



16 March 2018

Dear Parents,

Just a reminder about the **School Mass at 9am on Sunday 8 April**. We would love to have all children and parents there to celebrate Mass as a school family.

Afterwards there will be refreshments in the hall for the parents and the house leaders will be organising games for the younger children.

Come along and meet your friends and have some fun.

**Mrs Buchanan:**

Unfortunately, Fiona has learned that she has to have a full knee replacement in a few weeks. Naturally, this will take some time to heal. We all wish Fiona a successful surgery and a speedy recovery.

**Reporting to parents:**

Up until recently when National Standards were abolished parents received written progress reports at 6 months, 1 year, 18 months, 2 years and three years after their child had started school.

We will continue this for this term with the difference being that the progress report will be an oral report. Mrs Williams, Miss Dawbin and Mrs Lattimer will be emailing parents soon with more information about these oral reports,

**Policy Review**

The Home Learning Policy is coming up for review. If you would like to have a look at this go to [www.schooldocs.co.nz](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz) username: stleos, password: mercy.

**Beach Clean Up Day**

The Year 5 & 6 children will be taking part in the beach clean up day on Tuesday 27th March at Torpedo Bay Beach. Low tide is at 10.16am so they will leave school at 9.30 to walk down. They are expected to be back at school around 11am. We will need some parents to accompany us so if you are able to help please let Renee know.

**University of Canterbury exams**

The University of Canterbury offers children the opportunity to participate in the Great Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science competitions. These are open to all year 5 & 6 students. These are online tests and take place in the last 3 weeks of term two. Please see Renee if you would like more details or for a registration form.

**Battle of the Schools**

Well done to the Year 6 team that represented St Leo's at the Belmont Primary Battle of the Schools. They placed 7th out of 15 teams.



## **Celebration Book**

Congratulations to Luke Haggitt who got 2nd in the 60m sprint Club Champs at Takapuna Athletics Club on Wednesday night last week. His time was just over 10 seconds. He was presented with a blue ribbon.

Renee will be holding the Celebration Book this year so please see her with any achievements.

## **Waterwise**

Auckland Council has recently changed the way in which it monitors conditions which lead to a green, orange or red grading for 'swimability' at local beaches. Our understanding is that the new system is sensitive to forecasts of rain rather than just actual rainfall. This has led to an increase in the number of orange and red alerts.

For each Waterwise session, our trained instructors visit Narrow Neck Beach and make an assessment of conditions based on information on the Auckland Council website; actual weather conditions including wind speed and direction; the level and direction of the tide and the state of the beach. Taking all of this information into account means that sometimes they may decide to go ahead with Waterwise even when a red or orange alert is shown on the council website.

If you are not happy for your child to participate in Waterwise on a particular day, please inform the school office BEFORE 8.45am.

## **Volvo Ocean racing:**

You may remember that our senior students were invited to the Viaduct recently to take part in boating activities related to the Volvo Ocean race.

Sam Murphy put his thoughts down on paper for our newsletter:

### *Volvo Ocean Race Trip By Sam Murphy*

*Wandering along through the viaduct, heading to the jetty, we had arrived as a blue wave. After being advised to stick our life jackets on, my classmates and I hopped on the boat. Soon we picked up speed and were off. The wave felt like we were in a plane banking to turn through the clouds. The boat tipped right and I thought we were going to capsize. It uprighted itself and another boat was trailing behind us.*

*Nathan said "We are going to tack so be ready!"*

*As Nathan budged the rudder stick, the boat leaned to the left tightly. It seemed like it had flipped 90 degrees and I was thinking once again that we were going to capsize. But this time for sure. However... we didn't and Nathan hauled the rudder stick back inline with the mast and the boat steadied. We were sailing calmly, at least that's what I thought.*

*Suddenly water shot into my face. I glanced to my left, nothing. To my right? Still nothing. I checked back and there was a boat right behind us! It's crew (my classmates) were spraying water at us. Nathan got our revenge by returning their spray. They got soaked. Unlike us!*

*We turned again to the left, I still wasn't comfortable because it felt like we were going to sink! I was ready for dry land.*



## PTFA News

### AGM and role changes

The PTFA are gearing up for the AGM on Tuesday 10 April at 7.30pm in the staff room. All parents and teachers welcome. Our new "PTFA year" starts in April and we seek volunteers for the following roles. If you are interested, please contact [charlotte.goosen@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.goosen@gmail.com) and we can give you more details about the different roles...

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Class Reps - two per class

The charter stipulates that the PTFA has two reps per class so we are seeking two volunteers per class. Class reps attend one PTFA meeting per month (you could share this role and do month about with the other class rep), help communicate upcoming events and contribute to fundraisers where possible. We also encourage class reps to organise class social events and initiatives. If you are interested in being a class rep, please touch base with us by Thurs 30 March. After Easter we will be shoulder tapping people for the above roles in order to fill them at our AGM.

### Social Evenings

The PTFA are hosting a couple of social evenings in Devonport...

- **Dads' Drinks on Wednesday 21 March, 6-8pm** at Tiny Triumphs. Just turn up for a drink and to meet and mingle with other dads

- **Mums' Catch Up Wednesday 4 April, 6-8pm**, location TBC. Please let us know if you can make it and we will either book a large table for dinner, or meet for a casual drink. RSVP to [charlotte.goosen@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.goosen@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.



### Family Mass and Children's Event

This terms Family mass will be on Sunday 8th April, following the mass we have House Games at the school and a shared morning tea. Come join the fun as we enjoy some friendly team games designed by our House Leaders in the quest to be the Top House.

### Heavenly High tea

This year we will be having our Heavenly High Tea on Sunday 6th May, 2.30pm-5.30pm. More details to follow soon!





## Community Notices

**Conscious Kids Devonport** offers 100% nature based, free play school holiday programmes at Fort Takapuna for kids aged 5-12. 9am-4pm, \$60 per day, Book now at [www.consciouskids.co.nz](http://www.consciouskids.co.nz)

**Ann Langis**

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OUR COMMUNITY CONTACTS



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If you want to be one of the community contacts, please contact Newsletters Unlimited, Ph/Fax: 09 817 3867, or Email: [newsletters@xtra.co.nz](mailto:newsletters@xtra.co.nz)