



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Tuesday 31st January 2017

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 2017 school year, [the Year of the Rooster] particularly to our new pupils and their families. The staff are very excited about the learning year ahead and look forward to working with you all.

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 and can be emailed to you if you fill in the box at the bottom of the page on this website.

For your information, we have begun the year with approximately 525 children and are likely to grow to around 600 by the end of the year.

We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at our Meet the Families meetings that take place in a few weeks' time. This format is different from how we usually get together at the beginning of the year as feedback from parents suggested that it is more important for you to actually talk directly to your child's teacher(s) face to face to begin to forge a productive partnership. Bookings will be done in the same way as we usually do our mid-year conferences so get it quick to secure the time that suits you best. Please see the details of how and when to do your booking, later in this newsletter.

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.

Have a great week everyone.

Neil Robinson - Principal

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 this year are:

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

HOMESTAYS FOR VISITING CHINESE STUDENTS - this week

We have 10 students coming from our sister school in Yuyao, China and we need to find homestay accommodation for 3 more of them. They arrive this Thursday 2nd February and will require accommodation until the 13th February. Host families will receive \$25 per child per night for this time. Preferably, the children will stay in homes in pairs, which means that families will receive over \$500 in total. Families who have done this have reported to us that their children learn a lot from this experience.

Please contact the school office urgently if you are interested in hosting as we need to have this organised tomorrow.

Barfoot & Thompson
Licensed REAA 2008 MREINZ

Blockhouse Bay

UPDATE ON THE NEW ARTIFICIAL TURF

The windy weather over January has put the construction of the new courts back by a few weeks as the dust created resulted in the Council shutting down this project. We are now looking at a finish time of around three weeks' time so please remind your children to keep away from this construction area.

CHINESE NEW YEAR - this Friday

On Friday 3rd 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!

'MEET THE FAMILY' MEETING

As we mentioned above, we have changed the format of our term one meetings so that parents, teachers and children can meet face-to-face, so that everyone can begin to build a positive relationship early the year. Of course the children will have only been at school for two weeks, so the emphasis will be more on the parents providing information for the teacher that will be helpful.

We would also like your child to come to the meeting as there is likely to be things said that they should hear and they might even have important things to say at the meeting. As always, if either the teacher or parents feel that there are important things to discuss without the child, they can be asked to wait outside for the last part of the meeting. Each meeting is allocated 15 minutes.

The Meet the family Meetings will take place on Tuesday 14th February (1.30-8.00p.m.) and Wednesday 15th February 3.30-6.00pm. Please note that **School will close at 12.45p.m. on Tuesday 14th February** and at 3.00p.m. on Wednesday 15th February so that we have enough time for everyone's meeting. Please ensure that your children are safely looked after on Tuesday afternoon.

To book online go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz enter the school code **fxkuz** and press the go button. To ensure you get the appointment time you want we advise you book early as appointments fill up fast. Bookings will open 9am Wednesday 1st February and close 2.00pm Monday 13th February. If you are unable to book your appointment online please see the school office who will make this appointment for you.

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: Craig Holt

Chairman: Stephen Dallow

Principal: Neil Robinson

Secretary: Carly Arghand

Property: Travis Brown

Cultural Liaison: Sheereen Ali

Staff Rep: Mandy Barrett

Our next monthly Board meeting will take place in the school staffroom on Tuesday 21st February at 7.00p.m. These are always open meetings to which anyone can attend. Please contact Stephen Dallow for more information about the Board or if you wish to come along to a meeting stephen@kids4drama.co.nz

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 \$120 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. *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.*

Please make sure that the children bring their togs and towel (named) on their swimming days. Your teacher will let you know which weeks your child will be swimming.

As a result of feedback from PE experts, we are changing the way that we organise our swimming timetable in 2017. Our advice is that the children will learn more from having them swim more often as this intensive instruction will be more effective than spacing it out in the way that we have been doing.

Every class will get two weeks where they will swim every day (as opposed to once or twice a week). For example, children in Year 1 will not be swimming until early March and then they will swim every day.

We will review this move at the end of the season and make adjustments to next year's programme if required.

NUT ALLERGIES

Our school has some 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.**

SCHOOL DONATIONS AND SCHOOL FEES

Education has never been 'free' and most people can probably remember their parents fundraising for school events and paying 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 2017 School Donation is unchanged from the last few years and will remain at \$200 for one child, \$400 for two 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 2016, 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 built the PAC, 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, paid to heat the school pool and of course we are currently putting in the artificial turf surface.

In recent years the PTA experienced a significant 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, 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 2017 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 2016 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 10.20-10.40am Thursday - 3.00-3.20pm

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 our DP Elizabeth Crisp 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 cros, jandals, heels, boots or gumboots wheeled shoes or ones with flashing lights

Not Acceptable :

- Any hoop type earrings including sleepers
- Make Up (no coloured nail polish)

Children wearing non-uniform items will be asked by a teacher to remove them and take them home.

SCHOOL STATIONERY

A small number of parents have contacted us to question some of the decisions that we have made about the children's stationery. Thank you to those people who have taken the time to do this as we always want to know what parents are thinking. Whilst there are very good reasons why we do the things that we do, we can see that a number of the parents' concerns are very valid and we would like to gather together a group of people who wish to help us to get a better understanding from a family perspective. Next week, we will publish details about how parents can volunteer for this review team if they wish to have input into this.

COLFERENCE FOR SCHOOLS IN THE LYNFIELD SCHOOLS CLUSTER

One afternoon in March, all of the 300 teachers from this cluster of eight schools will be taking part in a learning conference (which we have named as a Colference) and will include internationally recognised educator, Helen Timperley. So that this meeting can take place, **school will be closing at 1.00pm. Please note the date for this shortened day - Wednesday 8th March.**

THE SCHOOL DAY

The instructional school day goes from 8.50a.m - 3.00p.m. The children should arrive at school **no later than 8.30am** 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 8.15am 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.

