The Fifth Sunday of Lent –
“...If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest...”
(Jn 12:20-33)

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

Jesus is speaking about his own life in John’s Gospel this Sunday when he refers to the grain of wheat. He is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our ‘reputation’, for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart, then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. I believe this is what we see from Pope Francis in the many opportunities he makes with those that are less fortunate than himself.

We are challenged as individuals to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others - then the ‘harvest’ that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed! I see many examples – “The Dish”, the Vinnies Night Patrol van, the Community Tutoring Program, even in the way students reach out to the many new students we have here at the College, staff going that extra mile for their students. I see this valued community here at St Leo’s as “yielding a rich harvest”.

Our own St Mary MacKillop also said much the same – see quote at the bottom of my report!

In Our Prayers and Thoughts
I would ask you to keep in your prayers and thoughts, Mrs Jenny Lee, mother of Nick Lee in Year 11, who passed away last week after a short illness. Nick has returned to Hong Kong for the funeral and will return next term.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 24th March
(Week 9) Year 10 Parent Information Evening – Guest presenter: Real Talk 7pm (TLOCC)

Monday 23rd March to Thursday 2nd April
Year 12 Exams

Wednesday 25th March
(Week 9) Year 9 Parent Information Evening – Guest Presenter: Your Choicez (Koblers) - 7pm

Thursday 2nd April
Holy Thursday Easter Liturgies
Last day of Term 1

Tuesday 21st April
Students return from leave - Day 2

Monday 27th April and Tuesday 28th April
Year 12 Retreat

Wednesday 6th May
Parent Involvement & Information Evening – 6.30pm, Library
**Year 11 Visual Arts and Year 7 Camps**

Over the past week we have seen our Year 11 Visual Arts classes participate in the 3 day Residential Visual Arts camp at the Arthur Boyd Estate, Bundanon.

Last week our Year 7 students and staff participated in the first of their camp programs at Somerset. From all reports – the students had a great time, they were able to strengthen their existing friendships, develop new ones (with both their peers and staff) and they were personally challenged (both mentally and physically) in the many activities that were on offer. More importantly they were able to develop and bond as a Year 7 cohort – as they will be forming lifelong friendships during this period of early adolescence.

These camps would not be conducted if it weren’t for the generosity and dedication of College Staff. I would like to thank the following staff for giving up time away from their other classes, preparing work, their constant supervision and time away from their families:

**Year 7 Camp** – Ms Jess Watts, Mrs Lindy Sykes, Mr Angelo Solomonides, Mrs Stephanie Frykberg, Mrs Helen Wessels, Mr Andrew Introna, Ms Linda Nelson, Ms Tracie Axton, Ms Sue Jones and Mrs Jamie Stimson.

**Year 11 Visual Arts Camp** – Ms Juliette Carson and Mrs Vicki James

**Upcoming Partnership Evenings**

There are two evenings in the next week which I would strongly urge you to attend – particularly parents from Years 9 and 10.

**Year 10 Parents In Partnership Evening** - Tuesday 24 March at 7pm in The Light of Christ Centre - The purpose of the evening is to provide an opportunity for caregivers to receive input and ask questions; empowering parents to feel confident in dealing with today’s issues around love, sexuality and relationships with their teenagers from the Catholic perspective.


**Year 9 Parents In Partnership Evening** - Wednesday 25 March at 7pm in The Light of Christ Centre - I can personally recommend the presentation from David and Katie Kobler. I have heard them on a number of occasions – and I can guarantee that as a parent you will leave their presentation with some answers, some strategies, definitely some questions and heightened confidence to deal with issues facing our teenagers today. I very much value the issues they both present as a Parent, Teacher and Principal. Last year when we ran this presentation – the most commonly heard statement from parents was “....I wish more parents could hear about this...” I would agree 100%.
The purpose of the evening is to provide you with information that will enable you to support young people make healthy choices around their sexuality and relationships. The presentation explores the Catholic vision of the human person stressing the ideal of deserving love, true dignity, reverence and relationships of the highest quality!

Please make an effort to come along – you will not be disappointed. If you are from other year groups and would like to attend – you are most welcome.

Parking for all – available in the College grounds or on the Basketball courts (entry from Yardley Avenue).


**Year 11 Drama Production**

Next Thursday evening (26th March) is a great opportunity to see our students in action. Besides being a Drama Assessment Task – the troupe will be performing “Sweeney Todd - The Demon Barber of Fleet Street”, here in the College Drama Performance space. The performance commences at 7pm. Come and enjoy a tale of madness, murder and meatpies!

