



*Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 7 Term 1, 2022*

## Principal's Message

*Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,*

### A Soggy Week

Last Tuesday afternoon, we were contacted by Sydney Trains at about 2.20pm to inform us of the outage of trains between Gordon to Hornsby. As 91% of our students normally travel to and from school by train, a few of our College Leadership team met and developed a plan to ensure the supervision and welfare of both students and staff to accommodate the situation as best as possible.

I would like to thank the student body for listening to directions, communicating with their parents/carers and for keeping a positive mindset in what were very wet and difficult conditions.

I am sure there were many uniforms, bags and books being dried that night (most likely indoors!). At least there was a well-timed Mufti Day the following day to support International Women's Day (#BreakTheBias) which would have helped the situation with uniforms and hopefully boost morale a little.

I would also like to thank the parents who made alternative plans within 30 minutes and had to drive in dangerous conditions. The last student was picked up by 4.15pm. Thank you all very much!

### Staffing News

Congratulations to **Ms Susie Murphy** (our Leader of Learning - English) who commenced maternity leave two weeks ago. Her new son, **George**, arrived very early on Thursday morning. Since George arrived a little early, he is spending his time in a humidicrib until his lungs develop a little more. We keep the Murphy family in our prayers.

This evening, over 500 staff will gather from Catholic Schools Broken Bay to celebrate the 36th Diocesan Schools Mass in The Light of Christ Centre. Here new staff are blessed and welcomed by **Bishop Anthony** to the Diocese, as well as recognising those staff members who have made significant contributions to Catholic Education over many years.

This evening we congratulate **Sharon Gartner** and **Kate Todd** on their 25 years of service to Catholic Education.



## COVID-19 Update & Regular College Assemblies

Now that Covid regulations have been relaxed and the wet weather has (almost) finished we will be having daily mini assemblies on Muru Mittigar (means 'Pathway to Friends' in the Darug language), commencing next week. Besides taking the roll and administration matters, these assemblies are designed to assist in rebuilding the culture and pride in our community. After the last two years, this will be a reset for many students.

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

*Please take care over this coming weekend!*

**Tony Gleeson**  
Principal



## From the Assistant Principal – Evangelisation and Catechesis

*Mr Peter Grace*

### Religious Happenings

What a few weeks it has been! Torrential rain of biblical proportions amidst an ongoing global pandemic.

Fortunately, those events have not prevented us from expressing who we are as members of a Catholic learning community. Since our Opening School Liturgy, we marked **Ash Wednesday** last week – thank you to **Fr Roger Delmonte** from the Cathedral Parish for presiding – and have resumed our **Friday lunchtime Masses** in the College Chapel. When conditions permit, we will invite parents to join us in our celebrations.

Earlier this week, St Leo's hosted a meeting of Year 7 teachers as part of a review of CSBB's **new Religious Education Curriculum**. As the new units are being rolled out, expert teams are gathering to discuss their implementation and to refine programs.

Also this week, the Year 7 students gathered for a **Liturgy** that saw them reflect on their **Year 7 Camp** experience a fortnight ago. Key themes included making friends, being respectful and being grateful.

With last week's launch of **Project Compassion** here at the College, our Year 11 Vinnies members have been busily collecting donations from students to support the many wonderful projects of Caritas Australia (see *stories pages 3-4*).

Along with our daily prayer and under the care and protection of our House Patrons, we have navigated the beginning of the school year with God's law in our hearts.

Our online Parent Information Sessions last week provided an opportunity for us to pray as a community and to reflect on the mission which we share here at St Leo's. Central to the life of the College is the partnership we have with parents and carers who, as our Catholic tradition teaches, are the first educators of the first educators of your children.

As Mr Gleeson has mentioned, representatives of the Diocese will come together this evening to mark the commencement of the 2022 school year at the Catholic School Broken Bay Diocesan Schools Staff Mass. Here, new leaders (including fellow Assistant Principal, **Mrs Carolina Murdoch** and myself) will receive a

commissioning and blessing from **Bishop Anthony**, while long-serving staff will also be recognised. Congratulations to **Mrs Kate Todd** and **Ms Sharon Gartner** for their 25 years of service to Catholic education. Well done!

