



Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 5 Term 1, 2022

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Opening Liturgy and College Theme for 2022

For the first time in two years, we were able to gather together as a whole College community (though sadly without parents), to recognise and celebrate the Opening of the 2022 Academic Year. **Fr Brendan Lee** (*Moderator* of the Hornsby Cathedral Parish, whom we only welcomed the previous week) led us in prayer at the Liturgy.

Our theme for this year, '**Have courage. Do not be afraid**' (Joshua 1:9) was announced and Fr Brendan referred to the strongest form of courage – forgiveness, using an example from his own teenage years at school.

A key feature of the Opening Liturgy was to mark the beginning of the 2022 Academic Year. [I have linked my opening address here.](#)

Part of this Liturgy was to welcome our new members to the St Leo's Catholic College community including the ringing of the **Bell Of Discipleship**. As per our tradition, our Year 7 students were clapped in as they rang the bell and took their seats.

We also had the opportunity to commission the **Student Representative Council** members and the **St Leo's Vinnies Conference Members** at Assembly the following day (see Pages 2-3).

Staff Updates

On behalf of the College, we wish **Ms Susie Murphy** all the best as she commences her Maternity Leave. Congratulations to **Ms Hayley Spencer** who will be the Acting Leader of Learning (English) and **Ms Lillian Treanor** who will be the Acting Assistant Leader of Learning (English).

Learning as a Priority – Thank you

Last Monday as we all awoke to the news of the dispute on Sydney Trains - we started with an outdoor assembly to gauge the numbers of students who came to school.

Over 90% of our student body relies on the trains to travel to and from school. It was very pleasing to see the attendance rate was similar to any other day. I believe this also speaks volumes from our parents/carers in the



fact that many made other plans to have their young people here at St Leo's. **Learning is important, particularly face-to-face learning. Thank you to our parents, carers and students** on having **learning as a priority**, particularly last Monday.

Year 7 Camp



Last night I had the opportunity to spend the night at the Year 7 camp at Kincumber. It was great to see the students not only getting to know their other new classmates but challenging themselves as well. They were in very good spirits - particularly given the wet weather.

I would like to thank the staff who made this camp possible. Spending time away from their own families so as to ensure our youngest members are given ample opportunity to form and bond new friendships, as they begin their adolescent journey.

Thank you to: **Ms Jess Watts; Mr Michael Kember; Ms Tracie Axton; Ms Raylene Boyle; Ms Tamara Bowman; Mr Adam Carr; Ms Lauren English; Mr Sam Groom; Ms Kathryn Harris; Ms Sadaf Khan; Ms Louise Lawrence and Ms Lillian Treanore.**



Public Speaking

Tomorrow evening we see the first of students becoming involved in the **Public Speaking Competition**. For the moment this will be via Zoom. Well done to these students on taking on a great opportunity to better themselves! Another example of students being courageous!

RAT Tests

Early next week, we should receive the next set of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to distribute. Further details will be provided next week.

Stay dry over this coming weekend!

Tony Gleeson
Principal

Student Leadership

Vinnies Conference 2022

At yesterday's College Assembly, we announced our Vinnies Conference Members for 2022. Congratulations to:

President: **Tony B**
Vice President: **Zinta H**
Secretary: **David R**
Treasurer: **Zachary T**
Spiritual: **Oskar P-S**
Executive Officer: **Charbel K**



Other Conference members are: **Ally B, Rebecca B, Maks P-S, William H, Peter W, Nicholas G, Leon V, Benjamin S, Bryndis P, Tom C and Chloe P.**

Student Representative Council

Also at yesterday's assembly, new Student Representative Council (SRC) team was announced to the School and officially inducted.

As with the current Year 12 Student Leadership team, the students below will serve on the SRC up to and including Term 3 this year.

Our Year 7 students will be given an opportunity for representation in Term 4, when the new leadership cycle begins and after they have transitioned to secondary school life.

The SRC team have now begun their journey and meet weekly under the guidance of Year 12 SRC Ambassadors, **Sylvie P** and **William B**. The SRC democratically represent the student body in College decision-making and organising ways for students to (better) participate in school life through agency and collaboration.



