Principal’s Message

**Pentecost Sunday –**
“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you…” (John 20:19-23)

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

Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season (in fact 50 days after Easter Sunday). This Sunday we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. The apostles were given the gift of the Holy Spirit to proclaim Jesus. We are now the apostles and we as members of the St Leo's Catholic College community play an important role in our world. For most of us – this is very difficult – we tend to be like the apostles on Holy Thursday than on Pentecost Sunday. We need to pray to the Holy Spirit (whom we have met many times through the Sacraments) to support that flame that is within each of us grow into a bonfire! I have seen many examples of this “bonfire” over the past term, our 7 Year 11 catechists are prime examples; Parents who give up their time and energy for the homeless and down and out people in the operation of “The Dish” in the Hornsby area; staff who have given up their time from the comforts of their home and families to guide and supervise in the various retreats and camps in the past week; and the unnamed student who found a large sum of money and handed it to College Reception; the 20 or so students who participated in the Bible Study class today at lunchtime. These are just some of the everyday tasks of the Holy Spirit working through others.

How can I contribute a little more?

This Week – Week 3 Term II:

A quiet week at St Leo’s!
Year 11 Retreat at Stanwell Tops (Monday to Wednesday)
Years 7 & 9 NAPLAN (Tuesday to Friday)
Year 8 Camp at Colo River (Tuesday to Friday)
Year 12 BYTE Event (Friday)
Year 10 Allwell Testing (Tuesday)
College Board Meeting (Wednesday)
Debating at St Leo’s (Friday)
As well as the usual teaching and learning, assessment tasks, Bible Studies, weekday Masses and sport / music band training and practices.
Tuesday and Wednesday saw 25 teachers absent on each day – at all these various important activities. It is interesting to note – that of these 25 absent – 1 teacher was ill. Thursday – 13 staff absent – all on these activities.
I believe this speaks volumes about our staff's dedication to the College, your children and the profession. The week is out of our normal routine and the students that were here at the College conducted themselves in the usual way. Congratulations to one and all.

**Timor Leste – How Can We Assist?:**

Last Tuesday evening I with 4 members of the College Board attended a meeting at Waverley College outlining their initial immersion program for Timor Leste. We heard from Mr Anthony Ryan (CEO of Edmund
Rice Foundation Australia), Mr Ray Paxton (Headmaster) and staff coordinating the program. They spoke of their experiences and hopes of assisting the Timor Leste people from their very recent injustices. At our Board meeting last evening we started the discussion around a possible St Leo’s program. If you are interested or want to find out more – please contact a College Board member or myself.

**Aerobics Preliminary Competition** – all through to State Championships!:

Last Sunday week I joined our many vocal supporters at the Preliminary Schools Aerobics Competition in Sutherland. The competition had schools from Wagga, Tuggerah, Sydney, Balranald and Newcastle. Congratulations to all our girls who represented the College across 5 different teams. The results are as follows:

- Stage 1 - 4th Place
- Sec Aerobics Team 1 - 1st Place
- Sec Aerobics Team 2 - 4th Place
- Open B - 5th Place
- Opens B - 4th Place

The standard was so high and well regarded by the judges - all teams are through to the State Championships on Sunday 16 June again in Sutherland.

My thanks to Ms Karen Heugh who is the Teachers In Charge of this traditional and successful sport here at the College.

Well done to Sarah Baynie, Maddie Hogarth and Alice Crothers (Yr 12 2011 students) for their coaching and an obvious eye for technicality and details.

**Thankyou:**

I would like to thank the following members of staff who coordinated, attended and participated in our overnight Year 11 Retreat and Year 8 Camp this week. Without the good will and generosity of these staff – these important experiences would simply not be able to take place:

**Year 8 Camp at the Colo River** -

**Year 11 Retreat at Stanwell Tops**
- Stephanie Frykberg, Michael Kember, Susan Jones, Ralph Kershler, Robin Lappin, Ann Lawrence, Jenny Marshall, Carolyn Scott, Jamie Stimpson, Helen Somerville, Angelo Solomonides, Jamila Torpy, Sue White.

**Friday Evening Debating – CSDA Competition:**

Last Friday evening was the first of our two “Home Debates”. We were hosting Bede Polding College from Windsor. St Leo’s students won 5 out of the 6 debates. Our second (and last) Home Debate is this evening – please come along to hear our debaters in action – who knows – you maybe be listening to a future Prime Minister!

