

# The LION ROARS

Fortnightly College News Bulletin



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 6 Term 4, 2024

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the year, the remainder of this term is brimming with exciting opportunities for our students to continue to be engaged, challenged, have purpose and enjoy the remainder of the school year. With examinations, the Drama Showcase, Year 10 camp, Spirituality Day, Motivate program and celebration evening, parent/carer Christmas Catch-up/Ornament Exchange and Coffee & Chat next week, CAPA Con (ex-CAPA Camp), Studio Concert, College Swimming Carnival, Advent Liturgy, Year in Review Awards assembly and finishing with St Leo's day at Luna Park - there are so many opportunities for students to embrace challenges and celebrate successes.

The end of the year also brings the joy of the upcoming holidays, the warmth of summer, and the anticipation of the Advent season. Amid this excitement, it's crucial for our young people to stay focused, remain connected to their school community, and manage the many distractions and demands that come their way.

Let's encourage our young people to *finish strong*, make the most of these enriching experiences, and step into the holiday season with a sense of accomplishment and pride. Thank you for your continued support in helping them thrive during this dynamic time.



## Religious Creative Arts Prize Winners

Huge congratulations to **Gabriel O** of Year 9 who was announced and presented with first prize in the Bishop's Religious Creative Arts Competition last week at Hornsby RSL. The theme this year was from Romans 15:13, 'May the God of hope fill you with joy', and it was a joy to see several high-quality entries from St Leo's students amongst the 44 other schools in the diocese.

Gabriel's entry was a short film titled, "Hope", which was extremely perceptive. Gabriel also won the Stage 5 Short Film category, and part of his prize is a one-hour session with Producer/Director, **Luke Shanahan**. We will show Gabriel's winning entry at our Year in Review Awards assembly on Thursday, December 12.



Congratulations also to **Aidan D** of Year 8 who received second place in Stage 4 Visual Art.

## Year 10 Camp

Thank you to our Year 10 Mentor Team, headed up by Ms Kate Todd, who are currently on camp with our Year 10 students. Without the generosity and selfless attitude of these staff, the camp experience would not be possible: **Mrs Kate Todd, Ms Melissa Barone, Mr Adam Barton, Mr Glen Downey, Mr Sunny Huo, Ms Megan Profilio, Ms Jacqui Loughman, Mr Chris Sammut and Ms Hayley Spencer.**





## Welcoming Year 7 2025

Last Friday the College unofficially welcomed most of our 204 new students for Year 7 2025 and their parents and carers.

Our 9 Peer Support leaders did a great job guiding these students for the day, in their different 'fruity' groups, giving them information on everything from building names to how to read a timetable. It was great to hear our Year 9 students in action, how proud they are of their College and sharing some inside tips on navigating through Stage 4 (Years 7 & 8).

Our staff put on 'taster classes', giving the new students the opportunity to experience Science, Woodwork, Food Technology, Visual Arts, PDHPE and Music. They also had the chance to tour the College in a fun way with the Leo's Discovery Dash.

Thank you to **Mr Richard Hannan, Ms Jessica Watts, Ms Megan Profilio** and all the staff who were involved in the planning and execution of the day.



## Year 12 Update

Our Year 12 (2024) are still being recognised for their achievements across many areas.

We celebrated the completion of their secondary studies with the Year 12 Formal held last Wednesday evening at Curzon Hall, Marsfield. Even after these few weeks since they left, they are already looking very mature and confident in their bearing and their many personalities.

Thank you to **Mr Vince Tavernese** and the Year 12 Mentor Team who made the evening possible by their attendance and in return seeing our young people enjoying each others' company – for some – the very last time. (See photos p.11)

Not just on the dance floor – but also across Dance, Drama and Visual Arts. This week we were notified of students nominated and selected for the HSC Showcases. Our 2024 HSC students received seven nominations from NESAs. Congratulations to:

### Dance – CALLBACK:

#### Romina Zepeda (Year 11 2024 Accelerated)

- Core Composition – **nominated**
- Major Study Performance – **nominated** and **Reserve List**
- Core Performance – **nominated** AND **SELECTED**

#### Emily Rologas

- Core Composition – **nominated** and **reserve list**

### Visual Arts – ARTEXPRESS:

- **Sera Fagen** – Body of Work nominated

### Drama – OnSTAGE:

- **Molly Jones** – Individual Project **nominated**
- **Emily Rologas** – Individual Project **nominated**

Having been **selected** for CALLBACK, Romina will now perform at the Seymour Centre on Friday, February 14 at 7pm!

