Principal’s Pride Report – 16th December 2013

The Third Sunday of Advent –
Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else? (Matthew 11:2-11)

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

This is the final Pride for 2013. On behalf of the entire College community, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your thoughtful contribution to our community in everything you do. Even in the smallest way, each member of our community makes it the special place that it is.

At last Monday’s Assembly the following reflection was offered:

Mary’s Dream
I had a dream Joseph, I didn’t understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that’s what it was all about. People had been preparing for it for weeks – they decorated their homes and bought new clothes. They went shopping many times, and bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because none of the presents were for our Son.

They wrapped the gifts in beautiful paper and tied them with ribbon, and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree Joseph…right inside their homes. And they decorated the tree – with glowing lights and sparkling ornaments…and there was a figure on the very top of the tree that looked like an angel…oh, it was beautiful.

Everyone was laughing and happy, and so excited about their gifts – they gave them to each other, Joseph…I don’t think they even knew our Son….they never mentioned His name.

Doesn’t it seem odd for people to go through all that trouble to celebrate someone’s birthday, if they don’t even know him?

I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everyone was so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry; how sad for Jesus not to be wanted or remembered at His own birthday celebration.

I’m glad it was only a dream Joseph….how terrible if it had been real.
(Author Unknown)

A challenge for us all at this time!

End of Year Events:
Last Wednesday evening our Year 10 students had their Semi Formal at the Epping Club. I have nothing but praise for the conduct and attitude of these students for the evening.
The staff at the Epping Club congratulated our students on their behaviour, manners and attitude. The aspect that stood out for me was the respect they had for each other and they simply enjoyed each other’s company. A great way for their finish of the year.

On Thursday morning we celebrated our End Of Year with an Advent Mass with Fr David (Holy Name Parish). Later that day our student Prefects conducted the St Leo’s Fair. The events were enjoyed thoroughly and it was a great testament to our student leaders, under the direction of Mr Solomonides. The events ranged from a sold out BBQ to a wet sponge throwing competition – where the teachers were hot targets. The money collected by the various stalls goes to each House’s charities for this year.

**Year in Review Celebration Assembly:**
This celebration was the culmination of the year’s work in all areas and over 250 students were publically recognized for their excellence. We had guests from Hornsby Council, the Catholic Schools Office and our Parish Clergy. It was pleasing given this trial of the format (daytime event) we had over 150 parents in attendance.

I would congratulate each student that was recognized. The list of Major Award Winners are listed below.

I would like to thank Mrs White (Acting Assistant Principal) and Mrs Hogarth (Support Staff) for their organization and many hours in putting an event of this enormity together.

There are many pros and cons for conducting this celebration during the day or the old format – in the evening. I would value your feedback from you as parents/care-givers as I will need to book the LOCC and date for 2014 very early in the new year. You can either phone the College this week (as we are open till Friday 20th Dec), drop an email (stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au) or put your thoughts in writing, Attn: Mrs Denise Hughes.

**Personnel Movements**
At the end of each year, it is the nature of the teaching profession that staff choose to move to other schools. This is a healthy process that broadens a teacher’s professional experience. Over the past three years, a number of our staff have achieved significant promotions at other schools this year and I congratulate them on their professional progress. The fact that they have been sourced from St Leo’s indicates that our school is seen as a training ground for excellent staff. The following staff changes will occur during the break:

**Farewell:**
Mrs Brenda Timp (Assistant Principal at Mater Maria)  
Mrs Christine McCary - English Teacher at Barker College  
Ms Jenny Viski  
Mr Ralph Kershler – Leave for 2014  
Mrs Sue White (Dir of Mission) – Leave for Terms 1 & 2

**Welcome:**
Mr Anthony Mahoney – Assistant Principal  
Mr Carmelo Fedele – Terms 1 & 2, 2014  
Mr Adrian Gomez – Youth Ministry Coordinator for 2014  
Mrs Carmel Hegerty – Science for 2014  
Mrs Net Knox – (Terms 1 & 2, 2014)  
Ms Samantha Murphy – Drama Teacher for 2014  
Mr Andrew Privett – PDHPE for 2014  
Mr Mario Trost – Maths for 2014  
Ms Carla Younan – English for 2014
Internal Appointments:
Mrs Jamila Torpy – Acting Director of Mission (Terms 1 & 2)
Mr Dean Lomaca – Director of Learning & Teaching
Mrs Louise Fentoullis – Leader of Partnerships
Mrs Judith McCrea – Acting Leader of Science for 2014
Mrs Helen Wessels – Acting Assistant Leader of Science for 2014
Literacy Coach (2014) - TBA

Principal’s Address:
My speech commenced with a short clip titled “The Pale Blue Dot”. I linked a quote from Nelson Mandela, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can change the world” to the opportunity that the students have here at St Leo’s – is not just education – but also they have their faith. These two together is a very powerful tool in which they can change our “pale blue dot”! In fact I gave some examples of students that were currently on their journey of changing the world – as we now must hand over to our next generation. Some parents have asked for a copy of my speech – so it is listed on our College website.

