

The LION ROARS

Fortnightly College News Bulletin



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 6 Term 3, 2024

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our Year 12 students from their two weeks of Trial HSC Exams. We keep these students in our prayers and thoughts as they enter the last few weeks of their secondary schooling, final preparation of their submitted works and their HSC Exams.

2025 Student Leaders

Last Wednesday, the College announced the new Student Leadership Team for 2024/2025 in a special liturgy and induction ceremony in front of the College and their proud parents and families. Thank you to **Fr Brendan** for his special blessing of our leaders and to **Rev Adrian Gomez** who organised the event.



In my speech I referred to Jesus as our role model of **servant leadership**, that is where the leader puts the needs of others before their desires and acts as a servant first. I also explained that it doesn't matter if you wear a badge or not - all of our 2025 Year 12 students are leaders. From Day 1 in 2025, our new students to the College will be looking up to all our Year 12 students for their example and standards to be set.

High expectations for all, is ringing a bell once again (one of our two strategic goals in our Strategic Plan!)

Congratulations to our new 2024/2025 Student Leadership team:

College Captains Will Tunny Maya Manjah	Academic Growth Domain Ambassadors	Aayush Gupta Michelle Domtchenko	McAuley House Captains	Ella Searles Leyla King
	Physical Growth Domain Ambassadors	Conor Collins Nicholas Ariyan	Teresa House Captains	Grace Torres-Hernandez Rish Roy
College Vice Captains Alex McIlwraith Eliza Waugh	Cultural Growth Domain Ambassadors	John Loder Scarlett Harris	Bakhita House Captains	Olivia Latham Isla Lesnik
	Social/Emotional Growth Domain Ambassadors	Angus Crocker Alejandra Simone Acevedo	MacKillop House Captains	Romina Zepida Sophia Towson
SRC Ambassadors Caidan Gower Nina Adams	Spiritual Growth Domain Ambassadors	Chresten Brix-Nielsen Chloe Moystyn	Aquinas House Captains	Sarah Heath Ryan Chou
	Environmental Growth Domain Ambassadors	Taylah Finlay Eleanor Ioffrida	Chanel House Captains	Alex Fitzgerald Riley Casey
			Loyola House Captains	Olivia Moait Erica Haigh
			Xavier House Captains	Matilda Visscher Pernille Broers

Father's Day Liturgy & Breakfast

On Thursday morning, we held the Father's Day Liturgy and Breakfast in The Light of Christ Centre (watch out for more happy snaps on Facebook soon!). Thank you to **Mr Pat Brennan** and **Ms Joanna Gower** for the work they did in preparing for this important event with over 500 attendees. Special thanks to the two fathers who gave us two fine examples of *Dad-jokes*! It was great to see our newly appointed student leaders conduct and run the liturgy and assist with the breakfast. *Servant leadership in action!* ‘



Parents in Partnership Meeting

This week we also conducted our Term 3 Parents in Partnership Evening in a hybrid delivery of both online and face-to-face modes. I thank the 40 parents and carers who participated in this meeting. I have linked the [presentation here](#) for your information.

We will be evaluating the format/structure of the evening shortly and it will be an opportunity for you to see if this current format continues or needs refining.

Science Depth Studies

Recently our Science staff, under the direction of the Leader of Science, **Mr Chris Gould**, recognised the work of our Year 10 students in their various Depth Studies. Congratulations to all our Year 10 students who submitted depth studies of their interests and their learnings.

These students will be invited to join me and other senior teachers to not only be acknowledged for their learnings but to teach us about some of the topics! Congratulations to our budding scientists, **Zack, Matilda** and **Salome**.

Name	Prize	Investigation
Zack S	1st	Comparing the amount of electrolytes in orange juice to other electrolyte drinks and water
Matilda R	= 2nd	The effect of the relative wavelength of light on an aquatic plant's oxygen production
Salome L	= 2nd	The effect of galenic formulation on the dissolution rates of paracetamol.