We congratulate the 2022 team:

Year 8: **Leela I, Zara M, Matthew B & Ben E**

Year 9: **Maya M, Natalia AI, Arkin R & Liam T**

Year 10: **Amelia E, Viviane F, Kirin I & Kaylan V**

Year 11: **Rebecca B, Arlynn B, Tony B & Charbel K**

Year 8-10 Parent Information Sessions

Parents and carers of Year 8-10 students are reminded of the Parent Information Sessions next week.

Three Zoom meetings will be held on Thursday, 3 March. These sessions will provide an overview of the different processes and programs to support your young person's learning and growth. If you have any questions that you would like addressed please lodge them using the online form link for the relevant year group. We look forward to connecting with you at these times.

The Zoom meeting links are:

- **6pm – 6.30pm, Year 8:** [MEETING LINK](#)
([Submit a question](#) for the Year 8 meeting)
- **6.45pm – 7.15pm, Year 9:** [MEETING LINK](#)
([Submit a question](#) for the Year 9 meeting)
- **7.30pm -8pm, Year 10:** [MEETING LINK](#)
([Submit a question](#) for the Year 10 meeting)

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday we will be holding a Liturgy at the College, in which we will distribute the ashes, however families are also encouraged to attend Mass at their local parish. Mass times for some of our feeder Parishes are:

- Our Lady of the Rosary, Waitara – 7:00am, 9:30am, 12:00pm, 8:00pm
- Queen of Peace, Normanhurst – 8:45am, 10:00am (Korean), 12:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:30pm (Korean).
- Holy Name, Wahroonga – 9:15am and 7:30pm
- St Agatha's, Pennant Hills – 6:30am, 9:30am and 7:00pm (TBC – please see Parish website)

- Sacred Heart, Pymble – 9:00am and 7:00pm
- St Patrick's, Asquith – 8am, 7.30pm
- St Bernard's, Berowra – 9am

Aquinas Resource Centre Update

Mrs Megan de Kantzow, Leader of Information Resources, Aquinas Resource Centre

ARC (Library) Opening Hours

The Aquinas Resource Centre is open **for all students before school at 8am and after school till 4.30pm, Mondays to Thursdays, and 8am-3pm on Fridays**. Mrs de Kantzow is on hand to facilitate borrowing and support students in their studies.

Senior Study Sessions

Teachers have been kindly volunteering to lead Senior Study sessions after school - with SOR, Science, and HSIE teachers giving specialised help so far. English is running regular HSC seminars for small groups on Wednesday afternoons and, over the last few weeks, has looked at improving analytical paragraphs and developing a strong Module A concept understanding for Advanced and Standard courses. All students are welcome to attend, speak to Year 12 teachers for details.

Regular Visitors Back

Bird watchers amongst the staff and students are thrilled that the pair of Tawny Frogmouths are back! They have a roost in a casuarina tree just outside the ARC veranda, and when in residence, these cunningly camouflaged birds are an absolute delight to see.



What's been happening in Learning?

Kitchen Chemistry

Ms Leeta Caiger, Leader of Science

Year 8 Science students enjoyed a Chemistry lesson with a difference this week when they constructed their own Periodic Table.



Under the guidance of Ms De Pomeroy, the students iced and arranged biscuits into their correct groups. This took patience, teamwork and an eagle eye to ensure all of the elements were correctly represented. We have some budding chemists in our midst!!

St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Register now!

Open Day

& EXPO

Tues 15 March

4-7pm





Register at:
stleos.nsw.edu.au

Dance Excursion

Ms Brittany Skea, CAPA Co-Curricular Coordinator

Year 8-12 Dance students attended the Callback Showcase at the Seymour Centre last Tuesday.

Callback exhibits the exemplary works performed by some of last year's 2021 high achieving HSC Dance students across NSW.

The matinee show featured a Q&A session with the HSC Dance Supervisor of Marking and past HSC Dance students, who provided a valuable insight into the preparation and commitment involved when studying HSC Dance.

The students also participated in a Commercial Jazz workshop at Duti Studios taught by Rosie Romeo with a focus on dance technique and performance quality. The students came away feeling inspired and were very appreciative to be given such a wonderful opportunity!



