

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 8 Term 3, 2024

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

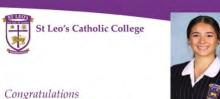
Our busy Term III continues. As our Year 12 have returned from their Trial HSC exams, our Year 11 students are now sitting their End of Preliminary Courses Exams.

Please Keep in your Prayers

We keep in our prayers **Ms Megan Tynan**, our Director of Pastoral Care & Wellbeing who lost her father, **Mr Victor Profilio** last week. The funeral will be on Monday. Last Thursday we also learned that **Mr Pat Brennan**'s father, **Mr John Brennan** passed away after a very short illness. We keep both these two Leadership team members and their families in our prayers and thoughts.

Dancing Success - CALLBACK Nominations!

Last week we received notification from NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) that the College has achieved four nominations for CALLBACK, the NESA showcase for exemplary performances in HSC Dance.



Congramminons Romina Zepeda (Year 11 Accelerated) CALLBACK Nominee: Dance - Core Performance, Core Composition & Major Study



Congratulations to **Romina Z** (Year 11 accelerated) nominated for her Core Performance, Core Composition and her Major Study and to **Emily R** (Year 12) nominated for her Core Composition. Well done also to their Dance

teacher, **Mrs Ellie Field** who has taught these students over the past two years. The quality and frequency of Ellie's feedback to her students is one of the key factors for this success.

This is the first time since Dance was introduced at St Leo's in 2020 that we have received four CALLBACK nominations. The showcase itself will be held at the Seymour Centre next February.

Religious Creative Arts Prize Winners

Congratulations to **Aidan D** (Year 8) and **Gabriel (Sean) O** (Year 9) on achieving first place in their categories in the 2024 Religious Creative Arts Prize run by Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB). Aidan took first place in the *Stage 4 Visual Arts* category, while Gabriel won the *Stage 5 Short Film* category. Both now progress through to Showcase Concert with finalists from across the Diocese. Well done to you both!



The Year 12 HSC Showcase

Our Year 12 students who studied HSC subjects with major works or performances had the opportunity to show their talents to their families, peers, staff and visitors at our 2024 HSC Showcase on 3 September.

It is important that our young people receive feedback other than the HSC NESA examiners, as many of the works appeal to so many people. I witnessed may times throughout the evening where the 'creators' or 'performers' were very proud to not only talk about the timeline of their works, but also their significance to them. Having a





wide range of people viewing/listening to their works gives a greater range of feedback to our students.

Major works/performances on display came from Dance, Drama, English and History Extension, Design & Technology, Society & Culture, Industrial Technology (Timber), Music and Visual Arts subjects. Congratulations to all our Year 12 students for completing these mammoth and passionate works. They are great pieces of evidence of the fine work of both students and staff.

Thank you to subject Leaders **Ms Rhyarna Bazih-Hutchison, Mr David Bell, Mr Jon Nicoll, Ms Hayley Spencer** and class teachers **Ms Anamaria Schneider, Mr Chris Sammut, Mrs Natasha James, Mrs Susie Murphy, Mrs Ellie Field** and **Mr Vince Tavernese** who have taught, nurtured and mentored these students over the past 12 months or more, not just in regular class time, but often also many hours outside the regular class timetable including after school and holidays.

Farewell (Year 12) and Welcome (Year 7 2025)!

Next week we will formally say farewell to our Year 12 students. On Wednesday, the whole College will pray for them (and their families) at the Graduation Mass from 11.30am. Following a lunch break, students and their families will then celebrate the Graduation Ceremony and prize-giving later that afternoon. Many family and friends will be in attendance to mark this important and significant occasion signifying the end of not only their secondary education, but 13 years of formal schooling.

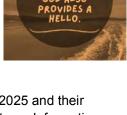
While Year 12 are preparing to leave the St Leo's 'pridelands', our next cohort of Year 7s for 2025 and their families are preparing to join us. Last Tuesday the graduating Class of 2030 were welcomed to an Information Session at the College, giving them an overview of St Leo's and what to expect starting high school. They rejoin us for a full Orientation Day on 15 November before officially starting Year 7 on 3 February 2025.

At this session, we had the pleasure of hearing from six enthusiastic students from our current Year 7 group – **Keiran, Annaliese, Katya, William, Abigail** and **Napier** – who spoke confidently and eloquently in front of the 500-strong crowd about their experiences of starting high school. Well done to each of you!

College Musical for 2025

Last Monday **Mr David Bell** (Leader of CAPA) announced that the 2025 College Musical will be **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**! I would particularly invite parents/carers to also be involved and support our young people and staff with the many behind the scenes roles required. More information about the musical is on p.7.

