



Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 6 Term 1, 2022

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Ash Wednesday

Yesterday marked the halfway point of Term One. It is also very significant as it was Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a time of reflection and fasting in preparation for the celebration of Easter.



In our Catholic tradition, Lent is commemorated as a time for conversion, repentance, and renewal. Marking our foreheads with ashes on Ash Wednesday is an outward sign of internal conversion. It is also an invitation to *"Turn away from sin and believe the good news"*. In this annual invitation, we acknowledge our human vulnerability, and we pray to be strengthened by God's grace, mercy, and love.

Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy was celebrated by **Fr Roger Delmonte** from Hornsby Cathedral Parish. He highlighted three characteristics of our Lenten period - Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Each characteristic was linked to the current situation in the Ukraine as well as the floods across NSW and Queensland.

Immediately after the Liturgy, Project Compassion was launched by the Vinnies Student Leadership team with the theme 'For all future generations'.

At the end of the launch, the student leaders announced a special one-off collection for Caritas Ukraine. They trudged through the rain between classes at recess and lunch and collected an astonishing **\$1000** in the space of a few hours. This commitment from our leaders and generosity from our staff and students was overwhelming - a concrete expression of our compassion for those who are suffering and a great way to start the giving of Lent.

Staffing

I would like to welcome to our permanent teaching staff **Ms Trish Cura**. Trish will be working in both the Religious Education and PDHPE KLAS (Key Learning Areas). Trish is a very experienced teacher and comes to us from Marist Sisters, Woolwich. I am sure our community will give Trish a warm welcome.



Public Speaking

Congratulations to **Sienna** Year 7, **Maximillian and Luke** of Year 8 and **Taylah** of Year 9, who won the first round of the Public Speaking Competition last Friday evening. It's great that these students are bettering themselves by trying a co-curricular activity which is not easy. Special mention to **Sienna** who performed very well – freshly back from the three-day Year 7 camp!

Upgrades to our ARC Library Facilities

During the week, the Aquinas Resource Centre had new furniture delivered and installed. This furniture and remodelling of existing furniture will give some more quiet and focussed study areas to our students as well as purposeful study areas for regular classes. Thank you to **Ms Megan de Kantzow** who orchestrated the planning and purchase of this furniture.

STUDY SKILLS: What can you do this year to manage your homework effectively?

Try these top tips:

Get Organised Straight Away: As soon as you get home, unpack your bag before you have a break and something to eat. Lay out all the work first. It is easier to get started if you have everything ready to go.

Prioritise and Plan: Before you start work, write a list of what needs to be done and decide in what order you will do it. Focus on what is most important, not just what subject you like best! Also write down how long you think each task will take to do.

Develop Thinking Pathways: Keep in your mind that it is all about learning. Try to look beyond the actual content to what type of skill this homework might be developing in you – analysing, critical thinking, writing skills, or problem-solving skills, for example.

Chunk Time into Focused Blocks: Do your work in 20-30 minute blocks with no distractions during that time. So switch off the TV, turn off your phone for that 20-30 minutes. When you just focus on the work that needs to be done, you'll be amazed at how much work you complete. Of course, if you are on a roll, you can keep going past the 30 minutes.

