



Principal's Message

Dear valued members of the St Leo's Catholic College community,

We Stand with St Lucy's

Yesterday I sent out an email to all staff about the St Lucy's and St Leo's Catholic learning communities. I have shared part of this here as it is very pertinent to our *whole* community:

'Even though we are two very different schools, one independent (St Lucy's) and one systemic (St Leo's) – our community and faith is what binds us together.

We have three students here at St Leo's – whose mothers work at St Lucy's. They have been contacted this morning and I have passed on our prayers and thoughts.

One of our staff members' sister (who is in the Police Force) – had to deliver the news to the father of the young child yesterday afternoon.

One of our staff and one of our students works voluntarily with the students at St Lucy's.

We keep all our extended community in our prayers and thoughts at this time. We especially remember the young boy and his family.

St Lucy's students have talents that are somewhat different to what we are used to and deal with on a day-to-day basis. We pray that the extensive work and support they will need on their current and future journeys will be made easier by our prayers and thoughts.'

Our lunchtime Mass today was dedicated to the young lad, his family and our extended community. Thank you to those of you who joined us.

Parents in Partnership

Last Wednesday evening, the *Parents in Partnership (PiP) Working Party* met to discuss our Term IV PiP Evening. During the meeting, **Meera Kumaran-Ingram** was elected as Chair of our Working Party. Meera currently has two young people at the College. Thank you Meera for your willingness and time commitment (hopefully not too much - as many hands make light work!).

The Term IV PiP evening will be held on **Wednesday, 22 November at 6pm**, face-to-face here at the College, with all parents and carers welcome.

The agenda for this term includes a number of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing for Learning items, learning attributes for students and new uniform items and guidelines.

Please **[RSVP HERE](#)**. The Venue will be confirmed once numbers are known. We hope to see many of you there to discuss these topics.



Thank you to our Staff!



Today we acknowledged and thanked our teachers and support staff for all their hard work, care, skills and teaching that they deliver each day for our students and community.

They are front line professional workers who shape and prepare the next generation for the future where we hope they can change the world for the better.

College Leaders, **Amelia** and **Kaylan** addressed the staff at recess, acknowledging and thanking them for their dedication to students and work across the many facets of the College.

Leo's Supporting Relay for Life

This weekend (**10am Saturday until 10am Sunday**) sees the **Hornsby Relay for Life at Rofe Park, Galston Rd Hornsby Heights**.

Many of our young people and staff will be present, giving of their time to help in the fight against cancer in all its forms. Our young people will be not only representing the College, but their families and friends in doing something positive for their wider community. The groups directly involved, performing to support this worthy cause include:



- *Pride Performance Band*
- *Lions Concert Band*
- *Cubs Concert Band*
- *Lions Singers*
- *Hornsby Gang Show & past students (Milky Mondays)*



Referring back to the importance of looking after our community in the recent tragedy, this initiative gives all young people an opportunity to be part of their wider community - to see and feel the importance of *community*.

I would like to acknowledge **Ms Joanna (Jo) Gower** for her drive and commitment in seeing this initiative come alive each year. It is wonderful not only to have Jo as my assistant, but also as our College Registrar (and from what I overhear every day - the St Leo's *go to person!*). Jo is very well connected with our community; not just as College Registrar but as a hardworking and responsible community-minded person who puts herself before others. The College is very blessed to have Jo as a member of our staff.

At the time of writing this report (Thursday afternoon - the funds raised so far are just over \$71,000. The goal was \$100,000! Please [contribute if you can](#). [Further details are here](#).



Year 10 Motivate Program – *Can you speak to students about your career?*



As part of the **Motivate Program** being run for our Year 10 Students this Term, we are looking for Alumni or other St Leo's Community members to briefly (5 min) share their career experiences with our students.

We are keen to hear from people in a range of different professions and trades. Our students would really benefit from developing a greater understanding of the broad range of industries that are available to them and also the many pathways people take to get to their positions. (*More info p.4*)

Year 12 (2024) Retreat

This week I had the opportunity to spend a few hours on Retreat with Year 12 students at Mulgoa. Thank you so much to the following staff who have given their time away from family and their normal work to provide this wonderful opportunity for their faith journey: **Vince Tavernese, Claire Stevenson, Tom O'Rourke, Kristen Nicola, Isabella Hawke, Adrian Gomez, Erica Butler, Isabel Bryan, Pat Brennan, Jaya Kudhail and Carolina Murdoch.**



They were also joined by **Deacon Rosen Mathew** (who travelled twice to Mulgoa) and **Fr Roger Delmonte** (Hornsby Cathedral Parish). I was very impressed by the attentiveness, engagement and demeanour of this group of young people over the time I was there. (*Read the full report on p.6*)

Bishop's CAPA Showcase Last Wednesday Evening

This year's theme was '*Compassion...be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble...*' (1 Peter 3:8) which was captured wonderfully by students in their creative artworks in a powerful way.