Congratulations to these students – and of course to their teachers, **Mrs Ellie Field, Ms Anna-Maria Schneider** and **Mrs Susie Murphy** for their guidance, teaching and support for the students in their final years.

Thank you for your time,  
**Tony Gleeson, Principal**

## Assistant Principals' Reports:

### Remembrance Day

The College observed Remembrance Day, on November 11 as a memorial to the members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. This date marks the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I in 1918, when hostilities ceased on the Western Front. At 11am on this day, we observe a minute of silence to honour the courage and sacrifice of military personnel and to reflect on the impacts of war.

In addition to a solemn whole school ceremony on campus, student leaders **Ella S** and **Eliza W** represented St Leo's at Roseville Memorial Park and Hornsby Cenotaph services.

Remembrance Day serves as an opportunity not only to remember past sacrifices but also to promote peace, acknowledge the costs of war, and recognise the enduring impact on veterans and their communities.



*College leaders Ella S and Eliza W place a wreath in Hornsby.*



### Visit from NSW Police

We were lucky to welcome two former students (who are now members of the NSW Police Force), **Senior Constable Ian Boon** (class of 1992) and **Leading Senior Constable Katie Bond** (class of 1999) to our last assembly.

In addition to reflecting on their time at St Leo's and careers in the police force, our guests addressed critical issues impacting students today: bullying, social media laws, and graffiti.

The assembly aimed to educate students about the legal and social consequences of their actions, while offering guidance on how to avoid pitfalls and make positive choices.

The officers began by discussing bullying; a pressing issue in many schools. They explained the forms bullying can take - physical, verbal, and online - and stressed the emotional and psychological harm it can inflict on victims. They highlighted the legal ramifications of severe bullying cases, including potential charges for harassment or assault, depending on the circumstances. Students learned that bullying is not just a school issue but also a community concern that can have lifelong impacts on everyone involved.

The officers encouraged students to support each other and to speak up if they witness bullying. They emphasised the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive school environment, noting that bullying often stems from misunderstandings or biases.



The topic of social media laws particularly captured students' attention. Leading Senior Constable Bond outlined the legal regulations surrounding online behaviour, including cyberbullying, sharing private images and online harassment. She emphasised that students need to be aware that what they post online can have real-world consequences. 'Once you post something, it's out there,' she explained, urging students to think carefully about what they share.

Leading Senior Constable Bond also discussed privacy laws and the risks of oversharing personal information, which could lead to identity theft or unwanted attention. She educated students on the importance of maintaining a positive online presence, as social media content can impact future opportunities including job prospects.

Lastly, Senior Constable Boon addressed the issue of graffiti, often seen as a form of artistic expression but considered vandalism when done without permission. He explained how unauthorised graffiti can lead to fines, community service, or even jail time. He highlighted the cost of graffiti removal to the community and noted how it can affect the appearance and safety perception of neighbourhoods.

The police officers' visit provided an essential educational experience, making students more aware of the consequences of bullying, responsible online behaviour, and the legality of graffiti. The College hopes that the assembly's messages will help foster a more respectful and responsible school culture, reminding students that their choices—both in person and online—matter. Importantly, where students have a right to be safe, they have the same responsibility to ensure the community around them is equally protected.

**PLEASE DONATE:**  
**Please help Dom's Place support locals in need...**



At Monday's assembly, former CSBB principal and Dom's Place representative, **Mr Philip Ledlin** addressed students about the great work being done at *Dom's Place*, a support centre for men, women and families who are experiencing homelessness or social isolation. Run by CatholicCare, it is only a 5-minute walk from St Leo's.

The College has decided to support Dom's Place with a donation drive over the coming weeks in the lead up to Christmas. Our Year 12 leaders will manage the coordination of the drive, but we urgently need the support of our St Leo's families.

We are calling for **donations to make toiletry packs** for Dom's Place. You can assist by sending the toiletries listed (*right*) to the College with your young person, or dropping at Reception. Year 12 leaders will prepare the toiletry packs and will present them to Dom's Place in time for Christmas.

