



St Leo's Catholic Primary School

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14 March 2024

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

It has been a bustling and thrilling time at St Leo's. As autumn begins, the crisp mornings and pleasant daytime temperatures have brought joy to the tamariki. The children's active participation and enthusiasm in various activities, from classrooms to Mass, playground, and EOTC adventures like swimming and Maritime Museum visit, have been truly heartwarming. I extend my gratitude to all the children for their fantastic attitude and bravery in embracing new experiences. The spirit of Tuakana-teina shines brightly at St Leo's! A special thank you to the dedicated teachers for their efforts in planning and leading engaging activities that enhance the children's learning journey. I also want to express immense appreciation to the parent helpers whose support has made these enriching experiences possible for the children

Autumn Prayer

Dear Lord, as the season of autumn unfolds before us, we are reminded of the beauty of Your creation and the changing of the seasons.

Just as the leaves transform into vibrant hues of red, orange, and gold, may our hearts be filled with gratitude for Your abundant blessings.

As the air grows crisper and the days grow shorter, may we find comfort in Your presence and strength in Your love.

Help us to embrace this season of change with faith and hope, knowing that You are always with us, guiding us through every season of life.

Amen.



Family/Parish Mass

On Sunday the 10 March, we celebrated Eucharist with the Parish and I must say, how amazing it was to see our beautiful children and their whānau join us for this special occasion. Thank you to all who were able to attend. At the end of the Mass, our new children and their families were welcomed with a St Leo's candle.

New Pupils

We welcome Bodhi Hunter and Cody who both started in St Clare this week.

Maritime Museum Trip

Last week I was lucky enough to take St Catherine students to the Maritime Museum as part of our STEM programme. The New Zealand Maritime Museum provided Kōrinorino activities, and a pop-up container village with citizen science activities demonstrating the NZL Blue Belt ocean



health monitoring tools utilised in the Moanamana module. These activities included Marine Metre Squared, Photogrammetry, Plankton, Temperature and Baited Video Monitoring and Blake NZ VR Goggles. The students loved learning about the history of sailing and how the immigrants arrived into New Zealand. They also explored the design of the Americas Cup yacht and had a play on how it works. See image to the right.



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.**

BOT newsAs there were no calls for a bi-election to fill the casual vacancy on the Board of Trustees Andrew Jameson is our new board member

St Catherine News

GRIP Student Leadership Conference

Our year sixes participated in a one-day interactive leadership event held annually during term 1, in numerous cities across the north and south islands of New Zealand. GRIP is an acronym for the values and ideals promoted by this independent organisation (Generosity, Responsibility, Integrity, People) and has been running in New Zealand since 2014 and in Australia for a number of years before that. Our year sixes had a great day learning about the qualities of a good leader and how to make a positive impact in their school and community. They were led through a number of problem solving scenarios, shown inspirational videos and had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with students from a wide range of other schools. A number of them took the stage during the less formal breakout sessions including Ezra George displaying his acting abilities, Amy Jameson having to make quick decisions and Cavelle Ikenasio, who was given the opportunity to bust out some moves on the dance floor.



Sharing Images of Children

We are currently reviewing our parent involvement policy on School Docs. While reviewing this with the board, we thought to share a part of this policy on sharing images of children.

St Leo's Catholic School follows guidelines to protect students' privacy and safety at school when we publish student information. This includes sharing photos of our students. We encourage our school community to also consider privacy issues when sharing photos and videos taken at school events.

You can read the rest of the policy on School Docs.

MathsBuddy

As part of our Mathematics program we have decided to build on the students' learning through subscribing to Maths Buddy. MathsBuddy is New Zealand's leading computer-based training program, designed to complement what is taught in class. It helps guide students lesson by lesson, allowing them to pause, rewind and repeat all or part of any lesson until they fully understand it. The school is able to subsidise part of it and the rest of the cost will be billed at the end of the term for the year. This will amount to \$20 for the year. Here is the link if you want more information: <https://mathsbuddy.co.nz>

Ma te atua manaaki

God Bless,

Vimi Chandra

Other notices

Squash

Many of the children enjoyed taking part in the lunch time Squash session with Auckland Squash.