The industry professionals who judged the artworks were impressed with the talent and creativity on display in all five categories. The 2023 judges were **Leslie Duffin** (Visual Arts), **Danielle Barnes, Scott Irwin** (Dance, Drama, Music) and **Ana Maria Belo** (Short Film).



The number of entrants increased significantly this year across CSBB schools. It was great to see many students creating their own songs, original dances, drama pieces and short films as well as the usual high standard of visual art works.

A number of our Leo's students received places. It was great to see them and their families being proudly presented with awards to recognise their efforts. I have asked some to present their work to our next Assembly. Congratulations to:

- **Aidan D** 3rd Place - Stage 4 Visual Arts
- **Gabriel O** 1st Place - Stage 4 Short Film
- **Maya M** 1st Place - Stage 5 Visual Arts (3 consecutive years!)
- **Precious C** 1st Place - Stage 5 Short Film

An Email Received...

'I was on the train this afternoon heading down the Northern Line. The train was busy and I witnessed 3 boys from Leo's (maybe Year 7) helping an elderly man off the train with quite a few bags of groceries. These boys got off the train and walked with the man to the lift, they missed the train they had been on to help this elderly gentleman.'

I am a Leo's parent, seeing this exemplary behaviour makes me proud that we are part of the Leo's community and the parents and school should be proud that this is the calibre of young people coming through the school.'

Thank you for your time and I hope to see many of you at Relay for Life on Saturday supporting our community.

Tony Gleeson, Principal



Parent Engagement News

The following opportunities are currently available for parents and carers:

What:	When/Where:	Details:
PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP PIP meeting	Wednesday 22 November, 6pm Location: To be confirmed once numbers are known All Leo's parents are welcome to attend. REGISTER HERE	The agenda will focus on Pastoral Care and Wellbeing for Learning, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Group Parent Coordinator (suggestion) • Mentor Groups • St Leo's Wellbeing for Learning Program As well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal's Update • Uniform Guidelines • Learning Attributes for Students
TALK TO STUDENTS ABOUT YOUR CAREER! Year 10 Motivate Program	Be part of a small panel and share their experience through a short (5 min) talk followed by a panel Q&A. To participate this term, you need to be available for approx. 1 hour (8.50-9.50am) on one morning on 30 Nov or 1,4 or 5 Dec. Interested? Please complete THIS FORM	The Motivate Program is being run for our Year 10 Students this Term, and we are looking for community members to briefly share their career experiences with our students. We are keen to hear from people from a range of different professional areas and trades. Students will develop a greater understanding of the broad range of industries available to them and the many pathways to these positions. If you are able to assist this Term or in the future with our Career and Pathways programs, please complete the brief online form.
COLLEGE FAITH ACTIVITIES Weekly St Leo's Rosary and Mass	Rosary: Every Monday at 10.50am Mass: Every Friday at 1.15pm Location: College Chapel Please sign in at Reception	All St Leo's parents are welcome to come together for our Rosary and/or Mass in a spirit of faith and unity so as to strengthen the bonds that make our Catholic school community so special.
PARENT EDUCATION Free Parent Talk - Tweens to Teens: Better Conversation Techniques	Wednesday 8 November, 7-8pm Note location change: NOW ONLINE REGISTER HERE	Parents/carers of younger students (Yr 7-8) may be interested in this free parenting talk. It will be run by Prouille Catholic Primary's Parent Engagement Coordinator (PEC) and Resilience Centre Master Trainer Jacqui Van de Velde .
PARISH ACTIVITIES WYD 2023 Reunion	Friday 3 November, 6:30pm. Location: St Agatha's School Hall, Pennant Hills RSVP HERE	All WYD participants are invited to attend this upcoming WYD23 Reunion event.

Careers News

Year 10 Work Experience

The Careers team at St Leo's has been incredibly busy this week with so many Year 10 students getting ready for their work experience placements later in the year. It has been great to hear about the different opportunities that students are pursuing for this experience.