The College has had a very strong tradition and background in producing professional and very high standard musicals, including a number of students who have gone on to achieve in this field. One such student is <u>Sam</u> <u>Harmon</u> (HSC Class of 2018) who had lead roles in our previous productions of *High School Musical, Guys and Dolls, Beauty and the Beast* - is currently understudy for both Peter and Jesus in the upcoming production of <u>Jesus Christ Superstar</u> at the Capital Theatre starting in November.





<u>Matteo Persechino</u> (HSC Class of 2021), College Captain and Dux, is another, currently studying a BMusic at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He was lead in our productions of *Happy Days* and *Camp Rock*. He has recorded his own works both overseas and in Australia and is one of our singing tutors here at the College.

Bowls Stars a Credit to Leo's

During the week I received a letter from **Mr Ian Moyes**. Mr Moyes has had a lifetime of experience of teaching as well as being heavily involved in a huge range of school sport. He praised three of our students, **Jamie A, Zac F** and **Harrison G** of Year 9 for the way they participated in the recent *Northern Districts Bowls Competition* at Pennant Hills and praised **Mr Anthony Wilson** from our teaching staff.

"...He (Mr Wilson) sees the inclusive, gentle, social and competitive elements of bowls as being a very suitable sports option for many students, so hopefully your school's involvement will grow. Over the last two days, Jamie A, Zac F and Harrison G have been a real credit to the school. They played well (on very limited preparation), were good ambassadors, made friends, reconnected with some students they had met at our own previous tournaments and behaved very responsibly and co-operatively.

It was extremely helpful and generous of your school to respond to the call for assistance when another school had to drop out. To get a team there with less than a week's notice was a tremendous display of organisation and enthusiasm..."

It's great to see the skills of flexibility, adaptability - all done with a very pleasant manner!

Vinnies Van Makes a Difference

"...Faith without good works is dead..." James 2: 14-18

The above quote is from Jesus from this Sunday's second reading according to St James. Last Friday evening, **Mr Chris Gould, Mr Sam Groom** and three Year 11 students – **Matthew, Alena** and **Bailey,** travelled to Woy Woy and other parts of the Central Coast to feed and comfort those who are less fortunate than themselves – or who just wanted someone to talk to.



Every three weeks a small group of specifically trained staff and students run the local Vinnies Van and feed and comfort those that ask for this assistance. They are unsung heroes who do this out of the generosity of their own hearts. Thank you to all the staff and students who are part of this vital and life-changing service that has quietly been running all year.

Raising DV Awareness

Last Friday the CSBB System Leadership team met at our Pennant Hills head office. The morning session was led by two presenters from Broken Bay Catholic Care who guided us in discussions about domestic and family violence, particularly in context with our schools.

This was just the beginning of discussions about domestic violence and the urgent need to raise awareness and take appropriate action.

As a Catholic community, we can respond to domestic and family violence by:

- 1. Not being a bystander and reporting violence
- 2. Communicating zero tolerance for violence and full support for victims
- 3. Promoting healthy relationships
- 4. Equipping ourselves to respond appropriately to individual disclosures
- 5. Praying together for peace, justice, and true reconciliation.

More to come on this important topic soon.

Thank you for your time and enjoy the weekend,

Assistant Principals' Reports

Year 12 Prayers

Thank you to the many members of our community who offered to keep our Year 12 students in their prayers as they approach their Higher School Certificate examinations. As our students embark on this important journey, we believe that remembering them in our prayers will provide them with the strength, guidance, and peace they need during this challenging time.

Students will receive a letter on graduation day indicating the person or family they have been matched with.

The more prayers the better so please feel free to join as a St Leo's community in prayer for our Year 12 students:

God, we ask that our students feel your closeness during the HSC exam period. Give them calm hearts and quiet confidence in the knowledge that you hold them in the palm of your hand. Bless them with keen understanding and retentive memory. Give them the ability to grasp things correctly, be exact in their explanations and an ability to express themselves clearly. Point out clearly the beginning, direct their progress and help them in the completion of each of their responses. Holy Spirit send them your gifts of wisdom and knowledge.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen. St Leo's the Great – Pray for us Live Jesus in our hearts – Forever.

Patrick Brennan, Assistant Principal: Evangelisation and Catechesis



Careers, Pathways & Partnerships





Focus on... Conveyancing

What is a Conveyancer?

A conveyancer helps clients with property and business transfers. They ensure that the process of buying or selling property is done correctly and legally. Conveyancers prepare and advise on contracts, conduct title searches, handle mortgage documents, and manage financial and legal aspects of property transactions.