Reminder - Parent Survey:
A reminder that the online Parent Survey closes this Wednesday at 9am. If you have not yet responded – please do so by this time. Please click on this link: http://bit.ly/188OEAQ

Semester Two Reports:
These were distributed at the conclusion of the Celebration on Friday. It was pleasing to see 171 students receive Principal’s Gold and Silver Awards for their Reports. These awards can be attained by all our students – depending upon their performance in their Personal Profiles. It would be great if this goal was a high priority goal for Term One 2014 for all our students! It is interesting to note that there were 70 students in Years 8-11 who were recognized at the Celebration for being consistent (A Silver or Gold Award) for each of their reports (4 reports per year) throughout their time here at St Leo’s. If you have any queries regarding the reports please contact the relevant staff this week.

So, What are the Staff Doing This Week?:
Part of this week the staff will be undergoing compliance certification and WHS training. This involves, CPR and Anaphylaxis training and certification (necessary for any staff who take students off campus) and 4 modules of WHS which are now compulsory. We will also be meeting in our KLA groups in preparation for 2014 – particularly with the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum – that we have been working on for the past two years. An afternoon has been set aside for continuing work in our Professional Development – “Knowing My Students”. They will be looking and interpreting the data for their 2014 classes.
I will also be conducting a Staff meeting to finalise our 2014 College Improvement Plan. We are looking forward to our HSC results which will be released on Wednesday morning. We are fortunate enough to have Fr David who who be joining us in our Staff Liturgy on Thursday.

Bishop's Farewell Mass and Gathering:
Last Saturday the Diocese farewelled Bishop David upon his retirement. I would like to thank the following students (SRC and Prefect) for giving up their Saturday (1st day of the holidays) to assist in the organization of the day:

Please Remember in your Prayers:
Yesterday morning I learned that one of our past students – Michael McEwan (St Leo’s 2005) is in an induced coma in St Vincent’s Hospital after being involved in an incident at Bondi Beach early Saturday morning.
We also remember Mrs Lisa Hogarth’s (Support Staff) father who passed away last week after a short illness.
We ask you to keep both families in your prayers, particularly as we approach Christmas.

I wish all of you a happy, safe and blessed holiday over Christmas and we will see you back in 2014 on Thursday 30 January (Years 8-12 students).

Major Award Winners in Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 for 2013

Year 7 2013
Sportswoman of the Year - Tegan Reed
Sportsman of the Year - Dominic Della Franca
Best All Rounder - Aiden Hose
Acknowledgement of Academic Excellence - Hayley Rodda & Chelsea Tullia
Outstanding Scholarship - Jacques Godbold
Contribution to Catholic Life and Mission of the College - Camryn Gower

Year 8 2013
Sportswoman of the Year - Gabriella Chan
Sportsman of the Year - Keeley Bowen
German Consular Award - Caitlin Cameron & Sarah Chahine
Best All Rounder - Sarah Dever
Acknowledgement of Academic Excellence - Laura Moran & Mark Tobin
Outstanding Scholarship - Isaak Smith
Contribution to Catholic Life and Mission of the College - Luke Elliott

Year 9 2013
Sportswoman of the Year - Lucy Jenkin
Sportsman of the Year - Rohan Bright
German Consular Award - Madlyn Scott
Best All Rounder - Georgia Hopkins
Acknowledgement of Academic Excellence - Daniel Hose & Arthur Treloar
Consistent Principal’s Gold Award - Jessica Funk & Christine Gabonian
Outstanding Scholarship - Jessica Funk
Contribution to Catholic Life and Mission of the College - Petrea Cantrall

Year 10 2013
Sportswoman of the Year - Nicole Deggens
Sportsman of the Year - Oliver Hing
Vanessa Anderson Award for Excellence in Sport - Nicole Deggens
Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award - Joshua Dickinson
Best All Rounder - Monica Gonzalez
Acknowledgement of Academic Excellence - Sam Batchelor
Outstanding Scholarship - Juliette Dahdah & Isaac Rodda
Contribution to Catholic Life and Mission of the College - Andrea Dingley
Outstanding Contribution to Vocal Ensemble – Vanessa Mawby

