

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 7 Term I, 2024

# Principal's Message

Dear valued members of the St Leo's community,

St Leo's aims to provide learning that is *relational, informed, rigorous, hope-filled* and *empowering* – so that each student develops their academic, spiritual, social, emotional, and physical gifts. Recently we were able to celebrate the achievements and efforts of the Graduating Class of 2023 in a special assembly (*read more on p.2*). It was so inspiring to see and hear the academic, spiritual, social, emotional, and physical growth that



these students had made from Year 7 to now newly graduated students.

The Class of 2023 are examples of what can be achieved with hard work and commitment and remind us all of the importance of seizing the opportunities given to us. We were fortunate to hear



Loving God, I give thanks for Your word today. Allow it to shape my life; enliven my efforts to put it into practice.

Bless my Lenten journey so that with Your help, I may be able to turn to You and open up new pathways of prayer and friendship.

Give me the grace and wisdom to recognise Jesus as my light and my life; and draw me more genuinely into unity with Your people, the Church, so that we may all be united in Your Mission. **Amen** 

inspiring words from our College Dux from the last two years, **Rivan Roy** (2022) and **Tony Baynie** (2023). *Read their speeches* – <u>*Tony* & *Rivan*</u>.

### Reminder: College Open Evening & Expo

A reminder that our annual College Open Evening will be held on Wednesday 3 April from 3:30pm - 6:30pm, giving prospective families the opportunity to see St Leo's in action and decide if we are a good fit for them.

To make this event a success, it is all hands on deck! Staff have been working hard to prepare for the day, but we also need students involved – from CAPA and aerobics performers to stand helpers, tour guides and much more – so if please <u>complete this form if your child is interested in assisting on Wed 3 April, 3.30-6.30pm</u>!



As advised, we currently have an extensive waitlist for 2025 enrolments, and final places are being filled for 2026. We especially encourage families <u>with primary students</u> <u>currently in Years 2 - 4</u> to enrol now for 2027 onwards. If you know any families with primary-aged children considering St Leo's for high school - particularly those from our 11 Priority Feeder Schools - please invite them to our Open Evening on April 3 and ask them to <u>pre-register via our website</u>.

> Anthony Mahoney, Acting Principal

# **Assistant Principal's Report**



focused, prepared and organised? It might be a good time to have these conversations and ensure they are on the right track with their learning. I finished addressing the College with these wise words from Dr Seuss (which would be very familiar to all our recent St Leo's graduates):

### **High Achievers Assembly**

We were so fortunate recently to invite our top achieving HSC graduates from 2023 back to the College for our High Achiever's assembly.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our College to celebrate the successes of this cohort and we were so lucky to hear 2022 Dux, **Rivan** and and 2023 Dux, **Tony** (*right*) give us their



insights.

Their inspiring words encompassed all that we are and all we wish to achieve here

During our opening school assembly, I presented this question (*left*) to our young people. As we move towards the end of Term 1, it is always a great opportunity to reflect upon the start of the year and to check in with our students to see if they have managed to flip their thinking.

Have they had a better start to the year? Have they successfully adapted to the change of routines here at the College, and are they ready for learning from the first bell each day? Are they managing their distractions in class





at the College (Read their speeches - Tony & Rivan).

Thank you to all our past students for returning and allowing us to share your achievements.

### Uniform Update – Thank you!

Thank you to all students who have risen to the challenge of ensuring they are wearing their uniform with pride. This week has seen a huge reduction in the number of students wearing excessive jewellery.

For those few who are still struggling to remember to remove items of jewellery, there are now envelopes in the front office where they will be

safely kept until the end of the day, when it can be collected and returned home - to not be worn to school again.

Thank you parents and carers for your support in this matter. We understand that as parents you have communicated to us - and we agree - that our Leo's uniform should be worn with pride and creates a sense of belonging within our community.

Mrs Fiona Milkins, Assistant Principal, Student Achievement



# **Spiritual Growth Domain**

# Youth Ministry Equipping School Canberra

Ten of our Year 12 student leaders (*right*), including our College Captain **Kaylan** and Spiritual Ambassadors, **Shane** and **Lucie**, participated in the Youth Ministry Equipping School (YMES) in Canberra from 29 February to 3 March.

YMES is a faith leadership program that inspires, trains and resources over 200 high school students, university students and school staff for ministry in both school and parish settings. It is run in by the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in conjunction with Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI), and fulfils two of



four modules of the ACU Youth Academy Certificate (which also gives HSC students +5 ATAR points for any course at ACU).

It was an inspiring few days of lively worship, talks and workshops, and meeting with other youth ministry leaders from around NSW and Victoria. The night-time prayer sessions were particularly powerful, including opportunities for Adoration, Reconciliation, and prayer teams. It was lovely to be joined by some of the St Leo's class of 2023 who were there in their capacity of parish-based youth ministers, including last year's College Captain, **Tony Baynie**. Thanks to **Rev Gomez** and **Mrs Li** for accompanying the students for this fantastic opportunity.

