



**Blockhouse Bay**

Primary School

*We Seek - We Strive - We Soar*

**SCHOOL CARNIVAL THIS SATURDAY - 10.00am-2.00pm**

Thank you to everyone who is helping before, after or during the Carnival.  
If you are on a stall, please make sure that you turn up on time to your area.  
Have a great time everyone!

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

**PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX**

In this week's newsletter, we are providing families with some advance notice some of the changes that we are making to the way that the school is organised in 2017. Next week, we will include the names of the teachers who will be working at each level of the school so that parents can put names to places.

One of the big pieces of work that we have done this year is to consult with parents about our report forms and to make changes to our reports because of this. More information will be sent out next week about this, but probably the key point that people need to know about at the moment concerns reporting of National Standard levels. It is a legal requirement that we tell parents where their child is compared to other children in the country. However, some parents we talked to expressed concern that this can be damaging to a child if no matter how hard they try, they cannot lift themselves to the next achievement level. They said that they wanted to make the decision about whether or not to share this information with their child or if they did, to choose how this discussion would take place.

Parents told us that this can be very demoralising for a child so we have tried to come up with a system that prevents this from happening, so we have come up with a new report form and an insert. The insert provides information about where their child is achieving in relation to the National Standards. The report form provides information about effort, achievement in relation to what are known as the 'Key Competencies' and comments about how well their child is doing in other parts of the curriculum.

We have decided then to post all of this year's report forms directly to parents' houses. They will be posted next Wednesday afternoon and should arrive in letterboxes on Friday or Saturday. It is therefore critical that we have everyone's address. Please let our office staff know if you have moved and not told us.  
Have a great week everyone - see you at the Carnival!!

Neil Robinson  
Principal

**CONDOLENCES**

Our Blockhouse Bay Community would like to extend heartfelt sympathy to Chriss Macintosh, a member of our staff on the recent sudden loss of her husband, Keith. Both Keith and Chriss have been part of our school community for many years. Their grandchildren attended our school and Nana Chriss, as the children call her currently supports learners in a Year 1 class. Keith was also great supporter of the school, helping in many different roles. Our thoughts are with you at this time Chriss.

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**Blockhouse Bay**

## **HOMESTAYS NEEDED FOR CHINESE CHILDREN - Meeting next week**

We are looking forward to hosting children from our sister school Yuyao No.1 Experimental School in Ningbo, China. To broaden their experience we will have them stay in homes of our children from the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> February. As they are under the age of 13, we like to have them stay in pairs in each home and parents receive \$500 for the two children for this time. During the day, the children will either be at our school or visiting other parts of Auckland. We are planning to have an **information meeting** next week in the staffroom on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm** for families who are considering hosting these students in their homes. Please record this date and time. **Please contact the office if you have any questions about this.**

## **REARRANGING THE SCHOOL IN 2017**

The staff have spent a lot of time over the last few months reviewing our organisation and thinking about ways that we can improve the structure of the school for the good of the children.

We have visited other schools, talked to other professionals and read extensively before deciding to make a number of changes which will impact upon most areas of the school. Although we do reserve the right to alter these plans in the future, we are quite confident at the moment that these are good changes to make. We are now working through the details that will enable us to make the transitions as smooth as possible.

Next week, we will let you all know which staff members are in which part of the school as well as who will be your child's teacher in 2017.

### **Pohutukawa**

There are benefits to having a reception room for the 5 year olds when they arrive, but we are concerned that for some children, this can mean that they have up to 4 teachers in the first six months of their schooling. Because of this, we are not having the reception room in 2017. The Year 1 classes will start with around 12 children and then grow slowly during the year to 18-20 or so before they are 'capped' and another room opened. This means that our 5 year olds are very likely to have the same teacher all year.

### **Kowhai**

Very few changes are being made in this area other than to try mixing some older year 1s with the Year 2s to see if they are going to be ready to move to year 3 at the end of 2017.

### **Rimu**

For some years, parents and teachers have observed that quite a few of the year 3s have struggled (at least initially) with being mixed in with the Year 4 children. Because of this, in 2017 we have decided to have:

- three Year 3 classes,
- three Year 4 classes and
- one year 3/4 class.

This should provide these children with a smoother transition into our middle school. This team will still be 'Rimu' and will do a lot of events together, but day to day, most Year 3 children will be in a class with other Year 3s.

### **Kauri**

For similar reasons, we have decided to separate out the older children into three Year 5 and three Year 6 classrooms. They too will remain as a Kauri team and do a number of events together (eg assemblies, sports events etc) but will spend most of their learning day in their own classes with the same year level. This will not affect the BYOD initiative in any way and we hope that most (if not all) children at both levels (Year 5 & 6) will bring their own Chromebooks to school.

