

St. Leo's Catholic School



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14 February 2019

Dear Parents,

Today is Valentine's Day and although it has become very much a commercial and secular occasion, there was a St Valentine who was a 3rd Century Roman Saint. I found this beautiful prayer from 'Catholic online' which I share with you on this Valentine's day.

*I said a Valentine prayer for you and asked the Lord above
To fill your heart and bless your soul with the precious gift of love.*

*I prayed for love from family and from every cherished friend
Then I asked the Lord to give you His love that knows no end.*

We have been very lucky to be enjoying settled warm weather and it is great to see the children outside making the most of the sunshine. It is timely for me to remind you that all children need their sun-hats each day or they cannot play outside and need to stay in the shade. The official hat is a **blue bucket hat**, available from The Warehouse or Postie Plus. I have noticed a large number of children not wearing the correct hat. We have a beautiful school uniform and I ask that the children take pride in it by wearing the correct hat.



Meet the Teacher / Family picnic

Tomorrow, 15 February, we will have our meet the teacher/family picnic evening. At 5pm, parents are welcome to join the teachers in St Catherine's for the senior students and in St Clare's for the junior students. The teachers will talk about expectations and routines for their classes and will be available to answer questions you may have.

The children will stay in the playground area while the teachers are talking to the parents. I will be in the playground to supervise the children while this is happening.

Once the meetings are finished, families are welcome to share a picnic under the trees and have a chance to mix and mingle. The teachers will join everyone for a while too. The emphasis is on a relaxed family atmosphere at the beginning of the year.

Later in the term we will have a formal parent/teacher conference day.

So bring along a picnic dinner and come and join us tomorrow afternoon - the weather forecast is great!



New pupils

We have 2 short term Chinese international students at school at the moment, Carl in St Clare's and Andi in St Dominic's.

Swimming sports

We had a wonderful day for our swimming sports. The venue was perfect for our small school and the feedback we received from parents and teachers was that they would like this to become an annual event. We will look at booking the venue again in the second week of 2020. A group of our children will represent our school at the Peninsula interschool swimming on 19 March.



Father Larry

Father Larry will be coming to the school next week, on Tuesday 19 February for an official farewell from St Leo's. It will be a fairly low key farewell with the children singing a couple of songs and presenting him with a small gift from us. Families are welcome to join us in the hall at 11.30.

Have a go - Golf and Tennis Days

Next Tuesday, 19 February the children will be involved in a golf day in the first block of school. Then on Monday 25 and 27 February, they will take part in a tennis day. Both these days are run by local clubs in the area.

Dedication Mass

Every year the Catholic Schools in the Auckland Diocese get together for a special Mass celebration together. This year the dedication Mass will be in the evening of the Tuesday 26 February.

Waterwise

St Catherine will be beginning their waterwise programme from next Thursday. Hopefully the warm weather will continue for them to enjoy their sessions.

PTFA

In a couple of weeks, on **Wednesday 6 March at 7pm**, we will have our first PTFA meeting of the year. We have a number of long term members who are no longer able to stay on the PTFA this year, so we are keen to recruit new members.

Kapa Haka

Sadly our Kapa Haka tutor, Patrick, is moving out of Auckland and will no longer be working with our children. I am in the process of trying to find a replacement and if anyone has any contact with someone who may be willing to train our very keen Kapa Haka group, I would be very keen to get in touch with them.

Cultural Festival



Later in the year we would like to have a cultural festival where the children perform cultural dances and share cultural foods. We have a large range of different cultures within our school and I am hoping that there are some parents who will be willing to teach small groups of our children a dance from their culture. The North Shore Catholic School cluster are also having a festival in Term 2 and I would love our children to be able to participate. If you are able to help, please pop in and find out more or email me at principal@stleos.school.nz

New Website

Our new website is almost complete and we should be able to roll it out later this term. One of the key features will be e-news blogs from each class which will allow you to have up to date examples of what the classes are doing. The children will also be able to share some of their work with families.

Nga mihi nui and kind wishes,
Maureen Harris

School fees

Your invoice for school fees was sent out earlier this term.

You may pay the whole amount upfront, by term or by monthly, weekly or fortnightly automatic payments. If you are paying by automatic payment please note that compulsory fees will be paid off first and the non- compulsory ones thereafter. Please see the letter attached to your invoice for explanations of the fees. Also please note that Attendance Dues must be paid before the end of each term.

Tissues

We ask if each family could please provide a box of tissues for their child's class.

Road patrol training

A reminder that the Road Patrol refresher training will be taking place on February 18th at 9.30am. Any parent that has volunteered for road patrol and has not done the training is asked to attend this training.

