, remembering and dreaming, laughter and tears. Due to Covid restrictions, the usual three-day retreat was reduced to a one-day format, but the students were so eager to have this time together before finishing their high school journey that the College made sure it happened for them.

The theme of the day was 'New Beginnings' and it began at The Light of Christ Centre with mentor teacher Ms De Kantzow and Year Leader Mr Johansen sharing personally about their own life journeys and the challenges they have faced and overcome. Mr Kershler led a guided meditation that allowed students to tap into archetypal imagery to help them to reflect on who they are and how they interact with the world. In their mentor groups, students had the opportunity to share their hopes for next year and their dreams for the future. Students were given plenty of down time to relax and celebrate their connections with one another - it was great to see how many of them spent this time writing affirmations to one another. Thanks to Mr Kember who organised a delicious morning tea (including Crispy Creme Donuts!) and a great BBQ lunch.

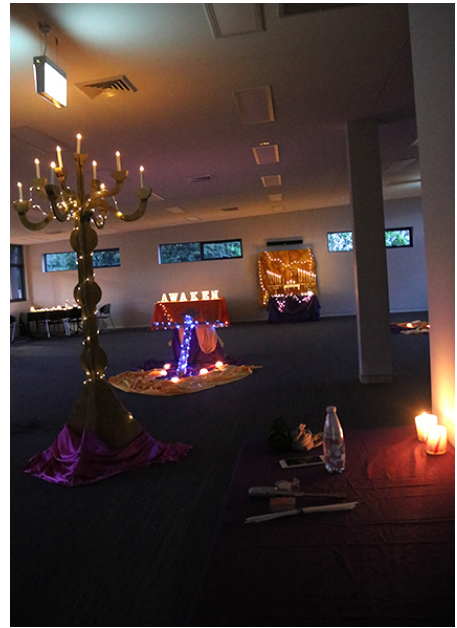


In the afternoon, Year 12 celebrated Mass in the College Chapel led by Fr Joey Frez from Wahrenonga parish, and were reminded that the God who created them will always be there for them. Mr Smith organised a woodfire pizza van to cook pizzas for dinner - a treat very much appreciated by the staff and students! In our new Flora MacKillop Theatre, Mr Kember, Rebecca, Michaela and Ryan shared their own hilarious memories of the Year 12's time together at St Leo's as well as expressing their best wishes for the group. Ex-student, Stephen Ralph from the class of 2012, was our main speaker of the night, and you could hear a pin drop in the theatre as he shared his inspirational story of courage, resilience, and hope. Former Year Leader, Mr Trotz, also sent a video wishing them well.



A sacred space had been set up in the new Rome Gallery for the Reconciliation Night, an emotional time of reflection and connection, with many students writing prayers, messages to loved ones, creating friendship bracelets and making use of the new Labyrinth. Fr Joey offered the sacrament of Reconciliation and ended the night with Benediction - a special blessing over the whole group.

Many thanks are due to Mr Smith who took the lead in planning and preparing this special day, working with Mr Kershler and Rev Gomez to pull it all together. Mr Smith and Mrs Watts spent Sunday at school setting up the venues and making sure everything was ready to go but were unable to join us on the day itself. Thanks too to the wonderful mentor teachers who have journeyed with these students over their six years at St Leo's, for being with them and leading them through the reflections and sharings. There was also a whole team of staff, from the main office and different faculties, who made the day possible through their behind the scenes work! And all of this was only possible due to the unflagging support of our Principal Mr Gleeson, who made the day possible and was a presence throughout as well.



A fantastic team effort to show the great love we have at the College for the departing Class of 2020.

From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

Teenagers, Parents and Family Relationships

Please note this important extract from the Australian parenting website - [Raising Children & Parenting](#):

'Many people think that families become less important to children as they move into the teenage years. But your child needs your family and the support it offers as much as s/he did when s/he was younger. It's true that family relationships change during adolescence. When your child was young, your role was to nurture and guide him. Now you might be finding that your relationship with your child is becoming more equal. Most young people and their families have some ups and downs during these years, but things usually improve by late adolescence as children become more mature. And family relationships tend to stay strong right through. For teenagers, parents and families are a source of care and emotional support. Families give teenagers practical, financial and material help. And most teenagers still want to spend time with their families, sharing ideas and having fun. It's normal for teenagers to be moody or seem uncommunicative, but they still need you. Your child still loves you and wants you to be involved in her life, even though at times her attitude, behaviour or body language might seem to say she doesn't.'

