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

Sunday 10 April, 2016 – Third Sunday of Easter –
“...Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish...” (Jn 21:1-19)

Dear Parents, Guardians, Care Givers, Grandparents and Students

“I’m going fishing” – this is what the apostle Peter told the six other disciples before they all decided to get on the boat and go fishing. For them it was back to business as usual. For us it is now a couple of weeks after Easter, after the resurrection of Jesus.

The challenge for us is, are we also back to business as usual? Do we (like the disciples in John’s Gospel) lack the courage to transform our lives in light of the resurrection? Is it easier to think about what we are going to get out of the upcoming holidays? Can we continue to be transformational in our thinking and actions in our daily lives rather than “quarantining” the presence of the Risen Lord in our daily lives to when we go to Mass?

Once again we are presented with, and face, many challenges in our mission as Christians. So how do we continue to be not only enlightened by the resurrection of Jesus but be able to make a continual positive difference in others’ lives not only in our community at St Leo’s but more globally?

Mrs Jamila Torpy leaves our fair shores at St Leo’s
Last month I received Mrs Torpy’s resignation from the College. On behalf of the community at St Leo’s I wish Jamila well in her new ventures outside of St Leo’s.

Jamila is moving to a school much closer to home and she will bring to it her faith and richness of her life experiences.

In 2006 Mrs Torpy started at Leo’s as a casual teacher and was appointed by the then Principal, Mrs Buscall to the position of Assistant REC in 2009. Whilst she taught HSIE and RE, by 2012 she was made Acting REC and stayed in this position until 2016 when it was made a permanent appointment. During 2015 she took leave and did her Masters in Theology at Newcastle University (Aust).
During the decade Jamila has been with us, we have seen her sharing her faith with the staff at assemblies, retreats and staff gatherings. She is a great role model for our students and particularly our younger staff. In the many meetings she conducts they are delivered with purpose and heart. She is always challenging us in our processes, decisions but at the same time always being very supportive of our students and staff.

Jamila will be greatly missed; described by some as a “pocket rocket” the way she is always busy and is never idle. Her creed is always doing the right thing for the students.

We wish her well as she begins a new phase in her life journey. The Catholic Schools Office will be appointing a new REC in Term II.

2016 – 2018 Strategic Improvement Plan Publication and 60th Anniversary Event Calendar
As you are aware each family had the opportunity for input into our 2016-2018 Strategic Plan at the College Review in Term IV last year. The Catholic Schools Office, The College Board and our clergy have now signed off on our 2016-2018 Strategic Improvement Plan. All parents will be emailed a copy later this week. If you would like a hard copy please email: jayne.persico@dbb.catholic.edu.au

You will see that by the end of this year we are striving to meet each of the goals in each of the three domains: Mission, Teaching and Learning, and Pastoral Care and Well Being. This Strategic Plan is a working document and I will be reporting back to the community at the end of this year (and subsequent years) on our progress. On the back page of the document is the Calendar of Events celebrating 60 years of Catholic Education at St Leo’s.

College Survey “How Do You Learn”
As part of our Strategic Improvement Plan (Teaching and Learning), the College is formulating a “St Leo’s Learning Principles” document. All students are being asked to complete a 5 minute survey (as of last Sunday evening – we have received 52 responses). The students were sent the link on Edmodo on the weekend. This information will be analysed by the College alongside parent and staff input. From here we will be looking at our teaching method and styles to maximize the outcomes of our students. Stay tuned for more information. Please encourage your adolescent to participate in the short online survey.

Good Luck to our College Representative Debaters
This week sees the commencement of the Catholic Schools Debating Association season. We were delighted to present our teams to the College at the Assembly last week. Badges were distributed by our guest Mrs Deborah Ferguson (Principal of MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale) and myself.

The season could not go ahead without the staff to coach, support and adjudicate the debates. Thank you to Mrs Lorraine Champ – for her coordination and leadership of our debating. Her team: Mrs Laraine Boguradzki, Mrs Gail McCann, Mrs Michelle Montiero, Mrs Kimberly Prosser, Mrs Neryle Sheldon, Mrs Hayley Tuffin and Ms Jenny Vu. The first round this week is with Marist College, Parramatta.

