



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 24th November 2016

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Thank you to all families for looking after the children on Monday. Amongst other things, the teachers took this opportunity to see and discuss what other schools are doing with their choices on how the NZ Curriculum is being delivered so that what we are doing at Blockhouse Bay Primary School, is the best we can be.

Thank you too to the large group of people who came and helped out at the working bee on the weekend. Although we still need more parent volunteers for the big day, the PTA report that preparations for the Carnival are going really well - just over one week to go!!

Have a great week everyone
Neil Robinson
Principal

STAFFING UPDATES

Visitors to the school may have noticed teacher Felicity Davies hobbling around with her knee in a substantial brace. Mrs Davies will be having this operated on soon and her last day of school for the year will be the 1st December. Mrs Hansen-MacKay will be teaching in Room 6 for the last couple of weeks apart from the usual days that Mrs Addison is in there. We wish Felicity all the best for a speedy recovery.

As is usual with any large school, there are always staff members leaving, returning and arriving at the end of the year and ours is no different.

As announced previously, Peter Richmond is taking up a Deputy Principals position in Christchurch and we would now like to congratulate Lorraine Sauvarin who has a Senior Teacher position at Green Bay Primary. Melody Casse has been awarded with study leave for almost all of 2017 and will be completing a post graduate diploma in educational leadership.

Returning to the staff are teachers Breanne MacKinnon from maternity leave and Jasmin Hansen-MacKay from study leave.

Over the next couple of newsletters, we will be sharing with you, how the school will be set up for 2017. Watch this space as we have several new initiatives that we will be explaining.

ZONE ATHLETICS 2016

On Wednesday 16th November a group of Rimu and Kauri students performed outstandingly at the Zone Athletics Day held at Trusts Stadium in Henderson. All children confidently competed with resilience and showed support for each other. Each child was well drilled in their sport and strove for success. There will be a combined Rimu and Kauri Athletics Prize giving on Monday 28th November. This will start at 2pm in the PAC (Te Whau).



FLIPPA BALL RESULTS

BHB Tigersharks (7) St Doms Sharks (4)
Player of the Day Kate Skinner

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Blockhouse Bay

CHINESE VISITORS

We have received notification from our sister school Yuyao No.1 Experimental School in Ningbo, China that they wish to send some children to New Zealand. To broaden their experience we will be hosting them in the school and hopefully, will be able to have them stay in homes of our children from the 2nd - 13th February. As they are under the age of 13, we like to have them stay in pairs in each home and parents receive around \$500 for the two children for this time. (actual amount to be confirmed)

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 on **Wednesday 7th December at 5.00pm** for families who are considering hosting these students in their homes. Please record this date and time. Next week, we will send home more information so parents can be prepared for this.

COMING SOON TO A POOL NEAR YOU!!

Believe it or not, our swimming season starts on Monday 28th November (Yes, this Monday coming!) and the pool is currently heating up in preparation for this.

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 hireage rules 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.

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.

EXTRA MATHS - GIVE IT A GO!

A group of AIC students have designed an award winning after school maths programme (Gestro) that they would like to deliver to our children next year. In preparation for this, they are running two free sessions soon, so children (and parents) can see if they would like to attend in 2017. These two sessions will be held in Room 9 on Monday 5th and Monday 12th December from 3.00-4.15pm.

Children wishing to attend need to be currently in Years 3-5.

"Gestro provides educational, interactive and fun financial literacy workshop sessions for primary school students across Auckland! Financial literacy is a vital asset in life and can translate into intelligent financial decisions. We believe that every student in New Zealand deserves an opportunity to experience the foundations of financial literacy!"

Parents can register their children by contacting the school office or by bringing their children to Room 9 on either or both of these days. Children will not be able to register themselves or just turn up unless they have been accompanied or been given permission by a parent.

If your child is coming, it might be a good idea for them to have a small snack to keep them going.

