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

Sunday 13 March, 2016 – Fifth Sunday of Lent –
“...Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone...” (Jn 8:1-11)

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

As stated in my address to prospective parents at our very successful Open Day last Friday, I am a very proud principal of St Leo’s Catholic Co-educational College. This “natural” environment is critical to the successful journey of our students for five reasons:
1) we are unapologetically Catholic and have an outstanding tradition of Catholic education over the past 60 years
2) it carries on the continuum of co-education from family and primary school into post secondary life
3) it reflects the real world in which we live
4) our students learn, navigate and experience the gender constructs, particularly in their formative adolescent years
5) our students are entering a world of broad diversity; learning acceptance and tolerance at Leo’s through the experience of rubbing shoulders with a diverse group of people, which is “reflective” of our society.

St Leo’s College was so enriched when the decision was made in the 1983 to make the College a co-educational learning facility.

Next Sunday’s Gospel is about the accused woman committing adultery and punishment was being invoked. Jesus said – “...Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone...” No one did cast a stone. When the accused woman is brought before Jesus for judgment he neither looks at the woman nor at the accusers. He bends down and writes in the dirt. Jesus (still kneeling on the ground) looks up at the woman to speak with her. She has probably never been treated with this level of respect in all her life. With this action, as much as anything else, Jesus restores dignity and honour to the woman. She can begin a new life.

In John’s Gospel – there is much to learn from many angles; inclusiveness; mercy; compassion; judgement; hope - the factors we strive to instill in our students in our Catholic Co-educational environment with the partnership of our parents and guardians.
Congratulations to our Students, Staff and Parents

Last Friday we hosted about 550 people for part one of our Open Day program this year. We will be hosting another Open Day on Friday 1st April (as there was a Year 6 Cluster Mass last Friday). I greeted the parents and guests saying it is vital that they find a school that will meet the particular needs of their child. St Leo’s is a comprehensive Catholic Coed school – with much to offer.

I invited them to ask plenty of questions, speak to current students and parents and find out as much as possible about the College. I told them “students are the best advertisement”… and they were! Aerobics, College Musical rehearsal, drama performances, debating and public speaking, sport (football in this case), hospitality, science demonstrations, robotics, Visual Arts, Engaging Mathematics, Poetry, Languages, Technology and Applied Studies, Music performances, eLearning, Catholic Life and Mission, Pastoral Care – were all proudly spoken of and many demonstrated by the students.

It is best summed up in two emails I received on Friday afternoon:

Hello,
Just wanted to thank you for the open day and tour.
The students did a great job and represented the school really well – scoring a few cookies also went down a treat!
Please pass on to the kids how well they did, and how impressed we were.
All the best.

Good afternoon,
As a prospective parent (2019) I just wanted to forward my appreciation for the welcome received at the open day, this morning.
The students that accompanied us throughout the tour were exceptional and a credit to their families and the school.
Thank you and we hope to register our daughter for the 2019 intake next year.
Regards,
As we celebrated our 60th Anniversary Opening Mass last month it’s interesting to reflect on our College Chapel which was constructed in 1978. The major theme for the design was simplicity; dominating planning, form and function. The first major decision on the Chapel was its siting. Located at the Brothers’ front door and right in the middle of the busiest area of student movement. Thus it is used by all ages at all times of the day. It has become the centre of school activities. One visiting master was heard to say “what a refreshing change to have Chapel in the centre of a school, rather than a swimming pool.”

Stone was chosen as the major building material because it reflected solidity; it is ageless and rugged in character. The Altar, Lectern and President’s Chair were built out of Californian Redwood and finished with an “adzed” treatment. The ceiling is sawn pine (which will need replacing later this year).

In 2016 this intimate Chapel still serves our weekly Mass, a place of solitude for students and staff and an area for prayer and reflection.
Parents In Partnership Evening – Last Wednesday Evening
Last Wednesday we had 45 parents interact with six of our Year 12, 2015 graduating class, who chatted to each of the three groups of parents about their life at St Leo’s. It was an evening of conversation both ways – what worked with the students and what didn’t work. It gave the parents of our new students another insight into the world of adolescents and learning at St Leo’s.

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 posted, including The Pride, Absentee Notes etc.

Two Events to Mark in Diary
1)  St Leo’s Production – Disney’s High School Musical – 19-21 May The Light of Christ Centre
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”; $80 a head.

