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

“...God gives me strength for what is necessary...” St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (1842-1909)

Sunday 29 November, 2015 - The First Sunday of Advent –
“...Be ready for the second coming...Your redemption is near at hand...”
(Lk 25:28, 34-36)

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

This Sunday’s Gospel by Luke speaks of the second coming. I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year (first Sunday of Advent), I know the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, generous and sacrificial towards one another. I witness it here every day at St Leo’s. It may not be as grand as Luke describes in the Gospel, that of dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a son or daughter looking after a sick parent, a community coming together to do something positive for a person in need and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment.

In the same way as I witness God's presence very much here in our learning community, it was my great pleasure to host the Volunteer Thank You Mocktail Evening last week for all those parents and friends of the College who had contributed during 2015. I know that we all have busy lives and there were many who would have liked to attend but could not make it. To everyone that has contributed in 2015, my warmest thanks to you for making our school a great place to learn.
Our College volunteers assist in various capacities, Priests, tutors, Board members, BBQ helpers, aerobics assistants, College and Principal Review panelists, sports or finance committee members, uniform shop assistants, The Dish program in this Hornsby area, members of working bees and those many parents who can make it to the Track & Field and Swimming Carnivals to support their child – all because I believe you have a strong belief in the power of relationships.

For our learners to thrive, they need to be connected to and supported by an extended network of caring people with the time to listen, provide guidance and be appropriate and positive role models.

Our volunteers overcome a perceived fear of walking through the front gates of a secondary school, something which is far easier to do in a primary school. Some of our volunteers assist to improve our learners’ literacy, numeracy, life skills, assist with supervision, gathering of information, gardening, but what it all does is to build upon our learners’ self-esteem and self-confidence which contribute to improving learning outcomes and improved student achievements.

Without support of this nature many students can become disengaged from school, usually resulting from behavioural and social skills problems or barriers they have developed towards learning. Other learners disengage through a lack of social skills or not having a positive role model in their life.

As the College is about to embark on its 60th year of Catholic education in 2016, by your beliefs and actions we are assured of enhancing the community partnership which has been one of the foundations of this College.

With you in our student’s lives, at school and at home, you help them develop into competent, confident, Catholic young women and men of conscience.

On behalf of the College community I sincerely thank you for your precious time, effort and energy you give to our student learners.

At the Mocktail Party I had the privilege of presenting Mr Chris de Graaf with a College plaque to recognise his fantastic efforts supporting College events. He has always been on hand at the Year 7 Welcoming BBQs; he initiated and organised the first two Movie Under the Stars events, and has been heavily involved in The Dish. Thank you Chris!
60th Year of Catholic Education at St Leo’s - 2016

With next year being our 60th Anniversary I am going to take the opportunity of highlighting some key milestones and interesting events throughout the College’s history in most editions of the Pride. It would be remiss not to commence with the Opening of The College on 14 October, 1956 in the presence of His Eminence Norman T Cardinal Gilroy, the Archbishop of Sydney. The Christian Brothers had been offered the land by the Archdiocese with the proviso that they build a school and monastery on it. Under the direction of architect Mr Louis Burns and the builders, Earl Brothers, with a budget of £70,000 pounds ($2.2 million in today’s rate) – St Leo’s Catholic College was built.

PAWS Ensemble Evening – Summer Edition!

I have just returned from another fantastic set of performances from our talented students and staff. This evening about 150 parents and grandparents witnessed the following bands performing:

- Symphonic Band (winner of Sydney Eisteddfod this year) – Deerpath dances; The 80s Decade of Hits; Voyage to the Edge of the World
- Concert Band - Apache, Music from Pirates of the Caribbean
- Rock Band - Backseat Serenade
- Jazz Band - Pump it Up
- Four Seasons - Game of Thrones
- Stage Band - Libertango, Der Traum

The staff that made this magic happen, this evening (and all year), well done to Ms Lemin Luu, Mr David Carr, Mr Ben Dickson, Ms Ellen Kirkwood, Mrs Olivia Gauci and of course Ms Carolyn (as one of the student leaders stated “who makes all this happen”) Williams!

Our student learners were simply fantastic. Over the past 18 months, since their trip to the Northern Territory, their performances are improving each and every time I hear them. Congratulations to all involved.

College Swimming Carnival – Fri 20 November

Last Friday in sweltering Sydney temperatures the students and staff slipped, slopped and slapped their way through a great Swimming Carnival at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. Please refer to pages 14 - 16 for a full account of the event. Thanks to everyone who raced, cheered and supported their Houses, and special congratulations to our 17 Age and over Champions, Maegan Chin and Rohan Bright, in their last swimming Carnival at St Leo’s. Hats off to Mr Luke Trotz for A grade organisation – a well-managed carnival that was lots of fun.

