



# St Leo's Catholic Primary School

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15 February 2024

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

We are thrilled to share that we have had a fantastic start to the year! The children have settled in wonderfully and are already embracing their learning journey. We recently had the pleasure of welcoming our new students and international students at a heartwarming welcome back liturgy and assembly. The theme of the liturgy was "aroha" which is one of the school's Mercy values. The students shared what aroha looks like at St Leo's. It was a joyous occasion filled with excitement and a sense of belonging. We are grateful for the warm and inclusive atmosphere that has been created, setting the stage for a successful and fulfilling year ahead.

In Religious Education during the first few weeks, the children will learn and understand our School Charism and what our values look like in action. The charism underpins all we do at school, it is woven into daily life and talked about with the children regularly. We embrace our special Catholic character with the charism of the Sisters of Mercy. The children spend time learning about our mission: To love, to learn, to grow in faith. We hope Mercy Charism becomes a part of our students' lives and that they take it with them when they leave our school.

## Season of Lent

As we enter the season of Lent, we are reminded of the significance and purpose it holds in our Catholic faith. Lent is a time of reflection, prayer, and preparation as we journey towards Easter. It is a season of self-discipline and sacrifice, where we are called to deepen our relationship with God and grow in our faith. During this time, we are encouraged to engage in acts of kindness, prayer, and fasting, as we strive to emulate the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Lent provides us with an opportunity to pause, reflect on our actions, and seek forgiveness for our shortcomings. Let us embrace this season with open hearts and minds, as we strive to become better versions of ourselves and draw closer to God. May this Lenten season be a time of spiritual growth and renewal for all of us.



## Burning of the Palms, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

On Tuesday the school gathered together for Shrove Tuesday Liturgy. St Catherine students shared the importance of Lent and we burned palms which were used in the Ash Wednesday Mass.



## Family Picnic 16 February

We are looking forward to seeing you at 4-6pm, for our school picnic and an opportunity to get to know our St Leo's community. There will be a free sausage sizzle for the tamariki and drinks and ice blocks for sale at \$2 each. The picnic will be followed by the PTFA AGM.



## New Pupils and International Students

We welcome Callen Samuel who started in St Clare this week. Callen has an older sister in St Patrick. We also welcomed 4 international students who have joined St Patrick and St Catherine.

## School Docs and 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 '**Parent Involvement**', '**Communicating with Parents** and '**Community Conduct Expectations**'

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.**

## St Clare News

St Clare has had an amazing start to the school year. We have welcomed three new students - Aleesa, Victoria and Callen and have a fourth student, Roger, starting next week.

All of us have enjoyed getting to know each other and making new friendships.

Our mercy value for this term is Aroha so we have looked at what love is and how we feel love. We also talked about God's love and what that looks like for us.



This week we made pancakes, ate pancakes, sorted pancakes by size, wrote about pancakes and read a poem about pancakes. Some of us might have enjoyed more pancakes than we should have but it was a really fun morning and a great introduction to the start of Lent.

We attended our first liturgy of the year and watched the palms be burnt followed by Ash Wednesday Mass.

## A few reminders for the upcoming days:

- We would like to remind you about hats. These are essential in this hot weather and children without hats will be asked to remain in the shade during outside play times. Please stress to your children the importance of keeping their hats on when playing outside.
- No vehicles are permitted to enter school grounds during school hours. The best places to park are on Owens Road or Victoria Road. Please be aware that there is a clear way area either side of the driveway on Owens Road that is regularly policed by Auckland Transport. Please do not park across neighbours driveways.
- All children are to be collected promptly after school unless enrolled in the After School Care programme.
- **No children are to be in the staff car park at any time.** Parents please walk your children around the administration building to exit the school on Victoria Road.
- Please ensure the correct school uniform is worn to and from school, including footwear. Caps are not school uniform and neither are sneakers or crocs. Last year a number of children were leaving the school grounds without their shoes on. We would like the children to take pride in their school uniform. Don't forget the sunhats. School sunhats are available to purchase from the school office for \$15.
- Bicycles and scooters are to be walked in and out of the grounds. Children riding bikes to school on a regular basis are encouraged to wear a safety vest and must wear their helmet. These can be obtained from the office.
- Pupil absences are to be phoned in by 9.30a.m. Alternatively you can send in absences via the school app. Messages may be left on the answer phone. The Ministry of Education requires us to recognise the reason for the absence so please be specific.
- We would like to remind parents that we have some children who have severe life threatening food allergies. We ask families to assist us to protect these children by avoiding having nuts in school lunches. This includes whole nuts, products containing nuts, nutella and peanut butter. We appreciate this is an inconvenience but ask for your cooperation in this matter. We also ask parents not to bring cakes or sweets to school to share with the class on your child's birthday.