### Year 10 Street Retreat



Street Retreat is a voluntary one-day excursion to the city for a small group of Year 10 students (around 14 different students each time) to learn about homelessness. These have now been a regular part of life at St Leo's for over 30 years. They allow students to learn about the challenges faced by those on the margins of society and the Christian organisations that support them, such as the Matthew Talbot Hostel and Hope Street in Woolloomooloo.

Most importantly, the day is about developing the understanding, compassion and conscience of the students, encouraging them to recognise that they can make positive choices for themselves and others.

The day involves about 8km of walking. Starting from Wynyard Station, through Woolloomooloo and finishing up at Kings Cross with a time of reflection and prayer at St Canisius Church.

The group is led by **Nick**, a former street kid, who has many years of personal experience of homelessness and now works at Hope Street. Thanks to **Rev Gomez** and **Mrs Scott** who accompanied the first two groups for the year. The next Street Retreat will be on 8 April, and these will continue throughout the year, giving all Year 10 students a chance to experience this challenging and thought-provoking day.



### Year 11 Pastoral Day

On the 14 March, we were fortunate to welcome two external providers to the school to support Year 11 in developing both their wellbeing and their academic and study pathways.



The morning session was devoted to the GPs in Schools program, where students in small, individually-selected

groups had meaningful conversations and asked thoughtful questions about personal health. The program convener, **Isabella Barquin** of the Sydney North Health Network, was full of praise for the maturity and respectful behaviour of all the students who participated.

During the afternoon session conducted by two presenters from '**Elevate**', students worked through detailed strategies to help manage their



independent study in their senior years. Again, the presenters were full of praise for our wonderful Year 11 students.

In addition to the study booklets provided, all **Year 11 were given access to additional useful, ongoing study materials** in a digitally provided activity booklet, which they can find on their Year 11 Google Classroom page. I would like to thank all the students who participated in the day for making it such a successful event.



Ms Leona Jenkins, Leader of Learning: Pastoral Year 11, 2024



# **Environmental Growth Domain**

### EarthCare (Environmental Group)

We are excited to share some updates on our EarthCare group's progress towards making our school a Level 2 EarthCare School.

#### **Environmental Audit**

We are currently conducting an environmental audit of St Leo's. As part of this, we have been evaluating recent initiatives and setting goals for the year ahead. We are looking into 'citizen science' opportunities without our community which would allow our students to contribute to real scientific research. We are also exploring the potential of composting and a veggie garden on our school grounds.



#### Clean4shore

We are also excited to announce that our next Clean4shore excursion is scheduled for the 8 of April. This handson experience will allow our students to actively contribute to keeping our shores clean and protect marine life. We encourage all interested students to attend our next EarthCare meeting for more information.

# Year 9-10 Red Earth Immersion Opportunity – 30 September to 3 October



Last week St. Leo's had the pleasure of hosting staff from Red Earth, who presented information to Years 9 and 10 about the upcoming Red Earth Immersion Program. Following this, an online presentation session for parents was held on Thursday night, providing an

opportunity for parents of interested students to gain insights into the program and ask any questions.

If you missed the online presentation, you can access it at your convenience through the following link <u>St Leo's College Red Earth</u> <u>Immersion - Parent information evening</u>

The Red Earth Immersion Program will give students the chance to travel to a sacred Indigenous area of the Hawkesbury later this year. They will have the rare opportunity to make real connections with

Indigenous culture and history.





Highlights of the trip will include visiting ancient rock carvings, walking the land with Indigenous facilitators, learning about the geographical significance through the eyes of the local Indigenous community and learning about bush tucker and bush medicine.

During the immersion, students will learn about the rich culture of the land directly from Indigenous facilitators. Whether they are hiking to sacred sites, throwing a fishing line in the creek, or sharing stories around the campfire, the goal is always to facilitate personal connections and allow students to develop a first-hand understanding of the challenges, idiosyncrasies, and beauty of modern life in Indigenous communities.

# Academic Growth Domain

### Learning Diversity



The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year. The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of

disability in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. Schools provide this information to education authorities.

#### Japanese Student Visitors

This week, St Leo's hosted 25 students from Oita, Japan.

Students from **Oita Tōmei High School** arrived on Monday and stayed through to



Wednesday. New friendships flourished, and an understanding of each other's cultures developed.

St Leo's students from Year 8 through to Year 11 were also treated to showcases of Japanese culture and art thanks to a rich array of performances by our visitors.

It has been an enriching experience hosting our Japanese guests this week and we look forward to building upon these experiences in our language classrooms throughout the coming year.



