



# St Leo's Catholic Primary School

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Ph: 445 9339 Email: [office@stleos.school.nz](mailto:office@stleos.school.nz)

Website: [www.stleos.school.nz](http://www.stleos.school.nz)

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28 August 2025

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

As we journey through August, we are reminded of the call to see Christ in one another and to live out our faith through service, kindness, and care. This month, our school focus has been on nurturing both the mind and the heart. In our classrooms, students are continuing to grow in their learning. In our playground and wider environment, we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation and our responsibility as kaitiaki (guardians).

The Church dedicates the month of August to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose example of faith and love inspires us to be people of hope, compassion, and courage. At St Leo's, we strive to reflect these values in our daily lives—whether in prayer, in learning, or in how we treat one another.



We are also grateful for the support of our whānau and parish community as we plan for the future of our school. Together, we look forward to ensuring that St Leo's remains a place where faith, learning, and community flourish side by side.

## School/Parish Mass

We warmly invite you to join us for our next School/Parish Mass on Sunday, August 31st, at 9:30 a.m. All children are asked to come dressed in their full school uniform. To celebrate our community, we also kindly ask each family to bring a plate of morning tea to share after the Mass. Please drop this off at the hall.

We look forward to celebrating together with you and your family.

## St. Leo's Learning Expo

We are excited to invite all parents and caregivers to our annual Learning Expo, a fantastic opportunity to see our students' hard work and celebrate their achievements. Join us on Thursday, September 11th, from 3:15 pm to 5:30 pm. During the expo, you will have the chance to explore your child's learning journey and see some of the fantastic projects and creations from across the school. This is also a key part of our reporting to parents, as it provides a meaningful way for children to share their learning and for parents to see their progress in a dynamic environment. It's an excellent way to connect with our students and staff and to get a glimpse into the vibrant learning happening in our classrooms. Appointments not necessary just turn up at a time that suits you between 3.15 and 5.30.

## Haka Performance at Windsor Reserve

We would also like to let you know about an upcoming Haka performance. Students in Years 3 to 6 will be performing at Windsor Reserve on Monday, the 15th of September, starting at 9:00 am. Parents will need to drop their children off from 8:45 am onwards, and the staff will meet them there (before-school care children will be walked down). We are still in need of parent helpers for crowd control and assisting children to the toilet. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please let Renee know if you can help that day.

## Meet our New Board

### Paulene Walsh

Paulene Walsh holds an MA in Education. She is married to Patrick Walsh, the Principal of Sacred Heart College in Glendowie. She is the hostel mother during the week and returns to her home in Devonport on the weekends. Paulene and Patrick have three sons and one daughter, all of whom are professionals: three doctors and one lawyer. Paulene and Patrick returned home to Devonport after teaching and leading at John Paul College Rotorua for 19 years.

Paulene works one day a week in the parish office with Father Neil, Stephen Bell and Kath Petrie. The rest of the week, she works at Auckland Girls' Grammar School. Paulene is a specialist teacher in the area of neurodiversity. Paulene won a National Award for her work in the Learning Support Area. Paulene supports schools, parents, and students in navigating a pathway through school. Paulene is a presenter in the area of 'How best to support our students with learning needs.' Paulene's interests include supporting her family, hospice fundraising, reading, and walking her wee dog, Marcellin. Paulene is passionate about education and young people. It is a welcome home for Paulene as she is a proud past pupil of St Leo's and a Parishioner of St Francis de Sales and All Souls.



### Anna Rumble

I am a mother of three, with two daughters at St Leo's and a son in Year 7 at Rosmini College. I have enjoyed being involved in our special St Leo's community over the past 7 years in numerous capacities, including the PTFA, a board of trustees member, and, most recently, working with the new entrant class as part of our transition program. I am also an active member of our local parish. My professional background is in Marketing and Communication, and I also own a small home furnishings business. It has been a pleasure to serve our school as a Proprietor's Representative for the past 3 years, and I look forward to continuing to nurture the catholic character of our school as part of our new school board.



### Julia Cairney

Tēnā koutou e te whānau

I am proud to be serving our school community for a second term as a proprietor's representative, along with Anna and Paulene. We are responsible for ensuring our school upholds its Catholic character. I am mum and a full-time carer to our three daughters - Beth (St Patrick's), Tilly (St Clare's) and Kōwhai (preschool). Before having a family, I worked in immigration and refugee law in New Zealand and overseas.