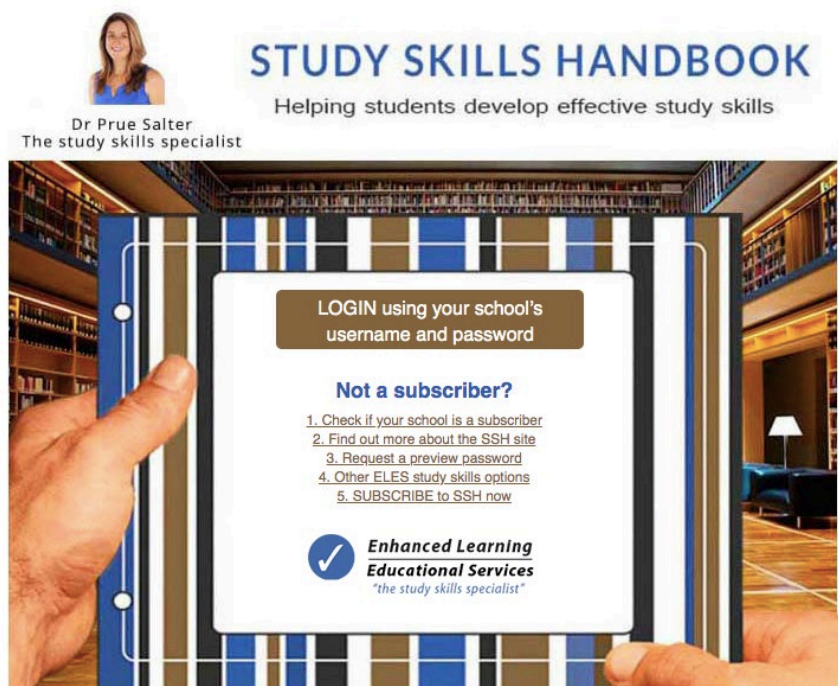
Alternate and Chip Away: If there is a task you really don't want to do then alternate this with a task you enjoy doing. For example, 15 minutes on the homework you like, 5 minutes on the homework you don't like. When you chip away at it you will be surprised how quickly you get through the work.

Students can learn more this year about how to improve their results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units in study skills specialist Prue Salter's [Study Skills Handbook](#) which St Leo's subscribes to.

Our College access details are:

Username: *leos*

Password: *community*



COVID-19 Update

The College COVID numbers have remained steady over this week, and I commend everyone for their efforts. Please keep it up.

All students were issued with their third set of Rapid Antigen Tests earlier this week. Please ensure these are rescued from the bag, so that your young person can use it when you see fit.

Year Group	Covid Positive	Close Contacts
Year 7	4	2
Year 8	1	2
Year 9	-	
Year 10	1	1
Year 11	-	3
Year 12	1	2

Stay safe over this coming weekend!

Tony Gleeson
Principal

REMINDER: Year 8-10 Parent Information Sessions - TONIGHT

Parents and carers of Year 8-10 students are reminded of the Parent Information Sessions this evening (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)

Academic Extension Opportunities

CSDA Public Speaking

Last Friday afternoon, nine students represented St Leo's in the first round of the CSDA (Catholic Schools Debating Association) Public Speaking competition via Zoom.

Students have been diligently working on their speeches the past few weeks on a range of topics.

Following the first round of the competition, four students were successful in making it through to the Zone final to be held tomorrow (Friday). I would like to congratulate all students who are involved in the competition this year for their



commitment and resilience; a testament to the spirit of St Leo's students to accept challenges with vigour and enthusiasm.

Good luck to our competitors participating in the Zone final: **Sienna K** (Year 7), **Maximilian J** (Year 8), **Luke J** (Year 8), and **Taylah F** (Year 9).

Debating Trials

Team try outs for the upcoming debating season will begin in Week 7. All students who are interested are welcome to attend the meetings and tryouts. Information will be provided via student notices and on the dedicated Google Classroom page (code: **vpcmwax**).

Mathematics

A copy of the Scope and Sequence (topics and program) for each Mathematics course has been placed on student Google Classrooms. Many students like to work beyond the class's speed, so we have provided them with a document that shows what topics are coming up next. Also, for students who attend additional tutoring, they can use this resource to cover current and upcoming topics.

College Open Day 2022!

Planning is well underway for our annual College Open Day to be held on **Tuesday, 15 March from 4-7pm**.

Open Day is our single largest marketing event each year by far, giving prospective families the opportunity to see our facilities, speak to staff and students and experience our community in action.

Last year, despite wet weather and being held the week before lockdown, we had approaching 2000 visitors!

If you know friends, family or neighbours with primary school aged children who are considering their high school options, please invite them along to our Open Day and ask them to register via our website.

Student Helpers Needed for Open Day!

To allow for setup and preparation, **all students will be dismissed at lunchtime** on the day. However, as this is a huge team event, we will require the assistance of our College Leaders and many more students across all Year Groups for a wide variety of tasks – from tour guides to performers, gate attendants and general helpers.

After all – our amazing students are our best advertisement by far!

All students assisting will be provided with an (early) pizza meal before the event and need to be picked up from the College after 7pm.

