



Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 3 Term 2, 2022

Acting Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update on Mr Gleeson

As you know our Principal, **Tony Gleeson**, is currently on leave following a medical procedure. I can share that Tony has had his surgery and is making good progress in his recovery. St Leo's is a special community and I know that Tony has appreciated the well wishes and prayers from so many of you over the last few days. We look forward to his return later this Term. I know that you will join with me in praying for a continued swift recovery.



Year 11 Visual Art Camp

A Holistic Education – Camps and Retreats

St Leo's works to provide a holistic education that allows students to grow and flourish, using their God-given gifts to grow and learn so that they can make meaningful and positive contributions to the community. These past two weeks we have truly seen this in action with students and teachers involved in a range of learning experiences here at the College and at camps and retreats. These experiences provide an opportunity for our students to embrace challenge, whether it be camping at Colo River sleeping in tents or taking on the spiritual challenge of Year 11 retreat, where our students are challenged to engage with Christ's message as they move into adulthood.

The experiences of camps and retreats provide significant learning opportunities. This kind of learning cannot be documented in a report or be given a grade, but it is the kind of learning that can make a real difference as our students navigate the waters of adolescence. Learning to be adaptable, to deal with unfamiliar environments and cope with possible homesickness are all lessons that provide the building blocks to take on the world beyond the school gates.

This learning is not without its difficulties, particularly for current students who have been at the forefront of the COVID-19 experience, dealing with lockdowns and home-based learning over the last few years. These students have missed out on so many experiences as a result of COVID and this has undoubtedly had an impact upon them. For this reason, these camps and retreats have been a particular focus this year, giving students the opportunity to share time with their peers in new and sometimes challenging environments and providing them with time to grow in their relationships away from the distractions of technology and the online world.

NAPLAN

This week also saw Years 7 and 9 take on the challenge of the NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN testing was cancelled in 2020 so these groups have not engaged with the tests for four years. NAPLAN is a valuable opportunity for

schools to gain learning data about their students. It is above all a diagnostic test that looks to provide teachers with information about how to support students in engaging with their learning and achieving growth.

It is **not** a test that is passed or failed, and it also **not** one that should drive teaching and learning. NAPLAN gives teachers data about how students are developing key skills, It does **not** measure how students are applying themselves in class, how they are developing skills of creativity and critical thinking, or if they are passionately committed to excellence in a particular field like music, drama or art. NAPLAN should therefore really be seen as an opportunity to deal with a more formal examination experience and develop the resilience and the capacity to cope with more stressful situations.

NAPLAN results are usually received late in Term 3 or early Term 4, and comprehensive NAPLAN reports are provided to parents by ACARA, the body with responsibility for delivering and marking the tests. We will provide parents with more information about NAPLAN results later in the year.

Gold Merit Award Winners

I would like to congratulate the following students who achieved Gold Merit Awards this week:

Year 8 - **Scarlet M, Sacha N and Benjamin E**

Year 9 - **Benjamin H, Chloe M and Bernadette W**

Year 10 - **Sienna R**

Year 12 - **Dolla J**

Stay safe and well,

Carolina Murdoch
Acting Principal



Digital Safety Resources for Students and Parents

Following the well-received Digital Safety presentations to students by **Susan McLean**, and to parents and staff by **Dr Kristy Goodwin**, the College is working on a web page with a range of resources including video recordings for those who were unable to attend.

We are in the process of finalising these and will email all parents and students as soon as they are available.

Student Policies

Revised Mobile Phone and Device Policy - Update

As you would be aware, the College recently introduced a revised Mobile Phone and Device Policy to address the ongoing concern around inappropriate phone/device usage during the school day, as well as to better assist with developing positive, interpersonal relationships between students.

Since implementation, we have seen a significant decline in the number of phones and devices that have been confiscated due to unnecessary access. **We are very pleased to report that 7-12 students are more actively talking with each other and establishing more productive one-on-one connections.**

The wellbeing of our students is a priority at St Leo's and this adjustment to students' mobile phone-device usage is proving to be an effective measure in responding to developing peer/staff relations and improving overall student wellbeing. The revised policy can be viewed [here](#).



Uniform & Grooming Expectations - Reminder

A reminder that all students are expected to be dressed in full Winter uniform for Terms 2-3, including wearing their blazer to and from the College. Students who have scheduled PDHPE/Sport (Stages 4-5) or PASS (Stage 6) may wear their sports uniform/tracksuit.

Year 12 may wear their Year 12 jersey and/or blazer to and from the College. However, for official ceremonies such as College Masses and whole school assemblies, all students are expected to wear their blazer. If students have a uniform/grooming issue, they should see their Year Leader in the Pastoral Office (Xavier Court) to obtain a uniform pass. It is expected that relevant students have a signed parent/carer note to present to their Year Leader for consideration.

