



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 10 Term 1, 2023

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

### My Easter Message

Last Sunday, known in our Christian calendar as *Palm Sunday* or *Passion Sunday* marked the beginning of Holy Week. Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem with palms being laid on the road by the townsfolk. Within one week, he would be crucified.

The College community marked this event along with the events that occurred on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, with our College Lenten Liturgy yesterday.



We also celebrated the most important, significant and greatest event in our religious calendar - Easter Sunday. For without the resurrection, we would not exist as we currently do - i.e. an inclusive and evangelising learning community, where the College provides an authentic and professional Catholic education.

By Jesus rising from the dead after three days, He has given us new life and purpose. **We are a people of Hope and this coming Sunday, Easter Sunday gives us that basis for Hope.**

I believe the following paragraph from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference gives a great contemporary insight into the significance of Palm Sunday, particularly considering events happening here in our country and that overseas:

### **Pray for Justice and Peace**

*On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus accepts death on a cross rather than engaging in violence. The contrast between the Prince of Peace and the powers and dominions of his day could not be starker. This is the basis of the Palm Sunday tradition of action in favour of peace and non-violent alternatives for addressing social, ecological, economic and political issues.*

### Term 1 Recap

As we draw towards the end of Term 1 2023, to mark the events and celebrations of Easter, I reflect upon the many learnings, events and opportunities our community has been lucky enough to have experienced. I will undoubtedly leave out many happenings, but the list is a great indication of the developmental opportunities for our community:

- Just over 1500 formal lessons taught.
- Parent involvement from Year 7 Bible Presentation and Welcome to Parents in Partnership Evening.

- College Open Evening with over 350 students involved and 2000+ visitors passing through our gates.
- The development and implementation of our Pastoral Days for Years 12, 9 and 7. The other Year Groups will experience their days in the future.
- Public Speaking, Senior Study Breakfasts and Afternoon Teas, Robotics/Coding club, Japanese student visitors, Diocesan Staff Mass, NAPLAN for Years 7 and 9, Social Justice Activities including Harmony Day and The Greatest Shave, Street Retreat, Musical (Addams Family) rehearsals, Year 12 Mid-year Reports, Year 12 Onstage Showcase Excursion, Year 10 Art Excursion to Q Station, Belong - The Amazing Race of Faith (Year 7); BBSSSA Open Boys & Girls Touch Football; BBSSSA U/15 Boys & Girls Touch Football; BBSSSA U/13 Boys & Girls Touch Football, BBSSSA Swimming, PCYC League Tag Gala Day, Year 10 PASS Biathlon, NSW Opens Futsal Qualifying tournament (through to Nationals!), NSW U14s Futsal Qualifying tournament, NSW U16s Futsal Qualifying tournament.

I trust that through all these learnings/happenings we are providing, our young people are being given the opportunity to discover and follow their dreams.

***What we have been able to accomplish together is inspiring.***

## Retirement - Ms Margaret Coghlan

Yesterday the College acknowledged 24 years of service to the College community of **Ms Margaret Coghlan**. As I said to the students yesterday, many of them would not know Margaret, but certainly have seen her around the science labs and will have benefitted from her work, whether they be in Year 7 or Year 12. Every student undertakes the compulsory Science curriculum in Years 7-10. Part of this curriculum is involvement in experiments. Margaret prepared the equipment - everything from titration experiments through to rat dissections to simply lighting a Bunsen burner. All has been prepared under the watchful eye of Margaret Coghlan, our Lab Technician for the past 24 years.



Margaret has also been the lynch pin of all things science from the revamp of the Science Block to our state of the art facilities now. Due to her commitment to safety and meticulous preparation of chemicals and safe work practices, Margaret was the Chair of the WHS Workplace Committee for a number of years, especially as WHS became a major player in compliance in workplaces. She was particularly involved when there was a lot of leg work needed for the new science labs and when much of the College was a building site.

Above all, Margaret has been a model for safe work practices and her commitment to the College community. Margaret exemplifies the support staff of the College. Through her behind-the-scenes work, our teachers have been able to deliver a top class curriculum to our students.

We thank her for her service to our community.

On behalf of the College, we wish Margaret all the best in the next chapter of her life. Thank you Margaret!