Year 11 2013
Sportswoman of the Year - Shannon O'Keeffe
Sportsman of the Year - Hunor Kicsi
German Consular Award - Rebecca Waldron
TVET Awards Effort & Achievement Award - John Kohne
TVET Outstanding Student – Electrotechnology - Hamish Borland
Best All Rounder - Joseph Jones & Dominic Cantrall
Consistent Gold Principal’s Award 2013 - Samuel Funk, Jad Nazha & Corinne Mack
Outstanding Scholarship - Corinne Mack
Fr Pat McMaugh Award for Contribution to Catholic Life and Mission of the College - Dominic Cantrall
Michael O’Brien Award for Contribution in the Field Of Computing - Timothy Demasi & Ryan Jennis
The Gellert Josef Bakos Memorial Encouragement Award - Kiernan Damayo

Mr A F Gleeson
Principal

Timeline for 2014

Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} January
College Office open

Thursday 23\textsuperscript{rd} January
College Office open

Friday 24\textsuperscript{th} January
New Staff Induction Day - 9 to 10.30am
College Leadership Planning Day.

Sunday 26\textsuperscript{th} January
Australia Day
Monday 27th January
Australia Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 28th January
College Shop open
Staff returns
Mass
Staff Professional Planning – agenda advised in 2014.

Wednesday 29th January
College Shop open
Year 7 students commence at 8.35am Yr 10 Peer support.
New students in Yrs 8 to 12. Commence at 9am. Year Leaders involved.
Morning tea for new parents
Photos for new students and staff
Years 8 to 12 – tutor meetings

Thursday 30th January
College Shop open
All students return.

Students to return in summer uniform

Wishing everyone a happy and holy Christmas

Susan White
Acting Assistant Principal

During tutor time this fortnight we addressed the importance of subject teacher “feedback” to students on assessment tasks. We stressed that although the mark students receive is important, the real value is the feedback students receive from their specialist teachers. This may be written on the task itself or expressed verbally.
Once again the Year 12 Students were fantastic in the last week of term. Special mention to the Year 12 Leaders for their planning and organisation of the St. Leo’s Day Fair. Their attitude and enthusiasm is to be commended.

Like to wish all the students and their families a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing break. Wish you all you wish yourself for 2014.

Regards,

Angelo Solomonides
Yr 12 Coordinator

Merry Christmas to all Year 10 students and their families.
I would like to thank all students for their excellent approach to the Camps and the Semi-Formal which were both great events. The teachers involved all commented on how enjoyable both events were.
I would also like to thank all of the Year 10 Tutor Teachers for their support and work throughout the year.
Many Thanks

Peter Trainer
Year 10 Coordinator
On behalf of the Tutor Teachers, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all families and carers a very Safe and Happy Christmas season.

It has been a privilege to hand out so many Diligence and Academic Excellence awards over the last 2 days of Term.

This is a reflection on the excellent ability that this Year Group possesses.

I look forward to next year with great enthusiasm

Andrew Betty
Yr 9 Co-ordinator

Over the last few weeks I have been reading all of Year 8's reports. Well done to all those who put in an excellent effort over Term 3 and 4. I was pleased not only with the results but also the many Gold and Silver awards awarded. Semester 2 school reports will be handed out to students at the end of the Presentation assembly this Friday. Students have been reminded of an exciting and possibly scary challenge over the holidays - to empty and clean their own school bags, along with washing uniforms and cleaning school shoes. Good luck!

It's been my pleasure again this year to be the pastoral leader for this lovely group of students. Though teenagers always have their ups and downs, this year group stands out for their enthusiasm, participation, and living out of the Leo’s values of dignity & respect, justice, integrity, and hope. Many thanks to the wonderful group of tutor teachers: Mrs Hasman, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Herczeg, Mrs McCrea, Miss El Hage, Mr Lomaca, Mrs Teys, Miss Jones, & Mrs McCann who keep a caring eye on all in their care, and work so well as a team.

Very best wishes for a Christmas full of joy and a relaxing holiday,
Megan de Kantzow  
Year 8 Co-ordinator

It has been an honour to work with the students and parents of Year 7 over Term IV.

I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a successful and happy 2014.

