

# LEESTON LEARNERS - Legends in the Making

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



Thursday 26 March 2026

## ***Ka ora te wai, Ka ora te whenua, Ka ora te tangata***

If the water is healthy, the land will be nourished, and the people will be provided for.



I enjoyed a wonderful day at Hanmer Springs accompanying the Senior School on camp a fortnight ago. It was wonderful to see our students demonstrating our Leeston Values in action – caring for themselves, supporting one another, and embracing the environment around them. A huge thank you to Dean Paton and Mackenzie Scott for their superb organisation and to the amazing senior school teaching team for their dedication and enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra mile to create such meaningful experiences for our tamariki. These opportunities don't just happen – they are the result of careful planning, energy, and a genuine commitment to our learners – thank you! Thank you too, to the amazing team of parent helpers – we could not do this without you, and I know your support was very much appreciated by the team.

Unbelievably, this will be the last formal newsletter before the end of the term! I wish you all a safe and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for learning on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of April.

Nga mihi nui  
Lynda Taylor

## WELCOME TO LEESTON SCHOOL

Ava Stewart

### BIKING TO SCHOOL

At Leeston School, we support students biking to school as a healthy and active way to travel. Working together, we can ensure our tamariki stay safe while enjoying the benefits of biking to school. To ensure everyone's safety, the following expectations apply.

- Children under 10 years old **should be accompanied by an adult** when riding to school.
- Families are asked to carefully consider whether their child has the skills, confidence, and road awareness to ride independently.
- Students are encouraged to ride on safer routes (e.g. quieter streets or footpaths where appropriate) and follow all road rules.
- For children under 10, Police strongly encourage riding on footpaths rather than on the road, where it is safer and away from traffic. While the law allows children to ride on footpaths, it also comes with the expectation that they:
  - Ride at a safe speed
  - Watch carefully for pedestrians
  - Give way to people walking

### **Safety Requirements**

- Helmets must be worn at all times when riding a bike.
- Students are to wear a high-visibility vest or back pack cover, especially during these darker mornings.
- Students must follow all road safety rules (e.g. stopping at crossings, signalling, riding predictably).
- When using footpaths, students must ride carefully and give way to pedestrians.
- Bikes must be walked once inside the school grounds.
- Bikes are to be parked in the designated bike areas.



## TEACHER ONLY DAYS NEXT TERM

We have two Ministry allocated teacher only days next term for professional development.

- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** (Maths)
- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** (Writing )

Please note that the school will be closed on these days, so families will need to make alternative arrangements for their children.

## FONTERRA MILK TANKER MASTERPIECE COMPETITION

This project invites students to construct their own version of a Fonterra tanker using whatever materials they like, big or small, paper, cardboard or Lego. Perhaps use an old scooter, skateboard or bike you have at home.....anything goes. Let your imagination run wild.

Judging Day is **Wednesday 22nd April** (Term 2), amazing prizes, followed by a whole school breakfast shout from Fonterra!

Let's get behind the Fonterra initiative, designed to encourage creativity while educating children about the journey of milk.

We are very grateful to Fonterra for their amazing, continued support of Leeston Primary School



# Milk Tanker Masterpiece Competition

Calling all aspiring engineers and creative minds! It's time to showcase your talent by designing and crafting your very own 3D Milk Tanker model. Whether you prefer cardboard, clay, LEGO bricks, or any other materials, let your imagination run wild and bring your unique Milk Tanker masterpiece to life!



<p><b>How to Enter:</b> Create your 3D Milk Tanker model using any materials you prefer. Drop off your masterpiece at Leeston School reception/office.</p> <p><b>Eligibility:</b> Open to all students.</p> <p><b>Submission Deadline:</b> All entries must be submitted by Tuesday 21st April 2026.</p> <p><b>Judging Date:</b> Wednesday 22nd April 2026.</p>	<p><b>Prizes:</b></p> <p><b>1st Prize:</b> Block Tanker Set + \$50 Voucher</p> <p><b>2nd Prize:</b> Block Tanker Set + \$30 Voucher</p> <p><b>3rd Prize:</b> Block Tanker Set + \$20 Voucher</p>
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# TRAIN LIKE A CRUSADER



Last Monday afternoon, a small group of our school superstars had the awesome opportunity to attend the “Train Like a Crusader” session through Southbridge Rugby Club. What an incredible afternoon it was—full of energy, inspiration, and the chance to meet some real rugby heroes. A truly memorable experience for everyone involved!

