



# St Leo's Catholic School

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2 March 2023

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou whānau, and a warm St Leo's blessing on you all

We have had an excellent two weeks of school. Last week the children celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes in their classes. This traditional feast day is celebrated before the start of Lent. On Wednesday the children joined the parish for Ash Wednesday Mass. Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

## Lenten Prayer

Dearest Lord, I hope to be  
more observant of your grace.  
May you look upon my soul  
and may my sins erase.

May I know of sacrifice  
and cherish all you bless  
and act with courage to assist  
others who have less.

Prepare my soul for joy to come,  
and cleanse me of all sin.  
I'll wear my faith and do my best  
to nurture it within.

With a humble heart,  
I hope to be  
your faithful servant  
for all to see.

Amen  
(Loyola Press)

## Welcome

We welcome our Mandarin Language Assistants, Guo Shu and Chen who will be working with us this year. They are really excited to be part of the St Leo's whanau. We also welcome Madison Samuel and her whanau. Madison has settled well into St Clares.

## Sponsor

We are lucky to have Barfoot & Thompson as St Leo's prime sponsors this year and possibly beyond. Trish and Tracey are looking forward to working alongside the school, in particular the PTFA to support St Leo's in major fundraising events.



### Family Picnic

What a wonderful evening we had at our first family picnic of the year. The weather was perfect! Thank you to all the families who were able to make it. The children loved playing on the bouncy castle and had so much fun on the water slide. The free sausage sizzle was a hit! I would also like to thank the PTFA for helping set up and organise the games. We are looking at organising another evening like this next term as this is a great opportunity for our St Leo's community to get together and celebrate our wonderful kura.



### PTFA AGM

As you are aware, our school relies heavily upon extra fundraising to provide the quality education for our children here at St Leo's. We held the AGM on the day of the school picnic, 17 February. Thank you Sarah and the PTFA for all your hard work and dedication. It was great to see parents putting their hand up to lead certain areas of the PTFA like class reps. See below for more details.

Many hands make light work and if the load is spread it puts less pressure on one or two people trying to drive the PTFA. Please see myself, Renee or Sarah if you have any questions.



### Swimming Sports

Just a reminder that our school swimming sports will be held on the 7 March at Birkenhead Pools for the whole school. Children will need to bring togs, towels, sunhat, sunscreen and a warm cardigan or jacket. We still need a couple of parents to help on the day. If you are able to help please let Renee know.

### Cathedral Visit

Next week on 10 March the students will be visiting St Patrick's Cathedral and attending Mass at 12.15pm. The students will have a tour of the Cathedral, attend Mass and have lunch before we head back home. This is an exciting opportunity for the students to learn the history of the Cathedral and see the magnificent structures and glass windows and their relevance.

### Grip Leadership

On Wednesday Mr M took the Year 6's to the Grip Leadership Conference. The students had a wonderful time and learned practical ideas and leadership skills which they will be able to use at St Leo's and their daily lives.

### Boys Soccer Tournament

On Tuesday Mr M took two boys soccer teams to Bayswater Park. They showed great skills, sportsmanship and enjoyed playing against the other schools.

### Gold Coin Mufti

Thank you for your generous donation to help victims of the flooding in Hawkes Bay. We raised \$127.30. We will make a donation through the caring foundation.



## Matariki Carving

We are lucky to have Natanahira who is helping us with the carving workshops which will then lead us to create a 2.2m panel to display at the Matariki Festival at Bayswater School. Ten students from St Catherines will be working on this panel. At present the students are learning carving skills by carving kowhaiwhai patterns on polystyrene.

## School/Parish Mass

Just a reminder about the family School/Parish Mass which will be held on 19 March at 9.30am. Please bring one plate per family for shared morning tea after Mass.

## Paid Union Meetings

Please note that the NZEI Paid Union meeting were held last week for principals and this week for the teachers. The principals have once again rejected the Ministry's offer. The teachers voted today.