Japanese – Ganbaru Cup

To the world of Languages – congratulations to **Tahlia T** and **April A** on their attainment of first place in the Japanese Ganbaru Cup Diocesan Competition. This was the apex of the Stage 4 Language Enrichment Program across the six secondary schools in the Diocese. The competition was based on a series of challenges where students had to use their knowledge of the Japanese language and culture and work collaboratively to find the solution. These two students will be acknowledged and recognised with certificates, prizes and their names on a perpetual trophy! Congratulations to their teachers – **Ms Todd** and **Ms Carroll**.

College Events Next Week

I hope to see as many parents/carers as possible next week at two major events:

- 1. Tuesday (3 Sept) - our HSC Showcase (5pm- 7.30pm)**
Year 12 student major works, performances and submissions to NESA for their HSC will be on display. I can assure you of a top-notch, high-quality evening of excellence – so please come along and support our Year 12s!
- 2. Wednesday (4 Sept) Coffee & Chat morning** from 7.45am – 8.30am for parents and the College Leadership Team. This is a great opportunity to informally catch up with members of my team – those that support our young people and our staff in becoming the best that they can be. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions or pass on any concerns that you may have directly to members of the team.

As I have said on many occasions – *we are not a perfect school, but we are striving to be a perfect school (if there is such a thing!)*. **Ms Tess Denham-Fabry** (our newly appointed Parent Engagement Coordinator) will also be present. I hope to see many of you outside The Light of Christ Centre (in the warm Spring morning sun).

ST LEO'S HSC SHOWCASE 2024

OUTSTANDING MAJOR WORKS & PERFORMANCES
BY THE YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2024

SOCIETY & CULTURE
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
MUSIC
ENGLISH EXT. 2
IT TIMBER
HISTORY EXT.
DANCE
DRAMA
VISUAL ARTS

**TUES
3 SEPT
2024**

5 PM - 7.30 PM
MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE
ST LEO'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
WOOLCOTT AVE, WAHROONGA

**FREE ENTRY
ALL WELCOME**

A World Champion in our Midst!

And finally, during the week, our own Leader of Sport, **Mr Michael Kember**, who assists many of our students in his own time on the track or in the gym prior to each school day, has returned from the Beach Sprinting World Championships on the Gold Coast as winner in the 35-39yo Beach Sprints! Well done Michael. We are very proud of your achievements and to have a World Champion amongst us!

Thank you for your time, enjoy the weekend, and happy Father's Day to all the dads!

Tony Gleeson, Principal

Assistant Principals' Reports

Reminder: Year 12 Prayer Initiative

We warmly invite you to take part in a prayer initiative whereby families are given the first name of a Year 12 student to pray for as they prepare for their Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations.

As our students embark on this important journey, we know that remembering them in our prayers will provide them with the strength, guidance, and peace they need during this challenging time.

Your prayers will be a tremendous support to our Year 12 students, helping them to feel surrounded by care and encouragement in our special St Leo's community.

Please indicate [HERE](#) if you would like to be allocated a student to pray for. You will also be provided with a prayer. The students will be made aware of your prayers of support.

CSBB Religious Art Competition

Congratulations to the following talented students who have been selected to represent St Leo's in this year's CSBB Creative Arts Competition:

- **Aidan D** (Year 8)
- **Sean O** (Year 9)
- **Alena H** (Year 10)

The Religious Creative Arts Competition is a well-established Catholic Schools Broken Bay event that has been running for the past 10 years, covering five categories: visual arts, dance, drama, music and short film.

Our three student finalists will be featured at the 'Showcase Night' to be held at the Hornsby RSL on 13 November 2024. The Showcase night will feature a visual arts display plus screenings of selected short films and performances by finalists in dance, drama and music.

