

The LION ROARS

Fortnightly College News Bulletin

'Change the World
with
Kindness'
2024



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 8 Term 4, 2024



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the church's season of Advent, getting ready and on watch for the coming of our Lord, it also brings on many end-of-school events focussed around recognising and celebrating the achievements of our St Leo's community.

It is easy to forget amongst these events and sometimes buried beneath the well-intentioned array of lights, decorations and wrapping paper, the single transformational moment that we celebrate.

Jesus being born.

God entering and conquering (in a most unusual way) our human world.

That night in Bethlehem, in a humble manger, remains so awe-inspiring, it is the reason for our College's existence.

Loving God,
*Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen*



ST LEO'S
LEX DEI IN CORDE
WAHROONGA

St Leo's Day 2024
@ Luna Park
Fri 13 Dec '24

HURRY! Closes **MONDAY MORNING**
LAST CHANCE - You must have a ticket to attend!

Order **NOW** -
\$40 ride pass or **FREE** entry only ticket

CLICK HERE & use
password '**LunaPark2024**'

Final Week Activities - Parents Welcome!

The College will be holding an Advent Liturgy on Wednesday (11 Dec) during school assembly time. This is currently being prepared by our Year 13 students (**Nicholas Gomez, Lily Peregrina** and **Tony Baynie**) who have been acting in the position of Youth Ministry Coordinator before our new appointee starts next year.

I also hope to see as many parents/carers as possible at the Year in Review awards presentation on Thursday (12 Dec) at 1pm in The Light of Christ Centre (parking available on the College Basketball Courts – entrance via Yardley Ave).

**** More details about final week activities for students are included in the Weekly Notices and the full WEEK 9 ORGANISATION SCHEDULE VIEWABLE HERE.**

Year 10 Celebration Dinner

On Thursday I had the pleasure of joining eight other staff at the *Year 10 Celebration Dinner* at The Epping Club. Just over 145

students attended and were barely recognizable in their best outfits! After thanksgiving grace (led by **Matthew B**) the evening consisted of a sit-down entrée and mains, followed by photos (via a booth), dancing, photos, awards, photos, enjoying each other's company – and of course photos!

It was a pleasure to see the behaviour, attitude and manners that were on display for the evening. The Epping Club staff once again were very complimentary about the standard of the evening and our young people who were in attendance. They host many schools (there was also another school present that evening), so they see a variety of schools. I am always proud of our students as I walk out at the end of an evening.

Departing Long Serving Staff Members

We bid farewell to four long-serving staff members whose dedication, passion, and commitment have profoundly shaped our community.

Ms Megan de Kantzow – Megan joined us 16 years ago as an English teacher. In that time, Megan has been instrumental in her tuition and care for the many 1000s of students that have been under her direction. Megan has held many leadership positions including - Pastoral Leader (Leader of Year 7 and taking them through to Year 9), as well as Leader of English (leading one of the two compulsory subjects that involves every student in the school at various levels), before more recently as Teacher/Librarian.



Megan has been of great support for each and every individual under her care. In her own right, she is an accomplished author and is currently working on another novel in her little spare time. Earlier this year, Megan made the decision to take time off to care for her elderly parents and in-laws. Megan over the years was never short with her time, whether it be debating, public speaking, throwing on an apron or just having a quiet consoling word to a student or colleague. It was never a chore – but a gift she could offer. Under her stewardship, the library has been more than just a repository of books; it has been a hub of learning, curiosity, and discovery. Her passion for fostering a love of reading and ability to connect students with literature and resources have left an indelible legacy. To our loss, Megan has made the decision to retire and continue what she does best – caring for others – as well as a bit of writing! Personally, I found Megan to be of huge support given her experience, wisdom and deep faith. Our community is very indebted to her.

Ms Karen Bodle – has served as our College Receptionist for the past 12 years. Earlier this year, Karen took leave to care for a family member. Karen has now made the decision to retire and continue enjoying her time with her family. All those who came into contact with ‘that voice’ – ‘*St Leo’s Catholic College, this is Karen speaking, may I help you?*’ were left with a warm, caring and friendly impression of our College community. To actually see her in action with our visitors and students – was not just a voice, but in her actions as well. The numbers of past students who have dropped in and always make it a point to say hello and renew their friendships continually amazes me.



Ms Simone Espitalier-Noel – Simone joined our community four years ago. Her creative thinking, the engagement of her students in Religious Education and her assistance with all things religion is second to none. To walk into one of her classes – you have no choice but to be in awe and captivated by how *Madame Noel* presented the content of her lesson. Simone not only taught Religious Education – but that content and faith was *caught* by her students. Simone is a great role model for our students and we hope she enjoys her *tree change* to the other side of the Blue Mtns! Thank you, Simone, for your expertise and creativity in your lessons.



