

LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

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

Thursday 29 May 2025



He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata *Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure*



Teachers from Leeston, Dunsandel, Southbridge and Ellesmere College (Year 7/8) came together last Friday for our teacher only day to learn more about the refreshed Mathematics and Statistics curriculum. This was the first of four Professional Learning Days offered by the Ministry of Education. It was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate and build a shared understanding of what is changing and why. We looked closely at the new structure, the learning phases, and the shift in language that hopefully helps make maths learning clearer and more connected. While it would be fair to say it was an exhausting day, we came away really enthused about how we can begin implementing these changes.

Congratulations to the 25 children who represented Leeston at the Cross Country Zone competition last week. We were incredibly proud of you all, with some fantastic results detailed later in this newsletter – tino pai rawa atu! A big thank you to Ms Davison for organising this event, to Bill Whelan, and all our parent helpers.

Next week we welcome Murray Overton and Michelle Irving, our evaluation partners from the Education Review Office, who will be visiting our school as part of our ongoing evaluation and improvement process. We are looking forward to sharing our learning journey and the wonderful progress our tamariki and staff are making.

Enjoy the long week-end!

Nga mihi nui
Lynda Taylor

WELCOME TO LEESTON SCHOOL

Blake Mercer and Isabella MacKenzie

ELLESMERE COLLEGE BUSES - No college controlled buses will be running on Friday 30th May due to College TOD.

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SCREEN TIME ON CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE, EDUCATIONAL ABILITY, AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONING FROM INFANCY TO AGE 8

- The Ministry of Social Development's report analyses data from over 6,000 children in New Zealand's *Growing Up in New Zealand* study to explore how screen exposure affects child development.
- The findings indicate that higher daily screen exposure between 9 months and 5 years of age is associated with less favourable outcomes at ages 5 and 8, including:
 - Lower language and educational abilities
 - Increased peer problems (as reported by parents)
- These results support existing national screen time guidelines and provide valuable insights for evidence-based policies that promote positive outcomes for children's health and development.
- While this report is two years old, it still serves as a timely reminder about the negative effects of excessive screen time on children.

CAREGIVER UPDATES

Every child should have brought home a 'Caregivers and Medical Details Update Sheet'. Please take a couple of minutes to check all details, amend if necessary and return to the school dropbox.



What to do if something is amiss with the lunches: Please tell your child to come to the office as soon as they notice a problem and advise the office staff as we are often able to sort out any wee mix ups immediately.



SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Issue 4 of the Scholastic Lucky Book Club is now available. Book online with the current issue number 4 – www.mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz. Orders close 3pm, Thursday 5th June. No late orders please.

PINK Shirt Day



Your support is helping create a kinder, more inclusive Aotearoa where everyone feels safe and unafraid to be themselves. Pink Shirt Day is so much more than just a day – it's a movement. And we're thrilled to report that because of your gift of kindness we have donated \$283.00 to Pink Shirt Day!

Zone Cross Country Results 2025

Placing	Year 6 Girls	Year 6 Boys	Year 5 Girls	Year 5 Boys	Year 4 Girls	Year 4 Boys
1st	D	Koby Kirk	S	Noah Rollo	S	S
2nd	Sera Luvenitoga	D	D	Lukas Weldon	Ava Wilson	Quinn Hunt
3rd	Isla Barraclough	S	S	Caio Almeida	S	Riley Long
4th	D	Brody Milne	Leeston	S	D	S
5th	Ava Borisi	Visori Vanavana	D	S	Grace Stuart	Gus O'Meara
6th	Summer Fearnley	S	D	Clark Hunt	D	Louka Turland
7th	Philippa Biddle	Blake Gullery	Inti Calle Mostrey	D	Arabella Hamilton	D
8th	Poppy Warren	D	D	Flynn Taylor	Evie Kerr	D

What a fantastic day and an outstanding set of results! A huge thank you to Bill Whelan for his excellent work as starter, to Kylie Borisi for her great support with the setup, to Mrs Ley, Mrs Julie and to all the wonderful parents who helped marshal or walked down with the teams. Your contributions made the day run smoothly and successfully.

