2017 - “Jesus be the Centre – Find Your Greatness”

Sunday 12 February, 2017 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – “...Jesus comes to fulfil the law...” (Mt 5:17-37)

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

Welcome families of St Leo’s Catholic College to the new school year, and a very warm welcome to all those families who are joining our community for the first time.

It is fitting that the readings for this Sunday all relate to the way we are called to live in a “right” relationship with God and with one another. As a College we realise that establishing right and proper relationships between staff and students and between the students themselves is the Number 1 issue, particularly at the start of the year. This is true for all new students whether it’s Year 7 or Years 8-12.

Our Theme – “Jesus be the centre – Find your greatness”
Our theme supports and challenges our community to not only remember, but to live our lives with Jesus as our centre. Jesus is the reason for our striving to be excellent in academics, sport, cultural, relationships and extra-curricular activities. Our Mission is to evangelise and for that to occur we must be the best people we can – in all areas of our life. In other words – Jesus is asking us to find our greatness.

At St Leo’s we offer a vast array of opportunities where students and staff can create, find their passion, enhance, and excel in their many talents and to use those gifts to better the lives of others. Simply we need to be the best we can to assist those people in need to make their lives better. This theme will be unpacked and brought to life throughout the year with our students and staff.
2017 – Strategic Improvement Plan
In accordance with our 2016-2018 Strategic Improvement Plan, we have enhanced each of
the three main focus areas by extra staffing and resourcing. A number of programs in each of
these areas will be outlined; all with the aim of assisting the students in finding their
greatness.

Mission – Mr Daniel Petrie has been appointed our Director of Evangelisation and Catholic
Formation. This year will see a differentiated Religious Education program in Year 7 that is
being developed to meet the differing needs of our new students.

Pastoral Care and Well Being – Our Pastoral and Well Being Team is strengthened with
the appointment of the Leader of Student Services – Ms Julie Atkins. St Leo’s is well known
for our pastoral care and well-being programs, ensuring students are offered individual
plans and approaches so that they can develop into successful and happy adults and find
their greatness.

Learning and Teaching – Mrs Sue White has been appointed as our Curriculum
Coordinator to ensure there is a focus on staff professional learning; this is one of the most
effective strategies for improving student outcomes.

Over the next few weeks, parents will have an opportunity to listen, discuss and comment
upon the initiatives in each of these areas through our Parent Evenings, as well as
presentations posted online.

Our $10.5M Creative Arts; TAS and Vet Building
By the end of this year students will have access to state-of-the-art facilities in our $10.5M
building, which will house and nurture students doing Visual Arts, TAS, Hospitality, Music
and Drama. Diagrams and drawings will be available online in the next few weeks.

Awards for Two Past Students
During the holidays two past students of the College were recognised for their work and
achievements in their particular fields:

Mr Phil Glendenning (and past parent),
president of the Refugee Council of Australia and
director of the Edmund Rice Centre received an
Order of Australia in January in the Australia
Day Honour Awards. Phil has spoken to the
students on a number of occasions previously.
More information here -
http://www.smh.com.au/comment/in-the-time-of-
fake-news-we-cannot-be-silent-about-the-truth-20170125-gtygsl.html
Mr Luke Davies, screenwriter, novelist and poet, has been nominated for an Academy Award for writing the screenplay for the movie – Lion.

Congratulations to both these men on finding their greatness!

**Staffing**

**Ms Kelly Coleman and Ms Vicki James**
Congratulations to Ms Coleman and Ms James on their appointment as Acting Leaders of Visual Art for 2017. Both of these teachers have had significant experience and will ably lead the Art department in a job share role this year while Ms Carson is on leave for 2017.

**Ms Anamaria Schneider – Visual Arts**
Our new teacher in Visual Arts is Anamaria Schneider who came to us from St Paul’s and has many years of teaching and industry experience. She was animator for the Sydney Olympics and also worked for Hannah Barbara as an animator. She comes highly recommended and we look forward to having her as part of the Leo’s team.

**Mr Manny Scalone - Mathematics**
Mr Scalone comes to us from Patrician Brothers’ College at Blacktown, where he has had significant experience in both pastoral and academic leader roles. We are delighted to welcome him to the Mathematics faculty this year.

**Ms Julie Atkins – Religious Education**
Julie has been has had significant leadership experience holding as a Religious Education Coordinator, a Subject Coordinator and a Pastoral Co-ordinator. Her experience and extensive professional RE development will mean she is a welcome addition to St Leo’s.