**Mr Patrick Brennan**  
*Assistant Principal, Evangelisation and Catechesis*

# TOILETRIES DRIVE

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**PLEASE DONATE:**

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shaving Cream
- Disposable razors
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Body Wash
- Perfume
- Hand cream
- After shave
- Deodorant
- Dental floss
- Face towels/loofahs
- Zip toiletry bags

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**For Dom's Place**

Supporting men, women & families experiencing homelessness and social isolation

**Mentor Lessons – Teaching & Learning Framework Activities**

Throughout this term in Mentor classes, all students have been engaging in activities based around our **'Learner Attributes' – Independence, Collaboration, Responsibility and Resilience.**

These activities allow students to engage with the teaching and learning framework and to position themselves on the developmental continuum.

Below are examples of activities undertaken by the students:

**Learning@StLeo's**



Examples of Learner Attribute activities:

## Responsible Session 3


Consequences for not being responsible

Think of a time where you or someone else didn't meet their responsibilities (eg not getting a group task completed on time, not showing up for a practice session).

Write down;

1. What impact this would have on the individual that did not meet the responsibility.
2. How would this have affected others.

Emerging Evolving Embedding Excelling Extending



*'Education has the power to transform lives. It supports young people to realise their potential by providing skills they need to participate in the economy and in society and contributing to every aspect of their wellbeing.'*

Alice Springs  
(Mparntwe)  
Education Declaration




## Independent Session 2

Solving problems on your own

As a young adult you will have many competing demands on your time, assisting your family, casual work, friendships, extra-curricular activities and school work. In order to achieve everything that you need to you need to plan.

As a class discuss how setting goals can make you more independent and able to achieve goals.

Emerging Evolving Embedding Excelling Extending



TEACHING & LEARNING  
@ ST LEO'S

Teacher's Edition

## Uniform & Grooming Expectation Reminders

Thank you to all families for your continued support with upholding our high expectations with grooming. As we come to the end of the school year, we hope we can continue to work in partnership to ensure students' appearance is maintained right through to the end of the year. A few reminders:



- The College backpack is the only bag permitted to and from school. This applies to Years 7-12.
- Only one plain earring in each ear is permitted. A necklace with a simple cross is allowed, but no anklets, rings, or bracelets are permitted.
- All students are to be clean shaven.



**Mrs Fiona Milkins,  
Assistant Principal, Student Achievement**

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### Year 10 Motivate Program



Next week our Year 10 students are venturing out to participate in work experience. Students will be spending six days in various fields of employment enabling them to prepare for the world of work as well as for senior school. This experience will undoubtedly give students a chance to learn general work and life skills whilst exploring a future career pathway.

Thank you to all the companies who have so generously provided these opportunities for our students. In addition, thank you to **Mrs Kate Todd**, **Mrs Mel Duff** and **Mrs Nicolette Brincat** for the countless hours behind the scenes checking risk assessments and contacting various organisations.

### St Leo's Day @ Luna Park

Each year, on the last day of the school year, we host *St Leo's Day* to celebrate their achievements and their connections within our school community.

This year we are excited to hold the event at **Luna Park** on Friday, December 13! It will be a fantastic opportunity for students to enjoy a fun-filled day and bond with their classmates outside of the school environment at an iconic Sydney location.

The College has negotiated the **special student price of just \$40 for unlimited rides** for the day. To take advantage of this special price for St Leo's students, tickets **must be purchased beforehand through the College using Compass Tix** which is located under the Resources tab in the event.

If students do not wish to enjoy the rides, they can still spend the day with their friends for free at Luna Park's picturesque location at Milsons Point.

Students can travel by train with staff, or have the opportunity to make their own way to Luna Park. **Please see the Compass email regarding this event for full details.**

**To purchase tickets:** An event will appear at the top of your Compass toolbar. Click this link to proceed. Click on **awaiting consent**, read and scroll down to **Resources**, hit the **Compass Tix** icon (taking note of the password; **LunaPark2024**), then proceed to select your child's ticket (nominating a nil value or \$40 ticket).