[Check out a video of their workshop performance here!](#)



Careers Collaboration – Can you Help?

Ms Megan Tynan, Leader of Careers

I would like to extend an invitation to our parents and carers who run small businesses to get involved in our work experience program.

Work Experience is an invaluable tool that allows students to 'experience' a job to help them engage in jobs in a meaningful way to establish a clear career path.

In the past few weeks, I have had numerous conversations with our St Leo's students who are already considering their career path beyond school. The overarching message I am receiving is that they don't generally know what interests them. Work Experience is the perfect way for them to develop their interests and to make informed decisions about their future. Work Experience is optional for Year 10 - 11 students.

If you are a small business owner and interested in taking on board a St Leo's student to show them the ropes of your business please contact me. Work Experience is generally a week in length and can be mutually beneficial to your business and our students.

If you would like to know more about how we might be able to collaborate please [email me](#) to discuss options.

Alumni News

30(ish) Year St Leo's Reunion

The Class of 1991 had their 30 year reunion on Saturday night at St Leo's with a BBQ and tour of the College.

COVID had postponed their original plans for a reunion last year, with members of the year group originally having planned to come from overseas and interstate. It was a much smaller group that met up, with our Youth Minister, **Deacon Adrian Gomez**, a member of that year group, hosting and showing them around the College.

Name tags were necessary as people had changed a lot! As the once familiar areas triggered long forgotten memories, the group also expressed that they were greatly impressed with the new facilities that have been added to the College in recent years - particularly the MacKillop Centre and its performing arts spaces built around what was formerly known as the Berg Hall.

It was a great night for all, reconnecting with old friends and remembering the people and places that had shaped their life, and plans were made to have annual reunions in future years.



Following their Dreams

Meanwhile, Class of 2018 St Leo's graduates **Sam Harmon** and **Lyndon Frykberg** have been showing their greatness and following their dreams in the current Mamma Mia production at Riverside Theatre Paramatta.

Congratulations Alex and Katie

The wedding of **Alex Nindra** and **Katie Hunter** at St Patrick's, Asquith was an impromptu 10 year reunion for

the St Leo's Class of 2012, with many ex-students in attendance.

Alex asked his best friend Katie out in Year 9 at St Leo's - in the breezeway next to the canteen. She had already turned him down twice but it was third time lucky - and 12 years later they tied the knot in a ceremony celebrated by Deacon Adrian.



REMINDERS:

Free Student Audio and Ebook Access

St Leo's has a subscription to audiobooks and ebooks which students can access for free! Students can go to <https://stleos.wheelers.co> and log in using their St Leo's single sign-on. The selection includes some of the books being studied in English and a wonderful wide variety of fiction.

As we know, reading books is not only relaxing and enjoyable, but enhances language skills, promotes empathy with others and an understanding of the wider world.

SchoolTV - Online Wellbeing Resource

St Leo's Schools TV has a range of [special reports](#) that may be of interest to our College parents/caregivers in raising young teenagers.

Canteen Menu for Lent

Yummy Bears Kiosk, our new canteen supplier, have a special menu for Ashe Wednesday next week and for Fridays in Lent. [VIEW HERE](#).

The canteen accepts payment via EFTPOS, cash or online ordering (except for breakfast) through the **Flexischools app**. Note the daily **cut-off time for lunch orders is 8.30am**.

[Flexischools App Setup Instructions](#)

CAPA Ensembles

Our CAPA Ensembles and Programs continue to thrive this week! There has been a high level of interest in a few of our programs which have currently reached capacity. These include **Ceramics (Thursday & Friday)**, **Cubs Art Club** and **Cubs Drama Ensemble (Monday & Tuesday)**. Waiting lists have been created where possible.

To accommodate large numbers in some of our ensembles and programs there have been adjustments made to the Term 1 Timetable. This timetable is effective from Friday, 25 February.

Students who are part of **Cubs Drama Ensemble** were informed this week regarding which rehearsal time they are required to attend for Term 1. Please speak with your child about this.

