

# St Leo's Catholic School

Kindness | Confidence | Integrity | Excellence

Ph: 445 9339 Email: [office@stleos.school.nz](mailto:office@stleos.school.nz)

Website: [www.stleos.school.nz](http://www.stleos.school.nz)

102 Victoria Rd, Devonport, Auckland 0624

All correspondence to: P.O. Box 32-064 Devonport, Auckland 0744



**12 November 2020**

Tena koutou everyone

Every newsletter I like to begin with a Catholic Character thought. As there are no significant feast days happening this or next week, I have decided to share a little snippet from a weekly reflection I receive at school each week.

## The Gospel Connection



*Though God never leaves us, there are times we experience the absence of God. This week's gospel begins by saying that the landowner was leaving - going on a journey. [Matthew 25:14-25](#) The story revolves around what happens in the landowner's absence. Some people stay busy and involved in life, putting their "talents" to really good use. Others withdraw from life and get disengaged.*

*Perhaps one of the best benefits of having faith, even in those times when we don't feel God's presence, is that it gives us the confidence to continue to function well in life - physically, emotionally, and spiritually - despite our uncertainties.*

*This is one of the biggest gifts that parents can nurture in their children - the ability to have faith even in times of doubt. We will all go through times of confusion. But the worst thing we can do at such times is to withdraw our gifts and our talents from the world. For it is putting them to good use that we're most likely to hear God's footsteps and know that all is well.*

Jesus told those he encountered many things in parables. He used stories to illustrate the greatest examples of how best to live your life in the service of others. He challenged his followers by speaking directly about those on the margins and those the world most commonly ignores. Many were astounded by the things Jesus said and did and they left all behind and followed him.

### **Catholic Character Review**

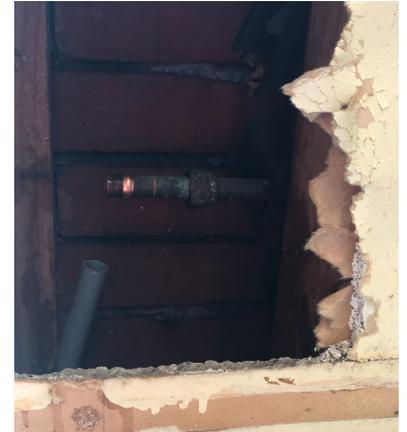
Christine Smith and Phillip Mahoney, along with Sue Kabala Principal of St Mary's, Ellerslie, have been at school conducting an external RE review of our school. They have met with staff, students, parents and Board members to find out how our Catholic Character is expressed at St Leo's. I will report back to the community once the final review report comes back.

### **Option for girls uniform at school**

We have noticed a large number of girls now doing acrobatics or gymnastics at school, which is wonderful. We are concerned though, that being on a main road, these girls are exposing three quarters of their bodies to anyone who happens to be walking past. We would like to give girls the option of changing into their PE gear when they arrive at school and changing back into their uniform after lunch. All girls who are doing handstands or cartwheels etc will need to change into their PE gear but the rest of the girls can continue to wear their dress during the day if they choose. PE gear will be sent home on a Friday for washing.

### **Water pipe burst**

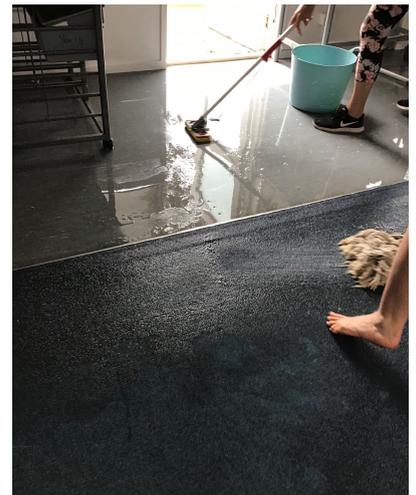
Many thanks to everyone for your support when the water pipe burst in the St Luke classroom wall. The flood was short and sharp and we were very fortunate that it happened during school time as it would have caused an awful lot more damage if it had happened at night or over the weekend. We really appreciate your support when we had to shut the school while there was no water supply to the main block and toilets. It has certainly been an interesting year!



### **Ask your team surveys**

Many thanks to all the parents who have completed the baseline survey sent out at the beginning of the week. It will remain open until **Friday 27 November**. We would really appreciate as many responses as possible as the feedback helps us make improvements to our school.

The second survey about Skool loop is showing that the app is not working well for most people. This survey is open until the end of this week for you to add any comments. I will let you know of our decision about this app once the survey is completed.



### **Teacher Only Day**

**Next week on Thursday 19 November will be a teacher only day.**

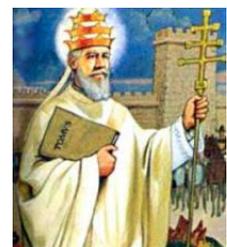
### **Before School Care**

We have more people taking up the before school care which is great. A reminder that all the children coming to before school care need to come through the office, not the Owens Rd entrance. As the carers change each day, the office needs to direct the children to the teacher who is on duty that day.