## LOTS OF SOCKS

Leeston School had a fantastic time last Friday, 20th March, celebrating World Down Syndrome Day by wearing odd socks!

A BIG thank you to our wonderful school community for your support — together we raised an amazing \$279.80 for Down Syndrome awareness.



# 2026 CORDE Selwyn Kids Triathlon



Ezra, Sienna and Savannah were fortunate to receive a complimentary Triathlon/Duathlon pass each from CORDE for the Selwyn Sports Trust event held on Sunday, 22 March. With a strong emphasis on participation and completion, the event brought together 650 like-minded athletes, and they were proud to be part of such a positive and inspiring experience.

## **SCHOOL POOL CLOSED**

The Swimming Pool will close for the season from Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. For pool key holders, \$20 will be refunded when the key is returned to the school office on or before Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (last day of term 1). No refunds will be given after that date. Many thanks for your patronage over the summer season and to our wonderful pool volunteers that have kept the pool open for us on the weekends and during the school holidays.

**SPORTS UPDATE**

**Canterbury Swimming**

Congratulations to Riley Long and Grace Stewart for representing the school at Canterbury Swimming.

This event was held at the new pool - Parakiore in Christchurch. Well done to both competitors because it is a big step up to swimming in the Canterbury event with lots of competitors and tough competition.

Riley had very consistent results with 13th overall in the freestyle, 15th backstroke and 17th breaststroke! Tino pai Riley! Grace also competed well in her freestyle event. Leeston Legends!



**Padder Tennis**

Next week (Tuesday) we will be taking the padder tennis teams to Dunsandel School to play against them. I will send out the permission slips today. Thank you to Miss Powell for organising the children to play and practise their skills for the game of padder tennis! I will need wonderful parents to help transporting the children to Dunsandel.

**GUITAR TUITION – TERM 2**

Mr Durney will be taking Guitar lessons in term 2 for Yr 4, 5 & 6 students. We have guitars available to hire if needed or you are welcome to bring your own. Lessons will take place at school during the day, and requests will be processed on a first come, first served basis. Please complete the slip and return to school before Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

There is a \$60.00 tuition charge per term and a \$20.00 hire fee for a guitar for the term. This will be charged onto your school account.

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**GUITAR MEMBERSHIP 2026**

Child's Name: Yr 4 / Yr 5 / Yr 6 (circle one)

He / she has their own guitar Yes / No

He / she will need to hire a guitar at \$20 per term Yes / No

I understand there is a \$60 tuition fee for the term and guitar hire (if required) will be added to my term account. Yes / No

Signed ..... (Pupil)

Signed ..... (Parent or Guardian)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

*Refer to our website for further term updates*

26 March	Newsletter Waitātari Poetry semi finals New families Pot Luck Dinner 5pm
27 March	Whole School Assembly 11.30am Waiwhio
31 March	Padder Tennis Ellesmere College Coaching with Waikekewai PTA Meeting 7pm
1 April	Whole School Speech and Poetry Competition
2 April	Waikekewai Camp Celebration Term 1 Finishes at 3pm
20 April	Term 2 Commences Cohort Entry BOT Meeting 6pm
21 April	Submit Milk Tanker Masterpiece to school
22 April	Milk Tanker Masterpiece Competition and Breakfast
23 April	Newsletter
24 April	Whole School Assembly
27 April	ANZAC Day - School Closed
30 April	School Cross Country
1 May	pp School Cross Country
4 May	Epro8 at school
5 May	Epro8 school Event PTA Meeting 7pm
7 May	Rugby Fun Day Newsletter
8 May	Whole School Assembly
11 May	BOT Meeting 6pm
12 May	Zone Cross Country
13 May	pp Zone Cross Country
15 May	TOD - School Closed
19 May	Lincoln Rotary Quiz
21 May	Newsletter
26 May	Cohort Entry

**It's the BUZZ You've Been Waiting For!**



Busy Bumbles has introduced new, simpler pricing, with savings of up to \$4 per session across all bookings, effective from the start of Term 2!