Ms Julia Carroll – Julia has been with us for three years teaching languages, specifically Japanese. In a relatively short time, Julia has been able to develop in our students a deep understanding and regard of not only the Japanese language but culture, which is so different to our western culture. Thank you, Julia for your dedication to teaching our students, many with little experience of a second language. All the best for your family’s move interstate.



Final Communication for 2024

There will be one more communication from the College in the staff’s last week, finishing on Friday 20 December that will summarise our yearly award winners and give a snapshot of our HSC results released earlier that week.

Thank you to all members of our community - parents, carers, uncles, aunts and grandparents, for partnering with us to ensure our young people are striving to be confident, competent, Catholic-valued, young people of conscience.

Thank you for your time,
Tony Gleeson, Principal

Assistant Principals' Reports:

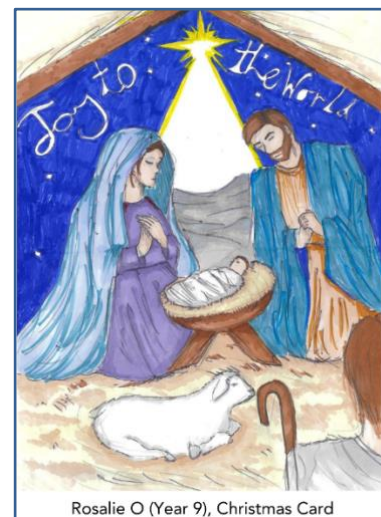
The Season of Advent: A Time of Hope and Preparation

As December begins, our school community embarks on the beautiful season of Advent - a time of reflection, anticipation, and preparation for Christmas.

Advent, derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning 'coming', is celebrated in the four weeks leading up to Christmas. It invites us to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christ's birth and reflect on His promise to come again.

Each week of Advent is marked by lighting a candle on the Advent wreath in our Chapel; a meaningful tradition symbolising hope, peace, joy, and love. The wreath, circular in shape, represents God's unending love, while the evergreen branches remind us of eternal life.

At St Leo's, we honour Advent in many ways. Religion classes are engaging in activities that teach the values of patience, kindness, and giving. Students have created religious themed Christmas cards (such as **Rosalie O's** example above), participating in acts of service, and reflecting on the significance of this season during prayer and assembly time.



Helping those in Need – Toiletries for Dom's Place

This year, we also invited families to participate in a Dom's Place giving initiative, where you can share in the joy of giving by donating toiletry items to the marginalised people who access Dom's Place. These can be left at the front office and will be taken to Dom's Place by our student leaders. Together, we can spread hope and light to those in need. ***It's not too late! Please donate!***

Advent Wishes

As we journey through Advent, let us embrace the quiet moments of the season, find joy in preparing for Christmas, and nurture the spirit of generosity and love within our school and beyond.



May this Advent season be a meaningful time for your family, filled with hope and anticipation for the blessings to come.

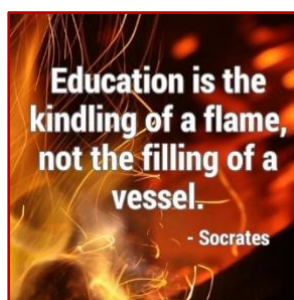
Happy Advent!

Mr Patrick Brennan
Assistant Principal, Evangelisation and Catechesis

Teaching and Learning Developments

As the year draws to a close, the changes that have occurred in teaching and learning are overwhelming, not only at St Leo's but across the state.

For secondary teachers, the NSW Curriculum Reform has led to an exciting time of preparation, planning and implementation of our new Syllabuses. The reform ensures there is a clear focus on essential content, that every student has the opportunity and is entitled to learn, and that there is a clear articulation of what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do. It explicitly states the knowledge and skills to be learnt.



We have a busy couple of years ahead as teachers focus not only on what students learn, but on how they learn and the transferrable knowledge and skills across multiple areas of the curriculum. It is an exciting challenge that we as educators, as **Dr Simon Breakspear** (educational leader and researcher) frames it, 'get to do' rather than what we have to do.

TOILETRIES DRIVE

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

For Dom's Place
Supporting men, women & families
experiencing homelessness and social isolation



The other major development in this space at St Leo's was the launch of our *Teaching and Learning Framework*. Students are becoming familiar with the language of 'Learning @St Leo's'. We have, and will continue, to work with them to ensure they leave our college being *Responsible, Resilient, Independent* and *Collaborative* learners – all attributes Leo's teachers believe are essential for successful learners.

This week in morning briefing, we prayed for our teachers. I thought it important to put in the last Lion Roars for all of us to reflect on the amazing efforts they put in every day.

'Almighty God, we come to you today and give thanks for all our teachers. Thank you for the way in which they give of themselves each day in the classroom, serving and instructing the next generation of this land. We thank you for them all now. God, please fill their hearts with courage now by your mighty Spirit. Fill them with your strength, so they may rise to every challenge and not grow weary. Fill them with your wisdom, so that they may be able to make good judgments when guiding and helping others. Fill them with your peace, so that when stress and anxiety comes it would not overwhelm them. Fill them with your joy, so that the passion they have for their subject may become an infectious passion that spreads.'