Students who volunteer or are asked to assist will receive a permission note next week as we finalise activities and schedules.

**Do you know anyone
with primary-aged children
considering their high school options?**

**Please invite them to come along and see what
St Leo's has to offer at our Open Day on March 15!**

Register at our website: stleos.nsw.edu.au

St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

**Open Day
& EXPO**

**Tues 15 March
4-7pm**

**Register at:
stleos.nsw.edu.au**

Register now!



Aquinas Resource Centre Update

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

New Books and Reading Area!

Despite Covid and floods, the new library shelving and circulation desk arrived from Queensland on Monday. A new reading area has now been established, and some of our new books are on the shelves already.

Leo's Writers Group is back!

A group of keen writers gathered on Friday last week to talk and write fiction, ably led by **Sophie H**, one of our Year 12 English Extension students, and supported by our own **Ms Sarah Price**, teacher, author and journalist. Over the years, many Leo's Writers have enjoyed the creativity and problem solving that goes with writing fiction, and have been delighted to see some members' work published. The writers' group meets each Friday at lunchtime. Interested students can see Mrs de Kantzow in the ARC.



What else is happening in the ARC...

All Year 9 Geography classes visited the ARC during Week 5 and 6 to hone their **bibliography skills** in preparation for their first assessment task. Students used Mybib to create correctly formatted bibliographies as they researched issues around sustainable food production in Australia.

Senior Study saw a big group of Year 12 English students working hard on Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Spencer and Mrs de Kantzow to develop strong analytical essays for their upcoming assessment.

The Premier's Reading Challenge has also begun - more details next week.

Social Justice Update

Project Compassion 2022 – 'For All Future Generations'

Following our Ash Wednesday liturgy yesterday, our newly commissioned Year 11 St Vincent de Paul leaders - **Tony, Zinta, Charbel** and **Maks** - launched Project Compassion for 2022:

'Every year during Lent, St Leo's raises money, awareness, and a number of other essential items for Caritas Australia and their major annual fundraiser, Project Compassion.'

Here's a [short video telling us about the work of Caritas](#).

The theme for Project Compassion this year is "For all future generations." As we've seen in the video, Caritas works both with Australian indigenous communities, and in developing nations around the globe. They have local staff who know and understand the local situations in poverty-stricken communities such as in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. On Wednesdays and Fridays, we will be going around to Mentor groups collecting donations for Project Compassion.



Please donate Easter Eggs, new Socks, and old Jewelry



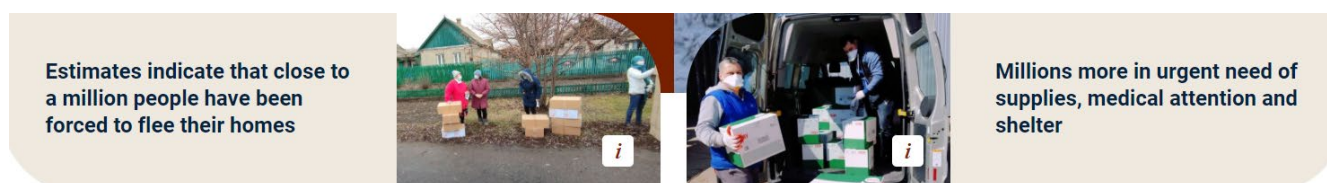
*This year we will also be having a donation drive for the homeless and survivors of domestic violence. We are asking you to bring in **Easter eggs, new socks, and old jewellery**. Easter eggs and socks we donate will be personally given to the homeless by students on Street Retreats with Mr Kershler. We are also asking for any old jewellery that you might have that you don't wear anymore. This will be donated to a domestic violence group who use these as a form of therapy by sorting through the jewellery as they come together to share their stories and receive support.*

The money you donate, as well as these items will make a real difference. This Lent let's do our bit to make the world a better place. Please help us support the people who are less fortunate than us.'

Over \$1,000 raised for Caritas Ukraine!

Yesterday (Ash Wednesday), our Vinnies student leaders went around during recess and lunch to collect a one-off special donation directly for Ukraine.