What skills and strengths are needed?

A thorough understanding of property laws and financial regulations is essential. Conveyancers must have strong attention to detail and excellent organisational skills. They need to be good communicators to explain complex legal information to clients.

What are the Pathways?

You typically need an Advanced diploma in conveyancing combined with practical experience. University is also a pathway as in some states and territories, only solicitors can perform conveyancing work.

Calling for 2024 Work Experience Program Hosts

We are excited to extend an invitation to your organisation to participate in the St Leo's Work Experience Program. This initiative offers local employers like you the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the professional development of our students by hosting them for a hands-on learning experience.

We are looking for enthusiastic and supportive employers to host students for either 3 or 6 days between 27 Nov and 4 Dec. During this time, students will have the chance to engage in your daily work activities and experience the rhythm of a typical workday, aligned with your regular working hours.

As a host, your role would involve providing guidance, supervision, and mentorship to the student. To ensure a positive and seamless experience, a member of our staff will be in regular contact with both you and the student throughout the placement.



Call out to Businesses and Employers!

To make our Motivate Program (*left*) 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 form using this <u>link</u> and we will contact you to discuss details.

THANK YOU!

Please note that participation in this program is voluntary, and all students are fully covered by Catholic Schools Broken Bay insurance during their time with you.

By partnering with us, you are not only contributing to the future success of our students but also gaining the opportunity to foster new talent and build connections within the community.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of this partnership and look forward to the possibility of working together in this enriching educational experience.

Dates: Wednesday, 27 Nov - Wednesday 4 Dec. Year Group: Year 10

Thank you for your support. <u>Click here</u> to register your interest.



JMC Academy Workshops

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



JMC Academy Sydney is excited to announce its 2024 High School Workshops for Year 9-12 students!

JMC's workshops are designed to engage young artists in the

creative industries. There are seven workshops to choose from including Acting, Audio Engineering & Sound Production, Design (Visual Communication), Film & TV Production, Game Design, Entertainment Business Management and Music.

Date: Saturday, 28 September 2024. <u>Click here</u> to Register your interest.



Justin Slowey (Pathways Leader) & Melissa Duff (Careers Advisor, St Leo's)

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



We were blessed with wonderful weather, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to get outside, connect with nature, and contribute to a meaningful project. It was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm and teamwork among the students as they planted the seeds.

Once the seedlings are mature enough, they will be planted in our Indigenous Garden, which is also home to our native bees. This garden is a vital part of our College's ecosystem, and the addition of these new plants will further enhance its biodiversity.



This week, our students came together for a fantastic initiative to plant native seeds, marking a significant step in our school's commitment to sustainability and environmental education. These seeds were purchased with the funds raised from our successful cake stall in Term 2.

The seeds now live in our newly acquired greenhouse, also funded by the cake stall proceeds. The greenhouse provides an ideal environment for the seeds to grow, ensuring they receive the best care and conditions.



We also want to remind students that our Environmental Club meets every Tuesday at lunchtime in BH1L1. Anyone passionate about nature who wants to get involved in more projects like this, please join us!

Thank you to all the students, staff, and community members who made this project possible. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated. We look forward to seeing our seedlings grow and flourish in their new home.



CAPA NEWS

Co-Curricular Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Program

Dance Showcase - All Welcome!

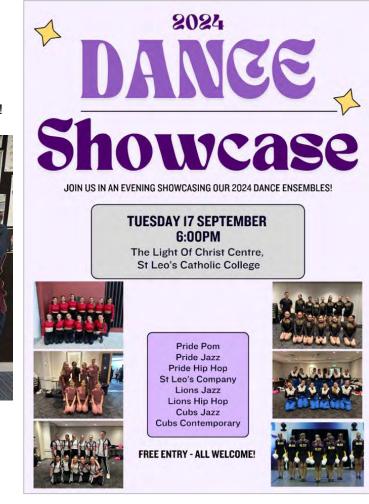
Everyone is welcome to come along to our Dance Showcase next Tuesday, 17 September at 6pm in The Light of Christ Centre (TLOCC).

All our ensembles will be displaying their talents. Entry is free. Please come and support our dancers!



Good Luck Pride Pom

This weekend, the Pride Pom team will compete at the AASFC State Championships following their victory at the NSW Icebreaker earlier in the year. Good luck to the team and coaches!





2025 St Leo's Musical Production

We are thrilled to announce that our next musical production will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, taking place in June next year!

Auditions will begin next term, with specific dates and audition materials to be shared very soon via your Year Group Google Classroom pages.

Get ready to embark on a magical journey through Willy Wonka's enchanting factory, and let your imagination soar!