There is still time to find placements and I would highly recommend all students participate in this experience as it has so many benefits. The *myfuture* website has summarised it beautifully in their article [‘What are the benefits of work experience?’](#)

Some of the key benefits work experience gives you include:

- An understanding of the work environment and what employers expect
- an opportunity to explore possible career options
- increased self-understanding, maturity, independence and self-confidence
- increased motivation to continue study and/or undertake further training
- a better understanding of how the school curriculum can help prepare young people for work
- an introduction to workplace recruitment practices.

If students or parents require careers assistance, ideas or contacts please contact [Ms Melissa Duff](#).

Year 9 YES Program

This term, Year 9 students who have turned 15 were invited to apply for the *Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) Program*.



This program provides a wonderful opportunity for students to experience what studying at TAFE is like. It allows students who are considering external options including TAFE as part of their pattern of study to gain an understanding of some of the courses on offer. The courses on offer run one day per week over six weeks.

If your child is interested, they should speak to their Year Leader or see [Ms Melissa Duff](#) in the Library.

White Card Qualification Course

Last week, a number of Year 9 and 10 students undertook *White Card Training* - a safety induction course for people who are working or planning to work on a construction site.

Those who need White Cards include:

- site managers, supervisors, surveyors, labourers and tradespeople
- people who access operational construction zones (unaccompanied or not directly supervised by an inducted person)
- workers whose employment causes them to routinely enter operational construction zones.

In the case of St Leo's students, this was either in preparation for their upcoming VET courses or to prepare them for work experience opportunities.



The students were motivated and involved themselves fully in the safety scenarios given to identify hazards and learn how to safeguard themselves and others in a construction zone.

Congratulations to these students for completing the course!

What's been Happening?



Year 12 2024 Retreat

During Week 3, our Year 12 2024 students attended a three-day retreat at the historic Winbourne Retreat Centre at Mulgoa. The retreat's aims were to provide students with an opportunity to disconnect from the pressures of everyday life, connect with their peers and teachers, grow deeper in their faith, and reflect on their high school experience as they transition into their HSC year of study.

The retreat was packed with engaging, reflective and fun sessions that fostered a sense of camaraderie among the students as well as giving them an opportunity for prayer and reflection, culminating in the celebration of Mass on the final morning.

Following a captivating presentation by guest speaker **Tony Huang**, the second evening saw students engage in a number of activities including, mandala decorating, Jesus-bead making, affirmations, journal writing, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, music by PJ and labyrinth walking. We were lucky to have **Mr Gleeson** and **Mrs Murdoch** visit us during this popular session.



The final day of the retreat was spent reflecting on their commencement of their final year at St Leo's and celebrating Mass together. Following Mass, College Captains **Holly** and **Kaylan** revealed the 2024 Leo's theme as chosen by the Year 12 student leaders which will be revealed to the rest of the College in coming weeks.

Overall, the retreat was a fantastic experience coupled with amazing weather in a beautiful rural setting. It provided an opportunity to build stronger bonds among the students, further enhance their faith formation and relationship with Jesus, and to reflect on their high school journey.

I thank the students for their engagement and energy on retreat and to the staff who set aside time away from their loved ones to attend: **Mr Tavernese, Ms Nicola, Rev Gomez, Mrs Erica Butler, Mrs Alish Butler, Mr O'Rourke, Ms Hawke, Ms Stevenson** and **Ms Bryan**.

Mr Patrick Brennan, Assistant Principal: Evangelisation and Catechesis

Year 7 Religious Education: 'Caring for our Common Home'

Year 7 has just completed a study of our responsibilities as young Catholics towards God's Creation. It has been a fantastic, interactive, and proactive, exploration into different perspectives of Creation, and the calling we feel as Christians to be a part of caring for God's Creation.

This has been at the heart of our latest assessment task - our 'Laudato Si Projects'.

Our year 7 students have poured their creative spirits into art, sculpture, woodwork, origami, t-shirt printing and even jewellery making to illustrate our connection with, and duty to, our environment.

Each student has been passionate in explaining how and why they created their artwork as an inspiration to others to 'Care for our Common Home'.

They have each then gone on to extend this creativity academically, to marry their artwork's inspiration and message to Scripture and Encyclical teachings, evidencing their growing understanding of our Catholic Faith.

I hope you enjoy and are awed by the creativity of our students and their projects as shown here.

