



Principal's Message

Dear valued members of the St Leo's community,

Demonstrating the True Meaning of Community

Last Friday at our College Swimming Carnival, I and many others (staff, parents and students) witnessed a near tragic event involving one of our students. The good news is the student has made a great recovery and is looking forward to returning to school shortly.

In those couple of hours up at Hornsby Aquatic Centre, staff made many hurried decisions - and all these were centred around the safety and wellbeing of all the students under their care. Parents who were at the Carnival stood up to be counted and provided expert help and medical advice until the ambulance arrived 20 mins or so later. Students acted with responsibility and maturity, not only following staff directions, but also seniors giving comfort where necessary to our younger students.

Here the meaning of community was evident.

After the student was in the care of the paramedics, we gathered and said a prayer - a Hail Mary for all involved. The decision was then made to finish the carnival with a fun style event so we could finish on a high note.

As was noted by the staff, it was so thoughtful of the many students who came up to the staff at the conclusion to check in on how they were, given the events they witnessed earlier that day. Thank you to all involved, parents, staff and students. It was an example of the St Leo's community working together for the benefit of others.



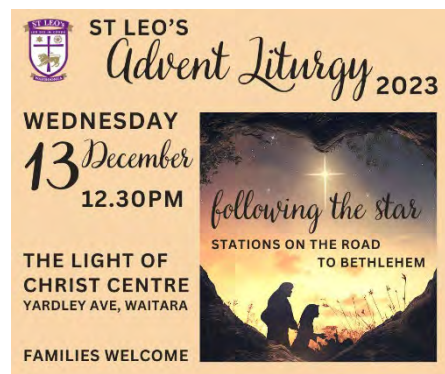
Career Pathways in Focus

On a more formal note, last week saw many parents who own and run various businesses speak and mentor the Years 9 (Future Pathways) & 10 (Motivate Program) students who worked together in groups in coming up with possible real solutions for business issues.

SEVENmile facilitated the Year 10 program. The program is designed to prepare students to become work-ready graduates or next generation innovators. The students develop skills and confidence mindsets to expose opportunities, ignite ambition and foster the attitudes that guide them to succeed.

I had the opportunity to see six of the group presentations. The winning **Westwood Conveyancing** team of **Alejandra, Maya, Chresten, Aayush, Conor** and **Dylan** now go on to CSBB level and compete with the other schools that have been participating in the program. Good luck to the team!

The parents were able to talk about their various businesses and present real-world problems to our students - who work collaboratively to come up with possible solutions. I commented to the groups that one of the purposes of this initiative was to break down the barriers of siloed learning and we (the education system) need to move to



a smoother transition from kinder, primary, upper primary, secondary, HSC, tertiary and into business. There are too many humps and bumps - this program helps in the smooth transition for all concerned.

Parents in Partnership

Last Wednesday evening, we held the Term IV Parents in Partnership meeting. We had 30 parents participate in discussions with various members of the College Leadership Team about continuous improvements in:

- Our Pastoral Care and Wellbeing structure and initiatives
- The Curriculum Reform that the staff (and CSBB) are currently engaged in
- The new Mathematics syllabus and pathways structure, particular in Stage 5 (Years 9 & 10)
- Report from the Diocesan Parent Group
- From our Strategic Plan - draft Student Learning Attributes
- Uniform Policy Update
- Year Group Parent Representatives structure (and even some volunteers!).



Thank you to those parents who participated and contributed. The discussions were purposeful and very useful.



This event was followed up by a very successful Parents Coffee Van Meeting morning last Thursday. Again, we had about 35 parents present, and another opportunity for the College Leadership Team and staff to hear directly from parents as well as parents to meet one another in a very casual atmosphere.

Blues Award Winner!

Early announcement! Congratulations to **Maddi Durnell (Year 12 2024)** who will be the College's 14th Blues Award recipient. Maddi has earned this prestigious award for achievements and work in the sport of Softball. Maddi has (and is) very heavily involved in softball both nationally and internationally, with her last representation in Canada earlier this year. The Blues Awards are the pinnacle of NSW Catholic School Sport, recognising outstanding athletes across a range of sports. They are only presented to a very small number of students, and this is only the 14th awarded to a St Leo's student since their inception in 1997. The awards ceremony is this evening at St Joseph's at Milperra. Congratulations Maddi!