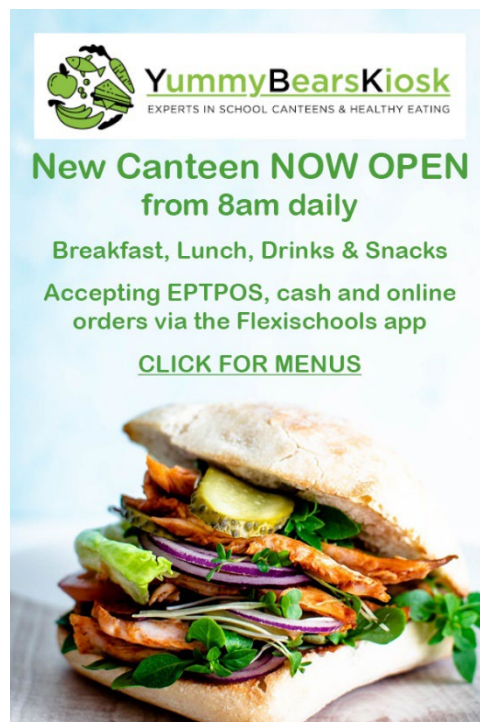
Year 7 students who signed up for **Cubs Jazz/Variety** and/or **Cubs Lyrical/Contemporary** now have a choice of rehearsal days. Students are only required to attend **ONE** rehearsal per week per style.

*****Prior to students attending any of the above CAPA ensembles/programs, a consent form MUST be completed regarding the risk of Covid-19.***

The College is implementing a [Covid-19 Smart Plan](#) to ensure the minimising of risk for all students and staff.

[CAPA Co-Curricular Sign-Up & Covid-19 Consent Form](#)

You can also check out our [CAPA Co-Curricular Website](#).



Co-Curricular CAPA Ensembles / Programs

Term 1



Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	7:00-7:45am Cubs Jazz/Variety (MML01) NEW CLASS 7:45am-8:30am Pride Jazz/Variety (TWG) 7:45-8:30am Cubs Lyrical/Contemp (MML01) NEW CLASS	7:30-8:30am Lions Singers (MML04)	7:30-8:30am Pride Performance Group (MML04) ON HOLD	7:00-7:45am Cubs Jazz/Variety (MML01) 7:45-8:30am Lions Jazz/Variety (MML01) 7:45am-8:30am Pride Lyrical/Contemp (TWG) 7:30-8:30am Cubs Concert Band (MML04)	7:30-8:30am Lions Concert Band (MML04) 7:45-8:30am Cubs Lyrical/Contemp (MML01)
Recess					10:50-11:15am Guitar Ensemble (MML04)
Lunch	1:15-2:00pm String Ensemble (MML04)	1:15-2:00pm Accordion Group (MML04) 1:15-2:00pm Cubs Drama Ensemble (C) CLASS FULL		1:15-2:00pm Cubs Singers (MML03) 1:15-2:00pm Rock Band (MML04)	1:15-2:00pm Girls Rock Band (MML04) 1:15-2:00pm Cubs Art Club (MMG04) CLASS FULL
After School	3:00-3:45pm Cubs Drama Ensemble (C) CLASS FULL 3:00-3:45pm Lions Lyrical/Contemp (MML01)		3:00-4:00pm Male Vocal Group (MML04)	3:00-4:00pm Ceramics Classes (MM) CLASS FULL	3:00-4:00pm Ceramics Classes (MM) CLASS FULL

Art

Cubs - Year 7 & 8

Ceramics - Year 7-12 (Term 1 & 3)

Dance

Cubs - Year 7

Lions - Year 8

Pride - Year 9-12

Drama

Cubs - Year 7 & 8

Music

Cubs - Year 7

Lions - Year 8-10

Pride - Year 8-12

Private Music Tuition

St Leo's offers our Pride Lands Private Music Tuition Program.

If you are interested in receiving private lessons to learn an instrument and/or vocals, please complete the following [Expression of Interest form](#). Students are welcome to join the program at any time throughout the year, including mid-term.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to [email Ms Skea](#) for further information.

Community Notices



Calling all High School Girls

Register Today

Places available in Girls U12-U18 teams

Team Environment

Weekly Training

Sunday Games

Play with Friends

Register by 1 March

www.wpfc.com.au





Try Softball Day

27 FEBRUARY & 6 MARCH
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