ONLINE SCHOOL SHOP - open now:

Working together with Kindo, Blockhouse Bay School can now bring you a fantastic way to view and pay for your child's school needs online. No cash, no paper, no hassle!

It is our preferred method of payment and we encourage you to set up your account today.

New User

Set up an account easily. All you need is your email address which matches the one held by the school. Visit the school website 'Information Page' on details of how to register.

School Shop

Shop anytime, anywhere with our Kindo online School shop. Visit the school website Information Page on details of how to register & purchase from the School Shop.

You can: view and make full or part payments on your school family account register and pay for sports teams/trips, purchase school uniforms, complete permission forms online.

More items will be added during the year.

Choose to pay-as-you-go or add funds to your Kindo account in advance, using internet banking, account2account or Visa/Mastercard (fees apply).

Questions: Contact the school office on 09 627 9440 / office@blockhousebay.school.nz or

Contact the Kindo helpdesk on freephone 0508 4 KINDO or email helpdesk@tgcl.co.nz

See it in action: We have a tutorial on how to use the shop to help you get started, simply visit the school website 'Information Page' for the link. It's an easy one-stop shop for all your school costs. HAPPY SHOPPING!

TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday 3rd February	- Chinese New Year - children can wear their traditional Chinese clothes to
Monday 13 th February	- Rimu Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Tuesday 14 th February	- Meet the Family Conferences - school finishes at 12.45pm
Wednesday 15 th February	- Meet the Family Conferences - school finishes at 3.00pm
Monday 20 th February	- Kauri Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Wednesday 22 nd February	- Pohutukawa - Teddy Bears Picnic: Kowhai Assembly - 2.30pm
Thursday 2 nd March	- Pohutukawa Syndicate Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 6 th March	- Kauri Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Tuesday 7 th March	- Year 5/6 Interschool Cricket Field Day (14 th March Postponement Day)
Wednesday 8 th March	- COLference - School Closes 1.00pm this day
Monday 13 th March	- Rimu Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Thursday 16 th March	- Pohutukawa Assembly - 2.30pm
Monday 20 th March	- Kauri Assembly - 2.00pm
Wednesday 22 nd March	- Year 5/6 Interschool T-Ball Field Day (29 th March Postponement Day) Kowhai Syndicate Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 27 th March	- Rimu Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Thursday 30 th March	- Year 3/4 Interschool T Ball Field Day (6 th April Postponement Day)
Monday 3 rd April	- Kauri Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Wednesday 5 th April	- Kowhai Syndicate Assembly - 2.30pm
Monday 10 th April	- Rimu Syndicate Assembly - 2.00pm
Tuesday 11 th April	- Kauri and Rimu Cross Country Day (13 th April Postponement Day)



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BLOCKHOUSE BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEET THE FAMILY CONFERENCES

15 MINUTE APPOINTMENT TIMES

Tuesday 14th February & Wednesday 15th February

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Please see the information on the other side of this page to book your school interviews online.

Please note that these are Parent / Student / Teacher conferences, so we would like your child to be present at the meeting. Sometimes there might be a sensitive matter to discuss and in these cases, the children can be asked to leave the room for a couple of minutes while this conversation takes place.

If you are unable to book your online meeting time, fill in the details of your child/ren in the first block below and tick your preferred meeting time in the second block. Send this form back via your **Eldest Child** to the school office as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to give you appointments in your preferred time slot. Forms which arrive back to school after a couple of days may result in people getting 'what's left'. Bookings are open from Wednesday 1st February (9.00am) to Monday 13th February (2.00pm). Those who send a form to the office to request a conference will receive an appointment, sent home, immediately when booked.

CLASS CONFERENCE

Students Name/s	Parents Name	RM	Teacher

Please tick the preferred time for your Parent Conference

Tuesday 14 th February- All Syndicates		1.30pm to 3.30pm
Tuesday 14 th February - All Syndicates		4.00pm to 6.00pm
Tuesday 14 th February - Kowhai & Pohutukawa (Years 1 & 2)		6.45pm to 7.30pm
Tuesday 14 th February - Kauri & Rimu (Years 3-6)		6.45pm to 8.00pm
Wednesday 15 th February - All Syndicates		3.30pm to 6.00pm

Mrs Crisp, **Deputy Principal**, Mrs Addison, **Enrichment Co-ordinator** and Mrs Elmarie Pentz, **Special Needs Co-ordinator** will be available to see you at any stage of the afternoon/evening.

PLEASE NOTE: The Conference for your child will be held in their classroom

Meet the Family Conferences

Tuesday 14th February

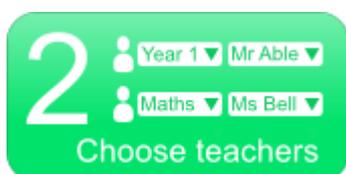
Wednesday 15th February

Online Booking Information

Parents...Booking interviews is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3:



First enter your name, your child/rens name(s), and your email address.



On the next page, pick the room / teacher you want to meet.



Then you'll see a timetable showing when your chosen teachers are available. Simply click on the times that suit you.

When you are done, your interview timetable will be emailed to you. And if something comes up, you can return to the site and change your interviews whenever you want.

You can start right now -

Go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz - enter the school code fvkuz and press the GO button.

School code
fvkuz

Bookings are open from 9.00am Wednesday 1st February till 2.00pm-Monday 13th February.

Alternatively if you are unable to access this service, send your completed form back to the school office and we will book your time for you