Pacifica Plate

The inaugural *Pacifica Plate* (celebrating Girls in sport) was held last week on the Donnelly Oval. Congratulations to Kotara High School who took out the plate winning two of the three games that were held. It was a great community event and congratulations to **Mr Kember, Mr Tavernese, Ms Martin** and **Mr Downey** for their efforts in planning and executing such a successful day. Well done to all the teams, their coaches and the audience!

Concert Performances

Last week **Mr Brennan** and myself attended the Stages 4 & 5 (Years 7-10) Concert Evenings. It was great to see the parents and their peers who were in the audience offering support in a very positive way to those who were brave enough to perform in front of audiences. Mr Brennan and myself were blown away by the outstanding performances of our young people. Well done to all. I know our CAPA performers will continue to be a very dominant force in the College community, through their skills, talent and courage!

Thank you to **Ms Ellie Field** (nee Shinas) who coordinates our Tutor program.

Thank you and have a great week.

Tony Gleeson, Principal

Careers News

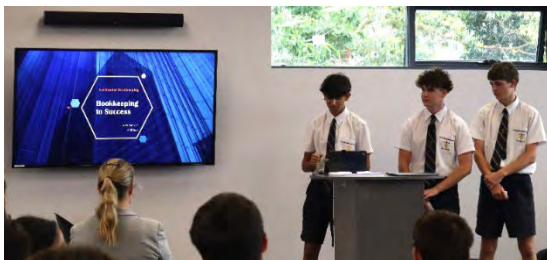
Year 10 Motivate Program

The Motivate program has been in full swing this week for those Year 10 students not undertaking external work experience placements.

As part of this program, we have been lucky enough to have some of our extended community come to the College to participate in Careers Panel Discussions. The discussions have involved community members from a broad range of professions, giving insights into their industries and experiences. Industries discussed this week include Automotive, Retail Management, IT Engineering, Journalism and Architecture. Next week we will have panel members from Community Services, Psychology, Construction, Allied Health and some ex-students who are currently undertaking tertiary education in various fields.

Students not undertaking work experience offsite this week have also had the opportunity to participate in Virtual Work Experience, Resume Writing and E-Portfolio development.

We would like to thank the parents and extended community for taking time out of their busy schedules to speak to our students.



Enterprise in the Community Program

St Leo's and the CSBB Pathways Team partnered with *SEVENmile Venture Lab* to run *The Enterprise in the Community* program this week with over 60 Year 10 students here at Leo's.

This 14-hour program was delivered over three days and focussed on the realities of local businesses and their challenges. The program engages students in solving real-world

business problems and we were fortunate to have 12 businesses visit the College to explain and work with the students on the nature of the complex problem that faced each business.

Students were mentored by SEVENmile through a structured process to analyse, research and present their recommended solution to business owners on the final day. We are proud of the engagement, empathy and perseverance demonstrated by our students for this program. The quality of each pitch and solution was excellent and each business communicated their gratitude and praise for the sophisticated nature of the solutions.

The teams were judged by external judges and a winning team was nominated to represent St Leo's College at a Diocesan Competition at CSBB Pennant Hills on Thursday 7, December. Parents of the students in the winning team are invited to attend to see their child in action. *Good luck St Leo's!*

Education-industry partnerships like this help inspire and drive learning within the relevant curriculum areas as well as provide rich insights into career pathways. A big thank you to the *Regional Industry Educational Partnerships* (RIEP) and *CSBB Pathways* for funding this initiative and to the *Hornsby Chamber of Commerce* for sourcing so many local businesses. A final thanks to those parents who participated in the program through representing their own workplaces. Our futures are indeed looking bright!



Year Parent/Carer Representatives Needed

St Leo's is aiming to recruit 2 Year Parent/Carer Representatives per year group. Please consider volunteering for this exciting and rewarding leadership role which will allow you to make lasting connections and create memorable moments.

Responsibilities include:

- **Family assistance:** Welcome new families from your child's year grade and help them settle into St Leo's, and coordinate assistance for families in need
- **School-level social events:** Assist St Leo's with organising volunteers for social events for the year (e.g., Mother's Day, Father's Day breakfast, parish Mass, etc)
- **Year-level social events:**
 - Organise one or two simple and informal get-togethers (e.g., morning tea) within the year to encourage year-level friendships
 - Assist with student events such as formals and carnivals
 - Meet fellow parents at the parent info night in Term 1
 - Saj (St Leo's PEC) will run through protocols/training

Contact: Saj Senn (PEC) at sajanee.senn@dbb.catholic.edu.au to volunteer or if you have any questions


Thank you to the following generous local businesses for their involvement in our 2023 Enterprise in the Community Program:



