



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 14th February 2019

Greetings to you all,

There is a very settled atmosphere at school and the children are working hard and enjoying being back. Thank you to everyone who has helped to prepare the children for the new school year.

It was great to see so many families coming to meet the teachers this week. Having a positive relationship between home and school is a critical part of student success and we encourage all parents to meet again with their child's teacher if they have a question or concern. Our next scheduled meetings will take place near the end of Term two.

Our FAB Team (Fundraisers at Blockhouse Bay) will have their first meeting of the year next Tuesday 19th February at 7.00pm in the staffroom. All parents are very welcome to come to this and any other meeting throughout the year. The goal of this meeting will be to elect a new chairperson and to plan out what we will be doing in terms of fundraising this year.

Have a great week everyone.
Neil Robinson - Principal

STATIONERY FOR SCHOOL

If you have not already purchased your child's stationery for school you can still purchase it online by going to www.myschool.co.nz/blockhousebayprimary enter your child's name and choose the pack that you require. They will deliver this to your home.

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 PTA DONATION

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 2019 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.***



Blockhouse Bay

CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM ONE 2019

*Please note that changes may occur.
Please check the dates and times below.*

- Fri 15th Feb -2.00pm Rimu Assembly
- Tues 19th Feb -2.30pm Pohutukawa Assembly
- Tues 19th Feb -7.00pm FAB Meeting (school staffroom)
- Fri 22nd Feb -9.00am - Kauri Assembly
- Fri 22nd Feb -2.00pm Kete Whanau Rimu Assembly
Rms 13/14/15
- Mon 25th Feb -2.00pm Kauri Assembly
- Tues 26th Feb -2.30pm Kowhai Assembly
- Tues 26th Feb - Board of Trustees Meeting - 6.00pm
- Wed 27th Feb -Yr 5/6 Interschool T-ball Field Day
- Fri 1st Mar -2.00pm Te Raranga Rimu Assembly
-Rooms 2/3/9/12
- Tues 5th Mar -2.30pm Pohutukawa Assembly
- Wed 6th Mar -Yr 5/6 Interschool T-ball Savings Day
- Fri 8th Mar -9.00am - Kauri Assembly
- Fri 8th Mar -2.00pm Kete Whanau Rimu Assembly
Rms 13/14/15
- Mon 11th Mar -2.00pm Kauri Assembly
- Tues 12th Mar -2.30pm Kowhai Assembly
- Tues 13th March - Inter-school T-Ball (selected Yr 5/6 chn)
- Fri 15th Mar -2.00pm Te Raranga Rimu Assembly
-Rms 2/3/9/12
- Tues 19th Mar -2.30pm Pohutukawa Assembly
- Thurs 21st Mar -Y5/6 Interschool Cricket Field Day
- Fri 22nd Mar -9.00am - Kauri Assembly
- Fri 22nd Mar -2.00pm Kete Whanau Rimu Assembly
Rms 13/14/15
- Mon 25th Mar -2.00pm Kauri Assembly
- Tues 26th Mar -2.30pm Kowhai Assembly
- Wed 27th March - Kauri/Rimu Cross Country
- Fri 29th March -2.00pm Te Raranga Rimu Assembly
Rms 2/3/9/12
- Fri 29th March -Rimu & Kauri Cross Country Savings Day
- Thurs 4th April -2.00pm Whole School Assembly
- Fri 5th April -2.00pm Kete Whanau Rimu Assembly
Rms 13/14/15
- Mon 8th April -2.00pm Kauri Assembly
- Tues 9th April -2.30pm Kowhai Assembly
- Wed 10th April -Y5/6 Interschool Cricket Savings Day
- Fri 12th April -2.00pm Whole Rimu Assembly
- Fri 12th April -Term One Ends

A future National Geographic photographer's very first perfect shot...

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CAN MY CHILD RIDE THEIR BIKE TO SCHOOL?

We have been advised by the Police that children under the age of 10 should not be riding their bikes on the streets around the school as they are unlikely to have the ability to cope with the challenges that this area has. Because of this, our rule is that only Year 6 children can ride their bikes to school. The only exception to this is if an adult is riding alongside their younger children.

To gain permission to ride their bikes, **the Year 6 child needs to write a letter** themselves to Mr Robinson requesting permission. Parents will need to sign the letter to show that they have approved this.

In the letter, the children will need to include:

- That they have permission from their parent(s) - letter needs to be signed by the parent
- They will follow the road rules
- They will wear shoes and a bike helmet
- They will not ride it in the school grounds or let other children ride their bike

CELLPHONES AND PHONE WATCHES AT SCHOOL

These are valuable items which can cause issues if they are brought to school and available for use in the classroom or playground. For these reasons, all cellphones and phone watches that do come to school, need to be handed in to the school office in the morning and collected from there at the end of the day.

ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL AFTER 3PM

There are a number of activities planned to take place at school after the bell goes at the end of the day and parents are welcome to involve their children in these if they wish. Everyone wants the children to be safe of course so please ensure that you liaise directly with the organisers so that your child is being looked after especially if there is a change of plans for either your family or the organisers themselves.

After school activities include Transforminds, Platform, Skateboarding, Play Ball, piano lessons and sports practices. More information will be sent home about these in the weeks to come.

FOCUS ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an essential part of growing up in New Zealand and our programmes are designed to develop motor skills, knowledge and understandings about movement, and positive attitudes towards physical activity that will last their whole lives.

