

# St. Leo's Catholic School

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**21 November 2019**

Tena koutou whanau,

Next Friday we will be blessing our classroom advent wreaths as Advent is due to start on 1 December this year. Advent is a time of preparation before Christmas. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated. The four weeks of Advent are broken down into the themes, represented by the candles:

1. Hope (or promise)
2. Preparation (waiting or prophecy)
3. Joy (peace)
4. Love (adoration)

One of the beautiful things about the Advent readings are that they offer the opportunity to include both young and old, and private family devotions around the Advent wreath. It is a great family activity to make an advent wreath and use it at family prayer times. Here is a little prayer that you may like to recite when lighting the candles.



*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe.  
You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all.  
As we light the candles of this wreath  
May its growing brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of your Son  
So that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

## Devonport Santa Parade

The parade is coming up on 1 December, the weekend after next.

We haven't had a lot of children coming forward to be part of the parade and I know that last year children came forward at the last minute. This year we need to be more organised, so we will need to know by this weekend those who would like to be a part. If we cannot get enough families interested, we will have to cancel being part of it.



Traditionally the school takes part in the parade dressed as biblical characters such as angels, shepherds, the 3 wise men and so on, to show the real reason for the Christmas Season. We have a range of costumes available at school to use. Finally, we also have a trailer to use on the day to create a manger scene for some of the children to sit on.

### Jesse Tree

Tomorrow St Patrick will perform a little play liturgy of the Jesse Tree. The decorations on the Jesse Tree depicts the family tree of Jesus from the Old Testament. It is a special story in the lead up to Advent. All families are invited to join us at assembly to be part of the liturgy.



### RNZN Band

The RNZ navy band performed a fabulous show at St Leo's last week. I would say it was the best show the children have seen this year! The children were so engaged in what was going on and to see them interact spontaneously was amazing.



The choice of songs were perfect and the band members showed so much enthusiasm that I'm sure there will be some children who are asking their parents if they can learn to play an instrument! One of the highlights was when Mr M was chosen to conduct the band and Mr Rae was chosen to play the cymbals. If you would like to see snippets of the show, go to the school website and look on the class blogs.

<https://www.stleos.school.nz/>

### St Joseph's Grey Lynn

After our visit to their school earlier this year, we are hosting St Joseph's here on Thursday next week. We will begin with a welcome liturgy. If the weather is fine, we are hoping to take them to climb our maunga, Mt Victoria, where they can get a good view of our city. They will also be doing other activities with our classes. We will also be providing each child (including St Leo's children) with one sausage each at lunchtime at no cost to families.

### Athletics

After the cancellation of athletics last week, we managed to have a perfect day on Tuesday. The sun shone but it wasn't too hot so we all had a great day with the children competing well and doing their best. Many thanks to Stephen Rae who was responsible for organising the day. A team will be picked to represent St Leo's at the Peninsula athletics in a couple of weeks.

### New play area

Margaret and the team will be planting more plants in the new playground area behind St Catherine next Wednesday. We have been lucky with the wet weather and the plants are getting a good start. In keeping with our Reggio Emilia approach here at St Leo's, we will be using some of the logs in the playground area from the dying pohutukawa felled a couple of weeks ago. Next year we will be looking at doing more fundraising to add play features to the area. The children have already given us lots of ideas about what they would like to see in the area. The aim is to keep it as a natural garden area with lots of places to explore.



### **IMPORTANT! - Leavers Mass**

As Fr John is going to be away on the 17 December, we have had to change the date of our Leavers Mass. It will be happening on **Wednesday 11 December at 9.30am**. The whole school Mass is not just for the leavers and it would be wonderful to see as many families as possible attend. We have planned a very special Mass to farewell our Year 6s and to pass on their leadership to the Year 5s.

### **Leavers Dinner**

This will take place on Thursday 12 December. Your child will be bringing home an invitation shortly.