Mr C. Sammut  
Year 7 Coordinator. (Acting)

Parent Portal

It is with excitement that I am able to announce the opening of the Parent Portal of Edumate for Parents of the College. Edumate is the database staff at the college use to record data such as assessment results, attendance merits & disciplines and absenteeism. Once enrolled on the database, you will be able to view upcoming tasks, results of tasks, and even live roll marking. A major benefit of this initiative that it enables the evolution of reporting from a once a term reflection to a dynamic interactive dialogue between the college and the home. Please note that this is a 'beta' release at this stage and whilst we hope any problems that arise will be small in nature, we are using the rest of this term as a trial period for 2014 and beyond. Below is a link to a form parents will need to complete to enrol in this program. We will begin processing these applications on Thursday 21st November and are anticipating that you will hear from us with your login credentials within 72 hours. As there will be an avalanche of requests as we begin this journey together, we humbly ask for patience if this 72 hour timeframe is extended. Click the link below to apply for a parent account after reading the terms and conditions by clicking here.

Request an account by clicking the link below

LIBRARY NEWS

When the PRC certificates arrived last week there was a wonderful surprise. Five students received a Premier’s gold medal for outstanding commitment to reading by completing the PRC every year from Year 3 to Year 9. A platinum certificate was awarded to Aiden Hose of Year 7 for seven years’ participation. Gold certificates for four years’ participation were awarded to Caitlin Cameron, Amy Carswell, Molly Farrell (Year 8), Helena Dare, Bernadette Farcash, Giorgia Oastler and Arthur Treloar (Year 9). We congratulate this fine reading effort. Sixty students completed the PRC this year.

NERYLE SHELDON.
TEACHER LIBRARIAN

EXEMPTION FROM ATTENDANCE

To be submitted 1 month prior the requested leave
(unless serious domestic situation or illness)

Where pressing circumstances necessitate an extended absence from the College, parents are required to make a formal application to the Principal for exemption from attendance. If exemption from attendance is supported, which is not automatic, students have permission to negotiate the completion of an assessment task with their teacher and KLA Coordinator, should it fall due within the leave period. Under the NSW Education Reform Act 1990 the College can grant up to fifteen days of student absences in a school year at the Principal’s discretion. In principle, the College does not support families taking extended holidays within school time, outside the established school holidays or during examination periods. Any leave beyond 15 days must be considered by the Catholic Schools Office (through the College) by approval.

CAREERS NEWS

Bond University: Sydney Information Session

Thu 19th December, 6pm to 8pm
The Westin Sydney, 1 Martin Place, Sydney
This information session will give students and their families information about studying at Bond University at the Gold Coast. Students will also have the opportunity to engage with Bond University staff, students and alumni.
Contact: Terry Crotty on 0420 937 317, Annabelle Cottee on 0419 483 340 or the events team on events@bond.edu.au
Screen Acting Essentials Workshops

This program is for people aged 16 years or older and will include 3 workshops covering acting, comedy and fight choreography, as well as ‘drop in’ classes that focus on getting a headshot, script work and acting. All workshop activities are free.
Contact: Maria on 0433 803 449 or maria.tran85@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/sactessentials

Physics Videos from Monash University

Dr Chris Creagh from Murdoch University has produced two video tutorials that let physics students hear from experts discussing a relevant topic. The two currently uploaded videos cover the usefulness of diagrams, and how to properly understand formulas and what they are describing.
http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_zW442B84-s9m7NvypAcoQ?feature=watch

Job Outlook
This government website provides facts and figures on over 350 jobs including average earnings.

Youth Central Career Profiles
A comprehensive list of careers that allows students to gain insight into a job or industry by hearing from those already working in that job. Students are able to search through over 250 jobs to learn more about possible careers.

A Grade Cricket.

Congratulations to "The Pride" - our A Grade cricket team.
Led by captain courageous Ollie Hing with an unbeaten century, the team is now into the quarter finals.

Well done men!
Parent Network
The Dish in 2013 - A story to warm your heart

Hello Soup Van Crew

I wanted to quickly share with you something that happened on Tuesday this week, which demonstrates in a powerful way the dedication of our crew toward our task.

As you know, we are rostered on for Dec 10 (this coming Tuesday), Dec 17, Dec 31, Jan 14 and Jan 21 during the school holidays. This past Tuesday at 11am, we received an urgent call from the wonderful co-ordinators over at Prouille, who called us for help as the school that was rostered on for that night unfortunately had to drop out at very short notice. Chris De Graaf led the charge and seven hours later, we served a delicious, nutritious meal to 11 friends.

Alison from the Uniting Church provided broccoli and leek soup from the church freezer, which Amanda Zanchetta from Prouille kindly picked up and heated for us. Celia Waite whipped up Corned Beef, Potato Salad and vegetables in a cheese sauce. Wendy De Graaf prepared a beautiful Shepherds Pie that we servers had to physically restrain ourselves from taste testing, and of which not a scrap was left at the end of the evening.

