



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

4th May 2017

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a great break and are looking forward to another term of exciting learning at Blockhouse Bay School.

A big welcome to Stacy McIvor and Raewyn Prendiville who are co-teaching in Room 12. They are both experienced teachers and we are very lucky to have them join our team.

The staff had a very productive teacher only day last Thursday where we looked at ways of building upon our ability to assess and teach the children's reading. Striving for continual improvement in our work never stops of course and as the older learners in the school, we try to model our goal of trying to 'sharpen the pencil' and get better at what we do.

We also have a teacher only day in November each year to continue with this training and to begin our preparations for the next school year. This will take place on Friday 24th November so school will be closed for instruction on this day. A reminder that the school stays open for an extra day in December to make up for this lost learning time.

Term Two kicks off with a real bang next Monday with our Book Week providing lots of exciting activities aimed at building upon the children's motivation to read. Please look at this information so that your family are well prepared for all of these events and ask your child about them when they get home.

As always, keep reading the newsletter or ask a staff member if you have any questions about anything that is happening at school.

Have a great week everyone!

Neil Robinson

Principal

WINTER UNIFORM

Children do not need to wear their school hats until term four but parents might want to be thinking about purchasing other uniform items to help their children through the winter months. The uniform shop is open on Monday mornings from 8.30am and then again on Wednesday afternoons from 3.00-3.30pm.

Please remember that if children wear any other items underneath their school uniform, these need to be in one of the school colours (white, black or dark blue).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-TERM TWO

Mon 8th - Fri 12th May - Book Week
see schedule of events for details

Tuesday 9th May - Inter-school Cross Country for selected Y3-6 students

Thursday 11th May
Book Character Parade - 9.00am
7.30pm in the staffroom - all welcome

Monday 15th May - PTA Meeting 7.30pm in the staffroom - all welcome

Tuesday 16th May
Interschool Cross Country savings date

Wednesday 17th May - Science in a Van Sessions for Rimu & Kōwhai classes

Kōwhai Assembly - 2.30 pm

Monday 22nd May - Kauri Assembly 2.15pm
- Awarding of cross country certificates

Tuesday 23rd May
- Board of Trustees Meeting (Staffroom)
- ICAS Digital Technologies
- Rooms 17 & 18 to Stardome

Wednesday 24th May
- Rooms 15, 16 & 25 to Stardome

Wednesday 24th May - Kapa Haka performing at the BHB Library

Monday 29th May
- Rimu Assembly - 2.00pm
Awarding of cross country certificates

Tuesday 30th May
- ICAS Science
- 2018 Year 6 Camp Meeting

Wednesday 31st May
- Kōwhai Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 1st June - Pohutukawa Assembly

Monday 5th June - Queens Birthday Weekend. School closed on Monday.

Thursday 8th June
Inter-school tennis for selected students

Monday 12th June - Rimu assembly 2pm

Tuesday 13th June
- ICAS Writing and ICAS Spelling
- Junior School Cross-Country (Years 0-2)

Wednesday 14th June - Inter-school Swimming for selected students
- Kōwhai Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 15th June - Junior School Cross-Country savings day (Years 0-2)

Friday 16th June - West Auckland Chess Championships for selected students

Monday 19th June - Kauri Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 22nd June - Year 3/4 Soccer Tournament for selected students

Friday 23rd June - Science in a Van visiting Kauri classes

Monday 26th June - Rimu assembly 2pm

Wed 28th June - Matariki Assembly 2pm

Thursday 29th June - Year 3/4 Soccer postponement day
- Pohutukawa Assembly 2.30pm

Fri 30th June - Mid-year reports sent home
- Auckland Girls Inter-School Chess Championships for selected students
- PTA Comedy Night

Monday 3rd July - Kauri Assembly 2.15pm

Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th July
- Parent/Child/Teacher Conferences

Friday 7th July
- Mufti Day/ Sausage Sizzle
- Last day of Term Two (3.00pm finish)

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Blockhouse Bay

PROPERTY UPDATE

- It has taken over a year to jump through the necessary hoops to replace our pool fence and we are thrilled to finally have this project all but completed. On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank ex-Board member Mark Hewett who has spent many hours cajoling and convincing the necessary authorities that the fence met and exceeded the necessary requirements. Although his children have all left the school, Mark continued to advocate on our behalf on this project and this was just another example of his commitment to the Blockhouse Bay community.
- The delays to the artificial turf project have continued with the awful weather impacting significantly on the preparation of the critical drainage requirements. The completion date was then adjusted again when the turf itself was found to contain faults and needed to be returned to the USA. We are now looking at an official opening taking place in late June. This is of course quite frustrating, but will make it all the more appreciated when we are using it in the months and years to come.
- The Ministry of Education have recently approved a property spend at the school of over \$600 000 which will be used to upgrade Rooms 1-3 and 20-23. This will cause significant disruption to the operations of the school, but will be worth it when we finish these upgrades, around the middle of 2018.



