



Thursday 25th February 2016

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Once again, school camps for the senior children were a total success with everyone I have talked to saying how great they have been. I would like to thank the office staff, teachers and parents who all worked so well together to prepare for the camps and to ensure that the children had such an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Congratulations to everyone who did 'The Squeeze!'

To build cultural knowledge and understanding, the school joins with Marshall Liang Primary and Blockhouse Bay Intermediate to host a Mandarin Language Assistant at the school for a couple of days a week. This programme is paid for mostly by the Chinese government although the NZ Ministry of Education also contributes some funding. Next week, we welcome Xiaolu Tan to the school and over the coming months, she will be working with our Year 3-6 students helping them to learn about the Chinese culture and Mandarin language.

Our first Student/Parent / Teacher Conferences are due to take place in a few weeks' time on the 16th and 17th March. Please note that school will finish at 12.45pm on Wednesday 16th March so that these important meetings can take place. We will be sending home details tomorrow on how parents can select a time that suits them. Please note too that the children attend these meetings.

Have a great week everyone.
Neil Robinson - Principal

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 syndicate team leader, Associate 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 syndicate leader
- Ask for an appointment with the Associate Principal (Elizabeth Crisp) or the Principal (Neil Robinson)
- Or if the matter is very serious and/or has been raised with the Principal already, parents can make a written submission to the Board of Trustees

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.

MUSIQHUB

There will be a Musiqhub Demonstration after school on Monday 29th February in the PAC Foyer for parents to view and for students to have a go.

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS - starts soon

Last 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.

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.

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

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

ICAS TESTING 2016

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are Australian pen and paper tests which are completed in some schools under normal examination conditions. Parents may choose to have their child sit these tests as they give them experience of external exam conditions, provide some alternative information about their child's strengths and highlight areas that may require more attention. These tests are for years 4 - 6 children only.

The ICAS assessments will take place in our school between the 17th of May and the 16th of August.

You may wish for your child to sit some or all of the following exams: Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English or Maths. Order forms may be collected from the school office and these must be returned to the school office by Friday the 8th April (Last day of Week 10 Term 1).

Late entries cannot be accepted.

FLIPPA BALL RESULTS

BHB Bullsharks - 0 vs Maungawhau Stingrays - 1 Player of the day was Joe Taylor
GSS Dolphins (7) BHB Tigersharks (1) Players of the day Ava and Kate

LOST PROPERTY

To prevent an untidy jumble around classrooms, this has now been relocated next to the uniform room by the swimming pool. Please go there first if your child is missing an item of clothing. Next week, we have a carpenter coming in to install shelves and a bar to hang the clothes on so that this area can be kept tidy.

2016 BAY SCHOOLS' MUSIC FESTIVAL

Following on from last year's success, we are once again inviting students who play musical instruments to take part in the Festival Combined Band. The band will perform it's own musical set at our annual Bay Schools' Music Festival as well as accompanying the Combined Schools Choir.

Sign up sheets can be collected from Mrs Casse in Room 4.

FOOTBALL FOR CHILDREN - Every Tuesday from 8th March - 12th April. 3.15-4.15pm

A flier has been sent home for parents who might want their children to take part in an after school Soccer program. The cost is \$65.00 per child for the 5 sessions and it is open for all Blockhouse Bay Primary School children. Please register online at footballfc.co.nz or send your form back to the office.

PLEASE KEEP AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS

At the end of the school day, teachers need to have the children focusing on them for important messages before they go home. We ask parents and grandparents who are collecting children, to stay away from the classroom at this time so that the children will be able to focus on the teacher.

SWIMMING POOL CHANGING ROOMS

On occasions, this area has been left untidy and messy over the last couple of weeks by people using the pool after school and on the weekends. Parents who are key holders are asked to supervise their children in the changing rooms so that this does not happen.

PTA NEWS

Hello everyone. I am Annette Bradley and I am the new Chairperson for the PTA. The PTA is responsible for fundraising to support new school equipment, facilities and resources. In the past we have helped raise funds towards the PAC, heating the school pool and shade covers over play areas. The next big fundraising target is working towards the installation of an all-weather sports pitch on the fields which will give the children more sports and play space especially over the winter months when the muddy field would be out of action.

We had our first meeting on Monday and saw some new faces which was fantastic. We need all the help we can get so if you can spare an hour or so each month to come along to our meetings and see how you can support the school that would be very much appreciated. **If you cannot come to meetings, please look out for other ways that you can help with individual events such as Friday lunches or setting up or working during the discos.**

We will soon start sending PTA notices out via email as we have some interesting events and fundraising activities planned this year and would like to reach as many parents as possible. If you do not wish to receive these emails then please reply to pta@blockhousebay.school.nz.

Please also use the email address to contact me if you are able to help with upcoming events such as Friday Lunchbox orders, including Fruju Fridays while the weather is still hot!

Friday lunches - including Fruju ice blocks- start again next week. Look out for the order form coming home on Monday.

Next PTA meeting: Monday 14th March at 7:30pm in staffroom.

AFTER SCHOOL CHINESE CLASSES - MEETING TONIGHT FOR CHINESE PARENTS

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 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.

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。

学生会在测试后分为两个班，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。

CARE 4 KIDZ - Held in the Tech Room in the Manukau Block.

For a number of years CARE 4 KIDZ is running the After School Care Programme and Holiday Programme at your child(ren)'s school and many parents make use of this service. Please be advised that we also run a "Breakfast Club" between 7:00 and 8:20am every school day.

If you would like information about any of our programmes, please contact Els on 027 3628494



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