Chris De Graaf called on a St Leo’s, parent, Andy Hussan, who owns a bakery in Berowra and Mt Kuringai, and came with a case of meat pies and sausage rolls. Andy & Rosemary Hussan have a daughter Madeline in year 7. Chris even remembered to bring butter for the bread rolls.

I raced by the chicken shop and picked up two bbq chickens with roast vegetables and of course the usual bread rolls from Baker’s Delight who kindly donate every week. For dessert, Andy Hussan also provided two delicious carrot cakes which we topped up with ice-cream.

Chris picked up the newly fitted-out van for us and drove to the site, where he, Ken Edwards, Julie Gonzalez, Matthew Waite, Frida Kaufman and myself served and visited with our friends. It was a beautiful Summer evening and one of the our new friends brought her accordion which she played throughout the evening ... it was like alfresco dining in Paris.

I am so proud of our wonderful volunteers who spring into action at a moment’s notice, to ensure those without a home are provided with food, friendship and goodwill. Thank you to Chris, Celia, Matthew, Wendy, Alison, Amanda, Ken, Julie, and Frida for your efforts this week. And I know our holiday season will be that much brighter, because of this work we will do over the coming weeks.

Take care, have a wonderful weekend, and a blessed Christmas.

Connie Klimko
St. Leo's Soup Van Co-ordinator
Calling all Year 7 Families (soon to be Year 8) to help host the Welcome BBQ for Yr 7 families in 2014.

This is a fun event to welcome our new Year 7 students and their families. It is scheduled for Friday 21 February 2013.

We are looking for a team of helpers to assist with various activities for the evening – preparation, shopping, set up, BBQing, serving & clean up. In order to share the load we seek approximately 14 - 25 volunteers.

Please help make this an enjoyable evening for our new students and their families! If you can assist with this event (and/or would like to get involved in any College events), please email Genevieve (Gen) Funk (david@barnettsroad.com) or call 0418866250. Thank you to all who attended the planning sessions for 2014 Parent and Community involvement opportunities. Thank you for your time, enthusiasm and energy in continuing the St Leo’s difference.

Parent and Community involvement opportunities in 2014 at St Leo's. There are several ways in which you might want to get involved in College activities, by sharing your talents, skills and time over and above your work and family responsibilities. Below are a few activities planned for 2014. If you are interested please contact the team member listed below:

- St Leo’s Open Day morning tea Friday 7th March 2014- Liz Hayes lizmark1@optusnet.com.au
- Plan and/or present parent discussion forums (in addition to the Principal’s Updates one per term) - Chris de Graaf chris_degraaf@y7mail.com
- College Dinner Dance June 2014 - Michele and Geoff Wood wood4fam@bigpond.com
- Year Parent Representatives from all years to help organise 1-2 social events for parents of year group. Especially seeking existing college families who will have a child in Yr 7 in 2014 to be next year’s Yr 7 Year Parent Representatives. Anne-Lii Hardy alhardy1@bigpond.com
- Movie evening and picnic mid October 2014 - Joann Thompson-Doolan joann.thompsondoolan@gmail.com
- Literacy and Numeracy student support volunteers. Training provided. Anthony Gulliford anthony.gulliford@dbb.org.au
- Spiritual retreat evening or co-ordinate a Lenten Program (once a week x 6wks) Hannah Browne hbr57651@bigpond.net.au
- Prepare a meal (1 out of 3 courses), serve or administrate the roster of volunteers for The Dish. Margot Treloar margott@fastmail.com.au
- Writers to prepare paragraphs for The Pride to inform families of college connection opportunities. Cathy Swanson cathyswanson37@gmail.com
If you have any queries or would like more information about the St Leo’s Parent Network please email Marinela Mendes on mendes@bigpond.net.au
Do you have a husband, wife, children other family members or friends who are Catholic, but you’re not?

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith?

If so, the Hornsby Catholic Parish (Our Lady of the Rosary, Waitara and Queen of Peace, Normanhurst) warmly welcomes you.

The parish prepares and welcomes new members into the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Through the RCIA, members of the parish community walk with enquirers, sharing their living faith and allowing each enquirer to deepen their own relationship with God in a Catholic context.

If you’ve thought of becoming Catholic or simply learning more about the Catholic faith, and would like more information, without any obligation, please contact the parish office on 9483 2300 or Therese on 9481 9226.