## Staff Spirituality Day - Monday 24 April

Staff return from these upcoming holidays on Monday, 24 April for a Staff Spirituality Day. The entire staff will be working with **Fr Sam French** and **Deacon Rosen Mathew** on *The Catholic Schools Broken Bay Charter*.

*“The charter is an articulation of who we are, our way of being in the light of the Gospel within a complex and socially diverse society. It invites our students, their families and our people to accompany us as we seek to grow in relationship with Jesus and to understand and shape our world.”*

The following day, Tuesday 25 April is ANZAC Day.

On behalf of the College staff, I wish each of you a hope filled and blessed Easter. Please take care on the roads if you are travelling and we look forward to **welcoming all your young people back on Wednesday 26 April** (Week A, Day 3 of the cycle for students – permitted late start i.e., 9.30am).

Thank you for your time,

**Tony Gleeson**

*Principal*

# From the Assistant Principal, Evangelisation & Catechesis

Mr Patrick Brennan

## An Easter Message to the St Leo's Community

So much has happened at school as well as on the national and international fronts over the past two years. COVID, conflict in Europe, floods and a number of families in our community affected by tragedies. Our faith is often challenged during these difficult periods.

Easter provides us with a time to stop, think and reflect on our own lives and our relationship with others and the world around us.

Several years ago, His Holiness gave us all a clear message to consider through Lent and to Easter. The title of his message was: *"The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift."* Without making room for God's word in their hearts, people will never be able to welcome and love all human life.

Pope Francis has said: *"Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable."* His Holiness focused on the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. In the Gospel account, Lazarus and his suffering are described in great detail. While he is *"practically invisible to the rich man,"* the Gospel gives him a name and a face, upholding him as worthy, as *"a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast"*. Pope Francis added that the parable shows that *"a right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognising their value..... a poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change."*

The Pope has asked that Lent be a time *"for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour."* This is something that we should consider doing to renew our relationship with God during uncertain times.

I would like to wish you all a very happy and restful Easter.

## St Leo's Student Wellbeing Survey

This week students completed the 2023 Wellbeing Survey which captured a snapshot of wellbeing at the College, highlighting our strengths and importantly giving us feedback where we can improve.

Both staff and students had an opportunity to add questions to the survey to ensure it fits the context of St Leo's. The structure of the survey is used across many schools in New South Wales as part of their wellbeing programs.

Some of the key results to come from this include:

- **87%** of students feel safe and supported at the College
- **94%** of students have never been bullied on social media
- **85%** of students see the College as a place where bullying is not tolerated
- **84%** of students believe we have adequate policies in place to deal with bullying.



Current research indicates that bullying is less likely to occur in a caring, respectful and supportive teaching and learning community. St Leo's has planned a whole-school approach to promote student safety and wellbeing and address bullying behaviour effectively.

The survey also identified the many 'upstanders' we have at the College. This large group of students will be celebrated publicly at the next College assembly.

The small number of students that were identified as displaying bullying behaviours will be counselled by their Year Leaders and their parents notified over the coming weeks.

## Terms 2-3 - Winter Uniform

All students are required to be in full College winter uniform from the start of Term 2 to the end of Term 3. This includes a blazer and tie. The College has high expectations of our students uniform and appearance, particularly when travelling to and from school on public transport. Students failing to meet these fair and reasonable standards will be subject to a consequence. The positive message we give to the public through our uniform and appearance is a clear statement of what it means to be a St Leo's College student and their pride in themselves and the College.



All students were reminded of these expectations following our Easter Liturgy. Target areas in 2023 include:

- Correct school shoes
- Tie and blazer
- Skirt length (no more than 5cm above the knee).

Year Leaders, Mentors and members of the College Leadership Team will be conducting regular checks of students' uniform and appearance, including before and after school.

Parents are asked to support the College with these expectations.

Our uniform expectations can be found in the [College Planner](#) while full uniform information is on the [website](#).

### Save the Date: Mother's Day Liturgy

When: **Friday, 12 May, 7.30am**

Where: Light of Christ Centre

More information to come early next Term!



## What's Been Happening @ Leo's!

### Year 7, 9, 11 & 12 Pastoral Days

A new program at St Leo's this year was to implement Pastoral Days. So far this term, we have run four pastoral days at the College. These are dedicated days on the school calendar to the promotion of wellbeing and the development of positive relationships within our Year Groups and the community.

