



Principal's Message

Dear valued members of the St Leo's community,

Welcome to Term 4! I wish all students a successful and enjoyable term. Term 4 always moves very quickly, so please ensure your young person hits the ground running - is well organised for upcoming assessments and sets up a good study routine early. Finishing the year strongly should be their goal.

Year 12 2023 – HSC

We offer special prayers and wishes for our **Year 12** students who started their HSC examinations last Wednesday week.

Congratulations to **Tom Willett** of Year 12 who's Industrial Technology - Timber Major Work has been nominated by NESA for the upcoming SHAPE showcase across NSW.

*God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis.
Let hatred be turned into love,
fear to trust, despair to hope,
oppression to freedom,
occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces,
and peace and justice could be experienced by all.*



All the best to our **Year 10** students who have their exam block coming up next week.

The World Around Us

Our community is mourning for all the lives already lost and will continue to pray for those being held in captivity.

Please monitor closely your young person's social media use and be aware that they may stumble across incredibly distressing content.

RIP Bert Downie

This week we received the news of the passing of **Mr Bert Downie** at the age of 97. His son **Nick** attended the College and passed away at the age of 16 in 1975. Nick was a gifted cricketer and his father, Bert actively supported St Leo's and played in the Old Boys' Cricket Team for many years. *The Downie Shield Competition* is still in existence today around many schools in NSW. The age of 97 is a terrific innings! We pray that Bert is now reunited with his son Nick in Heaven. *May Bert Rest in Peace.*

Staffing

Please keep in your prayers **Mrs Angela Bourke**. Two weeks ago Angela was the recipient of a donated liver. She is recovering in hospital and hopes to be home soon.

We welcome back **Ms Jessica Watts** (2 days per week) who returns to us from maternity leave. Jess will be reconnecting with young people across the College, primarily in PDHPE and sport.

We welcome to the staff **Mr Tom O'Rourke** who has been appointed as a member of the HSIE faculty. Tom comes to us from two secondary school positions (both State and Catholic systems) where he has been a Pastoral Leader and is very experienced in both HSIE, Religious Education and Aboriginal Education. The appointment of Tom, will support our Indigenous students in a very concrete way.

Ms Kelly Li - Kelly has *returned to the fold* after two years in another education system. Kelly will be teaching across the RE and Science faculties. Kelly is a highly experienced teacher with a number of qualifications, knowledge and skills across three faculties.

Mr Michael Borel - our new Lab Technician who works behind the scenes preparing and organising science resources for students. Michael joins us after experiences in three other schools as qualified Lab Technician.

Whilst **Ms Kate Todd** is on leave this term, **Ms Catherine Sammut** has taken up the role of Leader of Year 9. In just over one week, Catherine has made a very positive start with our Year 9 young people.

Ms **Kimberley Prosser** is now also on Leave, awaiting the birth of her second child. Watch this space!

Ms Megan De Kantzow is on leave for Term 4 and **Ms Mel Duff** will be overseeing the Library resource space. I was up in the Library yesterday at lunchtime - and it is a vibrant and well-resourced learning space, now coupled with a 'live' resource of *careers, VET and work placement* - a hub of information in so many ways - that can be easily accessed by our students.

Ms Robin Lappin is also on leave for Term 4.

Due to a recent review of Counselling across CSBB schools, we will also be joined by an extra counsellor here at the College who will be working with our present counsellor - **Ms Jaya Kudhail**. **Ms Dale Bowmer** will be joining us eight days per fortnight. At the same time, Ms Kudhail will be providing some services on a part time basis to other CSBB counsellors across the system. Overall, we will gain a counsellor for an extra two days each week. This should provide an improved service for our young people and their families.

Mr **Joe Robinson** and **Ms Victoria Martin** have joined us for Term 4 taking classes whilst there has been changes in staffing for this term.