### **Rainbows End**

On Monday 2, St Catherine will be having their annual end of year trip to Rainbow's End.

### **Volunteers morning tea**

For all people who have helped at school, we are holding a morning tea to thank you on Wednesday 4 December at 11am.

Finally I will be away from school at the beginning of next week to attend an RE course and then to travel to Wellington to receive my post graduate certificate in Catholic Leadership and Culture which I have been studying for over the past 2 years. It is a course run by the Australian Catholic University and I have learnt a lot about theology and ethics which has been very interesting. The next step is to put this toward a masters degree in Catholic education.

Ma te atua manaaki  
God Bless,  
Maureen Harris

### **Important Messages**

#### **Athletics photos**

If you took any photos of athletics day could you please send them through to Renee so we can make up our slideshow.

#### **Marmalade for sale**

We have several jars of lemon marmalade, 2 jars of orange marmalade and a jar of pink pickle left after the fair. \$3 a jar. If you are interested see Renee.

#### **Sports uniforms**

Please return to the office all sports uniforms that have been loaned out during the year. This includes netball skirts and sports jackets.

#### **Celebration Book**

Congratulations to the following children:

Gigi Albrecht - Player of the day Flippa Ball and Very Highly Commended in Contemporary Dance Exam

Chiara Albrecht - High honours for tap dancing

St Leo's won 14 - 10 to Sunnybrae with a winning shot by Seth Webster

### **Celebrating Past Pupils**

Congratulations to the following past pupils who won awards at Rosmini this year.

Digital Technology Trophy - Kevin Isidro

Te Reo Maori Award - Ke'arn Peters

Williams Award for Services to Music - Justin Pereira

### **EZLunch & Sushi**

The last order date for EZlunch is December 13th and the last day for sushi will be 11th December.

First order date for ezlunch for 2020 will be Monday 10th February and for sushi 11th February.



### **Scooters**

I still have one purple Miro scooter in my office that was found lying around the school.

If you are missing a scooter please let me know.

### **New World Receipts**

Don't forget to pop your New World receipts in the box at the front of the store. Each term John Ashton makes a generous donation to the school based on the total of the receipts.



### **Devonport Santa Parade and Christmas Festival 2019**

Now in its thirteenth year, the Devonport Santa Parade and Christmas Festival is taking place on Sunday 1st December. The fun starts with the Devonport Lions Santa Parade along Victoria Rd, followed by the festival in the park. Enjoy entertainment throughout the day with song and dance performances taking place on the Dance in the Park stage, Devonport Craft & Fine Food Market stalls, sausage sizzle, bake stalls, preschool play zone, Devonport Volunteer Fire Brigade combat zone plus rides from Smiles for Miles sidecar tours. Plus most importantly, the chance to meet Santa and tell him what you want for Christmas!

When: Sunday 1 Dec 2019, 11am-3pm

Where: Clarence St, Victoria Rd & Windsor Reserve Devonport

## PTFA News

### Sausage sizzle

**On Friday 22 there is a sausage sizzle lunch. \$5 for a sausage, drink and treat.**

Hi everyone

Firstly a massive thank you to one and all for the great School Fair effort! As we are sure you know - we raised an impressive \$25,000!

Not wishing to rest on our fundraising laurels, we are now moving rapidly towards the Blokes Night Inn on Friday 29 November. It promises to be a great night! Please get your tickets, and for your mates, Dads and Grandads as soon as possible, for catering purposes. Tickets are \$30 pp, from Renee (and yes she now has an EFTPOS machine!!). Tiny Triumphs are coming along to supply the beers and we have some excellent wines from Soho Wines for drinking and purchase at big reductions! Tickets include a drink and pulled pork roll with all the trimmings.