Mrs Colleen Kofron,
Leader of Learning -
Religious Education

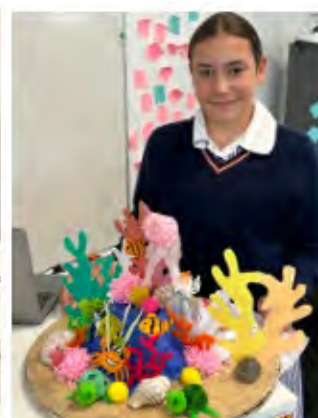
Year 7 Taronga Zoo Excursion

After a number of Covid years where students didn't attend many excursions, our Year 7 students were able to experience the wonder and awe of the Taronga Park Zoo recently.

The visit linked closely with the Stage 4 Science Syllabus. Students explored animals through a scientific process, and learnt about the behaviours and characteristics that help them survive in the wild. Students attended a workshop on classification and adaptations and had a guided tour through large parts of the zoo.

Jiya D wrote the following reflection on her experience:

'On Friday the 20th of October Year 7 went to Taronga Zoo. Firstly, we got to school and lined up in our Science class groups to get ready and board the bus. Once we were all on, we left for Taronga Zoo.'



We arrived at the zoo and the first thing we saw were the elephants. While we were watching the elephants we were given a worksheet to complete over the course of the day. We had to pick out three animals and classify whether it was a mammal, bird, reptile, fish or amphibian. Then we had to name three types of adaptations for each animal, a physiological, behavioural, and structural adaptation. Then we visited the camels which had a massive bump on their back. As we were on our way to see the gorillas we saw a peacock and it even opened its feathers for us to show how beautiful they were. Then we eventually got to the gorillas and we watched them being fed. The capybaras were next on our journey, who were so lazy and sleepy.



After all of that walking everyone was starting to feel like the capybaras so we took a break and had a snack. Once we were finally energised we went underground to see the adorable little penguins and large sea lions. Finally, we visited the science interactive nature classroom to learn about the different classification of animals and we were able to interact with some of the animals. We got to either touch or look at a blue tongue lizard, green tree frog, yellow bellied glider, ring tailed possum, colourful parrots, and lastly a python. Next, we walked outside and we saw some chimpanzees. Then again we started to get hungry so we sat down in a grassed area with another class, 7SCID, and ate some lunch.



After lunch we went into the reptile exhibit and we saw some amazing reptiles. The ones that were memorable for me were the shingle back lizard, star tortoise, green python, and rhinoceros iguana. Finally, we saw an alligator and then sadly we had to leave and get on our bus. Overall, it was a wonderful experience and I hope to do something like it again.'

The Taronga Zoo excursion is just one of the Science excursions the students will participate in while at St Leo's. We strongly believe that hands on experiences of excursions are an important teaching technique in the repertoire of learning methods offered at St Leos. The visit to the Zoo is also an important reminder of the beauty of God's creation and how we must care for the environment and all who are part of this closely interconnected world.

Japanese Student Visitors

This past fortnight, St Leo's received a visit from 36 students who usually attend Hyogo Kokusai High School, which is located near Kobe on the Japanese main island of Honshu.

St Leo's students from across Years 8 to 10 guided our guests through a typical day here at the College and also experienced Japanese cultural activities that will be remembered for a long time to come.

These activities included a formal Japanese-style gift-giving ceremony, yukata demonstration, dance performance and onawatobi (group jump rope game). All students (and teachers!) had a wonderful time learning about each other and we look forward to building upon these experiences in the future.



REMINDERS:



A Message from CSBB re. School Fee Accounts

As advised via email this week, the transition to our new student billing and finance systems is currently in progress, and your school fee balance will now be available on your Compass app.

School Fee Balances

Your school fee balance showing on Compass is a combined balance for all students in your family that attend a Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) Diocese school, for which you are the nominated fee payer. For a list of schools within CSBB please refer to the [CSBB website](#).

Compass does not show your instalment schedule, which can be viewed on your September statement. Any alert you see on your Compass app relating to fees will be regarding the total balance, not the next instalment due.

School Fee Payments

BPay remains our preferred payment method. You should continue to use your existing BPay reference details for all school fee payments. Fees paid by BPay will take approx. 5 days to be reflected on your Compass app.

Statements

October statements will be issued shortly. In the interim, please refer to your September statement for your instalment due in October. You can continue to use your existing BPay reference for any payments.

Assistance

Assistance with how to read your new statement will accompany your October statement.