**Mothers’ Day Mass and Breakfast:**

Over 150 people attended and enjoyed our Mothers' Day Mass and Breakfast last Friday morning. Fr David Ranson (Wahroonga Parish) led us in the Eucharist then followed a breakfast prepared and served by our students. It was not quite a healthy breakfast but then again – a treat once a year does not hurt! It was great to see our students with Mums, Grandmothers and mother figures from across Years 7-12. Happy Mothers’ day for last Sunday!

**Well Done to Angus Berg (Year 12 student) – on Changing the Future!:**

Some of you may have heard one of our Year 12 Students on ABC Radio with Adam Spencer a couple of weeks ago who won the opportunity to attend TEDxSydney 2013. He had to send an idea to Adam Spencer on ABC radio with an idea of how to change the future. Here is Angus’ reflection -

The idea I sent in involved pressure-powered generators being developed at UTS. My suggestion was to use these to replace footpaths. That way, as people walked on them, electricity would be generated. The electricity from these would be gathered and distributed around the neighbourhood in which it was generated. This would lower people’s power bills, as well as encouraging exercise and lowering greenhouse emissions.
TED was incredible. It was held in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House, and the speakers were simply incredible. The first speaker was Ron McCallum, a blind lawyer who talked about how technology is helping those who have impaired senses; Julian Assange's lawyer, Jennifer Robinson, talked about the struggle for independence from Indonesian oppression in West Papua, and introduced the face of this movement, Benny Wenda; Dutch born Joost Bakker talked about his 'Greenhouse' scheme, where he makes houses which are almost completely self sustaining, self-insulating and have no environmental impact; Ex-Mercenary Special Ops Damien Mander talked about the sanctity of ALL sentient life, not just humanity; Geneticist David Sinclair talked about his work in reversing ageing; and finally, we got a rather impressive performance from beat-boxer Tom Thum. It was a truly incredible day.

Good luck to Lachie Hinds of Yr 12 Reaching for the Stars (again):

On behalf of the College we wish Lachie Hinds the best of luck as next month he leaves for the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim in New York. A swim of around 46 kilometres! A warm up this Sunday – Bondi to Watsons Bay – 11 klm. Go Team Lachie!

Correspondence

From this week our preferred method of correspondence will via email. This includes fee statements. If your email address has changed or would prefer to have us redirect to a different email address than is on our database I would ask that you contact the College on 9487 3555 or send details to stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au. Please note that we are able to send emails to only one email address per person.

“We must teach more by example than by word” (Saint Mary MacKillop –1867)

AF Gleeson, College Principal
Message from the Assistant Principal

Stage 6 Parent Teacher Student Night

This event will occur next Wednesday 22 May in LOCC starting at 2.30pm and concluding at 8.30pm. The tennis court will be open to parking. Semester 1 reports are available at this time.

All parents of students in Years 11 and 12 should have received their PTO number to enable them to book appointments with their child’s teachers. Information about this upcoming event was sent home with the students. If you have not received this information from your child you can contact the College Office.

It is important that students attend this evening with their parents. This will enable a meaningful dialogue to take place between all stack-holders.

Track & Field Carnival

The College annual Track and Field Carnival will be held on Wednesday 29 May. This is a compulsory school event with all students expected to attend. If your child/ren is unable to attend due to illness then please follow the normal procedures of notifying the College Office in the morning and send a note of explanation the next school day.

Being Late for School.

We all appreciate the importance of being on time. In our personal lives it is a sign of respect. In our working lives it is an expectation of employment. Nothing less is required of our students in attending school on time. Turning up late to class puts the student in the position of deficit where they miss out on the focus of the lesson presented in the first few minutes of class time. Turning up late for class also disrupts the lesson disturbing both the teacher and students already focused on the lesson.

While the occasional late arrival can occur, too often we are finding the same students offending in this matter. To alleviate this matter some family re-organisation may be required – such as the student being better organised, leaving home earlier and proactively planning to get to school on time.

Your help as parents is requested. Could you please discuss with your child/ren the importance of being at school on time.

If your child is late to school then as parent you are required to confirm the reason for this late attendance. Your child will have been given a “late slip” when they signed in at the office. This slip will state the reason given for being late to school. Parents are requested to sign this note and the student returns it to their tutor the next day.

Students Parking Cars on School Property

It is important for all students who drive their car to school to be reminded that at no time are they to park within the school grounds. This included the long drive up from Unwin Road. The Senior students were reminded of this at a meeting on Thursday.

