



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 3rd March 2016

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Next week, we will be hosting three people from the Education Review Office as part of their regular visits to schools. We welcome this opportunity to show off our wonderful school and also receive ideas about how we can improve in the future. The team will be led by Christine Smith and will include Aroha Knight and Robert Minahan. If you are approached by one of these people, please feel free to engage with them and answer any questions that they might have. The results of the review will be made public by the end of Term Two.

Parents who have been involved with the school for a few years may well remember the questionnaire that we did in 2014. One of the items that was raised by parents was the possibility of an upgrade to the school's website. Over the last few months, a team of staff and Board members have been working together to carry out this work and we are pleased to announce that the set up phase is nearly complete. By the middle of next week, people will be able to google the school and see our new site which we think is a considerable improvement on our previous one. This is however just phase one of the process and in the weeks and months to come, we will be doing even more to the website to ensure that families are kept up to date with what is going on at the school. People will also be able to register to have the newsletter emailed directly to them. We have our first Whole School Assembly tomorrow afternoon at 2pm. All welcome.

Have a great week everyone.

Neil Robinson - Principal

COIN TRAIL FOR FIJI - TOMORROW (any coin will do)

There are a number of disasters going on around the world at any one time, but the cyclone that hit Fiji recently has particular significance for a large group of people that have links to the school. Because of this, one of our pupils Sara Ranchhod has organised a fundraising venture to collect money for the people who have been severely affected by the disaster. Tomorrow, we would like the children to bring a coin or some coins along to school to take part in a Coin Trail which will be set up on the netball courts. The children will place their own coins in the shape of a 'Help Fiji' message. We will then collect up the money and send it across.

We have just heard that the company where Sara Ranchhod's father Sam works, will match (and therefore double) all donations collected by us. Our thanks to Nivana Health Group for making this generous offer!

MESSAGE FROM DOT HOWARD-SMITH

I would like to thank everyone of you who made my retirement from Blockhouse Bay School so memorable. I was overwhelmed by your wonderful words, both oral and written and the amazing array of generous gifts I received. In case I did not get to thank you personally, please accept this as my thanks. Now that I have time ...I have thoroughly enjoyed going through all my letters, cards and gifts. Thank you all- students, parents and staff. You are a most special community. Dot Howard-Smith

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

The Pohutukawa syndicate had a really enjoyable Teddy Bears' Picnic on Wednesday. The weather was wonderful. After the children were treated to a fantastic session with Madam Salami from The Aunties group. The toys, the parents, and the children all enjoyed the picnic together.

The winners on the day were-

Smallest teddy -(Tanvi Room 15)

Tallest teddy -(Tessa Reception Room)

Most loved bear -(Mary Reception Room)

Best dressed teddy - (Emily Room 18)

Fluffiest bear - (Asha Room 17)

Most colourful bear -(Nikita Reception Room)

Most interesting non-teddy -(Millie Room 17)



FLIPPA BALL RESULTS

BHB Bullsharks 2 v St Cuth's Starfish 6

BHB Makosharks 5 v St Cuthbert's 0

Player of the day - Kian Kumar - Austin Lamb - Ari Holt

Player of the day - Zahra Bharmal and Raymond Mallin

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

TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS *Term Ends Friday 15th April*

Please make a note of the term highlights listed in this newsletter. 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

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

HEALTH TOPICS BEING COVERED AT SCHOOL

Teachers often cover health related topics incidentally and as they come up during the day and whilst teachers will have a scheduled focus on aspects (such as children getting on with each other), they are also addressed if and when they arise. The following are the topics that classes will definitely cover over the next 12 months:

Pohutukawa - Marvellous Me/Relationships, Travelwise, Healthy lunches, Coughing/sneezing, Road safety, Importance of exercise, Basic body hygiene, Friendships and Hand washing

Kowhai - Sun, Water and Beach Safety, General hygiene (sneezing / coughing Hand washing, exercise and the importance of drinking water

Rimu - Forming and Developing Friendships, Keeping Healthy, Keeping Fit - regular physical activity, Travelwise, Beach Safety and Managing Self.

Kauri - Sun safety, Personal Identity, Mother / Daughter evening, Regular physical activity and movement skills and Water Safety.

Please feel free to discuss these with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding these areas of study.

WHEELS AT SCHOOL

It has become a bit of a craze for children, to ride toys with wheels at school. We do not want to stifle these fun physical activities, but we do need to place some rules around this to ensure that all children and visitors are safe.

