



Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### **PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX**

All of the children have looked at our new Vision statement in class and teachers have explained to them the meaning of our new logo: We Seek - We Strive - We Soar. By actively looking for new knowledge and working hard for success, we expect all of our students to leave Blockhouse Bay School, as the best person they can be.

The teachers have spent a lot of time over the past few weeks looking at the children's assessment information and discussing ways of improving the achievement levels for all students. Having the teachers Seeking this information and Striving to do our best is critical for the success of the children and will ultimately enable them to Soar. We have high expectations for all and research tells us that this is important in helping them to grow.

There are many aspects to a successful school as we are trying to build upon their personal, emotional, artistic and sporting abilities as well as academic achievement. This is of course important as well so we are pleased to report the following statistics from the end of 2015:

- Mathematics - 80% of our children were achieving At or Above the National Standards
- Reading - 84% of our children were achieving At or Above the National Standards
- Writing - 73% of our children were achieving At or Above the National Standards

It is of course harder to write than read as you are trying to actually produce something as opposed to just reading it and this is why reading results are almost always better than writing results. When you add in the factor that around 60% of our children have English as their second language, it is understandable that writing achievement levels will be lower.

Having said all that, the teachers are committed to improving our writing levels and have embarked on a significant programme of professional development that will be a major focus for us in 2016 and beyond.

**A special reminder too that it is compulsory for children to wear the school hat during term one.**

Have a great week everyone.  
Neil Robinson - Principal

### **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. The pool is closed from the end of March so it is critical that all children make the most of this opportunity to learn these important life skills.

### **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](mailto:office@blockhousebay.school.nz) or send a letter with your child to school with the new details.

### **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.

### **MUSIC HUB YEAR 3-6 STUDENTS**

A demonstration will be held at the next Rimu Assembly - 19<sup>th</sup> February and Kauri Assembly - 22<sup>nd</sup> February for any children who may be interested in learning an instrument. Parents are welcome to attend and view the options available. Lessons are held during the school day.

**CAMP MEDICATION** - A reminder to pick up any medication that was sent to camp from the school office.

## TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS *Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.blockhousebay.school.nz).

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February - The Aunties "Teddy Bears Picnic"-Pohutukawa (Yr 0/1)  
Wed 16th March - Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences 1.30-8.00p.m.(school closes at 12.45pm)  
Thurs 17th March - Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences 3.30-6.00pm  
Friday 25th March - Good Friday. School Closed  
Mon 28th & Tues 29th March - Easter Break. School Closed.  
Thursday 7th April - T-Ball Field Day Year 3/4 (Postponement Day Thurs 13th April)

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

## BIBLE IN SCHOOLS - starts soon

This week we sent home a letter for parents of Year 1 & 2 children asking them to update us on whether or not they want their children to attend the religious education classes this year. Parents of junior children who started this year have already given us this information.

Thank you to the parents of Year 1 and 2 children who have filled in and returned this form. If you have not already done so, please get this done as soon as possible so that we can make our arrangements accordingly. Please note that if you do not update us with this information, we will assume that you do not wish to change what you told us on the enrolment form when your child started school.

## FLIPPA BALL RESULTS

BHB Mako Sharks 0 vs MAPS Maroros 4 - **No player of the day**

BHB Tiger Sharks 9 VS St Cuths Sea Lions 0 - **Players of the day Charlotte, Jayden & Isabella**

BHB Bullsharks 0 vs Pt Chev Dolphins 8 - **No player of the day**

## NUT ALLERGIES

Our school has three students who exhibit serious reactions to anything nut. All require Epi pens to be held in the school. For their sake, we try to be nut free at our school and ask that you please help us in this endeavour. **This includes not sending any nut products, nutella, or peanut butter to school.**

## SICKNESS

If your child has been unwell during the night with fever, vomiting etc, please do not send them to school the following day. This will help reduce the spread of any virus that may be circulating. Please note also that the office are unable to administer Panadol to children who have been away unwell.

## SCHOOL CROSSING

We are in urgent need of some parent helpers for the school crossing. If you can spare one day a week to help between 8.10am to 8.45am in the morning and 2.50pm to 3.15pm in the afternoon please contact Mrs Addison on 627-9940.

## PLAYBALL

Playball is back! Thursdays 3-4pm (5-8year olds) join us after school outside the junior block for a fun and exciting introduction to 8 different sports!! Come along next week for a free trial!

Enroll online at [www.playball.co.nz](http://www.playball.co.nz) or ring Erin for further info on 021923232

## XINNIAN KUAI LER - CHINESE NEW YEAR

A number of children came to school in national clothes to celebrate this occasion. A photo was taken and the junior school performed an exciting dragon dance around the school.

## AFTER SCHOOL CHINESE CLASSES

The school has 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:

- After school for 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.

The cost for each session is \$15 an hour and the sessions would start at 3.05pm

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

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

We would look to begin these classes in the week starting 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Please come along next Thursday evening if you would like your child to attend these classes.

课后中文班

有一家奥克兰经验的中文学校，预计在本学期的下班学期在我校开设课后中文班（3月14日之后）。招收学生年龄7-11岁。学生会测试后分为两个班，一个班是招收没有中文基础的孩子，另一个班级招收有中文基础或是在中文环境下成长的孩子。每节课收费\$15，3:05开课（日期未定）一个小时

我们会举办两个家长会，为有兴趣的家长提供信息。晚上7点，教师办公室（在学校办公室的右手位置）

二月二十五日 星期四-为说中文家长特定，信息为中文

三月二日 星期四 信息为英文讲义

欢迎家长参加。

## Library News

*Our library has a new look. We are fortunate to have some brand new brightly coloured furniture. It's lovely for the children to relax, learn and read in such a nice environment.*

- *Every class visits the library once a week with their class.*
- *We would appreciate you finding out this day from your child and reminding them to return their books.*
- *The library is also open every lunchtime for returning and borrowing books.*
- *The library is also open every Thursday after school from 3 -4pm for children and their parents, grandparents or caregivers. (See Mrs Barrett for more information)*

*There is a lot of work behind the scenes to get all our new books on to the shelves. There is also a great deal of mending of damaged books to be done.*

*We are always looking for help in this area. If you have a spare half an hour after the morning bell or before the afternoon bell, please leave your name and number at the office or give it to Mrs Barrett in the library and she will contact you.*

*Thanks from the Library Committee*



## WALKING SCHOOL BUS

A walking school bus is an organized group of children walking to and from school under the supervision of adults. Children are collected from stops along a planned route and walk together to the school gate. Along the way they learn road safety, socialize and share stories with friends and neighbours. Families in the community get to know each other. What a great way to travel to school!

Walking school buses are run by parents/caregivers/grandparents from the school community with the support of the school and Auckland Transport. They can operate from one to five days a week, depending on volunteer commitment.

**If you are interested in being an adult supervisor on a Walking School Bus which your children would use, please provide:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

And we will get in touch to get a walking school bus started in early 2016!





Get moving, get Michael.

**Michael Cassidy** Residential Sales

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