

LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

*Ko nga akonga o He Puna Karumata
He rangatira mo apopo*

Thursday 12 December 2024



Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou *Seek after learning for the sake of your wellbeing*



Unbelievably, this is our last full week of school for 2024 and this is our final newsletter for the year! As we countdown to Christmas, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and whanau so very much for all your support and help throughout another incredible year – we could not have done it without you! A special thank you to the families who will be finishing their association with Leeston School this year – all the very best for the future.

I want to acknowledge our wonderful staff who continue to work above and beyond to provide the very best educational programmes for our tamariki, our dedicated Whanau Friends and School Committee and our Board of Trustees – I feel very privileged to be leading such an amazing, kind, and caring school and to have it full of Leeston LEGENDS! I am so proud of you all!

I would like to wish you and your families all a wonderful festive season and a safe and happy holiday, and I look forward to welcoming you back to school when we begin the 2025 school year on Wednesday 29th of January.

Nga mihi nui
Lynda Taylor
Tumuaki

WELCOME TO LEESTON SCHOOL

Theo Van Wyk

STAFFING 2025

It is with much sadness that we farewell Mrs Shalfoon at the end of this year. Bronwyn has won a position as Learning Support Co-ordinator at West Rolleston School and will be starting there in the New Year. Mrs Shalfoon has been with our Kāhui Ako Cluster for the last five years as our Learning Support Co-ordinator, sharing the role between our three primary schools. Thank you Bronwyn for your knowledge, empathy and support of our learners, and we wish you all the very best in your new position.

We will also be farewelling Mrs Boon who will finish her term teaching our new entrant children. Thank you, Alison, for your support, nurture and encouragement for our youngest learners.

Our congratulations to Mrs Scott (aka Miss Lusty) who was married at Labour weekend. Mrs Scott will continue teaching in Room 13 next year. And Mrs Ley and Mrs Geal will continue to share the teaching in Room 12 in 2025.

UNVEILING OUR MAIHI CARVING





Earlier this week we held a very special ceremony to bless our Garden of Papatūānuku Maihi carving. Over the year, Mātua Wiremu has been carving this special piece which he started alongside a small group of tamariki. In the centre is Paptūānuku (Earth Mother) for whom our garden is named after. She is flanked by Ranginui (Sky Father) and their children – Tūmatauenga, Tāwhirmātea, Tāne-mahuta, Rongomātāne and Tangaroa. We are very blessed to have this beautiful maihi as an entrance to our Garden, bringing good energy and positive wairua to all those who come to enjoy this beautiful space. Our thanks to Mātua Wiremu for all the mahi that has gone into carving this.

HEALTH ALERTS AND ADVICE FROM HEALTH NEW ZEALAND | TE WHATU ORA

Pertussis (whooping cough) awareness and prevention. A pertussis (whooping cough) epidemic was declared across Aotearoa New Zealand on 22 November.

[Whooping cough epidemic declared across Aotearoa New Zealand – Health New Zealand](#)

Pertussis (also known as whooping cough) can be particularly severe, and sometimes fatal, for babies many of whom require hospital care. Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is encouraging those who are pregnant or have regular contact with young babies or preschool children to check they are up to date with pertussis vaccinations.

[Whooping cough \(pertussis\) vaccine – Health New Zealand](#)

SWIMMING POOL

Pool keys are available for purchase from the school office during school hours. No key sales will be available once school finishes for the term. Access to the pool outside of school hours is restricted to key holders only, at a cost of \$70. A \$20 bond will be refunded when the key is returned at the end of the swimming season.

STATIONERY GRANT

Through our stationery provider, Qizzle, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Rapid Relief Team (RRT). Since launching their Stationery Program in 2020, Qizzle and RRT have shown unwavering dedication to supporting the education of young New Zealanders. They recognize the vital role school stationery and art supplies play in fostering students' learning experiences.

A heartfelt thank you to Qizzle and RRT for their generosity and commitment!

ECO WARRIOR NEWS

On the 4th of December Leeston School joined a Zoom call with members of Selwyn Council, Enviroschools, Ecan, University of Canterbury, and other primary schools connected to the Waikirikiri (Selwyn River).

We discussed our findings from the Bug Bag project which was designed to monitor the macroinvertebrate population in the Waikirikiri (Selwyn River).

The bugs in the river indicate the water quality through their sensitivity to pollution. The bugs are categorised as green (pollution sensitive), yellow (moderate tolerance), and red (tolerant of pollution). We were hoping to find green bugs but only found yellow and red bugs.

Through listening to other schools discuss their findings, we learned that schools closer to the source of Waikirikiri found more green bugs, indicating that the river is much less polluted further upstream.

We would love to return to Coes Ford in 2025 and complete further monitoring of the bugs and water quality!



LEESTON LEGENDS ASSEMBLY DRAW

Willow Room 5	Racia Room	William Room 13
Tilly Room 4	Luka Room 8	Harry Room 14

Waiwhio Selwyn Heritage Park Visit

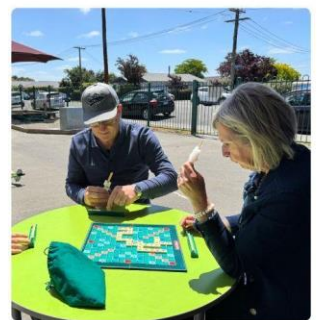




Waiwhio Grandparents and Special People Afternoon







MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE WFS!