Amendment Regarding Earrings - Effective Monday, 16 May (Week 4)

After recent discussions and feedback with students and staff, the uniform/grooming requirement around earrings will be standardised for both boys and girls, allowing '**one small stud or sleeper, at most, may be worn in each ear lobe.**' This adjustment will be in effect from next Monday, 16 May (Week 4).

Student Procedures

Late to School Procedures - Revised Adjustment

In response to improving student attendance in line with the Catholic Schools Broken Bay [Learning Everyday Counts](#) initiative, students are expected to arrive at the College no later than 8:30am so that they are ready to start the day with Mentor period.

A number of Year 7-12 students have been arriving late with no valid reason. This late arrival is classified as 'Unexplained' unless a signed, hard copy parent/carer note is produced and/or a Compass entry is noted the Parent Portal. Students who arrive late without a valid reason will now **receive a demerit** and, if three demerits are accrued over the Term, it will equate to a Reflective Growth Intervention (RGI) being generated and electronically communicated to respective parents/carers.

However, if late students produce a hard copy note the next day to **Mrs Raso** (Student Services), the demerit will be removed. We would appreciate it if parents/carers remind their young person(s) of their responsibility to be punctual every day so that they are maximising their learning opportunities.

Compass Merit Awards - Update

It is wonderful to see so many students who have achieved a Purple (10 merits), Gold (30 Merits) and/or St Leo's Medallion (90 merits) this year based on the College's six Growth Domains (*see list in the Acting Principal's Report p.2*)

Purple Merits are awarded each week to students by Mentors and Year Leaders, and Gold/St Leo's Medallion recipients will receive their certificate/medal at official College assemblies.

Parents/carers can view awards and other important information including attendance on the Compass Portal.

Parents in Partnership –Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

A call out for any submission of [agenda items that you may wish to discuss](#) at our next Parents in Partnership Meeting which will be held via Zoom on Thursday, 2 June. A reminder that agenda items should **pertain to all or many parents/carers**. (Any one-off issues should be addressed via the normal channels, i.e. through email/phone to the respective staff member or Year Leader).

The agenda (as well as the Zoom link) will be sent out in the next Lion Roars newsletter.



What's been happening?



Mother's Day Liturgy and Breakfast

On Friday, 6 May, St Leo's welcomed mothers, grandmothers and other significant female carers to the Light of Christ Centre for a special celebration of motherhood. The total of students and guests was well in excess of 300. Permanent Deacon, **Rev Adrian Gomez** presided over a beautiful and moving liturgy in which teacher and mother, **Simone Noel**, and several students, siblings **Mattia and Luca C** and **Sofia and Natalia A-L** shared their reflections on motherhood.

Following the liturgy, which included a special blessing for mothers, the students presented their mums with a rose before sharing a breakfast of sweet pastries.



Last year, sadly, this event had to be cancelled at short notice due to COVID-19 restrictions, which made this year's event even more special.

We hope all mums had a wonderful Mother's Day.

Year 11 Visual Arts Camp

Last week, Year 11 Visual Art students had the opportunity to attend a 3-day art camp at Bundanon, family home of renowned Australian artist **Arthur Boyd** who gifted the estate to the Australian people upon his death.

Our students were privileged to be one of the first groups to visit the brand new, state-of-the-art subterranean Art Museum as well as see the newly built 'Bridge', housing new workspaces and accommodation. They immersed themselves in the beautiful landscape, engaging in a number of workshops and producing stunning artworks using paint, charcoal, photography, watercolour and ink.



Special thanks to **Mrs Claire Stevenson** and **Mr Chris Sammut** for accompanying students on the camp.

Year 11 Retreat, Naamaroo

This week, our Year 11 cohort travelled to the Naamaroo Conference Centre in the Lane Cove National Park to participate in the Year 11 Retreat. It was an opportunity to step back from the routines of daily life and for the members of the year group to spend some time together in prayer and reflection. Staff generously shared their wisdom and life experience to lead the students in asking questions of themselves, particularly in the areas of friendships, family and faith.



Two priests from the Hornsby Cathedral parish kindly joined us for part of our retreat – **Fr Anselam Lakra** attended our Reconciliation Liturgy on Tuesday evening and **Fr Roger Delmonte** presided over our Mass on Wednesday. We are very grateful for the ongoing commitment they have to the St Leo's Catholic College community.

Thank you to the students and staff who contributed to make this such a worthwhile event. We trust that the experiences of these days will continue to bear fruit for the Year 11 students for a long time to come.

News from the Aquinas Resource Centre (ARC)

Year 7 Mini Excursions

Year 7 RE classes have enjoyed mini 'excursions' to the ARC to consider the way humanity collects and shares knowledge and wisdom through books.

We discussed the sacred collections of the Bible, organisation of library spaces, and looked at a picture book on Darug songlines, 'Cooee Mittigar' by Jasmine Seymour and Leanne Mulgo Watson (whose artwork graces our new shade sails on Muru Mittigar).

Students had great fun completing a scavenger hunt, finding their way around different categories to find all types of texts. A number of students found a book to borrow as well! It was great to be able to welcome Year 7 into the library after the Covid disruptions the last two years.



PRC Book Section

A new section in the library is being developed with NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) books gathered in one place. For students who have contacted Mrs de Kantzow, updated St Leo's PRC logins will shortly be sent via email.

The PRC is not a competition, but a challenge to each student to read, read more and read widely, aiming to encourage their love of reading, and to enable them to experience quality literature. See the [PRC Home Page](#) for more information or contact **Mrs de Kantzow** in the ARC if you have any questions.

Careers News

Year 10 Morrisby Testing

Our Year 10 students recently completed the Morrisby aptitude testing in preparation for subject HSC selections later this Term.

St Leo's was lucky enough to have **Emma Goodsir** (educational psychologist) join our parent Zoom meeting on Tuesday evening. Emma explained in detail how to read and decipher student final reports. Please refer to the Morrisby website for student interactive reports to discuss a valuable pattern of study for Year 11 and 12 and subsequent careers path. If you missed this Zoom, please [email Ms Megan Tynan](#) for the recorded file.

Year 12 UAC Registration, SRS & Early Entry Applications

Year 12 students had a session this week to register with the Universities Admission Centre (UAC) and apply for SRS (Schools Recommendation Scheme) for Early Entry Consideration. Students were given the opportunity to apply to both in a supported workshop. If any students require assistance with this, process please [email Ms Megan Tynan](#).

Please watch these short videos by UAC for more further information:

- [UAC - How to create an account and apply for University](#)
- [SRS applications](#)

Current Apprenticeship and Other Opportunities

See the latest Apprenticeship and other current Opportunities here: [Careers News Term 2](#)

Sports Report

Mr Michael Kember, Leader of Sport

Athletics Carnival – POSTPONED to June 9

The College Athletics Carnival set for next week Thursday, 19 May has unfortunately had to be **postponed** due to the ongoing wet weather and resulting condition of the oval. We are hoping for better luck with the scheduled back-up date of **Thursday, 9 June**.

NSW All Schools Sailing

During the school holidays, **Aodhan D** (Year 7) competed at the NSW Combined High Schools Regatta at Swansea Belmont. This was his first season as skipper of a boat, and he competed alongside a friend from another local high school. Over the course of the regatta, they competed in a number of races, and Aodhan came fifth in the Flying 11 class, with a personal best of third. Well done Aodhan!



Inters and Open Soccer Gala Day



Over the last two weeks, both the Intermediate Boys (U/16), and Girls (U/15), along with the Open Boys and Girls competed at the Broken Bay Soccer Gala Days.

Due to the weather, both events were moved to synthetic fields and the results that our teams achieved were fantastic. Both the Intermediate Girls and Open Girls were narrowly beaten in the semi-finals of their respective competitions.

The Opens day doubled as the selection carnival for the Broken Bay team, with nine of our students being selected in the Possible vs Probables match.

From there, two boys (**Ethan T** and **Geren L**, both Year 12), and four girls - **Luella R**, **Isla W** and **Rebeca B-R** (all Year 10) and **Keely M**, (Year 11) were selected to represent Broken Bay later in the Term. Three other students were also selected as shadow players (**Teagan J** in Year 10, **Sam W** in Year 11, and **Julien V** in Year 12). Congratulations to all students on your achievements.

Cross Country

Last Monday, a strong St Leo's team competed at the Broken Bay Cross Country. Due to the poor weather in Term 1, we were unable to hold a school event and it was difficult for students to train.

The St Ives Showground was a true cross-country course which was new this year, and the weather did not make it easy. On the day, all St Leo's students finished the gruelling course with five qualifying to represent Broken Bay at the upcoming NSWCCC Cross Country at Eastern Creek.

Congratulations to:

Oliver G (2nd U/18 Boys)

Lachlan L (3rd U/16 Boys)

Chris M (4th U/12 Boys)

Ethan L (5th U/15 Boys)

Cameron D (6th U/17 Boys)

CAPA Co-Curricular Program

Dance Extreme Eisteddfod

All parents/carers of Dance students should have received information via email regarding our first eisteddfod on **Sunday, 19 June**. If you did not receive the email, please locate the [permission note](#) under 'Events' on our [St Leo's Co-Curricular CAPA Website - Dance](#).

Year 7-12 Studio Concerts

Pride Lands Private Music students are invited to be part of our Semester 1 Studio Concert. This is a relaxed setting for students to showcase what they have been working on with their Music Tutor this Semester. Family and friends of private music students will be invited to attend the Concert.

- **Year 7-8 Studio Concert**
Tuesday 28 June - 6:30pm,
Flora Mary MacKillop Theatre
- **Year 9-12 Studio Concert**
Wednesday 29 June - 6:30pm,
Flora Mary MacKillop Theatre

Parents/carers of students who are part of our Pride Lands Private Music Tuition Program are asked to complete the following [permission note](#) by **Wednesday, 15 June**.