Co-Curricular Website

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

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

LIBRARY NEWS

Plenty of New Titles



This month has seen an influx of new titles in the library. In the Fiction section, our new books encompass genres such of Fantasy Fiction, Adventure, Mystery and Suspense and of course our largest collection, Realistic Fiction.

Libraries often use genre names that are not consistent, and in the case of our realistic fiction, the PRC refer to this genre as Family/Relationships. If students are looking for a particular genre or are unsure what they may like, I encourage them to ask for assistance. It is about finding something they enjoy.

Interestingly, our cache of titles this month could be seen as genre bending potentially able to be placed under a couple of genres. I am delighted that we also have six new Graphic Novels.





In the non-fiction section, for Year 12 we have added to the plethora of resources already available by purchasing ATAR Notes for all the subjects they are written for. They are an invaluable resource for our seniors and may be borrowed on short term loan (3 days).

Year 11 are not left out, we have an excellent selection of Preliminary course notes including past papers, Dot Point Workbooks, Excel notes and Macquarie revision notes. These may be found in the resource shelves near the library desk and are also available on 3-day loans. Again, if unable to locate the resource you are seeking, please see the Librarian.

It is a great time to consider your holiday reading material, but the flexibility of the ePlatform allows you to select your reading material at any time. As the name suggests these titles are available in audio book and eBook formats. It is a personal choice and I know it has taken me some time to

move away from a hard copy book. Now I love it, if you have not tried one or more of these formats, consider challenging yourself these holidays.

Our ePlatform subscription adds titles every month and a very small selection is below:





The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge has now closed and completed records have been validated. Only students who have a completed and validated reading record will receive a PRC certificate.

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to last year's Premiers Reading Challenge participants who have now received their certificated. Special mention must go to the three students who have completed 10 years of the PRC and have their PRC medal, **Alison D** (Year 10), **William G** (Year 10) and **Suzie T** (Year 10).

Victoria James, Acting Teacher Librarian

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 Lio n Roars newsletter.

Week	Date	Event
9	Tue 17 Sep	Career Session – Nursing Dance Showcase 2024 – TLOCC, 6pm
9	Wed 18 Sep	Year 12 Graduation Mass (11.30am) & Ceremony (4.15pm)
10	Thurs 26 Sep	Online Learning Ignite Conference 24 Opening Rally
10	Fri 27 Sep	Last day of Term 3 Online Learning Ignite Conference
TERM 4		
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

AROUND THE GROUNDS



NSW State Futsal

Last week our team attended the NSW State Futsal Championships. The U/18 Boys played on Tuesday and U/14 Boys on Thursday. They qualified for this event after strong performances earlier in the year at the regional qualifiers.

Both sides performed well with wins in the group stages, and made the quarter finals. The U/18 boys played well but unfortunately couldn't find the back of the net against a strong Belmore Boys team going down 2-0.

The U/14 boys played Edmund Rice College in the quarter finals, and they pushed them all the way to a penalty shootout, with the Leo's boys just going down. A huge achievement with both teams achieving a Top 8 finish in the state!



CSBB Athletics Carnival

Last Tuesday, the CSBB Athletics Carnival was held at Sydney Olympic Park. We had 40 students representing St Leo's on the track and in the field with fantastic results. Over the day we

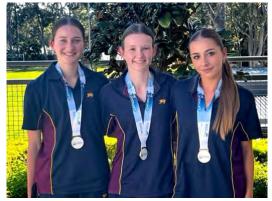
had 13 students qualify for the upcoming NSWCCC Championships, and in the overall school point score, St Leo's finished in **first**

place!

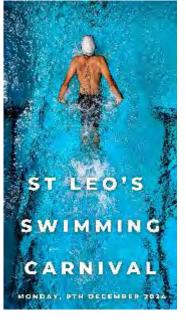
Three students were crowned as age champions: **Chelsea F** (U/14 Girls) **Isabelle G** (U/15 Girls) **Freya T** (U/16 Girls)

CONGRATULATIONS to Chelsea for breaking the CSBB U/14 Girls Javelin record.

Below are a list of students who achieved a top 3 finish at the carnival.







St Leo's Swimming Carnival

The annual College swimming carnival is being held on Monday, 9 December at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. Entries for the carnival have opened this week with a link being placed on the **Year Group Google Classroom pages**.

Students must enter by the 31 October.

More details around the day will come out early next Term.

Next Edition:

- CSBB AFL Gala Day
- CSBB Rugby 7s Gala Day
- NSW All Schools Lawn
 Bowls Championships
- NSWCCC Athletics





COMMUNITY NOTICES