**Ms Lee Collerson-Falzon - HSIE**
Lee joins us from Ravenswood School where she has been teaching since 2010. She has over 20 years teaching experience in many local schools in the local area and is welcomed by the HSIE department.

**Internal Appointments**

**Curriculum Coordinator** - Ms Sue White
**Leader of Student Services** - Ms Julie Atkins

Congratulations to these staff on their recent appointment.
I would urge you to keep up-to-date with future editions of The Pride (distributed on a fortnightly basis) so we can work in partnership with the education of your child(ren).

I hope to see you at one of the many functions/evenings for parents over the next few weeks.

Mr AF Gleeson
Principal

“...We are all but travellers here...”
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (27/11/1866)

Assistant Principal
I would commend students on the way they have quickly settled into the rhythms and routines of school. There is a wonderful sense of enthusiasm and spirit as students commence work in their classes.

We are very much looking forward to an exciting year at the College. We will be unveiling our new Learning Principles, launching our new Reports system and rolling out our new Behavior Management and Discipline system. We will continue to work to provide opportunities for students to excel in the way they put their faith into action and involve themselves in cocurricular activities. Our focus on Mindmatters will continue as we work to promote mental health and well being for students and staff. This year we will also be rolling out a number of new processes to improve our communication with parents.

And of course we will be commencing our $10 million refurbishment and extension of Berg Hall. This will be our first new building in many years and will include a new creative and performing arts centre, providing 21st Century spaces for Music, Drama and Visual Arts. In addition to this the building will provide a new Hospitality Hub along with a new Technology and Applied Studies Centre, and additional classroom spaces.

Opening College Mass
Parents are warmly invited to join the College to celebrate the Opening School Mass on Friday 17th February in The Light of Christ Centre.

Academic Awards Ceremony
The College will hold a special awards ceremony on Tuesday 21st February at 10.30am in The Light of Christ Centre to acknowledge and celebrate students’ 2016 academic achievements across all areas of the College. The Academic Awards Ceremony provides us with the opportunity to celebrate in partnership with a number of the high achievers from the Class of 2016.

All parents are invited to attend the awards ceremony. Parents and caregivers of students who will be presented with an award will have already received a personal invitation to the ceremony this week.
**Upcoming Parent Information Evenings and Events**
There are a number of important Parent Information Evenings and Events this term:

- **Wednesday 15th February (Week 3)**
  - Year 7 Parent Information Evening – 7pm (TLOCC)

- **Wednesday 22nd February (Week 4)**
  - Year 9 Parent Information Evening – 6pm (TLOCC)
  - Year 11 Parent Information Evening – 7:30pm (TLOCC)

- **Wednesday 8th March (Week 6)**
  - Week 6 Parent Involvement & Information Evening: Supporting Year 7 Parents with the transition into Secondary School - includes Principal’s update - 6:30pm (Library)

Please mark these events in your diaries, as they are important sessions as we continue to work in partnership.

**College Uniform**
The College has high expectations in regards to uniform. The College uniform is important as it gives students a sense of belonging to the College. By wearing the uniform with pride, students create a positive identity for the school in the community. There is significant research which indicates that a school uniform can improve learning by reducing distraction, sharpening focus on schoolwork and making the classroom a more serious environment, allowing students to perform better academically.

All uniform items are available from:
Cowan and Lewis
1315 Pacific Highway, Turramurra.
Tel: 9449 9777  Fax: 9440 8931
Email: sales@cowanlewis.com.au

**Edumate**
Parents (and students) have access to their relevant data through the Edumate web portal. The Parent and Student Portals support the strong emphasis on co-operation between home and school. The Parent portal is designed to provide active links so that families can maintain access to important information relating to student well-being and academic requirements. This year we will be utilising Edumate to record all Merits and Demerits. Parents will be able to see these through their Edumate account. Academic results and reports are also accessible through Edumate. A letter outlining the changes to how we will be increasing the use of Edumate to better communicate with parents will be emailed to all parents this week.

