



Dear Parents and Caregivers,
Please find below the **Week 1 Term 4 2020** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,
A warm welcome back for Term 4 2020.

This afternoon we held our first Staff Meeting for Term 4. With the Pope's release of his latest encyclical - *Fratelli Tutti* - it resonated with me supporting our vision for our St Leo's community, particularly in our present times. The encyclical supports that as a community of believers we should mobilise and become agents for change in our world.



The road map for that change has been *Laudato Si'* (2015) - which implored the world to care for its common home and this latest encyclical which stresses the importance of friendship and mutual support (based upon the example of St Francis of Assisi) who "*wherever he went...sowed the seeds of peace and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the inform and the outcast, the least of his brothers and sisters*". It

very much supports our College mission statement *being committed to forming confident, competent, Catholic-valued young women and men of conscience, aiming to help students find their passion and develop their talents into greatness.*

This coupled with the fantastic work I have witnessed in the recent Environmental Growth Domain Projects by students in Intake 2020 to Year 10, this encyclical is very relevant and meaningful. In Paragraph 7 of *Fratelli Tutti* - with our recent challenges we are all called to:

"...the pain, uncertainty and fear, and the realisation of our own limitations, brought on by the pandemic have only made it all the more urgent that we rethink our styles of life, our relationships, the organisation of our societies, and above all, the meaning of our existence"

It is not just here at school we have been rethinking 'learning' but reviewing all aspects of our lives.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Bookings for Intake 2020 to Year 10 Parent Teacher Interviews are **NOW OPEN.**

More information in the Assistant Principal's Report on pages 3-4.



Congratulations - Aerobics Team State Championships



This year the aerobics competition was held online. Our teams had to record themselves completing their routines and submit them online to be judged and scored remotely. The first submission was in March before the lockdown, and then again at the end of Term 2. Our teams all trained hard to submit routines they were proud of, especially given the conditions they had to compete in.

Our St Leo's teams were again extremely successful:

State Champions:

- **Ruby G** - Individual
- Pairs (**Natalie W & Tara F**)
- Trio (**Lily P, Arylenne B, Rebecca B**) – [watch this routine](#).
- Gifted (**Jing X** – pictured left) - This was also her first year of competing. Coached by Natalie W and Ruby G.

Silver:

- Stage 1 (Intake 2020 team – pictured below)

In tough divisions, our Stage 2 and Secondary teams were just outside the top 3. In addition to this, our OLOR team, also coached by Natalie W and Ruby G, finished in second position.

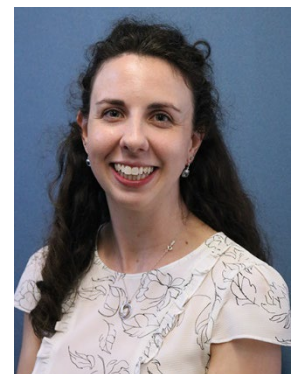
I would like to congratulate all the St Leo's teams on the efforts they have put in this year, along with the coaches who are all ex-students (Bethany Baynie, Lucy McNay, Georgia Muxlow, and Monique Hassarati). The dedication and enthusiasm of the coaches has been the driving force behind our teams this year, as in previous years. I would also like to thank **Ms Jessica Watts** and **Ms Tamara Bowman** for the early mornings and overseeing the team throughout the year.



Staffing

Farewell to **Ms Maree Concato** who was emotional saying goodbye to students and staff at the end of Term 3 and of course we wish her every success with her next step in her teaching career.

Our Dance Program continues to flourish as we welcome **Ms Brittany Skea** (pictured right), who has been appointed as a member of our CAPA team. Brittany holds a Bachelor of Arts (Dance and History). She also has a Bachelor of Education from UNSW. Brittany has taught in three schools, her most recent was MacKillop College, Port Macquarie. At MacKillop, Brittany has held the Assistant Leader of Learning (CAPA) as well as the Leader of Learning (CAPA) this year.



Brittany has also been a practical and written marker for the HSC in Dance over the past 4 years and has been primarily responsible for developing and implementing the Dance program at MacKillop. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Brittany!



Our PDPHE and Evangelisation teams welcome this Term, **Ms Kelly Robinson** (pictured left), who after working at Ravenswood Girls School, following her graduation from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Education, is full of enthusiasm to be joining St Leo's. Kelly has coached a number of external sporting teams over the last five years and regularly volunteers with Edmund Rice Camps. Welcome Kelly!

