



St Leo's Catholic Primary School

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31 July 2025

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

Feast Day of Saint Martha on the 29th of July

This week, we reflected on the Feast Day of Saint Martha, a woman of deep faith and loving service. Known as the sister of Mary and Lazarus, Martha reminds us of the importance of hospitality, dedication, and trust in Jesus. At St. Leo's, we continue to reflect on how we can live like Martha, serving others with kindness and living our faith through action. Students participated in class discussions and prayer, thinking about the ways we can show love in everyday moments.



Welcome to International Students and New Students

We welcomed a few more International Students this week. We also welcomed four new tamariki, Moseana, SJ, TJ and Sia to St Leo's.

Garden to Table with St Patrick

Last week, our St. Patrick students rolled up their sleeves and got creative in the kitchen, baking delicious and healthy spinach muffins! The activity was an excellent way to explore healthy eating, follow instructions, and work together as a team. The students were curious, enthusiastic, and proud of their green creation; some even asked for the recipe to take home!



Peninsula Choir

Our talented school choir will be taking part in the Peninsula Choir Festival this Friday! This is an excellent opportunity for our students to share their voices, represent St. Leo's with pride, and connect with other schools in our wider community through the joy of music. A huge thank you to Dom and all the students for their hard work and dedication. We wish them luck.



St Clare's Assembly

This week, our St Clare children led the school in a beautiful prayer liturgy, reflecting their growing confidence and understanding of faith. They also delighted everyone with a joyful action song, sharing their energy and love for God through music and movement. Ka pai, St Clare!



Attendance Update Term 2

We are pleased to share some fantastic news about our student attendance this term! 88% of St. Leo's students attended school regularly, a significant improvement from 42% at the same time last year. This means most of our students missed fewer than 5 days during the term. Only 2% had moderate absences, and we had no students with chronic absence.

The main reasons for absence were due to illness or medical appointments. While our attendance rates have improved greatly, punctuality remains an area for growth. With only 78% of students arriving on time, we encourage families to support morning routines that help students start their day settled and ready for learning. Every minute counts!

St Leo's Catholic School – 2025 School Board Elections

All state and state-integrated schools, including St Leo's Catholic School, are required to hold board elections every three years. The next round of elections is scheduled to take place in September 2025.

St Leo's is a vibrant Catholic primary school with a rich heritage, committed staff, and a supportive and faith-filled community. Serving on the St Leo's School Board is an exceptional opportunity to act as kaitiaki (guardian) of our school and its mission, and to help shape the strategic direction and vision for our tamariki through good governance.

Our school board consists of four elected parent representatives, three Proprietors representatives, the Principal, and a staff representative elected by staff.

You don't need to be a parent or caregiver of a child at the school to stand for election. You simply need a genuine interest in supporting St. Leo's Catholic School, strong communication skills, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.

Every board member brings their unique strengths. You might have experience in education, finance, leadership, or community involvement. You may also gain valuable insight into the diverse communities that comprise our school.

Before standing for election, all nominees must confirm they meet the eligibility criteria. You can find out more about this at www.schoolboardelections.org.nz.

If you're enthusiastic about making a difference and want to help shape the future of our school, we'd love you to consider standing!

St Leo's has appointed Renee Mossman as our Returning Officer. Nomination and voting information have been emailed and posted directly to all eligible voters by the returning officer.

School Board Elections must follow the requirements of the Education and Training Act 2020 and the Education (Board Elections) Regulations 2022.

If you have any questions about the election process, you can contact the Returning Officer on 09 4459339. We'll continue to share updates over the coming weeks as we move through each stage of the election process.

Nominations close: 13 August 2025

Election date: 17 September 2025

Peninsula Cross Country: Congratulations to Tommy Sosa and Jayce Kuravilla who represented the school in the Peninsula Cross country. We are really proud of their effort.



God Bless, *Vimi Chandra*

Other notices:

Parking:

It has come to our attention that some people are repeatedly parking over neighbours driveways at drop off and pick up times. Can we please ask you not to do this even if you are only stopping for a moment. Some neighbours need to get in and out of their driveways at the same time as school drop off and pick up and this is inconvenient for them. Please note that there are a couple of houses opposite the school on Victoria Rd that have 2 driveways and both of these need to be avoided. We also ask that parents do not park in the staff carpark. Finally, please do not let your children just jump out of the car and run across the road without adult supervision. The road can get very busy at times.

PTFA News

Next PTFA meeting **20 August** 7.30pm in the staffroom or via google meet

Disco - The disco was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Amy and Mai for their hard work putting it together.

Sausage sizzle lunch - There will be a sausage sizzle lunch on Friday 8 August. Order forms have been sent home and orders close 6 August.

Quiz Night - Friday 12 September Ticket sales are open. Get in early and get your tickets so you don't miss 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 primary or secondary levels. Eligibility criteria include a desire for Catholic education for their child, and financial benefit to their family. Students of any year level can 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 or posted to Pompallier Diocesan Centre, Private Bag 47904, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144.

See Renee or Vimi for an application form.