Observing the Road Rules

It has been brought to our attention that some students using the pedestrian crossings near Waitara Station are all too frequently endangering themselves due to their failure to obey the simple and safe rule of crossing with the lights. We would request that when the occasion arises that you remind your child of the danger they are placing themselves and others in when they do the wrong thing in this regard.

What’s on:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>20-21 May</td>
<td>Year 12 Retreat</td>
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<td>22 May</td>
<td>Stage 6 Parent Teacher Student Afternoon/Evening 2.30pm to 8.30pm in LOCC</td>
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<td>25 May</td>
<td>Track and Field Carnival at Foxglove Oval</td>
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<td>31 May</td>
<td>Year 9 Brainstorm Productions</td>
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<td>Year 11 Brainstorm Productions</td>
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<td>10 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<td>12 June</td>
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<td>12 June</td>
<td>Parent Network Meeting</td>
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<td>20 June</td>
<td>Whole College Assembly in LOCC</td>
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<td>21 June</td>
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<td>24-28 June</td>
<td>Outback Pilgrimage</td>
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<td>26 June</td>
<td>Photos</td>
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<td>28 June</td>
<td>Final Day of Term 2</td>
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*Mrs Susan White, Acting Assistant Principal*
Pastoral News

Year 7 Survey

One of the items in the recent survey asked about your child’s current reading materials. As the teacher librarian, I was very interested to read all the responses and gain an extra insight into the reading habits of our Year 7 students. All Year 7 students come to the library once per cycle for wide reading. Sometimes this time is used to read the class novel but mostly students choose their own fiction books. Developing the ability to sustain fiction reading is a goal for the Library. All Year 7 students are being entered into the Premier’s reading Challenge and the St Leo’s Reading Challenge. I enjoy having conversations with students about what they are reading and often students will recommend a book to their classmates.

Neryle Sheldon

Year 7 Motivation Media
Keep Moving Forward

On the 10th of May Yr7 had a session with Motivational Media on how to approach life with great thanks. The presentation was shown to us on three large screens with projections. We were told stories of people, either disabled or who had been bullied who had gone on to achieve great lives. One example was a person born without arms and legs. This man was bullied at school and yet he achieved some great things in his life such as swimming and walking. This may be nothing to you but to someone with no arms and no legs I think it is a big deal!

One of my favourite scenes from the presentation was when they played a part from the movie “Rocky’. I really liked the words about winning. The world ain’t all sunshine and rainbows it can be a very nasty place and no matter how tough you are some days it will beat you to your knees. But it ain’t about how hard it can hit its about how you can keep moving forward. That is how winning is done. This scene in rocky related to me and showed me to keep trying and keep going no matter what. This presentation has taught Yr 7 to try their hardest and ‘Keep moving forward’.

By James Parente.

Year 9

Year 9 students have just seen an excellent performance form Motivational Media entitled “Mad for Life.” This production focused on making a difference for life involving making clear goals and choosing a road that leads them to consider where they want to be in life, and how students can make a difference in their own lives and in those of others around them.

The themes discussed will form the basis of our Pastoral program for the remainder of this term and as we lead into the Camp in Term 3.

** Regarding the Camp in Week 3, Term 3, the dates are as follows:

Monday July 29 – Wednesday July 31

I hope to get information out to all parents in the next few weeks with the aim to get this information back to me by Week 9 this term.

* On a small housekeeping matter, can I please ask that if you have a daughter in Year 9, remind them that ties are to be worn at all times as part of the Uniform.

Mr Andrew Betty
Year 9 Coordinator

Year 11

I would like to Thank all the students and staff who attended the Year 11 retreat with an “Open Mind.” Here is a small excerpt from two students:
“On the 13th of May, the year 11 cohort began their 3 day retreat experience at The Tops Conference Centre. As this was something none of us had experienced before, we were all very apprehensive, curious and excited at the prospect of beginning our spiritual journey. It began with our opening ceremony and the lighting of our year candle, followed by various group activities which required us to work together and open up to different personal experiences. Father Bony and Sister Rosie, followed by many other motivational speakers, gave us an insight on their personal stories and provided us with the chance to reflect on how we can become more in touch with our faith and with ourselves.

On behalf of the year 11 cohort, we can most definitely say that the most memorable experience was the last night of the retreat, where we participated in many stations that revolved around reconciling within yourself and others. This was a very emotional and moving time and we all had the time to reflect on our lives and begin to prepare our journeys for the future. On the last day, we celebrated mass and this signified the end of our 3 day retreat, which was a great way to end it. All in all, in was a great experience and something that will stay with us forever.”