I want to assure all parents/carers that all our teachers are qualified and experienced in teaching our young people to be the best that they can be. Some schools have had to amalgamate classes, provide separate supervision or even cancel some classes during the current teacher shortage. St Leo's has not been in this position and proudly continues to provide a professional delivery of the NESA curriculum, in light of the [College's Strategic Plan](#).

PASS Student run the Day!

Friday last week, 30 of our **Year 9 PASS** (*Physical and Sports Studies*) assisted - well not actually assisted but **ran** the Polding Track & Field Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park. This is a huge carnival with over 300 competitors all vying State representation in NSW Catholic Schools. The organiser contacted me and wanted to congratulate our students on their behaviour, character, efficiency and skills in dealing with the high stakes competition, the competitors and their parents.

Well done to these students. You are real credit to yourselves, the College and your families! Thank you to **Ms Sharon Gartner** who supervised these students.

A Volleyball Win

Congratulations to our **Open Boys Volleyball Team** who won the Broken Bay Competition yesterday on the Central Coast!

Well done to the young men as well as **Mr Sunny Huo** who expertly guided these students to their victory!
(Read more on p. 10)



Year 7 2024 – First Steps towards High School



Last Wednesday evening we held the Year 7 2024 Information Evening for parents/carers and students. Over 300 people attended with the usual blend of nervousness and excitement to be expected.



We were joined by **Fr Brendan Lee** (Moderator of Hornsby Cathedral Parish) and **Deacon Rosen Mathews**. Presentations were given by our two Assistant Principals, **Ms Murdoch** and **Mr Brennan**, Director of Wellbeing for Learning, **Ms Tynan**, our Leader of Learner Diversity, **Ms Bowman** our Parent Education Coordinator, **Ms Saj Senn** and our Leader of our unique and very successful Community Tutoring Program, **Mrs Sarah Szacsvey**. Also **Ms Jo Gower** and **Ms Fiona Morsink-Ryan** who not only supported, but are major players in the enrolment process. **Ms Fiona Milkins** and **Mr Daniel Lane**, two other members of the College Leadership team, were also present. I made the point at the evening that *it takes a village to raise our young people*. Having a wide variety of our team there that evening lent credibility to that statement. We also heard from two present Year 7 students - **James** and **Lola**, reflecting upon their own first few days of St Leo's almost a whole year ago!

We have 192 students enrolled to start at Leo's Year 7 in 2024. There were a

large number of disappointed families who were unfortunately not accepted, but we are looking forward to working with our new students and their parents to provide a quality Catholic education for all in 2024.



New Property Purchased for St Leo's

Over the recent holidays, the Diocese purchased one of the properties adjacent to the College in Windarra Crescent. Due to business regulations, we will be using this residence for much needed storage for the time being. This is a great sign of the ongoing support from the Diocese and CSBB staff and their belief in the direction and future of the College. Into the future there will be other plans for this property to assist in catering for the needs of our students.

Every Student has a Story

One of our strengths identified by the Leo's community is the fact that the College knows its young people. Each of our students has a story - and without knowing that story, you can almost forget about learning. It would be a very difficult path. Having a professional staff that takes the time to not only provide many opportunities outside of the normal curriculum, but listen to them as they tell of their successes, their challenges and their beliefs for their young people, who all relate to the improvements made by the students in their care, gives me the energy and fortitude to get up and come to work each and every day.

Thank you for your time.

Tony Gleeson
Principal

Vinnies @ St Leo's

For the past three years, St Leo's is the highest fundraising school in NSW for the St Vincent de Paul Society, supporting its many good works with the homeless, those in poverty, escaping domestic violence and struggling with addiction. This has been led by the Year 11 Vinnies School Conference. Congratulations to the outgoing Vinnies Conference who have raised awareness and money through Bake Sales, BBQs, the lunchtime Futsal and Netball competition and a range of other initiatives including the highly successful Vinnies Winter Sleepout.

A new Year 11 Vinnies Conference is being started up for next year and a record 67 Year 10s attended a meeting to express interest and begin training in Week 6.

