



BLOCKHOUSE BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 2nd February 2016

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Happy New Year to all children, parents, caregivers and supporters of the school.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2016 school year, [the Year of the Monkey] particularly to our new pupils and their families. We hope you all enjoy your time with the school.

Apart from today, this newsletter will be given out every Thursday and will come home with the youngest or only child that you have attending Blockhouse Bay School. Please remind your child to give it to you as it contains useful information about what is happening at the school. A reminder too that the weekly newsletter is also available on our school website: www.blockhousebay.school.nz

For your information, we have begun the year with approximately 530 children and are likely to grow to around 620 by the end of the year.

We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at our **Meet the Teacher evening tomorrow** from 7.00-8.00pm (no children please). At this meeting, we will be talking about what will be happening at Blockhouse Bay Primary School this year and it is a great way for parents to get this information first hand. We will also be talking about the school's new logo and website that are to be launched soon.

Remember that it is compulsory for the children to wear their school hat every school day in terms one and four and that all schools will be closed next Monday for Waitangi Day

Regards

Neil Robinson - Principal

2016 TERM DATES

We like to publish these well in advance so that parents can organise their time away, outside of school terms. Please make a note of these for future reference.

Term One	Tuesday 2 nd February	- Friday 15 April.
Term Two	Monday 2 nd May	- Friday 8 th July
Term Three	Monday 25 July	- Friday 23 September
Term Four	Monday 10 th October	- Friday 16 th December

PROPERTY WORK OVER THE BREAK

Securing workers over the summer break was quite difficult but we were able to paint the outside of the PAC, fix the slippery steps in front of some junior classes and carpet some rooms. We were hoping to have the fence and senior blocks completed as well, but have not been able to do so. This will cause quite a bit of disruption over the next two weeks, especially for Rooms 4-11, but this will be short term pain for long term gain.

MEET THE TEACHERS EVENING -WEDNESDAY 3rd February (TOMORROW)

A very important part of the success of children's education is a good relationship between parents and the school. For this reason we have several opportunities for parents and teachers to give information to each other about their children and what is happening at school.

We look forward to seeing you all in the Performing Arts Centre (hall) at **7pm on Wednesday 3rd February**. The evening will begin with a presentation in the PAC (hall) from Mr Robinson about the school and some information about what is happening at the school next year. Then parents will attend sessions run by their children's teacher. They will then run the same presentation twice so that parents can learn about what is happening across the school. Please note that this meeting is for *parents only* (not children) so please try to organise someone else to look after them on this night.

STATIONERY

Details about how to order your child's stationery for 2016 was sent home. In previous years, we have had items come to school that were of poor quality or books that had lines for the children to write on that were of a different size to their classmates and this presented some problems. To ensure that the children all have stationery with a consistent level of quality, parents can purchase the packs online and this process is very user friendly. If you are unable to purchase the stationery online please contact the school office.

Packs are still available from the school office until Thursday 12th February. All children should have purchased their stationery by this date. New Entrant Packs will be available for purchase throughout the year.

CHINESE NEW YEAR - this Thursday

On Thursday 4th February, we invite all students to join with us in celebrating Chinese New Year. Students are welcome to wear traditional Chinese clothes on this day and a photo will of course be taken!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE B.O.T

Welcome back to our students and families and a big welcome to new families joining us this year. We trust you all had a wonderful holiday season.

Term one is a busy time for the Board and Management of the school with ERO (Education Review Office) joining us for a week in March to check in on our school operations. We are looking forward to welcoming them and showing them the wonderful things that make up our school and at its heart the wonderful people inside.

Following the ERO visit is the Board Elections and I will be in touch later this term to give you more information on that.

It was wonderful to see so many of you around the School pool over Summer. As many schools face the pressure to close their pools due to safety or maintenance costs, we are working hard to keep this asset as we believe it plays a vital part in reducing our drowning statistics in NZ by ensuring children are safely confident in and around water.

We have however received a number of complaints about people bringing far more people in than those living in your house. While we appreciate how much fun can be had at the pool, safety is paramount and high numbers over the last few weeks of hot days have raised some concerns. A reminder to please check your copy of the pool rules that you signed when collecting the key. The key is provided to family members of the school only and is not to be shared or loaned to anyone, nor can we let others in at the pool who have not paid to support the upkeep of this pool. We would hate to follow suit of other schools, especially under pressure with new Health and Safety regulations coming into effect from April and lose this wonderful privilege so we ask that everyone respect the rules relating to the pool.

Over the holidays there has been lots of building action sprucing up the senior block and the painting of the PAC and work will continue for a while. All this is part of our routine maintenance and upgrades to ensure our children are taught in the best environment possible.

We look forward to meeting many of you at the meet the teacher night tomorrow and at any stage should you need to contact the board you can speak with the school office to arrange a time or email me directly at stephen@kids4drama.co.nz

Here's to a wonderful 2016!