Christine El-Hage & Nicola Booth

A few photos from the Year 11 Retreat are also shown below:

A reminder that the Year 11 Parent/Teacher Night will be held on Wednesday 22nd May from 2:30pm to 8:00pm.

Angelo Solomonides
Year 11 Coordinator
Holy Week Stations of the Cross – 28th March

As part of our Holy Week service, students of the College, under the direction of Ralph Kershler, the Youth Minister, enacted the Stations of the Cross – the last journey of Christ. This was a very moving service, for the whole College community, and gave the community a chance to experience this Catholic tradition in a real and meaningful way.

Mother’s Day Celebration Mass -10th May

Mother’s Day Mass was very well attended by mums, aunts and grandmothers, as well as students, and other family members, who just want to be with the important women in their lives, and to thank them, and God, for the most precious gift of mothers. Father David Ranson celebrated Eucharist, and this was followed by a breakfast that was organised by our Year 10 students. Also, part of Mother’s Day, was a fund raising raffle and a cake auction for Year 12 charities. Both were a big success, as the College community participated wholeheartedly by donating items for the raffle and cakes for the auction, in the true Leo’s spirit of generosity. Congratulations to the year 12 leaders for their time and effort.

Year 11 Retreat – 13th to 15th May

Often thought as one of the highlights of year 11, is the Retreat at Stanwell Tops. Students, and their tutor teachers, ‘retreat’ for three days, and engage in a range of activities that challenge and deepen their understanding of God, their faith, themselves and others. This year, the students were challenged by the question: “Who am I?” Through music, drama, sacramental reconciliation, and discussion, students were asked to explore their true identities; most found this a confronting, but a worthwhile exercise. Off course, as on all Leo’s retreats, the serious nature of reflection and introspection was punctuated by outdoor walks, fun-filled competitive games, time-out with friends, and great food.
School Photos 2013

Individual and small group photos will be taken on Wednesday 19th June. Year group photos will be taken on Wednesday 26th June.

Students should have received a photo envelope which details the purchase options. These must be returned on the day of the individual photos. **They should not be returned to the tutor teacher.**

Please ensure that the correct money is placed in the envelope as no change is given on the day.

Orders cannot be placed after the day. However, if your child is absent for individual photos, then orders can be placed on year group photo day and individual photos will also be taken on that day.

If you would like to purchase sibling photos, order envelopes are available from the front office. These should be returned to Mrs Macri before 19th June.

If your child loses the envelope, replacements are available from the front office.

For school records all students will be photographed regardless of purchase.

Mrs J. Macri
Director of Administration

The Army Band (Australian Defence Organisation) workshop and performance

On Wednesday 8th May, The Army Band (Australian Defence Organisation) came to St Leo’s Catholic College. All PAWS (the music ensemble) members and a number parents attended the concert in The Light of Christ Centre.

The concert was extremely entertaining and animated. Certainly not the marching band music we expected. It was great to see musicians obviously having fun and loving what they were doing.

There was a great variety of songs - starting with a jazz version of Waltzing Matilda, songs by The Corrs, Black Keys, Maroon 5, Beatles, AC/DC, a Michael Bulbe (cover), and a Mambo. As well as the usual Big Band lineup a couple of songs included an electronic bagpipe!

A saxophone quartet played a medley of well known themes while one of the band members mimed ‘A Day in the Life of an Army Musician” skit - very funny especially with his interaction with the audience.

Preceding this, there was a workshop for the combined Concert Band and Symphonic Band members where musicians from the army sat amongst the Leo’s students and augmented the sound. This wonderful morning was inspiring and added energy to the next morning’s early rehearsal.

Year 11 Music

BROKEN BAY NEWS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Broken Bay News, the official publication of the Diocese of Broken Bay, can now be viewed online through the Diocesan website. Keep up-to-date with all the latest news, events and stories happening throughout our schools, parishes and agencies. The April edition is now available.

Debating & Public Speaking

Round 4 of the CSDA debating competition saw wins for 5 of the 6 teams. Our Year 8 and Year 10 have been undefeated so far. The supper provided by our parents was once again magnificent and a number of students came along to assist with debate management. Round 5 is on Friday 17 at school and all are
welcome to attend. Our Year 8 team is very courageous in debating on the same day they finish their strenuous camp.

Two students in Year 10, Mark Bell and Monica Gonzalez, competed in the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Award held at SCEGGS Redlands. Unfortunately we didn’t progress to the next round but our speakers are to be commended on a very good performance. All the other speakers were in Years 11 and 12.