**College App**

I would remind all parents about the College App – available both on the iTunes store (for Mac devices) and the Google Playstore (for Android devices). This fantastic method of communication between all three major players – the parents, the students and the College has been developed by a recent past student of the College (now doing very well in his own IT company). It can be downloaded for free. Once downloaded you can then join (through “preferences”) various groups in the College. This then avoids receiving every message for every group in the College. Listed below are the current groups you can choose to belong to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 New Students to the College (Years 8-12)</th>
<th>Sport</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerobics</td>
<td>Student Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Careers</td>
<td>Touch Football</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Touch Football (Barker Competition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musical PAWS</td>
<td>Year 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Support Leaders (Yr 10)</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rugby League</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>Year 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Representative Council</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
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</table>

(Future subgroups will be Kiribati Immersion and World Youth Day 16)

Currently we have over 1160 devices listed with this App across the College (staff, students, and parents). So far this year – we have had over 8 000 messages read by these users. An easy way of communication using short, sharp messages in our busy world today.

The generic username is “leos” and the password is “community”

I would urge all parents, students and staff to download this app as a great way of strengthening the partnership between students, parents and staff.
Thank you for supporting our College by attending one of our many events over the next few weeks. Our young people benefit from your commitment to the school and the many different ways you support our students and provide a positive environment for them to flourish.

**Edmodo**

Over the past 2 to 3 years many classes across the College have been using an internet based learning tool called Edmodo. It is similar in its operations to Facebook – but it is designed for students’ learning and collaboration, between their peers and the teacher. It is a safe and managed environment. You as a parent also have access to this site.

If you haven't already created an Edmodo account, simply go to [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) and create a parent account and add the parent code that appears in the bottom left of screen in your child's Edmodo page. If you can't access this code please email [alan.jones@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:alan.jones@dbb.catholic.edu.au) Again – this is another way in which parents can strengthen the partnership that is very crucial to your child’s learning.

**An Invitation – ANZAC Day – The Light of Christ Centre**

*Saturday 18 April, 2015 – 10.30am – 12.30pm (Free Admission)*

In a “Conversation Series” event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC tradition, Dame Marie Bashir will appear at The Light of Christ Centre, Waitara, in conversation with the well-known Australian journalist Ray Martin.

The values of the ANZAC tradition, its capacity for engendering a life-giving community identity, and the nature of sacrifice for the ideal of a better future are anticipated conversation points. How does the ANZAC legend speak to us today? How does it relate to young people or to those who may have recently arrived and now call Australia home? This community building conversation is very topical and should be well received.

RSVP: By 15 April at [www.trybooking.com/HAEW](http://www.trybooking.com/HAEW) or 9847 0448, 4332 9825. Be quick! These conversations fill very fast!!!

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to our Girls Intermediate Touch team on their convincing win over Barker last Friday afternoon at the Barker Invitation Touch Competition. This competition has been running throughout Term One and our girls were very proud victors. Well done to Ms Portia Beattie on her fine coaching. It was great to see 12 staff and many parents and students encouraging and barracking for the team.

**Mr AF Gleeson**

Principal

“...Let self be forgotten, let God’s holy will be done...”

*St Mary of the Cross Mackillop (16/2/1875)*

**Our Theme - “The Joy of the Gospel-Putting our Faith in to action”**
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 2015 is focused on helping the world’s poorest people establish sustainable food, so that they can free themselves from the burden of food insecurity and develop new, improved income streams for a better future. Each Wednesday and Friday 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.

Building Works
We are getting close to the completion of Phase 2 of the College Building Works program. We are aiming to move back into the A and B Block classrooms at the start of next term. Staff with offices in the top floor of the Residence will move into their new offices at this time as well. The new Girls (Senior and Junior) bathrooms are nearing completion, as is the new outdoor area between B-Block and the Berg Hall. Over the holidays we will be installing new lockers for all students. This will mean that all students will be able to store their bags in their own locker throughout the day. All students will need to provide a secure lock for their new locker. The best option is a keyed lock rather than a combination lock.

Year 12 Mid Course Examinations
Year 12 will commence their Mid Course Examinations at the start of next week. All students have received an Examination Timetable. It is important that students carefully read this document and ensure that they are on time for their examinations. Please keep Year 12 in your prayers as they complete their final preparations for these important assessments.