Stephen Dallow
BOT Chairperson

ELECTIONS FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

These elections are held every three years and offer members of our parent community the opportunity to take on the role in helping to govern the school. These elections will be held this year and interested parents can look at the NZ School Trustees website for more details about what the role entails.

CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your parent representatives work hard to make sure that our school is the best it can be. They meet each month and these meetings are also open to the public. Please ask at the office if you would like to speak to a Board member directly.

Treasurer: Jason Tredgett

Chairman: Stephen Dallow

Principal: Neil Robinson

Property: Mark Hewett

Personnel: Shiree Meikle

Secretary: Paula Harrison-Luff

Property: Mark Hewett

Cultural Liaison: Sheereen Ali

Staff Rep: Mandy Barrett

Our next monthly Board meeting will take place in the school staffroom on Tuesday 23rd February at 7.00p.m. These are always open meetings to which anyone can attend. Please contact Stephen Dallow for more information if you wish to come along. stephen@kids4drama.co.nz

THE SCHOOL DAY

The instructional school day goes from 8.50a.m - 3.00p.m. The children should arrive at school **no later than 8.30a.m.** so that they can be ready for the start of the first lesson.

We prefer that no child should arrive in the school grounds before 8.15a.m. as staff members are busy preparing for the day and cannot supervise children before this time.

Whilst we realise that this does not suit all parents, we feel that the children's safety is very important. Please contact the school office for details about our After School or Before School Care programmes.

PARK SAFELY AND KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE

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.

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) brings their togs and towel (named) to school on all of their swimming days unless they have a medical reason not to swim. Pool keys are still available for hire for the summer from the school office at a cost of \$100 with \$50 of this being refunded when the key is returned at the end of March.

We strongly recommend that all children wear swimming caps as they help maintain body heat and keep hair out of children's eyes. They also reduce the amount of hair going through the filter system which saves money. These can be purchased from the school office for the hugely discounted price of just \$6 each.

Thank you so much to all of the parents who are looking after the pool over the holidays. We could not keep the pool open during the break if it was not for your help, so we really appreciate your dedication to the children in this way.

CLASSROOM TEACHERS IN 2016

(teachers in brackets are in the room for one or occasionally more days per week):

Year 5/6 Teachers - Kauri

Room 1 - Tiffany Ponniah (Sally Kilpatrick)	Room 5 - Mary-Rose Adlington (Hayley Davies)
Room 2 - Richard Bennett	Room 6 - Felicity Davis / Helen Addison
Room 3 - Melissa Murray	Room 7 - Lauren Hillier (Maiana Hutchings)
Room 4 - Melody Casse	

Year 3/4 Teachers - Rimu

Room 8 - Peter Richmond (Hayley Davies)	Room 12 - Jan Llewellyn & Natasha Dickson
Room 9 - Deanne Ellis (Maiana Hutchings)	Room 13 - Shelly Brown
Room 10 - Monique Hope	Room 14 - Atama Cassidy (Annette MacDonald)
Room 11 - Vivienne Aherne	

Year 2 Teachers - Kowhai

Room 20 - Lorraine Sauvarin	Room 22 - Denise Lawson
Room 21 - Betty Marie	Room 23 - Claire Schulz

Year 0/1 Teachers - Pohutukawa

Room 15 - Mina Lala	Room 18 - Faye Reddell
Room 17 - Tracy Waller	Rooms 24/25 - Katy Harris & Robyn Joyce - Reception Room

Neil Robinson - Principal	Elizabeth Crisp - Associate Principal
Helen Addison - Enrichment Teacher	Elmarie Pentz - Special Needs Coordinator
Christine Short - Language Support Teacher	Mandy Barrett - Reading Recovery, Special Needs & Library

Question; Why do some teachers have more time out of the classroom than others?

Answer: 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. 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 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. At Blockhouse Bay Primary School, we are very lucky to have such a highly qualified group of relieving teachers that are able to continue these programmes in the absence of the regular class teachers.

IT'S A BOY: Congratulations to Breanne and Nick Mackinnon who have a new addition to the family. Nikoh Carter Mackinnon was born on 21st January 2016. Mother and baby doing well.

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 Mckay to express interest jasminm@blockhousebay.school.nz

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.

Wednesday 3rd February - Meet the Teacher evening - 7.00-8.00p.m. (adults only please)
Thursday 4th February - Celebrating Chinese New Year
Monday 8th February - Waitangi Day. School closed.