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

### **Mass**

We celebrated a beautiful Mass together on Tuesday for the feast of St Leo.



## Kiwisport softball

Next week the Year 3 - 6 children will be taking part in a Harbour softball games development programme here at school. Children will need their PE gear for this.

## Gymnastics

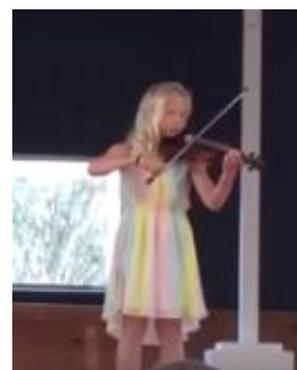
Maisy and Lola Lyons competed in a gymnastics competition on Wednesday and represented the school very well. Maisy came 1st in the beam competition, 3rd in the bar and 3rd overall. Lola was 6th overall. We are very proud of their achievements. Laura Welson, Honor Hansen, Sienna Warner and Sienna Glanville competed today in the non-competitive part of the competition.



## St Leo's Talent show



The inaugural talent show was a huge success with some wonderful talent on show from our St Leo's children. There was a huge variety of talent including dance, piano,



violin, drama, acrobats and much more. It was a successful event, with a few hiccups with the music but we will now make this an annual event for St Leo's Day. Well done to the children who suggested it.

## Kapa Haka, choir and ukulele performances

We have a number of performance days coming up for these groups at the Devonport and Navy kindys and the Kapa Haka will also be performing at the Peninsula Festival at Hauraki School next Friday. Don't they look wonderful in their new Mercy Cross designed singlets!



## Photolife

On Tuesday 24 November we will be having Photolife come in to take class, sports teams, individual and sibling photos. If you would like to have your children photographed together please collect a sibling photo form from the office and return it to Renee before photo day. Children who have returned their sports uniform will have this reissued for the day and they need to return it straight after the photos.

## Athletics day

On Monday 23 November we will be having our school athletics day. The school will be walking to Vauxhall Sports fields leaving at 9.15. We aim to start the running races by 9:50. We should be finished the events by 12:15 and will walk back to school for lunch. We need at least 7 parent helpers to make the day work. If you are able to assist with the activities, please email Lucia [l.dawbin@stleos.school.nz](mailto:l.dawbin@stleos.school.nz). If it rains the athletic day will have to be cancelled, so let's pray for fine weather.



### SPCA Cupcake Day

The school raised just over \$300 for the SPCA through the cupcake day. The children had a lot of fun baking, icing and selling the cupcakes.

### Y5/6 camp

On Wednesday 25 - Friday 27 November the Year 5 and 6 children will be attending camp at Ferndale Lodge in Henderson. They have a fun and action packed few days ahead of them.

### Santa Parade

If your child would like to take part in this year's Santa Parade dressed in a nativity themed costume, please let the office know. We have limited nativity costumes available at school which can be borrowed but need to be returned clean. We have access to a trailer that we are going to decorate but need someone with a tow bar to tow the trailer through the parade. Please let Renee or Maureen know if you can help.



### Puberty talks parent evening

Parents of Year 6 pupils are invited to attend the parents evening at school on Wednesday 18 November at 6.30 in St Catherine.

### St Leo's Christmas Fair

Please continue to support the PTFA with their efforts for the Christmas Fair. This will be our major fundraiser and we really want to make this a fabulous event. Many thanks to those who are working so hard to make this a success.

### Principal hui

I will be off site on Monday and Tuesday to attend a small school's Principal Hui. I will be available by email if anyone needs me.

May God's Blessings be with you all  
Ma te atua manaaki

Maureen Harris



### Important dates this term:

<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Monday 16 Nov</b>	Kiwisport T-Ball
	<b>Wednesday 18 Nov</b>	Kapa Haka, Choir and Ukulele group to perform at Devonport Kindy at 11am Lewis Eady Music <b>Puberty talks parent evening (Y6) - 6.30pm</b>

	<b>Thursday 19 Nov</b>	<b>Teacher only day</b>
	<b>Friday 20 Nov</b>	<u>Assembly - cancelled!</u> Peninsula Kapa Haka Festival Fair collection - Multi Packs of mini chocolates Drop off home made sweets eg fudge, coconut ice etc
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Monday 23 Nov</b>	<b>School Athletics</b>
	<b>Tuesday 24 Nov</b>	<b>Class, sport and individual photos with Photolife</b>
	<b>Wednesday 25 Nov</b>	Kapa Haka 8.45am and Lewis Eady Music <b>Year 5/6 camp</b>
	<b>Thursday 26 Nov</b>	<b>Year 5/6 camp</b>
	<b>Friday 27 Nov</b>	<b>Year 5/6 camp</b>
	<b>Saturday 28 Nov</b>	<b>Drop off home baking,preserves and sweets to the hall</b>
	<b>Sunday 29 Nov</b>	<b>Christmas Fair</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Tuesday 1 Dec</b>	Y6 trip to Rainbow's End
	<b>Wednesday 2 Dec</b>	Kapa Haka 8.45am and Lewis Eady Music Peninsula Athletics
	<b>Thursday 3 Dec</b>	Y6 Puberty talks
	<b>Friday 4 Dec</b>	Assembly - Jesse Tree liturgy Peninsula savaday
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Wednesday 9 Dec</b>	Kapa Haka 8.45am and Lewis Eady Music <b>Y6 graduation dinner</b>
	<b>Thursday 10 Dec</b>	Waterwise for St Catherine
	<b>Friday 11 Dec</b>	<b>Nativity play</b> <b>Reports to go home</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Wednesday 16 Dec</b>	<b>Graduation Mass 9.15am</b> <b>School finishes at 12 noon</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>Wednesday 3 Feb</b>	<b>Term 1 starts</b>

