

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 6 Term 4, 2022

# Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

With only four weeks left of the school year for most students, you will see from this edition of *The Lion Roars* things are certainly not slowing down here at St Leo's! So we appreciate you taking a few minutes of your valuable time to read through this bulletin and find out about all the learning opportunities happening and important end-of-year information.

### **Creating Chances Program**

Last week I had the privilege of congratulating 18 of our students in Year 9 on the completion of the Creating Chances Program. This course was conducted here at the College over two consecutive days.

Not only did it give students more confidence to engage with their learning, but they were also able to articulate and demonstrate in a variety of ways many key competencies of the workplace. Competencies such as teamwork, resilience and social change were defined and demonstrated primarily through sport. It also explored the concepts of personal development, community building, social change and post-school pathways. (*Read more on p.7*)

Congratulations to these students on participating in and completing this course, and thank you to **Mr Justin Slowey** who led the initiative for our students.

### VET Construction – 'Battle of the Builders'

The annual Catholic Schools Broken Bay 'Battle of the Builders' competition for VET Construction students was held at MacKillop Catholic College last week. St Leo's was invited to participate along with other schools including MacKillop Catholic College, St Edward's College and St Peter's Catholic College.

The competition fosters student communication, teamwork, organisation and leadership skills, empowering them with a skillset which prepares them for future success. Students compete in pairs in a series of practical tasks giving them the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have developed through study undertaken towards Certificate II in Construction Pathways. The Competition is designed by industry experts to assess the student's knowledge, practical competence, and employability skills against a set of strict criteria.



Congratulations to Jack and Rhys (Year 11), and Mr Chris Sammut for achieving 1st Place in this competition.

## Vaping Webinar

I hope many of you were able to log on and participate in Paul Dylan's *Vaping - Short and Sweet* Zoom session last evening. I have received early feedback from a couple of parents saying that it was not only very practical when dealing with young people who are vaping, but very useful knowledge about the whole vaping scene.

Please look out for future parent information evenings as they are published in this Newsletter.

## **CAPA** Camp

Last Monday evening I had the privilege of attending the CAPA Camp at Galston Gorge. This was the first time we have been able to conduct this camp for our young people over the past three years!

Over **105 students** from Years 7-12 participated to continue to develop their skills, knowledge, confidence and more importantly, a camaraderie and support that lives strongly in CAPA.

I would like to thank all staff who have spent many hours in preparation for this opportunity for our students to nurture and develop their creative talents across many different areas. Thank you in particular to **Ms Fiona Milkins** for leading this initiative with her team - **Mrs Rosalie Belsey, Miss Kristen Nicola, Miss Ellie Shinas, Mr Vince Tavernese** and **Mr Glen Downey** their passionate team of special tutors: **Andrew, Bianca, Clayton, Emily, Jade, Lachlan, Lyndon, Matteo, Simone** and **Tim.** (*Read more on p.7-8.*)

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

Last week eight of our Year 10 and 11 students displayed great determination by completing a gruelling 60km route from Mangrove Mountain to Spencer on the Central Coast as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Qualifying. Congratulations to **Spencer C, Belle H, Augustine L, Danielle P** and **Natasha R-F** in Year 10, and **Jacob R** and **Armani Z** in Year 11, as well as to **Mr Glen Downey** who supervised the hike. A great effort by all! (*Read more on p.8.*)

## Term 4 Parents in Partnership Evening

Thank you to the 46 parents and carers who were able to join us for the Parents in Partnership last week. One of the last points I asked about was the format for this type of evening going forward to next year. It was originally developed whilst we were in Covid lockdown. I believe it is timely to revisit its purpose and delivery method, so please watch this space for a brief survey.

Linked is the slide deck Ms Carolina Murdoch and myself presented on the evening.

### **Swimming Carnival**

And finally, our College Swimming Carnival was held today at Hornsby Aquatic Centre with over 100 students competing, including 12 Year 6 students who will be joining us in Year 7 next year. Our Leader of Sport, Mr Michael Kember, reported back that a great day was had by all who attended. Results will be published in the next Lion Roars in two weeks.