As my first year of Assistant Principal - Student Achievement comes to a close, I thank you all for your support and am so excited about Teaching and Learning in 2025!

Mrs Fiona Milkins
Assistant Principal, Student Achievement

A Message from Madame Noel:

'In Hope of Finding Humility in Mudgee'

'Word nerds like me remember that the Latin word '*humus*' means *ground* or *soil* or *dirt*. Closely related, the word '*humble*' is related to not feeling '*above the ground*' and better than everybody else. The word '*humiliate*' is related to bringing others down and making them feel like dirt.

When my daughter rang from Melbourne asking why we so quickly decided to move to Mudgee, my husband had a beautiful answer. He didn't say, 'for a simpler life', because in so many ways it is going to be so complicated. (We don't know many people, we have never had animals except a dog and ants in the kitchen, it is three and a half hours away from Sydney family and friends). He didn't say, 'for a slower life' because we will be playing catch up and moving quickly to build community and Bathurst Diocese curriculum. I love that he said, 'Soph, darl... we want a more *GROUND*ED life: A life that humbles us... that might make us rely not just on our own knowledge, strength and relationships but on a Loving Life Force: God. The God I so often dismiss or forget in our current life.'

I say farewell to St Leo's which in many ways has also given me opportunities to be humble: to teach subjects which quickly grounded me, to travel to places that inspire awe, to befriend colleagues from whom I have learnt so much and to be with teenagers who remind me of how much I still have to learn.'

With gratitude and sadness,

Simone E. Noel

Reminder: Student Requirements for 2025

Textbooks and Stationery



Booklists/online text lists for Year 11 and 12 students have been made available to parents through Box of Books.

For Years 7-10, the majority of learning resources are made available online as needed, so generally no textbooks are required. Families will be advised throughout the year as additional learning resources are needed. Please refer to the email sent with information regarding Year 8-10 novels for English in 2025.

Regarding stationery, we suggest you simply top up stationery supplies for each subject as required.

Please ensure all stationery, uniform and other items are labelled!

Lost Property – Last Call!



We have a mountain of unlabelled uniform and other lost property which has been unclaimed for many months, including from camps.

A table will be set up in Xavier Court this week for students to claim any items – so please ask them to take a look!

All items remaining after Thursday will be donated to charity.

Latest BYODD Specifications for 2025



For those looking to upgrade their devices for 2025, below are the latest specifications from the CSBB Digital Enablement (DE) team. Note there is **no expectation for parents of Year 8-9 students to buy new devices** at this point. This is to let you know the current specifications so that **if you need to replace a student device**, you are aware of the latest requirements and choices.

For students in **Years 10-11**, we do highly recommend moving from an iPad **to laptop for senior studies as in previous years**, and you now have the option of either a PC/Windows-based or Apple OS device.

From the start of this year, we began phasing out iPads from Year 7, as well as giving all families the option of either a PC/Windows-based or Apple OS device for all classes.

The College, through CSBB's Digital Enablement team, will continue to support all student devices and have developed the following specifications and recommendations for purchasing your device to ensure it can be used for three years of class work, as per industry standards.

Note also that **all required software** will also be made available by the College at the start of the year.

	PC/Windows-based Laptops		Apple MacBooks	
	Minimum	Recommended	Minimum	Recommended
			MacBook Air* MacBook Pro* Specs = min laptop req.	MacBook Pro - Specs = min laptop req.
Screen	13"-14" (touch screen or standard)	13"-14" (touch screen or standard)	13"-14"	13"-14"
Processor	Intel Core i5 -10 th Gen (or equiv AMD)	Intel Core i5 -13 th Gen (or equiv AMD)	Intel Core i5 -10 th Gen (or equiv AMD)	Intel Core i5 -13 th Gen (or equiv AMD)
Memory	8 GB RAM	16 GB RAM	8 GB RAM	16 GB RAM
Storage	256 GB SSD	512 GB SSD	256 GB SSD	512 GB SSD
Wireless	WiFi 6 (802.11ax 2x2)	WiFi 6E (802.11ax 2x2, 6 GHz)	WiFi 6 (802.11ax)	WiFi 6E (802.11ax)
OS	Windows 10 (excl 10S). Must update to Windows 11 by 10/25.	Windows 11 (Not Beta versions)	MacOS Ventura or higher (Not Beta versions)	MacOS - latest available version (Not Beta versions)
Accessories	Battery – 6hr life Digital pen (optional for touch screen) TPM 2.0 (req. for Windows 11)	Battery – 6hr life Biometric Tec (for Windows Hello) (optional for touch screen) TPM 2.0 (req. for Wind 11)	Battery – 6hr life TPM 2.0 (req. for Windows 11)	Battery – 6hr life Biometric Technology (for Windows Hello) TPM 2.0 (req. for Windows 11)
Warranty	3 yrs	5 yrs with accidental damage protection	3 yrs	3 yrs with accidental damage protection
Other	Headset	Headset	Headset	Headset

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Motivated and Activated for Bush Regeneration



Under the expert guidance of **Mrs Leeta Caiger** and **Mrs Jeannine Medlock**, Year 9 **ACTIVATE** (as part of an Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways assessment) and Year 10 **MOTIVATE** students on work experience combined for three days of bush regeneration on campus this week.



