



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 11th August 2016

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Good luck to the large number of our senior students who will be representing the school at the annual Winter field Day next Tuesday. Hopefully the weather will clear and the venues will be dry enough for these tournaments to take place. A decision will be made on Tuesday morning at 8.00am and parents are welcome to ring after this time to find out this information. If required, the postponement date is the following Tuesday, the 23rd.

I am really looking forward to the Art Above the Bay exhibition with viewing times running from this Sunday afternoon (14th) to next Wednesday evening (17th). This promises to be a real highlight for 2016 and parents are asked to come along and put in their bids, both for the art work and the donated items that are on Trade Me.

Have a great week everyone!

Neil Robinson - Principal

PARENT SURVEY ON REPORTING

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this questionnaire. Your opinions are important to us and we will be studying these results as part of our review into what information parents want to have and how we can improve the way in which we present this to you.

Teachers have been looking at reports from other schools as part of this process and will now meet again to consider making changes with this parent feedback in mind.

The next part of this review will be to produce a new and improved school report and then run it by some parents to see what they think. If you would like to be part of this focus group, please contact the school office to register your name and we will contact you.

TACKLE RUGBY AND NESTLE SKILLS AND DRILLS

Winter sport is well underway here at Blockhouse Bay Primary School. This week our Tackle Rugby Team participated in the South West Zone Tournament. With the rain giving us a reprieve it was a day for running rugby. Bodies were put on the line, "up the guts" running was Montel Tupou-Matenga's choice of play and the "big don't argue" fend was used enthusiastically by Nathan Tafili. All players represented the school with pride and achieved a third place overall. Thank you to our parent help that assisted on the day.

On the same day Mr Richmond took a group of students to a Nestle Skills and Drill Fun afternoon. Students were able to meet Auckland Mitre10 Cup Players and their favourite Steven Luatua signed arms and even some foreheads! Again thank you to the parent help whom assisted on the day.



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EASTERN ZONES GYMNASTICS COMPETITION

On Monday Blockhouse Bay Primary sent a dedicated team of gymnasts to the Eastern Zones Gymnastics Competition held all the way out at Glen Innes. The competition was very fierce at this zone meeting, with our students competing against these schools for the very first time. Once again our students had a very strong performance overall, with Clayton Fell and Thomas Waller picking up individual placings too. Well done and congratulations to you all. A big thank you to the teacher in charge Hayley Davies, and parents who very generously offered to transport the students all the way across the other side of Auckland, and battle the traffic in the morning - Travis Brown, Vaughan Perry and Lou Bryant.

2016 NEW ZEALAND GIRLS INTERSCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Friday last week our school sent a well drilled and finely tuned team of Chess players to the New Zealand Girls Inter-school Chess Championships held at the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall. Our team, consisting of Ailis Su, Victoria Fan, Ariana Prelipceanu and Jannet Xu, had some tough matches against some of the other schools, but showed great perseverance and grit to eventually place second overall which was an awesome result! Not only that, but free pizza and sushi was put on by the tournament organisers for all the girls who were there too! A huge thank you to Bob Su, Frank Su and Miki Prelipceanu for helping with supervision and transport for this event.

ART EXHIBITION AND AUCTION - ART ABOVE THE BAY - Begins on Sunday

LAST DAY TO PURCHASE YOUR CHILD'S ART WORK - Friday 12th August - 3.00pm.

Hopefully, all families received a letter earlier in the week about this event. Please contact the school office if you wish to have a copy sent out to you.

Art Above the Bay provides us with a great opportunity to show our children that we value their Visual Art. Thank you to all parents in advance for entering into the spirit of this special event / fundraiser. All money raised by the Auction will be used to help fund the new hardcourt development that we have planned for the school. This will be a wonderful facility for us and the community to use for years to come. To help raise this money, parents have the first option to purchase their child's work by paying the \$10 'Buy Now' price. All pieces of art that are not purchased in this way, are up for bidding and can be purchased by other people. In these cases, a family might not end up with their child's work.

At the same time as this event, the PTA are running a Trade Me Auction as their Term 3 fundraiser. The items listed on Trade Me will be displayed in the foyer during the Art Auction.

Viewing times are as follows:

Sunday 14th August 2.00-5.00pm

Monday 15th August 2.00-5.00pm

Tuesday 16th August and Wednesday 17th August

Mornings - 8.15am-9.30am

Afternoons - 2.30pm-3.30pm

Evenings - 5.00pm-7.00pm

VALUABLE ITEMS AT SCHOOL

We have had a recent spate of issues when children have brought items to school only to find they have gone missing or have been interfered with. Whilst we have tried to recover the items and find out who has touched or taken them, this can become quite time consuming. We therefore ask that to reduce temptation, more valuable or treasured property items are left at home. This includes toys, collectable cards and more 'fancy' pens.