# **Cultural Growth Domain**



### **REMINDER: Co-curricular Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Program**

**CLICK HERE: LIVE LINK 2024 TIMETABLE** 

#### **Co-Curricular Website & Contact Details:**

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

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to email Mrs Field.



# **Physical Growth Domain**

### **Around the Grounds**

#### **CSBB** Swimming

Last Tuesday, the St Leo's swimming team competed at the Catholic Schools Broken Bay Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park. Broken Bay Diocese is one of the strongest in regard to swimming, and the students did an amazing job in the pool, achieving numerous personal bests, along with a number of Top 6 places.

At the carnival, there are a number of different point scores that relate to varying age groups. The U/12-U/14 girls finished 2nd overall, the U/15 -U/16 boys finished 5th, and U/12-U/14 boys finishing 6th.

I would also like to thank **Miss Van-Tempest**, **Miss Gartner** and **Miss McNa**y for all their hard work on the day as team managers, marshals and timekeepers. Congratulations to the students listed here who achieved a Top 6 placing in their individual event or the age champion point scores:

### **Top 6 results**

1st – Anna S (U/12 Girls 100m Freestyle)
1st – Anna S (U/12 Girls 50m Breaststroke)
1st – April A (U/14 Girls 50m Breaststroke)
2nd – Anna S (U/12 Girls 50m Freestyle)
2nd – Anna S (U/12 Girls 50m Butterfly)
2nd – U/12-14 Girls 4 x 50m Medley Relay
2nd – Anna S (U/12 Girls 50m Backstroke)
2nd – Boys All Age 6 x 50m Freestyle Relay
3rd – April A (U/14 Girls 50m Butterfly)
3rd – Oliver M-A (U/15 Boys 50m Breaststroke)
4th – Archie W (U/12 Boys 50m Freestyle Relay
4th – Poppy S (U/13 Girls 50m Breaststroke)
4th – Ben E (U/16 Boys 50m Breaststroke)
4th – U/15-16 Boys 4 x 50m Medley Relay



Age Champions 2nd – Anna S (U/12 Girls) 4th – Archie W (U/12 Boys) 5th – Poppy S (U/13 Girls) 5th – April A (U/14 Girls) 6th – Cameron G (U/13 Boys)

4th - Archie W (U/12 Boys 50m Backstroke) 5th – Annaliese S (U/12 Girls 50m Freestyle) 5th – Annaliese S (U/12 Girls 50m Butterfly) 5th - U/15-16 Boys 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay 5th – Archie W (U/12 Boys 50m Breaststroke) 5th - Girls All Age 6 x 50m Freestyle Relay 6th - Kalani L (Junior Girls 200m Individual Medley) 6th – April A (U/14 Girls 50m Freestyle) 6th - Kalani L (U/14 Girls 50m Butterfly) 6th - U/12-14 Boys 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay 6th – Poppy S (U/13 Girls 100m Freestyle) 6th – Thomas W (U/16 Boys 100m Freestyle) 6th - Bailey B (U/13 Girls 50m Breaststroke) 6th – Cameron G (U/13 Boys 50m Breaststroke) 6th – Poppy S (U/13 Girls 50m Backstroke) 6th - Kalani L (U/14 Girls 100m Freestyle) 6th - Lucas J (U/14 Boys 100m Freestyle)

#### **NSW Schools Softball**



On Monday, the NSW All Schools Softball Championships were held at Blacktown International Sport Centre, with St Leo's being very well represented by **Maddi D** (Year 12), **Milla D** (Year 11) and **Ruby A** (Year 10).

The girls played extremely well throughout in varying positions on the field. The day is held as a selection trial for the NSW All Schools team that will travel to the Gold Coast at the end of July for the School Sport Australia Games. Congratulations to both Maddi and Milla on selection into the NSW team!

#### NSWCCC Baseball



Last week, St Leo's had two students, **Ryan** C (Year 11) and **Jackson M** (Year 12) trial for the NSWCCC Baseball team. A reminder to all students that all upcoming sporting trials and trainings are posted weekly on the 2024 St Leo's Sport Google classroom page. If there are changes due to weather or other circumstances this page is contantly updated. The code for the page is 6q7xvbh

These trials are for all students from Catholic High Schools around the state, with many of these students in NSW and Australian teams. On the day both students played extremely well with correspondence from selectors that they

represented the College with great skill and sportsmanship. Congratulations to **Ryan**, who was selected in the NSWCCC team and will play at the NSW All Schools Championships later in the term.

#### **NSW All Schools Futsal Qualifying**

The qualifying events for the NSW All Schools Futsal Championships have begun, with St Leo's sending teams to the Dural event in the **U/14 Boys and Girls**, **U/16 Boys and Girls** and **Open Boys and Girls**.