Neryle Sheldon  
Debating & Public Speaking Coordinator

Library News

The library offers assistance to students compiling reference lists from their research. The school diary also contains information on how to construct a bibliography. This school uses the Harvard system to arrange a bibliography. We now have an online generator available from the library home page which will be of great benefit to students. It is arranged into three sections suitable for junior, middle and senior students. Students enter the details of the item they wish to reference and the site generates a correct reference.

Neryle Sheldon  
Teacher Librarian
Mary MacKillop Place Open Day 2013

'A National Trust Heritage Festival Event'
Sunday 5 May - 10am - 4pm, 7 – 11 Mount Street North Sydney.
Visit Mary MacKillop Place and celebrate our shared heritage. Explore the Museum’s galleries and discover the Sisters of St Joseph community milestones in social welfare and education. Take a guided tour around the beautiful heritage buildings, including the Memorial Chapel and Alma Cottage (Mary MacKillop’s home from 1884 to 1909).

Enjoy a day with the family! Follow the Kids’ Trail and relax in the Gift Shop & Café.

Find out more about accommodation, event and conference facilities.

For more information please see www.marymackillopplace.org.au, email mackillop@sosj.org.au or call 02 8912 4878.
Sport News

The St Leo’s Aerobics Teams All Through To State Championships!!!!

Our wonderful group of Aerobics girls, led by the very talented Sarah Baynie, Alice Crothers and Maddie Hogarth, have all been successful at the Preliminary Championships, held at Sutherland Entertainment Centre on Sunday 5th May. Our Principal, Tony Gleeson sat front and centre to watch the girls perform their routines, and each team did an outstanding job.

The girls now have the task of further perfecting their routines, before the State Championships on Sunday 16th June. We hope there will be many more supporters who can make the trek down to Sutherland Entertainment Centre on the 16th June, to show their support for our fabulous teams, as they vie for an invite to Nationals.

The girls very much appreciate the support of their parents and friends who attend these competitions, and especially their coaches - Alice, Maddie and Sarah, who do such a tremendous job, and Mr Gleeson, who is always a welcome face at these events.
YEAR 9 PARENT NETWORK
Invites you to attend

Family Dinner
Friday, May 24th from 7pm
Pennant Hills Hotel
352 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills
http://www.hotelpennanthsills.com.au

RSVP:  Viv Zaour
email: vivienne.zaour@gmail.com
Mob: 0414 337830

Viv Zaour
Northshore Travel
Member of Travelscene American Express
Shop 35, Gordon Village Arcade
767 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072
Tel: +61 2 9418 2546  Fax: +61 9418 2556
Email: viv@northshoretravel.com.au
Follow us on Facebook - http://www.facebook.com/northshoretravel

**Please note - my work days are Monday - Thursday 9am - 5pm**
Open by appointment only on Saturdays
Community News

BBMA OPEN DAY

Hi everyone,

It’s an exciting time for our school :) We have our first ever open day on the 18th of May.

We have a kids confidence class, womens self defense and also a karate class too! Its all free, I would love to see you all there, even if its just for a small amount of time. There will be cheap membership offers, door prizes and fun activities to entertain the kids while the classes are going on. I will have students from our other schools coming along to help out and do some demonstrations throughout the day.

We will have heaps of people who you can talk to about our programs and classes. Even my Instructors are coming along!

I am very excited. Obviously the more people that come the better the energy for the day. Invite your family and friends, arm them with some self defence skills that will dramatically improve their chances if they are ever have to defend themselves. In the past I have made sure all my female family members have done at least one womens self defense class.

Please forward this on to people who might be able to make it.

Kind Regards,
Sensei Joshua Marks (BBMA)
0404628151
OPEN DAY
BLACK BELT MARTIAL ARTS HORNSBY
Saturday 18th May, 9:30am - 12pm
Light of Christ Centre, Yardley Ave Waitara
(located on the lower oval at St Leo’s Catholic College)

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>FREE kids confidence class. A fun class designed to help build children’s confidence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15am</td>
<td>FREE womens self defence lesson. Arming you with skills you can put to use immediately.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>FREE Karate class. All ages welcome.</td>
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St Leo’s
Knitting for Charity
Come along, learn how to knit squares and clothing, have a chat and light afternoon tea.
(if you already have wool and needles all the better)

Every second Tuesday 3:15 - 4:30pm
In St Leo’s Library- see Mrs Sainty
www.stleos.org.au