



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE YEAR ON Thursday 19th December AT 1.30pm

Please ensure that you have made arrangements for your children from this time.

(no after school care on this day)

今年学期最后一天是12月19日(周四)。当天下午一点半1:30pm放学。

敬请家长按时把孩子们接回家，当天下午没有after school care

Thursday 12th December 2019

It was great to see our children taking part in the Blockhouse Bay School Santa Parade on Sunday. We had around 70 children on our float and some of our children were with other groups as well.

We have had several inquiries about next year's Centenary and it is great that there is interest in this event. More information can be found on the school's Facebook page and website - go to 'Information' and scroll down to 'Blockhouse Bay Primary 2020 Centennial'.

Remember to pick up your pool key from the office. We hope to have it open from around the 22nd January

Booking times for Meet the Family open at 6.00pm on Friday evening. Please read the information sheet enclosed with your child's report tomorrow for instructions on how to book a time that suits you.

As we are finishing school for the year at 1.30pm next Thursday, we will be sending the newsletter home on Wednesday with the children. Remember, you can always find the school newsletter on the website if you misplace the hard copy.

There is lots of information about next year in this week's newsletter. Please feel free to contact the school office if you would like clarification on anything mentioned.

Neil Robinson
Principal



TERM FOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri 13 th Dec	9.00am - Kauri Assembly
Fri 13 th Dec	2.15pm - Whole Rimu Assembly
Fri 13 th Dec	School Reports go home and children meet their 2020 teacher
Tues 17 th Dec	1.30pm - Year 6 Graduation Ceremony (Te Whau)
Wed 18 th Dec	Treat Day
Thurs 19 th Dec	End of Term Four - 1.30pm Finish

Room 15's Beach Clean Up

Last Wednesday, Room 15 went down to Blockhouse Bay Beach to do our beach clean up for our inquiry into being Kaitiaki. We walked down to the beach in a wonky line, while whispering amongst ourselves. When we got to Blockhouse Bay Beach we split into 5 groups of 6. Each group got a big plastic bag to put all the dirty rubbish into. After an hour or so of picking up rubbish the groups met up on the grass and put our gloves that we had used to pick up the rubbish in our pockets and took a photo. When Ms Schultz checked we had our gloves, we were able to go play in the playground. The beach clean up was so much fun. I hope we can do another one. *Myra Clemmett*



Blockhouse Bay

A future
Pulitzer
Prize winner
will write
her name
for the
first time...



Right here...



TREAT DAY – Wednesday 18th December (no charge)

On the second to last day of the year, we like to give the children the opportunity to spend time together in a social situation as a reward for all the hard work they have done. The children can wear mufti (their own clothes and they must still bring a hat) and at some stage, they will spend time with their classmates watching a movie. Given the amount of money that parents have given to the school across the year, there is no charge to families. There will be a free sausage sizzle as well - see FAB update.

NEW STAFF IN 2020

For a range of reasons, we needed to appoint a total of 6 new teachers for the school next year. We are thrilled to be able to provide our school community with information about these teachers below. Some of these teachers will be here to meet the children this Friday, although some are teaching elsewhere on this day so these classes will have to wait until Meet the Family meetings on 31st January to do so.

Jane Warne actually taught here from 2000-2004 and is very excited about returning to the school. Jane has worked mostly at Strathallan School in Karaka since then although she taught at our neighbouring school Halsey Drive in 2019. Jane will join the Kauri team in 2020.

Athlene Wallbank is currently teaching in Papakura, and has also had experience teaching in Rotorua, Ponsonby and Papatoetoe. She has a Masters in Education and speaks Tongan. Athlene will join the Kauri team in 2020.

Nicola Swan is currently teaching in the Bi-lingual unit at Westmere School after working in Christchurch schools for several years previously. She has taught across a range of levels and now lives locally. Nicola will join the Kauri team in 2020.

Simran Joseph is an Auckland local and attended Marist College. She was born in India and speaks Tamil. Simran will be teaching in the Kauri team in 2020.

Nida Irfani also lives locally having attended Mt Roskill Grammar. Nida speaks Persian/Dari and was born in Afghanistan, arriving in NZ when she was just one year old. Nida will teach in the Kōwhai team next year.

Suzy Lee has already spent a lot of time at our school, working in a number of rooms but mostly with Mr Cassidy in Room 14. Suzy speaks Korean and will join the Pōhutukawa team in 2020.

2019 YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW!

These are always a very popular memento of the school year and are in hot demand. Every child is featured in the Yearbook and children love looking back at the highlights from their year at school. Order forms have been sent home with the children but please feel free to contact the office directly if that is easier.