One of the key elements of the competition is how students demonstrated their understanding of and connection to the religious theme. In 2024 the theme is one of the CSBB core values, JOY. "May the God of hope fill you with joy." (Romans 15:13)

Students were required to link their creative piece directly to the religious theme by answering the question; How is this theme lived out or demonstrated today? Our finalists demonstrated their understanding of the theme with distinction:

Aidan D

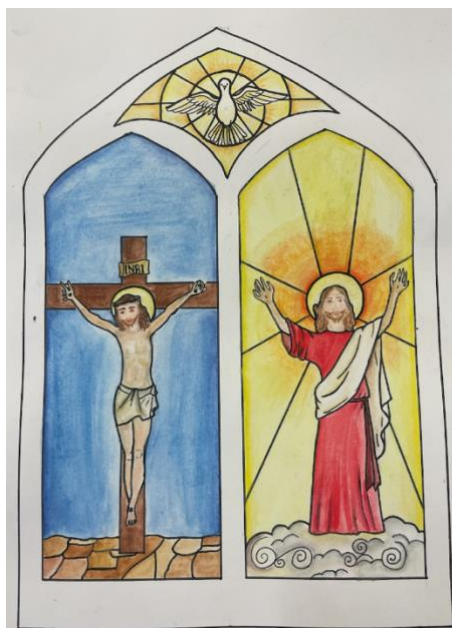
'This artwork that has been created effortlessly represents the theme, joy and has multiple reasons to prove it. For example, the bright and detailed sunset has been executed in a way that you can only understand when viewing the artwork. The sheer tones and contrast between the hills and trees make the artwork deeply effective. This sunset represents joy as the yellows and light orange colours, as well as the deep purples and violets, which are joyful colours.'



Another example of why this artwork unarguably represents and demonstrates joy is that the three people and the dog represent our family, as we are at our favourite holiday destination, on Four Mile Beach. We are running with our dog on the beach as the sun sets and it makes us feel joy on such a joyous evening. To summarise, this artwork is a well-executed and visually appealing piece and brings happiness when you look at it.'

Sean O

"Hopeless" is a film that centres around a struggling student overwhelmed by overdue tasks, reflecting the weight of academic pressures. The film delves upon a student's journey from hopelessness to finding joy as they grapple with an overload of work. Hope is visualised in this film as shooting stars, reminding us that hope can appear unexpectedly, offering a glimmer of light in darkness. Finding joy is like visiting a park; a place of peace where struggles are left behind, linking to the quote "may the God of hope fill you with joy." As the student learns to embrace this message, they gradually find joy, not in the absence of challenges, but in the strength to face them. The film ultimately portrays that joy is not found in the absence of problems, but in offering a powerful reminder that creating moments of calm amidst them is essential in overcoming life's obstacles.'



Alena H

'God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, gave His son Jesus to die on the cross for the hope of the resurrection and eternal life so that we may have eternal joy. In my artwork I depicted the Holy Spirit above arching over, through whose power the resurrection is accomplished. Later in Romans 15 we read about how we shall "abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". This is illustrated in the image of a dove. On the left is the crucifixion. Amidst the suffering of the crucifixion, we are reminded of Jesus' love, which provides hope, and are hence called to show love to one another. He had to die in order to be resurrected and overcome sin and death. Without darkness we are not aware of the light. The right-hand window is an illustration of the resurrection. Jesus is depicted wearing white and red robes. The white is a symbol of purity and divinity. The red represents His humanity and the joy He brings on earth. The promise of salvation for all Christians, through the resurrection, fills us with a sense of joy and hope.'

We wish our finalists luck in November!

Assumption Mass

On 15 August 2024 the Catholic Church celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During this special Mass, as a college community together with OLOR Primary School, we honoured Mary's assumption into heaven and gave thanks for her role in salvation history. The Assumption Mass is a specific liturgical celebration within the Catholic Church. The College thanks **Fr Brendan Lee** for celebrating the feast day with us along with the parents who attended.