Mr AF Gleeson
Principal

“Never see a need without doing something about it”
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (1842-1909)
From the Assistant Principal
Swimming Carnival
This year’s Swimming Carnival was a wonderful whole school event. Our Year 12 Student Leaders were outstanding in their leadership on the day. I was impressed with the range of activities and the involvement of students on the day. I was particularly impressed with the spirit shown by students and the leadership shown by our Year 12 Student Leaders.

The attendance was excellent on the day and I thank parents for your support on this important community day.

Attendance
It is important that students attend the College until the end of the academic year. If for any reason your child is unable to attend then I would ask parents to follow the normal College processes. Please phone the College reception prior to 9:30am on the day of absence and send in a signed note either through the College App or a handwritten note to the Tutor teacher on the day of return.

Awards Ceremonies – Two Important Dates for your Diary
The College will be holding two special ceremonies to celebrate students’ efforts and achievements in 2015.

The Year in Review ceremony will occur at 11:30am on Friday 11th December in The Light of Christ Centre. All students will be expected to attend, as it is a normal school day. All parents and family members of our students are invited to this significant end of school year event. Special invitations to the families of award winners will be sent in the next week.

Academic Awards, based on students’ Yearly Reports, will be presented to students at a special Assembly at the start of next year, on Tuesday 16 February 2016 at 10:30am in The Light of Christ Centre. This way we will be able to acknowledge the academic achievements of the Class of 2015 at the same time.

Student Travel Passes and the new Opal Cards
The School Opal Card will replace most of the current student travel passes provided under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS). The eligibility for the SSTS will not change.

The existing student travel passes will still be in use for students travelling to and from school outside the area served by the Opal Card.

From 2nd November 2015, a new online SSTS application process is being introduced for schools within the Opal network, coinciding with the introduction of the School Opal card. Most parents, guardians and students won’t need to apply for a School Opal card if they have already been given a school student travel pass for the current year. School Opal cards which are being automatically renewed will be sent to the College at the beginning of the new school year in 2016.
School Opal cards applied for using the new online process will be sent to the student’s nominated address ready for Term one 2016. Students only need to apply for a new Opal Card if they:

- have not had a pass for travel before; or
- are moving from Year 6 to 7; or
- are changing schools; or
- if their personal details have changed (e.g. address)

To apply for a new School Opal card, parents can go directly to www.transportnsw.info/school-students or call 131 500.

**Anthony Mahoney**  
Assistant Principal
Catholic Life and Mission

Year 9 Volunteers Visiting People with Disabilities

Catholic Care strives “for a world where people are safe, happy, well, and connected with each other in inclusive communities.” Based on Yardley Ave, most of our students walk past it a couple of times a day without knowing what goes on there. This outreaching arm of the Catholic community provides a range of support services for the local community from counselling, day care, dispute resolution, parenting and relationship education as well as Day Services for people with disabilities.

Day Services provide centre-based activities for adults of all ages affected by disability, with a focus on increasing participation in the wider community. Development of life skills and independence in a range of areas such as social interactions, literacy and numeracy are a key part of these programs. This term a small group of Year 9 students has volunteered to spend Monday afternoons with them.

The clients at Catholic Care have a range of physical and mental disabilities that can be very confronting at first. Mr Introna who organised this activity said after their first visit: “I was incredibly proud of the students who came. They represented the College with impeccable behaviour, and truly walked with the people they met today. Despite a few nerves to start with, each of the students spent time with the centre’s clients: chatting, playing ball, painting nails, reading magazines.”

“It’s been a really positive experience,” says Sophie. “Yes, it’s been really fun, rewarding, amazing,” echoes Charlotte who has given up Monday afternoon sport to participate in this program. “Meeting and interacting with the people there blows away all your expectations. Most challenging has been learning to communicate with different people and finding their different ways of communicating,” Sophie reflects. “Yes, they’re all individuals and have their own likes and dislikes in their way of communicating,” chips in Charlotte.

The staff of Catholic Care appreciate our students involvement there: “Having the students here has been really great. It has built up the community, the clients enjoy having new faces to interact with, and the staff have appreciated the extra support we are getting.”
This new initiative has been another great opportunity to allow students to put their faith into action and make a difference in the lives of those who are often marginalised in our community. Pope Saint John Paul II once said: “The quality of life in a community is measured largely by its commitment to assist the weaker and needier members with respect for their dignity as men and women. Only by recognising the rights of its weakest members can a society claim to be founded on law and justice.”

