



Thursday 11th February 2016

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Well the year has certainly begun with a hiss and a roar! The children have come back ready to work and there are some great things going on in the classrooms. Of course the launching of the new logo has inspired enthusiasm and excitement amongst the staff and children and we have been thrilled with the feedback that we have received so far.

I hope that we have now clearly communicated the transition arrangements regarding the school uniform and the new logo. In this newsletter, we have reprinted the notice that we sent home last week to ensure that everyone has this information. The key point for everyone is likely to be that the uniform that parents currently own will be able to be worn until the end of 2020. Please feel free to ask if you have any further questions.

School camps have begun for our Year 5/6 children with two classes (Rooms 2 and 7) away this week. The other senior classes do their three days away next week. These experiences are a great learning opportunity for the children and really help set up a positive class culture for the year.

Our senior block refurbishments are very nearly complete and all rooms should be up and running by early next week. Thank you to everyone for your patience whilst this project has been completed. I am sure that you will all appreciate your new learning environments.

Have a great week everyone.
Neil Robinson - Principal

WELCOME TO:

There have been several new additions to our teaching staff, chosen from a large number of suitable applicants at the end of 2015.

Elizabeth (Liz) Crisp is the school's new Associate Principal. We have two new classroom teachers, **Tiffany Ponniah** in Room 1 and **Atama Cassidy** in Room 14.

We have some trainee teachers also working at the school. Molly Makata has already started in Room 22 and Vaishali Tailor will begin her work in the Reception Room next week.

MEET THE TEACHERS EVENING

It was great to see so many of you at this event last Wednesday. We hope that you all enjoyed hearing about what we have planned for the year. If you were not able to come along and have not yet received the information booklet, please contact your child's teacher.

SWIMMING POOL

Swimming is one of the most important things that young children can learn to do and it is important that they have the opportunity to practice this skill as often as possible. Please ensure that your child(ren) bring their togs and towel (named) to school on all of their swimming days unless they have a medical reason not to swim. Pool keys are still available for hire for the summer from the school office at a cost of \$120 with \$50 of this being refunded when the key is returned at the end of March. We strongly recommend that all children wear swimming caps as they help maintain body heat and keep hair out of children's eyes. They also reduce the amount of hair going through the filter system which saves money.

Thank you so much to all of the parents who are looking after the pool over the holidays. We could not keep the pool open during the break if it was not for your help, so we really appreciate your dedication to the children in this way.

2016 TERM DATES

We like to publish these well in advance so that parents can organise their time away, outside of school terms. Please make a note of these for future reference.

Term One	Tuesday 2 nd February	- Friday 15 April.
Term Two	Monday 2 nd May	- Friday 8 th July
Term Three	Monday 25 July	- Friday 23 September
Term Four	Monday 10 th October	- Friday 16 th December

CAMP MEDICAL

If your child requires medication for the next two school camps (next week) could you please deliver this to the school office by tomorrow Friday 12th February.

Please ensure the medication is named and an action plan is put with it.

STATIONERY

All Back Orders will be completed by the end of next week. If you have not ordered stationery for your child you will need to collect a list from the school office.

Nga mihi o te tau hou! Greetings for the New Year!

For those not yet aware, we have a Whanau support Group that runs in the school made up of parents with Māori children attending BHB Primary. This is a relaxed group of people who support Māori initiatives within the school. We meet several times during the year. Our group provides an opportunity to share ideas and opinions about things Māori within the school and to support the school in their goals to provide Māori based learning experiences. We would love to have your input and presence in our group! Please email Jasmin Mckay to express interest jasminm@blockhousebay.school.nz

EASTER BREAK

One of the usual parts of the Education Act insists that schools are closed on Easter Tuesday. Usually, this falls in the holidays so is not noticed by anyone but this year it will be during term time. We understand that this can be inconvenient for parents, but we do not have any say in this matter. Please note in 2016, all schools will be closed for the Easter break on Friday 25th, Monday 28th **AND Tuesday 29th March**.

TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS *Tuesday 2nd February - Friday 15th April - 11 weeks*

Please make a note of the term highlights listed in this newsletter. More information about these events will be provided in February. Remember, you can always access these newsletters and the highlights by going to the school website www.blockhousebay.school.nz.

Mon 15th - Wed 17th	- Camp for Rooms 1, 6 and some of Room 4
Wed 17th - Fri 19th	- Camp for Rooms 3, 5 and some of Room 4
Wednesday 24 th February	- The Aunties "Teddy Bears Picnic" - Pohutukawa (Year 0/1)
Wed 16th March	- Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences 1.30-8.00p.m. (note - school closes at 12.45pm for this to happen)
Thurs 17th March	- Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences 3.30-6.00pm
Friday 25th March	- Good Friday. School Closed
Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th March	- Easter Break. School Closed.
Thursday 7th April	- T-Ball Field Day Year 3 / 4 (Postponement Date Thursday 13th April)

INTER-SCHOOL SWIMMING - Due to circumstances beyond our control, this event has been rescheduled and will now not take place until term two. We will keep you up to date with information as it comes to hand.

TERM ONE ASSEMBLIES

Parents and families are warmly invited to attend some or all of our syndicate assemblies.

