

St. Leo's Catholic School

Phone 445 9339 ♦ Fax 445 9889 ♦ Email office@stleos.school.nz
Website www.stleos.school.nz ♦ 102 Victoria Road, Devonport, Auckland 0624
Address all correspondence to: P.O. Box 32-064 Devonport, Auckland 0744



5 December 2019

Tena koutou whanau,

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another year. Many thanks to all who have contributed to our school this year and made it the fabulous place it is. It is sad to say farewell to Stephen Rae and our Year 6's. I know they will be moving to new horizons and we wish them well. I wish you and your families a very restful and happy holiday full of sunshine and fun. Have a blessed Christmas and I will see most of you again next year.

*At the end of this school year we give thanks to God:
For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our
school, both in and out of the classroom,
For the talents and gifts that have been shared;
For the respect and care that has been given.*

*We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for
those which have grown.*

*For the faith that has been lived in our daily lives,
For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days
And for the love that has kept us going.*

*We give thanks for the community that we are, and we ask you
Lord - Bless our students as they finish their school year.*

*Bless our families as we take our holidays,
may our time together leave us with memories to cherish.
Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and
refreshed to continue our journey together .*

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



Farewell Stephen Rae

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Stephen as a classroom teacher for our Year 4/5 class. Due to the roll drop over the last couple of years we have not received enough government funding for 5 teachers so we have had to lose a teacher for 2020. Stephen is very much loved by the children he has taught and has been a fabulous sports coordinator for the school. He has a calm and gentle way of working with the children. We all wish him well for the future. We will say a special St Leo's farewell to him at our last assembly on the 17 December.

Melissa Busch

We were very proud to hear that Melissa had won a special award from her scout group for going to the aid of a lady who had suffered a medical event. She helped to look after the lady and her dog until other adults were able to assist. Melissa demonstrated all the Mercy values we promote here at St Leo's. She is an excellent example of being hands of Jesus and living out her faith. There is a great article you can read in the latest Flagstaff. Well done Melissa.



Celtics Basketball team

We are also very proud of Rosina Joseph who was awarded the Sportsmanship award for basketball. She also scored 8 points toward her team's 10/8 win last night. This meant they came 3rd overall in the competition. Well done Rosina and the Celtics team. Special thanks to Ian Gillies for training the team.

Leavers Mass

The whole school Mass is not just for the leavers and it would be wonderful to see as many families as possible attending. We have planned a very special Mass to farewell our Year 6s and to pass on their leadership to the Year 5s. **Wednesday 11 December at 9.30am.**

Leavers Dinner

This will take place on Thursday 12 December at 6.30pm. The Year 5 parents will be helping to decorate the hall and serve the meals. We have a guest speaker and a delicious meal planned. It is always a special evening for the Year 6 children and their families. Don't forget to RSVP please to Renee. \$25 per head to the school account please.



Devonport Santa Parade

A small group of our children took part in the Devonport santa parade. This year we had the use of a trailer and had a simple nativity float with lots of angels, a couple of shepherds and Mary. Next year we will look at building a better float which can be used over the years. The children had a great time and there was a fabulous atmosphere during the parade.

St Joseph's Grey Lynn

The weather was beautiful for the visit from St Joseph's on Thursday. This gave the children the opportunity to get outside and play games which is a good way to help the children to mix. They also went up Mt Victoria to have a look at the view of our



beautiful city. Apparently the children were so tired a number of them fell asleep on the bus on the way home from St Leo's. When we visited them earlier in the year, they gave us a Hibiscus plant. This has been planted by St Clare and has finally flowered. We gave St Joseph's a collection of books for their school library in return.



Final Assembly

We will be having a final assembly on **Tuesday 17 December at 10:30**. We will farewell Stephen Rae at this assembly. All families are welcome to join us.

Advent Wreath Liturgy

Last Friday we had a simple liturgy, blessed the wreaths with some holy water from the church and lit the first of the Advent candles. The wreaths will be used during prayer time in classes to help the children prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Rainbows End

St Catherine had their annual trip to Rainbows End on Monday. It was a lovely sunny day and the children had a great time.



School Gardens



Earlier in the year we held a fun run to raise money for the playground area behind St Catherine. The plants have now been planted and the grounds are looking fabulous. They will look even better as they grow and get established. Many thanks to Margaret, her father and friends for helping with the planting

as well. All the children in the school had the opportunity to plant some of the plants so this will help give them ownership for the grounds. Next year we will be adding some equipment the children can play on. We are trying to keep the area as natural as possible and have even saved a few of the logs from the recently felled pohutukawa tree to be used in the area.



Peninsula Athletics

A group of St Leo's children attended the Peninsula athletics zone day on Wednesday. They competed well and had a marvellous day.

Dad's Night Inn

The last fundraising event of 2019 happened on Friday night with the the men gathering for a social evening in the hall. Many thanks to the organisers of the event. Feedback was that it was a successful evening.

Graduation

Last week I received my post graduate certificate in Catholic Leadership and Culture in Wellington, which I have been studying for over the past 2 years. We were the first cohort studying this certificate which is in conjunction with the Australian Catholic University.



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.

Lost Property

There is a ridiculous amount of footwear in the lost property bin. This will be displayed by St Dominics room (on the courts if fine, under the verandah if not) after school on Friday. Any shoes left at the end of term will be donated to charity. It is much easier for us to return items to the children if they are named.

We also have left over after the fair a crockpot. If you are missing one please see Renee.

We are also still missing 2 named gas bottles after the fair. If you loaned your gas bottle to the fair please ensure you have your own gas bottle. These were named with Warner & Tommy.

Celebration Book

Congratulations to the following children:

Rosemary Dobbs - Grade 2 distinction in violin

The St Leo's Seals Flippa Ball team won their semi final against Browns bay. They won with a golden goal scored by Edward Wescott

St Leo's Celtics won their final for 3/4th place 10 - 8

Parking

A reminder that the area either side of the Owen's Rd driveway is a no parking zone between 2.30 and 3.30pm. This is regularly monitored by traffic wardens and we don't want anyone to get a ticket.

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.



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.

PTFA News

Due to lack of interest and availability the proposed family picnic and laser tag afternoon on Sat 7 December has been cancelled.

Sarah and Helen would like to thank everyone for all their help in various areas throughout the year.

The PTFA AGM will be held on February 21st alongside the community picnic evening. Please think very seriously about what you can contribute and if you can become a PTFA member. Many hands make light work. The school relies on the money the PTFA raises to help run the school so this is a very important committee.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Community notices

Lewis Eady Music Lessons

2020 music lessons at school start the week of Monday 10 February!

We offer group or individual tuition on piano, keyboard, guitar, ukulele and more.

If you would like your child to learn music at school next year, please enrol online at www.lewiseady.co.nz by 20 December 2019.

"TGS Performing Arts invites all students in Years 5 through 8 to participate in our 2020 school show: LES MISERABLES!"

For all the details please visit our show website

<https://sites.google.com/a/tgs.school.nz/tgs-les-miserables-2020/home>"



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OUR COMMUNITY CONTACTS



Your local Devonport property people.

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