- **Advanced Skylight Systems Pty Ltd**
- **Agile Recruitment**
- **Art of Smart**
- **Cafe Patina, Wahoonga**
- **Dream Warriors Coaching**
- **Encite Partners**
- **Hospital Products Australia**
- **Northpoint Bookkeeping**
- **Pearl's Creations**
- **Westwood Conveyancing**
- **Youth Decide**



Parent Engagement News

The following opportunities are currently available for parents and carers:

What:	When/Where:	Details:
CHARITY HELP Vinnies Christmas Hamper Delivery	Wednesday, 6 Dec Christmas Hamper delivery from St Leo's to Vinnies Hornsby (Please meet & sign in at St Leo's Reception at 11am)	We are looking for parent volunteers to help deliver Christmas hampers to Vinnies Hornsby. We currently have two volunteers and are hoping for three more. If you are able to help, please email Saj Senn
END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES College Advent Liturgy	Wednesday, 13 Dec Time: 12.30pm Location: Light of Christ Centre	All St Leo's parents are invited to join students and staff for our final liturgy of the year in celebration of the Advent season.
College End-of Year Presentation Assembly	Thursday, 14 Dec Time: TBC Location: Light of Christ Centre	St Leo's parents are welcome to join the St Leo's year-end presentation assembly. Parents of major award winners in each Year Group will be notified beforehand.
REGULAR COLLEGE FAITH ACTIVITIES Weekly St Leo's Rosary, Mass & Bible Study	Rosary: Mondays: 10.50-11.10am Bible Study: Wednesdays: 1.15-1.45pm (Week A), 1.30-2.00 (Week B) Mass: Fridays: 1.15-1.45pm Location: College Chapel. Please sign in at Reception.	All St Leo's parents are welcome to come together with our students and staff for our Rosary, Mass and/or Bible Study in a spirit of faith and unity to strengthen the bonds that make our Catholic school community so special.
PARENT REPS Year Group Parent/Carer Representatives	Various times during the year as required.	We are looking for volunteer Year Group parent/carers representatives. Please see ad on pg.3 and contact Saj Senn for more information.
PARISH ACTIVITIES Carols in the Garden 	Holy Name Parish 'Carols in the Garden' Saturday, 16 Dec 6pm-8.30pm after 5pm Mass Location: Holy Name Parish grounds, 35 Billyard Avenue, Wahoonga	All are welcome to attend this informal singalong carol session, BYO picnic. There will also be delicious paella available for purchase. Saturday evening mass will commence beforehand at 5pm. In the event of wet weather, the carols will take place in the church.

Parish Carols 	Hornsby Cathedral Parish Christmas Carols Saturday 9 Dec After 5pm Mass Location: OLOR Cathedral	All are welcome to attend this carol singalong after Saturday 5pm Mass. Please bring a plate to share.
Advent Retreat 	Hornsby Cathedral Parish Evening Advent Retreat Wednesday 13 Dec 6pm-7:30pm Location: OLOR Cathedral	All are welcome to this free evening Advent retreat featuring a talk, reflection and Adoration
PARENT TRAINING & RESOURCES Parent Webinar	'Career Conversations at Results Time' Webinar Tuesday, 12 Dec, 1pm Register here	Support your young person's wellbeing and help them plan their next steps: The end of the year can be an anxious time for families as students await their exam results. Join Dr Michael Healy as he shares practical tips on how to support young people to understand their results and plan their next steps accordingly.
Parent Newsletter	Subscribe to CCSP's newsletter here	The Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) NSW/ACT has a newsletter, <i>Parent Talk</i> , which aims to provide parents and carers with relevant and timely information about developments in education, wellbeing, CCSP advocacy program and significant Catholic news and events.

What's been Happening?

Street Retreat

Street Retreat is a voluntary one-day excursion St Leo's has run for many years for small groups of students in Year 10 to learn about homelessness. We catch the train to Wynyard and walk to Kings Cross, led by **Nick**, a local who was formerly homeless himself, stopping to chat with some interesting characters along the way.



Street Retreat allows students to learn about the challenges faced by those on the margins of society and the Christian organisations supporting them. It aims to develop understanding, compassion and student conscience, encouraging them to recognise that they can make positive choices for themselves and others.

Last week, the group also happened to be passing by Martin Place as Lord Mayor **Clover Moore** launched Sydney's Christmas festivities with the tallest Christmas tree in NSW.