Pre-schoolers are very welcome, but we do ask that parents take them outside if they become noisy as this distracts both the children performing and those in the audience. If you do bring a pre-schooler, please sit near to the doors so that this is easy to do

Friday 19 th February	- Rimu Syndicate
Monday 22 nd February	- Kauri Syndicate
Friday 26 th February	- Pohutukawa & Kowhai
Friday 4 th March	- Whole School
Monday 7 th March	- Kauri Syndicate
Friday 11 th March	- Pohutukawa & Kowhai
Friday 18 th March	- Rimu Syndicate
Monday 21 st March	- Kauri Syndicate
Thursday 24 th March	- Pohutukawa & Kowhai
Friday 1 st April	- Rimu Syndicate
Monday 4 th April	- Kauri Syndicate
Friday 8 th April	- Pohutukawa & Kowhai
Friday 15 th April	- Rimu Syndicate

LOST PROPERTY

There is a large amount of lost property outside the school office. Some of these items have been there since last year. If your child is missing some items of school uniform please do check the two containers.

A reminder that it is always a good idea to name every item of your child's school uniform.

PARENT NEEDING HELP

Some of you may have read in the Western Leader about one of our parents who has Cancer and who is trying to fund treatment for this. Heather Moore's employees have opened a 'Give a Little' page to help raise money for this treatment. If you are able to help in any way or to find more information, please go to givealittle.co.nz and search *helpheatherfight* to donate. I am sure that Heather would appreciate any donations. Thank you.

CHILDREN RIDING BIKES TO SCHOOL

The NZ police believe that children younger than Year 6 do not have the coordination and awareness that is necessary to ride a bike to school and therefore, our school policy reflects this. If your Year 6 child wishes to ride a bike to school, **THEY** need to write Mr Robinson a letter saying that they will obey the road rules and wear a helmet and shoes when they are riding. This can be an opportunity for parents to help their children to write an actual letter, which does not happen that often these days!

SCHOOL UNIFORM UPDATE

This note was sent home with the children last week, but we are just making sure that all parents received this information. :

- The current uniform with the 'old' logo is fine to be worn to school until the end of the 2020 school year.
- We have no plans to change the current uniform so the only change will be the swapping of the logos.
- We currently have in stock around \$20 000 of the 'old' uniform which will need to be sold before it is replaced by items with the new logo.
- As we run out of sizes with the old logo, we will replace them with those with the new logo.
- We estimate that this transition will take us until term 4 to complete. This will leave at least 4 years where uniforms with the 'old' logo can be worn to school.

If you have any questions or concerns over our uniform, please contact the school office.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

When a child becomes ill or gets injured we may need to contact parents urgently.

If you have moved house or changed any of your contact phone numbers please ensure you inform the school office of your new details. You can do this by emailing us at office@blockhousebay.school.nz or send a letter with your child to school with the new details.

AFTER SCHOOL CHINESE CLASSES

We have been approached by an outside company who are running Mandarin and Chinese Culture lessons in other schools in Auckland. They are wishing to start up classes here at Blockhouse Bay Primary School later in the term. They plan to run separate sessions for children aged 7-11 years old. These would be:

- One afternoon for children who have had little or no experience with Chinese language or culture.
- A different afternoon for children who are Chinese or who have had quite a bit of exposure to Chinese language and culture.

We are in discussions with the company who runs these lessons and will publish more information regarding times and costs in next week's newsletter.

We plan to have two information evenings where parents can come and learn more about these classes and both would start at 7.00pm.

- Thursday 25th February for Chinese people - this session will be delivered mostly in Mandarin
- Thursday 3rd March - this session will be delivered in English.

We would look to begin these classes in the week starting 14th March.

Here is some more information about the classes:

Zhi Ying Learning Chinese System is a learning Chinese method using pictures to represent Chinese characters and create a long lasting memory.

This has proved to be very successful in China. Children can learn up to 1800 Chinese words in a year.

Learning Chinese Ltd. was incorporated in 2012 and has obtained the exclusive right to teach Chinese using the Zhi Ying Learning Chinese System in New Zealand. Classes began in 2012 and have been well received by the Chinese community. Children have been able to learn between 500 to 1000 words within a year. We found that this method is most suitable for people with no Chinese to learn Chinese.

All of our staff are qualified teachers having graduated from teaching institutes in China with minimum three years teaching Chinese experience. Special training was provided to the teachers on Zhi Ying Learning Chinese System.

Our vision is to popularise Chinese language in New Zealand and to continue to teach the Chinese culture to second generation Chinese.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Boys & Girls Join the FUN . . . play FOOTBALL (soccer) with Bay Olympic Football Club!

Now taking REGISTRATIONS for 2016. Please visit www.bayolympic.co.nz for more information



Get moving, get Michael.

Michael Cassidy Residential Sales
027 270 9478 | m.cassidy@barfoot.co.nz
Blockhouse Bay 09 627 8325 | barfoot.co.nz



Licensed under the REAA 2008


**AUCKLAND
ORTHODONTICS**
Specialist orthodontics for all ages



 **Dr Nitin Raniga**

BDS (Otago) DClinDent (Otago) MOrth RCSEd MRACDS (Orth)

ORTHODONTIST

6 Exminster St
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland 0600

Phone 09 627 3555
nitin@aucklandortho.co.nz
www.aucklandortho.co.nz

