



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 16th February 2017

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Thank you to all of the families who took the time to meet with us this week. The teachers reported that they really enjoyed the new format and getting to know you all so early in the year. Our next scheduled meetings are at the end of term two, although parents can always request a meeting with their child's teacher if they have any questions or concerns.

The Astro turf project is coming along and it is great to see the poles in that will support the fence. We have decided not to have a really high fence all the way around, so that people can watch events that are taking place from the footpath. We expect that the whole project will be completed in around 2 weeks' time and will be announcing our plans for the 'official opening ceremony' in next week's newsletter.

We have certainly appreciated the patience of our neighbours and the generosity of the management at Countdown throughout this project. We will mention them again in the future, but their cooperation was critical in making this dream a reality.

Thank you too to the families who hosted the children from our sister school in Yuyao, China. Your generosity helped to create memories and experiences that they will no doubt remember for years to come. Lastly, well done to the children and staff members who ran and supported this visit. Our children were great hosts and the Kapa Haka group did a superb job of showing them this side of life in a kiwi school.

Have a great week everyone.
Neil Robinson - Principal

SCHOOL STATIONERY - do you wish to be on the review team?

A small number of parents have contacted us to question some of the decisions that we have made about the children's stationery and we would like to gather together a group of people who wish to help us to get a better understanding from a family perspective.

The people who join this review team will be asked to discuss possible ways in which this system might be improved. If you would like to be part of this group, please email our committee coordinator Carly Arghand on carlyarghand@vodafone.co.nz or phone 02102467915.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

We sometimes need to contact parents urgently, so if you have moved house or changed any of your contact phone numbers please ensure you inform the school office of your new details.



Chinese New Year at Blockhouse Bay Primary

Barfoot & Thompson
Licensed REAA 2008 MREINZ

Blockhouse Bay

COME ON GUYS, GET TRAVELWISE! + Please PARK SAFELY AND KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE

Blockhouse Bay is a TravelWise school and we encourage children to walk all or part of the way to school as often as possible. If parents are able to promote this by being part of a 'Walking School Bus' please contact Mrs Addison to find out more.

Once again, the school is participating in Auckland Transport's 'Safety at the School Gate' programme. Drivers who stop in the wrong place to drop off passengers put the safety of children at risk. Parking officers will be on patrol outside the school and will be issuing tickets to drivers who park illegally. The agreed approach is 'zero tolerance' - There will be no warnings issued (this is it) and you will receive a fine to pay if you are double parked, parked on yellow lines, over someone's driveway - or for any other vehicle safety offence. Please park legally to keep our children safe and to avoid being ticketed.

TEACHERS BEING OUT OF CLASSROOMS

It might seem like some teachers have quite a few days out of their classroom and in a few cases, this can be quite true. The following attempts to explain some of the reasons for this:

All teachers have some days allocated to them to complete tasks such as carrying out assessments with children. Some teachers have other responsibilities in the school that require them to be out of the room on other occasions and these include carrying out leadership tasks such as appraising other teachers, organising or running events such as sport or performance groups and attending additional professional training sessions. There are also some teachers who have personal circumstances which require them to be out of the school. These include parents with childcare responsibilities.

Of course there are also occasions where unexpected things happen such as sickness or other circumstances where they are unable to be at school.

We are very much aware that it is important for children to have continuity in their teaching and learning programmes and this is always a consideration when teachers are not in their allocated room. At Blockhouse Bay Primary School, we are very lucky to have such a highly qualified group of teachers that are able to continue these programmes in the absence of the regular class teachers.

COLFERENCE FOR SCHOOLS IN THE LYNFIELD SCHOOLS CLUSTER

On Wednesday 8th March, all of the 300 teachers from this cluster of eight schools will be taking part in a learning conference (which we have named as a Colference) and will include internationally recognised educator, Helen Timperley. So that this meeting can take place, **school will be closing at 1.00pm on this day.**

Please note the date for this shortened day - Wednesday 8th March.

All children will need to be collected from school at 1.00pm

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 MacKay to express interest jasminm@blockhousebay.school.nz

SCHOOL DONATIONS AND SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to everyone who has paid this money to the school office. Please contact the office if you have any questions about this.