Good luck to all our teams and thank you for representing the College.
The Presence of the Christian Brothers and The Residence – Building Update

Yesterday my wife and I had the pleasure of attending the 75th Jubilee of Br Bernie Magill along with two other 50th Jubilee celebrations at Mulgoa with 120 other guests. Br Bernie was in fine form for a 91 year old. He was telling me of his full days here at St Leo’s. He was Community Leader (Superior) at St Leo’s in 1976-78. Such a role recognized his care for others and his dedication. He also taught RE fulltime – in fact he was RE Coordinator as well as completing his Diploma on Religious Studies. I informed him that where he lived, “The Residence” was due for demolition this coming Saturday. He stated that it should have come down quite some time ago!

On that note I would ask that if anyone is visiting the College during the holidays, not to enter the demolition site. It will be fenced off appropriately but no one is allowed to enter the site. The demolition is a complicated issue given the closeness of C Block learning spaces.

During the upcoming holidays the current College Reception and offices will be moved into the new College Admin building (site of the old library). This will give the College a rightful and compliant entry into the College for parents and visitors.

Last month we also received advice (based on structural concerns) that the current Admin building will also be demolished during the Term 2 holidays. This means we are now looking at a second new building on the site.

In place of “The Residence” will be a 2 storey Student Services Hub. We are currently in the planning phase but are looking to house a new canteen facility and seated eating area for students and staff. We will also be installing a new College maintenance plant down next to The Light of Christ Centre. This should be installed by the end of Term 2.

One of the principles we have when planning the refurbishment is reducing any disruptions to our students and their learning. This planning has enabled us to keep our Year 12 Mid-Year Exams scheduled in their normal areas over these past two weeks.

If you have any questions on our Building Works, I am more than happy to answer your query, please email: jayne.persico@dbb.catholic.edu.au

The money the Catholic Schools Office has and is continuing to commit to these works is a great sign of faith in the College community and our Strategic School Improvement Plan.
60th Year of Catholic Education at St Leo’s – 2016
As we produce Disney’s High School Musical next month I was interested to see in 1978 The College Drama Club presented “The Matchmaker” by Thornton Wilder.

At the helm was teacher Mr Barry Hayes who, with the co-operation of the Drama students at the College, combined with several girls from neighbouring schools to present a most professional piece of drama. Besides providing the audience with authentic acting, the Drama Club utilised their limited funds to provided effective sound and lighting, as well as period costumes.

Of course St Leo’s was not co-ed in 1978, and had to combine with other girls’ schools. I’m pleased to say our funds for staging and lighting are somewhat more substantial in 2016.

St Leo’s on Social Media
Join our Facebook page – St Leo’s Catholic College
Twitter - @stleos
Also – don’t forget to download the Satchel (either iOS or Android) app – where notices for parents (and students) are posited, including The Pride, Absentee Notes etc. It is now fully operational.

Two Events to Mark in Diary
1) St Leo’s Production – Disney’s High School Musical – 19-21 May The Light of Christ Centre.
   Performances will be:
   Friday 20 May – Matinee Performance: 11am
   Thursday 19, Friday 20, Saturday 21 May – Evening Performance: 7pm
   Saturday 21 May – Matinee Performance: 2pm

2) 60th Anniversary Dinner Dance – for all parents, past parents, past students and friends of the College. Sat 18 June 6.45pm – Hornsby RSL; Live Music “8 piece band”; Bookings now open for the St Leos 60th Anniversary Dinner Dance.

   Come and have a great night at Hornsby RSL on 18th June 2016, commencing at 6.45pm – Tickets: $80 includes dinner and 8 piece band.
   Why not form a table with old friends and year groups, and join in the celebrations?!
   To book: Visit http://www.trybooking.com/KQHM or email us at: leosddbooking@gmail.com;
   For event information, go to the College website

Mr AF Gleeson
Principal

“...God is watching over you...”
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (4/7/1876)
From the Assistant Principal

Interim Reports
Interim Reports for Term 1 for Years 7 to 11 will be uploaded to the student portal on Friday morning. Year 12 will have Mid Course reports distributed at the Parent/ Student/ Teacher interviews next term.

Open Day
The College held a second Open Day last Friday for Year 6 students and their families from our local Catholic feeder schools that were involved in the Year 6 Cluster Mass with Bishop Peter on the first Open Day. We were again able to proudly showcase the College and all it has to offer. All of our students were outstanding ambassadors for the College. We had well over 700 visitors over the two Open Days. If you are intending on submitting an application for enrolment please ensure that you do so on time.

Start of Term Two
Term 2 starts for students on **Wednesday 27th April (Day 3)**. A reminder that all students should return in full winter uniform at the start of Term 2. It may be timely to have a look at the blazers to see if they require any dry cleaning over the holiday break.