All children at the school take part in PE sessions and sometimes we employ specialist coaches to assist the teachers with this. We also run a number of sport related experiences at school to give the children the opportunity to practice their skills in a game or event. These include sport sessions with other classes and activities such as Cross County and Athletic sports.

From time to time, we help organise inter-school sports activities, mostly for the older children. Netball and Flippa ball take place on the weekends, but the other games happen during school time. The children are given opportunities to try out for these teams but sometimes we cannot take everyone that wants to go and this too is a learning experience for some children. Flippa ball is ready to start and cricket and will begin soon. Trials for netball and swimming teams will be later in term one.

SWIMMING

Pool keys are still available for hire for the remainder of 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 the children swim on each and every one of their days unless they have a serious medical reason not to. We also recommend that all children wear swimming caps as they help maintain body heat and keep hair out of their eyes. They also reduce the amount of hair going through the filter system which saves money.

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 these skills as often as possible.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Are your children looking to try something new this year? Then maybe Iona Scouting Group in Blockhouse Bay is an activity they would be interested in. Scouts are broken into groups dependant on their age. Keas are aged 5 to 8 and Cubs aged 8 to 11. We meet every Wednesday, Keas at 6pm and Cubs at 6:30pm in the hall beside the carpark at Blockhouse Bay Community Centre. The kinds of activities we do are bush walks, campfires, crafts, community cleanups, scavenger hunts, cooking and a variety of other options. Kids also learn to be more independent by attending the camps which are an optional activity. If you think Scouting might interest your child they are welcome to visit. Please let our leader Colin know. He can be contacted on 021 208 1103 to arrange session check it out.

CLASSROOM TEACHERS FOR 2019

Team	Room	Teacher/s	Known as	Year
 Kauri	5	Melissa Murray / Jan Llewellyn (Wednesday)	Miss Murray / Ms Llewellyn	6
	6	Deanne Ellis (Year 6 Team Leader)	Miss Ellis	6
	11	Saadiyah Musa / Jan Llewellyn (Friday)	Ms Musa / Ms Llewellyn	6
	7	Hayley Davies	Mrs Davies	5
	8	Amanda Whittome	Mrs Whittome	5
	10	Angie Cannon (Year 5 Team Leader)	Miss Cannon	5
 Rimu	2	Tiffany Ponniah	Miss Ponniah	3/4
	3	Brenna Innes (Team Leader: R2, 3, 9, 12)	Miss Innes	3/4
	9	Shelly Brown	Mrs Brown	4
	12	Vivienne Aherne	Mrs Aherne	3
	13	Robyn Joyce / Sally Kilpatrick (Friday)	Mrs Joyce / Mrs Kilpatrick	3/4
	14	Atama Cassidy (Team Leader R13, 14, 15)	Mr Cassidy	3
	15	Wendy Spence	Whaea Wendy	4
 Kōwhai	19	Katy Harris (Team Leader) / Sally Kilpatrick	Mrs Harris / Mrs Kilpatrick	1/2
	20	Denise Lawson / Helen Addison (Wednesday)	Mrs Lawson / Mrs Addison	1/2
	21	Melinda Narayan	Mrs Narayan	2
	22	Breanne Mackinnon / Helen Addison (Thursday)	Mrs Mackinnon / Mrs Addison	2
	23	Annette Bradley	Mrs Bradley	1/2
 Pōhutukawa	16	Mina Lala / Hena Farooq	Miss Lala / Ms Farooq	0/1
	17	Term 2 (Hena Farooq)	Ms Farooq	0/1
	18	Megan Le Gallais	Miss Le Gallais	0/1
	24	Nicola Hew / Bronwyn Woodward (Thursday)	Miss Hew / Mrs Woodward	0/1
	25	Stacy McIvor (Team Leader) / Bronwyn Woodward (Friday)	Ms McIvor / Mrs Woodward	0/1

PRINCIPALS SOAPBOX

Late last year, primary teachers and Principals overwhelmingly rejected the Government offer for revised pay and conditions. We then asked the Government to reconsider and to come back to us in the New Year with a new offer. So far, no new information has been forthcoming which is disappointing to us all.

The Primary Teachers and Principals Collective Agreement expired in May 2018 and so by not providing a pay increase for these employees, the Government has already saved a huge amount of money. Teachers are asking for a long term solution that will attract and retain qualified staff in NZ schools. I understand that the Secondary Teachers are also considering industrial action as the same issues exist in their sector.

Paid Union Meetings will be held in Blockhouse Bay on **March 19th** this year. We hope that after 3 months, the Government will have come up with a more attractive offer so that we can meet on this date to ratify the new agreement. If they do not, this meeting will be about discussing what other actions will be happening during the 2019 school year.

We fully understand that sending children home on these days can be disruptive, inconvenient and even costly for parents who have to take time off of work to look after them. We have decided that **on this occasion, we will not ask parents to keep their children at home**. Although it means that little in the way of teaching can take place, we will split our staff into two groups and have ½ go to the morning meeting and ½ to the meeting in the afternoon. This will mean of course that teachers will have up to double the amount of children to look after during these times, but we are trying to achieve our goals by not inconveniencing parents. *Having more children in classes will become common place in the future if the issue of teacher recruitment is not addressed.*

I do need to point out however that if we do have any further industrial action later in the year it is likely to involve the children not being at school. Fingers Crossed!!


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