Due to our successes, Vinnies has also approached St Leo's to pilot a new program - the **Vinnies Service Medallion** for Years 7-8. This is a new initiative - a Duke of Ed style program that will form young students as leaders. A meeting held had 14 students attend to express their interest in being a part of this new program.

If any Year 7 or 8 students missed the meeting and are interested, they should contact [Rev Gomez](#).



Alpha Youth - Thursday lunchtimes

Alpha is a 9-week program that creates a space for young people to engage in conversations about faith.

More than ever before, young people are asking questions about life and meaning. Alpha aims to create a space for them to wrestle with their thoughts and share their opinions in a safe and friendly environment. It involves watching a 20-minute video of reflections and stories with breaks for small group discussion.

It is being run by senior students in the Youth Ministry Room at lunchtimes on Thursday. *All welcome!*



Mr Patrick Brennan, Assistant Principal: Evangelisation and Catechesis

Parent Engagement News



The following opportunities are currently available for parents and carers:

What:	When/Where:	Details:
PARENT EDUCATION Free Parent Talk - Tweens to Teens: Better Conversation Techniques to Help Relationships Thrive	Wed 6 Nov, 7-8pm Prouille Library, 5 Water St, Wahroonga. Register here	Parents/carers of younger students (Years 7-8) may be interested in this free parenting talk on better conversation techniques. It will be run by Prouille Catholic Primary's Parent Engagement Coordinator (PEC) and Resilience Centre Master Trainer Jacqui Van de Velde .
PARENTING RESOURCE School TV: Year 12 Exam Stress Special Report	Online (24/7)	Our community has access to SchoolTV , which has useful resources for parents/carers. One is this special report on Year 12 exam stress featuring Dr Michael Carr- Gregg, child and adolescent psychologist. He offers practical tips to on how to better support your child as they enter this exam season to reduce exam stress.

<p>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - TUTORING</p> <p>St Leo's Community Tutoring Program</p> 	<p>Restarting in 2024 Weekly or Fortnightly</p>	<p>The St Leo's Community Tutoring Program assists our students who need that 'little extra help' to achieve their full potential through basic literacy or numeracy support. The program was halted during Covid and will restart in 2024.</p> <p>WE NEED YOUR HELP</p> <p>We are looking for anyone with as little as one hour per week to help as a volunteer tutor in basic literacy or numeracy. No experience necessary - training is given to all tutors and a teacher is always available during tutoring sessions.</p> <p>If you or someone you know may be interested: friends, neighbours, relatives (including grandparents) - anyone who may have, please pass on contact details for our 'Leader of Community Tutors', Sarah Szacsvey on 0421 082 909 or email: sbuttfild@hotmail.com.</p>
<p>PARENTS NEEDED! BUSINESS MENTORING/ PROJECT</p> <p>Enterprise in the Community Program</p> 	<p>Mon 27 Nov (am) & Wed 29 Nov (pm)</p>	<p>Do you own or run a small-medium business or work for a company that would be willing to participate in a school-industry event? Do you have a genuine business challenge that needs a solution?</p> <p>WE NEED YOUR HELP</p> <p>We are looking for members of our wider Leo's community to share their experience and participate in a new <i>Enterprise in the Community Program</i> for Year 10 this term. As well as teaching our enthusiastic Business Studies and Commerce students hands-on skills, the program will also <u>have genuine business benefits for you.</u></p> <p><u>Find our more...</u></p>
<p>PARISH ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Hornsby Cathedral Parish (HCP) - Month of the Holy Rosary Activities</p>	<p>Daily Rosary after Mass, Our Lady of the Rosary (OLOR) Cathedral, Waitara</p>	<p>October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Everyone is welcome to participate in rosary-related initiatives this October at the OLOR Cathedral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Rosary will be prayed after each Mass at OLOR • Rosary Beads: If you have some neglected beads at home, consider donating them to HCP for redistribution. Please drop your rosary beads donations at the HCP office or give them to the priests after Mass. • Other rosary sessions can be found in the latest HCP parish bulletin available here
<p>COLLEGE ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Weekly St Leo's Mass and Rosary</p>	<p>Mass: Fridays 1.15pm Rosary: Mondays 10.50am College Chapel (Please sign in at Reception)</p>	<p>An opportunity for our students, staff and now also parents to come together in a spirit of faith and unity and strengthen the bonds that make our Catholic school community so special.</p> <p>Parents are welcome to join us in the College Chapel for the Rosary at Recess on Mondays, and Mass on Fridays at lunchtime. Please ensure you sign in at Reception beforehand.</p>

