



St Leo's Catholic Primary School

Compassion | Hospitality | Respect | Service | Social Justice

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23 October 2025

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

This year marks 175 years of Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa, Sisters of Mercy in New Zealand. Our Mercy story is a truly special one. The first Sisters, led by Mother Cecilia Maher, journeyed all the way from Ireland to New Zealand, learning te reo Māori on their voyage. Their journey took more than a month, and many knew they would never return home again; in fact, they even held their funerals before they left Ireland.

We celebrate and give thanks for 175 years of Mercy involvement in education, health, social justice, environmental care, outreach, and hospice work across Aotearoa. St Leo's is proud to be a Mercy school, continuing the legacy of compassion, courage, and service that began all those years ago.



Mercy

is the force that reawakens us to
new life and instills in us the courage
to look to the future with **Hope**.

Ngā mihi nui te ra Atawhai
Mercy Day Blessings

Centred in God's Mercy,
walking in HOPE with Earth and Her Peoples
Chapter 2024 - Vision



Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa
Sisters of Mercy New Zealand
PO Box 12731 Thorndon, Wellington 6144
15 Guildford Tce, Wellington 6011.

Māori Collaborative Achievement Hui

This week, Ruth and I had the privilege of attending the Māori Collaborative Achievement Hui in Kirikiriroa (Hamilton). It was an excellent opportunity to deepen our understanding of Māori leadership, art, and storytelling. We explored the significance of Ngā Pou Aarohirohi – The Glistening Poles, created by artist Brett Graham, which represent unity, kaitiakitanga (guardianship), and the connection between land, water, and people.

The hui highlighted the importance of kotahitanga (working together in good faith) and the transition of responsibility and leadership through generations. We also learned about the Tainui history, local whakataukī drawn from the environment, and the symbolic relationship between father and son in waka leadership. It was an inspiring experience that reinforced the value of partnership, care, and cultural understanding in our learning communities.

We also visited Mangatoatoa Pā. The journey continued with visits to significant historical and cultural sites, including Alexandra Redoubt in Pirongia and the profoundly moving sites of Rangiaowhia. It was a day of reflection, learning, and appreciation for the wisdom and resilience within Te Ao Māori.

St Francis and St Leo's Community Survey

We'd love to hear from you! Our community is made up of our Parish, St Francis de Sales and All Souls' Church, and our School, St Leo's Catholic School. St Leo's was founded by our Parish in 1897 so that our tamariki could grow and learn in the light of Catholic values and teachings.

To strengthen our connections, we've created a short community survey to help us reconnect and learn about who we are, where we live, and the fantastic gifts, skills, and strengths we each bring. By sharing a little about yourself and your whānau, you'll help us understand how our community is already contributing and how we can come together to plan future opportunities that foster belonging, participation, and shared purpose.

We know many of you are already involved in wonderful parish and school initiatives. This survey will help us create a clearer picture of all the great things happening and how we can collaborate even more effectively.

We'd also love to stay in touch, so please share your preferred contact details. Everything you share will remain confidential. You don't have to answer every question, and completing the survey does not commit you to any future activity — it simply helps us ensure that what we plan reflects who we are, what we value, and how we can continue to grow together as a faith community.

Together, let's celebrate our shared history and strengthen the spirit of connection that makes our St Leo's and Parish whānau so special. Link for the survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oEQ9mUsRoL-lTu90jjBZuC_g3Syzr39Q85jhaGW9CZo/edit?ts=68f1730b

God Bless,

Vimi Chandra

Other notices:

Term 4 fees

Term 4 fees invoices were sent out last week. Please ensure all attendance dues are paid by the end of the term.

Summer uniform

All children will need to be in summer uniform after Labour weekend. In term 4 hats must be worn at morning tea and lunch time. We have hats for sale at the school for \$15 each. See Renee. No hat, no play. Summer uniform is girls; culottes and light blue top or summer tunic (this term only new uniform from 2026), boys: shorts and short sleeved shirt. Sandals are the required footwear (no crocs)

Santa Parade

This will take place on Sunday, 11 December, at 11 am (meeting time: 10:30 am). We will be entering a float and would like children dressed as shepherds, angels, Mary, and Joseph to participate. If your child would like to join our float, please let Renee know. At the moment we have no children to take part.

PTFA News

Next PTFA meeting **Wednesday 5th November** 6.30 pm onwards in the staffroom. This is a working bee meeting to do last minute fair jobs

Wine sales

We will be sending home order forms for wine sales next week. Good quality wines at good prices. Stock up for Christmas and support the school as we get a percentage of sales.

School Fair - Sunday 16 November

Fair jobs list will be sent out tomorrow, Friday indicating what stall you are on and what you need for your stall. Please contact Renee, Gin or Amy if you have any questions.