Mr Reiman Vega concluded his temporary contract at St Leo's at the end of Term 3, and we thank him for his contribution to our students. We wish him all the best as he continues with his teaching career.

Nathan Smith, Acting Director of Evangelisation and Catholic Formation, is currently on leave until Week 5 of this Term. It gives me great pleasure to advise you that he and **Ms Jessica Watts, Year 7 Pastoral Leader** welcomed their daughter Eloise last month; every one healthy, but the word is sleep may be in short supply (surprise we all say ... welcome to parenthood).

Acknowledging Staff and Students - Year 12 HSC Stuvac Workshops

The HSC commences on Tuesday, 20 October and concludes on 11 November for our Year 12 cohort. They committed to applying themselves; particularly in the last few months of their Year 12 journey and attended HSC Stuvac Workshops recently and availed themselves of facilities and teaching staff. It is now time for quiet reflection, good food, sleep, exercise and BREATH ... it will soon be over.



This cohort will carry with them the mettle they have developed as they had to traverse unknown territory; the Covid-19 landscape. We pray for them and know that God holds them in his hands through this period and beyond the College gates.

Passing of Mr Ray Werren

During the holidays Mr Ray Werren, who had been the Secondary Schools Consultant (2011 - 2014) for the Broken Bay Diocese following his Principalship at Mater Maria (2005-2010), sadly passed away during the holidays after a battle with cancer.

Ray was such a good friend and mentor to me personally, but also a much loved member of the St Leo's community. He had graciously stood in for me as Principal when I was on leave and was a very strong supporter of not only St Leo's but also of Catholic Education. I'm sure you will all join us in sending prayers to his wife Sue and their two daughters.



Covid-19 Update

The Catholic Schools Office (CSO) continues to provide financial assistance during this period. If you have any queries, please contact the Fee Liaison Unit on:

Ph: 9847 0728 or email: schoolfees@dbb.org.au

We have received updated Covid-19 guidelines from CSO (working in conjunction with Catholic Schools NSW and NSW Government guidelines); generally while parents are now permitted on site, in order to minimise the risk of transmission, **parents/carers SHOULD NOT be on school premises** unless they are invited by the Principal to do so. School based activities that involve large gatherings of adults are NOT permitted at this time. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings and large onsite cultural events.



Year 11 Hospitality

Each morning before school starts - often various staff members pop into my office for some quick discussions about many things - either related to school and sometimes not. This morning Mrs Bourke dropped in and told me three of our Year 11 Hospitality students were being offered part-time jobs after their

Work Placements at the end of last Term. This I believe deserves special mention, given the current times and circumstances particularly in the hospitality industry. These students demonstrated **diligence and pride** in their work, being able to **adapt and be flexible** in joining a new workplace and obviously possessed and developed the **skills** and **knowledge** that they had learnt in their first three Terms of Hospitality. Overall the work placement was a great opportunity to display the students' talents, personality, character and work ethic. These examples (as well as the Year 12 Work Placement - Term 3) makes great significance and meaning to our new state of the art Hospitality features and equipment we have been fortunate to have in the Mary MacKillop Centre.

Congratulations to: **Luke M, Austin T and Ella S** on their job offers! Also to **Ms Tynan, Ms Bourke and Ms Turner** - our Hospitality staff.

With the guidance of our Leader of Pathways, Mel Timmerman, I would hope in the near future that all subjects that our students choose can have real life relevance and learning to the same degree as this situation from Year 7 to Year 12.

Tony Gleeson
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie

Welcome back to Term 4!

Parent Teacher Interviews

After the very positive response from parents regarding the Stage 6 Parent Teacher Interviews via Zoom, the College will be using the same platform for Stage 4 (Intake 2020 -Year 8) and Stage 5 (Year 9 - 10). These will take place over two Tuesday evenings.



- **Intake 2020 & Year 8 - Tuesday, Week 3 – 27th October, 4.45 – 8.30pm**
- **Year 9 - Year 10 - Tuesday, Week 4 – 3rd November, 4.45 – 8.30pm**

Bookings are now open. To book your Parent Teacher Interviews:

1. Log into Compass
2. Once logged into Compass, a notification will appear under 'My News' informing you Parent Teacher Interviews are now open to make appointments.
3. Select 'Click here for bookings' with this notification, which will take you to the bookings where your son or daughter's teachers' names will appear.
4. Select a teacher's name and an available time slot (in white) to book a time. Repeat for each teacher.
5. There is also a button 'Show me how to book' which will give you further instructions if needed.

