



# St Leo's Catholic Primary School

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29 February 2024

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

## Season of Lent

During the season of Lent, our tamariki can participate in various activities to observe this important time. Here are some suggestions:

- **Prayer:** Encourage children to spend time in prayer, reflecting on their faith and expressing gratitude. They can pray for others, for those in need, and for guidance in their own lives.
- **Almsgiving:** Teach children about the importance of giving to those in need. They can donate toys, clothes, or money to a charity, volunteer at a local shelter, or perform acts of kindness for others.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Encourage children to perform acts of kindness throughout Lent, such as helping a neighbour, writing a letter to a friend, or sharing their toys with siblings.
- **Bible Study:** Engage children in reading and studying the Bible during Lent. You can read and discuss stories of Jesus' life, teachings, and miracles to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith.
- **Attend Church Services:** Take children to church services during Lent, such as Palm Sunday, and Holy Week services, to participate in worship and learn more about the significance of this season.
- **Reflection and Journaling:** Encourage children to reflect on their thoughts, feelings, and experiences during Lent. They can keep a Lenten journal to write down their reflections, prayers, and insights.

By engaging in these activities, children can deepen their faith, develop a sense of compassion and empathy, and grow spiritually during the season of Lent. It's important to approach these practices with a spirit of love, joy, and sincerity, helping children understand the significance of Lent in their own unique way.



### **Family/Parish Mass**

On Sunday the 10 March, the school will be joining the Parish to celebrate Eucharist and welcome new families to our school community. All children are expected to attend Mass at 9.30am dressed in their school uniform. We will be sitting together as a school. You are invited to bring a plate of finger food to share after Mass.

### **New Pupils and International Students**

We welcome Roger Dickinson who started in St Clare last week and Karmichael Hubbard who started in St Catherine this week. We farewelled all our International students last week.

### **Health Curriculum Statement**

Our board consults with the school community and produces a written statement at least once every two years about how our school will implement health education. This is a requirement under the Education and Training Act 2020. The school consulted the community last year and all feedback was analysed by the Board policy committee. Below is the draft statement. If you have any questions or feedback please email me: [principal@stleos.school.nz](mailto:principal@stleos.school.nz)

Please visit school docs to read the Health Education Policy.

***Kia aroha, kia tupu, kia mau ki te whakapono***

***To love, to learn, to grow in faith***

Through St Leo's Catholic School health and physical education curriculum, we aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about their own health and well-being. This includes fostering a positive attitude towards physical activity, promoting healthy lifestyle choices, and developing essential movement skills.

In parallel, our relationship and sexuality education program is designed to provide age-appropriate and culturally sensitive information to our students. We strive to create a safe and inclusive environment which emphasises the dignity and worth of every individual as a beloved child of God.

As a Catholic school, we approach these subjects within the framework of our faith, emphasising the values of respect, dignity, and the sanctity of life. We aim to empower our students to make responsible choices aligned with their Catholic beliefs, while also fostering an atmosphere of open dialogue and understanding.

By integrating health and physical education with relationship and sexuality education, we aim to support the holistic development of our students, nurturing their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

**The full Health Curriculum can be found on the school website:**

<https://www.stleos.school.nz/charter-policies-and-procedures/>

### **School Picnic**

The school picnic had a fantastic turnout! It was heartwarming to have our International students, their families, and new families join us. The students loved the sausage sizzle and bouncy castle. Our neighbours also came with their families, and we all felt the aroha and manakitanga from the St Leo's community.



## 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 Patrick News

Last week I spent a day in St Patricks and we started the Garden to table programme. We made zoodles with noodles using the marrow from the school garden. The children enjoyed cooking and eating after. Some students worked with Renee in the garden and harvested beetroot which will be used in the next garden to table session.



For the last two weeks St Patricks have been learning about report writing. Every day we look through the Flagstaff and find interesting and exciting articles to write about. We love discussing our favourite articles and then writing a report in our own words. The classes favourite part of report writing is coming up with a catchy title.

We are learning to include the what, when, where, who and why in our reports. Below are Aria West and Oscar Flynn-Christy's reports about the stolen bike that featured on the front page of the Flagstaff on February the 9th 2024.

### **Paul Cane's Lucky Day**

A bike was stolen in Devonport. Paul Cane went to the eye doctor and when he got back to his bike it was stolen. He went up and down and all around looking for his bike. Paul headed to the ferry terminal and told the security guard what had happened, luckily the police were close by. The police caught the guy who had stolen the bike.

Aria West

### **The Bike Theft**

Paul Cane's bike was stolen in Devonport. It was stolen in December 2023. Jameson's mum saw some of the action on the ferry. When Paul noticed that his bike was stolen he was offended. The police found the bike and Paul was happy again.

