



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 9th March 2017

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Thank you to all families who had to deal with the inconvenience of having their children home early yesterday. The teachers had a very productive afternoon/evening and enjoyed forging deeper relationships with staff members from across the district. I am positive that we will see the benefits of this professional development and growing collegiality in the months to come.

Thank you too to all of the people who have contributed in some way to our consultation process as part of our review into how the school arranges for parents to purchase the children's stationery. We are now gathering together these viewpoints and will discuss them with the teachers and office staff before making decisions about what will change and what will remain the same.

Have a great week everyone.
Neil Robinson - Principal

STAFFING UPDATE

As announced previously, Room 5 teacher Mary-Rose Adlington goes in for an operation soon and we can now confirm that her last day of work for term one will be Friday 17th March. Good luck Mary-Rose and we look forward to seeing you back at work soon.

Wendy Spence will teach in Room 5 until Mary-Rose returns.

Room 12 teacher Betty Duncan and her husband have applied for residency in Canada and there is every chance that this will be approved soon. Betty has therefore decided to leave Room 12 and the school at the end of term one. Whilst we are very sad to see her go, we will of course wish her all the best for this new and exciting chapter in her life.

Experienced teacher Stacy McIvor will take over from the beginning of term two and will be spending some time in Room 12 between now and then so that she can learn all about this wonderful group of children.

NETBALL TRIALS

We urgently need 2 or 3 more Year 5 or 6 children to commit to playing netball this year. Please contact Mr Bennett if you are interested in having your child make this commitment.

Trials for our Interschool Winter League netball teams (Years 3 & 4, and Years 5 & 6) will be held during lunchtimes over the next week or so. We have sent home a letter to all children who expressed an interest in taking part in representing the school in this sport this year. Please contact the office if you wish to be sent a copy of this letter. Please send this form back to the office or contact Richard Bennett for more details.

We will only be trialling children who send back this letter as there is no point in considering them if parents have not agreed to having them play each week. Families have to consider the fact that the players are required for all training sessions and games from late March to late August. Also a reminder that if selected for a team Year 3 & 4 players will play after school on Thursdays, and Year 5 & 6 players will play on Saturday mornings. All games will be played at Te Pai Netball Centre in Henderson.

We are of course needing coaches and managers for these teams, and will be asking people to nominate themselves soon. Netball Waitakere put on great coaching session workshops, and also provide drills / skills activity booklets which are very useful and which the school can organise for you if you wish.

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Blockhouse Bay

2017- YEAR 5 & 6 INTER-SCHOOL CRICKET FIELD DAY

Well done to all the teams and students who took part in the big Inter-school Cricket Field Day on Tuesday. You all represented the school very well and showed awesome team spirit, respect and sportsmanship. A great day of cricket, you all should be very proud of your achievements. A big thank you to Mrs Kilpatrick, Whaea Laura and all the parent helpers who helped supervise and support our teams on the day.

A big congratulations to both the BHB A1 and A2 teams who played in the final for the A Division, where the BHB A2 team just won by 1 run as they got a wicket with the final ball bowled of the game! All results will be posted in the next newsletter.

A very big **THANK YOU** to the Nakano family who very generously donated over 200 Tennis balls to the school.

BAYS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Unfortunately and for a range of reasons, this popular event is not taking place in 2017 so we have been looking at alternative occasions for our choir to perform. We have several things planned and more details on these will be provided closer to the time.

LYNFIELD CLUSTER OF SCHOOLS HUI - next week

On the evening of **Tuesday 14th March**, our cluster of schools will be running a meeting for parents of children who have Maori descent. The Hui will be held at Lynfield College and will start at **6.30pm**. **Please arrive by 6.15pm** so that we can start on time. Last week, we sent home a letter to parents of Maori students about this meeting so please contact the office if you have any questions about this meeting. If you did receive this letter, please let the school know whether or not you and your whanau are attending.

SCHOOL DONATIONS

The 2017 School Donation is \$200 for one child, \$400 for two children and \$500 for three or more children with an additional donation of \$40 per child for the PTA donation. These *voluntary donations help us to provide an enhanced level of achievement and experiences for the children*. Please note that **if you pay the entire school donation by the end of March, you can claim back 30% of this money in the current tax year**

ICAS TESTING 2017

2017 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are Australian pen and paper tests that are completed in some schools under normal 'examination conditions'. Parents may choose to have their child sit these tests as they give their child the 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 and are entirely optional.

You may wish for your child to sit some or all of the following ICAS assessment exams: Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English or Maths. The ICAS assessments will take place in our school on the following dates:

Digital Technologies Tuesday 23rd May, Science Tuesday 30th May, Writing & Spelling Tuesday 13th June,
English Tuesday 1st August Maths Tuesday 15th August.

Order forms available at the school office and payment must be made by **Wednesday- 29th March 2017**.

TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS

Monday 13th March - Rimu Assembly - 2.00pm
Tuesday 14th March - Lynfield Cluster Hui for parents of Maori students. 6.30pm start at Lynfield College
Thursday 16th March - Pohutukawa Assembly - 2.30pm
Saturday 18th March - Holi Festival celebrated at our school. 11.00am - 3.00pm
Wednesday 22nd March - Year 5/6 Interschool T-Ball Field Day (29th March Postponement Day)
Wednesday 22nd March - Kowhai Assembly 2.30pm
Friday 24th March - Opening of new astro turf (courts) 5.15-6.30pm. All welcome.
Monday 27th March - Rimu Assembly - 2.00pm
Thursday 30th March - Year 3/4 Interschool T Ball Field Day (6th April Postponement Day)
Monday 3rd April - Kauri Assembly - 2.00pm
Tuesday 4th April - Parent Meeting about the use of computers in Kauri classes. 7.00pm start.
Wednesday 5th April - Kowhai Assembly - 2.30pm
Friday 7th April - Disco. Year 1-2 5.00-6.00pm Year 3-6 6.30-8.00pm
Monday 10th April - Rimu Assembly - 2.00pm
Tuesday 11th April - Kauri and Rimu Cross Country Day (13th April Postponement Day)
Wednesday 12th April - Whole School Assembly. 2.00pm. All welcome.
Thursday 13th April - Last day of term one. 3.00pm finish.

FLIPPA BALL RESULTS - 5th MARCH 2017

Year 5 & 6 BHB Tiger Sharks (2) vs. Pt Chev Makos (4). Player of the Day Lara Powell
Year 4 & 4 BHB Mako Sharks (5) vs. Three Kings Jelly Fish (0). Player of the Day Tom Waller

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

The uniform shop is open on the following days and times:

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

PAYING OF SCHOOL EXPENSES & FEES

We do understand that some parents work during the day and find it difficult to get to the school to pay school expenses. Therefore, uniform (and other items) can also be purchased using Kindo online. The uniform items will be sent home with your child.

To pay school expenses & fees, go to www.blockhousebay.school.nz, click on 'Information' on the top right of the front page and scroll down to 'School Shop'. There you will see an explanation of the process and a link to how you can sign up and pay for school items on line or link directly to your child's school account to pay school fees. Feel free to ring the school office if you have any questions about this process.

LOST PROPERTY

The Lost Property is located in the small room alongside the uniform room. If your child has lost an article of clothing please check there for it. This cupboard will be locked in the evenings. Please see the office if this room is locked and we will open it for you.

PTA NEWS

Food Friday's: Thanks to everyone who has been supporting our Friday lunches and Frozen Friday ice blocks. All money raised goes back towards our next fundraising project. Remember you can order sushi/cafe items one week and Pita Pit on alternate weeks. Tomorrow is sushi so Pita Pit next week. Pick up an order form from class or the office and return to the office by 9am Thursday mornings with name and room number clearly written.

Breaking News: To celebrate the completion of our new all-weather sports pitch we will be holding "Green Day" on Friday 24th March. In school this means a free "dress-in-green" mufti day (no cost to parents) to celebrate the new green sports pitch. Later that day we will have a Grand Opening Ceremony from 5:15-6:30pm. Invitations are open to the whole community to help us celebrate this achievement. Other community groups who have supported our school have also been invited. There will be games, donuts, smoothies and ice creams available from food trucks who are also coming along.

Next PTA meeting is **Wednesday** 29th March at 7:30pm in the staffroom (note change of day). Anyone is welcome to join us to share ideas and a few laughs.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

HOLI - 'The Festival of Colours'

When: Saturday 18th March between 11.00am - 3.00pm at Blockhouse Bay Primary (rugby field only)

What's on: DJ Music, Veg. Food Stalls, Water/Colour Play, Games, Prizes and more.

Last year's event was a great success and we look forward to another enjoyable day out for the whole family. A designated area for water play will be provided for kids and adults wishing to indulge in a bit of water fun. This year's event will be on the Rugby Field adjacent to the new All Weather Purpose Turf.

The organisers have decided on having a sports theme for this year's event and we will be having volleyball, soccer and cricket games.

Invite your family and friends to this event and enjoy a great day out. There will be dances performed by some talented children from our local community!

People of all ages and cultures can enjoy the celebrations.

Colours and kids water pumps will be sold at the event.

For further info, please contact: Glenn D'Souza on 0274 472 454, Roma Kaur on 0212639947 or Bo Singh on 6272145. Alternatively, you could email on: bhbevent@mail.com

DOES YOUR BOY NEED AN ADDITIONAL POSITIVE ROLE MODEL IN THEIR LIVES?

Big Buddy mentoring programme has been operating for 20 years and works on the simple philosophy that boys need good male role models in their lives. They recruit, check and train men of suitable character and matches them with boys who do not have a natural father or significant positive male in their lives.

These males commits to spend 2-3 hours a week with the boy/young adolescent for at least a year, spending time doing positive activities with them. If you feel that you might be interested in this programme or would like to find out more, please go to www.bigbuddy.org.nz or <https://facebook.com/BigbuddyNZ> or come in to the school office and collect a copy of the information sheet.


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