### Olivia West

I'm Liv West, Aria and Hunter's Mum. We've been part of the St Leo's whanau for 5 years, and this is my second term on the BoT. I'm passionate about our school and looking forward to working with Vimi and the other board members in delivering on our strategic goals for the school over the next few years. Outside of my role on the board, I serve as a Health Services Officer in the Royal New Zealand Navy, having spent 22 years in the service. I bring leadership, governance and compliance experience to the board. As a family, we are really active, Brock and I both run (a lot!), and we love to travel! I'm also a dog mum, a dance mum and a rugby mum, so it's a busy life! For those of you I have yet to meet, I look forward to doing so in the coming months.



### **Samantha Rawlinson**

I'm Sam Rawlinson, married to Greg, and we have two amazing children. Noah, our youngest, has just started year 4 at St Leo's, while our daughter Mia is in year 7 at Carmel College. For the past 13 years, we have called Devonport our home and love the community.

As a parent, I believe that every student should feel valued and supported throughout their learning journey. Since Mia first started primary school, I have come to understand the critical role that the school board plays in fostering a positive and nurturing environment for our children. I am genuinely excited about the opportunity to contribute to St Leo's. Professionally, I am the Head of Transactional Banking at BNZ, where I lead specialist teams across the country who support businesses making complex commercial decisions, and I love what I do. I also enjoy engaging in school initiatives, such as coaching my daughter's netball team, and am excited to be a new member of the St Leo's school board.



### **Daniel Mauafu**

My name is Dan Mauafu, and I am Evander's dad in St Clare's classroom. As a first-time nominee for any type of board, I lack experience, but I will make up for it through my commitment to this school. I value my son's education, just as I value all children's educational journeys. I'm committed to listening to our families and working alongside our teachers and staff. Our children are the heart of everything we do, and I will work hard to ensure they and St Leo's have the best opportunities to succeed.



### **Sarah Hooper**

My name is Sarah Hooper. Our daughter, Frankie, attends St. Leo's in Year 2, and Wesley will join her next year when he starts school. I have lived locally in Devonport for the past 13 years, and I currently work as a Deputy Principal at Westlake Girls' High School, where I have oversight of the curriculum. I have extensive experience in leadership roles and understand how schools function from both a structural and operational perspective, as well as a governance perspective. I appreciate the unique place that Catholic schools offer students, whānau and the wider community; The sense of belonging and shared values they instil can't be replicated elsewhere. I am pleased to join the Board and continue to support the school's staff in bringing the vision of St. Leo's to life.



God Bless, *Vimi Chandra*

### **Other notices:**

#### **Photolife Code keys**

You should have received an email from Photolife with the code key for viewing and ordering your class and individual photos. If for any reason, you have not received this please check your junk/spam folders first then contact me as I also have a list of these.

#### **Cans for Christmas**

We are taking part in the St Vincent de Paul Society Cans for Christmas Can Drive on 12th September. If every child could bring a can of food it would be greatly appreciated.





## Daffodil Day

Friday 29 August - children may wear a yellow accessory with their uniform.  
Please bring a gold coin donation.



## Twilight Choir event

Our choir has been invited to perform at the Carmel College Twilight evening on Friday 14th November. You have received an email so if your child is in the choir and is able to attend please let Renee know by 3pm August 30th as we need to register our interest and we need to make sure we have enough singers.

## PTFA News

Next PTFA meeting **Tuesday 9th September** 7.30 pm in the staffroom or via Google Meet

**Quiz Night** - Friday, 12 September. Ticket sales are now open. Get in early and secure your tickets to avoid missing out. Tickets are already selling fast.

<https://events.humanitix.com//stleos-quiz-2025>

## School Fair - Sunday 16 November

Sign-up sheets for jobs for the fair are up in the office, so sign up quickly to get the job you want. It would be great if every parent could sign up for a job so we can make this day a great success.

## Reuben O'Neill Bursary

*The Reuben O'Neill Bursary has been established by the Catholic Diocese of Auckland to assist in making Catholic education available to some families and their children who otherwise would be unable to receive a Catholic education. The Reuben O'Neill Bursary has been established to honour Reuben O'Neill, who was an exceptional volunteer and supporter of Catholic education throughout his lifetime. Reuben O'Neill (1932-2025) was a husband, parent and grandparent and was recognised by Pope John Paul II in 1989, receiving a papal knighthood for his services to the Catholic Church of New Zealand. Reuben was proud of his own Catholic education and worked faithfully to make Catholic education accessible to as many people as possible, through building the Common Fund Cooperative, developing new schools, and improving the standard of existing schools across the Diocese of Auckland.*

*Whānau/families can apply at either the primary or secondary level. Eligibility criteria include a desire for Catholic education for their child and financial benefit to their family. Students of any year level are eligible to apply for the scholarship.*

In 2025, 5 primary and 5 secondary bursaries were awarded and are for the duration of a student's time at primary or secondary school. In 2026 an additional 5 primary and 5 secondary bursaries will be offered. It may be a family whose child is already enrolled in a Catholic school, or someone you know who desires a Catholic education for their child but for whom the associated cost of Attendance Dues are a barrier.