The program for each day varies across the Year Groups in accordance with the St Leo's Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework.

**Year 7** spent the majority of their Pastoral Day on Monday 'myth busting' and learning how to resolve conflict. They were introduced to positive affirmations and how to develop and maintain healthy relationships. **Year 9** were lucky enough to go offsite for the day and talk about their dreams for the future whilst strengthening peer relationships within the group. **Year 11** engaged in a variety of activities including our GP's in schools' program, a program focusing on time management and a deeper look into what is mental health and how to support friends and loved ones. On Tuesday, **Year 12** engaged actively with our Highway Patrol visitors as part of a timely seminar on road rules and interactions involving the police. Guest **Daniel Merza** then gave a presentation on how to "get the monkeys off your back" to be the best person you can be. They finished off with a Q&A with former student and current A- League footballer, **Lachlan Rose** about dreams and commitment to achieving goals.

A huge thankyou to the Year Leaders, **Mr Chris Sammut** (Year 12), **Mr Vince Tavernese** (Year 11), **Mrs Kate Todd** (Year 9) and **Mr Jon Nicoll** (Year 7), for their dedication and support of their Year Groups.

*Ms Megan Tynan, Director of Wellbeing for Learning*

# Pastoral Days Term 1...



## Term 1 Fundraising – A Record!

The St Leo's Social Justice Group are excited to announce an **amazing \$7,283.17** was raised this term for Caritas Project Compassion.

This is through the combined efforts of all Year Groups through their Lenten collections and a range of activities including our Easter Raffle and Open Evening BBQ, ride and popcorn/snow cone stands.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing result!

Next term, we begin fundraising for the Vinnies Winter Appeal, including our now famous Winter Sleepout – so stay tuned for more information.



*Rev Adrian Gomez, Youth Ministry Coordinator*



## Volleyball Silver

Congratulations to our Year 10 Girls' Volleyball team who played in their first Schools Cup on Monday. They won some nail-biting sets across their games all the way up to the Gold Medal match. They didn't leave empty handed, taking home silver in their division. Well done!

## Futsal Girls Qualify for State Champs

Congratulations also to our Open Girls' futsal team who finished runners-ups at the State Qualifier event last week. The result means that they are eligible for the State Championships to be held later in the year.

On the day, they had wins against numerous schools and were narrowly defeated in the grand final. Well done team!



## REMINDERS:



## St Leo's Red Earth Immersion Opportunity

St Leo's is restarting our Immersion program and will give students the chance to travel to the remote Indigenous homelands of Central Australia later this year.

Students will have the rare opportunity to make real connections with Indigenous Australians living on their own land who have maintained a deep connection to their culture and history. They will learn from Elders and Traditional Owners, and play with young Indigenous children eager for a window to the outside world. The group will stay in safe areas on privately

held Aboriginal land, not accessible outside of this setting. They will learn, make, gather, eat, give, grow and connect with Traditional Owners and Indigenous Australia.

As the expected interest in this program will be high, at this point we are only accepting expressions of interest from students in Year 10.

Having previously worked with Red Earth at my previous school, I have seen many young people gain so much from this wonderful opportunity. It's great that we can now offer the same experience here at St Leo's.

### Key information:

- Immersion Dates: **Monday 2 - Wednesday 11 October 2023** (Length: 10 Days, 9 Nights)
- Cost: \$4,325pp
- Open to: **Year 10 students**
- Student Information Session (Year 10): **Monday, 1 May** (at school)
- Parent Information Night: 6.00pm, **Wednesday, 10 May** (online)
- Please visit [redearth.edu.au](http://redearth.edu.au) for more information.