Recent Sporting Achievements
Congratulations to our Intermediate Girls Touch Team who defeated Barker (3-0) last Friday afternoon. They are now in the Grand Final this Friday afternoon after school. It will be great to see many supporters for our 17 member team. All the best to the girls, Mr Privett and Ms Beattie.

Last week our Open Boys Basketball Team won the BBSSSA Basketball Invitation Competition. There were 6 teams in the competition and in the finals we defeated St Edward’s College at Gosford by 10 points. Well done to the boys and Mr Tiglao.

Good luck to our Senior Cricket Team who will compete in the Northern Districts Cup Grand Final tomorrow afternoon at Mark Taylor Oval, after their massive win over Knox last week!

Mr AF Gleeson
Principal

“...I knew God would take care of all and make everything right in the end...”
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (17/7/1892)
From the Assistant Principal

Project Compassion
The College is supporting Project Compassion throughout Lent. This fundraising effort is a practical way in which students can put their faith into action. Project Compassion 2016 is focused on providing vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Each Wednesday the College Prefects will be collecting money to support Project Compassion. They have set a fundraising target of $10 000. This equates to a donation of about $2 per student each week. At this stage we need to increase our efforts if we are to reach our target. I would encourage each family to support this very worthy cause so that we can provide assistance to those most in need.

Open Day
Open Day last Friday provided us with the opportunity to proudly showcase the College and all it has to offer. All of our students were outstanding ambassadors for the College. We expected reduced numbers given that Year 6 students in our local Catholic feeder schools were at the Year 6 Cluster Mass with Bishop Peter. We in fact had even more people at Open Day than in previous years. We had well over 500 visitors at Open Day on Friday and the feedback was extremely positive. We will be hosting an additional Open Day exclusive tour for Year 6 students, siblings and families on Friday 1st April.

Working Bee
Since 1992, school communities across Australia have demonstrated their support for caring for the environment through participating in Schools Clean Up Day. This along with our Working Bee the previous weekend certainly has beautified the school and greatly improved our local environment.

I would encourage all parents to use this as an opportunity to talk to your son/daughter about the importance of caring for our environment. Five simple things we can all do:

- put all rubbish in the bins provided;
- save paper by printing double sided and reuse scrap paper as notepad;
- stop buying Bottled Water – instead purchase a reusable drink bottle and use tap water or the school drink fountain to fill;
- use a reusable lunch box;
- send old and unused electronic equipment to an Electronic Waste recycler or donate to a charity.

Year 7 Camp
A reminder that Year 7 are on Camp this week from Wednesday to Friday. A big thank you to Ms Watts for all her organisation for this important part of our Outdoor Education Program.
PAW Print Merit Awards
This week we launch the College Merit Award system. The College Merit Award system is designed to provide students with encouragement and recognition for their achievements and efforts. Students can receive immediate feedback via a Merit Certificate Award (also known as a “Paw Print”). Students can receive a “Paw Print” for:

- Academic Achievement
- Academic Effort
- Putting faith into action
- Living the College Values
- Sporting Achievement
- Sporting Effort
- Music Achievement
- Music Effort
- Co-Curricular Achievement
- Co-Curricular Effort

When a student has accumulated ten Paw Print Merit Awards they can take these awards to the Student Reception. This will lead to the student being issued with a Yellow Merit award. Students who achieve a Yellow Merit award are presented with these awards by their Year Leader at a Year Assembly.

Students who achieve five Yellow Merit awards will be issued with a Purple Merit Award. Purple Merit Awards are presented at a Year Assembly.

Students who achieve five Purple Merit awards, including at least ten Merit certificates for Putting their faith into action and/or Living the Gospel Values, will be awarded with a Gold Merit Award. These awards are presented at a Whole School Assembly.

Students who achieve three Gold Merit awards, including at least ten Merit certificates for Putting their faith into action and/or Living the Gospel Values, will be awarded with a Leo’s Pride Merit Award (Medal and Certificate). These awards are presented at a Whole School Assembly.

The achievement of Yellow, Purple, Gold and Leo’s Pride Merit awards are entered into Edumate so that it appears on a student’s record of achievement.

Winter Uniform
The winter uniform is now available for purchase.