### **Language Support Room**

This class will be relocated to Room 1A (next to Room 1) so that it is closer to the children who receive learning assistance from Mrs Short.

### **Reading Recovery**

In 2017, this support will now be provided in what is now the Language Support room so that it too, is right next door to the children who receive this assistance.

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## **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL HELPERS 2017**

Every morning between 8.10am and 8.50am we have a parent help supervise the school crossing. We are now looking for volunteers to help with this in 2017. If you can spare a morning a week to come and help please leave a message at the school office and Helen Addison will contact you about this.

## WASTE FREE UPDATE

We are delighted with the number of children now bringing waste free lunchboxes. So far 108 children have reached 5 clicks on their tickets and 62 10 clicks after just 2 weeks! So, Why pack a waste-free lunch? • Landfills are reaching capacity • Funds not spent on trash removal can be put to better use • Empower our kids to make positive changes for the planet • Eliminate the need for processed, pre-packaged foods. **Handy hints:** Use silicone muffin trays (see image). Cut up fruits and vegetables. Children often take 1 or 2 bites out of an uncut apple or banana and throw the rest away. To avoid this, pack cut-up fruits and vegetables in a reusable container. Your child can take a few bites and save the rest for later.



## SWIMMING HAS STARTED!!

We feel that it is very important to get the children back into the water before they go away on their summer holidays, so please make sure that they have their togs and towels on their swimming days. Please be assured that we will not take the children into the water if the teacher feels it is too cold.

One of the most important things that we teach at school is to improve the children's ability to swim and be safe in the water. Please make sure that you promote this life skill for your child(ren) by reinforcing with them how important it is to have their swimming gear here and enthusiastically taking part. **It is a compulsory part of the NZ Curriculum for children to be taught to swim and we are very lucky to be in a school that has a pool.**

## HIRING OF POOL KEYS

Hiring a pool key gives families the opportunity to swim in the school pool after school, on the weekends, right through the summer holidays until the end of March, at no extra cost. To get a copy of the rules for hiring and to pay your money, please contact the school office staff. Pool keys will be on sale at a cost of \$170 each, with \$50 being returned when the key comes back to school at the end of the season.

## 2017 TERM DATES

We always like to let parents know about these dates well in advance, so that holidays can be booked during the holiday breaks. Our dates for next year are:

|            |                                  |                                   |            |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Term One   | Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January | Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April   | (11 weeks) |
| Term Two   | Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May       | Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July       | (10 weeks) |
| Term Three | Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July     | Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September | (10 weeks) |
| Term Four  | Monday 16 October                | Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December  | (9 weeks)  |

## PTA NEWS - 2 SLEEPS TO GO!!!

**Carnival day this Saturday 3rd December from 10am-2pm.** If you have signed up to help, please remember to come as we can't run the stalls without you and it puts more pressure on the people who do turn up if you don't!

**Cakes** - Please deliver these to the PAC kitchen tomorrow or early Saturday morning.

Tell your friends to come and grab a bargain at the white elephant, win some awesome prizes at the quickfire raffles, watch some amazing performances on the stage, have fun at the new stalls and enjoy some delicious cultural food.

Please contact Annette at [pta@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:pta@blockhousebay.school.nz) with any questions and like our Facebook page for more updates - Blockhouse Bay Primary School PTA

**Smoothies are on again tomorrow lunchtime with their Tropic flavour - pineapple, mango and coconut - \$4.**

## TERM FOUR HIGHLIGHTS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Saturday 3rd December                               | - School Carnival   |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December                     | - Pohutukawa Camp Day   |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December                  | - Kowhai & Pohutukawa Syndicates Athletics  |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December                  | - Meeting for families considering hosting Chinese students. 5.00pm   |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December                   | - Year 6 Student Helpers Rainbow's End Trip   |
| Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> / Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> December | - End of Year Reports arrive in mailboxes   |
| Monday 12th December                                | - Show for Year 0-2 children -<br>"The Great Fake Christmas Cake"   |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December                 | - Year 2 Trip to Blockhouse Bay Beach Reserve   |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December                 | - Year 6 Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony<br><b>Doors open at 1.00pm. Please be seated ready to start at 1.20pm</b> |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December                  | - Mufti / Sausage Sizzle / Movie Day (no charge)  |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December                    | - Last school day of the year. <b>1.30pm finish.</b>  |

Sell well.

Move with ease.

Get moving, get Michael.

**Michael Cassidy** Residential Sales  
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