The escalating violence in Ukraine is rapidly becoming a dire humanitarian crisis. In a matter of days, along with many civilian casualties, over half a million people have already been forced from their homes in freezing winter temperatures.



Caritas Ukraine has 500 local staff and close to 1,000 volunteers in place. With the support of their international partners, including Caritas Australia, they are already responding to the current horrors unfolding in Ukraine, providing families with emergency food, water, shelter, and hygiene support.

The generosity of our staff and students was overwhelming in giving what they had on hand to reach a total of **\$1,000** - a concrete expression of our compassion for those who are suffering and a great way to start the giving of Lent.

If you would like to find out more about the work of Caritas Ukraine or donate, please [visit their website](#).

Handbag Initiative for International Women's Day - #StandWithHer

As an initiative for International Women's Day on 8 March, our Year 11 and 12 students are collecting new and used handbags/pouches along with toiletries and care items that would assist domestic violence victims and/or homeless women and their families who don't have access to basic and essential items.

You view the [list of items needed here](#).

Students can drop off items to Ms Tynan's office in Xavier Court, or via their Mentor Teachers.

Donations [can also be made online](#).



#ITSINTHE Bag

ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR YOUR ADULT BAG

Shampoo & Conditioner | Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Soap | Roll on Deodorant | Sealed Period Products



#ITSINTHE Bag

ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR YOUR MUM & BUB BAG

Maternity Pads, Breast Pads, Newborn Nappies
Shampoo & conditioner, toothbrush & toothpaste, roll
on deodorant, baby shampoo, disposable nappy bags,
baby wipes, dummies, baby wash, nappy rash cream.



#ITSINTHE Bag

ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR YOUR TEEN BAG

Period products suitable for younger bodies
Shampoo & Conditioner, Roll on Deodorant
Soap, Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Student Property

Padlocks for Lockers

We are currently experiencing a run of locks needing to be cut off lockers!

A reminder that it is **recommended for students to use KEYED padlocks** for their lockers and give the spare key to their Year Coordinator or Mentor Teacher.

Combination locks are NOT recommended as students regularly change and forget their codes, meaning that the padlock must then be cut off and replaced by the student/parent.

A medium-sized keyed padlock (20-40mm, minimum 10mm) is recommended with the tagged and labelled spare key for their Year Leader or Mentor Teacher.



Lost Property – Please label **EVERYTHING!**

A large amount of student property is also currently being lost. The vast majority are found, but unfortunately, many, many are not labelled and cannot be easily returned to their owners!

Please ensure all your student's property – from jumpers to Air Pods - are clearly labelled with their name so we can return the item.

Our Reception and Student Services staff do their absolute best to contact students when labelled items are found. Unlabelled items are placed in the lost property boxes in Xavier Court, outside the ARC.



Pathways Update

Mr Justin Slowey, Leader of Pathways and Partnerships

The St Leo's Pathways program aims to make connections between teaching and learning in each subject area with industry and post-school training, so that students gain a real-world knowledge and understanding of a range of careers and career pathways. Our Pathways team has been busy engaging Subject and Year Coordinators to plan 2022 events.



Regional Industry Education Partnerships

We recently partnered with Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Community College in conjunction with the Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP) to offer students an opportunity to participate in the Skills Passport Program. The aim of the program is to provide students with a taste of various vocations in partnership with various local businesses, as well as accomplish Foundation Work Skills Modules with the college. We wish the students every success and are already looking forward to their graduation ceremony in April.

STEM - Robotics and Coding Opportunity

There are many other Pathways opportunities being planned for 2022 including a STEM incursion later this Term on **Robotics and Coding**.

We have partnered with the **CSIRO's STEM Professionals in Schools** which is a national volunteer program that facilitates partnerships between schools and industry to bring real STEM into the classroom.



We still have 42 places available to **Year 8-11 students**. If you would like your young person to participate in this **free event**, please complete this **Expression of Interest Form**. It will operate on a first come, first served basis.

Parent Volunteers

Finally, we are seeking parent volunteers to join our St Leo's Parent database to offer a connection to your area of work. Please [complete this form](#) if you or your organisation are available to offer voluntary support to students and/or teachers within our Pathways & Partnerships program and would have the time to offer real world experiences, advice and support to help connect students' interests with potential future career pathways.