Boys – Blazers are the compulsory outer garment in winter when travelling to and from school. All boys must wear long trousers in winter. The shorts are not an option.

Cowan and Lewis, our uniform supplier, are only stocking short sleeved shirts for junior boys to be worn all year round (with the tie in winter). If your son’s long sleeved shirts still fit, they are welcome to wear these.

Girls – Blazers are the compulsory outer garment in winter when travelling to and from school. Year 7-10 girls wear the pinafore.

Cowan and Lewis are located at 1315 Pacific Highway, Turramurra. Ph: 9449 9777.
www.cowanlewis.com.au

As the cold weather sets in I would ask parents to ensure that their son/daughter jumper and tracksuit tops fit correctly. A reminder that students who are without their correct uniform on a day should have a note from their parents and should see their Year Leader for a uniform pass. Please note that any students wearing ‘hoodies’ or other jumpers and jackets either under or over their uniforms will have them confiscated.

Parent/ Student/ Teacher Interviews
A reminder to parents of Year 11 and 12 students that our Stage 6 Parent/Student/ Teacher Interviews will be held from 3.30pm – 8:30pm on Wednesday 18th May (Week 4 of Term 2).

The Year 7 – 10 Parent/Student/ Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 30th June (Week 10) from 8:30am until 8:30pm. The following day will be a Staff Spirituality Day, which means that the last day of classes for Term 2 will be Wednesday 29th June.

The normal procedure will apply for booking these interviews – through the online booking system used in previous years. Your booking codes and instructions will be distributed during next term.
I must bid you all “adieu

To my much loved Leo’s family and Pride

It is with much sadness that I say farewell; you have been my friends, my teachers…my family. Everything that I have learned as a professional educator has come from and through you, and I will carry a piece of each one of you in my heart. You will inform my future classrooms, and I will hear your voices, see your faces in every set of students that gathers before me.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you, and I know my life is the richer, for you having been in it.

Bilbo choose his favourite stick from the stand…It was a fine night and the black sky was dotted with stars. He looked up, sniffing the air, “What fun…what fun to be off on the road again…Goodbye!” he said, looking at his old home and bowing to the door…. “Don’t worry about me, I am as happy now as I have ever been, and that is saying a great deal. But the time has come…I am being swept off my feet at last!” Then in a low voice he sang softly in the dark:

The road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began
Not far ahead the road has gone
And I must follow, if I can
Pursuing it with eager feet
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet
And whither then, I cannot see

J R Tolkien (Fellowship of the Ring)
Curriculum
Making great study notes
With the end of term approaching it is time to think about study notes. But why now? Well many students wait until just before examination time to even consider their study notes then there is no time to learn them and no time to practise the skills of the subject. If you know you will have tests later in the year, then a smart thing to do is to get all of your Term1 study notes up to date during the holidays.

Can you imagine coming back Term 2, you haven’t done your study notes for Term 1 and you get slammed with new work – it becomes impossible to catch up! So make a smart decision and ensure you have all of your Term1 study notes complete by the end of the term.

You can learn more about making great study notes in the SUMMARISING unit of www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:

Username: leos
Password: community

Top 5 tips to improve your notes:

1. POINTS: Avoid long sentences and focus on key points.
2. TABLES: Use tables wherever you can to create structure.
3. KEY WORDS: Pull out keys words (as shown in this list).
4. HIGHLIGHT: Make sure the key content stands out (but don’t go crazy with colour).
5. FEEDBACK: Show your notes to teachers, parents and friends so they can suggest ways to improve them.

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 Help will continue on Monday afternoons from Week 2, Term 2. There has been a positive response from students this term and it has proved beneficial to all that have attended.

The Maths Department is providing most classes in Years 7 to 10 with assessment feedback. After students have checked their test, their classroom teacher will provide feedback for the student. Please ask your child if they have the form for you to sign.

Senior students receive a marking guide and general feedback after their assessment tasks.

Students are encouraged to use all feedback to correct errors and clarify misconceptions to develop their skills.
Community News

St Leo’s Catholic College 60th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Date:  18 June 2016
Time:  6.45pm
Place:  Hornsby RSL
Dress:  Smart
Band:  8 piece band
Ticket Price: $80

For more information: leosdbooking@gmail.com
To book:  http://www.trybooking.com/KQHM
Tel:  9487 3555