See more information on p.15

## Upcoming Parent Events – *Please RSVP by clicking the invitations or button links below...*



A ST LEO'S PARENTS & CARERS EVENT

# PARENT CHRISTMAS CATCH-UP & ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS FUN!  
Please bring a plate of finger food or a bottle to share, and a wrapped ornament for under the tree.

**NOVEMBER**  
Wednesday **27** 2024  
7PM-9PM

Venue: St Leo's Library, Mary MacKillop Centre.  
Ample parking onsite. Entry via Gate D off Unwin Rd

Please RSVP via the link

[RSVP to Christmas Catch-up & Ornament Exchange](#)



Parents and carers, come and join us for a

# Coffee & Chat

Conversation, connection and a cuppa with each other and the St Leo's Leadership Team!

**Date:** Friday, 29 November  
**Time:** 7:45-8:30am  
**Venue:** Outside The Light of Christ Centre

Please RSVP via the link

St Leo's CATHOLIC COLLEGE

[RSVP to Coffee & Chat Morning](#)

## Student Wellbeing

### 'Managing Your Mood' Group - Psychological Skills Group for Young People (14 - 18 years)

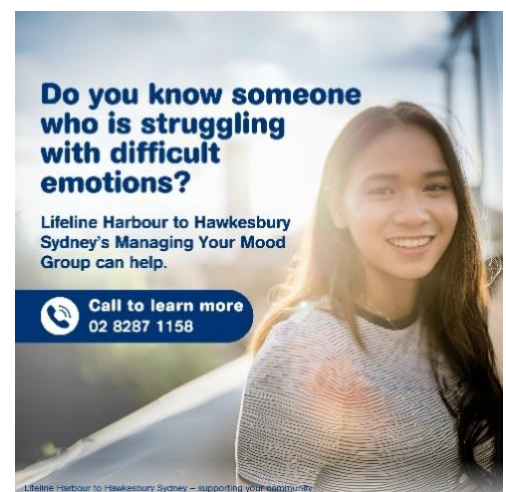
Supporting a young person who is experiencing distressing thoughts and feelings can pose its challenges for their closest circle, be it their teachers, coaches, or parents.

The Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney 'Managing Your Mood' group has been specifically designed for adolescents (aged 14-18) to learn and develop a range of psychological skills and techniques in a safe, group environment to better manage their mood. It is suitable for those who experience emotions strongly and want to change unhelpful behaviour patterns by learning new skills. Conveniently located near public transport, this DBT-informed psychological skills group is held face-to-face weekly for two hours and is at no cost (with a GP referral and a Mental Health Treatment Plan).

The Managing Your Mood Adolescent Groups (14-18 years) will cover content in 8-week modules, during school terms, and is available in 2 locations:

- **Tuesdays 5-7pm**, held at Headspace Brookvale: 11 Feb – 24 Jun 2025 or 29 Jul – 2 Dec 2025
- **Wednesdays 5-7pm**, held in Hornsby: 12 Feb – 25 June 2025 or 30 July – 3 Dec 2025.

For more information, please check out the [full details HERE](#).



**Do you know someone who is struggling with difficult emotions?**

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney's Managing Your Mood Group can help.

Call to learn more  
02 8287 1158

Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney – supporting your electricity

# Parent Engagement News

## Let's Connect! Parent Engagement



### What's been happening in Weeks 4 and 5:

- Connection with Year Group Parent Co-ordinators
- Year 7, 2025 Orientation Day and Parents' and Carers' Morning Tea (8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November)
- Planning and preparation for St Leo's Ornament Exchange, Parents' and Carers' Morning Tea, and student Christmas visit to McQuoin Park. There's lots happening before the end of term – if you are able to join us for 'just one thing', we'd love to see you!



As Parent Engagement Co-ordinator, I am here for, and to represent, you. I warmly invite you to contact me with any thoughts, feedback, suggestions, concerns or queries. St Leo's is committed to open relationships with our families, and we welcome your ideas and participation. I am available on campus each Monday 8am-4pm, on 02 7256 2133, and via email [tess.denhamfabry@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tess.denhamfabry@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

### Let us pray:

*Lord, let me always look for opportunities to be kind, to encourage, to compliment, help out, cheer for, praise, have faith in, mentor, and lift up those who need your light.*

*Amen*

'Three things in human life are important:

The first is to be kind

The second is to be kind

And the third is to be kind.'