### Important Notices

St Leo's Sports Jacket for sale - size 5/6 \$30. Please see Shannon Mena-Levin or Renee if you are interested in buying this.

### **Library Books**

There are a lot of outstanding library books at present. Could you please check your homes to see if you have any St Leo's library books and return them as soon as possible. Library stocktake will be taking place on 8th December and we would like all library books to be returned by the 1st December.

## **PTFA News and Events**

### **The St Leo's Christmas Fair is Coming - Sunday November 29th**

Thank you to all the parents who have signed up for helping at the fair. It is not too late if you haven't put your name down yet. The job allocation sheet will be sent out shortly once we have finalised a couple of things.

#### **Raffle tickets**

Raffle ticket money is due back at school by Wednesday 18th November. If you are unable to sell all your books please return them to the school office so they can be reallocated.

Collections are:

Friday 13 November - 2 x Christmas gift wrapped lucky dip gifts - 1 for preschooler and 1 primary aged)

20 November - Multipacks of mini chocolates

Also drop off home made sweets

Saturday 28 November - Drop off cakes, sweets and preserves to the school hall



Please bring your donated item to the library prior to school on a Friday or the office any other time. Each item earns the children 100 Whanau points so please make sure you hand these to someone so the points can be allocated. If you prefer to drop off all items at once please feel free to do so.

Thank you to those people who have offered to be super bakers and super sweet makers. Cake plates will be available soon and you can collect extra ones from the office.

If you are making jams/preserves/chutneys etc, please see Renee for labels and material for tops.

All inquiries or offers of help to the office or [stleosfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:stleosfundraiser@gmail.com) please.

#### **Vouchers**

Fair dollars vouchers are now on sale from the office. Please try to purchase these before fair day so we know if we need to get more made so there are enough. These vouchers are accepted in the stalls in place of cash and are for St Leo's students only, This saves your child having to carry around cash while you are working on a stall. \$10 gives you \$12 worth of vouchers. They will also be on sale on the day of the fair.

Thank you to the following companies who have sponsored stalls or provided goods for the fair:

Hotel Grand Windsor  
Takapuna Orthodontic Group  
Practec Limited  
Chris Dickinson  
The Village Butcher  
Minty's

Culprit Restaurant  
Ivy & Birch  
Floss & Bec  
Ecology & Co  
Arcade Day Spa  
Bridge St Candles

## Community Notices

Win 1 Year of Free Kids Meals + A Pita Pit Class Party with ezlunch school lunch orders ezlunch have teamed up with Pita Pit to celebrate the launch of their new kids' meals in-store nationwide with TWO fantastic offers...

Every Pita Pit ezlunch order delivered to school Monday 2nd – Friday 20th November inclusive will...

Go in the draw to WIN a Class Party for you and your classmates! Pita Pit will provide kids meal catering and some awesome kids packs for your whole class to enjoy. (All ezlunch Pita Pit orders will be in the draw to win) Go in the draw to WIN a free Pita Pit Kids meal every week for one year, at your local Pita Pit store. That's twice as many reasons to consider ordering Pita Pit for your next school lunch!

Go to [ezlunch.co.nz](http://ezlunch.co.nz) (or direct to our school shop on [mykindo.co.nz](http://mykindo.co.nz)) to log in and place your order.



“The JETS run series recommences on Weds Oct 21st and will continue every Weds until Dec 9<sup>th</sup> with a choice of 3km, 5km & occasional 10km routes along the Devonport waterfront. Registration is from 5.45pm every Weds for a 6pm start from the Torpedo Bay Navy Museum. Entry fees are \$6A/ \$5C including a post-race drink and both place getter & spot prizes. Further info from [paulcornish@xtra.co.nz](mailto:paulcornish@xtra.co.nz) or 0274 379 423”.



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**NORTH SHORE DOVE FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN**, will meet at St. Thomas More Church hall in Glenfield on 18th Nov 2020 at 7:30 p.m. for the final meeting for the year. The speaker is INGRID D'SOUZA and the topic is **THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH**. Scripture reference is Exodus 15:2-3 *The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.*

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Devonport Family Medicine is a well-established medical centre serving individuals and their families in the local community for many years. Dr Pieter Veenhuijsen, is owner and full-time General Practitioner, who has a part-time female GP locum also working in the practice. The doctors are supported by an experienced and dedicated clinical and admin team, all locals themselves, who are committed to providing patients with high quality health care with a personal touch.



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