Our Theme - “The Joy of the Gospel-Putting our Faith in to action”

Sunday 6 Nov, 2016 – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – “...He is not a God of the dead but of the living...” (Lk 20:27-38)

Dear Parents, Guardians, Care Givers, Grandparents and Students,

As most of our senior students who study the HSC subject – Studies of Religion (either 1 or 2 Unit) would know, life after death, in one form or another, is a common belief of most of the major faiths of the world. As we would all be aware, it is certainly a basic tenet of our Christian faith. In Luke’s Gospel for next Sunday, Jesus responds to the Sadducees that the resurrected life is not merely an extension of the earthly life, but rather life is changed; not ended. As many of us have been in mourning for a loved one at some stage in our lives, this idea can be challenging, yet we are called to that challenge with a genuine hope and trust in the life that goes on in a different way.

We as a community remember in our prayers and thoughts the Manrique family from St Lucy’s Wahroonga who are now living the life Jesus speaks about in next Sunday’s Gospel. The funeral for the family will be held today (Monday) at Holy Name Parish, Wahroonga, celebrated by Fr David Ranson. The North Shore Diocesan schools cluster (of which we are a member) is supporting the St Lucy’s community with financial assistance by way of catering for the wake.

Our College Counsellor, Mrs Anne-Marie Newham spent last Friday afternoon at St Lucy’s speaking with parents, students and staff. I have also spoken with both Fr David and Mr Warren Hopley (Acting Principal) offering our prayers and any other assistance they made need now or in the future.
In reference to this tragic event and this Sunday’s Gospel – I have listed part of Sr Helen’s (a Dominican nun who is blind and deaf and is Chaplain at St Lucy’s) reflection delivered at the special Prayer service last Friday evening:

“...We know that the family has died and is now with the angels and with God in a very special way. We know that Eli and Martin have been happy children, happy at home, at St Lucy’s and with friends. We are better people for having known them. We know that each one can be alive with us through memories and sharing these memories, through paintings and photos. We know that we shall never know the depths of the why this has happened. The family has left us a legacy. Maria was a feisty, passionate woman with energy. She was everywhere ... in the swimming pool, at the canteen, at the front gate, at the Hope group, always advocating for her children and for all of us. The children have gifts of gentleness and creativity, leading us into realms not bound by language and mundane thought patterns. The legacy has been handed on to us now. We need to move forward with determination, laughter, and wisdom to help our world become a better place, one in which difference is accepted and cherished. For these differences reflect for our world the beauty and the wonder of our God and need to be revealed to all...”

Mental Health Week at St Leo’s – Great to see our Students making a Difference!

Last Monday evening just on 70 parents participated in an excellent workshop led by one of our local psychologists, **Dr Josephine Kearney** titled “Recognising the Signs of Anxiety & Depression and how best to Support your Adolescent”. Last week our Senior Student Leaders led a series of activities around raising awareness of mental health as well as a whole school affirmations exercise which involved all students and even some staff! Well done to our Student Leaders on planning and executing this necessary and vital program in our immediate community.

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme – Gold Awards – A Fantastic Effort

Congratulations to **Cameron Neville and Wilson Murphy** – (Year 12 2016) who have completed all the many requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. These students will be presented to the Governor of NSW at a yet to be announced date.

It is great that there are over 30 students in the College (only open to Year 9 and above) already working through the Bronze and Silver Award programs. It is great to see students competing against themselves to not only make solid goals but also to conquer and set their own bar higher which will undoubtedly uplift them throughout life.

Thank you to **Mr Introna, Mr Smith and Ms Scott** who have been assisting these students over the years.
Year 7 (2017) Orientation Day
Last week we hosted our Year 7 students for 2017. Again our students (primarily Years 7, 8 & 9) were able to successfully lead these students in “Getting to know you” activities. Our younger students are provided many positive student role models so the transition from the primary school setting to secondary can be as smooth as possible for all parties! Shown in the accompanying photo is William Blanch of Year 8 – speaking (as well as sketching) to a group of our new Year 7 students.

Music – Spring Soiree
What an amazing display of talent at our Spring Soiree with 15 different performances. Mr Mahoney described the performance as “one of the most entertaining evenings he has had the privilege to attend, certainly since St Leo’s High School Musical Jr”. Congratulations to our choirs – Bel Canto and Max 12; and instrumental ensemble Four Seasons. Also to the following individual/small group performances: Tamara Manktelow, Jess Knight, Kate O’Callaghan, Joel Tjoa, Abrielle Elysse, Laura Moran, Sophia Groundwater, Daniel Martin, Josh D’Souza, Megan Mawby, Lucinda Grout, Max Griffin, Justin Chou, Ian D’Souza, Matteo Persechino, Tamara Bentsen, and Bede Patterson.

We were delighted to be joined at this event by Bailey Pickles, the twelve year old composer of Stop Think which was performed by Bel Canto.

A big thank you to Mark Rogers (Year 12 2016) for giving up his time to run the sound desk.