Have a great weekend and stay safe, Regards,

Tony Gleeson Principal



# Social Justice @ St Leo's

## St Leo's Christmas Appeal 2022

This year both CatholicCare and the St Vincent De Paul Society have asked St Leo's to assist them with an overwhelming need this Christmas. There are many reasons why families are struggling post-COVID, including family break down, mental illness, domestic violence and unemployment. At Christmas, it is especially timely we reach out as a community to support those in need.

We are asking each Mentor class to put together a hamper for a family in need from a long list of items - from gift cards to Christmas treats, staples and toiletries.



Students can take a tag home and bring back a CatholicCare wants to know what they are and will wrap them before giving them.

Donations are due by Wednesday 30 November (Week 8). The donations will then be picked up by CatholicCare and Vinnies to be sorted and sent.

Our new Vinnies School Conference (Year 11 2023) has put together the promotional video above.

### Local World Youth Day 2022 - Saturday 19 November

International World Youth Day is a gathering of Catholic youth every 3-4 years with the Pope - and St Leo's will be taking a group of Year 9 and 10 students next year for this in Lisbon, Portugal! However, in other years dioceses around the world celebrate World Youth Day at local gatherings on the Feast of Christ the King. The youth of Broken Bay have been invited by Bishop Anthony to join in our local celebration on Saturday 19 November. Students from St Leo's will be participating in this great celebration.

The celebration will consist of:

- 2pm Pilgrimage Walk from St Agatha's Pennant Hills to OLOR Cathedral. Gather in the St Agatha's carpark at 1.45 pm.
- 4.30pm Prayer & Testimony inside OLOR Cathedral. If unable to join the walk, students and families may join us here. All welcome.
- Mass Feast of Christ the King celebrated by 5pm Bishop Anthony.
- 6pm Outdoor Festival for youth, young adults and families with live music, free food and games.

Any questions, please contact Rev Gomez.



We are also putting a Giving Tree up in the Chapel with tags from CatholicCare that give the age and gender of children they are supporting. present for that child and leave it under the tree. These presents don't need to be wrapped, as



## **Student Pastoral Care & Wellbeing**

## Year 12 (2022) HSC/ATAR Afternoon Tea

Year 12 (2022) are warmly invited to attend an afternoon tea with their teachers on the Thursday, 15 December to celebrate the release of their HSC/ATAR results. This will be served in the Aquinas Resource Centre from 2.30pm. Please <u>RSVP here for catering</u>.

Year 12 students are also reminded that their school photos are now available for pickup at College Reception.

### Year 8 Komodo Wellbeing Trial

Thank you to Year 8 parents for your support as we trialled the *Komodo Wellbeing App* as a tool to reflect wellbeing trends for the Year 8 students. This trial has now concluded, and Year 8 staff and leadership are now reviewing the suitability of this program in our school context. We thank Year 8 for their participation in this trial.

# **CAPA Events**

### Post CAPA Camp Concert

We invite all parents, carers, students and staff to come along and see the results of all the hard work of last week's camp at our Post CAPA Camp Concert, next **Tuesday, 22 November at 6pm** here at St Leo's. All the wonderful photos and videos will also be shared during the evening. *Read more about the Camp on p.8.* 

### Private Music Tuition: Studio Concert - Semester 2

The Studio Concert is a relaxed setting for our private music students to showcase what they have been working on with their Music Tutor this Semester as a solo or duo performers. Close family and friends of our private music students are invited to attend the concerts on Tuesday, 29 November (Years 7 from 5pm, Year 8 from 6.30pm) and Wednesday, 30 November (Years 9-12).

St Leo's offers our Pride lands Private Music Tuition Program for beginners through to advanced students. We have opportunities for students to learn an instrument in the following areas: Drums, Saxophone, Clarinet, Piano, Flute, Guitar, Violin and Vocals to name a few.

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

All information regarding our CAPA Co-Curricular Program is available via our <u>St Leo's Co-Curricular</u> <u>CAPA Website</u>, we encourage you to bookmark this page.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to email Miss Shinas for further information.

