

St Leo's Catholic School

Kindness | Confidence | Integrity | Excellence

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9 December 2021

Tena koutou e te whanau

As this will be my last newsletter as Principal of St Leo's, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made me welcome in your community and have helped me over the years. It has been an interesting journey over the last 4 years and I have learnt a lot. I came into principalship late in my career having been happy in my role as a teacher. A little nudge by a previous Principal made me realise I could lead a school and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and feel my leadership has grown over the years.

It was time for me to move on to a larger school before I retire but there are always mixed feelings when leaving a great community. Last Friday I had the opportunity to visit my new school in Taupo for the first time and it was strange going into classes with so many children. You are blessed at St Leo's to have small, intimate classes which really help your children to succeed.

I wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and happy new year. Let's hope and pray that next year will be better than the last two and that we can get back to some normality with no more lockdowns!

Christmas Reflection

Christmas is a time filled with many exciting things. Often there are gifts and gatherings, food and good times. But more than anything else, Christmas must be seen as a time for us to step back and take in the deep and rich meaning of this sacred event. We must see, first, that God entered our human condition and, in doing so, is able to identify with all that we experience in life. God understands human life! He lived it.



Lord, I love You and adore You. I thank You for the unfathomable gift of Your divine presence among us. I thank You, especially, for the invitation You offer me to join the poor shepherds as they come to adore You. May this Christmas celebration be one in which I understand, more deeply, the incredible love You have for all Your children. May I know that You came for me, to save me and to invite me to worship. May I, this day, enter into that worship and adoration with all the Heavenly Host. Jesus, I trust in You.

Catholic Daily Reflections

New teacher aide

We welcome Tania Sommerfield to the staff for 2022.

Classes for 2022

St Catherine	Y5 & 6	Mr Greg MacCarthy Morrogh
St Patrick	Y3 & 4	Miss Lucia Dawbin
St Clare	Y1 & 2	Mrs Adrienne Williams & Mrs Dominique Mouw Smith
St Dominic	STEAM	Mr John Smallfield (on a Tuesday)

STEAM room

I did speak briefly in the last newsletter about John Smallfield setting up a STEAM room in St Dominic. The room will have resources to use for hands-on science and technology activities. He has asked if families can send the following items to school to help set up the room. If you have any of these spare items around the house, could you please send them to school? Thanks in advance from John.

- small boxes
- ice cream containers
- milk bottle tops
- straws
- popsicle sticks
- any other bits and pieces which you may think we could use



Leavers Mass

The whole school will go across to the church as soon as the bell goes at 9am on the last day of school, 15 December. Only Year 6 parents and family will be able to attend Mass because of restrictions. Please remember your vaccination pass if you are coming as it will be checked as you enter the church. Mass will be a little different as we cannot sing inside the church but we have still managed to plan a very special Mass for our Year 6 leavers.

Shared morning tea

After the Leavers Mass on the last day of school, we hope to have a picnic morning tea on the field. If the children can bring a "small" plate to share. Please don't send a lot as we don't want to throw away food!

Mufti Day

As a result of an online zoom competition where I promised the children a mufti day we will have a mufti day on Friday 10 December.

15 December

Don't forget that school finishes at **12 noon** on Wednesday, the last day of school. Have a great holiday break and the school will reopen on Wednesday 2 February 2022.

Ma te atua manaaki e katoa
God bless

Maureen Harris



AROHA
COMPASSION



MANAAKITANGA
HOSPITALITY



TIKA
JUSTICE



KAITIAKITANGA
RESPECT

Important Notices

Maureen's farewell

Our weather dependant farewell for Maureen is as follows:

On Monday 13 December at 2pm the whole school will be walking down to Windsor Reserve to hold an outdoor farewell for Maureen.

We invite you to join us from 2.30pm onwards for a few speeches and presentation of gifts.

Children will be given a small packet of chips and a drink as a treat.

Children will be dismissed from the reserve with their parents. If you make arrangements for your child to go with someone else please let us know.

We will confirm this plan on Friday once we have a better idea what the weather is doing.

Before School Care 2022

Could parents who would be interested in using before school care in 2022 please let Renee know by the end of the term so we can see if it is worth setting it up again.

Photos

Narelle came in and took the individual and sibling photos of the children on Tuesday. She will contact Renee with ordering details shortly and I will pass these on to you.

Sunhats

We have ordered some navy blue bucket sun hats with the school logo on them for anyone wanting to buy a hat next year. Please see Renee in the new year if you would like to purchase one of these. We will be phasing these in over the next few years and they will be the official uniform sunhat

Yummy stickers

Thank you to those people who have been collecting yummy stickers for the school. We have been given \$476 to spend on sports equipment. Keep collecting them for 2022 so we can get some more. Charts are available from the office or you can download them yourself from <https://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/schools/>. Return them to the school when they are full.