Yearbook purchases are on a first come first served basis and cost \$25 each.

PARENTS OF YEAR 4 CHILDREN

A reminder to parents of Year 4 children that we would like all of the Year 5 and 6s to have their own Chromebook at school next year. **Please note that this is a Chromebook not just any Laptop computer.**

We have sent out information to you all but if you have any questions, please contact the office and we will organise someone to give you a call.

FLIPPA BALL RESULTS

Blockhouse Bay (4) v GSS Seahorses (4)

Player of the Day - Sam for his great ball hustle skills



Please make a note of these details so that you are prepared for these dates.

Pool keys

The pool will be open school for community use from around the 22nd January 2020. **If you would like to hire a key to use the pool before school starts in February, you will need to do so before school closes this year.** If parents prefer,

they are very welcome to wait until school opens next year.

The cost of a key hireage from when the pool opens until the end of March will be \$120 with \$50 of this being reimbursed when the key is returned at the end of the season. Please contact the office if you would like to hire a pool key.

Meet the Family Meetings

As reported previously, we have decided to hold the **'Meet the Family Meetings' on Friday 31st January**. We are aware that this is still in the holidays, but we think that parents are more likely to be available as most will still be looking after their children at this time. It will also give each child the chance to personally meet their new teacher before school even starts. Please see the details enclosed with your child's report on how you can book a time to meet with your child's teacher/s. You will find out who the teacher/s is on Friday 13th December so the booking times for the meetings will be open from 6pm on Friday.

School Uniform

A reminder that 'old logo' Blockhouse Bay School uniform is not able to be worn to school from the start of 2020 onwards. Some people have expressed to us that some items are still in wearable condition and that this is a waste. There is an organisation that donates items to schools in the Pacific Islands and we often contribute to this cause. This group have offered to take any unwanted, old logo items to one of the Islands so that they can continue to be worn. If you would like to donate your *washed* old logo uniform, please drop it off to the school office. The people will pick these up in the middle of February, so that children can still wear them on the last day of 2019 if you wish.

Revised 2020 Dates

Term One: Monday 3rd Feb to Thursday 9th April

Term Two: Tuesday 28th April to Friday 3rd July

Term Three: Monday 20th July to Friday 25th Sept.

Term Four: Monday 12th October to Tuesday 15th Dec

Teacher Only Days

- * Friday 29th May (Friday of Queen's Birthday weekend)
- * Friday 23rd October (Friday of Labour Weekend)
- * Friday 20th November
- * Wednesday 16th December (day after school closes at the end of the year)



As the 2019 school year comes to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all the support we get from all our parent volunteers that give up time to help at each fundraising event, as well as all the generous sponsors we are lucky to get each year. Special mention to the following businesses:

Barfoot & Thompson

For your continued sponsorship and support of our School

Countdown Blockhouse Bay

For your regular bread and sauce sponsorship for all our Sausage Sizzles including the one at the School Carnival!!

New World Mt Roskill

For your continued sponsorship each year during our Carnival

Our last FAB run event will be our FREE Sausage Sizzle for the kids next Wednesday (18 December).

WE NEED MORE HELPERS so if you can help with our last Sausage Sizzle,

Please email fab@blockhousebay.school.nz if you can help. The sausage sizzles will be delivered to classes at the second break so helpers are required from 10.30am. Please also get in touch if you would be able to donate vegetarian sausages so we can offer this as an option to the kids.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION IN 2020

We spend a lot of time working out how the school will be organised each year and preparing for 2020 was one of the most complicated so far. It is quite common for us to have Two year levels in the same class and we have found that this is very beneficial to students as it extends their opportunities in both leadership and social development.

Numbers of students at each level is also a consideration as we are staffed on total numbers of students in the school rather than particular year groups and we need to make sure that the class numbers are even. Therefore in 2020, we have some year 4 children in the Rimu team and some in Kauri. Within Kauri there are some Year 5 children with Year 4s and some with Year 6s.

We can assure everyone that these classes are not streamed academically and that each child is taught at their level irrespective of the class they are in. To make these decisions, we consider the children's relationships with each other and then tried to align them with specific teachers where we thought this would be beneficial for each student, resulting in effective learning groups. Rimu, Kōwhai and Pōhutukawa will be organised the same as they were in 2019.

CLASSES FOR NEXT YEAR

On Friday we will be letting the children know which class they are in for 2020 if they are returning to Blockhouse Bay Primary School. We do this so that the children are not worried about this during the summer break.