Cowan & Lewis 1315 Pacific Highway Turramurra
Monday – Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-12

All students are required to return to school 1st day of term 2 in full winter uniform.
Catholic Life and Mission

A wonderful start to our 60th Jubilee Year

Our Goal: To empower all members of the College community to put their faith into action for the greater good

Year 9 Visits to McQuoin Park Aged Care Facility - A new initiative
Our Year 9 students have started the year with a sense of compassion and connection with the elderly residents of McQuoin Park. Every Wednesday, accompanied by Ralph Kershler, eight to ten students go to McQuoin Park to spend some time with the elderly people in our community. They assist the residents to and from Mass in the chapel, help them with their meals and simply chat to them, bringing their youthful enthusiasm and sense of fun, as only young people do. For some of the elderly residents, our students will be the only people that they get to talk to outside the facility, and this time is very special to them. Our students benefit significantly from this interaction, learning the importance of compassion and empathy, and also have a chance to reflect Jesus by their actions in reaching out to an often forgotten and marginalised group in today’s society.

Year 10 enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to go on ‘Street Retreat’
The long wait to go on Street Retreat finally ends for our Year 10 students, who head off to the city on a Monday.

Year 11 - Vinnie’s Night Patrol – an initiative of St Vincent de Paul
Continuing our outreach through the Vinnie’s Night Patrol Food Van – Our Year 11 students and generous staff, led by Ralph Kershler give their time on a Friday night, to go to the city, and inner-city, and provide food and drink to the homeless of Sydney. Always an eye-opening, interesting experience, teaching our students to put their faith into action in a very tangible way.

“Thank you to our wonderful students (Anthony Graham, Georgia Bowden, Mason Francis, Liam Quinlan, Luke Elliott, Tom Peregrina, Ben Parker), and our colleagues Nathan Smith, Mel Maisey and Ralph (we survived with him....only just!). It was the first time we took this group of year 11 students out, and they were amazing! So proud of them, and enjoyed Friday night with them.”

Regina El-Hage
Project Compassion 2016
Theme: “Learning more, creating change”
The challenge to raise the bar and raise money…goal set high!

The College community engages in our Lenten program of almsgiving for Project Compassion 2016. Students were challenged to learn more about the people and the projects around the world, that benefit from their generosity, as well as to get creative in the way they raised much valued funds for this worthy cause. Included in our Project Compassion drive so far: Easter hamper raffles across all year groups and Year 12 cake stalls – a spectacular success led by Mrs Kate Todd (Year Leader).

Still to come: an Easter egg-guessing competition, a rice bowl challenge, and other surprises. All these leading back to our responsibility to be the hands, feet, eyes, ears and hearts of Christ in the world, by putting our faith into action.

Our College prefects have led the charge, collecting money, selling raffle tickets, baking goodies and coordinating the activities for us, ably mentored by Nathan Smith, our Student Leadership Coordinator.

Ash Wednesday 2016
Ash Wednesday 2016 was marked with liturgies for each stage (7 & 8, 9 & 10, 11 & 12). Students gathered in the Light of Christ Centre and shared an understanding of the meaning of Ash Wednesday, and had the traditional imposition of ashes on their foreheads to mark the day. It was also the launch of Project Compassion 2016, with the students being reminded of the three recommendations of Lent: prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving.
60th Anniversary College Opening Mass

Our Opening Mass this year was an extra special event that marked the College’s sixtieth year in Catholic education. It began with the beautiful sounds of the didgeridoo in a moving Smoking Ceremony led by Gavi Duncan, an Aboriginal Education Officer who reminded the community of the significance of the land and our responsibility to respect and nurture it. Bishop Peter A Comensoli led the Eucharistic celebration, joined by six other concelebrating clergy, at the Light of Christ Centre. We were honoured to celebrate past connections and to welcome back the Christian Brothers.

Also gracing us with their presence, were Peter Hamill, Virginia Ryan, Tony Bracken and other staff from the Catholic Schools Office. Parents, friends, ex-students, ex-staff and Principals, Principals from our neighbouring schools, our primary school, our own staff and most importantly, our students made the occasion, the first of a series of very special events planned for this, our jubilee year.
100 Years – A Faith Community
On 13 March 2016 it will be 100 years since the former Waitara Parish was founded and we would like to acknowledge that a Faith Community has existed in this area since 1916.

We will be celebrating the occasion on Sunday 13 March during the 9.30am Mass followed by morning tea and a photo display ‘Walk down memory lane’ in the Fr Nulty Room.

Please also keep Sunday 28 August 2016 free in your diary as we are planning a multicultural family picnic for more 100 year celebrations in conjunction with Migrant and Refugee Sunday.