YEAR 6 PRIZE GIVING AND GRADUATION: Wednesday 14th December 1pm.

Letters about this event have been sent out to families of Year 6 children. Please contact the office if you have not received this information. We invite parents to fill in the attendance form as soon as possible and send it back to school so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

A reminder that all children are initially able to have two family members attend, although there is sometimes the opportunity to obtain extra tickets if they are available.

NATIONAL HOCKEY REPRESENTATIVE

Some months ago, we were informed that Room 2 pupil Katya Blong had made the NZ Under 14 Ice Hockey team and was the only girl to make the side. This national team recently competed against all of the Australian state teams and was placed 2nd after being beaten in the finals. This was a wonderful achievement for Katya and her team. What a star!

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

We are sure that you are aware that next year, parents of our Year 5 & 6 children are being asked to provide a Chromebook for their children to use at school. Two meetings have been held to answer questions about this initiative and information summaries are available upon request from the school office. The office will also be able to provide parents with details about the special pricing that we have been able to negotiate from two suppliers. Please ask if you wish to receive any of this information or if you would like a teacher to discuss BYOD with you.

PTA NEWS

Carnival- Saturday 3rd December- only 9 days to go!!!

The white elephant flyer accompanies this newsletter. Please only send good condition items. Drop off items from Sunday 27th between 2 and 4pm and then every morning before school from Monday 28th.

Cake boxes will come home on Monday, just one per family but if you would like to offer more baking then please pick up another box from the office. All cakes to be delivered on Friday 2nd December please. Also, please return any boxes you are unable to use.

Please see your class teacher if you haven't offered to help on the day yet. We rely on **parent support** to run the amount of stalls we have. If we don't get the support we need then we won't be able to run the same size event next year which would be a huge shame. This is our **MAIN** fundraiser for the school year and **ALL PROFITS** go back directly to the school. This year we hope to raise enough to build the new all-weather sports pitch over the summer holidays so that it is ready for your children to benefit from next year. The PTA is run by a very small group of 6-8 parents. We have around 450 families at school so please don't just leave it to someone else. This is a fun opportunity to give back to your school and community if you can. Thank you.

ZERO WASTE UPDATE

In order to promote our zero waste goal for 2016, we now have daily 'zero waste lunch box checks'. If your child has no gladwrap/ foil/ chippie bags etc. they get a click on a card - after 5 clicks they go into a weekly prize draw to win cool lunch boxes or drink bottles donated by Sistema.

We will be encouraging the children to bring any waste products home with them in order to reduce the amount of waste we have to pay to remove each month. Please check the website in the upcoming weeks for handy hints as to how to create waste free lunches.

If you have great ideas to share, please email Helen Addison: helena@blockhousebay.school.nz



THANK YOU

A big thank you to Karan Shah's family for the donation of the sink. It will make a wonderful yoghurt cleaning station for the Juniors in 2017.

TERM FOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Friday 25 th November | - Rimu syndicate assembly 2.00pm start |
| Monday 28 th November | - Kauri Assembly - Service and Athletics awards |
| Saturday 3rd December | - School Carnival |
| Monday 5 th December | - Pohutukawa Camp Day |
| Wednesday 7 th December | - Kowhai & Pohutukawa Syndicates Athletics |
| Wednesday 7 th December | - Meeting for families who are considering hosting Chinese students. 5.00pm |
| Thursday 8 th December | - Year 6 Student Helpers Rainbow's End Trip |
| Friday 9 th December | - End of Year Reports sent home |
| Monday 12th December | - Show for Year 0-2 children - "The Great Fake Christmas Cake" |
| Wednesday 14 th December | - Year 2 Trip to Blockhouse Bay Beach Reserve |
| Wednesday 14 th December | - Year 6 Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony |
| Thursday 15 th December | - Mufti / Sausage Sizzle / Movie Day (no charge) |
| Friday 16 th December | - Last school day of the year. 1.30pm finish. |

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