## Summer Holiday Photos

We would like to make a display in the foyer about what the children did on their holidays. If you have a photo you could send in for our display we would appreciate it. If you send in a physical photo it will be returned otherwise please email us your photo.



Ma te atua manaaki  
God Bless,

*Vimi Chandra*

## Other notices

### Facebook parents group

A St Leo's families 2024 Facebook has been set up as another means of communication. Please join up this group so you don't miss out on important notices (Skool Loop is another way to get communications).

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1078081553512011/>

Skool Loop <https://skoolloop.com/en-nz/>

## Forms

Thank you to those parents who have returned the update forms that were sent home at the beginning of the term. If you have not yet returned these please do so by Monday so I can get the class lists updated and sent out to you.

## Squash

On Thursday 7 March there will be a free squash try out session in the hall at lunchtime. Please let your children know about this if you think they would enjoy it.

## School swimming sports

Thank you to those parents who have offered to help with transport for the swimming sports at Takapuna Pools. We are still in need of a couple more parents to help with transport if you can help. Even one way would be helpful.

## Timetable of events

Friday 16 February	School picnic 4pm - 6pm PTFA AGM 5pm
Monday 19 February	Sausage sizzle lunch
Tuesday 20 February	Music lessons with Dominic
Wednesday 21 February	Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am BOT meeting 6.30pm
Thursday 22 February	Waterwise
Friday 23 February	Whole school Mass midday
Tuesday 27 February	Music lessons with Dominic
Wednesday 28 February	Music with Dominic
Thursday 29 February	Waterwise
Friday 1 March	School swimming sports Takapuna pools
Monday 4 March	St Catherine to Maritime museum trip with Ms Chandra
Tuesday 5 March	Music lessons with Dominic
Wednesday 6 March	Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am
Thursday 7 March	Waterwise Lunch time squash

Friday 8 March	Whole school Mass midday
<b>Sunday 10 March</b>	<b>School/Parish Mass 9.30</b>
Tuesday 12 March	Music lessons with Dominic
Wednesday 13 March	Music with Dominic Grip Leadership Day
Thursday 14 March	Waterwise
Friday 15 March	Peninsula Swimming sports
Monday 18 March	Year 3/4 & 5/6 girls soccer festival
Tuesday 19 March	Music lessons with Dominic
Wednesday 20 March	Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am Year 3/4 & 5/6 boys soccer festival
Thursday 21 March	Waterwise
Friday 22 March	Whole school Mass midday
Saturday 23 March	Belmont Primary Fair
Tuesday 26 March	Music lessons with Dominic Parent Teacher Conferences - school finishes 1pm
Wednesday 27 March	Music with Dominic
Thursday 28 March	NO waterwise
Friday 29 March - Tuesday 2 April (inclusive)	Easter holiday
Wednesday 3 April	Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am
Thursday 4 April	Waterwise
Friday 5 April	Whole school Mass midday
Tuesday 9 April	Music lessons with Dominic
Wednesday 10 April	Music with Dominic
Thursday 11 August	Waterwise
Friday 12 August	End of term

## 2024 Term dates

Term 1 ends Friday 12 April

Term 2 starts Wednesday 29 April

## PTFA NEWS

Family picnic on Friday 16 February 4pm - 6pm. This will be followed by the PTFA AGM where we will need to elect a new chairperson (or job share), and secretary.

## 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 Leo's will simply be unable to run our sessions in the future. This 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.