We would also like to invite current and former parishioners to submit a short story (especially those families who have been in our parish for a long time or families who have had an interesting journey to our parish) for possible inclusion in a Memento book to be published in August. (If you have a story to tell and would like someone to write it down for you we can organise someone to interview you. Please contact the parish office.) Please submit before 15th April 2016.

Stations of the Cross
A dramatic and evocative Stations of the Cross
enacted by the students of St Leo’s College

In the beautiful gardens of
Holy Name Church Wahroonga

March 15 at 7.00 pm

An excellent way to practice the Lenten observance of doing something special for our spiritual growth and development.
Curriculum
Starting the day well
Do you find it hard to get out of bed some days and be positive about going to school and learning? It can be hard to turn the day around when you wake up like this and don’t take steps to start your day in a positive way. Your approach in the first hour of the day dictates the direction of your day of learning at school.

To ensure you start your mornings well you need to make sure you have a night-time and wake-up routine.

1. Set your intentions before bed: consciously decide every night to create a positive expectation for the next morning.
2. Move your alarm clock across the room: so you have to get up to turn it off.
3. Brush your teeth: when you wake up and splash water on your face.
4. Drink a full glass of water: to hydrate yourself after several hours without water.
5. Add some of the following ideas to your own routines.

The “Miracle Morning” is a book written by Hal Elrod and he speaks about starting your morning with “Life SAVERS”. The idea is that you add some of these to your morning routine or come up with your own activities for a positive start to the morning:

- Silence can be meditation, mindfulness, prayer etc.
- Affirmation can be a word you use that reminds you of who you are and how to be.
- Visualisation is an intention (directing your focus) on how you want your day to be.
- Exercise can be a short walk or stretching or going for a run (exercise is a great thing to do in the morning).
- Reading something that is positive and enjoyable. What you read “resonates” with you. It gets you thinking and expanding “beyond yourself”.
- Scribe is about journaling. Writing in your journal about your day gives you insight and clarity about issues. It also helps you realise what’s working and how far you have come.

These tips are courtesy of www.humanconnections.com.au

You can learn more about creating positive learning handouts and many other topics to help you achieve your best at school at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:

Username: leos
Password: community

For further information or queries, please refer them to Angelo Solomonides, the Leader of Senior Academic Care at angelo.solomonides@dbb.catholic.edu.au
**Society and Culture Excursion**
On a bright and sunny afternoon, the Year 12 Society and Culture class took their learning on the road and visited the Baha’i temple at Ingleside.

We were warmly welcomed by Bill who took us into the temple. The temple is a beautiful oasis of calm. That experience alone was worth the travel time.

We then went back to the information centre where the highlight for me was the emphasis on peace and unity in the Baha’i tradition.

I know the students gained a lot of useful first hand insight about the world’s religions from our excursion.

Mrs Lorraine Champ  
HSIE Teacher

**Japanese Excursion**
On 24th February students from Year 9 Japanese and Year Japanese Beginners and the opportunity to attend a performance by Japanese Geisha at the Monkey Baa Theatre in the city.

Two Maiko (trainee geisha) and two Geiko from the Gion district in Kyoto visited Australia and introduced students to their culture and life, performed traditional dances and shared a mini lesson on the gentle and refined dialect of Kyoto, known as *Kyokotoba*.

For our students it was a rare and authentic Japanese cultural experience which most will never have again. Students were impressed by the kimono and refined manners that they were shown.

**Public Speaking and Debating News**
Congratulations to all our speakers in the Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition. We sent six juniors and one senior into the competition. I was very proud of those students I got to see. Thank you to Matteo, Jessica, Orla, Annabelle, Tara, Veronica and Luke for adding your voice to this competition.

Thanks also go to Mrs Sheldon for her support and to her husband for acting as our adjudicator and so travelling far to assist our students.

Congratulations to Matteo and Jessica who proceed to the next round.

Debating will be starting up soon. Thank you to all those who put their names down to be involved. Here’s hoping for a successful season of debating in 2016.

Mrs Lorraine Champ  
Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator
How to use your Opal Card correctly

Remember,

You only need to Tap On and Tap Off once for each Journey, then find a seat and sit down to travel safe on the bus, train or ferry.

Contact 131500 for all Timetable and Opal Enquiries
Open Day: 9:30am - 11:00am Thursday, 10 March
A small and personal Catholic community where a great spirit of love, support and care is central to our identity.
- An integrated K-6 curriculum catering for individual learning styles
- Appropriate technology used to develop children into informed 21st Century learners
- A specialist Music, PE and Japanese Teacher
- Before and After School Care

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