- Henry James (1843-1916)



### What's coming up:

- Parents' and Carers' Ornament Exchange and Light Supper on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 7-9pm in the St Leo's Library. Please see the invitation in this edition of The Lion Roars for further details and to RSVP – we'd love to have you join us!
- Parents' and Carers' Morning Tea, outside TLOCC. Come along and enjoy a 'cup of connection' with each other, your Year Group Parent Volunteers and the St Leo's Leadership Team! Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November from 7:45-9am
- Christmas visit to McQuoin Park – morning tea, music, gifts, conversation and connection with the lovely resident and staff community by St Leo's Youth Ministry students

**World Kindness Day** was first introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement and is observed each year during the month of November. It is a day devoted to promoting kindness throughout the world, understanding the positive potential of large and small acts of kindness, and unifying us all as human beings. This year, we celebrated World Kindness Day on November 12th, but what if we all 'paid it forward' every day, recognising that compassion for others is what binds us, and that kindness begins with the understanding that we all struggle.

**Mrs Tess Denham-Fabry, Parent Engagement Coordinator (PEC)**



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

### Academic News

#### Cross Campus Centre - Ignite Mathematics Escape Room Day

Last week, some of the most talented mathematicians in the diocese gathered for an Escape Room event as part of their Gifted and Talented Ignite Mathematics course. This Stage 5 elective mathematics course is part of the suite of subjects offered via the Cross Campus Centre.

While in the escape room, students were required to work as a team of 5 from different schools to complete various activities. These activities were derived from the work they have completed over the past two years. Puzzles such as Slide Cypher, Anagrams, Text Comparison and more challenged their problem-solving ability to discover connections that seemingly don't exist to the mere mortal.

The escape room was a true test of these students' resilience as they were in a continuous cycle of problem solving and evaluating to determine if their theories were viable. The day ended with a presentation by Industry expert (Ex Star Casino employee) **Adam Blanco**, who broke down the mathematics behind 'Pick' notations, a topic covered in the Year 10 Mathematics subject.

With 94% of students taking the Ignite Mathematics course indicating they would most likely continue into Extension 1, and 79% considering the Extension 2 course, they felt that the Ignite course helped prepare them for the next stage of their studies.

*"The Ignite Mathematics course has helped me acquire the fundamentals needed for taking Advanced and Extension Maths, encouraging us to push boundaries and try different ways and approaches." - 2024 Student*

#### Real World Science

In the last few weeks, we have experienced an interesting excursion and an incursion for Science:

##### Year 12 Orica Excursion

The first was conducted by chemical company *Orica* in the beautiful location of Kooragang Island, near Newcastle. Orica had a number of engineers who presented to the Year 12 students.

The students were taken on a guide of an industrial site where important chemicals like ammonia, nitric acid and ammonium nitrate were made. The students learnt about the site, how the chemicals are made and what they are used for.

This is all part of their Equilibrium Depth Study assessment, which is an integral part of the Chemistry syllabus.



## Year 10 Wasteful to Resourceful Incursion

Year 10 students who are undertaking Investigating Science in Year 11 were fortunate to see a presentation on sustainability called 'From Wasteful to Resourceful' onsite at Leo's.



Two presenters from *Ento Tech Ltd*, shared their expertise about what the company does to minimise waste. They highlighted the 7.6 million tonnes of food waste each year in Australia. Current projections show landfill capacity running out in Australia in less than five years and around the world in 15 years.

The Australian Research Council (ARC) encourage innovation in solving environmental issues and Ento has risen to the occasion with the use of an amazing insect, called the Black Soldier Fly. The fly, with its eating prowess, is utilised to recover nutrients from food waste and other organic matter. New value-added products such as the wastes from the Soldier Fly are used as fertiliser, larvae are cooked and used as animal feed and larvae can be used to create synthetic coal as a fuel.

Ento is currently setting up an industrial site in the Hawkesbury area and has a hatching area on the Central Coast. The Year 10 students were able to view all the products in the classroom, with dead and live samples of the larvae. The College is very grateful to **Mr Justin Slowey** from the CSBB Pathways & Partnerships team who came across this outstanding example of a company closely connected with science and the environment.

Both experiences for the students opened their eyes about possible future science career options, as well giving great insights into innovative ideas about the future of our world and its effect on the environment.