Cans for Christmas

We are into the last week of collecting

We are currently on \$8440. Our target is \$10000. This would help St Vincent de Paul out hugely in a time where they are helping all our communities.

Our collection will close on Wednesday 15th December 2021

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/2021-collection> to make a donation to this worthwhile cause.

Waterwise

The Year 6's finished off the Waterwise year by going to Rangitoto Island in the IRB's. Such a fun experience for them all.



Timetable of events

Monday 13 December	Maureen's farewell - see above
Tuesday 14 December	Year 6 picnic - Narrow Neck beach 5.30pm
Wednesday 15 December	Mass 9am School finishes midday

Community Notices



ST GEORGE'S COMMUNITY CENTRE SPEECH & DRAMA LESSONS

WHO?

Lessons for Years 1 - 13.

WHEN?

Students attend 1 x 30-45 min (age dependant) lesson per week during school terms. Lessons are at St George's Community Centre after school on Wednesdays, between 3.30pm - 7pm.

WHERE?

Takapuna Primary School.

LESSONS INCLUDE...

- Public speaking skills
- Acting skills
- Positive body language
- Speech writing & delivery
- Vocal skills
- Poetry recital
- Reading aloud
- Manners & relationship skills
- Building self-esteem & confidence

We also offer professional qualifications through our association with NZ Speech Board and Trinity College of London.

For more information

www.headheldhigh.co.nz • janita@headheldhigh.co.nz • Janita 027 459 2384

In an ever-changing and fast-paced, technology-addicted world, it can be difficult to guesstimate what skills our children need in order to prepare them for an uncertain future.

However, there is a bedrock set of skills that have always been essential throughout history, and will continue to be for all generations to come. That is, the skills that give us the ability to communicate, to be creative, and to have a grounded sense of self-confidence.

In a nutshell this is exactly the family of skills that Head Held High speech and drama lessons are designed to develop.

At Head Held High we use hundreds of fun games and imaginative scenarios in our lessons, to teach conversation skills, confident body language, respect for ourselves and others, how to relate positively to peers and adults, public speaking skills, good manners, and harnessing creativity. All blended into a programme that all types of students love and have fun being a part of!

In addition to all of the above, Head Held high students also have the opportunity to gain globally recognised qualifications by sitting Trinity College of London or NZ Speech Board examinations.

To enrol for your no-obligation trial lesson simply visit:

www.headheldhigh.co.nz/enrol-for-head-held-high

Or, if you've got questions, we're happy to answer them!
Simply email: janita@headheldhigh.co.nz

Thread Room - Belmont

Learn to Sew - School Holidays & Term 1



December & January Kids Sewing Workshops

A full day of creative sewing fun!

9am - 3pm
Ages 8+
Belmont

See website for more holiday workshops and Term 1 sewing classes:

www.threadroom.co.nz

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Darshan Jogia

Associate to Lance Richardson
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Takapuna AFC Summer Holiday Programme With summer holidays just around the corner and a chance for a bit more normality, get the kids out and having fun at our exciting football holiday programme at Takapuna AFC. Girls and boys from 4 to 13 are welcome. The week is full of great games and tournaments. Our team of highly qualified staff will ensure your kids have a ball in a positive and safe environment.

Holiday Camp Details

Venue: Takapuna AFC, Taharoto Park, Taharoto Rd, Takapuna, 0622

Dates: Week 1: Mon 20th to Thurs 23rd December 2021

Week 2: Mon 17th to Thurs 20th January 2022

Week 3: Mon 24th to Thurs 27th January 2022

Times/Costs:- 9am to 12pm \$29 per day, - 9am to 3pm \$49 per day

Register Your Child: Go to <https://enrolmy.com/msports-northshore/book-now/184-Takapuna-AFC-Holiday-Programme>

Queries: Contact Chris Bryson on jdf@takapunaafc.co.nz

OUR COMMUNITY CONTACTS



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

Ian Cunliffe | 027 227 9322 | ian.cunliffe@harcourts.co.nz
 Diana Murray | 021 911 522 | diana.murray@harcourts.co.nz

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Devonport Family Medicine

New Patients Welcome
 Open Hours
 Monday 8am - 7pm
 Tuesday to Friday 8am - 5pm
 Ph: 09 445 0528 | dfmdoctors.co.nz

Devonport Family Medicine is a well-established medical practice that has served the local community for many years. It is GP owned by Dr Pieter Veenhuijsen who works full-time and has been based in Devonport for over 13 years. A female GP is also available on a weekly part-time basis. A patient and family-centred approach underpins a commitment to provide patients with same day appointments and urgent care within opening hours. A psychotherapist, counsellor, audiologist and psychiatrist all work from the practice making these services also easily accessible to patients. Together with an experienced and dedicated nursing and admin team, the practice is committed to delivering quality health care with a personal touch.



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