



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

**IMPORTANT REMINDER - Meet the Family Meetings - next week
SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 12.45p.m. ON TUESDAY 14th FEBRUARY**
Please make arrangements to have your children looked after, from this time.

重要通知：

二月十四日，周二，家长会之日，学校将于中午12点45分提前放学。
请家长安排接孩子（请不要让孩子在没有成人家人陪同下在图书馆游荡）

Thursday 9th February 2017

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

School has begun for the year with real enthusiasm and excitement and it is great to see the children in class and learning with a smile on their faces! Thank you to everyone who has helped by preparing them for this.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our parents at next week's Meet the Teacher' meetings so please make your booking by 2.00pm on Monday 13th February for this important get-together.

At these meetings, we would like the parents to do most of the talking. It is your opportunity to share your thoughts about your child's strengths and let the teachers know if you have any concerns about their ability to learn at school. The main question is "**What does your teacher need to know that will help your child to learn more effectively?**" Have a think about this so that you are prepared to have this conversation.

Thank you to the parents of our Year 5 & 6 children who have purchased Chromebooks for their children. We plan to have a sharing time for parents of our senior children near the end of the term so that the children can show you some of the exciting things they are doing with these devices. Please keep a look out in the newsletter for the details of this meeting.

Have a great week everyone.

Neil Robinson - Principal

SCHOOL STATIONERY - do you wish to be on the review team?

A small number of parents have contacted us to question some of the decisions that we have made about the children's stationery 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.

The people who join this review team will be asked to discuss possible ways in which this system might be improved. If you would like to be part of this group, please email our committee coordinator Carly Arghand on carlyarghand@vodafone.co.nz or phone 02102467915.

FLIPPA BALL PLAYERS NEEDED

We are currently short a few players for some of the teams for the Term 1 season starting this Sunday 12th February! Flippa Ball is a really fun game played at amazing venues (Pools at St Cuthbert's, Diocesan Girls and Epsom Girls). Entry is for Years 3 to 6 students only. Please note that students must be able to stand up comfortably in a pool of 1.2m in depth, and that you must be committed for the entire season (around 8 - 10 games approximately). Previous experience is not required. Cost per child will be dependent on numbers, but is likely to be \$50-\$60 for the term. If your child is interested in playing please contact Mr Bennett in Room 4 as soon as possible.

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Blockhouse Bay

'MEET THE FAMILY' MEETING - next week. Have you booked yet??

As previously mentioned, 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 earlier in 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. The BHB Library has asked us to remind parents that they should not leave children at the library unsupervised.

To book online go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz enter the school code **fxkuz** and press the go button. Bookings close at 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.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

We sometimes need to contact parents urgently, so if you have moved house or changed any of your contact phone numbers please ensure you inform the school office of your new details.

SCHOOL DONATIONS AND SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to everyone who has paid this money to the school office. Please contact the office if you have any questions about this.

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. ***If you pay the entire school fee by the end of March, you can claim back this money in the current tax year.***

TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS

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

Please 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.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Happy new year to all our families and staff and welcome back to another busy and exciting school year.

It is great to see the hard work of the PTA and the parent community is paying off by all the busy activity on the school field. We can't wait to see the difference this will make to our children, being able to use the field far more than ever before. Getting kids outside and active each day is an important part of them growing up here in New Zealand and this new turf will enable teachers to do this for many more months than in previous years. Thank you to everyone for their commitment, support and fundraising dollars towards this project. We are a school that has always had an amazing PTA, if you have any time this year to support them please do as it is projects like this, our amazing playgrounds, sun shades, our PAC and of course a lot of the technology in our classrooms that all comes from the PTA's hard work. Thanks team!

As a Board, our key focus in 2017 is reviewing policies and ensuring our school is meeting student achievement goals. We do this through regular meetings and questioning Neil as Principal and his team on their role within this. While new ideas and initiatives are often run past us as a courtesy, our role is completely governance rather than day to day management. We are looking forward to our year ahead as we continue to see the strategic plan of the school grow and take shape following on from an enormous amount of work by management and staff last year. If you ever have any questions regarding the Board or our role, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have noted of late the increased presence on local social media pages regarding our school. While I am delighted we live in a country where free speech is encouraged, at times I do feel a little disappointed when questions or comments are raised there as the first point of call without discussing with Management at school. We work hard to engage with the local community as a school and when we do, we make sure that any engagement has the views of both management and board. Sometimes these posts on local Facebook groups and other similar sites can confuse the message. While I encourage everyone to voice their opinion, I do ask that it is balanced by raising the question with the team in charge of your child's education before hitting the keyboard, just in case the answer you get clarifies it for you without needing to go further. If ever you are unhappy with a decision made by staff, then the correct procedure is to speak with Neil as Principal and only if you are still unhappy or unclear, would you then write to me as Board chair. All decisions made at school are given careful and considered thought and often from years of experience behind them. As a parent myself, I know I can sometimes question these decisions as I feel I would have done it a different way, but upon questioning with the school, I am always clear on their reason for the decision and what stood behind it which I have never thought of. So I encourage all of us to follow this process first, before taking to social media, so that if you do, you are armed with the facts first rather than opening a debate that often goes way off topic.

Thank you to our wonderful team of parents who looked after our school pool over the holidays, you are all amazing! We are so lucky to have this asset and we could not afford to run it without the volunteer support from families and the long hours our caretaker and external contractors put into it. Many schools are closing their pools but we have made it very clear that providing we can continue to cover its costs financially, we see it as a vital tool in our children's education given we grow up in a country surrounded by water.

On behalf of the B.O.T, I wish you all a wonderful 2017 year at school and look forward to seeing you at many of the events and engagements throughout the year.

Best wishes, Stephen Dallow - Board of Trustees Chairperson

PTA NEWS

Hello from the PTA. We hope you all had a great summer break. If you are keen to join the PTA this year to help with our fundraising initiatives, our first meeting will be held on Monday 20th February at 7:30pm in the staff room. We would love to see some new faces.

Friday lunch orders start this week with sushi/cafe orders tomorrow if you have ordered. Next week will be Pita Pit so pick up your order form from the office if you do not receive one from the classroom teacher. Please return the form to the office by 9am Thursdays with full name, room number and exact money please. The PTA who run this are doing it around their own work schedule so it really helps if you can follow the above instructions carefully. Thanks.

Every Friday this term we will also be selling mini-licks ice blocks from the PAC kitchen at lunch time. Children can come and buy one ice block for \$1 after they've eaten lunch. Hooray for Frozen Fridays!

Like our Facebook page "Blockhouse Bay Primary School PTA" for more updates. Email us with any questions or comments: pta@blockhousebay.school.nz

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