Zoom Links for Interviews

You will receive an email from Compass containing a PDF document displaying a Zoom link for each teacher. Please click on the link to log into the meeting 2-3 minutes before your designated time with the required teacher. You will be sent to a waiting room. Once the teacher is finished with the previous meeting, they will allow you into the zoom meeting for your booked Parent Teacher Interview.

Please note: Due to the nature of Zoom interviews, keeping to time will be most important to ensure delays are avoided where possible. If you require further time for discussion, please let the relevant teacher know and they will make the necessary arrangement for a second Zoom meeting at a later date.

The College looks forward to this important step in the learning journey of your daughter or son.

Summer Uniform

Thank you to all parents and guardians for their support regarding the high standard of uniform that our wonderful students arrived in yesterday. A gentle reminder that boys require a tie with their summer uniform.

Students in Year 9 who require a new summer uniform, **are permitted to purchase the new Senior School Uniform a term early**, to avoid any undue cost. A number of Year 9 students have grown out of their Summer Uniform from Term 1.

TTFM Survey

The College will be partaking in the 'Tell Them From Me Survey' that will be open from Monday 19th October Week 2 Term 4. The TTFM data can be readily used for school planning and evaluation while providing an incredible insight on what key stakeholders have to say about Engagement, Faith Formation, Wellbeing and Effective Teaching. This survey enables all parents of our community to have their voice heard. Such information is vital for creating a shared vision for the College. Parents will receive an email via Compass with the necessary link to complete the survey. The survey will take approximately 15 - 20 minutes to complete. The College requests that all parents complete the survey.



Duke of Edinburgh Evening

All present and prospective students and their parents are invited to participate in a Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening via Zoom on Wednesday 21st October. This will provide an opportunity to speak with our new College based Coordinator as well as the Diocesan Coordinator. Exciting developments have taken place for this important program.

Time: 7.30PM. Zoom Link: <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/91598178409>

Blessings and stay safe.



From the Acting Director of Evangelisation & Catholic Formation

Mr Nathan Smith

Thank you

Jessica and I would like to thank the entire St Leo's community for the well wishes, cards, gifts, and congratulatory messages that we received for the recent birth of our baby girl, Eloise Maree.

Eloise was desperate to participate in the Year 12 Spirituality Day, and as such, she commenced her arrival on the morning of that Year 12 event (whilst Jessica and I were setting up for the day!). Nevertheless, we made it to the Mater Hospital in time and Eloise was born on the morning of Tuesday, 22 September.

We truly believe in the old adage that *it takes a village to raise a child* and Jessica and I are blessed to have the love and support of the St Leo's community behind us. So thank you very much!



Intake 2020 Reflection Incursion

On Friday, 18 September, our Intake 2020 students participated in their reflection inclusion. The incursion consisted of ice breaker games, team building activities, and personal reflection on how students have grown so far this year. This included students discussing the challenges they have faced so far in Intake 2020 and how the experiences faced can be used to help shape them into being a better person and friend to those in their year group.

Students also participated in prayer, which was led by Deacon Adrian Gomez. Deacon Adrian incorporated into his preaching a performance from the Intake 2020 Drumbeat group, highlighting the importance of communication and teamwork.

This was an incredibly beneficial incursion and the students continued to talk positively about the experience well into lunchtime (which is always a good indication of their enjoyment).



Year 12 Spirituality Day

Our Year 12 Class of 2020 participated in one of their final activities at St Leo's on Monday, 21 September. Unable to go on their regular 3-day retreat, the College created a one-day Spirituality Day experience for students, which consisted of a program of activities that students would have ordinarily participated in on their regular retreat. This led to a jam-packed 12-hour day for students at school; giving them time to connect with themselves; with one another; and with God.

The day consisted of small group activities, guest speakers, a video message from Mr Trotz, meditations, prayer, reconciliation and a beautifully-moving Benedictian blessing at the Loyola Labyrinth at the conclusion of the day. The Year 12 Retreat is a highly anticipated and sought after formation experience at St Leo's and this year's modified one-day program was well-received by students.



We were incredibly proud of how the students entered and participated in the day and we hope that it provided them with some much-needed downtime and solace, especially due to the turbulent times they find themselves in at present.