Enjoy flexible childcare that works around your whānau, with 24-hour cancellations, no charges on public holidays, and light snacks included at all After School sessions. Plus, WINZ subsidies may cover up to 100% of costs, depending on your circumstances.

For more information and bookings head to our BBs website. [www.busybumbles.co.nz](http://www.busybumbles.co.nz).

## New Lower Pricing from Term 2!

	OLD PRICING		NEW PRICING
	Permanent	Casual	<b>ONE Flexible Rate</b>
7:30am - 8:30am	\$15	\$17	<b>ONLY \$13</b>
7:00am - 8:30am	\$17.50	\$19.50	<b>ONLY \$16</b>
3:00pm - 4:00pm	\$15	\$17	<b>ONLY \$13</b>
3:00pm - 5:00pm	\$20.50	\$22.50	<b>ONLY \$19</b>
3:00pm - 6:00pm	\$26.50	\$28.50	<b>ONLY \$26</b>

[www.busybumbles.co.nz](http://www.busybumbles.co.nz)

# Ellesmere Easter Morning Fun

Sunday, 5 April - 8.00am - 9.00am

Anderson Square, Leeston

*Three competitions - something for everyone*

## McRae and Knowler Great Easter Egg Hunt

### Two Sections

- Hop Squad - under 10
- Egg Masters - 10+



- Complete your sheet
- Collect your marshmallow egg
- Enter the draw for a prize from First Class Accounts (1 for each section)



## Little Boutique Easter Hat or Crown Competition

### Prize for:

- Best Hat (Adult)
- Best Crown (Child)



LITTLE BOUTIQUE

- Complete at home
- Drop off to Little Boutique by Wed 1 April
- Clearly label - name, contact, age (child)
- Pick up at Anderson Square Sunday morning



## The Makery Easter Basket Competition

### Prize for:

- Best Adult Basket
- Best Child Basket



- Complete at home
- Bring with you to Anderson Square on the day



Coordinated and run by Ellesmere Promotions Trust

*Bringing community events to Ellesmere*

Thank you to our wonderful local sponsors!



Ellesmere Promotions Trust



<https://eptrust.nz/ept>





  
**Family  
works**



  
**Presbyterian  
Support**  
Upper South Island

## Tuning in to Teens™

### DATE, TIME & LOCATION\*

Tuesday, 17 March – 21 April  
6.30 to 9 pm (for 6 weeks)  
Senior Campus, 700 Selwyn Road  
(entry from Eileen Way)

### REGISTRATION

Please email  
[danielaj@psusi.org.nz](mailto:danielaj@psusi.org.nz)  
or call 027 648 6197 to register.

NB: Changes can occur depending  
on registration numbers.

\* *Spaces are limited, however, you can request to be placed on the waitlist*

### COURSE DETAILS

Gain practical tools to support  
the emotional wellbeing of young  
people aged 10–18.

- Understand what teenagers need as they grow and change
- Respond with empathy, acceptance, and confidence
- Strengthen relationships and support positive mental health

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# BEHAVIOUR *Series*



## ESCALATION & DE-ESCALATION

10th April 2026 (1/2 day)

*The science and evidence of behaviour*

What drives behaviour

The escalation cycle

Key principles for de-escalation

[Register Here:](#)



## PROACTIVE BEHAVIOUR STRATEGIES

16th April 2026 (1/2 day)

*Minimising escalation in the classroom*

Creating consistent regulation practices

Supporting social interactions and emotional responses

Lowering stress

Increasing reward

[Register Here:](#)



## RESPONSES THAT DE-ESCALATE

17th April 2026 (1/2 day)

*Responses that increase recovery and lower escalation repeating*

Our regulation

Body & sensory strategies

Problem identifiers and solvers

What has our attention?

[Register Here:](#)



9am - 1pm (with a 10 minute break)

Recorded, and includes:

Workbooks, Slides and Resources

**\$150 per person or \$400 for the series**

ARO  
TRAINING

## JOHN'S TENNIS COACHING

GROUP SESSIONS FOR BEGINNERS,  
INTERMEDIATE OR ADVANCED PLAYERS

PRIVATE/SEMI PRIVATE (ONE ON TWO)  
SESSIONS AVAILABLE



4 years - Adult  
Monday - Friday at a location near you

Qualified Coach

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