This year, the Whānau, Friends, and School Committee have outdone themselves by raising just under \$40,000 for our children! You might be thinking, "That's a lot of sausage sizzles!" But thanks to our hardworking committee team, we held a variety of events that contributed to this impressive total. These included the school fair, Mother's Day event, Father's Day/Special Person breakfast, discos, and of course, our House and Garden Tour, which alone raised a whopping \$23,109.27!

We couldn't have achieved this without the incredible support from everyone who sponsored us this year. We know local businesses are often asked to support the community, and we truly appreciate every contribution, from accounting services to scones. So, a massive THANK YOU too all!


Beyond funding items for the school, our committee loves contributing to the heart of the school by organizing events that not only raise money but also bring families and communities together. It's heartwarming to see children thoughtfully choosing gifts for their mums and enjoying breakfast with their dads or special family members before school. These moments truly fill our buckets!

Every year, the WFS funds qualified swimming instructors to teach our tamariki in the pool, which we believe is fantastic for our young ones. This year, we, along with the School board and teachers, have the wonderful challenge of deciding how to allocate the remaining funds, so watch this space!!

Thank you very much to each and every committee member who has given up their time to create awesome experiences for our community and also raise a lot of money for the school but a big special thanks to Bek, our president, April our secretary and Genevieve our treasurer who all put in so much time and effort to make all our events run smoothly!

We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the WFS Committee!!

COMMUNITY dental service



Tips for Healthy Teeth

- Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste
- Choose healthy snacks,
- Choose water or milk first,
- Have regular dental check-ups

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

The Community Dental Service will be closed for the upcoming 2024-25 Christmas & New Year period:

Closed from: Tuesday 24th December 2024
Reopen: Monday 6th January 2025

Four of our community dental clinics will be open during the January School Holiday period:

Burnside (96a Memorial Avenue)
Hillmorton (80-82 Sylvan Street)
Aranui (240 Breezes Road)
Timaru (18 Woolcombe Street)

If your child is experiencing any dental pain/discomfort, you can call us on 0800 846 983 and/or email: commdental@cdhb.health.nz and one of our clinicians will contact you.

Whole school Celebration - WATER PLAY AFTERNOON



Whole school Celebration - ACTIVITIES IN THE LIBRARY



DATES TO REMEMBER

13	DEC, FRI	Waiwhio Xmas Parties
16	DEC, MON	Final Assembly = 6pm Ellesmere College Hall
17	DEC, TUE	Last Day of Term - 12 noon finish
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28	JAN, TUE	TOD
29	JAN, WED	Term 1 Commences

Please refer to our website for further information

COMMUNITY NOTICES

HELLO BUSY BUMBLES WHĀNAU

Busy Bumbles will be offering an Early Finish programme at Leeston School, which finishes at 12 noon on their last day for 2024, Tuesday 17th December. Numbers will be limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

You can secure your child's spot in a super-fun Early Finish session by booking in our Enrolmy portal here:

<https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25early%20finish%25>

The Christmas Holiday Programmes at our various venues can be viewed and booked here:

<https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25christmas%25>

The January Holiday Programmes at our various venues can be viewed and booked here:

<https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25january%25>

Our fun-filled before and after school programme runs from 7-8.30am and 3-6pm daily during term time. We are based in the room adjacent to the hall, at Leeston School.

All bookings are done via the Enrolmy website. Click here to book into Leeston Before/After School Care:

<https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25leeston%25>

Check out this handy information sheet regarding the OSCAR Subsidy that is available to whānau.

Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) Subsidy is a payment which helps families with the costs of before and after school care for up to 20 hours per week, and school holiday programmes for up to 50 hours per week.

Quick Links - <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/oscar-subsidy.html>

Childcare Assistance Application Form - <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/.../childcare-and-oscar...>

Email Application Form to: Centralised_childcare_reviews@msd.govt.nz

<https://www.busybumbles.co.nz/Information/Subsidy-Information/> Any questions, email Busy Bumbles accounts@busybumbles.co.nz





Leeston Holiday Sessions

January 2025

Session 1 Tues 14th January	Session 2 Thurs 16th January	Session 3 Mon 20th January	Session 4 Wed 22nd January
Science Becoming a scientist and doing a range of different experiments	Sports & Circus Learn to juggle, play a range of games	All things Tech Mixture of Robots, Osmo, Minecraft, Xbox	Design 3-D printing, Game design, Painting, Badge's

- Where: Leeston A and P Showgrounds
- Time: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM (Pickup in between these time)
- Who: Children aged 5-12
- Cost:
8.30-3.00 pm session = \$45
8.30-5.30 pm session = \$55



SCAN ME

Want to enrol?
Email nathementerprises@gmail.com,
scan the QR, or
type bit.ly/NathEmJanHols (case sensitive) into your search bar
to get an enrolment form.

LOOKING FOR SOME HOLIDAY FUN?



HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES - JANUARY

- Mixed U10 - Monday 20th January -
Wednesday 22nd January 9-11am
- Mixed U13 - Monday 20th January -
Wednesday 22nd January 11 - 1pm
- Mixed U16 - Monday 20th January -
Wednesday 22nd January 2-4pm
- Girls Got Game - Wednesday 22nd
January Y2-5 9-11am, Y6-8 12-2pm

\$100

FREE

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER
VISIT: WWW.SELWYNHAWKS.CO.NZ



SELWYN HAWKS 3V3 TOURNAMENT SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY

- 3v3 Tournament
- 1-3pm U13
- 3-5pm U16
- Create a team, enter and
play in the tournament