God bless Year 12 and all the best for your future journeys!

Please Keep in Your Prayers

We ask that you continue to keep in your thoughts and prayers those members of our community who are sick or who are experiencing difficult times at present. We especially pray for Mr Jim Sturgiss - Teacher and Colleague of ours at St Leo's - and his family during this difficult time.

"Acknowledging the good that is already in your life is the foundation for all abundance." Eckhart Tolle

From the Youth Ministry Coordinator

Deacon Adrian Gomez

Refugee Food Drive

St Leo's has a long tradition of helping those in need including our ongoing support for the St Vincent de Paul Society, Caritas and Catholic Mission. This term we have been asked to support another Catholic organisation that is making a difference - Jesuit Refugee Service Australia. JRS is part of an international Catholic organisation found in 51 countries that provides services, accompaniment and advocacy at national, regional and international levels.

Asylum seekers are a group that have fallen between the cracks from the Coronavirus pandemic. As temporary visa holders they have been unable to receive any government support through JobSeeker and JobKeeper and many of them have lost what simple jobs they were previously able to find and what little savings they have is gone. They are having challenges getting food on the table and a roof over their heads. But they are unable to return to the countries they came from, not just due to the lockdown of borders, but due to fears of persecution, imprisonment and worse. Jesuit Refugee Services have been there for these people who have no one else to turn to. JRS are currently feeding over 800 people a week - including 300 children. They rely completely on the charity of schools and parishes to provide this food.

Please donate generously to this worthy cause. Food supplies can be left in the College Youth Ministry Room for collection.

From the Dean of Curriculum

Mr George Morad

HSC Arrangements

As you are undoubtedly aware, the 2020 HSC examinations will begin for students on Tuesday, 20 October with English set to commence at 9.50am.

COVID-19 restrictions only allow 75 students per examination space. This affects the following examinations:

- English Standard and Advanced Paper 1 and English Studies - Tuesday, 20 October
- English Standard and Advanced Paper 2 - Wednesday, 21 October

Help Support People Seeking Asylum
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Food-drive

During these unprecedented times people seeking asylum in the community need your help now more than ever. With no support from the federal government and no safety net, many have said that JRS has been their only hope. We are currently helping to feed over 800 people a week and the demand keeps growing. Your support and kindness is greatly appreciated.

Food items:	Toiletries:
- Basmati Rice	- Nappies (large sizes)
- Cooking Oil	- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Long life milk	- Shampoo
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit	- Sanitary pads and napkins
- Biscuits and muesli bars	- Razors and shaving foam
- Oats and cereal	- Deodorant (male & female)
	- Soap

Please take your donation to the Youth Ministry Room at St Leo's. Thank you!

JRS

- Mathematics Advanced, Standard 1 and Standard 2 - Monday, 26 October
- Studies of Religion 1 and 2 Unit - Tuesday, 3 November

The following arrangements have been made to accommodate these changes:

- Two spaces in the Light of Christ Centre will be set up and referred to as the OLOR Room and the St Leo's Room
- Disability Provisions for the above mentioned examinations will take place in the Theresa House Level 1 Rooms (the entire top floor of Theresa House will be closed off to all students for these examinations)
- **All students will need to sign in on the sheets provided at each of these venues. As this will be the case for each examination, students are required to be at their examination at least 30 minutes before reading time commences in order to ensure a smooth transition into the examination venue.**
- Music 1 students will complete their examination in the Mary MacKillop Centre Music Rooms on Wednesday, 21 October.

All examinations from 5-11 November will take place in Rome Gallery in the Mary MacKillop Centre with Disability Provisions taking place in the surrounding Level 1 Mary MacKillop Rooms.

If your daughter or son is absent the day of an examination, please contact the College immediately on 9487 3555 as well as [emailing me](#) (I constantly check emails) so that I can inform NESA's Presiding Officer immediately.

Regards and God Bless.

From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

It was wonderful to see our Intake 2020 -Year 11 students again after the recent Term 3 holidays. They appeared refreshed and ready for their final term in what has been an extremely challenging year. I have already spoken to a number of students this week both in/out of the classroom, and it is pleasing that many want to make a *positive difference* this term, both academically and with their chosen co-curricular pursuits.