## Year 8 Technology - Food & Agriculture



As part of the Stage 4 Technology mandatory course, one of Year 8's units of study is Food and Agriculture. It has been a long time coming but we have finally had our first harvest from our agriculture plot and new outdoor learning space!

Beans, spinach, parsley, lettuce, and basil, plus carrots, tomatoes and chillis are on the way!

If students are interested in some fresh vegetables and herbs, they can take a leisurely walk along Chanel

Way, downstairs past Loyola Green, turn right at the Art rooms, down the small driveway behind the Mary Mackillop Centre.





## Jurjum Initiative: 'The Amazement of Art'

St Leo's this week played host to the 'Jurjum initiative: The Amazement of Art' run by Aboriginal Educator **Peter Coombes** of St Joseph's, East Gosford.



The experience immersed indigenous students, including several from St Leo's, in the rich traditions and vibrant cultures of Aboriginal storytelling through art.

The program provided an exciting opportunity for students to learn and appreciate Aboriginal traditions, cultures, and storytelling in a dynamic, engaging way.



## Year 12 Formal



# Pathways & Careers News

## American Summers Camp Gap Year



During Week 5, we invited **Phil** from American Summers Gap Year camps to speak to students about a gap year working at American Summer camps. He talked about locations that students can attend, the activities that they may undertake and gave information on how to apply.



## 'A Day in the Life of a Theatre Nurse'

This week we invited **Rebecca Fox** to speak to our students about what a day in the life of a theatre nurse is like.

Some students were selected to practice putting on the PPE trying to minimise their contamination with germs. This was a fantastic presentation, and we would like to thank Rebecca for giving up her time to speak to our students.



## Sydney Flight College

Recently a group of our Year 10 and 11 students attended a one-day Aviation event hosted by Sydney Flight College (SFC). Students spent the day with SFC flight instructors at Bankstown Aerodrome learning what it takes to become a pilot.

To challenge the statistic of only 5% of pilots being female, the CSBB Pathways Team together with Sydney Flight College and The Regional Industry Educational Partnerships (RIEP) co-designed a hands-on pilot immersion day focusing on boosting female participation. Year 10 and 11 students (54% female) were provided with an opportunity to fly a Boeing 737 in the flight simulator with an experienced pilot looking on. One key learning for attendees was that flying these planes involves excellent focus for ongoing monitoring of cockpit instrumentation.



A navigation workshop emphasised the necessity of working mathematically and highlighted real-world links to the science curriculum as they discussed wing design and forces with SFC pilots. The day helped students understand what subjects they should be focusing on and the steps required to gain a Commercial Pilot Licence.

Thank you to SFC for showcasing a career pathway into Aviation. They have committed to having 25% female pilots by 2025. Perhaps we may see an ex-Leo's student there in the not-too-distant future!





## Remembrance Day in the Library

In week 5, we recognised and honoured those who have died while serving in conflicts and peace-keeping operations. Australian Governor-General **Sam Mostyn** delivered an address during the Remembrance Day National Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. I found her address moving and have shared here her concluding words.

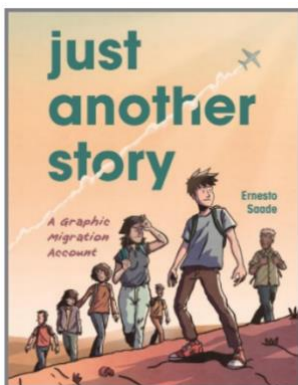
"Today, across Australia, we now gather in solemn acts of remembrance, offering our own tributes to the fallen and the families, the veterans and all of those who know what it is to serve. Honouring them, and all of those who have gone before, we embrace their memory and hold it in our hearts. Lest we forget."

Whilst we all gather to acknowledge our armed forces and the sacrifices they have made on significant days; it is a basic library role to hold and loan a variety of records for Australian conflicts and peace-keeping operations. We have an extensive selection, and I have displayed only a small percentage.