Timetable of events term 3

Friday 1 August	Peninsula Choral Festival 9.30 @ Belmont Primary
Tuesday 5 August	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15am Assembly 10.30am
Thursday 7 August	Kahui Ako Kapa Haka showcase at Rosmini No chess club
Friday 8 August	Sausage sizzle lunch (orders close 6/8)
Monday 11 August	Morning tea soccer sessions start
Tuesday 12 August	Photolife photos Playgroup 9.15am Music with Dominic
Wednesday 13 August	Music with Dominic
Thursday 14 August	Rippa rugby tournament No chess club
Friday 15 August	Whole school mass midday
Monday 18 August	Morning tea soccer session
Tuesday 19 August	Playgroup 9.15am Music with Dominic Save Day Rippa Assembly 10.30am
Wednesday 20 August	Music with Dominic PTFA meeting 7.30pm
Thursday 21 August	Chess club
Monday 25 August	Morning tea soccer session
Tuesday 26 August	Playgroup 9.15am Music with Dominic
Thursday 28 August	Open Day Chess club
Friday 29 August	BIS Enrolments close Daffodil Day
Sunday 31 August	School/Parish mass
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
Wednesday 10 September	Music with Dominic
Thursday 11 September	Chess club Learning expo
Friday 12 September	Cans for Christmas collection Quiz Night Whole school mass midday
Monday 15 September	Haka Up Performance
Tuesday 16 September	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15am Assembly 10.30am
Wednesday 17 September	Music with Dominic PTFA meeting 7.30pm
Thursday 18 September	Chess club
Friday 19 September	Term 3 ends.



St Leo's School

- 5 weekly sessions
- Starts: Mon 11th August
- Time: Morning tea
- Venue: School Field
- Cost: \$69 per child
\$34.50 per extra sibling

Register on enrolmy.com/msports-northshore



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the draw to win
a FREE week
at one of our
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Football holiday
programmes!!

Community Notices.

Harcourts Cooper & Co

SAVING HOPE FOUNDATION

Coffee & Cone for a Cause! 🍌🍦



Saturday, 2nd August | 10am - 12pm
Outside Harcourts Devonport

Join Jackie, Jane & Chelsea for coffee and ice cream!

All proceeds go to the Saving Hope Foundation.

We're also collecting donations:
Blankets • Pet Food • Flea Treatments

Come enjoy a treat & help pups in need!

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TANTRUMS:

What's Really Going On?

A Needs-Based Approach to Calm and Connection

<http://www.events.humanitix.com/parenting-workshop-tantrums>




Join Vanessa, parenting coach, behaviour specialist, and creator of transformative coaching programs for parents, as I guide you in understanding and responding to your child's tantrums using a needs-based approach:

- ★ Why tantrums aren't bad behaviour
- 🧠 What your child is really trying to tell you
- ✂️ Tools to stay calm, connect, and fully support your child through big feelings
- 💡 Learn how unmet needs—not "naughtiness"—drive emotional outbursts

Perfect for: Parents, carers, educators

📍 Devonport House 📅 13th August 7pm

[Click here or Scan QR for Bookings](#)

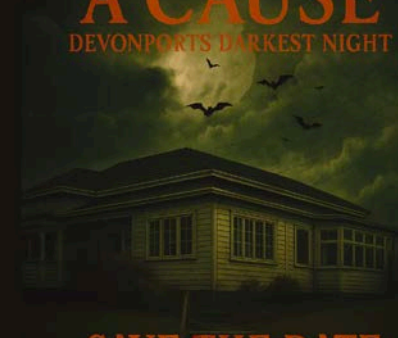


About Vanessa:
Vanessa is a passionate parenting coach and life and relationship coach. At the heart of her approach is a powerful shift: seeing yourself not as your child's manager, but as their leader. Someone who sets the emotional tone, holds boundaries with love, and leads with calm confidence. Whether it's tantrums, sibling conflict, or parental burnout, Vanessa helps caregivers move from overwhelm to clarity and connection.

Vanessa is a parenting coach with a background in psychology and a passion for helping families thrive. She specialises in needs-based parenting. Helping parents understand their child's behaviour through the lens of emotional needs rather than control. Her work is grounded in compassion, neuroscience, and real-life tools that actually work.

HAUNT FOR A CAUSE

DEVONPORT'S DARKEST NIGHT



SAVE THE DATE:
8TH & 9TH AUGUST
6-9PM BOTH NIGHTS

"ALONE AGAIN ? A weekend away to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce, or Widowhood on 5-7 September. The Beginning Experience is a non-profit organization that provides support for the grieving single again, and offers an

opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. The cost for 2 nights' accommodation, meals, and materials and follow up event is \$350 with EARLY BIRD cost \$325 if paid by 30 JULY. For further information please phone Karena, evenings on 021802352.

www.beginningexperience.org.nz

mulled wine (from 10am)

German Winter Market

SAUSAGES - PRETZEL - FOODCARTS - MUSIC
BOUNCY CASTLES - CHOCOLATE - STALLS
CRAFT GROTTO - SCHNITZEL - FACE PAINTING

Saturday
2 August
3-7pm

The Crossing Community Centre
30-44 Kaurilands Rd, Titirangi

enquiries: 021 403 792
German Winter Market

Free entrance

Spark

your child's love of science with a Little Scientists birthday party!

Goo
Acids & bases
Dry ice



1 hour of hands on experiments that each child completes. Fizzing, popping and foaming fun!

www.littlescientists.co.nz

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(09) 445 0528
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.

Hon Simon Watts MP for North Shore

simon.watts@parliament.govt.nz

SimonWattsMP



Authorised by Hon Simon Watts, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



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