

St Leo's Catholic School

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2 December 2021

Tena koutou e te whanau

It is strange how it feels like we have been back at school for a long time, not just a couple of weeks. We are noticing a lot of the children are already getting tired, particularly the little ones, but seeing the joy on their faces at being back at school is worthwhile. Also, I'm sure mums and dads are happy to see their children back at school, even if it is only for a short time.

On Sunday we moved into the Advent season which always makes the children happy knowing Christmas is only a few weeks away. It is important for the children, in times of commercialism, to understand the real reason for Christmas is the birth of Christ. Each class has an Advent wreath and if you have a chance, it is a special way to focus your family prayers or at meal times.

Advent Wreath

The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.



The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. It is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

<https://www.mercyhome.org/blog/sunday-mass/advent-wreath/>

Changes for next year

By now you will know that I am leaving to take up a new Principal position at St Patrick's, Taupo. I am having my first visit to the school tomorrow.

Mrs Julie Lattimer will not be returning to school next year. She is currently on sick leave for the rest of the year. Julie has decided to go back to university to finish her master's degree next year. We wish her all the best with her new studies.

Mrs Tina Reid Copus who has worked as our teacher aide for the past 3 years will also not be returning in 2022. We also wish Tina all the best for next year. We will still see Tina around the school as Pippa still has one more year at St Leo's

Ms Carol Leader who worked as a teacher aide in St Clare this year has also resigned.

We also have an acting Principal, Mr David Tennent who will work at the school 3 days a week for the first term. David is a recently retired Principal who has a vast experience of being a Catholic Principal. I know he will be a great leader for the school in the interim.

Next year we welcome back Mrs Dominique Mouw Smith who will work every Friday in St Clare.

We also welcome Mr John Smallfield who will work every Tuesday in the new dedicated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths) room. This room will be set up in the old St Dominic classroom. He will be teaching each class twice a term for a full day and will also run other sessions with small groups each term. This will be a great initiative for St Leo's.

Classes for 2022

St Catherine	Y5 & 6	Mr Greg MacCarthy Morrough
St Patrick	Y3 & 4	Miss Lucia Dawbin
St Clare	Y1 & 2	Mrs Adrienne Williams & Mrs Dominique Mouw Smith

Leavers Mass

Fr Neil has kindly offered to celebrate a whole school Mass for us on the last day of school. We will all go across to the church for a 9am Mass. It will be a little different from our usual leavers Mass as we will be unable to sing together which always makes our Masses so special. It will still be an opportunity for us to present our Y6 leavers with their candles which will be blessed at the Mass and their certificates. We will try and make this Mass as special for them as possible. We are allowed to accommodate the Y6 leavers whanau at the Mass so long as they can produce a vaccination pass and keep the usual metre distancing.

Ma te atua manaaki e katoa
God bless

Maureen Harris



Important Notices

Ezlunch

Unfortunately the two suppliers who service our school for ezlunch have pulled out as there were not enough orders. So for 2022 there will only be sushi orders.

Fees

Term 4 Attendance Dues are now due. Even though we are not at school these still need to be paid to the Catholic Schools office so please ensure you pay these and any other fees owing so we can pass them on.

Library Books

If your child has a library book that was issued before lockdown could this please be returned now. All library books will need to be returned by Wednesday 8th December ready for stocktake.

Photos

We have a local photographer who is going to come into school on Tuesday 7th December and do individual photos only. You will be given a code key that will enable you to order the photos once they are ready. If you want a digital photo she will be able to get this to you by Christmas but she probably won't be able to get printed photos to you before Christmas.

Sports uniforms

Could all netball uniforms and borrowed sports jackets please be returned to Renee as soon as possible. We are missing the year 6 netball player of the day trophy. Could these girls please check if they have it and return it to Renee.

Timetable of events

Friday 3 December	Reports to be sent home
Tuesday 7 December	Individual photos Year 5 Waterwise swim testing
Wednesday 8 December	All library books to be returned by this date
Thursday 9 December	Year 6 Waterwise
Monday 13 December	Maureen's farewell - details to come
Tuesday 14 December	Year 6 picnic - details to come
Wednesday 15 December	Mass 9am School finishes midday

NEAR NEW LS POLO SHIRTS FOR SALE - 2 for \$15

Long sleeve white polo shirts in near new condition for sale. Bought this year but barely used due to lockdown.

Slim fit size 12 - measurements can be provided or can be tried on to check sizing. 4 shirts available and selling at 2 for \$15.

Text/Call Tanya (Kate's mum) on 022 1088 541.

Celebration Book

Year 3/4 hockey team came first in the competition.

Year 5/6 hockey team came third in their competition.

Celebrating Past Pupils

- Melissa Busch was selected for the Westlake Girls High school STEAM programme.
- Sean Gillies - Photolife Graphics Art Prize and Senior Art Cup
- Reuben Clinton - Academic PE prize
- Nicholas Eastwood - Academic PE prize
- Head of Kelly House - Klara Sharplin
- Head of McAuley House - Rona Costello
- Congratulations to Tessa Clinton who was recently named as one of four sailors awarded the Aon Young Emerging Sailor Award at the Yachting New Zealand Excellence Awards.



Carmel College has received scholarships for 9 students to attend the online *Click Happy Summer Academy* in December.

Congratulations to Chelsea Brown, Kriya D'Sa, Victoria da Silva, Amber Lee, Mia Morris, Phoenix Rockell, **Elise Vacherand**, Gabbie Warner and Seanna Watson.

This has been made possible by the Community Organization Grant Scheme (COGS), Lotteries Community and ANZ Community funding. Each Scholarship is for \$300, the full cost of tuition.

This is an award-winning creative wellbeing programme wrapped inside a photography workshop series that teaches documentary and street photography skills. The goal is to support the development of the next generation of creative changemakers.



Frankie's lockdown story

Norbert's Visit by Frankie Bedford

Norbert sat very quietly on his blanket while I read him a story.

When he came in, he sniffed around the room and ate the cereal crumbs. I gave him a treat before he went home.

Norbert is very cute. I hope he will visit again sometime.

Maybe he can have a playdate with my grandad's dog Minnie.

Christingle Service Online for 2021

Unfortunately due to Covid Restrictions the traditional Holy Trinity Christingle service will take place online on Christmas Eve at 5pm. Go to www.holytrinity.gen.nz click on the 'Live Stream' tab and then follow the link to our You Tube page. To get the most enjoyment from the service you should have on hand, an orange, a candle and four toothpicks with some small sweets and/or fruit to put on them.

We are very sorry we won't see you in person but hope you will join us virtually. If you would like more information, please call the Rev Charmaine Braatvedt on 021 857 997.

OUR COMMUNITY CONTACTS



Sell your home with us and we will happily donate \$1,000 to St Leo's School

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05/21