Parent Information
We have two important Parent Information Evenings remaining this term. Both evenings are occurring next week:

- Tuesday 24th March - Year 10 Parent Information Evening
- Wednesday 25th March - Year 9 Parent Information Evening

There will be important information for all parents provided at these evenings. We have also included some fantastic guest speakers as part of the program. Given the importance of these evenings, we would ask any parent who is unable to attend to contact the appropriate Year Leader so that arrangements can be made to ensure that you receive the appropriate handouts.
A Lenten Message from Bishop Peter A Comensoli

To view this message from Bishop Peter, please click the link below:

http://youtu.be/uPzLGJMTRKM
Catholic Life and Mission

World Youth Day Krakow 2016 Launch Friday 27 March – All welcome!

Next Friday, 27 March, will be the official launch for the Diocese of Broken Bay Pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Krakow 2016 starting at OLOR Cathedral, Waitara at 6pm and continuing on with a Polish themed festival (with food and activities) at 7pm in the Light of Christ Centre. It is a family event, not just for potential pilgrims, but for family, friends and anyone who is interested in meeting Bishop Peter and supporting the young people of our diocese.

Pope Francis has invited young people from around the globe for a celebration of faith and unity in the beautiful and historic city of Krakow, home to previous pope, Saint John Paul II. World Youth Days happen around every three years, gatherings of youth in different cities around the world with their bishops and the Holy Father. Who could forget the joy of the youth of the world as they descended upon Sydney in 2008 to see Pope Benedict – with the welcoming flotilla at Darling Harbour and the final Mass at Randwick?
Our new bishop, Peter Comensoli, has set the bar high, calling for 500 young people from around the Diocese to accompany him next year. In 2008 St Leo’s sent 8 students to WYD Madrid – we would love to more than double this number! There are three different pilgrimage options being offered in the lead-up to Poland: 1) With the Saints in Italy, 2) With St Paul in Greece & Turkey, and 3) With Christ in the Holy Land. A side trip will also be made for all pilgrims to the concentration camp at Auschwitz which many people have said is a very powerful experience. The pilgrimage will take place from July 14 – August 6. At St Leo’s we are particularly targeting this year’s Year 10 students, who next year will be in Year 11. Assessment tasks will be organised so that they will not be disadvantaged. This year’s Year 12s may choose to go as a young adult with a parish group.

Evidence has shown the impact of WYD in the lives of participants: “A survey of school-aged pilgrims at the Madrid and Rio WYDs found that 84% strongly agreed that WYD was one of the best experiences of their lives; that three-quarters of attendees strongly agreed that the events and atmosphere of WYD had been a ‘powerful spiritual experience’ that had differed in positive ways to their experience of ‘Church’ until then, had deepened their relationship to God and increased their sense of belonging to the Church.” (Cleary, 2013, “WYD: What difference does it make?”)

At the launch next Friday more information will be given out about the different options as well as costs and fundraising. Schools from the Central Coast and Northern Beaches are organizing busloads of students to come down and attend the launch in the Light of Christ Centre. We’d love to see you there as well!

Peace and blessings as we continue our Lenten journey of grace and renewal.

Adrian Gomez
Youth Ministry Coordinator
Around the College

Welcome to St Leo's Library

The library is open to all students every day: before school from 8am, during recess and lunch and after school until 4pm. Library staff are always happy to provide assistance to students. Students are welcome to borrow even if they don't have their student card with them.

The library catalogue and homepage is now on the web: destiny.dbb.org.au and choose St Leo's. On the Leo's homepage are links to a number of quality databases including eLibrary, an extensive current affairs database, a weblinks service, JSTOR and Worldbook Encyclopedia. A login is required because we pay a small amount per student for access to these databases. Login: firstname.surname – password is password.

Neryle Sheldon
Teacher Librarian

Debating and Public Speaking

A number of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 entered the Catholic Schools Debating Association Public Speaking competition. Sam Harmon of Year 9 won through to the Zone Final. The standard of this competition is very high.

The CSDA Debating competition begins Friday of Week 9. We have teams entered for all years and we wish our debaters all the best. Again, this is a competition of a very high standard with more than 60 schools entered.