Deciding which children will go to which class is a very complex task and the staff spend a large number of hours working on this. As part of this process, we look for a balance of gender, ability, ethnicity and needs. We also take into account other factors such as friendships, personalities that we feel will get on with each other and keeping certain children apart if necessary.

For these reasons, moving children from one class to another after they have been decided is quite problematic as it can have a domino effect and upset the balance of what we have tried to achieve. Parents who do wish us to give consideration for a change will need to contact the office to ask for a form that provides details about why they feel this is necessary. We will then give consideration to this request, although once again, it is unlikely that a change will be made unless there are **very** compelling reasons to do so.

END OF YEAR REPORTS

These will be given to children to bring home on Friday also. We hope you enjoy getting this feedback on your child's effort, progress and achievement. We think that we have done a good job of checking through these, but if you do find a typo, please contact the school office and we will give you a corrected version.

End of year reports provide information about how your child is doing currently and how they have done across the year. The teachers use a combination of assessment results, class work and their observations of the children at work to make their overall teacher judgment of how well each child is doing in each curriculum area.

ATTENDANCE IN END OF YEAR REPORTS

The average attendance for a child at Blockhouse Bay School is 96% which is excellent. To recognise this, if a child is absent for 8 days or less this year, we put 'Excellent' on their end of year report.

If your child is absent between 9-18 days, we put 'Not of Concern'.

If a child is away for 19 or more days this year but there was a particular (usually one-off) reason, they also receive a 'Not of Concern'.

If a child is away for 19 or more days and this is made up of frequent absences that are impacting on their achievement, progress or social interaction with their friends, we put 'Of Concern'.

19 Days away amounts to an average of 1 day off every 2 weeks which certainly is significant enough to make a difference to a child's education.

Let's keep our children safe on the school crossing.

We need parents for patrols next year.

You will be required in the morning before school from 8.00am to 8.40am from the 3rd February 2020.

Please contact: felicity@blockhousebay.school.nz or phone the school on 096279940 and leave a message to say you can help.

Thank you.



2020 Classroom Teachers

Team	Room	Teacher/s	Known as	Year
 Kauri	4	Athlene Wallbank	Mrs Wallbank	6
	5	Melissa Murray / Felicity Davis (Whānau Kotahi Team Leader : Rms 4, 5,6 & 11) (Tues)	Miss Murray / Mrs Davis	6
	6	Jane Warne	Miss Warne	5/6
	7	Simran Joseph / Claire Schultz (Wed)	Miss Joseph / Ms Schultz	5
	8	Angie Cannon (Te Papakainga Team Leader : Rms 7, 8 & 9) / Claire Schultz (Thurs)	Miss Cannon / Ms Schultz	4/5
	9	Hayley Davies	Mrs Davies	4/5
	11	Nicky Swan / Felicity Davis (Fri)	Mrs Swan / Mrs Davis	5/6
 Rimu	2	Amanda Whittome	Mrs Whittome	3/4
	3	Deanne Ellis (Kete Whānau Team Leader Rms 2, 3, 13) / Saadiyah Musa (Thurs)	Miss Ellis / Ms Musa	3/4
	12	Vivienne Aherne	Mrs Aherne	3
	13	Robyn Joyce / Sally Kilpatrick (Fri)	Mrs Joyce / Mrs Kilpatrick	3/4
	14	Shelly Brown	Mrs Brown	4
	15	Brenna Innes (Te Raranga Team Leader Rms 12, 14, 15) / Melinda Narayan (Thurs)	Miss Innes / Mrs Narayan	3
 Kōwhai	19	Katy Harris (Team Leader) / Sally Kilpatrick (Wed/Thurs)	Mrs Harris / Mrs Kilpatrick	1/2
	20	Denise Lawson / Melinda Narayan (Wed)	Mrs Lawson / Mrs Narayan	1/2
	21	Nida Irfani / Melinda Narayan (Tues)	Miss Irfani / Mrs Narayan	2
	22	Breanne Mackinnon / Faye Reddell (Thurs)	Mrs Mackinnon / Mrs Reddell	2
	23	Annette Bradley	Mrs Bradley	1/2
 Pōhutukawa	16	Mina Lala	Miss Lala	1
	17	Hena Farooq / Bronwyn Woodward (Thurs/Fri)	Ms Farooq / Mrs Woodward	1
	18	Megan Le Gallais	Miss Le Gallais	1
	24	Nicola Hew	Miss Hew	0/1
	25	Stacy McIvor (Team Leader) / Suzy Lee (Thurs/Fri)	Ms McIvor / Miss Lee	0/1

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