Sports Update

Mr Michael Kember, Leader of Sport

Our Softball Stars!

Recently the BBSSSA Girls Softball trials were held at St Leo's. The trials were an opportunity for the girls to showcase their and be selected to represent Broken Bay at the upcoming NSWCCC Championships.

On the day, four students were selected for the team: **Sophie O'C** (Year 12), **Rachel O'C** (Year 9), **Maddi D** (Year 10), and **Milla D** (Year 10). We wish them the best of luck at the upcoming NSWCCC Championships.

These same four students have also had recent success outside the College. **Sophie** has been selected in the NSW U/18 side, **Milla** and **Maddi** in the U/16 NSW side, and **Rachel** in the U/14 NSW Metro team. Congratulations to all four on representing the sky blue of NSW!



BBSSSA Touch Football

Over the last two weeks, the Broken Bay U/15 and Open Boys and Girls touch football championships have been held at Doyalson (Boys) and North Manly (Girls). These championships double as a selection for the Broken Bay teams to compete at the NSWCCC Championships later in the term. All teams played well on their days and achieved success with a number of teams placing in the top six.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected in the Broken Bay teams: **Jaykob McK** (U/15 Boys), **Ryan B** (Open Boys), **Bridgette C** (Shadow - Open Girls), **Makayla A** (Shadow - U/15 Girls).

Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday, the College Swimming Carnival was held in wet conditions at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. Due to restrictions, the carnival was unfortunately limited to the students who had entered the championship events.

The weather made it a tough day but the students at the carnival are to be commended for their efforts in the pool. The age champions and winning house will be announced over the next week.

Students selected to represent the College at the Broken Bay Swimming Carnival will receive notes early next week.



Representative Sport Trials – Check Google Classroom!

Over the next two weeks there will be a number of representative sporting teams trials being held in a variety of sports (Soccer, Touch Football, Netball, and Basketball just to name a few).

Students are encouraged to check the St Leo's Sport 2022 Google Classroom page for information. If you require more information, please don't hesitate to contact [Mr Kember](#) via email.

REMINDERS:

Canteen Menu for Lent

Yummy Bears Kiosk, our new canteen supplier, have a special menu 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 and Programs

If you are interested in joining our CAPA Ensembles and Programs, please contact [Ms Skea](#). 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)	7:30-8:30am Lions Singers (MML04)	7:30-8:30am Pride Performance Group (MML04)	7:00-7:45am Cubs Jazz/Variety (MML01)	7:30-8:30am Lions Concert Band (MML04)
	7:45am-8:30am Pride Jazz/Variety (TWG)			7:45-8:30am Lions Jazz/Variety (MML01)	7:45-8:30am Cubs Lyrical/Contemp (MML01)
	7:45-8:30am Cubs Lyrical/Contemp (MML01)			7:45am-8:30am Pride Lyrical/Contemp (TWG)	
Recess				7:30-8:30am Cubs Concert Band (MML04)	
Lunch	1:15-2:00pm String Ensemble (MML04)	1:15-2:00pm Accordion Group (MML04)		1:15-2:00pm Cubs Singers (MML03)	1:15-2:00pm Girls Rock Band (MML04)
		1:15-2:00pm Cubs Drama Ensemble (CG02)		1:15-2:00pm Rock Band (MML04)	1:15-2:00pm Cubs Art Club (MMG02)
After School	3:00-3:45pm Cubs Drama Ensemble (CG02)		3:00-4:00pm Male Vocal Group (MML04)	3:00-4:00pm Ceramics Classes (MMG02)	3:00-4:00pm Ceramics Classes (MMG02)
	3:00-3:45pm Lions Lyrical/Contemp (MML01)				
<div> <div> Art Cubs - Year 7 & 8 Ceramics - Year 7-12 (Term 1 & 3) </div> <div> Dance Cubs - Year 7 Lions - Year 8 </div> <div> Pride - Year 9-12 </div> <div> Drama Cubs - Year 7 & 8 </div> <div> Music Cubs - Year 7 Lions - Year 8-10 </div> <div> Pride - Year 8-12 </div> </div>					

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.