The schedule for the next Waterwise Instructor Training course is **attached**. This will commence on the **10<sup>th</sup> 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 (Aston, Clare or Fiona) in the school playground. Renee will point you in their direction. I look forward to hearing from you.

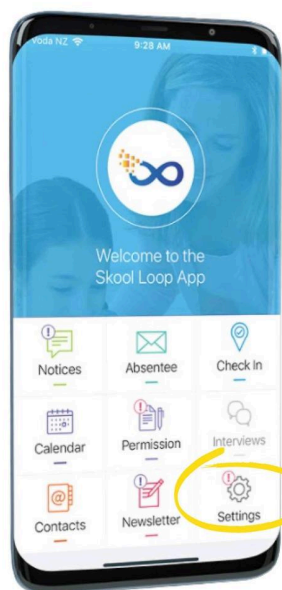
Kind regards, Michelle Scott Email: [scottmichelle@xtra.co.nz](mailto:scottmichelle@xtra.co.nz)

### Instructor Course 2024

Wednesday April 10th	7pm-9pm	Info Evening
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	9am-3pm	On Water Capsize
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	9am-3pm	On Water
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	9am-3pm	On Water
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	9am-3pm	On Water
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	9am-3pm	On Water
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	9am-3pm	On Water
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	9am-3pm	On Water
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	9am-3pm	On Water
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	9am-3pm	On Water
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Save Day	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	7pm-9pm	Theory Test
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Save Day	
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> June		Practical Test



## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO NOTICE GROUPS



**TO JOIN YOUR SKOOL LOOP APP NOTICE GROUPS, SIMPLY FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:**

- > Go to the 'Settings' tile in the bottom right hand corner of the Home Screen
- > Go to 'Subscribe to groups'
- > Tap to select the group/s you would like to receive notifications from
- > You're good to go - you will now receive all notices sent to the groups you have subscribed to

### NEED MORE INFO?

Call Skool Loop Aus on 1800 203 493  
Call Skool Loop NZ on 0800 238 379



Summer is upon us, and our latest issue is jam-packed with content to help Kiwi parents [issue2402.totstoteens.co.nz](https://www.issue2402.totstoteens.co.nz)



*Calling All Primary School Picasos!*

We're excited to announce our 'Back to School' Poster Competition for school children (from Years 1 to 8) to showcase their talent and understanding of asthma triggers and be in to win!

We are asking students to create a poster depicting common asthma triggers. Simply illustrate how everyday elements like pet fur, pollen, chilly breezes, smoke, and even tiny viruses can trigger asthma.

The winning masterpiece will receive \$1000 for their school, courtesy of Friends of the Foundation Gold Partner Pulse Energy, and the school will also receive a live asthma education show with Sailor the Pufferfish.

Submit poster artwork and details on our official entry page [here](#). Entries close 29 February 2024.

*Get your brushes ready and join the fight against asthma!*

Ngā mihi nui,

Asthma + Respiratory Foundation NZ | Te Hā Ora

COMMUNITY NOTICES

**2024 NSU REGISTRATIONS OPEN**

WWW.NSU.ORG/join-now

**TERM ONE 2024**  
**Tues 13 Feb to Wed 10 Apr**

www.mairangplayers.co.nz

TheatreWorks (aka Mairangi Players) is a registered charitable entity.  
 Registration number CC 22744

**Creative Drama Classes**  
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In Term One, we will be learning about Melodrama, an exciting and fun way to explore archetypal caricatures.

**DRAMA 1:** Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.  
 7 - 11 yrs \$110.00 for 9 weeks

**DRAMA 2:** Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.  
 12 - 16 yrs \$110.00 for 9 weeks

Maximum class size 12 pupils.