CER

PERFORMANCES BY OUR PRIVATE MUSIC TUITION STUDENTS

FLORA MACKILLOP THEATRE

PART II - YEAR 8: 6:30PM START

6:00PM START

YEARS 7-8: TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER PART I - YEAR 7: 5:00PM START

YEARS 9-12: WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER



Join is for Afternoon Tea

# What's been Happening?

### **Global Issues - Year 9 Science Students Shine**

Recently, Year 9 have been researching climate change as part of their topic on The Environment and Global Issues. A part of the task asked to create a piece of work that reflected the urgency and danger of climate change to life on Earth.

The diversity and quality of these creative pieces was outstanding. These included paintings, posters, models, dances, letters to politicians, computer games, songs and poetry. The works contained key scientific information and provided clear strategies on how to address the issue.



Our Year 9s certainly appreciate how our individual actions impact God's creation. Year 9 should be very proud of their efforts on this task - congratulations to all.

The painting here (left) is a great example of the calibre of the works. Below is an excerpt from the student's reflection piece accompanying her painting:

<sup>6</sup>Paper, shelter, protection of the land. We take this green scenery for granted, blinded by the illusion of a utopian environment and unaware of the trampled forests, barely standing. Approximately 15 billion trees are being cut down each year for more farmland, space for construction and more human endeavours. Deforestation contributes to 4.8 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere per year, heating the Earth in the process'.

### **Seasons for Growth Nursing Home Visits**

This term **Mr Ralph Kershler** has been running a *Seasons for Growth* program for students who have experienced loss or grief from things such as death or divorce. Seasons for Growth is an education program that draws on the metaphor of the seasons to understand grief. It builds the knowledge and skills necessary to strengthen social and emotional wellbeing following significant loss by:

1) exploring the impact of change and loss

2) learning about effective ways to respond and adapt.

Participants learn that they are not alone in their experience of change, loss and grief, and are able to build their communication, decision making and problem-solving skills within the context of a safe and supportive peer group learning environment.

As part of the program, each fortnight the Seasons for Growth students have been visiting the local aged care facility, McQuoin Park, and spending time with the residents. This is the first time since COVID that students have been allowed back and it is wonderful to be able to reconnect. This week students started bringing some

Christmas spirit to McQuoin Park, putting up Christmas trees and decorations. There will be a new Seasons for Growth program starting in Term 1 next year.

In the words of the students who have been taking part in the program:

'Seasons for Growth has helped me to develop a stronger understanding for mine and other people's emotions, and how to deal with them.' - **Angus** 

'Seasons for Growth has made me feel comfortable about speaking to others about my problems or something that troubled me.' - Kai

'Seasons of Growth has also helped my friend who recently lost his mum help talk to us about what he is feeling and how he is coping with everything.' - **Will** 

'Visiting the nursing home is fun, because we get to talk to the older people and help them a lot.' - Taj

'The nursing home has taught me to care for others. It was great seeing the optimistic people that live there who tell us what life was like over 60 years ago compared to today.' - **Harry** 





### Year 9 Japanese Excursion



On Monday, 7 November, **Carroll-sensei** and the Year 9 Japanese language students ventured into the city for a visit with *The Japan Foundation* to learn more about Japanese festivals, culture and use their language skills in a real-world context.

Students experienced wearing *yukata* (special summer-style kimonos) whilst learning about the various ways in which



summer is celebrated in Japan. Students tried their hand at a variety of games typically played at Japanese summer festivals and even got their fortunes told with *omikuji* (fortunes told on strips of paper, typically found at Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples in Japan).

Once the festivities concluded at The Japan Foundation, students enjoyed a delicious Japanese bento box in the

park before going on a (not-so-wild) goose chase along George Street looking for examples of Japanese-style shops and restaurants. We were surprised to find so many examples throughout the city.

Before long, it was time to rush to Town Hall for our train home. Everyone was relieved to be able to relax after such an immersive day of Japanese!

### Peer Support Training Program - Year 10

Earlier this week, a group of 18 volunteer Year 10 students participated in a Peer Support Training Program in readiness for the arrival of Year 7, 2023.

Students engaged in a 3-hour program constructed by **Miss Jessica Watts** and delivered by **Mr Michael Kember** and **Ms Megan Tynan**. Students were introduced to what is involved in being a peer support leader and how to develop positive relationships with our new students. They discussed the attributes and characteristics of what it means to be a good leader and how to demonstrate good leadership. Mr Kember ran an action packed and fun day where students were able to learn some new skills as well as strengthen their relationships with one another. We had a visit from some junior students that allowed Year 10 to put their learning into action (see photos)

### **Student Testimonials**

'Today we learned about what makes a leader, their strengths and the importance of communication and building connections. I really enjoyed this experience as it will help me help our new Year 7s who I am excited to meet and get to know.' - **Emily R** 

'As a group we appreciate the time and effort of Mr Kember and Ms Tynan for teaching us important lesson to support the upcoming Year 7s.' - **Audrey P** 

'Mr Kember taught us today how to be leaders and role models for the new Year 7 2023. I now feel confident in leading and creating a comfortable environment for the Year 7s. I thank both Mr Kember and Ms Tynan for today.' - **Joelle E** 

### Year 9 Creating Chances Program



This week 18 of our Year 9 students participated in a two day 'Future Pathways' program run by the Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) Pathways & Partnerships team together with 'Creating Chances'.

The program fits perfectly as students begin to consider career pathways in Stage 5. It supports students to identify their strengths and interests through a variety of practical activities.

It was hands-on and lots of fun! We look forward to partnering with Creating Chances in 2023 to further support and develop our students to build their self-awareness of their positive personal characteristics and how these can be transformed into transferable skills.



A big thank you to everyone involved, especially the students who excelled within this program, making every member of staff very proud indeed!



### CAPA Camp 2022

The new and improved annual Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Camp began on Sunday, November 13 at Crusaders Galston Gorge Conference & Recreation Centre and what an experience!

The 2-night camp was an opportunity for CAPA Co-curricular Music, Dance and Drama students to participate in intensive workshops across the 3 days at a concentrated level not available at school or at home. The days were led by St Leo's CAPA staff and external tutors with professional tuition by guest teachers in each discipline.

Thank you to all students who attended. We know some memorable highlights included the *Lip Sync Battle* on Sunday evening, and the fan favourite activity, *Mr Tavernese's Trivia* on Monday night.

A very special mention and thank you to **Mrs Fiona Milkins**. Her organisation, infectious energy and passion truly made every student experience at the camp enjoyable and inspiring!



Many thanks to the CAPA staff that attended, organised and implemented workshops at the camp too: Mrs Rosalie Belsey, Miss Kristen Nicola, Miss Ellie Shinas, Mr Vince Tavernese and CAPA ally, Mr Glen Downey. Thank you also to our external tutors for sharing your knowledge and passion: Andrew, Bianca, Clayton, Emily, Jade, Lachlan, Lyndon, Matteo, Simone and Tim.

### Student Feedback

'I loved CAPA Camp because I got to do so many fun and interesting things, all with people I've never met before. All the activities were amazing, and I learned so much from CAPA camp. Camp has definitely inspired me to be more involved in CAPA.' - **Charlotte K, Year 7** 



'CAPA Camp was such an amazing experience coming from a dancer. We had ex - Leo's students come in and teach us new combos and skills, as well as new styles, there was something for everyone! I also got to collaborate with people from other year groups which was really fun as I don't usually do that, I can't wait for next year!!' - **Emily R, Year 10** 

'I really enjoyed CAPA camp because it was an opportunity to have fun and build on our skills. Everyone was able to get involved in the activities, it was very inclusive and Trivia was a big highlight because the new year 12 students got to showcase their excellence and take home the win.'- **Sophie W, Year 12** 

To see the results of all the hard work across the 3 days, we invite all parents, carers, students and staff to the **Post CAPA Camp Concert, next Tuesday, 22 November at 6pm** at St Leo's College. All the wonderful photos and videos will be shared during the evening.

All information regarding our CAPA Co-Curricular Program is available via our St Leo's Co-Curricular CAPA Website.

### CAPA Staff 2022

### **Duke of Edinburgh Silver Qualifier**

The eight Year 10 and 11 students who attended the Duke of Edinburgh Silver qualifier displayed great determination and communication to reach our checkpoints on schedule along our 60km route from Mangrove Mountain to Spencer on the Central Coast.

The Outdoor Education Australia staff and were impressed by the endeavour of the students hiking on Wednesday and Thursday before battling against the current on the Hawkesbury River to arrive at our final destination on Friday afternoon. Thank you especially to **Mr Glen Downey** for supervising the hike.







### Year 9 PASS Surf Awareness Excursion









On 3 November, Year 9 PASS students attended Manly Beach to participate in a Surf Education program.

The day involved learning skills including rip identification, wading, board paddling, catching waves and beach safety.

Although the weather started out kindly, it soon turned on our students. However, this didn't dampen their spirits and a very enjoyable and educational day was had by all.





### Year 12 Formal - Curzon Hall

The Year 12 Formal was held at Curzon Hall last Tuesday night. Students had a great time, enjoying a three-course meal and a night of dancing, celebrating the end of their St Leo's schooling and HSC exams.

We wish Year 12 all the very best for their future endeavours, and look forward to seeing them on the 15 December for and afternoon tea on the day their HSC results are released. (<u>RSVP here</u>).







### St Leo's Class of '81 Visit

A healthy contingent of the St Leo's Class of 1981 gathered at the college on the morning of Saturday, 12 November for a reunion and walk down memory lane. This was followed by a gathering of more than 40 of the 'old boys' for lunch at the Blue Gum Hotel.

Our group was generously led by **Rev.** Adrian Gomez and Mrs Sarah Szacsvay, who for two hours took our contingent to re-visit every nook and cranny of the St Leo's campus.

For many of us, it was our first time stepping foot on the site since completing the HSC 41 years ago!



Many fine memories were re-lived. All were astonished by the ways in which the campus has been beautifully refurbished and restored. We could certainly appreciate the significant ways in which the education experience at Leo's has evolved in positive ways over the intervening years.

Sadly, we noted that the old Christian Brothers residence - once a feature of the old campus - is now demolished. The Brothers of course exited the school in 1983. One group member, **Phil Brown**, reflected back to 1978-79, when his father (**Neville**) and brothers (**Mick** and **Rob**), were building the college Chapel which had been designed by **Mr Laurie Glendenning**. Phil was in Years 9 and 10 back then, and would often be asked by his dad and brothers to give them a hand on the building sit - after school! The 1978 College Annual even features the distinctive yellow Brown Brothers work van, on its cover!

Thank you, Rev Gomez and Mrs Szacsvay, with the support of **Mr Gleeson**, for facilitating a wonderful day for us. The former Christian Brothers spirit, in the charism of Edmund Rice, was certainly alive and well amongst us all last weekend.

Greg Baynie (Leo's Class of '81)

### Hornsby Relay for Life – Thank you!

A big thank you to the staff and students who came along on Saturday, 5 November and supported our St Leo's Pride team, and to our amazing CAPA ensembles for their fantastic performances. A huge thank you as well to the families who made donations via our fundraising link.

Hornsby Relay has smashed its target of \$70,000 with dollars currently at \$88,834. We are hoping to stage some additional fundraising events at the College in coming weeks and would appreciate your support of those.



Hornsby Relay is hosting an **online raffle with tickets priced at \$5 each** - here is the <u>LINK</u> to purchase tickets. Sales will count towards St Leo's Pride fundraising tally.

Donations are also still very welcome - help us reach our \$2000 team goal. Donate here

## **Careers News**

Ms Melissa Duff, Acting Careers Advisor

See this week's Careers Page for:

- Cyber Security Pathways
- How to succeed in your first year of university
- In Year 11 or 12? Five quizzes to help you narrow down your university preferences
- Career ideas for language learners
- Local Apprenticeship Opportunities.