'Family is the most important thing to me. They're my own support system. Everybody thinks friends are more important, but they're not. Friends are great, but they'll come and go. Family is always there.' – Brianna, teenager

Also see [Video: Teen talk - Parents](#)

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

From the Director of Teaching and Learning

Mrs Josephine Cali



Google Classroom

Teaching and Learning across the Curriculum

Across the College, we use a variety of teaching and learning resources. Some of the online resources that we are currently using to personalise learning include:

- iLIM - Mathematics program for Years 7 and 8
- Renaissance Reading - Reading Program for Years 7 and 8
- Education Perfect,
- [Turnitin](#) (Years 11-12) and
- Google Classroom



Students are encouraged to make maximum use of the resources available at the College to enhance their learning. You may not know that students can access resources for most of their subjects via Education Perfect. From time-to-time students may seek extension work or may need to revise certain topics or areas of their learning. In addition to working with their class teacher, students may wish to use the revision functions and test questions available in Education Perfect.

Students in Intake 2020 and Year 8 are enrolled in Renaissance Reading which is specially designed to assist students with their reading and comprehension. This program is individualised to each student based on a number of criteria so no two students will have the same Renaissance Reading program. Similarly, our iLIM Mathematics program is tailored to student learning needs. If you would like any further information about these programs and resources, please contact [Mrs Megan De Kantzow](#) (Leader of English) for the Renaissance Reading Program and [Mrs Marie Donaghy](#) (Leader of Mathematics) for the iLIM Program.

RENAISSANCE[®]

New Pedagogies for Deep Learning

The purpose of NPDL is **“To foster deep learning so that all learners contribute to the common good, address global challenges and flourish in a complex world”**. More than ever, the need for deep learning is critical. We will be continuing our work with [NPDL](#) across the College. 21st learning skills will continue to be embedded in authentic learning in all Stage 4-6 teaching programs and assessment tasks. The recent Growth Domain projects for Years 7-10 exemplified many of the 21st-century learning skills that we are developing across the curriculum.



New Pedagogies for
Deep Learning[™]
A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Digital Citizenship/Online safety

With all online programs, students are reminded protect their identity and to be aware of their digital footprints. For further information and information on ways that parents/caregivers can support this please visit:

[Digital Citizenship - home](#)
[Families](#)
[Cybersafety](#)
[eSafety Resources](#)
[Kids Guardian](#)

STEM Opportunities in Term 4

Term 4 will continue to be exciting for all students. All co-curricular and extracurricular activities are posted to students via Google Classroom. For any further details, please contact [Mrs Josephine Cali](#).

Here is a brief summary of what will be on offer in Term 4:



- **Minecraft Mondays** (lunchtime on Mondays in BH105). Students have a dedicated Google Classroom page. All students are welcome to join. Current Project: Building a virtual St Leo's in Minecraft. All students are welcome to join us.
- **Code Camp World** Wednesdays (after school program 3.15pm to 4.30pm). This program can also be completed at home. Attendance at the sessions is not required but is recommended. For Term 4, we are offering 3D Code Camp World. This course is FREE for students in exchange for their Creative Kids Voucher. All Active Kids and Creative Kids vouchers will expire on 31 December so this is a great opportunity for your son or daughter to try out a new activity or to continue with our coding program.

[Click here](#) to access your student voucher. Once you have your voucher, you can [register for Code Camp 3D](#).

- **St Leo's Catholic College and Yamaha 'Revs your Heart'**
Our inaugural St Leo's and Yamaha 'Revs your Heart' Junior Flying Program starts this Thursday. Students who have registered to be a part of this have already received the details. We look forward to sharing some photos of the learning that students will be doing as part of this program in the next Lion Roars. If there are any further students who wish to be added to the waiting list for Term 4, students can do so by contacting Mrs Cali.

- **VEX Robotics**

This year's competition is called [Change Up 2020-2021](#) and promises to be exciting and challenging. Interested students are encouraged to join the VEX Robotics Google Classroom page. VEX Robotics will take place at school on Wednesdays/Thursdays at lunchtime. This will extend to after school meets in addition to the lunchtime meets as we get closer to the Tournament in November. Here is a [link](#) to a video outlining general information about the VEX Robotics program and competition.

All students are welcome to join this year's program which will be starting in Week 1, Term 4.

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing Term 3 break and I look forward to working with you and your students in Term 4.

A promotional poster for Code Camp. At the top left is the Code Camp logo. The main text reads "Learn to code at Code Camp after-school!" followed by "Get creative and enjoy using logic and problem solving to build your own games!". Below this is a "CREATIVE KIDS REBATE" logo from the NSW Government, identifying Code Camp as a "Registered Provider" with the website www.codecamp.com.au/ckrebate and a "CLAIM \$100 OFF ENROLMENTS" banner. The central image shows two young girls in blue t-shirts; one is holding a laptop displaying code. The background features colorful, abstract shapes and a large, multi-colored sphere. At the bottom, it says "Supported by" with logos for HP, Westpac, Chromebook, and Intel. A summary box at the bottom right lists: "Wednesday afternoons 14 Oct - 2 Dec 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM", "St Leo's Catholic College", "\$100 for 8 weeks Computers Provided", and "3D Course - St Leo's students only". A large blue button at the bottom contains the URL "my.codecamp.com.au/course/683".