If you have any questions or queries in regards to Edumate please contact Mr Glen Charlier, Data Analysis and System Administration Coordinator at the College.
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:

iPhone/iPad

Android:

Windows mobile

Or simply type in St Leo’s Skoolbag into Google or App Store.
“It's not taught, it's caught: becoming contagious in a Catholic school”
The dawn of 2017 marks a turning point in Evangelisation and Catholic Formation at St Leos. It marks the daring and ambitious charting of a new course for the college that explores ever deeper its role as an evangelising enterprise of the Catholic Church. Within an increasingly secular Australian landscape and the emergence of extreme right wing politics overseas that dismisses the very core of Catholic Social Teaching towards the vulnerable and voiceless, St Leo’s is well poised to answer the Gospel call to be ‘counter cultural’. Such a challenge and opportunity is not only intrinsic to our role as a Catholic school but also as a Catholic school in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. Brother Phillip Pinto highlights that ‘Edmund Rice showed people that life could be lived differently, that human relationships could be different, that the dominant culture need not have the answers to how a society operated. (Philip Pinto cfc, Congregation Leader, 2006)

It is for this reason the college has chosen as its 2017 theme:

As the above illustrates, this theme is designed to strategically and authentically filter every aspect of college life from teacher student relationships to the ethical and sustainable sourcing of school uniforms. It is designed to provide an unapologetic question and benchmark “Is Jesus at the centre?” of what we are doing. Pope St Leo the Great wrote that we are to become what we have consumed after the Eucharist; we are to be a community where Jesus has taken physical form in, around and amongst us. In doing so our Catholicity and faith will be ‘contagious’. As a school
community of grace it is the way we live a Catholic life fuelled and energised by faith that becomes contagious for students. If we wish our students to have Jesus as the centre of their life then our college must revel in the joy of doing the same.

By placing Jesus as the centre of their lives, students have the ability to identify that they are made in the image and likeness of God and therefore are invaluable beyond measure. As Father Rob Galea proclaims “God does not make rubbish!” Hence yearning for greatness and finding their greatness in an essential part of placing Jesus as the centre of their life as they are made from ‘divine greatness’. In turn, it reminds the college of our inextricable role in assisting students to embrace, develop and illuminate their individual greatness.

To boldly and confidently set sail to achieve our goal/theme, we have charted a range of new routes across the sea of evangelisation. To breach the digital frontier and reach the multitudes of youth that exist in a virtual world, we will be launching within the fortnight the digital faith space ‘E-PPOSTLES’. This website will function as a portal for students and staff to explore a buffet of prayer options, examples of Contagious Catholics, a showcase of contemporary social justice issues needing their time and talents as well as the ‘Faith in Action Suite’, that the college offers for them to engage their faith into action. Another key feature is a blogging space for students to ask questions about their faith or to share ‘God moments’ in a safe and non-judgemental space. Just as the Apostles left no region untouched by their zeal to share the love of God, so too is St Leo’s committed to exploring the limitless virtual world.

Another first is our alternative Religious Education program being offered for students attending a Catholic school for the first time. Research data has revealed students in the past have felt disoriented and unable to translate the symbolic, ritualistic and sensory experience of a day in a Catholic school. Hence the program below has been tailored to their needs:

‘Oikos’ meaning ‘family’ in Biblical Greek highlights the fact that the new Year Seven students have joined a unique and unbreakable family. This new Semester One program/curriculum is tactile and experiential in nature and aims at up-skilling students to be able to connect with and understand Catholic culture in a school with greater immediacy, while offering an invitational approach to living the adventure of Catholic life.

From creating new initiatives to bolstering and building on present successes, St Leo’s has launched ahead with a ‘Faith in Action Suite’ that offers 17 programs that allows every student, staff member, parents and alumni to invest their faith into action. This comprehensive suite has increased its offerings for 2017 that stretches from Immersions with the Kiribati Partnership Program to the remote Central
Desert Indigenous Spirituality Program. It witnesses students in Year 8 volunteering to read and teach in the Catholic Care Early Education Support Program to students in Year 10 volunteering in the Street Retreat Homelessness Program. Whether it is the alumni volunteering with the Vinnies Night Patrol or parents volunteering with The Dish Program for the homeless and disadvantaged, our community with Jesus at its centre has an avenue to demonstrate their faith through Agape – sacrificial love.

As a college with Jesus at the centre we cannot go beyond the words of Martin Luther who said “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing”. As such the college will be introducing in Week 3 the permanent fixture of a communal college call to prayer where we will pray the Examen. This Jesuit spiritual exercise is a reflective method for searching for God’s presence in our day and exploring when and where we have or have not been proof of God’s love to those around us. The Examen will be prayed at the beginning of Period 4. Each classroom will also be provided with the furniture, liturgical cloths and visual stimuli needed for meaningful sacred spaces in each classroom. Such spaces will be a tool for enhancing the prayer life of classes and tutor periods.
Finally, a critical component in the successful achievement of such evangelisation goals is specialist staff. We warmly welcome Mrs Julie Atkins who joins the Evangelisation and Catholic Formation Team as well as in her role as Leader of Student Services. In addition to her many years experience in Catholic Education (including Religious Education Coordinator) she holds a Masters in Religious Education and a Masters in Educational Leadership. Julie is an invaluable asset to the extraordinary team we boast at St Leo’s. A second highlight is Mr Adrian Gomez who will be ordained as a Deacon this year. His journey of faith and a decade of study, determination and resilience will see his passion for God blossom into a new vocation for him. We are indeed blessed by God for this news.