Mr Patrick Brennan, Assistant Principal: Evangelisation and Catechesis

Twilight Professional Learning for Staff

Throughout the year our teaching staff have focused on the practices of:

- Feedback
- Formative Assessment

Staff have engaged with the latest pedagogical research, best practice sharing and professional development with NESAs and **Jim Tongnolili**. The twilight session was for staff to "feedback" to their faculty how and what feedback/formative assessment has been implemented into their teaching

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

—Sydney J. Harris

practice. The session was a celebration of teacher and student achievement but also a reflection on what practices had a greater impact on student learning growth. We are so fortunate to have such fantastic staff here at the College.

Also, during this twilight session, we reflected on our practices as they relate to the research conducted by Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO). Late last year, AERO published a research report on Evidence based teaching practices: Commissioned report . The figure above is what they found to be the most effective teacher practices. As a college we can be proud to say that so many of these practices are embedded in all that we say and do here at St Leo's.



Japanese Student Visitors

Over the past two weeks, St Leo's has hosted 25 students from Kaimei High School, Osaka. Kaimei High School was one of our many stops during the Japan tour earlier this year, so it was wonderful to see our Kaimei friends in Australia enjoying a St. Leo's experience.

During their time here, students formed friendships through an exchange of cultural experiences including sport, dance, games, music and, of course, language. It has been another enriching experience hosting our Japanese guests these past few weeks and we look forward to building upon these experiences in our language classrooms throughout 2024 and beyond.

Mrs Fiona Milkins, Assistant Principal, Student Achievement



Helping young people with social anxiety

Free webinar | 10th & 11th September
Parents | Teachers | Teenagers

- Find out into what "social anxiety" means and the challenges faced
- Explore the latest research and insights to build confidence
- Discover practical tools to empower young people
- Understand and help young people to break the cycle of anxiety
- Create encouraging home and school environments for growth and well-being
- How, why, where and when to seek professional help

All welcome



60 mins (plus Q&A)

Register for free: <https://form-aus.keela.co/social-anxiety-webinar>

VOLUNTEER Needed!

Community Tutor Needed for Term 4!

Due to one of our wonderful tutors being away, we are in need of the assistance of a volunteer on Thursdays during periods 3 and 4 for Weeks 1- 7 of Term 4 to assist our Year 7 students with basic reading and maths.

About St Leo's Community Tutoring Program

CTP forms part of the St Leos' College Literacy & Numeracy program and aims to offer a little extra assistance in areas that are often a challenge in early secondary school. We are fortunate to currently have 12 community volunteers.

About our Tutors

Our volunteer tutors come from all walks of life. If you have any spare time on a Thursday, we would love you to come and have a look at the program, see what is involved and hopefully be part of CTP.

Please don't hesitate to enquire. We would love to hear from you!

CAREER SPOTLIGHT

Discover your future

Careers, Pathways & Partnerships



Career Focus: Nursing



What is a Nurse?

Nurses are essential health professionals who care for people (individuals, families, groups and communities) in all health and aged care settings. Nurses are the facilitators of the health and care systems and possess the qualifications, knowledge and skills to provide high quality care where and when it is needed.

What skills and strengths are needed?

To be a nurse you need strong clinical skills, effective communication, and emotional resilience. Nurses must be empathetic, adaptable, and capable of making quick, informed decisions. Organisational skills and the ability to work well in a team are also essential to manage the demands of a dynamic healthcare environment while ensuring patient safety and care quality.

What are the Pathways?

To become a Registered Nurse in Australia, you will be required to gain a Bachelor of Nursing, which takes 3 years of full-time study, while a Diploma of Nursing usually takes 18 months to 2 years. The duration may vary with part-time study options or accelerated programs. Completing a nursing course in Australia varies depending on the type of qualification.

Year 10 Motivate 2024 Program



Last week Year 10 started the Motivate 2024 program. This program will take place in Term 4 and allows students to undertake 6 days of Work Placement Learning or a combination of Work Placement and volunteering.