# Reminders:

## Important Dates 2022-23

Week	Date	Event
TERM 4 2022		
7	Tue 22 Nov, 6pm	CAPA Post-Camp Performance
7	Wed 23 - Fri 25 Nov	Year 9 Camp
7	Fri 25 Nov	Year 7 2023 Orientation/High School Taster Day
8	Tue 29 Nov	Studio Concerts – Year 7 from 5pm, Year 8 from 6.30pm (for private music students)
8	Wed 30 Nov	Years 9-12 Studio Concert (for private music students)
8	Thu 1 Dec	Year 10 Semi-Formal
9	Mon 5 Dec	Year 10 final day – Awards & BBQ Year 7 Swim School
10	Wed 14 Dec	College Advent Liturgy
10	Thu 15 Dec	College Awards Ceremony Year 7, 8 & 9 Reports released
10	Fri 16 Dec	St Leo's Fair Day/last day of formal classes for students
11	Tue 20 Dec	College Office closes for 2022
TERM 1 2023		
1	Mon 30 Jan	Year 7 2023, Year 12 & new students Day 1 (Orientation)
1	Tue 31 Jan	Years 8-11 students return for 2023
8	Wed 22 March	College Open Evening (4-7pm)

# **Community Notices**

### **Volunteering with Vinnies**

Vinnies NSW are currently looking for volunteers 18+ years for our Vinnies Support Centres.

Vinnies Support Centres are client-centred support and referral services operated by the St Vincent de Paul Society. They offer face to face support to those in the community who require financial, food or material assistance. The support teams work with our clients to offer the best possible assistance for their needs and connect them to the Society's Conference home visitation teams or Vinnies' Services.

As a Vinnies Support Centre volunteer, you will assist staff with providing advocacy, referrals and support to clients navigating the appropriate services. Vinnies have a number of volunteer roles available including administration & reception support, assisting with client interview rosters, data entry and helping out with ad hoc duties as requested.

Vinnies Support Centres offer a friendly and supportive team environment, flexible volunteer hours (school hours available) and the opportunity to learn a variety of skills. Significantly, your volunteer contribution will make a tangible difference to the lives of those in your community.

If you are interested in hearing more about volunteering in a Vinnies Support Centre, or helping out in a volunteer capacity elsewhere, please contact the Volunteer Experience Team at <u>volunteers@vinnies.org.au</u>

### Want to Assist Vinnies but Time Poor?

Vinnies NSW are currently looking at what we can offer in terms of increased flexibility around volunteering. Covid-19 has encouraged many of us to reassess our priorities including where we spend our valuable time. The historical volunteer model of committing to a regular weekly time slot no longer suits our busy lifestyles.

The Volunteer Experience Team at Vinnies are looking to create a mailing list of volunteers who would be happy to volunteer on an ad hoc basis. Volunteer tasks may range from assisting packing Christmas hampers at a Vinnies centre for a few hours to committing to sharing a Vinnies Campaign via social media once a month. Once placed on our 'Vinnies Support Volunteer Crew' mailing list, you will be contacted once a month via email to inform you of upcoming ad hoc opportunities. To be placed on our mailing list and become a part of our valued Vinnies Support Volunteer Crew please email volunteers@vinnies.org.au.

We thank you wholeheartedly for your contribution.

### **Position Vacant**

The Chatswood Parish is seeking to recruit a **part-time Catechist Coordinator**, up to 19 hours per week. This role plays an important part in the Parish team, coordinating the Ministry of Special Religious Education (SRE) at a local parish level.

The ideal candidate will have relevant experience in SRE, of working with volunteers in a Catholic environment, comfort working autonomously and an understanding of the need for accountability and ownership in a role, excellent administration and time management skills and proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite. An understanding of the Department of Education requirements in relation to Special Religious Education would be an advantage. You'll also have a good understanding of, and commitment to, Catholic values and teachings.

The role does allow for flexibility with the working schedule; however, you will need to have availability outside of normal working hours from time to time.

If this role interests you, please email a brief cover letter and CV to recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au

Applications close Friday, 2 December 2022.