It was a big week for the students and coaches, and we had great success with the **U/14 Boys and Open Boys finishing as runners up** and potentially qualifying for the state finals later in the year.

Over the three days of competition, all St Leo's teams qualified for the knockout rounds of their respective divisions. The level of play from the teams was exceptional, especially from the younger sides. It certainly shows St Leo's has a bright future in futsal!



### **Futsal Sports Cup**

The internal St Leo's Sports Futsal Cup has kicked off over the last few weeks. The competition is a knockout and sees students play a 15-minute match during lunchtime in the LOCC. The crowd has been amazing at each competition day with positive support to all

players. Over the next few weeks, we see the Quarter Finals, Semi's and Grand Final being held with the winners being announced in the Lion Roars. Students are reminded to continuously check the Google Classroom Sports page for the draw.

If you have questions or external sporting success to share, please contact me via email: michael.kember@dbb.catholic.edu.au





## REMINDERS



### **Ready for Learning**

Thank you to the vast majority of students who have seamlessly transitioned to our new bell times this year. We are hearing feedback from teachers and students that the movement of mentor time has allowed us to hit the ground

running and set the scene for learning from the moment students arrive.

However, there has been a rise in students coming to school with insufficiently charged

devices, resulting in losing their battery power during the early stages of their daily learning. Consequently, they have to interrupt their classes to retrieve a spare iPad from the front office (if available). You can please assist in **ensuring that your child's device is fully charged each night before school**.

We ask that every student ensures they are organised and ready for the commencement of classes at 8:35am.

We appreciate your support in this matter.





Note these scheduled dates **may be subject change** throughout the year. Students and parents will be advised of changes as soon as possible via Compass notifications and/or in The Lion Roars newsletter:

Week	Date	Event
7	Wed 20 Mar, 7.45-8.30am	Parent & Leadership Coffee & Chat (see p.4)
8	Fri 29 Mar	Good Friday (no classes)
9	Sun 31 Mar	Easter Sunday
9	Mon 1 Apr	Easter Monday (no classes)
9	Tue 2 Apr	CSBB Curriculum Development Day (No classes for students)
9	Wed 3 Apr, 3.30-6.30pm	College Open Evening & Expo – Student volunteers needed! (see p. 1)
10	Mon 8 Apr	Year 7-11 Interim Reports released to students and parents
10	Fri 12 Apr	Last day of Term I
1	Mon 29 Apr	Staff Development Day (No classes for students)
1	Tue 30 Apr	Term II commences for students

#### **Reminders: Parent Engagement News**

Item When/Where Details COLLEGE Rosary: Mondays 10.15am-10.45am All St Leo's parents are welcome FAITH Mass: Fri 10.35am-11.20pm to come together for our Rosary **ACTIVITIES** Location: College Chapel (Please sign in at Reception) and/or Mass sessions in a spirit of Weekly St faith and unity so as to strengthen the bonds that make our Catholic Leo's Rosary & Mass school community so special **CLICK TO** For Lent and Easter, Click To Pray offers a free Access the resource here: PRAY resource to pray deeply and grow in availability to the Click To Pray RESOURCE mission of Christ. In their 'Praying in Lent and Easter' resource, you can find prayers and meditations to pray with the Gospel, with Pope Francis' words and with The Way of the Heart, the spiritual foundation of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. PARISH-Hornsby Cathedral Stations of the Cross during Lent Friday nights during Lent: RELATED OLOR Cathedral 7pm- 7.30pm **ACTIVITIES** QOP Church 6.30pm - 7.30pm All welcome Hornsby Cathedral Parish Youth Groups Remaining term 1 Dates: When: 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month during o 7th April school term. Ages 8 to 11: 4:30pm - 6pm Ages 12 to 17: 6pm - 8:30pm Location: OLOR Cathedral, Nulty Room

The following opportunities are currently available for parents and carers:

## **Community Notices**



As young people approach driving age it is important, they and their parents or carers are aware of what is ahead as a learner driver and how they achieve the 120 supervised driving hours in their logbook. As you may be aware, P-plate drivers are involved in more crashes than any other driving group (including learner drivers). Parents play a key role in guiding and promoting safe driving habits.

Hornsby Shire Council holds a virtual presentation via Microsoft TEAMS several times a year offering practical advice and information to parents/carers and supervising drivers on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers. The presentation includes information about:

- Understanding the Graduated Licensing Scheme and the current laws of L and P licence holders.
- Completing the Learner driver logbook and App.
- Understanding the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.
- Supervising learner drivers.
- Young Driver Issues.
- The Safer Drivers Course.
- Lots of tips to help the supervising driver and learner.

The next presentation council is offering is on Wednesday 27 March 6pm - 7.30pm.

For bookings visit: https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/learnerdrivers. COST IS FREE