Winter uniform orders

Order forms for winter uniforms close on Friday 15 March. Please get these back by the due date to ensure orders arrive on time.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Bookings may be made through the Skool Loop app. Any problems please contact Renee

Hockey

If your child is interested in playing hockey this year at Rosedale Park on a Monday after school please let Renee know in the next few days.

Flower arranging at church

Are you interested in flower arranging. Sue Storey from the Parish is looking for people to help with simple flower arrangements for church. Flowers are provided all you need to do is arrange them. Training will be given if you don't know what to do but are keen to help. Please contact Sue Storey on 027 2222846 if you would like to help.

[Pre-enrolment Evening for Years 7 to 9 in 2025 Carmel College](#) Families of prospective students for Years 7 to 9 in 2025 are invited to attend the pre-enrolment evening.

We 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: Thursday, 14 March 2024
- Venue: College Hall



- 4.00pm – presentation by staff and students
- 4.30-5.30pm – tours of the school

View our enrolment information at <https://www.carmel.school.nz/enrolment/enrolment/>

Rosmini College Open Day for new students in 2025

Thursday 16 May 2024 - The presentation will commence at 1:30pm in the Auditorium and the Open Day concludes at 3pm. The online application form is available on the school website (www.rosmini.school.nz) for enrolment for 2025. Enrolment queries to Eunice 09 488 3750 or email enquiries@rosmini.school.nz.

Timetable of events

Friday 15 March	Peninsula Swimming sports
Saturday 16 March	Devonport School Fair
Sunday 17 March	Sacramental programme 3.30
Monday 18 March	Year 5/6 girls soccer festival Children may wear something green to school with their uniform
Tuesday 19 March	Music lessons with Dominic Open Day
Wednesday 20 March	Music with Dominic Year 3/4 boys & girls & 5/6 boys soccer festival PTFA meeting 7.30pm staffroom
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 BOT meeting 6.30pm
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	St Catherine to Navy museum workshop
Tuesday 9 April	Music lessons with Dominic
Wednesday 10 April	Music with Dominic PTFA meeting 7.30pm staffroom
Thursday 11 April	Waterwise
Friday 12 April	End of term

2024 Term dates

Term 1 ends Friday 12 April

Term 2 starts Wednesday 29 April

PTFA NEWS

High Tea

Save the date: **Saturday 4 May** at the Devonport Yacht Club. More details to follow but keep the date free for a fun filled afternoon.

Introducing our new PTFA members Welcome aboard Sasha Radford as PTFA secretary and Ann-Katherin as Treasurer. Thank you for offering to do these jobs. We are now just looking for a chairperson or co chairperson.



Sign up for this and link to our school and we get money for sports equipment.

Get a school team together.

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Waterwise Instructors Course - There is still time to enrol

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 **10th 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

Instructor Course 2024

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



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Celebrating 150 years

Open day

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SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 10am - 3pm

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- Learn about fire risk and safety to keep you and your whānau safe
- Meet our partner agencies
- Free admission



TENNIS

Holiday Program

Monday 15 - Friday 19 April
Monday 22 - Friday 26 April

9:00am - 12:30pm

Daily or weekly options every holidays.

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SATURDAY 16 MARCH 12-6PM

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- RAFFLE
- BEAT THE GOALIE DUNKER

- CANDY FLOSS
- PLANTS
- PRIZES
- TOYS & BOOKS
- ...AND MORE!

PLAY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 6 APRIL, 11am-4pm
Tuna Mau/Western Park, Freemans Bay



The Flaxhill Hoops April Basketball Camps are just around the corner with four locations on the shore! Register now so you do not miss out! <https://flaxhill.co.nz/>

HALF MARATHON 2024 Run - Walk - Team Events
14th July - 8am
Oxford Road Okato Taranaki
Virtual event July 1 to July 31

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22th - 24th & 26th April 2024, Howick and North Shore*

*4 day workshop

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