## Garden to Table

This year St Patrick's has signed up to the Garden to Table programme. This programme allows students to develop practical life skills alongside awareness of sustainability and environmentalism. Tamariki develop skills for life by cooking meals from scratch. Learning to use kitchen tools, weighing and measuring, and the science of food, all provides links to core curriculum concepts. Everyone sits down to eat together, taking part in the age-old ritual of sharing food. This week the students made pasta sauce using the tomatoes from the garden.



## School Strategic Plan Survey

We are currently updating the St Leo's Strategic Plan and seeking your views on what has worked well and what needs to be considered to keep our Mission, Vision, Values and Goals alive in 2023 and beyond. Please complete the survey online or by filling in the paper copy which was sent on Monday this week.

## Policy Review

Each term the Board of Trustees reviews a number of our policies. Some of these are reviewed by the Board, some are also reviewed by staff and for some policies feedback is sought by parents.

During term 1 the policy we are seeking parent feedback on is '**Student Attendance**', '**Uniform**' and '**Privacy**'

Please visit our school docs website <http://www.stleos.school.nz/policies.html>.

Click on the St Leo's Catholic School Policies User name: StLeos Password: mercy

Click on the green current review tab at the top of the page.

Select the Student Attendance policy at the bottom of the page.

Read the policy content

Click on the blue 'Start your review' at the top of the page. Here is a link to "How-to" YouTube videos: [Taking part in reviews](#) and [Viewing review feedback](#).

**Parent concerns:** From time-to-time things occur at school which lead to parents seeking clarification. If you have concerns about your children's progress or you wish to seek clarification about something that has happened at school, **the classroom teacher is the first point of**

**contact** to answer the concerns or enquiries of parents about their children. Generally, matters are resolved at this level.

If after meeting with the classroom teachers there is further concern or dissatisfaction parents should then seek an appointment to meet with myself.

There are specific avenues for enquiring about information about the school or commenting on school policies, property, and procedures. **Please contact Renee or myself if you wish to do so.**

### School Speed Limit Change

A 30 km/h speed limit is being implemented on roads around our school from 2 March. The school community asks that you respect this speed limit to ensure the safety of children walking and biking to school.

The purpose of a safe speed limit:

- Setting safe and appropriate speed limits outside and surrounding schools improves children's safety. If parents believe their children are safe on the way to school, they will allow them to walk and cycle to school more often.
- The internationally accepted speed to greatly reduce the chances of a person being killed or seriously injured is 30 km/h.
- Slow and safe speeds deliver many benefits to Auckland communities including: healthier environments, thriving town centres, safe streets for walking and biking, improved air quality, and lower carbon emissions.

Ma te atua manaaki  
God Bless,

*Vimi Chandra*



### Other notices

#### Girl's soccer sessions

On the 8th and 15th March North Shore United Soccer club will be holding before school soccer sessions at 8am for any girl that is interested. There is no cost and no sign up. Just turn up. Children can wear their PE gear for this but need to change back into their uniform before school.

#### School Fees

Invoices for this year's fees have been sent and are now due. You do not need to pay them all upfront - you may pay in whichever way works for your budget eg termly, automatic payment, etc however Attendance Dues must be paid every term. If for any reason you have not received this could you please let me know.



## CARMEL COLLEGE

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### Pre-Enrolment Evening – Year 7 to 9, 2024

Families of prospective students for Year 7 - 9 in 2024 are invited to attend the pre-enrolment evening. We highly encourage any prospective families to attend this evening as it is an excellent opportunity to learn about our school, look around the campus and receive information on the enrolment process.

**Date:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
**Venue:** College Hall  
**Time:** 4pm Presentation  
4:30 – 5:30 pm Tours of the school

**Enrolments close Friday 26 May**

*\*Please note there are limited places available in Year 8 and 9 for 2024*

If you are unable to attend or would like further information please read the enrolment information posted on the website.  
If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the college via phone, 486 1132 ext 704 or email [admin@carmel.school.nz](mailto:admin@carmel.school.nz)

## Signing out

If you are taking your child out of school during the day for any reason can you please report to the office before taking them. If your child is coming in late please report to the office on the way to class.