Uniforms

Students are expected to be attired in full Summer uniform every day except if a student has Sport. Other garments (such as alternate caps) that are worn to the College will be confiscated. If students have an issue with uniform/grooming on a particular day, they should see their Year Leader before 8:30am and obtain a Uniform Pass. Please see the Student Diary if any uniform/grooming expectations need clarification. **Regular uniform inspections** will again be regularly occurring during the term.

Student Leave Forms

Where necessary circumstances require student leave from the College, parents/caregivers are required in the first instance to make a formal written (email) application to the Principal for exemption from attendance. If the student leave is approved, which is not automatic, respective students have permission to negotiate the completion of any applicable assessment task(s) with both their subject teacher and respective KLA Leader, should the task(s) fall due within the leave period. Depending on their submitted leave request, students are required to make contact with ALL teachers via the relevant College application form and ensure that the classwork and assessment sections are fully completed. It is important to note that the College does not support families taking extended holidays during term time and/or during College examination periods as it impacts on a student's learning.

Student Services & Compass Kiosk

All students are expected to sign in at Student Services (Compass kiosk) if they arrive late to School and also sign-out if they have an early departure via the kiosk and their Compass ID card. This expectation is extremely important so that the College has an accurate account of student movements. The College would appreciate your support in reminding your son/daughter of this requirement. Parents/caregivers are also requested to enter any relevant attendance information (sickness, early departure etc) using the **Add Attendance Note** feature on the Compass Parent Portal so that the College's database is up-to-date with student movements.

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

Here is the [SchoolTV link for special reports](#) that may be of interest to our College parents/caregivers in raising young teenagers.

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 Pathways Coordinator

Mrs Mel Timmerman



School Leavers Kit

The Department of Education has released a School Leavers Kit to support students in navigating their post-school options. This kit is a great resource you and your young person can use to help them navigate their 2021 post school options. You can [download the Kit here](#).

Girls' Tech Day

Amazon Web Services is hosting their Girls' Tech Day in November, and all St Leo's Girls are invited! Join Amazon on an adventurous journey to explore Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Coding, Virtual Reality, Robotics and much more!

The aim of the event is to inspire you to research the broad range of career opportunities in technology. Girls' Tech Day includes:

- **Speaker Sessions** – Learn about the experiences of students and women in technology.
- **Interactive Coding Sessions** – Compose a melody, code virtual models to walk a runway, program an online robot, or build avatars using artificial intelligence.
- **Fun with STEAM** – Create magic with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics), download the Girls' Tech Day playlist, and much more.
- **SWAG Station**— Additional STEAM content/activities and give-a-ways provided by Australian organisations

Where: at St Leo's, virtual sessions

When: Monday 16th of November, 9.30am – 2.30pm

Upcoming Study & Career Pathways Activities this Term

- **CodeCamp** – starting again this Wednesday
- **Augmented Reality Workshops** (Week 3-10, more details coming soon)
- **JMC Academy: Songwriting Workshop** (23 October)
- **AIE: Maya Game Design Workshop** (12 November)
- **NSW Cyber Security Innovation Node: Career Talk** (3 November)

- **Virtual Reality Spray Painting Course** (Dec, date TBA)
- **Careers In Construction & Engineering Workshop** – we strongly encourage girls to attend as well as boys (28 October)
- **Master Builders Association:** Career Talk (November, date TBA)
- **Careers in Automotive** by Peter Warren Automotive: Career Talk (November, date TBA).

From the Aquinas Resource Centre

Ms Michaela Hashim

State Library Resources

The State Library of NSW provides student access to a range of resources. All you need is local or state library membership. For our Year 12 2021 students who are just commencing their HSC studies, it is worth noting the wealth of resources and guidance for their study over a variety of subjects, including [English](#), [Legal Studies](#), [Modern History](#), [Ancient History](#) and [Society and Culture](#).

If any information or assistance is needed in using these resources, please see Ms Hashim in the Aquinas Resource Centre.

From the CAPA Co-Curricular Coordinator

Mr Vince Tavernese

CAPA Ensembles and Programs Update

As restrictions have been eased around CAPA Ensembles, we are delighted to announce that **Stage Band**, **Max 12**, **Junior Dance**, and our **Rock Bands** will recommence in Term 4!

Intake 2020 Theatre Sports will **not** be held after school for Week 1 (tomorrow, Wednesday 14/10/12). Instead there will be a lunchtime session tomorrow (Wednesday).

Music Tuition Program

Here 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](#) or feel free to [email me](#). Term 4 is the perfect time to start your child's musical journey here at St Leo's Catholic College!