After reviewing WHS requirements, students worked tirelessly to mulch the large hilly area beside Chanel Way as well as using tools to begin terracing another outdoor area. This is

phase one of redesigning this area to be more usable and visually appealing while teaching our students invaluable interaction and communication skills in the workplace.

The students involved were outstanding, demonstrating transferable skills such as a good work ethic, resilience, time management, collegiality and flexibility. Well done!



Year 10 Motivate 2024

Term 4 has certainly been busy for Year 10 with the commencement of the *Motivate 2024* Program.



After yearly exams were finished, students returned to regular classes and prepared for three days of camp at The Great Aussie Bush Camp, Lake Macquarie. They enjoyed participating in activities such as High Ropes, the



Giant Swing and the Survivor Challenge. It was a great way to relax after the exam block.



After camp, students had the opportunity to take part in the Year 10 Spirituality Day. We attended the Parish Mass at the Cathedral, then listened to **Tony Hoang** talk about growing up as a teenager in Cabramatta and how he turned his life around.



Weeks 7 and 8 saw students engaging in work placement or community volunteering. The majority found amazing job opportunities such as working for publishing companies, working with local mechanics or landscapers just to name a few. I am sure that all students learnt plenty of life skills and hopefully some discovered a possible career path.



A number of other students offered their services to McQuoin Park and St Vincent de Paul at Hornsby, where they chatted with residents, organised activities and packed Christmas Hampers. All agreed it was a great experience and they loved being able to help out in the community.

A huge thank you to all the employers who mentored our students, our Mentor Teachers for calls and emails to check in on them, and to **Mrs Mel Duff** and **Mrs Nicolette Brincat** for dealing with the pile of paperwork. This week, they held their Year 10 Celebration at the Epping Club, and will finish off the year with All My Own Work and Minimum Standards workshops.

Mrs Kate Todd, Leader of Year 10

Year 9 Micro-Narrative Competition

This term in English, Year 9 have been studying the unit, 'Youth and Identity' and exploring texts which employ adolescent voices to explore complex social issues and topics of discussion amongst young people. The students were tasked to compose a micro-narrative in class time that reflected ideas about identity and the adversities faced by young Australians. The entries had to be 100 words and utilise narrative form, structure and language technique to create meaning, character voice and point of view.

Below are just a few lines from these amazing entries. To view the ten entries that were selected by the English faculty as exceptional examples of imaginative writing, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded places in the inaugural St Leo's Year 9 micro-narrative competition:

1st Place: **Gabriel O**

2nd Place: **Tara C**

3rd Place: **Piper S**

Highly Commended: **Rebecca C** and **Olivia DH**

Parents & Carers Christmas Event



Last Wednesday evening, 27 November, a small - though very festive - gathering of about 25 parents and carers came together in the Library for the first St Leo's Annual (I hope) Christmas Ornament Exchange!

The original Ornament Exchange concept is an American tradition, and it was introduced to me several years ago by a friend visiting Australia at Christmas from Alpharetta, Georgia. I've loved it, and have attended and hosted many, ever since. They're always such fun, (happily!) competitive occasions, and St Leo's event was no exception!

Micro-Narratives

Ben R

'Getting up to see an emotionless face, like a blank canvas, through a broken and fractured mirror, only to realise it is just a broken human.'

Daniel D

'This is the way it has be though. Any sense of difference or individuality is unwelcome here and critiqued.'

Lilly O

'The walls began closing in around me, the lights flickering over my head. The room spun and my vision became foggy. The only thing I could hear was my heart pounding in my chest.'

Piper S

'When did that spark of truth, that once radiated bright and inextinguishable fade into a mere void of the girl that once was?'

The brief was simple: bring a wrapped ornament for under the tree, a plate or a bottle to share, and plenty of Christmas cheer! And cheer indeed there was: lots of delicious food, music, conversation and laughter. The evening was a wonderful opportunity for the parent community to connect and engage both with those they already knew, and with those they didn't – but do now!

I've had so much positive feedback over the past week. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to send me a message or email – I'm absolutely thrilled! I loved meeting you all! Many thanks to the amazing St Leo's staff whose support of me, and assistance, were invaluable in making the event such a success.

Ms Tess Denham-Fabry, Parent Engagement Officer



WELLBEING ROUNDUP

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

The Lifeline 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 groups are 8-week modules, during school terms in two locations. Full details are on the [website](#).