What's been Happening?

Year 7 Laudato Si Excursion

Our Year 7 Religious Education classes spent Term 3 studying the unit 'Caring for our Common Home' and learning from Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si'.

Our excursion to Ku-ring-gai National Park's West Head was a celebration of God's creation and our role in caring for Creation. It was a chance to come together as our St Leo's community and enjoy God's

creation. We shared a Sausage Sizzle lunch, games, meditation and liturgy at the Resolute Picnic Ground, as well as exploring creation through an Indigenous lens with the Carvings at West Head.



When our students were asked what they enjoyed most out of the day, these are some of their responses:

'On the excursion I saw a lot of nature and animals. My favourite thing was seeing all my friends and just having a nice calm day. We sat on the side of a mountain to meditate, ran through the bush playing games, and had sausages together for lunch.' **Danny P**

'My favourite part was playing games with the year 11 student leaders, and I will always remember the liturgy we had at the end of the day.' **Alex B**

'I liked the meditation the best, I was laying on my towel with my eyes closed, just listening to the noises of nature.' **Sophie R**

'I'll always remember the peace I felt during the meditation.' **Lucy C**

'My favourite thing was the meditation and getting to see everything god has made.' **Isabella P**

'The Laudato Si excursion was a lot more fun than I expected. I saw beautiful ancient rock carvings, and long paths that I could run on with my friends. My favourite part was just sitting on the rocks in silence as small trickles of rain fell to earth.' **Jacob M**

It was a privilege to spend the day out in God's creation with your young people, and it would not have been possible without the generosity and enthusiasm of our **Year 12 2024 Student leaders** and our amazing **Year 7 RE teachers**, with the wonderful support of Assistant Principal, **Mr Pat Brennan** and our Year 7 Year Coordinator, **Mr Ashley Johansen**.

My thanks to everyone for a great day out.

Ms Colleen Kofron,
Leader of Learning: Religious Education



Diocesan Mission Mass

On Thursday, a number of St Leo's students joined students from across the Broken Bay Diocese to celebrate our annual Mission Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral.



The Mass was a celebration of the work of Catholic missionaries and the contribution our schools make assisting developing communities around the world.

The focus of Father Brendan's homily was the great work done by the church in Timor Leste.

As part of the Mass, we focused on Pope Francis' World Mission Sunday message, 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'. The appeal highlights the burning passion that drives missionaries around the world to take action for a more just world.

A video from Sr Carolina was shown highlighting her dedication to providing critical healthcare services to the rural community of Venilale in Timor-Leste. After

decades of journeying with the Venilale community, Sr Carolina summarised her understanding of Mission in one sentence: 'Mission is where many people need you.'

Ignite Catholic Conference



In the school holidays, over 700 young people from as far away as Tasmania and New Zealand gathered at St Leo's for the energetic and joyous Ignite Conference. The Light of Christ Centre was transformed with extra screens, lights and greenery to live up to the Conference theme of 'Wonder'.

A total of 28 students from St Leo's gave up four days of their break to participate in this faith-filled and life-giving celebration. The days were filled with inspirational rallies, engaging workshops, sharing groups and time to meet new people, including priests, religious and Catholic organisations who set up Expo stalls.