As we boldly sail the new waves and challenges of evangelisation in 2017, we pray that the Holy Spirit fills our sails and guides our compass.

Amen

Daniel Petrie
College Director of Evangelisation and Catholic Formation

**Curriculum News**

**Study Skills**  
**SWOT Time**

What would you like to achieve this year both academically and in your personal life? The start of the year is the perfect time to reflect and reassess. It is a great time to look back and decide what worked, what didn’t and what new approaches you will try.

A great way to do this is through taking a few minutes to do a SWOT analysis. You can either write your answers down or discuss with someone or just think about your responses.

**Strengths**
- What went well for you at school last year?
- What study and time management techniques worked for you?
- What skills do you have that help you to do your best at school?

**Weaknesses**
- What were your greatest challenges in achieving your personal best at school?
- What do you struggle with most as a student?
- What do you need the most help with?

**Opportunities**
- What one thing could you do differently this year that would most help you to improve your results?
- What skills do you most need to focus on improving this year?
- Who in your life would be able to help you to be a better student?
Threats

- What are the biggest obstacles to you making changes in your approach?
- Are there other students you sit with who make learning difficult?
- What is stopping you from achieving the best results you can at school?

After you have worked through the SWOT analysis, choose the top 5 changes you want to make this year and write these down. Put these goals somewhere where you will see them every day before you go to school. If possible also write down some specific actions or steps you could take to achieve these goals. A good way to do this is at the start of each week write down the steps you want to take for that week.

You can learn the skills you need about how to be a more effective student at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:

Username: leos
Password: community

If you go to the THINGS TO PRINT page after you log in you will find lots of useful grids and planners for this year like a weekly calendar or term planner.

For further information or queries, please refer them to Angelo Solomonides, the Leader of Senior Academic Care at angelo.solomonides@dbb.catholic.edu.au

From the Mathematics Department

Maths Teachers are commonly asked how students can improve in mathematics. Maths is similar to learning a sport or a musical instrument, it is about consistent practice and confidence. The more we practice the better we become at it and the greater our belief that we can achieve. The items listed below are just some of the things that could assist student learning:

- Completing all set tasks.
- Asking for help as required.
- Revising new content each week and developing summaries.
- Attending Maths Help regularly.
- Teach a family member what has been learnt. Explain the concept and demonstrate how to apply with examples.

Each student is encouraged to discuss their progress with their teachers to identify strengths and areas that require improvement. Parents are also encouraged to contact teachers if they would like to discuss their child’s mathematics progress or areas of concern.

At St Leo’s we offer Maths Help on a Monday afternoon in the library straight after school until 4pm. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend. It is expected that students will bring work with them to these sessions. A Maths Teacher will be present to assist students with any problems they may be having. Maths Help commences Monday Week 2.
Welcome to Music for 2017
We would like to welcome you to an exciting year of music at the College!
Thank you to the 2016 music ensemble members for their hard work at the end of the year. They performed brilliantly at the end of year Mass and at the Year in Review. It will be exciting to further develop their skills in personal practice time, rehearsals and performances, with the knowledge that every ensemble member and every rehearsal counts.

2017 Ensemble Rehearsal Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENSEMBLE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DIRECTOR</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONCERT BAND</td>
<td>7:30-8:25</td>
<td>Mr Ben Dickson &amp; Ms Williams</td>
<td>Woodwind, brass and percussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX 12</td>
<td>7:30-8:25</td>
<td>Mrs Gauci</td>
<td>Audition only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 SEASONS</td>
<td>TUESDAY LUNCH</td>
<td>Ben Dickson</td>
<td>Strings, Flutes &amp; Clarinets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYMPHONIC BAND</td>
<td>7:30-6:25</td>
<td>Ms Min Luu</td>
<td>Audition only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEL CANTO</td>
<td>7:30-6:25</td>
<td>Mrs Gauci</td>
<td>All singers welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGE BAND</td>
<td>7:30-6:25</td>
<td>Ellen Kirkwood</td>
<td>Audition only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAZZ BAND</td>
<td>THURSDAY LUNCH</td>
<td>Ms Williams</td>
<td>Audition only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYMPHONIC BAND</td>
<td>7:30-6:25</td>
<td>Ms Min Luu</td>
<td>Audition only</td>
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For new members
Concert Band (All year 7 wind, brass and percussion students)
First Rehearsal Week 2 - Tuesday 7 February 7:30am - 8:25am
Students need to arrive at 7:20am to warm up, baton drops at 7:30am (Everyone is seated ready to rehearse as a group). You will meet the concert band conductor, Ben Dickson and be taken through rehearsal procedures for the term.