Tuesdays from 5-7pm, held in Headspace Brookvale:

- 11 Feb – 24 Jun 2025
- 29 Jul – 2 Dec 2025

Wednesdays from 5-7pm, held in Hornsby:

- 12 Feb – 25 June 2025 in Hornsby Library
- 30 July – 3 Dec 2025, Venue TBA

Support over the holidays

Here are a few different support options for you or a loved one over the holiday period.





Kids Helpline
A free, confidential 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5-25. Call 1800 55 1800, or visit www.kidshelpline.com.au.



Lifeline
Lifeline provides free 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services. Call 13 11 14, or visit www.lifeline.org.au.



Suicide Call Back Service
Offers free professional 24/7 telephone and online counselling support to people affected by suicide. Call 1300 659 467, or visit www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au.



Beyond Blue
Provides free, confidential counselling services to anyone looking for help with their mental health. Call 1300 224 636, or visit www.beyondblue.org.au.



Mental Health Line 1800 011 511
NSW Health's free 24/7 statewide phone service which links people with NSW Health mental health services. Call 1800 011 511.



Safe Haven- North Ryde
A place to chat with qualified peer support workers & mental health professionals if you are feeling distressed or having suicidal thoughts. Located at Macquarie Hospital, Building 72, 59 Wicks Road, North Ryde 2113, open Monday to Sunday from 4pm-8pm.

headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government



Safe Haven- Northern Beaches
A place to chat with qualified peer support workers & mental health professionals if you are feeling distressed or having suicidal thoughts. Located at Brookvale Community Health Centre, 612-624 Pitwater Rd Brookvale, Monday to Sunday 4pm-8pm.



Youth Response Team- YRT
YRT provides mental health assessment and crisis support for young people 12-17 experiencing suicidal distress within the community. YRT engages with young people in a space that best suits them. To access call the Mental health line- 1800 011 511.



13 Yarn
Provides free 24/7 crisis support for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander young people. Call 13 92 76, or visit www.13yarn.org.au.



eheadspace
eheadspace provides online and telephone mental health support for young people aged 12-25. Call 1800 650 890, or visit www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace.



Head to Health
Helps young people and their families find mental health and wellbeing resources for yourself, or for someone you care about. Call 1800 595 212, or visit www.headtohealth.gov.au.



QLife
QLife provides anonymous and free LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral for people in Australia wanting to talk about sexuality, gender, bodies, feelings or relationships. Call 1800 184527 or visit <https://qlife.org.au>.

headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government

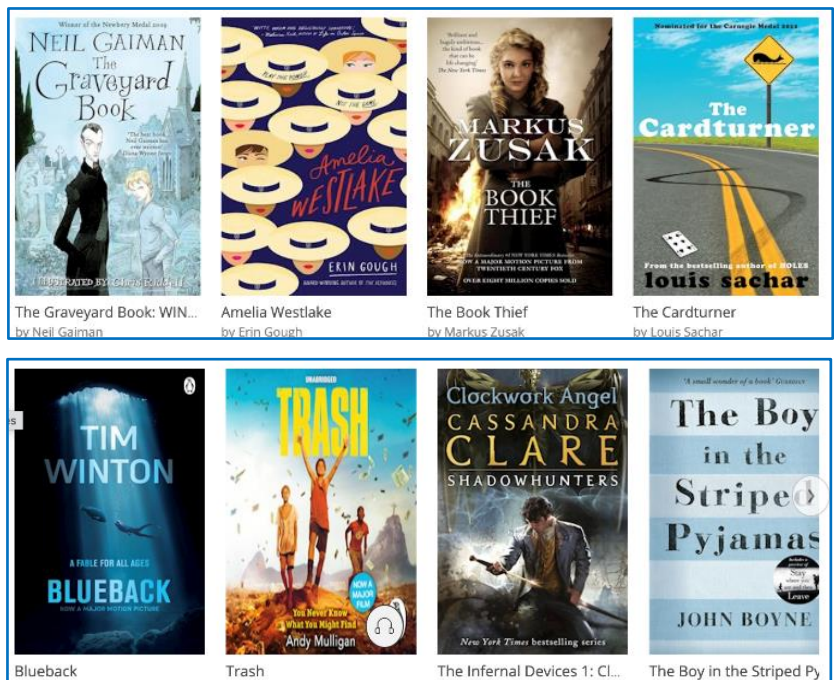


Summer Reading

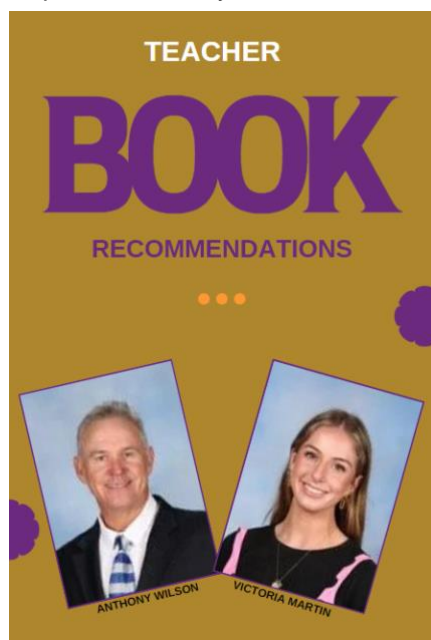
The long summer break, while a great time for rest and relaxation, can have unintended consequences for students, particularly in terms of reading gains.