The Emmanuel Worship Band, international speaker and musician **Fr Rob Galea**, Mass with **Bishop Anthony**, a talk by **Fr Sam French** and nighttime Adoration were all highlights. Our own **Rev Adrian Gomez** also presented two workshops: the *Best Bible Study in the World (A Tribute)* and the *Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*.

St Leo's put together a band that played to an appreciative crowd during dinner on Saturday night. The Ignite Conference will be back again next year here at St Leo's, bigger and better than ever!

Mr Patrick Brennan, Assistant Principal:
Evangelisation and Catechesis



NSW and ACT Pathways to Post School Life

Event description

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) would like to invite NSW and ACT students with a disability in Years 9-12, their parents, carers and education professionals, to attend a virtual information session.

This is a session about building skills and paving a pathway to post school life. We will discuss a range of NDIS-funded supports and other assistance to help young people build skills to prepare for their transition, and support them in achieving employment and other goals, post-school.

Who should attend: Students, parents, carers and education professionals.



Where:
Online – via MS Teams

Dates & Times:

Wednesday 18 October 2023;	7.00pm – 8.00pm (AEDT)
Thursday 19 October 2023;	10.00am – 11.00am (AEDT)
Tuesday 24 October 2023;	9.00am – 10.00am (AEDT)
Wednesday 25 October 2023;	12.30pm – 1.30pm (AEDT)
Thursday 26 October 2023;	7.00pm – 8.00pm (AEDT)

RSVP:
Please register via - [Humanitix](#)

Additional information: If you have any accessibility requirements please let us know when you register. Please note - we need a minimum of five (5) business days' notice to book Auslan interpreters.



REMINDERS:

School Vaccination Program - Monday, 6 November 2023

NSW Health will offer the following vaccinations at our school clinic;

- **Year 7** – dTpa (Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis) & HPV (Human Papillomavirus) if not already given in Term 1 or 2
- **Year 8** – dTpa (Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis) & HPV (Human Papillomavirus) **catch up**
- **Also, Year 10 & Year 11** – Meningococcal ACWY (**catch up**)

Students can only get vaccination at school if consent has been received.

If you or your child's other parent provided consent earlier this year, please do not submit consent again. Most Year 7 parents consented for both HPV and dTpa before the Term 1 HPV vaccine clinic. (You can check if you gave online consent by logging in again; <https://nswhealth.service-now.com/school>)

This is the last vaccination clinic at your school this year. If your child is absent they can be vaccinated at school in 2024, or at your GP. The vaccine is supplied without cost to you but GPs may charge a consultation fee.

To provide consent if you haven't already done so: visit: <https://nswhealth.service-now.com/school>

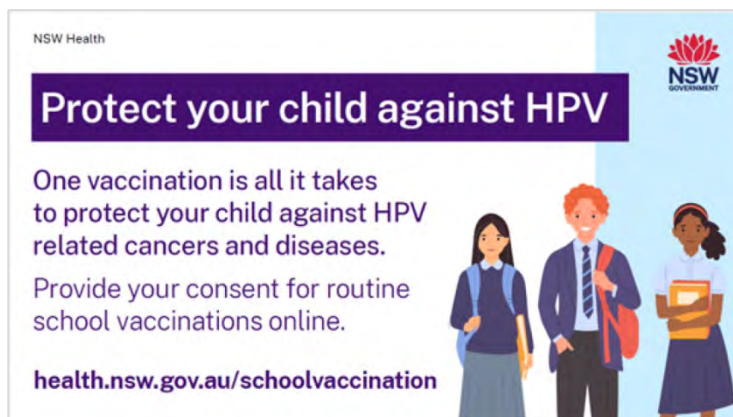
For guidance to complete the form visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Factsheets/online-consent-school-vaccination-english.pdf>

If you or your child do not have a Medicare card, consent can still be provided by requesting a paper-based consent form directly from your child's school.

For more information on school vaccinations, visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination.