Wed 10th - Fri 12th - Camp for Rooms 2 & 7
Mon 15th - Wed 17th - Camp for Rooms 1, 6 and some of Room 4
Wed 17th - Fri 19th - Camp for Rooms 3, 5 and some of Room 4

Wednesday 24th February - The Aunties "Teddy Bears Picnic" - Pohutukawa (Year 0/1)
Tuesday 1st March - Swimming Carnival (No Postponement Date)
Wed 16th March - Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences 1.30-8.00p.m.
(note - school closes at 12.45pm for this to happen)

Thurs 17th March - Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences 3.30-6.00pm
Friday 25th March - Good Friday. School Closed
Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th March - Easter Break. School Closed.
Thursday 7th April - T-Ball Field Day Year 3 / 4 (Savings Date Thursday 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 5 th February	- Rimu Syndicate	Friday 18 th March	- Rimu Syndicate
Tuesday 9 th February	- Kauri Syndicate	Monday 21st March	- Kauri Syndicate
Friday 19 th February	- Rimu Syndicate	Thursday 24th March	- Pohutukawa & Kowhai
Monday 22nd February	- Kauri Syndicate	Friday 1st April	- Rimu Syndicate
Friday 26 th February	- Pohutukawa & Kowhai	Monday 4th April	- Kauri Syndicate
Friday 4 th March	- Whole School	Friday 8th April	- Pohutukawa & Kowhai
Monday 7 th March	- Kauri Syndicate	Friday 15th April	- Rimu Syndicate
Friday 11 th March	- Pohutukawa & Kowhai		

SCHOOL DONATIONS AND SCHOOL FEES

Education has never been 'free' and most people can probably remember their parents fundraising for school events and paying school fees when they were at school. Although all schools are funded by the government, there remains a significant shortfall between this amount and what it costs to run a school. This is compounded by the fact that we are a decile 7 school, which means we receive less funding than schools of a lower decile.

The 2016 School Donation are unchanged from last year and will remain at \$200 for one child, \$400 for two children 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 and a claim form that will return to you up to 30% of the money paid to the school for this donation. ***If you pay the entire school fee by the end of March, you can claim back this money in the current tax year.***

To make things easier for parents to pay, we have eftpos available in the school office. We also accept this donation being paid by regular direct debit.

Explanation

As we did in 2015, this year we are also adding a PTA donation to the school donation. Without the PTA (Parents and Teachers Association) support, we would never have increased technology in the classrooms to the level we have now, built three new playgrounds over the past nine years, provided sport and choir uniforms, installed sun shades and more recently, paid to heat the school pool. Of course, the PTA's biggest contribution over the years has been towards the wonderful Performing Arts Centre that we use every day.

In recent years the PTA experienced a huge drop in man power support to organise and run all the things they do to enable us to make these purchases. We appreciate that often both parents work during the day and it can be hard to get to school to help as such events. Therefore to maintain the level of funding support we need and to lighten the pressure on the small but dedicated group of parents on the PTA, we are asking for a \$40 per child PTA donation . While this \$40 donation is optional we strongly encourage that you support them and the school in this way. If you are an active supporter of the PTA and offer your time on a regular basis, you do not need to feel obligated to pay this extra charge, as we appreciate and still need a team of active parents for the events that will remain in 2016 such as the School Carnival.

This voluntary donation is designed to maintain the high level of financial support that we have received from our parents over the years, whilst minimising the need number of events that we run to ensure that the children continue to have access to upgraded facilities and equipment. In 2015 we collected around \$5000 from the PTA Donation which was around 10% of our collected total. As you can see, we do still need to run fundraising events and we thank all those parents who continue to help these to take place.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

The Uniform shop (next to the school pool) is open for sales of uniform on the following days:

Monday - 8.30-8.50am Wednesday -3.00-3.20pm Thursday -10.20-10.40am.

A reminder that all clothing (including the school hat) must be named.

The Blockhouse Bay School uniform should be worn with pride. The following is a summary of the **school uniform rules. Please feel free to contact Dorothy Howard-Smith if you have any uniform related questions.**

The following guidelines will be reinforced at school during the year:

Acceptable :

- Headwear - School Hat compulsory in terms 1 & 4 (wearing of the school beanie is a winter option)
- Socks- Colours allowed are **fully** Black, White, Navy, Natural, Grey or Burgundy (No patterns)
- Leggings -Colours allowed are **fully** Black, White, Navy, Natural, Grey or Burgundy (No patterns)
- Earrings -Tiny plain **ear studs** only - maximum of one only in either or both ears.
- Footwear
 - Bare feet
 - Any Coloured flat shoes, sneakers or sandals
 - No crocs, jandals, heels, boots or gumboots to be worn.
 - No wheels on shoes allowed.

Not Acceptable :

- Any hoop type earrings including sleepers
- Make Up (no coloured nail polish)
- Boots / Jandals / Gumboots / Crocs

Children wearing non-uniform items will be asked by a teacher to remove them and may incur a non-uniform lunchtime detention if they continue to break these rules.

COME ON GUYS, GET TRAVELWISE!

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.

NUT ALLERGIES

Our school has four 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.**

Sold



Get moving, get Michael.

Michael Cassidy Residential Sales

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