We're incredibly proud of the entire Leeston team—your effort, enthusiasm, and commitment truly shone through. The results are a reflection of your hard work and determination. Well done, everyone!

Waiwhio Café

Hot chocolate \$2.00
Bring your own cup

Friday 30th May
8:30am - 9:00am

Room 7 & 8 Breakout Space

ECO WARRIORS WORKING HARD IN OUR SCHOOL GARDEN



From **Term 3, 2025**, Leeston School will be introducing **Cohort Entry** for all new entrant tamariki.

Cohort Entry is a system where children starting school for the first time (new entrants) begin in groups on specific dates throughout the term, rather than individually on or after their 5th birthday. This approach supports smoother transitions and stronger connections for both tamariki and their whānau.

This decision was made following consultation with our School Board, current school community, and contributing Early Learning Providers.

- Improved wellbeing and learning outcomes for tamariki
- More effective and structured transition processes
- Stronger relationships and communication between parents, whānau, staff, and Early Learning Providers
- Enhanced opportunities for tamariki to build friendships and feel settled by starting alongside peers

New 5-year-old students will start school on **one of two cohort entry points per term:**

- Monday 14th July
- Monday 18th August

- Monday 6th October
- Monday 10th November

Example: If your child turns 5 on 30th July, they would begin school on the second Term 3 entry date – Monday 18th August.

If a child is transferring from another school (i.e. they are already enrolled elsewhere), our Cohort Entry policy **does not apply**.



STORIES OF AUTUMN

**AMBITIOUS TINY SEEDS DROP UPON THE
MISTY MORNING DEW**

**UNIQUE HUES OF AMBER AND COPPER SLOWLY
EMERGE**

**TUMBLING LEAVES TWIRL FREELY IN THE
BITTER WIND**

UNWELCOME GALES TURN INTO FOUL RAIN

**MIGHTY TREES OBSERVE THE
PEACEFUL COUNTRYSIDE**

**NATURE ACCEPTS THE SEASONAL CHANGES
IN ITS OWN TIME**

Written by Connie Hooper



Food Truck *Saturday*
Leeston Consolidated School Courts
Saturday June 14th 2025 — 5-8pm

Participating vendors include:

- Screamin' Beans Mobile Coffee
- Sweet & Salty
- BANGKOK WOK
- WoodFiredNZ Pizzas and More
- PRETZEL BOX
- The Chippy
- Hungry Potato
- PEPE
- Lil' Orbits Canterbury
- BACON BROS BURGERS
- KUNG FU DUMPLINGS

Dogs MUST be on a leash in school grounds



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Over \$2 million Donated

For every 100L of bulk fuel you have delivered
 our school receives 50 cents!

Call 0800 99 99 89 to start supporting us today!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Refer to our website for further term updates

30 May	Whole School Assembly 11.30am
2 June	Kings Birthday - School Closed
3 June	PTA Meeting 7pm
6 June	Whanaungatanga
12 June	Newsletter
13 June	Whole School Assembly
14 June	PTA Food Truck evening
16 June	BOT Meeting 6pm
18 June	Canterbury Cross Country
20 June	Matariki - School Closed
24 June	Speech and Poetry Final
25 June	Matariki School Evening Celebrations
26 June	Newsletter Waitatari Incentive Day
27 June	Whole School Assembly Term 2 finishes at 3pm
14 July	Term 3 Commences
15 July	PTA Meeting 7pm
17 July	Newsletter Waiwhio Camp Helpers meeting 3.30pm or 6pm in Room 8
18 July	Whole School Assembly 11.30am
29 July	Cricket for Yr 0 - Year 4 Learning Conferences 2pm - 7pm
30 July	Learning Conferences 2pm - 7pm
31 July	Newsletter Friendly games Leeston vs Southbridge at Leeston
1 August	Whole School Assembly 11.30am
4 August	Parent evening Ideal 6pm BOT Meeting



ELLESMERE COLLEGE TE KĀRETI O WAIHORA

HOMESTAY FAMILIES *Needed*

Have you ever considered hosting an
international student?