For information in your language, visit

www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx



Cultural Growth Domain

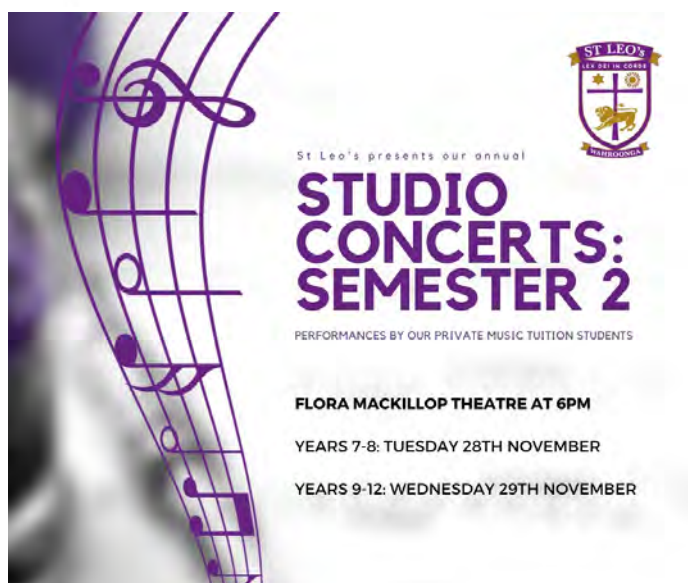
CAPA Co-Curricular Program

Pride Pom: Auditions Start in Week 5!

Calling all dance, aerobics, acrobatics & cheer students!!! If you would like to express your interest to join the St Leo's Pride Pom team next year. Please complete the **THIS FORM** to register your interest. For more information see [Miss Shinas](#) or [Miss McNay](#)!

Private Music Tuition: Studio Concerts

Dates have been set for our Term 4 Studio Concerts for Private Music Students – November 28 (Years 7-8) and November 29 (Years 9-12).



If you are interested in receiving private lessons to learn an instrument and/or vocals, please complete this [expression of interest form](#). Students are welcome to join the program at any time throughout the year, including mid-term.

Updated Term 4 Timetable:

Co-Curricular CAPA Ensembles / Programs

Term 4 - 2023

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School		<div>7:30-8:30am Lions Concert Band (MML04)</div>	<div>7:00-7:45am Pride Jazz (MML01)</div> <div>7:45-8:30am Pride Hip Hop (MML01)</div> <div>ALTERNATE TIMES LATE START WEEK A: 8:00am - 8:45am 8:45am - 9:30am</div>	<div>7:00-7:45am Lions Jazz B (TWG)</div> <div>7:45-8:30am Technique (TWG)</div> <div>7:00-7:45am Lions Jazz A (MML01)</div> <div>7:45-8:30am St Leo's Company (MML01)</div> <div>7:45-8:30am Lions Hip Hop (TWG)</div> <div>7:30-8:30am Cubs Concert Band (MML04)</div> <div>7:30-8:30am Lions Singers (MML03)</div>	<div>7:30-8:30am Pride Performance Band (MML04)</div>
Recess					<div>10:50-11:20am Guitar Ensemble (MML04)</div>
Lunch		<div>Accordion Group (MML04)</div>	<div>Male Vocal Group (MML04)</div>	<div>Girls Rock Band (MML04)</div> <div>Cubs Singers (MML03)</div>	<div>Rock Band (MML04)</div> <div>Cubs Art Club (MMG02)</div>
After School	<div>3:05-4:00pm Cubs Drama Club (CG02)</div>			<div>3:05-4:30pm Pride Pom (MML01)</div>	

Art

Cubs - Years 7 & 8

Dance

Cubs - Year 7
Lions - Years 8 - 10
Pride - Invitation

Drama

Cubs - Years 7

Music

Cubs - Year 7
Lions - Years 8 - 12
Pride - Invitation

Co-Curricular Website & Contact Details:

All information regarding our CAPA Co-Curricular Program is available via our [St Leo's Co-Curricular CAPA Website](#), we encourage you to bookmark this page.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to [email Miss Shinas](#).