All applications should be emailed to Viki Trainor at [scholarships@cda.org.nz](mailto:scholarships@cda.org.nz) or posted to Pompallier Diocesan Centre, Private Bag 47904, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144.

See Renee or Vimi for an application form.

### Friendly reminder regarding 2026 Enrolments at Belmont Intermediate School

Online in-zone applications close on Friday, 29 August 2025. Please complete your application as soon as possible as the class placement process will commence shortly. Please apply via our website [www.belmontint.school.nz/join-us/enrolment](http://www.belmontint.school.nz/join-us/enrolment)

Please note, we are not accepting out of zone enrolments for 2026 at this time. Any updates will be posted on the school website.

If your child is not intending to join BIS next year please email Melissa Churches [office@belmontint.school.nz](mailto:office@belmontint.school.nz) so you can be removed from the list.



**Timetable of events term 3**

Friday 29 August	BIS Enrolments close Daffodil Day
<b>Sunday 31 August</b>	<b>School/Parish mass</b>
Monday 1 September	Morning tea soccer session
Tuesday 2 September	Playgroup 9.15am Music with Dominic Assembly 10.03am
Wednesday 3 September	Music with Dominic BOT meeting
Thursday 4 September	Chess club
Sunday 7 September	Father's Day
Monday 8 September	Morning tea soccer session
Tuesday 9 September	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15am Soccer tournament PTFA meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 10 September	Music with Dominic
Thursday 11 September	Chess club Learning expo 3.15pm - 5.30pm
Friday 12 September	Cans for Christmas collection Quiz Night Whole school mass midday
Monday 15 September	Haka Up Performance Windsor Reserve 9am
Tuesday 16 September	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15am Assembly 10.30am
Wednesday 17 September	Music with Dominic
Thursday 18 September	Chess club
Friday 19 September	Term 3 ends.



## Community Notices.

# KELLY CLUB

## HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

STANLEY BAY SCHOOL

### WEEK 1

Mon 22 Sept	Tues 23 Sept	Wed 24 Sept	Thurs 25 Sept	Fri 26 Sept
BOOTCAMP MADNESS	SUPER SQUAD	TRIP DAY: AUCKLAND ZOO	ARTY PARTY	OUT OF THIS WORLD

### WEEK 2

Mon 29 Sept	Tues 30 Sept	Wed 01 Oct	Thurs 02 Oct	Fri 03 Oct
BUBBLES & BOUNCE	BAKE-OFF	EVENT DAY: HUNGERBALL	SPIN OUT	MYSTERIOUS MONSTERS

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# NØUGHTY WASTERS

## MAKERSPACE

learn how to use tools!

**FREE Outdoor Sessions**  
 Sep 7, 14, 21  
 9:30-12:30  
 27 Lake Road  
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 All ages welcome



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**Tuesdays at St Leo's Church Hall:**  
 4-5pm (Ages 5-7) 5-6pm (Ages 8-10)

Spaces are limited - book now for Term 4 classes!  
 To find out more or to reserve a place, please contact:  
[keaperformingarts@gmail.com](mailto:keaperformingarts@gmail.com)  
 022 657 1890/021 216 7559

<https://www.facebook.com/keaperformingarts/>  
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We are a New Zealand company offering one-to-one tutoring for students Year 1 to 6, both in-person, and online. We pride ourselves on providing high-quality, bespoke tuition using only experienced and qualified teachers. We work alongside whānau and kaiako to empower students and boost their learning, so they can excel and be confident in their education journey.

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- ✓ Diagnostic Tools for Learning

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**Contact Us**    020 4031 6035    [www.boostyourlearning.co.nz](http://www.boostyourlearning.co.nz)

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## Hon Simon Watts MP for North Shore

[simon.watts@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:simon.watts@parliament.govt.nz)

📞 SimonWattsMP



Authorised by Hon Simon Watts, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



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