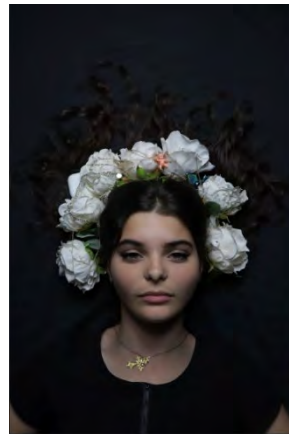


Thanks to **Mr O'Rourke** and **Mrs Senn** who accompanied us.

Year 10 Photography & Digital Media



Our Year 10 Photography and Digital Media (PDM) class have spent the last term exploring their alter egos in their unit called 'Selfies'. They have used Adobe Photoshop to photomontage multiple layers of images together - with such amazing results! Well done to you all for your great work on these projects.



Ms Claire Stevenson, Visual Arts Teacher

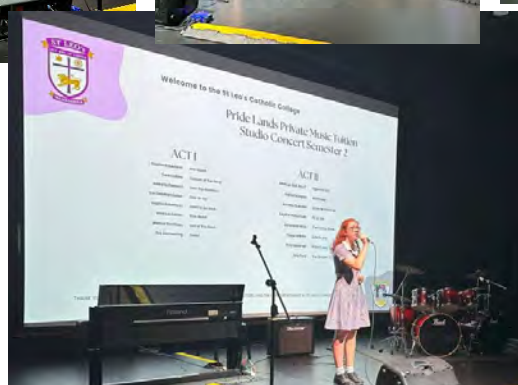
Studio Concerts Showcase Student Talents

Congratulations to the following students who participated in the Semester 2 Studio Concerts for our Private Music Students this week:

Studio Concert Performances			
Years 7-8		Years 9-12	
Sophie R	Marcus G	Stefan M	Joseph S
Tara C	Bella L	Alison D	Rebecca R
Isabella P	Amelia R	Luke J	Joshua S
Erin D	Armando M	Salomé L	Lucy B
Andrew D	Freya A	Oscar O	Billy F
Marcus G	Kira M	Conor C	Hamish L
Zoe M	Jimi F		

What an incredible showcase of how hard they have worked throughout the semester. Thank you to the tutors for all your efforts in developing and working with our amazing musicians and thank you to the attending staff and parents.

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



Co-Curricular in the Spotlight: Lions Singers

Well done to our Lions Singers ensemble who are already working on their new pieces for the 2024 competition and events season.

A familiar face, **Matteo Persechino** (Leo's Class of 2021) is BACK as the ensemble leader alongside Mrs Milkins. We cannot wait to see this group roar - in key of course!



Linguafest Short Film Competition

We are excited that three St Leo's Year 8 students recently participated in the 2023 Linguafest Short Film Competition in Spanish.

Nicole CB, Armando M and **Santiago MN** were awarded 2nd position and earned a Highly Commended award for their exceptional entry in the competition. This accomplishment is a testament to their dedication, creativity, and linguistic skills.



Contestants had to submit their videos following very strict guidelines. You can [view their final video here](#).

REMINDERS:

Revised Complaints Policy & Process

CSBB has developed and launched a revised complaints policy and management process. Parents are encouraged to follow the updated complaints resolution pathway. Brochures/information is available at the College Reception and online at:

- o [Complaints Management and Resolution Policy](#)
- o [Complaints Management and Resolution Process](#)
- o [Complaints Management & Resolution Form](#)

Calendar Dates – End of 2023/Start of 2024

Week	Date	Event
9	Mon 4 Dec	Year 10 PASS Excursion
9	Thu 7 Dec	Year 10 Celebration Evening
10	Mon 11 Dec	Year 7 Swim School
10	Wed 13 Dec, 12.30pm	College Advent Liturgy – parents welcome

10	Thu 14 Dec (Time TBA)	End of Year Awards Ceremony – parents welcome
10	Thu 14 Dec, 2.30pm	Year 12 2023 HSC/ATAR Afternoon Tea
10	Fri 15 Dec	Last day for students for 2023 - Leo's Day (Tickets on sale now)
-	Mon 18 Dec, 12 noon	College Office closes for 2023
-	Mon 22 Jan, 8am	College Office reopens for 2024
0	Wed 31 Jan	Years 7, 12 and new students first day for 2024
0	Thu 1 Feb	Classes resume for Years 8-11

Sport Wrap – ‘Around the Grounds’



Pacifico Plate - A Celebration of Girl's Sport

On Wednesday, 22 November, St Leo's hosted the inaugural *Pacifico Plate* between St Leo's Catholic College and Kotara High School.