Sports Report

CSBB Surf Life Saving

On Tuesday, a small team travelled to Terrigal Beach to compete in the Broken Bay Surf Life Saving Championships.

On the day, the students competed in sprints, relays and flags with great results. There were a number of individual placegetters in all events, with St Leo's dominating the beach point score.

The highlights of the day were the two relay events, with both the Boys team (**Colin P, John Gabriel G, Aarush S, Adam P, Alex M and Jaykob M**) and Girls team (**Lucy E, Chelsea F, Freya T, Kyras M, Holly B and Bridgette C**) winning the events.



St Leo's also had four students who worked as officials throughout the day with positive feedback from teachers and parents. Well done to all involved!

CSBB Rugby 7s

Last Wednesday, our Junior and Intermediate boys Rugby 7s team played at Warringah Rugby park on the Northern beaches in the Broken Bay Championships.

The boys played strong rugby schools throughout the day, with both teams finishing in 4th position. This is a massive achievement after the boys only came together as teams six weeks ago. The skill level in both attack and defence was amazing to watch!

Congratulations and thank you to **Jaykob M** (Year 10) who not only played in the Intermediate team and captained the boys, giving 100% in all matches, but also helped coach the Junior team! The way the boys played on the day was a credit to his hard work. Thank you to **Mr Anthony Wilson** and **Mr Adam Barton** for coaching the boys in the lead up to competition.

CSBB Volleyball

A new sport for Broken Bay saw St Leo's Boys' team crowned as the Broken Bay Champions on Thursday on the Central Coast! (See photo p.1)

Throughout Term 3, the boys and girls Volleyball teams have been training under the watchful eye of coach **Mr Sunny Huo**. All their hard work paid off with great performances from both teams. The girls finished with three wins and two losses from their games, and the boys won a hard-fought final to finish on top at the end of the day.

The teams now start planning for the Schools Cup competition to be held in Term 1 next year. Congratulations to all students.



NSW All Schools Athletics

During the holidays, we had a number of students represent the College at the NSW All Schools Athletics Championship at Sydney Olympic Park. The students performed extremely well, and we had two students selected to represent NSW at the upcoming National School Championships in Perth in December.

Chelsea F (Year 8 - pictured) won gold in the U/13 Girls' Javelin and **Mae H** (Year 9) finished silver in the Pole Vault. Congratulations to Chelsea, Mae and all students on your achievements.



Swimming Carnival Update

The College swimming carnival is being held on Friday 1st December at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. Entries for the day have been open since last term and close this Friday afternoon. For students who have entered they will receive more information over the next week about the details of the day.

Community Notices



Inala
Celebrating individuality
create • connect • grow

**INALA
FAIR**

Sunday 22 October

99 Franklin Rd, Cherrybrook
9am-3pm

Pony Rides

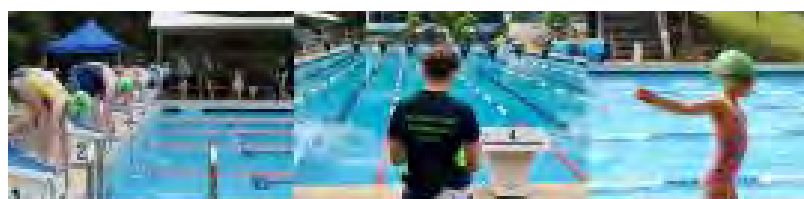
White Elephant

Art and Craft

Market Stalls

Scan for more info

Event Partner
HORNSBY
SHIRE COUNCIL



Race with us this season

Join us for the 2023/24 Summer Swimming Season

October - March

Saturdays @ 7am - 9am

*Until the 50m pool re-opens, join us Friday Nights 7pm
(25m Indoor Pool)*

**For swimmers of all ages and abilities
A great sport for the whole family!**

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kasc.swimmingclub.org.au or email
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