Congratulations and commendations to all the students involved: Nathan Carey, Camille Chin, Charlotte Gamble, Sam Italiano, Meg Judge, Nicholas Khamis, Patrick McLachlan and Sophie Rawsthorne.

Pope Francis announces a Jubilee Year of Mercy

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY
DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016

"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."
-POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis has called an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, commencing 8 December 2015, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and also the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council.

A Jubilee is a special event for the Church, a year of reconciliation and conversion, of hope and justice. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wishes the Church to grow deeper in awareness of the Father’s merciful and forgiving love, and to bring that mercy to the world.

What is the Year of Mercy?
Pope Francis says, "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

The motto for the year, Merciful like the Father, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead.”
You are invited to the opening of a Holy Door of Mercy in our Diocese by Bishop Peter A Comensoli

At the start of a Jubilee Year, a special Holy Door at St Peter’s Basilica is opened by the Pope. In the Year of Mercy, for the first time, each diocese of the world will open a "Door of Mercy". Passing through a Holy Door is a sign of repentance and desire for renewal, and a passage to the special path offered in the Jubilee Year to experience "the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope."

Bishop Peter will open the Year of Mercy for the Diocese of Broken Bay by opening our own Holy Door of Mercy at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, on Tuesday 8 December at a special 8pm Mass. An invitation is extended to all across the Diocese to join in these celebrations as a way of entering into the Holy Year. Join with family, friends and parishioners to make a pilgrimage to one of the Holy Doors and be open to the gift of mercy offered.

Vinnie’s Van

Our students did us very proud last Friday night when staffing the Vinnie’s Van after a long hot day at the College Swimming Carnival.

They were true role models of the College, putting their faith into action by caring, serving and chatting to the less fortunate.
TALENT QUEST
& CHRISTMAS PARTY

18 December 2015, Friday | 7 PM
The Light of Christ Centre, Waitara

Adult $15
Concession/Youth $10

Sign up as an act at tinyurl.com/WYDTalentQuest
Proceeds go to World Youth Day 2016 Pilgrims
Upcoming Music performances

**Wednesday 2nd December - The Grange**
Bel Canto, Max 12 & 4 Seasons
10am – 11.30am

**Saturday 5th December - Hornsby Christmas Spectacular**
Max 12
5pm – 6pm

**Friday 11th December - Year in Review**
The Light of Christ Centre
Stage Band, Symphonic Band & Max 12
9am – 12pm

**ESL (English Second Language)**
**Preparation for next year**
Now is the time to start preparing for next year. It is a wonderful opportunity, now that your exams are over, to start thinking ahead and set yourself up for success in 2016.

Some simple ideas to help reduce stress and create confidence:

1. Ask your teachers what topics you will be studying next year. You may find that you are able to read your English novel over the holidays, start to research key HSIE topics, acquaint yourself with scientific vocabulary etc...

2. Upkeep English conversations during the holidays. You may like to make arrangements, before school finishes, to see your friends during the holidays.

3. Upkeep your wide reading during the holidays. Remember to keep a dictionary handy and look up any words that you are unfamiliar with.

4. Watching a wide variety of television programs, including documentaries and current affairs, will help improve your general knowledge, listening and speaking skills.

Most of all, I hope you have an enjoyable holiday and I look forward to seeing you in 2016.

Mrs Burrowes
Request for Volunteers
Volunteers are needed for:

2016 New Parents’ Welcome Morning Tea
Thursday 28th January 2016, 8am – 9.30am
Duties: Set up, welcome and serve.

Contact: margott@fastmail.com.au

Year 7 2016 Welcome BBQ
Traditionally volunteers come from the previous Year 7 Parents, ie Year 8 Parents 2016.
Friday 5th February 2016 from 5pm. Duties: Set up, cook, welcome and serve.

Contact: nicholas.ferrara@au.rib.com

Tutors Needed for 2016
The College Tutoring program takes place on a Monday and Thursday during school periods. If you have some time to spare on these days and are able to assist with our Literacy and Numeracy program, we’d love to have you. NO teaching experience is required, and all tutors are given training and guidance by the Literacy Co-ordinator. Please contact our Community Tutoring Program Co-ordinator, Sarah Szascvay on 9875 2843, or 0421 082 909 (sbutfield@hotmail.com)

Education Support - Careers in Childhood Education
The Northern Sydney Institute (Part of TAFE) are offering Certificate III and Certificate IV in Education Support.