- Parents are entirely responsible for children using toys with wheels and we accept no responsibility for their use either before/after school or at other times e.g. weekends.
- The riding of bicycles to and from school can only be done independently by Year 6 students and only after they have permission from the Principal. To gain permission, the child needs to write a letter to the Principal stating that they will wear a helmet and follow the road rules.
- As far as the school is concerned, there is no age restriction on children riding other wheeled toys to school. This is completely at the parent's discretion.
- If scooters are being ridden to school they should be either taken home by a parent or locked up at the bike stand. The school however takes no responsibility for their security.
- Children using wheel-based toys are not allowed to ride them around the school between 8.00-3.45pm as there are lots of people around at these times and we do not wish to have any injuries.
- Parents may wish to provide safety padding/helmets etc. and to tell their children to wear them, but this is up to the parents to enforce.
- Only children who own the toys can use them at school. This means that children who do not have permission from their parents, cannot use them and this will need to be enforced by the parents also.
- We have nowhere to safely store skates, so they cannot remain at school during the day
- Shoes with wheels cannot be worn at school during school hours

WHAT SCHOOL WORK CAN MY CHILD DO WHEN WE ARE AWAY ON HOLIDAY?

Because learning is cumulative, we obviously prefer children to be at school during term time. However, sometimes parents take children away on holiday and ask the school if we can provide work for the children to do. As a general rule, we do not provide any set work because:

- It takes the teacher time to set up - time that they could be spending preparing for the whole class
- The work we have sent in the past is very rarely completed or even attempted
- Learning tasks often need to be 'scaffolded' (assistance provided by a teacher)
- Any work that is completed then needs to be marked by the teacher, taking time that they could be spending preparing for the whole class.

If parents do take their children away from school during the school terms, we advise that they have the children complete a scrapbook of activities that they have experienced while they are away. This could be a diarised account of what they have done with travel or sightseeing tickets attached. Mathematics can be added by children including costs of the activity for everyone's tickets. These accounts can then be shown to their classmates upon their return and can also be a worthwhile memento of their experience.

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.

PTA NEWS

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

Hello from the PTA. Friday lunch orders have started this week. Fruju Fridays will run every week until the weather cools and sushi/bakery items will be every second week. So Frujus only next week- notices will come out again on Monday. Please return your order to the school office by Thursday 9am with the correct money. If you can help with PTA this year please email Annette at pta@blockhousebay.school.nz. Every little bit helps! We really need helpers for the disco on 8th April, the sausage sizzle on the last day of term and Friday lunch orders (12-1pm on Fridays). Check out our Facebook page for up to date reminders- search for Blockhouse Bay Primary school PTA and hit 'like'.

AFTER SCHOOL CHINESE CLASSES - MEETING TONIGHT FOR NON-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 have an information meeting about these classes being held tonight **Thursday 3rd March and will be delivered in English.** We would look to begin these classes in the week starting 14th March.

Please come along this evening if you are interested in having your child attend these classes.

Chinese Parents - We are running a free introductory session in Chinese tomorrow (Friday) afternoon in Room 19 starting at 3.15pm. Please contact Ruby on 0276688466 for more details.

HOLI - 'Festival of Colours'

When : Saturday 2nd April between 11.00am & 3.00pm

Where : Blockhouse Bay Primary School Grounds

The 'Festival Of Colours' is here.

Continuing our popular celebration of 'Festival Of Colours' from past years, we are going to celebrate it once again this year at the school grounds on Saturday 2nd April.

Holi - Festival Of Colours, which was the inspiration of the popular Colour Run, is one of the largest cultural events celebrated across Asia.

This annual festival of fun and frolic is organized by parents of Blockhouse Bay Primary School students and will feature food, fun activities, music and dance.

People of all ages and cultures can enjoy this day and play with colours.

More information will be shared in the coming weeks via the school newsletter.



Get moving, get Michael.

Michael Cassidy Residential Sales

027 270 9478 | m.cassidy@barfoot.co.nz

Blockhouse Bay 09 627 8325 | barfoot.co.nz



Licensed under the REAA 2008



**AUCKLAND
ORTHODONTICS**

Specialist orthodontics for all ages



Dr Nitin Raniga

BDS (Otago) DClinDent (Otago) MOrth RCSEd MRACDS (Orth)

ORTHODONTIST

6 Exminster St
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland 0600

Phone 09 627 3555
nitin@aucklandortho.co.nz
www.aucklandortho.co.nz