Representative Sport – Cricket - Downie Shield Competition and Tennis
Even though our Boys cricket team had a loss recorded last week vs St Augustine’s College, they played with great determination and skill. The team were playing against a team who has several Australian Representatives and they certainly tested their skills and reputation. After the first session, St Leo’s had the team for 4/56. Due to some dropped catches – they got away from our clutches! There were some terrific individual performances – Michael Phoebus (4/49 off 10 overs) and Mason Francis – scoring just 9 runs shy of a century!
Thank you to their coaches – Mr Privett and Mr Wilson.

It was very pleasing to hear that a record number of students (both boys and girls) trialled for our 1st IV Tennis Team! I am sure we will see some fantastic results in the near future – as the competitions take place.

Mr AF Gleeson
Principal

“...Let us all have courage...”
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (13/4/1874)
Assistant Principal
Examination Blocks
Year 10 have their examination block in Week 5 this term, with the Year 7–9 examination block in Week 6. A reminder that information for parents about upcoming Assessment Tasks is available on the Curriculum page of the College website. The following is a link to the page: http://www.stleos.nsw.edu.au/our-curriculum/assessmenttasks/

The Assessment pages are accessed using the password: leoscommunity.

Year 9 and 10 Camp
Well done to Year 9 for the enthusiastic way they participated in their camp. Overwhelmingly students have reported that this was a camp that helped them to bond together more as a year group. A big thank you to Mr Tiglao and the camp staff for making this such a special experience.

Year 10 will head off on a three day camp during Week 8 this term. Year 10 this year are involved in a new camp experience completing an Urban Challenge. Both of these camps are important elements of our Outdoor Education Program.

Information Nights
A reminder that the Year 12 (2017) Parent Information Evening is on this Wednesday 2nd November (Week 4) in The Light of Christ Centre at 7pm. The focus of this evening will be on Assessment in Year 12. Year 11 reports will be issued at this time and detailed information about the upcoming year will be provided.

On Tuesday 16th November (Week 6) there will be a Year 7 (2017) Parent Information Evening. This will start at 7pm and will be held in The Light of Christ Centre.

Parking for both activities is available on the Basketball Courts.

Year in Review
At the end of every year the College holds a Year in Review. This activity celebrates the efforts and achievements of students at the College. This will occur at 11:30am on Tuesday 13th December in The Light of Christ Centre. All students will be expected to attend, as it is a normal school day.

We wish to issue an invitation to family members of our students and friends of the College to this significant end of school year activity. Invitations to award winners will be sent prior to the event.

Short Term Car Spots
Temporary short-term car spots have been established for parents on the corner of Windarra Crescent and Woolcott Avenue. Parents are able to turn left into the College through the gate nearest to the College reception and park in front of the bollards for periods of up to 20 minutes.
College App
I would encourage all parents (if you haven’t already) to download the College App - Skoolbag. The College regularly sends out important messages on the App. The App is FREE and in both IOS (Apple) and ANDROID versions. You can download Skoolbag either from the “Google Shop”, “The App Store” or “Windows Mobile” using the links below:
- Or simply type in St Leo’s Skoolbag into Google or App Store.

College Calendar
The College Calendar, listing all upcoming events is now available on the College Website. This provides an up to date list of all events and provides details about these events. You can access the calendar by clicking on the following link http://www.stleos.nsw.edu.au/calendar/ or following the link on the front page of the St Leo’s website.
On the 1st of November we celebrate the Feast of All Saints Day. This is a time to refocus and reconnect with the stadium of saints that have gone before us and are cheering us on as we ‘run the marathon of life’.

At a recent CSYMA conference in Canberra Dr Jill Daly Gowdie (Brisbane Catholic Education Office) explained that each morning she began her day by standing in her sun room and called on four saints to journey with her for the day and to aid her in her work. She called on St Benedict for intellect, St Hildergard for creativity, St Theresa of Avila for sheer naughtiness and St Raphael for Healing. The Saints are God’s Roadside Assistance Squad who respond on call.

Such a prayer recognises that the Saints in their early life have recognised the gifts God gave them and have used them to transform the world. What is extraordinary is that the only difference between the Saints and ourselves is a three letter word... ‘Yes’. They answered yes to God’scall whispered through their daily experience.

However, the more important observation is the ‘HOW’. How did the Saints say yes? Pope Francis passionately took on the Patronage of St Francis of Assisi. After a deep and stark reflection of his life, St Francis performed a mental, spiritual and emotional ‘U Turn’ and dedicated his life to imitating the life, actions and heart of Jesus. He sought out lepers and lovingly embraced such outcasts through healing acts of Mercy. He denied himself worldly wealth in order to serve the poor and suffer with them, he became an embodiment of sacrificial love and lived the depth and breadth of peace. He saw the sacred in all living things – he became a ‘walking Gospel’. Pope Francis has modelled his papacy on this extraordinary figure. This ‘in deed not word’ approach to living the faith has drawn people closer to the person of Jesus Himself. In Pope Francis and in exploring the Saints we draw tantalisingly close to ‘God with skin on’.