Neryle Sheldon
Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator

Thank you

Since the beginning of this year, Book Supply has issued over 500 new textbooks. Before they could be given to the students, each book needed to be reinforced and covered. Thank you so much to Jo Bellamy, Lynda Garside, Reem Suuyagh, Liz Chan, Vicki O'Brien and Robyn McKern for giving up their precious time to help me cover all of these books. The job would not have been done so quickly without your help.

Ellen Shanahan
Girls’ Touch Football
For the past four years, Barker College has been running a girls’ touch football competition in Term 1. The competition sees the girls playing every Friday night against schools from all across Sydney. This year we were fortunate enough to enter two very talented teams to represent the College.

The season saw a number of ups and downs with a few tight games and a number of injuries. Unfortunately, our senior team was only able to make it through to the semi-finals, going down to Barker College 7-3.

Our Intermediate team beat Mount St Benedict 7-3 in the semi-finals to make it through to the grand final, which was played last Friday night. With a sideline of St Leo’s supporters, staff, parents and students, our girls managed to hold a strong defence line and beat Barker College 4-2.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the girls, it was great to see St Leo’s supportive spirit.

To the players and coaches, Meg Fletcher and Shannon O’Keeffe thank you for giving up your Wednesday mornings to train, and Friday nights to represent the College.

Congratulations
Miss Beattie
Around the Grounds

Aerobics
We have had a great start to the year with Aerobics. Once again our teams have reached an all time high. The girls are training most mornings of the week in preparation for the state preliminary round.

Rugby/Rugby League Squad
Training began week 2 of the term and has been going well. The team has come a long way and have gelled really well together as one tight unit.

We welcome the new year 7’s to the squad and look forward to our first competition in March.

Touch Football
Trials were conducted Week 2 of the term with a record turn out. Our U/15’s and Open’s team competed in the BBSSSA Touch Championships on Monday. All teams proved to be very competitive but unfortunately these championships were not meant to be. On a positive note the selectors at the championships recognised many of our players when they qualified for the Possibles v Probables team and in addition three of our players being selected into the BBSSSA team to later represent at NSWCCC in Port Macquarie.

The following students qualified for the Possible vs Probables Game:
Keeley Bowen
Jordan Do Rozario
Jordan Penny
Georgia Simmonds
Brittany Wells
Sophie Thompson

The following students will be representing Broken Bay at NSWCCC:
Keeley Bowen
Brittany Wells
Georgia Simmonds

All three of the students in the Broken Bay team are only in Year 10 playing in the Opens for Broken Bay. This really demonstrates the talent we have going through the College.

Cricket
Congratulations to Oliver Hing who was selected as part of the NSWCCC U/19 Cricket team as a shadow player.

Oliver is an extremely talented cricketer and wicket keeper. He has always demonstrated great leadership on and off the field. He has been captain of our cricket teams since his early beginnings at the College and he is greatly respected by his peers.
St Leo’s College Sport Program

Representative Sport
In order to be part of the representative sport program there will be various trials scheduled throughout the year in many different sports prior to the competition. Students interested in representing the College in a particular sport will be required to attend the trial and should they be selected there will be a mandatory training session at least once a week.

A student selected for a representative team will need to purchase the correct team wear available at the uniform shop unless advised otherwise. In most cases a jersey will be supplied and returned at the end of the season.

As part of the representative sport program students will participate predominately in the Broken Bay Secondary School Sport Association (BBSSSA). This is our pathway to higher representation for most sports. There will be a range of other tier 2 competitions which we will be involved in for certain sports.

Who can I speak to about a particular representative sport?
For your first point of contact please speak to the head coach of the sport. Should there be any concerns or for further information you can contact the Leader of Sport as a second point of contact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>HEAD COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerobics</td>
<td>Ms Jamie Stimson / Sarah Baynie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Mr Michael Kember</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Mr Louie Tiglao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Ms Carolyne Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>Miss Portia Beattie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby / Rugby League</td>
<td>Mr Luke Trotz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Mr Michael Kember</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Miss Jessica Watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Mr Andrew Privett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>Mr Andrew Privett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Mr Adam Byatt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For sports not listed above please refer to the Leader of Sport for further information.

Sport For Life Program
As part of year 7-10 students will engage in the Sport For Life Program (Internal Sport). Each cohort will have the opportunity of participating in a wide variety of sporting activities throughout the year on their allocated days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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</table>

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The aim of the sport for life program is to allow students to gain an appreciation for sport and physical activity regardless of their fitness levels or talents. The College endeavours to make it “sport for life”. Meaning that sport and physical activity form part of the daily lives of our students, it becomes a lifestyle and hopefully a routine that students can continue within their lives after school just like the way they brush their teeth each day.