TERM THREE HIGHLIGHTS - Monday 25th July- Friday 23rd September (9 weeks)

- Friday 12th August - Rimu Assembly - 2pm
- Tuesday 16th August - Winter Field Day for selected children - netball, soccer & rugby (PD 23rd)
- Monday 15th August - ICAS Mathematics Exam
- Tuesday 16th August - Last day for survey responses
- Wednesday 24th August - Year 6's visit Blockhouse Bay Intermediate during the day
- Wednesday 24th August - BYOD Meeting for parents - 7.00pm in the PAC
- Thursday 25th August - Bake sale for year 0-2 children
- Friday 26th August - Rimu Assembly 2pm
- Wed 31st August & Thu 1st September - Bays Music Festival on these two evenings at Blockhouse Bay Intermediate
- Friday 2nd September - Whole School Assembly 2pm
- Wednesday 7th September - Matinee for Kowhai Dance Performance starting at 11.15am.
- Thursday 8th September - Champion of Champions Gymnastic Competition at Tri Star
- Thursday 8th September - Evening show for Kowhai Dance Performance - 6.45pm start
- Monday 12th September - Testing at our school for Year 6 children going to BBI
- Monday 12th September - Kauri Assembly 2pm
- Friday 16th September - Junior (Pohutukawa & Kowhai) assembly 2.15pm
- Friday 16th September - Disco -Juniors then Rimu/Kauri
- Friday 23rd September - Mufti Day/ Sausage sizzle
- Friday 23rd September - Rimu Assembly 2pm

BYOD AT BBPS

This week, we sent home a letter to parents of Year 4 and 5 children saying that we intend to have their children purchase or lease a Chromebook computer for use at school next year. This concept is known as 'Bring Your Own Device' and is used by many schools across New Zealand and the rest of the world to assist children with their learning.

Chromebooks cost around \$400 to buy and are also used for BYOD at Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School, so the children can take them for use there as well.

There is no doubt that parents will have lots of questions and concerns about BYOD and so we are having a meeting to discuss these at 7.00pm on Wednesday 24th August in the PAC. Please note that any parent can attend this meeting (not just those from Year 4 and 5).

NETBALL FUNDRAISING BAKE SALE

Thank you to families who supported the bake sale that was held this week. Our second bake sale will take place on **Thursday 25th August** and Pohutukawa and Kowhai students will have their chance purchase these goodies. The money raised from these days will go towards paying teams umpire fees and end of season prize giving expenses. Please make sure you bring a few coins to purchase some delicious home baking on these days. This will take place in the PAC foyer, and prices will be between \$2, \$1, or .50 cents for a single item. Thank you for your support!

PTA NEWS

TRADE ME AUCTION FUNDRAISER- only 3 days to go!!!

Check out our listings to grab yourself a bargain and help support our school fundraising. All profits go towards the new proposed all-weather sports court. Use the link- trade.me/bbps to go directly to our listings but **remember they won't be live until Sunday 14th** with items staggered to start between 8 and 9pm.

Huge thanks to all of the people and businesses who have donated items for our auction. These include Dean Greenwood Swim School, The Block Cafe, Michael Overend Photography, Toyworld, Circus in a Flash parties, Playball, Sharp, PBTech, MegR Cakes, Bubbaloos, Nicki Brown, Vijay Gurusamy and Monique Hope.

Next PTA meeting - Monday 29th August at 7:30pm in staffroom. Everyone Welcome

RAFFLE FOR STARSHIP HOSPITAL

Barfoot and Thomson are helping to raise funds for the Starship Hospital by selling Raffle Tickets. Tickets can be purchased at the school office for \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Prizes include Cash, Vouchers, 32" Television. Please help us to support a worthy cause.

PRINCIPALS SOAPBOX RE CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION ACT

Parents may have heard about the opposing views about the proposed changes to the Education Act that the Government and the two teachers unions the NZEI (Primary) and PPTA (Secondary) have. We will try and inform everyone about the proposed changes as this information comes to hand.

I think the main issue at the moment is that the Government are not providing information for educators and the wider public about the details of the proposed changes and how this might affect them. It appears that they wish to 'consult' with the sector in a very short time frame (by the end of this term) for changes that will come in at the beginning of 2020. What the unions wish to happen is that the details are worked through and then these are discussed with educators and the public, before definite decisions are made as there is clearly no rush.

The proposed ideas and ways of working are quite different to what we have currently and surely it makes sense to work it all out in a transparent and open way before making hard and fast decisions? To make such a fundamental change without consultation with people who work in schools seems to me to be both short-sighted and quite foolish. In my opinion, changes to education should not be made solely by Treasury or people who have little or no contact with schools.

There have been some meetings for principals in other parts of the country, but what I have heard is that this is more about them being told what is going to happen as opposed to, what do you think about this?

On first reading, the changes will mean less money for schools and bigger class sizes for most. The larger class sizes has been a goal for some time now and thankfully, parent voice managed to stop this happening when it was signalled a few years ago.

I will keep you all informed about progress with this matter as it comes to hand.

Let's talk about
real estate.



Get moving, get Michael.

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