At St Leo's, we're always striving to provide our students with unique and engaging learning opportunities. The great news is, *digital libraries never take a summer break!* Our eBooks and audiobooks are available all year long, including during the summer holidays! Online reading anytime, anywhere.

If you can't find what you are looking for on the ePlatform, try your local library or The State Library. There may even be some gems on your home bookshelf.



Above are a small selection of titles available on Wheelers ePlatform; some as digital books, others as audio books. They are titles on the Premiers Reading Challenge. For more inspiration, thank you to these teachers for their book recommendations and reviews.



Ms Victoria Martin

The Happiest Man on Earth - Eddie Jaku

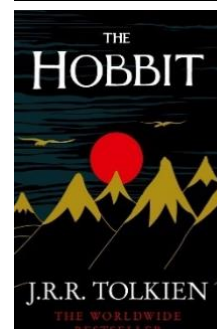
I read this with my year 9 religion class this year, it exposes the true horrors of WWII and yet is underpinned by Jaku's unyielding optimism and resilience in the face of hard times.

The Hobbit - Tolkien

I wish I read this sooner! I read this last year and fell in love with Tolkien's creativity and setting description. I am working my way through the LOTR trilogy, halfway through book 3... I would also recommend these, but they are more arduous to read.

Roald Dahl Collection of Short Stories

I discovered Dahl as a child and have found my way back to him as an adult. His stories are just as awe inspiring and pique my creativity!



Mr Anthony Wilson

Has recommended authors from the adventure fiction genre:

Scott Mariani, Clive Cussler and Matthew Reilly

Happy Christmas reading, I wish all our students and families a safe and joyful Christmas.

Mrs Victoria James, Acting Librarian

CAPA HAPPENINGS

CAPA Con 2024

The new and improved *Creative and Performing Arts Convention – CAPA Con* – was held on **Thursday 28 November** until **Saturday 30 November** right here at St Leo's. A total of 118 students attended the 3-day intensive, which was an opportunity for CAPA Co-Curricular Music, Dance, Drama and Art elective students to participate in intensive workshops at a concentrated level not possible at school or at home.

The days were led by both St Leo's CAPA staff, external tutors and professional tuition by guest teachers in each discipline. Thank you to all students who attended. We know some memorable highlights included the Trivia Night with **Mrs Murphy** on Friday evening.

Students were able to select TWO student choice activities which included Pilates, African Drums, Karaoke, Just Dance, Paint and Sip, and Prop Making for the 2025 Musical. There was something for everyone!





A very special and heartfelt thank you to the CAPA staff that attended, organised and implemented workshops: **Mr David Bell, Mrs Ellie Field, Mrs Susie Murphy, Ms Claire Stevenson, Miss Angelique Tot, Miss Grace Colley, Miss Kristen Nicola, Miss Hayley Vane Tempest and Miss Angela Schatkowski.** Extra thank you to **Mrs Fiona Milkins** for hopping in on the last day to assist in our showcase.

Thank you also to our external tutors for sharing your knowledge and passion: Music - **Adam, Solomon, Ben and Rosalie** and Dance - **Bianca and Bella.**

Thank you, Rainer and Ms Stevenson, for the great photos! You can also see our [CAPA CON HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO HERE.](#)



Many thanks,
CAPA Faculty 2024

Student Feedback

What did you love about CAPA Con?

'Loved working on the musical props with my friends and when we packed up we listened to Christmas music with Mrs Stevenson'

Artist - Year 9

'I had an amazing time, trivia with Mrs Murphy was very funny and jamming with my friends felt amazing and I learnt so much.'

Musician - Year 9

"I loved getting to learn new dances and tricks! I loved all the teachers and the variety of dance styles that we got to learn."

Dancer - Year 8

'I enjoyed all the drama classes stage combat was my favourite the trivia was fun as well.'

Drama Student - Year 7

'I loved playing and learning the Coldplay songs. It was probably my favourite piece we have played. I also liked the small ensembles; it was a really good group activity and it was really fun.'

Musician - Year 8

'Overall, it is so much fun to be able to connect with your peers and friends and get the opportunity to experience different types of CAPA.'