WE HAVE STUDENTS ARRIVING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

We are looking for outgoing, friendly, welcoming and open-minded families to host both our short and long term students.

Hosting Options:

- Short Term Hosting for 1 – 4 weeks up to 1 school term
- Long Term Hosting for 1 – 2 years
- Emergency Hosting temporarily whilst we sort a permanent homestay

Benefits of hosting:

- Payment of \$330 per week in 2025 (\$340 per week in 2026)
- Experience various cultures
- Make lifelong connections
- 24/7 support from the Ellesmere College International Department.



CONTACT: LAURA - HOMESTAY COORDINATOR
homestaycoordinator@ellesmere.school.nz



RHYTHM & DANCE STUDIO



RHYTHM AND DANCE STUDIO- LEESTON

We are back! Newly revamped

LEARN A NEW DANCE EVERY LESSON!!

No Exams. School Terms Only – Two Concert a year.

Dance to your own ability. Have fun!

Tiny Tots class \$6. 20min lessons

All other classes \$12per Class.40min lessons.

Classes are on Tuesday afternoons. Held at Ellesmere College

Rhythmanddancestudio@hotmail.com

Like us on FACEBOOK!!! Class details on our FACEBOOK Page

Emma Dunlop- 0284020191

Kia ora Busy Bumbles families,

Great news! Bookings are now open for our super-fun Term 2 2025 Holiday Programme!



All Holiday Programme overviews can also be found on our website or within the various venue booking pages on Enrolmy.

<https://www.busybumbles.co.nz/Holiday-Programmes/>
<https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25holiday%25>

The Holiday Programme can be booked in the Enrolmy portal, by clicking here
[**https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25holiday%25**](https://enrolmy.com/busy-bumbles#/name/%25holiday%25)

As with all BBs Holiday Programmes, numbers will be limited so please do book in as early as you can, to avoid disappointment!



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT FUN



Bring your loved ones together for a night of laughter, adventure, and heartwarming moments.

The Land Before Time

Follow Littlefoot and his friend Cera's journey as they travel to the legendary 'Great Valley' to be reunited with their own kind.

SATURDAY, 12 JULY, 2025 | STARTS AT 6:00PM



Bring your own cup

1 FREE POPCORN & HOT CHOCOLATE
WITH EVERY PAID TICKET

<https://eptrust.nz/ept>Southbridge Hall, Southbridge

Hi there

My name is Winnie, and I am currently looking for a carer to assist me with getting ready for school Monday to Friday, 7am – 8am (sometimes a little after if my taxi is late). I need someone who can help me to get up, get dressed and have breakfast. I live in Southbridge so someone who lives in the area would be fantastic.

There is also other hours available on Saturdays or Sundays and school holidays. Hours can be negotiated to suit both our schedules.

My family wants me to learn some new skills and I am working towards my EGL (Enabling Good Lives) goals so someone that has initiative, humour, and wants to spend time with me is important. Someone who will encourage me to get out of my comfort zone and away from devices. I need assistance with my day-to-day personal cares and someone who likes to get out and about and will encourage me to try new things.

It is important to us that we keep our house tidy, I need help with cooking my tea and personal cares. I am fully hoisted, but don't worry if you need training; my mum is very good at teaching you how to use it.

You will need to undergo a police check, ideally be able to drive and it would be preferred if you could provide references.

We have a variety of animals at home, so it's important that you are comfortable with dogs and any other animals that my mum might bring home.

If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please feel free to send my mum a message. We look forward to hearing from you and potentially welcoming you into our home.



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