2017 KAURI AND RIMU CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

7 YR OLD BOYS 1 st = Nate Meikle 1 st = Phoenix Alexander 2 nd Akarsh Shankar 3 rd Isaac Hydes	7 YR OLD GIRLS 1 st Emmie Butler 2 nd Phoebe Shan 3 rd Neha Rana	9 YR OLD BOYS 1 st Ethan Beguely 2 nd Montel Tupou-Matenga 3 rd Ari Holt	9 YR OLD GIRLS 1 st Ridsen Brown 2 nd Maia Leaning 3 rd Mia Bradley
8 YR OLD BOYS 1 st Jack Hurlle 2 nd Callum Harty 3 rd Austin Pederson	8 YR OLD GIRLS 1 st Jessie Jackson 2 nd Solin Kansil 3 rd Jayde Reis-Williams	10 YR OLD BOYS 1 st Jerry Huang 2 nd Jason Xu 3 rd Jaidev Bhika	10 YR OLD GIRLS 1 st Leyla Butler 2 nd Arianna Prelipceanu 3 rd Zhilan Kansil
11 YR OLD BOYS 1 st Hayden Tredgett 2 nd Max Marvin	11 YR OLD GIRLS 1 st Fiona Wang 2 nd Lara Powell		

PTA NEWS

Monday 15th May - PTA meeting 7:30pm in staffroom - all welcome

Sunday 21st May 1-3pm - White Elephant drop off at PAC (Had a clear out over the holidays? Drop off any good condition games, toys, homewares and very good condition kids clothes for our Carnival white elephant collection).

Monday 12th June - PTA meeting 7:30pm in staffroom - all welcome

Friday 30th June 7:30-9:30pm - ADULTS ONLY COMEDY NIGHT with Urzila Carslon (from TV!) at our school PAC! Save the date. More info to come.

Friday 7th July - Last day of term - Gold coin mufti and sausage sizzle

Friday Lunches - these will start next week and **students are now able to order sushi/cafe OR Pita Pit each**

Friday. Classes will have order forms for both items so just remind your child to pick the form they would like and return the order to the office by Thursday at 9am at the latest. Please write full name and room numbers and pay with exact money as we cannot give change.

Friday kitchen - Frozen Fridays were so popular last term and we still have some ice blocks left so we will be offering ice blocks on Fridays while stocks last. We will also be offering a warm option of a cup of Milo and a small cookie for the same price as the ice blocks- \$1. Children can come and purchase these from the PAC kitchen after the lunch eating bell on Fridays. If you can help on Friday lunchtimes between 12 and 1pm, please email Annette at pta@blockhousebay.school.nz.

Help needed: We are looking for a new PTA Treasurer to "learn the ropes" before our treasurer leaves at the end of this year. Please email as above if you might be interested.

BOOK WEEK: Science, Stars and Other Stuff:

Next week's Book Week (May 8-12) is a time for us to celebrate and promote the joy of reading and we have many exciting events planned including...

'Reading Under the Stars' - Tuesday 9th May & Wednesday 10th May (6.30-7.30pm)

We are holding two evenings for our families to come together to read and stargaze. Come to the school hall from 6.30-7.30pm to enjoy reading and stargazing. Bring blankets or cushions to sit on and a torch.

Even Rooms 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, (Tuesday 9th May - 6.30-7.30pm).

Odd Rooms 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25 (Wednesday 10th May - 6.30-7.30pm).

Families with children in two or more classes may choose which night to attend.

Dress up parade - Thursday 11th May (9am)

Create a costume based on our Book Week themes and then show off your costume in our whole school parade. Families are welcome to attend.

Grandparents Morning - Thursday 11th May (9.45am)

Can you come and read to your grandchild's class after the parade?

This will take place after the Dress up Parade. We will provide books for you to read or you are welcome to bring along your own favourite children's books.

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about this exciting week of learning and fun!

Safety of Students walking to and from school

Last term, there were a number of incidents of students being inappropriately approached by strangers in the Blockhouse Bay area. We are concerned to do everything we can to ensure students are safe.

It is unlikely that an adult will be with all children at all times of their lives so we need to teach them about ways to stay safe in case something like this happens to them. There is lots of possible advice that we can pass on, but here are some things that you might wish to cover at home:

- **Walk to and from school or anywhere by the quickest route, preferably in twos or threes**
- **Do not go with someone you do not know even if they offer you something**
- **If someone does ask you to go with them say 'NO' in a big voice, run away and tell an adult you trust as soon as possible**
- **If you are waiting for someone to pick you up from school and they are late, return to the school office**
- **Agree with your children about a family password that an adult might use if they are allowed to collect your child. No password would mean do not go with that person**

Following a review of our processes regarding these matters, we are tightening up on some systems we have at school regarding adults visiting the school and parents might observe evidence of this over the months to come. Please be assured that although there might be some inconvenience attached to these changes, they are being implemented for the safety of all children, which is of course our number one priority.

YEAR 6 CAMP FOR CHILDREN IN FEBRUARY 2018

Although this might seem like it is a long time away, there are a number of reasons why we begin talking to parents about this in term two. We would like to meet with all parents of our current year 5 children on **Tuesday 30th May at 7.00pm**. The meeting will last for around an hour and will introduce parents to what happens during these wonderful learning experiences. Parents will be given the opportunity to ask questions during and after the meeting if they prefer. Please make a note of this date if you have a child in Year 5 this year.


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