## Waterwise instructors course.

St Leo's needs new Waterwise Instructors – come join the team!

St Leo's is lucky enough to be part of the Devonport Peninsula Waterwise Programme which teaches all our Year 6 children water safety while learning to sail and kayak.

Based at Narrow Neck beach, we run our sessions on Thursday mornings in Term 1, part of Term 2 and a few sessions in Term 4.

As a Waterwise instructor, you help to teach our children water confidence and basic sailing and kayaking skills. While a few children learn these skills from their family, for many it is entirely new. Seeing them develop confidence and challenge themselves outside of the classroom throughout Year 6 is an immensely rewarding experience.

Over the last few years St Leo's has benefited from a very dedicated group of volunteer instructors, many of whom no longer have children at the school. Every year we need some more parents to train as instructors so that we don't compromise our ability to continue to offer the Waterwise programme at our school. If there are not enough instructors, St Leos will simply be unable to run our sessions in the future.

From next year, 2024, we will only have 3 instructors with children still at St Leo's so it is time now to start training up parents who currently have children in years 2, 3 and 4.

See Renee for the schedule for the next training. This will commence on the 5th April with an evening session and will have trainees from all the schools in the Devonport Peninsula. I realise the time commitment required to do the course looks daunting but once it is completed your time is only needed on Thursday mornings. Most of our parent instructors have work commitments and we are able to factor that into our schedule so you don't have to make every session.

The course is extremely fun and provides a great opportunity to challenge yourself and make new friends. St Leo's instructors are heavily involved in the training course so if you have any questions please get in touch with me or corner one of the instructors (Rachel, Aston, Clare or Fiona) in the school playground. Renee will point you in their direction.

A couple of quotes from current instructors

"Water wise instructing is a gift for life :)"

"And to believe in themselves! For me at least Waterwise is the one thing I have done as an adult that has taken me the farthest out of my comfort zone (or my depths) ...and it has been pretty amazing ...not that different from what I imagine happens for some of the kids ...having super supportive instructors and fellow parents has of course helped tremendously as well

😊"



## Measles

Are you and your whānau protected from measles?

With people travelling overseas again, there's a risk that someone with measles could unknowingly bring the disease back to Aotearoa.

Measles spreads easily and quickly, usually between people who are unimmunised or only partially immunised. It can be serious and life threatening. In the 2019 measles outbreak in Aotearoa more than 30% of the people infected had to be admitted to hospital.

The best protection against measles is the free MMR vaccine. It will protect you and your whānau, and prevent the virus from spreading.

You will be protected against measles if you:

- had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine
- had measles before
- were born before 1 Jan 1969.

If you're unsure if you or your tamariki have had any or both doses of the MMR vaccine, check by calling your GP or hauora provider. Alternatively, check your Plunket Well Child Tamariki Ora book. If you're still not sure, be safe and get immunised – there are no safety concerns with having an extra dose. MMR vaccines are free at your local health provider and many pharmacies.

As measles still occurs in many countries, if you're travelling overseas these holidays it's especially important to be immunised to prevent the risk of being unknowingly infected and causing an outbreak in Aotearoa on your return.