Content includes
• supporting behaviour of children and young people
• assisting in implementation of planned educational programs
• contributing to student education in all developmental domains
• supporting the development of literacy and oral language skills
• supporting the development of numeracy skills
• working effectively with students and colleagues
• supporting students with additional needs in the classroom environment.

Courses start in February 2016. For more information contact lynda.green2@tafenswedu.au (9942 3698) or visit nsi.edu.au. Alternatively, contact Sarah Szascvay, our Community Tutoring Program Co-ordinator as a number of our Community Tutors have undertaken further study
Gateway Creative Writing Program 2015

On November 13 a total of twenty students from Our Lady of the Rosary (Waitara), Prouille, St. Bernard's and St. Patrick’s visited St Leo's for a day of creative writing. The selected students were from Years 3 and 4.

The purpose of the day was to engage the students in a time of writing exercises and sustained writing with the aim of developing their writing skills and their understanding of writing techniques.

The first part of the day was given over to experimenting with words and language with random word poetry (using a range of student-chosen words to form poems) and blackout/erasure poetry (a technique of taking a text and deleting words to form a new text).

The students then reflected on the first time they remember doing something, for example, riding a rollercoaster or visiting the beach. This would form the basis of a vignette, a short piece of writing, later in the day. Each student explored their memory for the events that happened and the different sensations they encountered.

During the session after morning tea students explored different ways of making their writing interesting and engaging through description, dialogue and action. With this new knowledge the students began to work on their pieces, identifying their purpose and drafting their vignette. This went into the session after lunch as they continued to work on their vignettes.

All of the students involved in the day were enthusiastic and committed to their writing and had a very enjoyable day. Their work will be compiled and distributed to the participants at a later date.
Around the Grounds
Broken Bay Volleyball 2015

On Tuesday October 27 two teams from St Leo’s entered the BBSSSA Beach Volleyball competition. The girls relished the opportunity to have a hit out on the sand and played consistently throughout the day. They were able to rotate throughout each game, giving each girl an opportunity for much needed rest time as playing on sand takes a physical toll. The girls managed to be competitive throughout the day but missed out on playing semi finals. At the end of the day they finished 5th.

The boys took a little while to find their feet in the sand and their rhythm in the game but were soon dominating. They had a couple of early wins and a loss yet had to face St. Edwards (last year’s winners) in their final game. Both teams were evenly matched and the lead teetered backwards and forwards until the final siren sounded for the end of the game. A narrow one-point loss.

It put the boys in to third place and a tough semi. The boys powered through the game to make the grand final against St Edwards. The long day playing on sand had taken its toll on the boys but they were able to take a strong lead. A slew of unforced errors meant they gave away their 7-point lead. They were able to fight back but were narrowly beaten in the end. It augers well for next year when they return to compete.

Both teams are to be commended for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship and I am sure they are looking forward to being competitive again in 2016.

GIRLS
Jenny Nguyen, Kiara Keck, Sarah Dever, Karla Schwalger, Brittany Wells, Sophie Thompson, Maree Habkouk, Laura Moran, Muneet Mudhar, Danielle Nichols. Georgia Simmonds, Madi Bonato, Eloise Princi

BOYS
Ray Takchi, Lachlan Cosgrove, Jordan Penny, Jake Seiler, Tom Peregrina, Anthony Kelly, Max Dakic, Keeley Bowen, Liam Quinlan, Matthew Stein.
St Leo’s College Swimming Carnival

Our Annual Swimming Carnival on Friday 20 November at the Hornsby Aquatic Centre might just have set another temperature record reaching 40 degrees. Despite the heat, students and staff really got into the spirit of the Carnival.

The day began with the blue ribbon event; the 100 metres freestyle, which set the tone for a great day. Georgia Peregrina’s name blasted out over the PA system continuously, and she was the only record breaker on the day with four achievements. Other superstars in the pool were Lachlan Cosgrove, Maegan Chin, Rohan Bright and Sophia Groundwater to name a few. House support was very strong during the Championship Races but my vote as Leader of Sport goes to Aquinas who chanted their War Cry, loud and proud throughout the day. Loyola whilst a little flat in stands, must have put all their energy into the pool, awarded the Winning House on the day with 737 points.

A special guest and ex-student of the College, Lochie Hinds dropped by the Carnival and was a huge inspiration for the competitors. Lochie was the youngest man to successfully swim the English Channel and has also competed in the Manhattan Island Marathon event in the USA. He is a phenomenal long distance swimmer and has been a fantastic ambassador for young people. Lochie now attends university where he is studying Radiology.