## More New Books Available!

We have more new books from Scholastic this week, including Graphic novels, and more. **“unOrdinary: Vol 2”**, *Author/Illustrator: Uru-chan*

He’s just a normal teenager at a very not normal high school where the social elite possess extraordinary powers and supernatural abilities. John prefers it that way—the more he stays under the radar, the safer he is in the intimidating halls of Wellston High. But when the other students start to suspect John has something to hide, he becomes their latest target. Suddenly, pulled into a world of turf wars, betrayal and deadly conspiracies, John’s secret past threatens to bring down the whole school’s social order—and much more.



**“Just Another Story: A Graphic Migration Account”**, *Author/ Illustrator: Ernesto Saade.*

A stirring and thoughtful non-fiction work in graphic form, going beyond headlines or statistics to provide a powerful individual account of migration. When Carlos was nineteen years old, his mother decided to leave her life in El Salvador, seeking a new start in the United States. She arranged the services of a coyote for the journey north. Reluctant to leave, but refusing to let his mother go without him, Carlos joined her.

During their trip through Mexico, they experienced the risks and the fears countless people from Central American countries face as they migrate toward different lands. Ten years later, Carlos shared these memories with his cousin Ernesto. The result of their conversation is Just Another Story: A Graphic Migration Account.

## Teacher’s Recommendations

At a conference I recently attended, Librarians discussed the worldwide drop in both students and adults engaging in reading. One stumbling block, identified as significant, was their inability to identify a ‘good read’. I have asked teachers to share their favourite titles and hope to publish a couple within each newsletter.

I would like to thank all our teachers for taking the time to highlight the value of reading through sharing their favourite titles...

RECOMMENDED BY... Mrs. Lorraine Champ, RE HSIE Teacher



### The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak (2005)

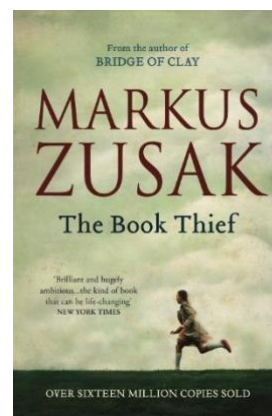
*'This is one of my personal favourites. It is by an Australian novelist, set in World War Two Germany.*

*This comes highly recommended for teenage readers from 14-18 years.*

*The story is narrated by Death but don't let that put you off reading this story of hope and redemption. It is uplifting to read about the main character overcoming life's difficulties at a difficult time in history. It is a beautiful coming of age story, a suspenseful war story and a thought-provoking book about social justice.*

*I would urge readers in Year 9 to invest their time reading this book as it is timely because we are doing that period of history in class at the moment.'*

Available in hard copy in the St Leo's Learning hub, eBook and Audiobook available from Wheelers ePlatform



RECOMMENDED BY... Mrs Jeannine Medlock, Year 9 Learning Diversity Case Manager

### The Dry, by Jane Harper

*'In the grip of the worst drought in a century, the farming community of Kiewarra is facing life and death choices daily when three members of a local family are found brutally slain.*



*Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk reluctantly returns to his hometown for the funeral of his childhood friend, loath to face the townsfolk who turned their backs on him twenty years earlier.*

*But as questions mount, Falk is forced to probe deeper into the deaths of the Hadler family. Because Falk and Luke Hadler shared a secret. A secret Falk thought was long buried. A secret Luke's death now threatens to bring to the surface in this small Australian town, as old wounds bleed into new ones.'*



Available in hard copy in the St Leo's Learning Hub. We also have the novel 'Force of Nature' if you can't get enough of her writing.



Mrs Medlock must be an avid reader, she had shared 4 recommendations. I will save the others for a later date.

Thank you, Jeannine and Lorraine.

Mrs Victoria James, Acting Librarian



## CAPA Co-Curricular Program

### Upcoming Events:

#### CAPA Con 2024

All CAPA Co-Curricular students attending CAPA Con this year have one more week to go! CAPA Con will be held on **Thursday 28** until **Saturday 30 November (Week 7)**. A meeting will be held for attendees this week, please ensure your young person has joined the Google Classroom for CAPA Con so they can get more details there.



## Private Music Tuition Semester 2 Studio Concert

The final Studio Concert for the year will be on **Tuesday, December 3** in the Flora Mackillop Theatre.

All families, friends and staff are welcome to come along and hear our Private Music Tuition students from **Years 7-11 perform from 5.00pm.**

Students in the Private Tuition wishing to perform can access more information on how to sign up in the Google Classroom.

Hope to see you there!