More information about the measles vaccination can be found here:

Measles vaccination – Ministry of Health

## Timetable of events

Friday 3 March	Whole School Mass @ midday
Tuesday 7 March	Swimming sports day
Wednesday 8 March	Girls soccer session 8am
Thursday 9 March	Waterwise Lunch time Rippa sessions with Hart Sport
Friday 10 March	Cathedral visit
Wednesday 15 March	Girls soccer session 8am
Thursday 16 March	Waterwise Lunch time Rippa sessions with Hart Sport
Friday 17 March	Peninsula Swimming Whole School Mass
Sunday 19 March	School/Parish Mass 9.30am
Wednesday 22 March	Girls soccer tournament
Thursday 23 March	Waterwise Lunch time Rippa sessions with Hart Sport
Wednesday 29 March	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday 30 March	Waterwise Lunch time Rippa sessions with Hart Sport Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday 6 April	Lunch time Rippa sessions with Hart Sport Term 1 ends

## 2023 Term dates

Term 1 ends Thursday 6 April

Term 2 starts Wednesday 26 April (Monday 24th April MOE teacher only day)

## PTFA NEWS

We are in need of a Chairperson/co-chairpeople and Secretary for the PTFA. If you want to know more of what is involved Sarah (the past chair) or myself are willing to talk to you about it. The PTFA is a very important part of the school and the money that is raised by the PTFA helps to fund one of our teachers as the Government funding does not cover all our teaching staff. It is also used to purchase resources for your children.

We also need people to step up to help run this year's Easter Egg hunt/Easter event on Saturday 1 April and the Mothers Day High Tea on Sunday 7 May. Past organisers are willing to pass on their expertise and information.

If you would like any further information about any of this please either contact Sarah [sarahalbrecht71@gmail.com](mailto:sarahalbrecht71@gmail.com) or myself.



## Credit Controller & Administration - Pompallier Centre

This full time role is to provide credit control and administration support to the Operations Manager for the collection of Attendance Dues for schools in the Auckland Diocese. Hours are flexible to incorporate some evening and Saturday morning work.

Key Tasks include: Collection of compulsory school Attendance Dues; contact with school parents via outbound phone calls; follow up of unpaid accounts and Debtor ledger management.

To view the full advert and to apply, please visit our website [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz) under Diocesan Services and Staff Vacancies.

**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 dependent) lesson per week during school terms. Lessons are at St George's Community Centre after school on Wednesdays, between 3.30pm - 7pm.

**WHERE?**  
 St. George's Community Centre, 2 The Terrace, Takapuna.

**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  
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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 intro lesson simply visit:  
[www.headheldhigh.co.nz/enrol-for-head-held-high](http://www.headheldhigh.co.nz/enrol-for-head-held-high)

Or, if you've got questions, we're happy to answer them!  
 Simply email: [jenni@headheldhigh.co.nz](mailto:jenni@headheldhigh.co.nz)

**NORTH SHORE DOVE FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN**

**will meet on Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**

**at ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL, 336 WAIRAU ROAD, GLENFIELD.**

**Scripture: Ezekiel 36:25-26**

**COME and meet other WOMEN FROM THE NORTH SHORE PARISHES.**

**For info please**

**contact Sylvia 021 088 22990**

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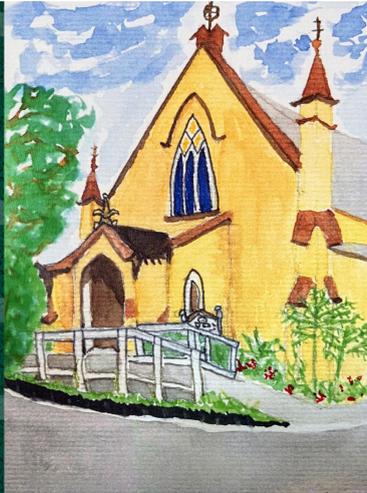


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**WALKING NETBALL**

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**10.30 AM**

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**ARTZ ON SHOW School Holiday Performing Arts Workshop**

This is a fun yet educational week for students aged 5 - 15 years. Students participate in a range of performing arts classes, concluding the week with a performance!

17 - 21 April 2023, 9 am - 4 pm daily  
 Held at Belmont Intermediate School  
 10 Winscombe Street, Belmont, Auckland

View our website; [www.artzonshow.co.nz](http://www.artzonshow.co.nz)  
 or contact Hayley on either [artz@artzonshow.co.nz](mailto:artz@artzonshow.co.nz) or 09 294 7129

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