Bel Canto (All year 7 singers)
First Rehearsal Week 2 - Thursday 9 February 7:30am - 8:25am
Students need to arrive at 7:20am to be ready to rehearse as a group together at 7:30am. You will meet the choral conductor, Mrs Gauci and be taken through the rehearsal procedures for the term.

We look forward to meeting you and seeing fresh talent at the College!
**Private Music Lessons**
We are currently in the process of organising our tutors, if you haven’t already heard from them don’t panic, we are sorting out rooms and lesson times. They should all be up and running by week 3.

There is still an opportunity to hand in a form for lessons this term. Lessons for woodwind, brass, guitar (acoustic, bass & electric), drums, piano and voice are available. Forms can be collected from the music centre.

**2017 Guys &Dolls Musical**
Reminder all year 7s are able to attend the audition Wednesday 8 February 3:10pm-4:00pm at the Music Centre.

We are looking for singers, dancers and actors!

If successful, rehearsals are every Wednesday 3:10pm to 5:30pm and performances are in Week 2, Term 2.

Please contact Mrs Gauci (olivia.gauci@dbb.catholic.edu.au) if you have any further questions.

As well as the fabulous co-curricular program we have elective music from years 9-12. Each student explores a range of genres and styles, and participates in creating and performing in a variety of contexts including the voice/instrument of their choice.

We look forward to seeing fresh energy in rehearsals and classes, and look forward to meeting the new ensemble members!

**Around the Grounds**
Welcome back to Students and Parents to 2017. I hope everyone had a relaxing break and the batteries are recharged ready for a big year in sport. Sport began with the Sport for Life Program commencing last Thursday and Friday for Year 7 to 10 students. This will continue throughout the year with a variety of sports being participated in by St Leo’s students.

**Sport for Life Program**

**Thursday**
- Period 1 & 2 (Year 8 Sport)
- Period 5 & 6 (Year 10 Sport)

**Friday**
- Period 1 & 2 (Year 7 Sport)
- Period 5 & 6 (Year 9 Sport)
**Year 7 Sport News**
St Leo’s have a strong tradition in Aerobics competition with a number of teams competing at State and National level with fantastic results. Our Aerobics high performance program is run by external coaches who are also ex-students of the College and have the athletes training hard before school on Tuesday and Friday. This week during sport, Year 7 students will be involved in trials for this year’s Aerobics teams.

**Year 8 – 10**
This week during sport, selections will take place during sport for the Accelerated Sports Program (ASP). These trials are used to select a small group of students from each house group to participate in a more competitive sport environment during the Semester. The first week of trials will involve all students undertaking the multi-stage fitness test. The second week the students will be involved in a variety of sports in order for them to showcase their skills.

**Representative Sport**
Our representative sporting trials, training, and competition will be kicking off over the next few weeks and all information for these will be posted in the daily notices that are published on the Skoolbag app every morning. As it is often difficult for students to arrive at school early in the mornings at late notice for trials, this information will be posted for a number of days before the trials.

A few changes to representative sport this year that all students from Year 7-10 were spoken to about during sport last week, was that this year permission notes for all carnivals need to be handed in by the Friday before the competition and also that in order to attend the gala day or competition all students need to be wearing full sports uniform which includes: College sports shirt (Yellow), St Leo’s sport shorts (Dark Purple and Navy), White socks, and runners. If students are unable to do this they need to speak to me in the days leading up to the event.

**Barker Touch**
This Friday is the first week of Barker Touch for the girls who signed up last year. There will be a meeting during recess time on Tuesday for these girls with Miss Portia Beattie and myself to go through the details for Friday afternoon.

I wish the girls luck for the next two weeks and it would be great to see St Leo’s students up at Rosewood Fields at Barker cheering the teams on. Thanks to Miss Portia Beattie for organising and coaching the girls again this year in the competition.

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

Michael Kember