Motivate 2024 aims to provide students with opportunities to prepare for work readiness as well as senior school. We would like to thank **Mrs Trisha Roberts** for coming and speaking to Year 10 about how to present for work and how to prepare for an interview.

We wish them all the best at this exciting time as they take a step out of the classroom and into the world of work.

Call out to Businesses and Employers of all Kinds!

To make our Motivate Program (above) a success, we need your support to find host employers who can provide meaningful work experience placements for our Year 10 students. We are looking for businesses and organisations willing to host our students for either:

- A 3-day placement from **27-30 November**, or
- A 3-day placement from **2-4 December**, or
- A 6-day placement spanning **27 November to 4 December**.



If you may be able to offer a placement or know of a suitable business, please complete the Microsoft Form using this [link](#) by Friday 6 September, 2024 and we will contact you to discuss details. THANK YOU!

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



Year 7 Laudato Si Excursion

On Friday August 23, Year 7 went on a Religious Education excursion to West Head National Park, where we explored God's creation and engaged with the Aboriginal Heritage of the site. We were gifted with a beautiful spring day, a picture-perfect view for our Meditation session and a day out of school exploring our own connection to God, nature, and each other.



Our Year 11 leaders and volunteers were amazing in their generosity leading our outdoor community games and sharing the Meditation and Heritage sessions with Year 7. It was a wonderful reflective celebration which we concluded with an outdoor Creation Liturgy, in thanks to God.

See how our beautiful year 7s enjoyed their day out...



Science Week

Science Week began in Week 4 on the Monday with several teachers' fancy dressed as their favourite element.

There was a diverse range of elements represented with colourful neon

colours, shiny metallic gold, silver and magnesium and a number wearing black clothes, demonstrating the black allotrope of carbon. On this same day we had a representative from Educative Interactive who entertained the Year 8 students with a murder mystery scenario. The students had to use their higher order thinking, logic and scientific evidence to solve the mystery.

On the Tuesday the environment group showcased the launching of their compost bins and **Mrs Marinovic** entertained the Science Club members



creating their own very colourful slime. Some of the Year 10 students showcased their Depth Studies that evening to their parents, with a number of students winning awards for their creative and high standard investigative reports.



Wednesday brought the opportunity for **Ms Caiger** to demonstrate the amazing sounds and reactions that can occur with dry ice. This was complemented that evening by a presentation by three keynote speakers at the Hornsby Library covering artificial intelligence and water monitoring.

The final day, the Friday, saw three guest speakers at the careers talks, with a focus on science careers. They comprised of an engineer, a nurse and science field officer. St Leo's should be proud of the smorgasbord of scientific activities that were highlighted, all trying to encourage students to become more engaged in science.

Science is an area where individuals often don't realise the important impact upon our society, especially in helping solve many of the problems of the world.



Mr Gould, Leader of Science

Year 10 B Street Smart Excursion



On Tuesday, August 20, Year 10 went to the B Street Smart excursion. This experience was extremely impactful as we were given first-hand accounts of people who had been affected by poor driving in the hopes that, as many of us have begun driving this year,

we would exercise caution on the roads.



The day began with a reenactment of the scene after a car crash, aiming to educate and warn the audience of dangers and explain the process after an accident. We were spoken to by people directly affected by car accidents, 3 of whom were the victims of one, their harrowing stories of having to relearn basic functions that the rest of us wouldn't think twice about, due to accidents that they had no control over, left an impactful lesson.

Each speaker had a slightly different perspective on road safety, but the message was clear. Reckless driving, your own or someone else's, endangers not just you but everyone else on the roads as well. During the day's break, students were encouraged to walk around to the interactive booths and tailor their experience to their own interests. Rescue services, organ donation groups, some of the speakers, and a wheelchair basketball game were all options to explore. The day ended with a demonstration of the power of speeding, exhibiting the braking distance of different speeds, and the dramatic increase when speeds get higher. Overall, the BStreet Smart excursion was extremely impactful and informative, and couldn't have come at a better time with so many year ten students just starting to learn to drive.