Dancer/Drama Student - Year 9



Private Music Tuition Semester 2 Studio Concert

Congratulations to the below students who participated in the final Studio Concert for the year on Tuesday, 3 December - an incredible showcase of how hard they have worked throughout the semester. Thank you to the tutors for all your efforts in developing and working with our amazing musicians and thank you to all the attending staff and parents/carers.

Performers	Year
Dylan B	7
Sienna R	7
Harrison D & Henry B	8
Isabella P	8
Amelia R	9
Jimi F & Zac F	9
Kira M	9
Tara C	9
Elizabeth N	10
Rebecca R	10
Billy F	11

Brass Ensemble	Year
Niall C	7
Dominic D	7
Pedro L	7
Isabella L	9
Marcus G	9
Sophie R	9
Zoe M	9
Alison D	10
Joshua S	10
Salomé L	10
Hamish L	11
Chloe M	12

Drama Showcase



On November 19, the Flora Mackillop Theatre at St Leo's Catholic College was filled with energy and creativity as students from *Lions Drama* and Year 9/10 Elective Drama showcased their work. From 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm, the audience enjoyed a variety of performances, each highlighting the students' hard work and growth throughout Semester 2.

The Year 9 students wowed the crowd with an intense stage combat piece, demonstrating both skill and precision in their choreography. Year 10 brought *Antigone* by Sophocles to life in their Greek theatre performance, embracing the power and drama of this ancient art form. Meanwhile, the Lions Drama students captivated the audience with their thought-provoking play, *The Day the Internet Died*, exploring

themes of technology and society.

A big thank you to all the families and friends who attended, and congratulations to the performers on their impressive achievements.

We can't wait to see what these talented students will do next!



Norm and Ahmed Incursion

On November 15, St Leo's hosted a live performance of *Norm and Ahmed*, a core text for HSC Drama, offering students an immersive experience of live theatre. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with the play in a dynamic way, enriching their preparation for the written Drama exam.

Following the performance, the actors led a Q&A session and workshop, diving into the play's key themes in line with the Drama syllabus. The event also highlighted our collaboration with our neighbouring school, Normanhurst Boys High School, fostering a strong sense of community.

Thank you to all the students who participated in this insightful and engaging experience.



Let's Connect!

Parent Engagement



What's been happening in Weeks 6 and 7:

- Parents' and Carers' Ornament Exchange and supper last Wednesday evening (27 Nov)
- Parents' and Carers' Coffee Catch Up and Morning Tea with St Leo's Leadership Team and staff last Friday morning (29 Nov)



What's coming up:

- Christmas visit to McQuoin Park by St Leo's Mini Vinnies students – morning tea, music, gifts, conversation and connection with the lovely resident and staff community next Monday, 9 December.

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



Let us pray:

*Dear Lord,
Please allow me to embrace this season of Advent as a way to prepare for Your arrival. May everything I do, every gift I send, every party I attend, every meal I share, remind me to prepare space in my heart for You.
Amen*



- Last Sunday, 1 December, marked the beginning of Advent and the beginning of the church's liturgical year. Advent means 'arrival' and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. In Christian communities around the world, Advent refers to the four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. The Advent Wreath is a symbol of this season. The circle of evergreen branches represents eternity, and the candles, lit over the four weeks until Christmas, symbolise hope, peace and love (purple), in preparation and anticipation of the joy (pink) of the Nativity. This year I made my own wreath which will remain on the family dining table throughout Advent and each evening before dinner we will light the candle/s and share what we are grateful for that particular day.

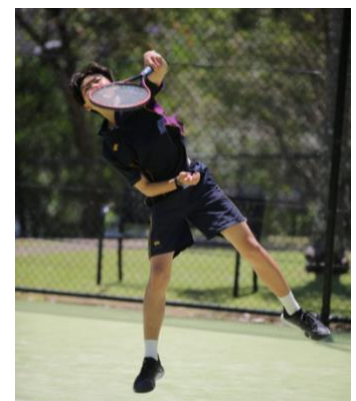
Around the grounds

CSBB Tennis

On 26 November, our Junior and Senior Tennis teams descended on Queenwood Tennis courts at Oxford Falls for the annual CSBB Tennis Gala Day. The teams competed in tough, hot conditions with plenty of water and sunscreen required.

The senior team won through to the finals finishing the round robin equal top with Mater Maria, but went down narrowly to finish as CSBB Runners-up. The Junior team battled hard throughout the day to finish in equal third position.

Congratulations to both Senior (**Aarush S**, **James D**, and **Max W**) and Junior s (**Daniel C**, **Aaryav J**, and **Aidan D**) teams on your fantastic results and being proud ambassadors for St Leo's.



CSBB Surf Life Saving

Last Tuesday the CSBB Surf Life Saving Championships was held at Terrigal Beach. St Leo's had a large number of students competing in the beach events (Sprint, Flags, and Relays) and for the first time in many years due to qualification changes, we also had a student competing in the water events (Swim and Board).