From the Pathways Coordinator

Mrs Mel Timmerman

Upcoming Events - Pathways Program for Term 4



1. **Master Builders Association Virtual Talk** –
14 October, 7pm

This talk will focus on the Apprenticeship options within the building industry for 2021, the possible pre-apprenticeship courses for students who did not undertake the Cert 2 in Construction Pathways as part of their HSC and the industry developments and growths.

2. **Peter Warren Automotive – Virtual Talk** – Early Term 4, date/time TBC.

Students and parents can learn more about the automotive trade, job opportunities and career pathways for students post-school. What has changed in the industry (more engineering based, etc.), the future of the industry and apprenticeship opportunities for 2021.

3. **AIE – MAYA Game Design Workshop** – 12 November

This workshop was initially to be held in Term 3, but was moved due to COVID regulations. The Workshop will now take place on in mid Term 4.

4. **JMC Academy – Song writing Workshop** – 23 October

And exciting workshop for students to learn more about how you write songs, what is important when song writing, the impact of music and much more. This two-hour workshop has limited places.

5. **Tradiebot – Virtual Reality Spray-painting Course** – date TBC, will be released first week, Term 4.

In this interactive workshop, you won't even get your hands dirty! Students will learn to spray paint objects (such as cars) in a virtual environment. The school will hold equipment for two weeks after this workshop, for all interested students to have the chance to practice their skills.

6. **VEX Robotics Competition** – See Mrs Cali's update for more details (previous page).

The robots have arrived, and are ready to roar in the VEX Robotics Competition! Mrs Cali will work with the students to build and program robots and to prepare the students for the upcoming competition. STEM in Action at St Leo's!

7. **A dive into the Cyber Security Industry** – 3 November

The NSW Cyber Security Node will host a virtual workshop to showcase the Cyber Security industry. What are the available study & career pathways, how does the industry look like, what are the growth expectations for the industry and students will get to know the broad range of job opportunities in this industry. It is not an industry for only geeks with hoodies!

Available Automotive Apprenticeships 2021

St Leo's currently has access to 17 Automotive Apprenticeships with **renowned Dealerships on the Lower North Shore** such as Mercedes Benz Mosman and Artarmon, Porsche Autohaus and others in the area. If your son or daughter is interested in the automotive trade, please urge them to see me in the corner office in the ARC.

From the CAPA Co-Curricular Coordinator

Mr Vince Tavernese

CAPA Ensembles and Programs

Just an overall update on the current situation surrounding CAPA Ensembles and Programs. Current programs running at the College include Drumline, Guitar Ensemble, String Ensemble and Accordion Group. Junior Dance has now been taking to an online format, where dancers are watching tutorial videos and uploading dances.

As soon as NSW Health lift the current restrictions around Vocal/Wind instruments in a group setting, the following groups will recommence at the College; Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Leos Singers, Max 12, Male Vocal Group, Wednesday Rock Band, Girls Rock Band and Junior Dance returning to onsite rehearsals.

Current Timetable

Drumline – Open to any student wanting to learn the fundamentals of drumming and percussion. TUESDAY Lunchtime in MML04.

Guitar Ensemble – Open to any guitarists at the college. WEDNESDAY 11am-11:30am in MML04.

String Ensemble – Open to any student who plays Violin, Viola, Cello or Double Bass at the college. THURSDAY 3pm-4:15pm in MML04.

Accordion Group – Opening to any Keyboard students at the college. WEDNESDAY Lunchtime in MML02.

New CAPA Program – Year 7 Theatre Sports

In Term 4, we will introduce a Theatre Sport group for any Intake 2020 students with an interest in Drama. The program will teach different aspects of theatre sports in an encouraging and inspiring environment and will run by Mrs Murphy every WEDNESDAY afternoon from 3-4.15pm in the Theatre for Term 4.

Music Tuition Program

At St Leo's, we offer onsite Private Music Lessons for students of all year groups and ability. We offer a vast range of different instrument/vocal lessons including; Female/Male Vocals, Guitar (classical/electric), Bass Guitar, Violin, Piano, Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, French Horn, Saxophone and Drum Kit/Percussion.

If you would like more information please refer to the Expression of Interest form [Click Here](#). Term 4 is the perfect time to start your child's musical journey here at St Leo's.

If you have any questions regarding the CAPA Ensembles and Programs here at St Leo's Catholic College, please feel free to email me at any time.