### Important Term 1 & 2 Dates

Term 2 Week	Date	Event
<b>Term Dates (students): Wed 26 Apr - Thu 29 Jun</b>		
1	Mon 24 Apr	SDD Pupil Free Day, Staff Spirituality Day
1	Tue 25 Apr	ANZAC Day public holiday
1	<b>Wed 26 April</b>	<b>Students return for Term 2; Permitted late start</b>
1	Wed 26 - Fri 28 April	Year 12 Retreat - The Tops
1	Wed 26 - Fri 28 April	Year 11 Bundanon Art Excursion
2	Monday 1 May	Year 7 Vaccinations
2	Monday 1 May	Year 10 Red Earth student presentation, 8.30am
2	Tues 2 May - Fri 5 May	Year 9 Camp - Somerset
3	Tues 9 May	Yr 11-12 Student Learning Conferences, 3.30 - 7.00pm
3	Wed 10 May	Red Earth Parent Info Session, 6pm
3	Fri 12 May	Mother's Day Liturgy & Breakfast, 7.30am
4	Mon 15 May	Year 10 Entrepreneurship North Sydney excursion
5	Tues 23 May	Careers Expo, 4.30-6.30pm
5	Fri 26 May	Sorry Day
6	Mon 29 - Wed 31 May	Year 7 Camp - The Tops
6	Wed 31 May	College Photo Day 2 (Individual & Mentor Group photos)
7	Sun 4 June	Musical Rehearsal
7	Mon 5 Jun	World Environment Day
8	Mon 12 Jun	King's B'day public holiday
8	Thu 15 June	Year 10 Pastoral Day
8	Fri 16 June	Year 8 Pastoral Day

9	22 - 24 June	College Musical
10	Tue 27 June	Year 7-8 Studio Concert
10	Wed 28 June	Year 9-12 Studio Concert
10	Thu 29 June	Last day of Term 2 for students
10	Fri 30 June	Staff Development Day (System) – pupil free day

**Sports Reminder:  
Athletics Carnival Entries**

Students received entry forms for the athletics carnival 'championship events' this week. These are due back by the **end of the Week 1, Term 2**. If students require another, please [email Mr Kember](#).

Students wanting to compete in novelty events only do not need to pre-register.

More information about the carnival will be communicated early next term.

## The St Leo's Sports Cup

**Futsal**  
Tuesday

and

**Netball**  
Thursday

From Week 2 in Term 2, we will be launching the St Leo's Futsal and Netball Cup, with awesome prizes on offer!

It is a **\$10 donation** to enter per team in a sport - a max of 10 people in a team. All profits go towards the Vinnies Winter Appeal.

**Get a team form from Emily Rologas (Year 11) at lunchtime outside the Youth Ministry room.**

Please return the form to Emily Rologas or Mr Kember **with** the money (no split payments) by **3pm on the 28th of April.**

# Community Notices



**Lifeline**  
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

## Are you a good listener?

*This skill can save a life*

As a Crisis Supporter, you will be there for someone in their moment of need and could help to make a real difference to their future.

We are looking for people who have compassion, respect, self-awareness and time to volunteer for this important community service.

**Enquire today**

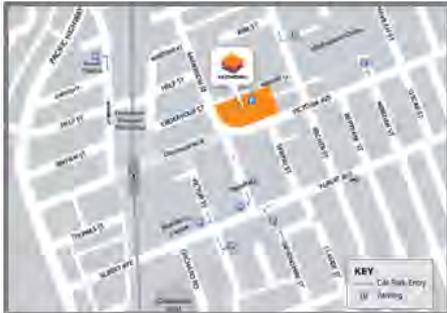
[lifelineh2hsydney.org.au](http://lifelineh2hsydney.org.au)

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney – supporting your community

**The Northern Sydney Expo for people with a disability is back!**

**When: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 11am-5pm**  
**Where: The Concourse Chatswood.**  
**409 Victoria Ave Chatswood**

**Stall holders will include service providers for:**  
 Youth Employment Assistance (previously called SLES)  
 Social and Community Participation  
 Support Coordination Plan Management  
 Disability Employment Services (DES)  
 Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE)  
 Education  
 Apprenticeships and Traineeships  
 The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)  
 Services Australia



**The Disability Expo will be held at THE CONCOURSE Civic Pavilion room 409 Victoria Ave Chatswood**

The Concourse car park entrance is on Ferguson Lane via Archer Street. Accessible parking spaces are available in The Concourse car park and in nearby Endeavour and Spring Streets.

Charges for parking apply, for details please visit the website. [www.theconcourse.com.au](http://www.theconcourse.com.au)

There is also the option to park at Westfield Chatswood and walk to the venue, charges also apply. For details visit: [www.westfield.com.au/chatswood](http://www.westfield.com.au/chatswood)



**KU-RING-GAI ART CENTRE**

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**2023 AUTUMN SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

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