## AROUND THE GROUNDS

### Sports Wrap

#### CSBB Volleyball

Last Friday the CSBB Volleyball Championships were held at Niagara Park on the Central Coast. Both of our Open Boys and Girls teams have been training under the watchful eye of coach, **Mr Huo**, and the training paid off on the day with great results.

The girls played exceptionally well starting very strong and continuing this throughout the competition. After the round robin matches the girls narrowly missed the final and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

The Open Boys had a very similar strong start, and this led to a grand final appearance. The boys won the final and for the second straight year have been crowned CSBB Volleyball Champions!

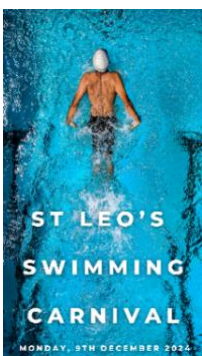
Congratulations to all students on your fantastic achievement.



*Our Open Boys Volleyball Team – winners for a second year!*

#### CSBB U/13 Touch Football

After a rain cancellation earlier in the year, the U/13 Touch Gala Day was held on the Central Coast in Week 3. With teams comprising of Year 7 students, for many this was the first time that they have represented the College in sport, they performed extremely well in tough hot conditions. The girls faced strong opposition in the pool stages and finished 4<sup>th</sup> which saw them play St Brigid's in the quarter finals but were unfortunately knocked out.



The development that the coaches saw throughout the day was amazing and the students are encouraged to play against next year. The boys started well with a draw, win, and two losses which saw them narrowly miss finals, but it was a very productive day and a starting point for the boys in touch football.

#### St Leo's Swimming Carnival

The annual swimming carnival is being held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. As in previous years, this event is for those students who have submitted entries with the information going out on compass over the last few days. This promises to be a fantastic event, and parents are encouraged to come along on the day to support.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES



### Hornsby Relay for Life: Special Event – See Moana 2 with us!

Join the Hornsby Relay for Life Team for a special exclusive screening of Moana 2 at **Event Cinemas Hornsby on Sunday, 8 December 2024.**

This magical morning promises adventure and fun for the whole family, all while supporting a great cause. Don't miss the chance to see these beloved Disney characters back on the big screen. Arrive early to grab your seat and enjoy the pre-screening festivities!

Our Major Raffle will also be drawn and there are special on the day prizes to be won courtesy of Event Cinemas!

**All tickets are \$20pp. Includes popcorn and drink combo.** Seating is unreserved.

For further information and to purchase tickets, please click on the link below.

Thank you for supporting Hornsby Relay for Life and the ongoing work of Cancer Council NSW.

### **BUY TICKETS: [Relay for Life - Special Event - Moana 2](#)**

**Lifeline**  
Harbour to Hawkesbury  
Sydney

### Managing Your Mood Group

**DELIVERED IN 8-WEEK MODULES**

**Are you looking to enhance your skills in mindfulness, emotional regulation, distress tolerance, and communication?**

This DBT-informed psychological skills group assists young people (aged 14-18) struggling with distressing thoughts and feelings, or experiencing symptoms of anxiety and depression.

The group is free with a GP referral and is conveniently located near public transport. You'll be supported by experienced group facilitators and learn skills and strategies to better manage your mood.

**Content will be covered in 8-week modules, during school terms. The group is free to join with a GP referral.**

**Call us on 02 8287 1158**  
**or scan the QR code to learn more:**



Lifeline Harbour to Hawkesbury Sydney - supporting your community





**SAVE THE DATE**

FOR

# Christmas Carols

AT HOLY NAME WAHROONGA

## **CAROLS IN THE GARDEN**

Sunday 8 December 2024  
11am onwards

Join us for live music and carols on our beautiful Parish lawn **after 9:30am Mass.**

Bring your own nibbles, drinks and favourite picnic blanket/chairs.

Delicious, freshly cooked paella will be available for purchase.

In the event of wet weather, we will move inside the church for the concert.

Are there any **singers or musicians** from the Parish community who would like to join?  
If so, please contact Rosalie,  
[rosaliebelsey@gmail.com](mailto:rosaliebelsey@gmail.com)



*Everyone is welcome*

Holy Name Wahroonga, 35 Billyard Avenue, Wahroonga