Oscar Flynn-Christy

### **Choir**

This year all students in years 3-6 will be involved in choir. This is one aspect of the The Arts/Music curriculum. The students will be covering the achievement objectives of understanding music and developing ideas. We are lucky to have Dominic Blazaar who is a music specialist and willing to give up his time to work with the children. This year we have booked a date for a choir performance which will also be part of a PTFA fundraiser. It is a wonderful opportunity for the school to show the many music talents that the students have worked hard to develop throughout the year. As a token of our appreciation we will be presenting Dominic a koha at the end of each term. In order for us to pay this koha we are asking for \$1 a week which equates to \$10 per term. This will be added to the end of term activities invoice.

### **Kapa Haka**

Kapa haka sits under all areas of the New Zealand Curriculum. It covers all aspects of Te Reo Māori, Tikanga Māori and Mātauranga Māori. As a school we look at this through the Katorika Māori lens (Catholic lens). The children will be led by Caleb Kutia who works for the Royal New Zealand Navy and has extensive experience and understanding of Te Ao Māori - The Māori Worldview. We will be presenting Caleb with a koha at the end of each term. This will cost each child \$10 per term which will be added to the end of term activities invoice.

### **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

### 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

Don't forget we have our school swimming sports at the Takapuna Pools on Friday 1 March. If you have offered to transport children please be at school by 9.15am. If you have offered to help out in the pool please bring your togs and towels.

Children need their togs, towels, lunch, drink and school sunhat. Children may wear their PE gear to school with school footwear.

### Winter uniform orders

Order forms for winter uniforms will be coming home tomorrow. Please get these back by the due date to ensure orders arrive on time.

Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin, SM, Wairarapa parish Priest Fr Dennis Nacorda, and Auckland Vicar for Māori Manuel Beazley have shared their experiences of the Holy Father's Synod on Synodality in Rome last October. This YouTube video is a recording of a Zoom session they held with a live audience on Thursday 15 March 2024.

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COKdE6mlojU>

**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/>

**Sacramental Programme** - Forms for enrolling children from year 4 - 6 in the sacramental programme were sent home a few weeks ago. If you intend for your child to take part in the sacramental programme please get your forms back tomorrow as it starts on Sunday. If you haven't seen the form please see Renee

**Garden vegetables** - Over the Christmas period our zucchini plants went mad and we have some marrows now. If you would like to purchase one of these with a donation towards some new plants please see Renee.



## Timetable of events

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 Open Day
Wednesday 20 March	Music with Dominic Assembly 10.15am Year 3/4 & 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	Whole school Mass midday
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**

Thank you to those who attended the picnic and to the people who volunteered to be class reps. We are still in need of a chairperson (or co-chair) and treasurer for the PTFA. We need to keep the PTFA going to raise funds to help keep the school running the way it is. If you are able to help please come and talk to Renee.

The next meeting is Wednesday 20 March.



## Nominate your primary school for a chance to WIN one of two \$10K sports grant!

Hi St Leo's Catholic School  
(Devonport),

The Big Little Sponsorship is back, so spread the word and nominate your school for the chance to win one of two \$10,000 sports grants – one for the North Island and one for the South Island. You can spend it on whatever you need, like new equipment, sports uniforms or coaching sessions. Anything to help your little champions play a little freer.

Entering is easy!

Winning takes teamwork, so get the whole community involved by nominating your school. Teachers, students, parents, friends and whānau can all share the love and show their support for your school by nominating here or by visiting [aainsurance.co.nz/big-little](https://www.aainsurance.co.nz/big-little)

Entries are now open so get your nominations in today! Entries close 24 March.

<https://www.aainsurance.co.nz/big-little?cmpid=AA:PI:NPS:EDM:20240219:16183:bls-school-edm>

## 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.

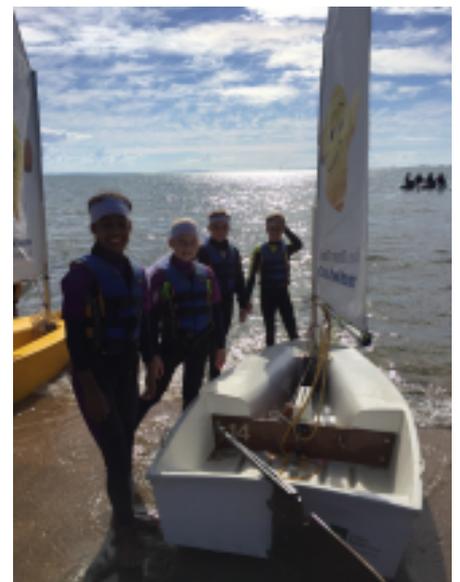
The schedule for the next Waterwise Instructor Training course is **attached**. This will commence on the **10<sup>th</sup> April** with an evening session and will have trainees from all the schools in the Devonport Peninsula. I realise the time commitment required to do the course looks daunting but 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



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