The 2017 School Donation is unchanged from the last few years and will remain at \$200 for one child, \$400 for two and \$500 for three or more children with an additional charge of \$40 per child for the PTA donation.

When people have paid their children's donations, we will send home a receipt. ***If you pay the entire school fee by the end of March, you can claim back this money in the current tax year.***

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS - starts soon

These sessions take place on a Thursday morning from March to November for year 0-2 children whose parents want their children to be part of this programme.

We already have parent preferences on file, but if you wish to change to either be part of the programme or to withdraw from it, please let us know. If you do not contact us, we will go with the information that you gave to us previously.

PARENT / CHILD / TEACHER COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

From time to time, parents may have a concern over their child's education or something that is happening at the school. To ensure that these matters are dealt with effectively, we have a set of procedures for people to follow if they wish to bring these matters to our attention.

In the first instance, it makes sense to discuss the issue with your child's teacher as they are most likely to know and understand the circumstances that contribute to it. Sometimes for example, the child may be telling you about things that have not been brought to the attention of the teacher.

If the matter is more serious or if parents feel they wish to take the matter further, they may wish to bring it to the attention of the Team Leader, Deputy Principal or Principal.

The Board of Trustees are only likely to deal directly with issues that are particularly serious or if parents have first gone through the steps outlined above. In these cases, the matter will need to be put in writing and delivered to the school office so that it can be passed onto the Board Chairperson. The issue is then likely to be dealt with at the next Board meeting and suitable action taken. A response from the Board will always be provided to the person who raised the issue.

In summary then, the procedure is:

- Discuss the issue with your child's teacher
- Discuss the issue with your child's Team Leader
- Ask for an appointment with the Deputy Principal (Elizabeth Crisp) or the Principal (Neil Robinson)
- Or if the matter is very serious and has already been raised with the Principal, parents can make a written submission to the Board of Trustees

TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS

Monday 20th Feb. - Kauri Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Wednesday 22nd Feb. - Pohutukawa - Teddy Bears Picnic - 12.00pm
Wednesday 22nd Feb. - Kowhai Assembly - 2.30pm
Thursday 2nd March - Pohutukawa Syndicate Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 6th March - Kauri Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Tuesday 7th March - Year 5/6 Interschool Cricket Field Day (14th March Postponement Day)
Wednesday 8th March - COLference - **School Closes 1.00pm this day**
Monday 13th March - Rimu Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Thursday 16th March - Pohutukawa Assembly - 2.30pm
Monday 20th March - Kauri Assembly - 2.00pm
Wednesday 22nd March - Year 5/6 Interschool T-Ball Field Day (29th March Postponement Day)
Wednesday 22nd March - Kowhai Syndicate Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 27th March - Rimu Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Thursday 30th March - Year 3/4 Interschool T Ball Field Day (6th April Postponement Day)
Monday 3rd April - Kauri Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Wednesday 5th April - Kowhai Syndicate Assembly - 2.30pm
Monday 10th April - Rimu Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Tuesday 11th April - Kauri and Rimu Cross Country Day (13th April Postponement Day)

PTA NEWS

Frozen Fridays were off to a great start last week with 146 ice blocks sold. Thanks for your support as always. Frozen Fridays will continue all term so remember to send your child to school with \$1 on Fridays if you would like them to have a cool treat after their lunch. They can come and buy them from the PAC kitchen after eating.

Pita Pit lunches start again tomorrow and then will alternate with sushi every other week. Pita Pit is another healthy lunch idea and all wraps are made fresh to order on Friday morning before being delivered to us just in time for lunch. They even have a gluten free option. For all lunch orders PLEASE WRITE FULL NAME AND ROOM NUMBER AND RETURN TO OFFICE **BEFORE** 9AM ON THURSDAY MORNINGS.

Would you like to help the PTA? Join our "Friends of the PTA" mailing list by emailing pta@blockhousebay.school.nz with the subject heading "Friend" to receive termly emails about how you can help us with events, supplies, contacts.

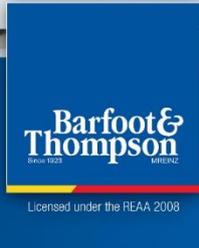
Our next meeting is Monday 20th February at 7:30pm in the staffroom. All are welcome to come and lend a hand.

Let me help
make your sale
stress free.



Get moving, get Michael.

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




**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