Co-Curricular Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Program

Eisteddfod Results!

All we can say is WOW, this year has been the most successful overall for our results across all CAPA Co-Curricular so far. Firstly, a huge congratulations to our students whose success would not be possible without their ensemble leaders, both internal and external, guiding them each week. To our students, your hard work and commitment to co-curricular this year has been reflected in your attitude and personal achievements,



thank you for being a part of CAPA and making us so very proud.

Hawkesbury Eisteddfod Instrumental Ensembles

- ★ Pride Performance Band – 2nd
- ★ Guitar Ensemble – 2nd
- ★ Accordion Group – 3rd
- ★ Rock Band – 3rd

Hawkesbury Eisteddfod Vocal Ensembles

- ★ Male Vocal Group - 3rd
- ★ Lions Singers – 3rd



The Hills Dance Spectacular - Dance Ensembles

On Sunday August 25, our wonderful dance ensembles competed in one of the largest eisteddfods of the year with very tough competition and proudly came away with the following results:

- ★ Lions Jazz (16 in Section) - 4th
- ★ Pride Jazz (21 in Section) - Highly Commended



Still to come...

Saturday, September 14 - AASCF State Championships

- Dance Ensembles: Pride Pom

Co-Curricular Website & Contacts

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](#).

UPCOMING DATES

Note these scheduled dates **may be subject to 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	Mon 2 Sep	Year 10 Motivate Program
7	Tue 3 Sep	HSC Showcase
7	Wed 4 Sep	Parent Coffee & Chat (LOCC), 7.45-8.30am
7	Thurs 5 Sep	Career Session – Camp America
8	Mon 9 – Fri 20 Sep	Year 11 Yearly Exams
8	Tue 10 Sep	Year 7 2025 Information Evening (6pm, TLOCC)
8	Thurs 12 Sep	R U OK? Day Career Session – ‘A Day in the life of a Lawyer’
8	Fri 13 Sep	Year 9 Reflection Day
9	Tue 17 Sep	Career Session – Nursing Dance Showcase 2024 - TLOCC
9	Wed 18 Sep	Year 12 Graduation Mass & Ceremony
10	Thurs 26 Sep	Online Learning Ignite Conference 24 Open Rally
10	Fri 27 Sep	Last day of Term 3 Online Learning Ignite Conference
T4		
1	Mon 14 Oct	Term 4 commences HSC commences
1	Thurs 17 Oct	Year 12 (2025) Parent information Evening (online) 6pm
3	Tues 29 Oct	Year 8 Duke of Edinburgh Information Session
3	Wed 30 Oct	Parents in Partnership (PiP) Meeting, 6pm
4	Mon 4 Nov	Year 10 Yearly Exams commence Year 7 HPV Vaccinations
5	Mon 11 Nov	Remembrance Day – Recess
5	Wed 13 Nov	Year 12 Formal Catholic School Parents Leadership Meeting – Pennant Hills 6pm
5	Fri 15 Nov	Year 7 2025 Orientation (LOCC)
6	Wed 20 – Fri 22 Nov	Year 10 Camp
7	Tue 26 Nov	Year 10 Spirituality Day Studio Concerts

7	Wed 27 Nov	Term 4 Parent Coffee Cart & Chat (LOCC)
8	Thurs 5 Dec	Year 10 Celebration Evening – Epping Club 6-10pm
9	Mon 9 Dec	Leo's Student Select Swimming Carnival
9	Thurs 12 Dec	Year in Review Awards 10:30am TLOCC
9	Fri 13 Dec	St Leo's Day Last Day of Term 4
-	Wed 18 Dec	HSC Results Released HSC Morning Tea

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Lindfield
artshow 
& fair 2024

AT HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL
 CELEBRATING 48 YEARS

FRIDAY 6th - SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER