



Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 10 Term 1, 2022

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Parents in Partnership Discussions

It was great to see over 145 families join us for the College's first *Parents in Partnership* Evening for the year last night. Many topics were raised and discussed (via the Zoom chat room facility as well as a Google doc available) by both parents/carers and members of the College Leadership Team.

In accordance with our *Parents in Partnership* model, **Mr Peter Grace** (Assistant Principal) will put together a summary of the points and subsequent actions over the next few days. This will be distributed to all parents/carers next week.

Yesterday I was reading a document published by the Congregation of Catholic Education, Vatican City published last week. This body is responsible for Catholic schools across the globe. The Secretary, (*Archbishop Angelo Zani*) actually visited St Leo's in 2018 and met with staff and student representatives. We were the only Sydney school he visited!



1: Archbishop Zani during his visit to St Leo's in 2018, with then College Captains, Rachel and Patrick.



A particular section struck a chord with me yesterday, particularly as we were conducting the first *PiP* evening for this year that evening. I used the quote last night in our meeting...

**“The success of the educational path depends primarily on the principle of mutual cooperation, first and foremost between parents and teacher...”**

*(Paragraph 15, Congregation for Catholic Education, Vatican City 2022)*

The tone and obvious support from last night's meeting is great evidence of the strength of that *mutual cooperation* here at St Leo's.

As I said to our guests at our Open Day a couple of weeks ago, staff need the parents/carers' support and parents/carers need the College's support to ensure the best outcomes for our young people. The young person should never be put in the position of being the *meat in the sandwich*. We must *all* be on the same page. Sometimes this can be very difficult - but we all want the best for our students.

Mutual cooperation requires effort from all involved!

## Woolcott Avenue and Unwin Road – Please Consider our Neighbours

We have very good relationships with many of our neighbours. Often I am able to chat with them as they go for their walks or play in the quiet street (Woolcott Avenue) outside of school times, particularly in the early evening.

Could I ask all parents/carers who **either pick up or drop off their young person** at the College (either Woolcott Avenue or Unwin Road entrances) **to refrain from parking across residents' driveways**. Recently I have had dealings from two of our neighbours who try to back out of their driveways from 2.40pm or so - and due to mobility issues find it very difficult to ask those parents/carers to move their car, whilst they wait for pick up. Your efforts in this regard would be most appreciated.

*Thank you for your time.*

**Tony Gleeson**

*Principal*

## Pastoral Care and Wellbeing – Parenting Resources

*Mr Nathan Smith, Director of Pastoral Care & Wellbeing*

As part of our partnership with parents to develop and support our students, we have a number of resources available and are always on the lookout for other ways to assist you. Several parents and carers have recently asked for additional information and resources:

### Parenting Programs

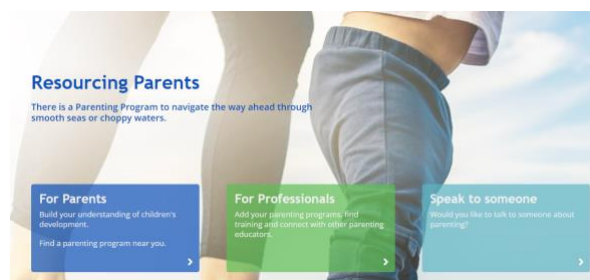
1. CatholicCare have a range of resources and programs available to parents.

Their [Parenting Resource Hub](#) provides tips and practical advice on building positive relationships with your child. You'll also find suggestions on how to handle the challenges of parenthood and the importance of emotional and physical wellbeing for the whole family.

They also run a number of [parenting and child development courses](#) which may be of interest to some families, including *Circle of Security*, designed to enhance relationships between the parent and child, better understand your child's behaviour and manage emotions, and *Turning into Teens*, to improve communication.



2. The NSW Government [Resourcing Parents](#) website also has a wealth of information, including links to parent helplines, a parenting course finder and explanations of different courses to find the right one for you.



3. The [Kidman Centre at UTS](#) also have free workshops available for Teens ('Managing Stress and Worry') and for parents ('Balancing Technology and Social Media Use' and 'Tips for a Well-Adjusted Child').

### Have you looked at SchoolTV?

St Leo's also subscribes to a student wellbeing service called SchoolTV, which gives all our parents/carers free access. This is an amazing tool which helps us work in partnership to support students in their personal development and learning at the College.

SchoolTV is an online tutorial platform that provides information and practical support strategies to assist with addressing the many challenges young people face as they learn to navigate the world. Short informational videos on a range of topics and interviews with experts ranging from specialist paediatricians to experts in behaviour management are accessible and provide realistic support strategies to help you help your children. I encourage you to have a look at what [SchoolTV](#) offers.

# From the Assistant Principal – Evangelisation and Catechesis

Mr Peter Grace

## Lent

As we continue with the Season of Lent, it is good to remind ourselves of what Lent is all about. The 40 days of Lent is designed to prepare us spiritually for the events of Holy Week – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, Lent is a time during which we pray, fast and give to charity. It is a time when we deny ourselves some of the things

in life we find pleasurable in order to clear our minds and hearts to help us to contemplate God's presence in our lives. The way in which we are fulfilling our Lenten observance at St Leo's takes many forms.

**Prayer** – the prayers we use to start off each day at St Leo's have been centred on the Season of Lent, while at the same time, having as a focus, the people of Ukraine, those who have experienced loss and distress due to excessive rain and flooding. For instance, we prayed Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace last Friday, which was the day he pronounced the Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Fasting** – many of the students and staff have "given up" something they like for the Season of Lent. In keeping with Lenten fasting, the school canteen has had limited offerings on Fridays throughout Lent.

**Giving** – as usual, the students and staff of St Leo's have responded positively to Caritas Australia's annual Project Compassion appeal. **We only have one more week to do what we can to alleviate the suffering of others** through this campaign. In addition, there have been donations to the homeless through the Street Retreat initiative and donations to the local Hornsby women's refuge, as reported on in last week's newsletter.

## Year 12 Retreat

Speaking of retreats, we have our Year 12 Retreat coming up at the start of Term 2 – this is a significant event in the life of our Year 12 students and in the life of our school. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers. Students are requested to **bring in any outstanding forms** (permission, medical and dietary information etc) as soon as possible.

## College 'Re-set'

I spoke with student last week about a post-COVID re-set of a number areas of school life. I spoke to the parents and carers on this same topic at the *Parents in Partnership* evening last night. As far as it's possible, we are looking to put behind us some of the bad habits that we slipped into during the pandemic and during remote learning. The support of parents and carers will be crucial to the success of this re-set. Thank you in advance for your co-operation. I will have more to say on this topic in the coming weeks and months.

## PiP Report

Finally, as Mr Gleeson has foreshadowed, we plan to move ahead with our *Parents in Partnership* events to more fully provide a platform for parent and carer voices and to work collaboratively with parents and carers in the best interests of our students. It is a most significant partnership. I will be providing a report on last night's PiP event in next week's edition of *The Lion Roars*. I look forward to working more closely with the parents of the St Leo's Catholic College community.



## Duke of Edinburgh Dates for Term 2

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for non-formal education, which challenges young people to discover their potential and find their purpose, passion, and place to become #WORLDREADY.

The rescheduled hire dates in Term 2 for students in years 10 and 11 currently enrolled for the Bronze/Silver Hikes are:

- Bronze Hike will now take place on **16 May**
- Silver Hike on **6 June**

All previous arrangements will still apply.

This week's Covid numbers @ St Leo's		
Year Group	Covid Positive	Close Contact
Year 7	2	5
Year 8	3	6
Year 9	12	3
Year 10	3	3
Year 11	2	6
Year 12	-	4
Staff	-	3

## Pathways & Careers

### Pathways News

The Pathways program aims to make connections between teaching and learning in each subject area to industry and post-school training, so that students gain a real-world knowledge and understanding of a range of careers and career pathways.

It also provides opportunities to develop those increasingly important 21st Century skills such as communication, collaboration and critical thinking to name just a few. We are indebted to The Regional Industry Educational Partnerships (RIEP) for funding many of the listed initiatives.



### Skills Passport Program

The **Year 9 and 10 students** engaged in the **Skills Passport Program** with Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Community College are nearing the completion of the program and will attend a presentation ceremony at that college on Friday, 8 April.

They have received practical hands-on work experiences in a range of workplace settings and completed foundational skills modules in workplace behaviours.

Next week they 'go green' and get stuck into a wonderful bush regeneration project with Hornsby Council Rangers at Fagan Park.

### STEM Workshop and Club

We will host NextGenCode next week on the final day of Term (8 April) to deliver our **STEM incursion workshop on Robotics and Coding**. We have filled all 60 available places and are greatly looking forward to this hands-on STEM experience.

If there is sufficient student interest in participating in an extra-curricular STEM Robotics and Coding club to run in Terms 2 to 4, we can arrange that. Please use this [form](#) to indicate an Expression of interest for the creation of this club for your young person. We strongly encourage girls to attend in what is a trending and future-focussed career area. If your child likes to solve problems, then STEM is for them!

### New Opportunities for Years 10-12 in Terms 2-4

We are planning with the Year Coordinators to bring in a number of industries to present on post-school opportunities with **Years 10, 11 and 12 through Terms 2 to 4**. These opportunities will provide advice on what it's like to work in specific career areas as well as the pathways into those careers.

We have organised for **Years 10 to 12 Music students** to visit the Australian Institute of Music in Term 2, where they will receive a tour of the campus and facilities as well as participate in two hands-on music workshops. Such excursions serve to highlight post-school training pathways as well as providing increased student engagement in subject matter content.

## Careers Expo 2022 – Save the Date!

We are busy organising the **St Leo's Careers EXPO** which will be held in the MacKillop Centre on **June 14th**. There will be a multitude of providers including Universities, TAFE and Industry, all presenting the opportunities and pathways offered to prospective students. Save the Date!

Finally, we are always seeking parent volunteers to join our St Leo's Parents 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 &/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.

## Year 10 - YES (Youth Engagement Strategy) Program at TAFE

Expressions of interest are now open for Year 10 students who would like to experience a **TAFE Course one day a week for 8 weeks** in Term 2. This course is designed for students who are feeling disengaged at school and are considering an optional pathway in Year 11.

The information sheet and application form are now available on the **Year 10 Google Classroom**. Please download and complete the application form if you would like to apply. Applications close **Thursday, 7 April**. Please see **Ms Tynan** for more information.

You will require a USI (Unique student Identifier) to make the application. [Follow this link](#) if you require a USI.



## Local Plumbing Apprenticeship or Work Experience

Please see **Ms Tynan** in the Stage 6 Office in Xavier Court if you would like to experience a week in the life of a plumber or are thinking of doing a plumbing apprenticeship!

## Early Childhood Traineeship

We also have an early childhood traineeship opportunity with Kindalin at Frenchs Forest.

The traineeship takes 12-18 months to complete and involves course work and training provided by a reputable RTO. It is a free course, where you are paid a full-time wage while gaining hands-on experience and is a pathway to university with no ATAR. Resumes can be sent to [careersff@kindalin.com.au](mailto:careersff@kindalin.com.au)

## St Leo's in the News

Our 2021 College Captain and Dux, **Matteo Persechino** was featured in this month's Broken Bay News. You can [read the article](#) on page 22.



# Sports Report

Mr Michael Kember, Leader of Sport

## Biathlon

On Tuesday, our Year 10 PASS classes travelled to South Curl Curl Beach for the annual Biathlon event.

The event saw students complete a 400m swim (8 laps) in the rock pool, followed by a 2km run on the sand. Throughout the term, students have trained for the event with 1.6km runs, beep tests and swim practices at Hornsby Aquatic Centre.

All students were fantastic on the day in tough conditions.

The following students placed in the Top 5 for the males and females:

Males	Females
1. Isaac W	1. Isla W
2. Max B	2. Holly B
3. Jackson M	3. Luella R
4. Connor P	4. Emma W
5. Aaron R	5. Bridgette C

## National Athletics for Wol!

Over the last week, the National Athletics Championships have been held at Sydney Olympic Park. **Wol A** (Year 8) recently competed at the State Little Athletics titles where he received 3 gold medals in the 100m, 200m, and 400m event, and was selected to represent NSW.

In the Nationals, he finished **8th in the U/15 100m Final**, **7th in the 200m Final**, and finished in **3rd in the 400m**. A fantastic achievement! Congratulations Wol and we look forward to seeing you compete later in the year at the school carnivals.



## REMINDERS:

### Mathematics Help Desk

Our new Mathematics Help Desk will be held each Thursday morning before school during Term. Here students of all year groups can seek assistance with their mathematics from staff in the Mathematics KLA. The Helpdesk will be conducted in room **BGH05**. Thank you to **Mr Sunny Huo** for sharing his expertise.

### Late Arrivals – Using the Add Attendance Note feature on Compass

If possible, when a student arrives late to the College and/or needs to leave the College early, parents/carers are requested to use the *Add Attendance Note* feature in Compass. Both the Reason and Details/Comments fields should be completed in Compass, which includes providing relevant information for our confidential College records. Parents/carers should use the following, as required, for your son/daughter(s):

- Medical Illness: *includes sickness, medical and dental treatment or*
- Medical – Appointment *includes appointments with medical professionals, dental practitioners etc or*
- Other Explained Absence: *includes misadventure or unforeseen event, participation in non-school events, domestic necessity such as illness of immediate family member, attendance at funeral, participation in a religious festival etc*

Please do **NOT** use the Compass Parent Portal for student leave requests.

Please also note that ALL late arrivals and early departures will be checked by Year Leaders daily to ensure that students are correctly signing in/signing out of the College as well as being cross-referenced against student timetables, hard copy parent/carer notes and/or Attendance Notes entered in Compass by parents. Also see [Compass - a guide for parents & families](#) for further assistance and guidance on the Parent Portal.

### **Online Safety for Parents and Carers from the eSafety Commissioner**

As parents and caregivers, you know your child better than anyone and have the best opportunity to support and guide them to have safer online experiences. The resource [Online safety - a guide for parents & carers](#) covers some of the key online safety issues for young people and includes a range of practical tips and advice on what to do if things go wrong. You can also find a list of important services that can offer extra support via [www.eSafety.gov.au/parents](http://www.eSafety.gov.au/parents)

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