To maximise participation and allow students to achieve our male and female students are separated during sport. For Years 8-10 there is an extension program called the Accelerated Sport Program (ASP) for students who compete at a higher level of sport and are passionate about sport & physical activity. This allows our sporting program to be more specialised and cater for the needs of our students just like in the classroom.

**Higher Representation in Sport**

Our pathway to higher representation is through BBSSSA and should you be selected into the BBSSSA team you have the opportunity to be up for selection at NSWCCC (NSW Combined Catholic Colleges), NSW All-Schools and then School Sport Australia. Some sports require you to register directly with NSWCCC.

All sporting events in NSWCCC and All-Schools require parents to register and approve their child online. For information on your chosen sport including closing dates, upcoming events, calendar of events and registration please visit the NSWCCC website on: https://www.csss.nsw.edu.au/nswccc-home.aspx

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’

**Where can I access Sport Information?**

For all sport information students can check the sport notice board attached to ‘c’ block, access information via the College App, Website, The Pride Newsletter and the Daily Notices.

I cannot emphasise enough how important it is to download the College App. This will have all the important information you need to know about sport.

Eg.

- Training & Trials Schedule
- St Leo’s Representative Sport Calendar
- BBSSSA, NSWCCC & All Schools Calendar
- Sport For Life Program
- Wet Weather - Postponing of an event
St. Leo's App

Is is an expectation that all student in Years 7-12 have this app downloaded onto their iPads.

To go directly to the app store and download the app, click on the appropriate link below.

iPad

The login credentials for all users are:

Username: leos
Password: community

Parents can download the app to ensure they are up to date with activities occurring at the College. Once downloaded, simply tap on the preferences tab to choose from which groups you would like to receive messages.

A new version of the App is due for release in approximately a week which will allow end-users to download for future reference the PDF files included within the message. Once this update is released we will begin issuing instructional PDF’s for students and parents on such topics as setting up the Mail account, using Notability, changing preferences etc.

Some interesting data:

So far in 2015 (Week 8 of term 1) we have had:

- 8038 messages read by subscribers.
- 1677 Newsletters viewed via the App
- 22 individual groups created
- 378 partial/full absence notes submitted
Parenting Programs
Child & Adolescent Parenting

WHAT'S ON IN TERM 2 - COURSES/WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Tuning in to Teens Course
Skills to communicate with your teenagers so that you understand each other better & are able to build positive relationships.
* Understanding teenagers today & communication skills
* Emotional intelligence skills
* How to prevent behaviour problems & conflict resolution
Chatswood 5 wks/2.5hrs (13/5 - 10/6, 7.00-9.30pm)

Dealing with Teen's Backchat Workshop
* Learn how to restore a respectful & positive relationship with your teenager
* Understand what it is like being a teenager today
* Learn how to talk so that they listen & how to listen so that they talk to you
Chatswood (6/5, 7.00-9.30pm)

Tuning in to Kids Course - Chatswood (28/5 - 25/6)
Triple P Seminars - Chatswood (12/5, 19/5 & 26/5)
Communicating with Kids Workshop (based on PEY) - Chatswood (14/5)

WORKSHOPS ON REQUEST FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF TEENS - 9887 5830
* Dealing with Teen's Back Chat
* Transition to High School
* Triple P Seminar Series (Teens)
* Resilient Kids
* Bully Busting Workshop

OTHER WORKSHOPS ON REQUEST (2-2.5 hours)
* Understanding Your Toddler/Discipline & Tantrums
* Tucker without Tantrums/Toilet Training
* Speech & Language Development/Sleep
* Triple P (PPP) Seminar Series (1-12 years)
* Older Sibling - New Baby
* Transition to School
* Grand Parenting
* Communicating with Kids

Enquiries: Child & Adolescent Parenting 9887 5830

NSW Government
Health
Northern Sydney Local Health District

Dads and their children
Benefits from time to time

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DID YOU KNOW?

You may be surprised to learn that the cost of educating a child is around $13,000 per year. This would be an enormous financial burden for most Australian families; that is why Governments have provided taxpayer support to all school sectors for decades.

Catholic school parents are also taxpayers and help pay for state and federal government services, whether they use them or not. They are therefore also entitled to a fair level of government support to ensure Catholic schools also remain affordable for Australian families.