Finally, unfortunately we have had to cancel the family croquet afternoon on Sat 7 December. However, we are considering holding a family social picnic / BBQ in the school grounds on the same day, 4pm onwards. **Please could you respond to Renee by Fri 29th Nov to the enquiry below asking who would be interested in attending, so we can decide whether to go ahead or not.** We would fire up the BBQs and do (free) sausage sizzles for the school kids. Parents would be welcome to BYO BBQ meat and picnics. Depending on feedback (and probably for a small donation per person playing - say \$5) we might also hire Lasertag to play in the School grounds. So, once we've heard back from everyone by next Friday please, we will decide whether to go ahead or not. Watch this space - it would be a lovely way to finish off an amazing year!

Arohanui, Sarah & Helen

As the family Croquet Afternoon has had to be cancelled for **Sat afternoon of 7 Dec**, we would like to know if your family would be interested in attending a family picnic / BYO BBQ (and Ptfa will supply sausage sizzle for school kids) on the school field?

We would aim to start around 4pm, and go into early evening.

We want to gauge likely attendance before committing to this arrangement as we are conscious it's getting near to the silly social season!

We may have an option (subject to cost and availability, and for a small (per participant) charge - thinking around \$5 pp) to hire Lasertag to play on the field, if the interest is there.

**So Please could you respond by Fri 29 Nov to the following questions:**

1. My family is / is not interested in attending a school Family picnic / BYO bbq / sausage sizzle on Sat 7 Dec 4pm onwards - yes / no
2. If yes, I would be bringing x no. of adults and y no. of children.
3. If yes, I would be prepared to contribute a small amount per person to play Lasertag - yes / no
4. If yes, I can help on the day with Bbq and Lasertag - yes / no






## Community notices

✦ Support The Salvation Army this Christmas ✦



Te Ope Whakana



**CHRISTMAS TREE SHOWCASE**  
FRI 22 NOV-SUN 8 DEC 2019

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✦ 150 Christmas Trees with festive 'Kiwiana' flavour ✦  
✦ Barfoot and Thompson Netball Centre, 44 Northcote Rd, Takapuna ✦  
✦ Fri 22 Nov-Sun 8 Dec 2019 ✦ Adults \$10, Children\* \$5, Pre-school Free ✦  
✦ \$25 FAMILY CONCESSION (2 adults, up to 3 children) ✦ Children under 12 MUST be accompanied by an adult ✦ Tickets online at Eventfinda, door sales & EFTPOS available ✦  
✦ Open: Wednesday-Sunday 10am-9pm ✦ Vintage retro Café available ✦ \*Aged 15 and under ✦

COAST TO COAST ROSARY

Saturday  
7 December 2019  
3pm

**for Life and Faith**

under the mantle of  
*Our Lady of Assumption*



COAST TO COAST ROSARY

We invite all North Shore parishes to join us in praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for Life and Faith under the mantle of Our Lady of Assumption, patroness of New Zealand.

It will be held at St Thomas More Catholic Church, 336 Wairau Road, Glenfield on Saturday 7 December at 3pm to 4pm.

North Shore Youth Music is a community organisation which runs a variety of orchestras and choirs for young people. Applications are now being accepted for 2020, and auditions will be held on Wednesday 4th December. See [www.nsym.org.nz](http://www.nsym.org.nz) for an application form.

### Orchestras

Stringalongs (5 - 8yrs), Junior Orchestra (9 - 13yrs), Youth Orchestra (14+yrs)

### Choirs

Songsters (5 - 8yrs), Children's Choir (9 - 13yrs), Con Brio Choir (10 - 16yrs), Resound (14+yrs)

**THE SECRET GARDEN**

29 Nov – 7 Dec

book on trybooking 




**FREE PARENTING HELPLINE** [www.parenthelp.org.nz](http://www.parenthelp.org.nz)  
**ALL ISSUES ALL AGES** **0800 568 856**

*The Santa Claus Show '19* by Tim Bray  
At The PumpHouse Theatre 2 - 21 December 2019

**Once upon a starry night**

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT LIKE NO OTHER

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