St Leo’s Swimming Carnivals wouldn’t be the same without the traditional Opening Ceremony where Year 12 had the opportunity to strut their fancy dress costumes; Aquinas winning a hard fought fashion campaign. Individually, Charbel Saliba and Ruby Ford won best dressed male and female respectively. At around 1pm the pool was prepared for our Novelty Events where most of our non-competitive swimmers participate. This is a great opportunity for a House that is not doing so well to make up ground by going in the Tower of Terror, Noodle or Fish races and much, much more. Secretly, on such a hot day, students just wanted to get in the pool!!!

Every student deserves to be commended for the spirit in which they conducted themselves and the passion they displayed in competition. The four House Captains led their teams in the true spirit of sport on the day, after having put in enormous effort in the lead up and preparation for the Carnival.

A special mention must also go to Mrs Julianne Bowen who volunteered her time as a parent to help out at the Carnival. She has given continuous support over the years to sport and particularly the Carnival. Thank you!

Please find below the results for the Carnival. For further information on individual results you will need to visit the sport website www.SLCCSport.com and click Swimming Carnival to get your top 4 placing and swim time.
## HOUSE POINTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Race Points</th>
<th>Novelty / Other</th>
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<td>Aquinas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chanel</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loyola</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>369</td>
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<td>Xavier</td>
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## AGE CHAMPIONS

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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Marina Grout</td>
<td>Bailey Strachan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Penelope Chan</td>
<td>Jack Duncum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Georgia Peregrina</td>
<td>Joshua Christy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jenny Nguyen</td>
<td>Joshua McLeod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sophia Groundwater</td>
<td>Lachlan Cosgrove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17+</td>
<td>Maegan Chin</td>
<td>Rohan Bright</td>
</tr>
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## BROKEN RECORDS

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<th>Age</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Georgia Peregrina</td>
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<td>14G</td>
<td>31:55</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 Breaststroke</td>
<td>14G</td>
<td>39.30</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 Freestyle</td>
<td>14G</td>
<td>1.05.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 Backstroke</td>
<td>14G</td>
<td>35.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Broken Bay Surf Lifesaving Carnival
Tuesday, 24th November 2015 you couldn’t ask for anything better - perfect weather and a day at the beach! St Leo’s took a team to compete in the surf lifesaving carnival held by Broken Bay at Terrigal Beach.

Due to our demographic we are not the closest within the diocese to the beach however our team really competed hard taking it to the schools by the beach.

Our strength on the day was on the sand. We managed to win the flags event and relay. This was a fantastic achievement for our team. In the water and on the board we pushed hard, our efforts were recognised making us very competitive.

A special thanks to Mr Trainer and Mr Kember for giving the team an opportunity in this event. In particular Mr Kember for providing our team with the necessary surf lifesaving equipment from his club.

NSWCCC 19 Years Boys Cricket 2016
Just a reminder that if you would like to trial for the NSWCCC 19 years Cricket team please register ONLINE via the website. 48 students will be selected on paper to attend the NSWCCC Selections on the 15th and 16th February in Wollongong. Please note: you must pay at time of registration.
Closing date: Friday 4th December 2015

For more information please contact Kym Skerritt on k.skerritt@csss.nsw.edu.au

Upcoming Representative Sport
St Leo’s Junior Basketball Gala Day Saturday 27/11/15
Northern District Cricket Tuesday 8/12/15
Flag Football TBC

The College Sport Website
The College Sport website opened in Term 1 to give parents and students a gateway to gain quick information on sport as well as acknowledge the achievements of some of our sporting people.

People are still not aware of its existence so when you get an opportunity take a look and keep up to date with information regarding sport. The website is accessible via the College App or at www.SLCCSport.com

New Broken Bay Sport Website
The Broken Bay Secondary Sports Association (BBSSSA) have been working on a new website which is to reflect the NSWCCC website.

The website will give you all the necessary information regarding sport our College is involved in within the Diocese of Broken Bay. The website will provide a calendar of events, upcoming events, closing dates, registration, results, pathway information and much more.

Broken Bay is proud to present our new website:

www.brokenbaysport.org.au
**NSWCCC Sport Information**

For all your sporting information at a NSWCCC level including **event dates, registration** for an event, **closing dates, calendar** of events, **results, qualification** process and any other information please visit their website on:


**Need to Register for a NSWCCC event?**

All sporting events in NSWCCC and All-Schools require parents to register and approve their child online.

To register your child for a particular sport for the first time you will need to be allocated a username and password. This can be done by clicking the login button. Following this you will need to click the links below and then follow the prompts:

- ‘What’s my password?’
- ‘I am a parent /guardian of a student’
- ‘Secondary school student’
- ‘I am having trouble logging in’