The students represented the College with pride and achieved a number of podium finishes. Congratulations to all students on your efforts, with those receiving ribbons listed below:

- 1st - **Emily B, Lucy E, Isabelle G, Chelsea F, Kyrrah M, Ella S** (All Age Girls Relay)
- 1st - **Zane D, Jacob H, Marcelo S-N, Armando M, Aarush S, Nicholas A** (All Age Boys Relay)
- 1st - **Jacob H** (Junior Boys Sprint)
- 1st - **Kyrrah M** (Intermediate Girls Sprint)
- 2nd **Isabelle G** (Intermediate Girls Sprint)
- 2nd **Armando M** (Intermediate Boys Sprint)
- 2nd **Jacob H** (Junior Boys Flags)
- 2nd **Oliver M-A** (Intermediate Boys Flags)
- 3rd **Lucy E** (Junior Girls Sprint)
- 3rd **Chelsea F** (Intermediate Girls Sprint)
- 3rd **Marcelo S-N** (Intermediate Boys Sprint)
- 3rd **Nicholas A** (Senior Boys Flags)

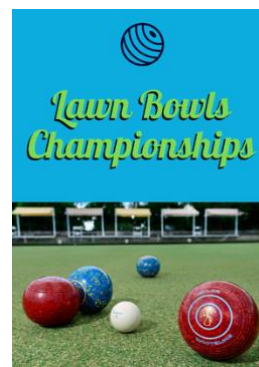


Lawn Bowls Champions!

The St Leo's Lawn Bowls squad spent four fabulous weeks in November learning, perfecting and competing in the game of Lawn Bowls - all in readiness for a brand-new Tournament Cup sponsored by our good friends at Pennant Hills Bowling Club.

For four Wednesdays in a row, we had this fabulous opportunity. We caught the train to Pennant Hills Station and had delightful weather, rolling up and practicing against ourselves. We learnt new skills and met new friends from different grades.

Week 4 saw the commencement of two competition afternoons between St Leo's and Barker. Some fabulous bowling in the afternoon sun saw both schools neck and neck, however, when the bell tolled it was St Leo's ahead 10 to 6.



This unfortunately was the last day, as severe weather in the final week took its toll. Fortunately for St Leo's, the margin was enough to win the inaugural *Pennant Hills Bowling Club Schools Cup*.

A special thankyou goes to the players that gave up their time to play an ancient game and have fun. **Jamie A, Thomas C, Zac F, Harry G, Cameron G, William L, Joshua M, Napier R, Maxwell M** and **Jackson Mc**. Thank you and well done.

Lawn bowls is looking very interesting in 2025, and everyone is invited to trial. You don't need to have played before. Come and meet new people and have fun. Stay tuned. You will have a 'bowl' of fun!

Mr Anthony Wilson

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SAVE THE DATE!
ALL ARE WELCOME TO HOLY NAME'S

Christmas Carols IN THE GARDEN

**SUNDAY
11 AM, 8 DEC 2024**

Join us for live music & carols on our beautiful Parish lawn after the 9.30am Mass

Bring your own nibbles, drinks & favourite picnic blanket/chairs

Delicious paella available for purchase

Invite your friends and neighbours along too!

In the event of wet weather, we will have a carols concert in the Church instead

Are there any **singers or musicians** from the Parish community who would like to join? If so, please contact Rosalie, rosaliebelsev@gmail.com



CAROLS in the CATHEDRAL

Come, all ye faithful!
to a festive evening of
carolling & music

6pm Saturday 14 December
following the Vigil Mass

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
23 Yardley Ave, Waitara



**HORNSBY
CATHEDRAL
PARISH**





PLAY GIRLS AFL IN 2025!

The **Northwest Lightning** is your local girls-only AFL team. We're celebrating our 10th season in 2025. Come and join us!

We have teams for all abilities and ages from 7 to 17. We play on Sundays and have training midweek to support skills development and graduated contact.

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING 

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN
Visit nwlafl.com.au or scan the QR code


**REDUCE YOUR LOG BOOK BY 20 HOURS
WITH PCYC NSW
PCYC IS AN ACCREDITED PROVIDER
OF THE TRANSPORT FOR NSW SAFER DRIVERS COURSE.**



THE SAFER DRIVERS COURSE INVOLVES TWO MODULES

MODULE ONE:
A three-hour facilitated group discussion on how to manage risks on the road.
This will involve a maximum of 12 participants and will be delivered by a facilitator.

MODULE TWO:
A two-hour, in-vehicle coaching session to develop low-risk driving strategies.
This will involve two participants and a coach.

**LEARNER DRIVERS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE
WILL RECEIVE 20 HOURS OFF THEIR LOG BOOK.**

\$140

**NEXT COURSE DATE: Saturday 7th & Thursday 19th December 2024.
Thursday 16th & 23rd January 2025. Location: PCYC Hornsby**

Book online TODAY at pcycdrivereducation.org.au

PCYC | POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS NSW