Thank you to the following local businesses who are supporting our school fair:

Trish & Tracey Barfoot & Thompson
Toshiba
Avenue Advice
Auckland Zoo
Farro
Inflatable World
Northern Rocks
Studio Pilates
Wild Wheat
Paradox Books
Hammer Hardware
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Anna Stretton
North Shore United Soccer Club
Victoria Superette
Peter Wolkamp Resident Builder
North Shore United Football Club

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Asahi
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MOTAT
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Soulsprite
Wero White Water Park
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Ugly's
Skin Sense
Belmont Pharmacy
Hauraki Social Club
Bloom Pretzels
Calimero
The Vic
Devonport Drycleaners
Dulcies
Hirepool



Devonport

TOSHIBA

AVENUE
ADVICE

Timetable of events term 4

Friday 24 October	Large Chocolate bar donation for the fair Whole school mass midday
Monday 27 October	Labour Day
Tuesday 28 October	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15 am Assembly 10.30 am
Wednesday 29 October	Music with Dominic BOT meeting 6.30 pm
Thursday 30 October	Chess club
Friday 31 October	Luxury hamper item donation for the fair Rosmini & Carmel orientation day
Tuesday 4 November	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15 am
Wednesday 5 November	Music with Dominic PTFA meeting/working bee 6.30pm onwards
Thursday 6 November	Athletics Day
Friday 7 November	Packet/s of mini Chocolate bars donation for the school fair Whole school mass
Saturday 8 November	Sculpture on the Shore starts
Monday 10 November	Save Day Athletics
Tuesday 11 November	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15 am Assembly 10.30 am Year 3 - 6 to Sculpture on the Shore 11.45 - 2.15
Wednesday 12 November	Music with Dominic
Thursday 13 November	Year 6 Waterwise starts Chess club 1pm
Friday 14 November	Drop off sweets and preserves for the fair Mufti day - no money required
Saturday 15 November	Drop off cakes, etc for the fair 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday 16 November	School Fair
Tuesday 18 November	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15 am
Wednesday 19 November	Music with Dominic

Thursday 20 November	Year 6 Waterwise Positive Puberty year 6 parent meeting
Friday 21 November	School to mass
Tuesday 25 November	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15 am Year 6 Positive Puberty lessons Year 3 & 4 Zoo trip
Wednesday 26 November	Music with Dominic
Thursday 27 November	Year 6 Waterwise Chess club
Friday 28 November	Open Day
Monday 1 December	Year 6 to Rainbow's End
Tuesday 2 December	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15 am
Wednesday 3 December	Music with Dominic BOT meeting
Thursday 4 December	Peninsula Athletics
Friday 5 December	Save Day Peninsula Athletics Family picnic (please note date change)
Tuesday 9 December	Music with Dominic Playgroup 9.15 am Assembly 10.30 am Parent helpers morning tea 11 am
Wednesday 10 December	Music with Dominic Year 6 Leavers Dinner 5.30pm
Thursday 11 December	Christmas Show 10 am
Friday 12 December	Fun Day
Tuesday 16 December	Year 6 Leavers Mass 10 am School finishes midday

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Come and
have a look at
St Leo's
display



Twilight Christmas by the Lake
Carols & Markets

Friday, 14 November
4:30 - 8:30pm Carmel College
108 Shakespeare Road, Milford

Roast Lamb Dinner
<https://shop.carmel.school.nz/MonitorOnline>

Community Notices



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HALLOWEEN TRAIL
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\$2 Entry

Saturday 1st November
4.00pm - 7.00pm

SKYLINE MEDIA



"The JETS run series commences on Weds Oct 22nd and will continue every Weds until Dec 10th with a choice of 3km, 5km & occasional 10km routes along the Devonport waterfront. Registration is from 5.45pm every Weds for a 6pm start from the Torpedo Bay Navy Museum. Entry fees are \$7 including a post-race drink and both place getter & spot prizes. Further info from paulcornish@xtra.co.nz or 0274 379 423".

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ONLINE, AT HOME, LOCAL VENUE
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BUILDING A NEW HOBBY
DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE & SKILLS
- HIGH & COMPLEX NEEDS SUPPORT

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17-19 Teed Street
Newmarket
www.enchantedchristmas.co.nz

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31 OCT

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NSRFC RUGBY CLUB
FROM 6.30PM

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HON SIMON WATTS

MP for North Shore

northshore@parliament.govt.nz

f @simonwattsm



Authorised by Hon S Watts, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



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a local Nutritionist, Health Coach, and mum who gets the juggle.

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PH 027 345 0701

E arna.howard@outlook.com

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