Any fee queries should be directed to the **School Fee Liaison Team** on 7256 2888 or schoolfees@dbb.org.au.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this period of transformation.

Amelia Falconer, Senior Finance Executive - Catholic Schools Broken Bay

Year 7 Vaccinations - Monday, 6 November

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 1-2
- **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 St Leo's 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

CAPA CAMP - November 12-14

CAPA Camp is just around the corner! If your child is part of any CAPA Co-Curricular ensemble they are encouraged to attend the camp.

If you have not received any information yet, please contact Mrs Field (Miss Shinas) ASAP!

All students attending the camp are required to join the Google Classroom. Please reach out if they are not.

Consent and payment is now due.

Thank you in advance.



Private Music Tuition: Studio Concerts

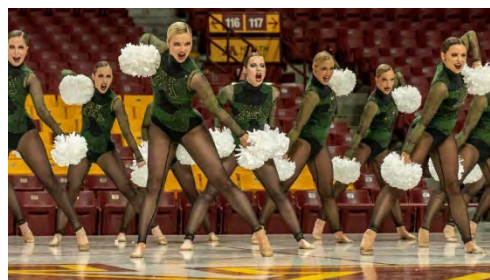
Dates have been set for our Term 4 Studio Concerts for Private Music Students – November 28 (Years 7-8) and November 29 (Years 9-12).

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.

Pride Pom: Auditions Start 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](#)!



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 Mrs Field \(Miss Shinas\)](#).



Updated Term 4 Timetable:

Co-Curricular CAPA Ensembles / Programs					
Term 4 - 2023					
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School		7:30-8:30am Lions Concert Band (MML04)	7:00-7:45am Pride Jazz (MML01) 7:45-8:30am Pride Hip Hop (MML01) ALTERNATE TIMES LATE START WEEK A: 8:00am - 8:45am 8:45am - 9:30am	7:00-7:45am Lions Jazz B (TWG) 7:45-8:30am Technique (TWG) 7:45-8:30am St Leo's Company (MML01) 7:30 - 8:30am Cubs Concert Band (MML04) 7:30-8:30am Lions Singers (MML03)	7:00-7:45am Lions Jazz A (MML01) 7:45-8:30am Lions Hip Hop (TWG) 7:30-8:30am Pride Performance Band (MML04)
Recess					10:50-11:20am Guitar Ensemble (MML04)
Lunch		Accordion Group (MML04)	Male Vocal Group (MML04)	Girls Rock Band (MML04) Cubs Singers (MML03)	Rock Band (MML04) Cubs Art Club (MAG02)
After School	3:05-4:00pm Cubs Drama Club (CG02)			3:05-4:30pm Pride Pom (MML01)	
<div> Art Cubs - Years 7 & 8 </div> <div> Dance Cubs - Year 7 Lions - Years 8 - 10 Pride - Invitation </div> <div> Drama Cubs - Years 7 </div> <div> Music Cubs - Year 7 Lions - Years 8 - 12 Pride - Invitation </div>					

Community Notices

Hornsby Cathedral Parish Youth Group

[Hornsby Cathedral Parish](#) invites interested young people aged 12 to 17 to participate in their youth group which occurs on select Sundays of the month during the school term:

When: **October 29, November 5 & 19; December 3 & 17 2023**

Where: Fr Nulty Room, 6pm - 8:30pm



PCYC POLICE CITIZENS
YOUTH CLUBS NSW
**DRIVER EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**

**REDUCE YOUR LOG BOOK BY 20 HOURS
WITH PCYC NSW
PCYC IS AN ACCREDITED PROVIDER
OF THE TRANSPORT FOR NSW SAFER DRIVERS COURSE.**



THE SAFER DRIVERS COURSE INVOLVES TWO MODULES



MODULE ONE:

A three-hour facilitated group discussion on how to manage risks on the road.

This will involve a maximum of 12 participants and will be delivered by a facilitator.



MODULE TWO:

A two-hour, in-vehicle coaching session to develop low-risk driving strategies.

This will involve two participants and a coach.

**LEARNER DRIVERS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE
WILL RECEIVE 20 HOURS OFF THEIR LOG BOOK.**

\$140

**NEXT COURSE DATES: Saturday 11/11/2023 9am and Saturday
02/12/2023 9am Address: 1Park Lane, Waitara 2077**

Book online TODAY at pcycdrivereducation.org.au



The Safer Drivers Course logo is a trade mark of Transport for NSW of 18 Lee St Chippendale NSW Australia