## College Open Day and Student Arrangements

This coming Tuesday, 15 March, our largest event for the year, the College Open Day, is scheduled from 4:00pm until 7:00pm.

### Students Not Assisting

Students who are **not participating and/or helping on the day will be dismissed from 1:45pm on Tuesday** so that final preparations for this important calendar event can occur. Please note that the College will provide arrangements for those students who need supervision until 3:00pm.

### Student Helpers

**Students assisting and/or helping on the day will be provided with an early pizza supper** and bottle of water prior to the commencement of the Open Day. They will be called over the intercom to gather when the pizzas arrive around 3pm.

**Dismissal will be from 7:00 – 7:15pm at either the Woolcott Avenue or Windarra Crescent Gates (Gates A or B).**

Parents/carers are requested to please complete the electronic permission note sent for each student helper via Compass as soon as possible to provide the necessary consent for your son and/or daughter to assist on the day.

**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](http://stleos.nsw.edu.au)**



## Social Justice Update



### **#StandWithHer - Senior Handbag Initiative for International Women's Day**

A huge thankyou to all families who generously donated products and bags to our Stage 6 Handbag Initiative.

The toiletries and care items collected will assist domestic violence victims and/or homeless women and their families at a very difficult time.

We are looking forward to making this donation to the Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter on the next school assembly.



## Caritas - Project Compassion

Our fundraising for Caritas this Lent has had a strong start with over \$1,800 raised from Mentor group collections on Wednesdays and Fridays, the Caritas Ukraine Appeal on Ash Wednesday and the Caritas Women of the World Appeal.

There is so much going on in the world at the moment, it is great to see the compassion for those in need from our community. Lent is a time training our hearts in love through prayer (connecting with God), fasting (self-discipline and simplifying our lives) and charity (reaching out to those in need). Every act of kindness and hope makes a difference.

## Eggs, Socks & Jewellery

The donations of Easter eggs, new socks, and old jewellery have also started coming in. Thank you! The Easter eggs and socks we donate will be personally given to the homeless by students on our Street Retreats with Mr Kershler.



We are also asking for any old jewellery that you might have and no longer wear. This will be donated to a domestic violence group who use them as a form of therapy by sorting through the jewellery as they come together to share their stories and receive support.

These items can be given during the Project Compassion collections on Wednesdays and Fridays, or dropped directly to the Youth Ministry Room.

This Lent, let's keep playing our part to make our world a better place.



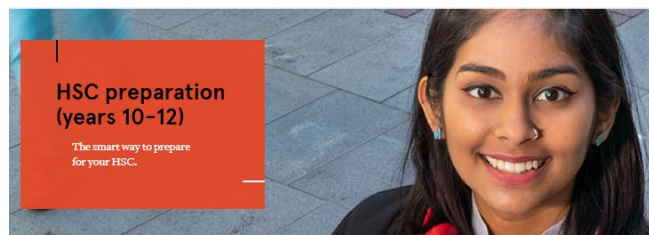
## Careers Notices

*Ms Megan Tynan, Leader of Careers*

## Easter Holiday HSC Preparation at Sydney University

Sydney University are running a series of HSC preparation courses for Year 12 students over the Easter holiday break for the following subjects:

- HSC Biology
- HSC Business Studies
- HSC Economics
- HSC English
- HSC Legal Studies
- HSC Mathematics
- HSC Physics



[Register HERE](#)

## Aviation Careers

Is your daughter or son interested in a career in aviation?

Did you know Year 12 graduates can become Commercial Pilots in less than a year?

Interested students can attend our upcoming Pilot Career Seminar, where they'll learn all about aviation career paths, entry-level jobs, salaries, qualifications, courses, industry insights and more. Parents are also encouraged to attend.

**Date: Monday, 14 March, 2022**

Location: 628/23-25 Airport Avenue, Bankstown Aerodrome, NSW, 2198

Time: 6 pm

Free registration via: [www.basair.edu.au/Events](http://www.basair.edu.au/Events)



## REMINDERS:

### Representative Sport Trials – Check Google Classroom!

There are currently 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 reminded 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](mailto:Mr.Kember) via email.



### 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.