For more information, please contact Robyn on (021) 588-762 or info@thespianage.co.nz

**TENNIS**  
*back to tennis!*

Tennis is on! All coaching starts this week at Devonport's Ngataranga Tennis Club

Bookings & enquiries [admin@tennisplus.co.nz](mailto:admin@tennisplus.co.nz)

**After School Coaching**

<b>Tots Tennis</b> (3 - 4 years) 30 mins	Tuesday 3:15pm Friday 3:00, 3:30pm
<b>Mini Tennis</b> (5 - 7 years) 45 mins	Monday - Friday 3:45pm
<b>Junior Tennis</b> (8 - 18 years) 60 mins	Monday - Friday 3:30, 4:30, 5:30pm
<b>Adult Tennis</b> (18+) Beginners, Interclub & Professionals	90 classes weekly Monday - Saturday

**Holiday Programs**  
 Daily every School Holidays (look out for flyer)

**Private Coaching**  
 Solo or small group private coaching  
 Mon - Fri 7am - 9pm  
 Sat 8am - 1pm

Equipment provided

www.clubspark.kiwi/NgatarangaTennisClub/Coaching

**2024 spaces still available**

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**DEVONPORT SQUASH CLUB**

**AFTER SCHOOL SQUASH PROGRAMME TERM 1**

With Club Coach **BEN EDWARDS** (ex VAUXHALL / BIS / TEs)

**\$100 per person for 7 weeks**

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- Basic skills and drills
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- All gear supplied (rackets/balls/eyewear)

**4 - 5 pm**  
**Every Wednesday**  
**14 February - 3 April**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL CONTACT BEN**  
 ☎ 022 177 6284  
 ✉ bened3000@gmail.com

Devonport Squash Club - 69 Wairoa Road, Narrow Neck

**FREE EVENT**

Devonport Peninsula Trust

**KIDS ATHLETICS '24**

TUESDAYS 4 - 6PM  
 VAUXHALL SPORTS FIELD

**20 FEB - 19 MAR**  
 AGES 4 - 12YO

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**DOVE CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN, NORTH SHORE:**  
 Our first gathering for 2024 will be on **TUESDAY, 20th February, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Thomas More Catholic Church followed by cuppa. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Pio Fong. Come and join Catholic women to pray, praise and fellowship with one another. Phone Sylvia Hartley 021 088 22990 or email [aldonsylvia@gmail.com](mailto:aldonsylvia@gmail.com)

**Music 4 Mini's**  
 nurturing a love of music

Our music classes involve singing & rhythm, movement & dancing and the playing of basic percussive instruments. Developing an early love for music in your child can have major life long benefits.

**SIGN UP FOR TERM 1 2024**  
**LATE JOINERS WELCOME!**

DEVONPORT COMMUNITY HOUSE  
 Rimu Room (Upstairs)  
[tammy@music4minis.co.nz](mailto:tammy@music4minis.co.nz)  
[www.music4minis.co.nz](http://www.music4minis.co.nz)  
 027 433 6992

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- Helps with counting, coordination, concentration, expression, confidence and memory.

**MONDAYS**  
 9:30am to 10:15am  
 \$85 (7 wk term)  
 Mon 19th Feb - Mon 8th April (NO CLASS on 1st April)

**THURSDAYS**  
 3:45pm - 4:30pm  
 \$97 (8 wk term)  
 Thurs 22nd Feb - Thurs 11th April



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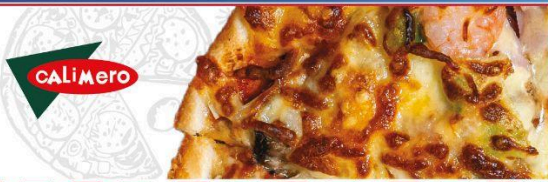
**Devonport  
Family  
Medicine**

New patients welcome

Mon to Fri 8am - 5pm  
(09) 445 0528  
[dfmdoctors.co.nz](http://dfmdoctors.co.nz)

Family friendly healthcare

The team at Devonport Family Medicine are dedicated to supporting the health and wellbeing of your family. Dr Pieter Veenhuijsen has worked in the Devonport community for over 13 years. Dr Kosar Kheirabi has recently joined the team and has experience in all areas of medicine with a keen interest in paediatrics, surgery, women's health and health of older people. Together with an experienced nursing and admin team, the practice is committed to delivering quality care with a personal touch. Enrol online or simply pop in to see us.



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