The day was broken into three matches – U/14s Girls Rugby League, U/16's Girls Rugby League and Open's Girls Soccer. The school that won the most games on the day would be crowned *Pacifico Champions* for 2023.

The 14s game was a close affair with St Leo's falling just short with 8 tries to 9 – a great result as most of the team had never played Rugby League before! The standout player for the 14s was **Elizabeth M** who scored a hattrick of tries. The 16s game was a clinical St Leo's victory with the girls putting on 9 tries to 3. This set up the final game of football (soccer) as the decider.

The soccer match finished at full time with a 2-2 scoreline, with **Isla W** scoring both goals for St Leo's. This led us to a tense penalty shootout to decide the overall winning school for the day, which Kotara was able to win and take the Plate.



A stand-out performer for St Leo's was Year 9's **Amaya S**, named Best on Ground for the 16s Rugby League by NRLW players **Taneka Todhunter**, **Krystal Weekes**, and **Grace-Lee Weekes** who were in attendance. After the game, Amaya said "The day was a great learning experience for those who have not played before and for those with experience. It was a friendly but still competitive environment between the two schools. I look forward to versing Kotara next year and hopefully bringing the plate home."



Thank you to **Mr Kember**, **Mr Tavernese**, **Mr Downey**, **Ms Watson** and **Ms Martin** for organising and running the day.

CSBB Tennis



This week the St Leo's Tennis team competed at the CSBB Tennis Championships at Macquarie University courts. The team performed extremely well in both the Championship and Division 2 tournaments.

The Championship boys team comprising of **Aarush S**, **Nicholas L**, **Jake F**, and **Nicholas W-S** qualified for the final through strong performances in the group stages and in a tight battle, went down to Mater Maria to take out second place. This is a fantastic achievement against very strong boys' schools in the Diocese.

Not to be outdone, the Division 2 team of **Luka vdW**, **Daniel D**, and **Aiden D** finished the competition in third place. Well done to all students on your achievements. Thank you to **Mr Gould** for looking after the teams on the day and preparing them through regular training this term.



Futsal Representative

Marek C (Year 7) has had recent success in the sport of futsal. He has been selected to represent the U/13 NSW state team at the upcoming National Championships on the Gold Coast in January. This selection was after his representative futsal side were awarded runner's up in the NSW state championships. We wish Marek the best of luck at the Nationals and look forward to hearing of his results.

Alumni News

St Leo's 'Old Boys' lunch - 16 Nov 2023

In November each year, ex-students of St Leo's gather for an informal reunion and lunch. It appears that the event is instigated/organised by members of the 1969 HSC class, but your correspondent learned of this year's event by word of mouth - and has been unable to identify any 'official' page or publicity for the event.



This year, Thursday November 16 saw the Hornsby RSL Club host a gathering of 40 or more ex-students of the college. 'Class-of' years ranged from 1964 to the 1980s, and casual clothes with grey and thinning hair were the dress code for the event.

Even with the spread of ages and graduating years, everyone there knew at least a few others, and there was a warm buzz of conversation and laughter. We all left looking forward to 2024's event.



LEO'S DAY 2

Leo's Day is BACK this year, better than ever before.

15th of December (last day of school)

Awesome Rides



Scrumptious Food



Other amusements include: Face Painting, Christmas Craft, Movie Room, Rave Room, Dunk Tank, Footy Toss, Tug O' War.

\$25

A Leo's Day Pass includes unlimited rides and amusements, and five food items.

Pre-sales for the day pass are available from NOW until the 13th of December, at the front office.
Cash or Card accepted.

Leo's Day passes now available through the Compass app > Shortcuts > 'Pay for an Event'

Community Notices



Carols in the Garden

Holy Name Parish Church, 35 Billyard Avenue, Wahroonga
Saturday 16 December 2023 6:00pm-8:30pm

Featuring the combined choirs and musicians of
Holy Name Parish and schools
with lots of singalong carols.

Everyone welcome. Invite your neighbours & friends to join
In the event of wet weather, we will have a carol concert in the Church inste



- Nibbles, food and drink.
- Picnic rug, camping chairs/tat

ALSO

There will be delicious Paella available for purchase.

Are there any singers or musicians from the Irish community who would like to join in?

If so, contact Rosalie Belsey
rosaliebelsey@gmail.com



Our Rehearsals will be held in the Parish Sunroom:

Saturday 2 December 10:00am – 12:00pm