Parish Sacramental Programme for 2019

The programme of formation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion begins with an introductory meeting for parents on Tuesday 12th March, 2019, at 7.00pm in the church. The minimum age level is Yr 4 and above. [Enrolment forms have been sent home.](#) For further info. ph Stephen Bell 021 060 8561

Lewis Eady Music

We offer group and individual lessons on keyboard, guitar, ukulele and piano.

If you would like your child to learn music at school but have **not yet enrolled**, please enrol online at www.lewiseady.co.nz *New enrolments will be scheduled for a mid-term start – the week commencing 14 March.*

Sports teams

Thank you to those parents who have returned all their forms.

We would just like to let you know that we do not have enough players to make up teams in the following areas. If you haven't noted it on the form but your child may be keen to play one (or more) of these sports please let me know.

Year 3/4 Flippa Ball (Water polo). Coach also needed.

Year 3/4 Basketball- manager needed

Year 3/4 and 5/6 hockey - a couple more players needed for each team.



<http://shoretoshore.co.nz/register/>

Entry prices start from \$10 for general and \$16 for timed.

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Due to the closure of the before school programme at the Devonport Methodist Centre SKIDS have agreed to take St Leo's pupils before school.

SKIDS is based on Mt Victoria in the Devonport School hall. The children will be walked to St Leo's by a SKIDS teacher.

For further information email devonport@skids.co.nz.

Community Notices

Kids Athletics Series

Dates: 19 Feb, 26 Feb, 5 Mar, 12 Mar, 19 Mar & 26 Mar 2019

Time: 4pm-6pm

Kids can have a go at a variety of athletic activities for free in a non-competitive environment including high jump, running races, shot put, agility games and more. For kids aged 5ish to 11ish. Six sessions held weekly starting Tuesday 19th of February, 4pm-6pm, at Vauxhall Sports Reserve (rugby club grounds), Devonport.

Organised by the [Devonport Peninsula Trust](http://www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz) (<http://www.devonportpeninsulatrust.nz>). Special thanks to the Devonport Takapuna Local Board for their support. For more info contact Maria or Carolyn ph: 445 9533 or email: maria@devonportpeninsulatrust.nz.

"The **JETS** run series continues on Weds 6th Feb through to Apr 3rd 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 \$6A/ \$5C including a post-race drink and both place getter & spot prizes. Further info from paulcornish@xtra.co.nz or 0274 379 423"

Sewing Classes

Learn to sew in a fun and relaxed environment. Sewing is an amazing creative outlet and such a fun, practical skill to have.

We have a range of after school sewing classes available. In these classes we work through various fun and creative projects, developing our skills as we go. Projects we have worked on in the past include: tote bags, aprons, pencil cases, toys, skirts and dresses!

Classes for adults and school holiday workshops are available too.



Email: hello@exhibit12.com



Bayswater, Auckland



22nd Lakeside Multicultural Festival 2019 FREE EVENT



Music and dancers from around the world (dancers, singing from all Auckland under one roof at the PumpHouse - Takapuna

Date: Sunday 17 March 2019

Time: 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Venue: PumpHouse

2a Manurewa Avenue,

Takapuna

Auckland 0622

Bring: Water & sun block



In case of rain the event will be inside the PumpHouse theatre / if sunny at the amphitheatre.

<http://www.aucklandmulticulturalsociety.org.nz>

Phone: 09-638 6771

Concerned about your household's plastic waste?

Worried about our warming climate? Wondering what you can do? You are invited to a free presentation on practical steps towards making positive household changes.

Date: Wednesday 27th February Time: 7.30pm. Place: Devonport Library

Presenter: Niccy Fraser, Zerowaster, with Jane Walters, Devonport Recycle Centre. See you there!

Kids Fitness classes. BOXING Club (cardio on bags), DANCE (fitness, hip-hop and lyrical), YOGALATES (flex and conditioning), TRX (strength). All classes emphasise confidence, self-esteem and body-awareness. **Kids Cooking School.** Training lil' chefs how to make 'good' food and why. Bake n' take, and Cook n' dine with chefs and nutritionists; school groups, fundraisers, family-classes and party packages and a **School after-school programme** with pick-up. **Free trial! Mention this ad.** www.soulsprite.co.nz E: info@soulsprite.co.nz

OUR COMMUNITY CONTACTS



Your local Devonport property people.

09 445 2000 | barfoot.co.nz

Ian Cunliffe 0800 248 521
Carol Wetzell 027 245 3392
Cathy Fiebig 021 383 149

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P. 4451072
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We strive to ensure that all our students have an enjoyable experience whilst learning to swim.

We can provide lessons for children from 6 months of age onwards.

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 www.slss.co.nz



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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