This concept of ‘witness’ or ‘living a faith filled and faith fuelled life’ is echoed in the Hebrew Scriptures. They call us to ‘cover ourselves in the dust of our Rabbi’ (Jesus). They call us to journey with Him so closely that the dust of His sandals covers and cakes our skin so that our movements, thoughts, hearts and desires move in unison with Him – so that within us those around us see a reflective pool of the divine. In doing so the people that we encounter through our relationships feel that they have been kissed by the face of God.

To live such a life is what it means to live a ‘yes’ to God’s call. Loving Father, Help us to yearn to be so intimately close to You that we are covered in Your dust. Amen
Please join us for either of the following liturgies: 10:00 am or 1:00 pm

The Road to Bethlehem
A liturgical Pilgrimage
2016
Celebrating the journey through Advent to the moment
Jesus is reborn in the cradle of our hearts

As a Catholic school in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice the ‘Road to Bethlehem’ seeks to: Embrace our call to Liberating Education that opens the hearts and minds of our community through our Gospel Spirituality. It seeks to invite all people into the living story of Jesus and strive to make His message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community. As an Inclusive Community we open our gates to our parish, feeder schools and McQuoin Park Retirement Village to share our story of faith. Committed to Justice and Solidarity, the collections raised at 'The Road to Bethlehem' will be used to support the ongoing partnership of solidarity between St Leo's and Kiribati.
From the Director of Administration

Photos
Extra curricular photos are on display in the library. Students wishing to purchase any of the photos can obtain a payment envelope, or online payment slip, from Mrs Raso in the library. Photo envelopes are to be returned to Mrs Raso. All orders must be made by Friday 4th November to ensure delivery before the end of the year.

Vaccinations
The third round of vaccinations for students in Year 7 (who have returned the consent cards) will be done on Thursday 10th November. These will be held throughout the day in AG1.

Vaccinations will also be given to any Year 8 students who may have missed doses last year.

Subject Changes
Students in 12 (2017) can change the number of units for the HSC at any time. However, it would be appreciated if this could be finalised in the next 2 weeks. This includes movement between levels for English, Mathematics, Science and Studies of Religion.

Change of subject forms are available in the library.

Students can only change classes once forms have been processed and a new timetable printed.

From the Mathematics Department
The department is taking advantage of a Maths Online trial. Maths Online provides explanation videos and worksheets for all mathematics levels. All students should have received a login from their teacher. With exams coming over the next few weeks, the trial provides another source to review and practice learnt concepts as well as to clarify any misconceptions.

Year 8 will be participating in a Maths Problem Solving Day on Friday 4th November. Please return permission notes as soon as possible to the office or to the classroom teacher.

Maths Help is on every Monday afternoon till 4pm in the library. All students are welcome to attend.

St Leo’s Sport Report

Cricket – Downie Shield
St Leo’s have a proud tradition of cricket at the College, with our Opens and Under 15’s teams competing in the Berg and Downie Shield and the Northern Districts Cup.

Our Open Boys entered the first round of the Downie Shield last week as massive underdogs against a strong St Augustine’s side who boasted a number of state and national representatives. With St Augustine’s winning the toss and deciding to bat first, the Leo’s boys knew that they needed to keep it tight in the field and bowl well.

At the end of the first session, St Augustine’s were struggling at 4/56 due to some great bowling from the openers. Unfortunately as the morning wore on we dropped 8 catches and the small scoreline soon jumped to a total of 287.

The Leo’s boys knew that they needed to bat well and they did with Mason Francis hitting 91 and Mark Tobin 63 but we fell short making a total of 220. Some standout performances with the ball included Michael Phoebus 4-49 off 10 overs, Thomas Gohl 2-16 off 4 overs.
Swimming Carnival
On the 25th November the College Swimming carnival will be held at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. During tutor over the last week students have received entry forms that they need to complete ASAP. A note will be going home with more information about the day next week.

Upcoming Events and Next Pride
- NSWCCC Basketball
- Cricket
- Swimming Carnival
- BBSSSA Volleyball
- BBSSSA Tennis

For more information on any of the upcoming competitions, or to find out more information about a particular sport, or to inform the College about recent sporting performances outside the College please don’t hesitate to contact me on michael.kember@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Community News

Support some of our students in upcoming musical theatre performances
DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP & CYBERSAFETY EDUCATION FOR PARENTS

Parents of children in systemic schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay are invited to join a free online Digital Citizenship and Cybersafety Education webinar that will be held from 8:00 pm – 8:40 pm on Wednesday 23rd November 2016.

The webinar will be hosted online by the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Broken Bay and will be facilitated by Greg Gebhart from the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner.

Time: 8:00 – 8:40 pm

Date: Wednesday 23rd November 2016

Technical Requirements: Any internet enabled device

Registration: Register to attend the webinar at https://goo.gl/dvq2Xb before 8:00pm 23rd November 2016
Download the free Parent’s Guide to Online Safety from the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner at https://goo.gl/k5kCHQ or the free Parenting Online Infographic at https://goo.gl/xF04PI

Please contact john.hession@dbb.catholic.edu.au for further information.