



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

30th November 2017

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Dear Parents, Caregivers and family members,
What a wonderful event the Junior Athletics was on Tuesday. It was great to see so many family members there to cheer the children on. Congratulations to Mrs Kilpatrick and the rest of the staff who organised and ran this fun event and to the children who took part so enthusiastically.

Last year, we had two lots of outside speakers stolen from the school so we decided not to keep replacing them. A supplier came up with a more secure storage system and we replaced the speakers again recently. Sadly, the thieves were more resourceful than anticipated and we have once again lost most of our speakers. They are of course well marked but we do not hold out much hope of getting them back.

The speakers play a significant safety role and we are very disappointed that these .. um ... people would steal from children in this way. I doubt whether it is anyone from our community but if anyone has any information about this equipment, please let us know.

We have noticed some deterioration in the behaviour of some children over the last few weeks with an uncharacteristically high number of incidents to deal with. Parents, can you please reinforce with your children the need to be behaving well at school and ensuring that they are on task and enjoying the last two weeks of school. I suspect that tiredness might be contributing to this and whilst it might be harder to get the children to sleep when it is still light outside, it is really important that children are well rested.

Only two more sleeps to go to the school's main fundraising event for the year, the Blockhouse Bay School Carnival. Thank you to all the people who have offered to help. If you have not committed yourself and now find you have some time available, please feel free to turn up either later tomorrow (Friday) afternoon or during or after the event and offer your time. Please try and rally around and get friends and family members here as well as the more money we are able to raise, the more things we can provide for the children.

See you at the Carnival!
Neil Robinson
Principal

Junior School Athletics Day

The sun was shining for our Junior Athletes on Athletics Day on Tuesday. There were some exciting races during the finals with some close results. The Kowhai class relay was a new relay event held this year which added a bit of fun and excitement to the morning. It was wonderful to see all of the Junior children enjoying the rotation activities and having a go. Thank you to the parents that came along and supported everyone on the day. Thank you also to staff and Room 4 children who did a fantastic job of running the activities.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
TERM FOUR

Sat 2nd Dec - PTA Carnival Day - 10.00-2.00pm
 Mon 4th - Fri 8th Dec - Kauri Swimming
Safer Boating Programme
 Tues 5th Dec - Pohutukawa Waste free Camp Day
 Wed 6th Dec - 2.30pm - Kowhai Assembly
 Thurs 7th Dec - 2.00pm - Rimu Assembly
 Monday 11-Friday 15th - Pohutukawa and Kowhai
 Swimming
 Tues 12th Dec - Children visit their 2018 classes
 Wed 13th Dec - Reports go home
 Wed 13th Dec - BHB graduation ceremony - 1.20pm
 Fri 15th Dec - End of School Year -
 Children dismissed at 1.30pm

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Blockhouse Bay

SCHOOL CARNIVAL THIS SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER - 10am-2pm!!!

Bring along your family and friends for a day filled with fun, food, entertainment, prizes, bargains and hopefully sun!

Please drop off your cakes, slices, muffins and cookie boxes to the PAC tomorrow morning and we'll try to resist the temptation until Saturday morning!

PTA NEWS

Friday lunches next week (Friday 8th) will just be sushi order forms and then \$1 ice blocks for sale at the PAC after the lunch eating bell. \$1 ice blocks are also still available tomorrow lunchtime.

Thanks to everyone for supporting all of our fundraising events this year so far. All funds raised are being collected towards the installation of a new playground outside rooms 12-14.

Like our Facebook page- Blockhouse Bay Primary School PTA

Email- pta@blockhousebay.school.nz

DEPARTING STAFF MEMBERS

In a school the size of ours, there are always people whose circumstances mean that they need to leave the school. The following staff members will not be returning in 2018.

Melody Casse has decided to experience a change in career and will not be returning from her study leave. Melody Lin (as she was then) was employed as a beginning teacher in 2008 and loved the place so much, she has never left! Mrs Casse has a range of artistic skills which have really added to the performance arts offered by Blockhouse Bay Primary and she has superbly led many productions, assemblies and other shows. Anyone who has had a child in her class will no doubt be appreciative of Melody's warm and caring nature as well as her fine teaching skills. Although she will be missed, we wish her all the best for this exciting stage in her life.

Tracey Bough began working in the Pohutukawa team in May of this year after making the long journey up from the south of the South Island. We would like to thank Tracey for her dedication to the Room 25 children and for making their transition to school so enjoyable.

Claire Shultz is taking parental leave and is looking forward to the birth of her first child in February next year.

Richard Bennett has been awarded a study leave scholarship for most of 2018, but we do expect to see him working at the school from time to time next year.

Sarina Rogerson has worked at the school as a Learning Assistant for just a few short months, but quickly established herself as being a very caring and knowledgeable Learning Assistant. The Room 13 children in particular have benefitted from her warm nature and experience and we wish her all the best for the future.

Mustafa Derbashi has also worked at the school as a Learning Assistant for just a short time, mostly in Rooms 4 and 12. We have appreciated his calm and caring nature and we were lucky to have had him working with the children at the school over the last few months.

CAMP FEES AND MEDICAL FORMS

We are very much looking forward to the 2018 Year 6 camp. Could parents of current Year 5 children please make sure that the camp fee and medical forms are delivered to us by **tomorrow**.

HIRING OF POOL KEYS

The school pool is open for use and we have the heat pumps working to warm up the water. Kauri children will be swimming next week so parents are asked to send them to school with togs and towel each day. Kowhai and Pohutukawa children will be swimming in the final week of term.

Hiring a pool key gives families the opportunity to swim in the school pool after school, on the weekends, right through the summer holidays until the end of March, at no extra cost.

To get a copy of the hireage rules and to pay your money, please contact the school office staff. Pool keys will be on sale at a cost of \$170 each, with \$50 being returned when the key comes back to school at the end of the season.

YEAR 6 PRIZE GIVING AND GRADUATION: Wednesday 13th December Doors open at 12.50pm

Letters about this event have been sent out to families of Year 6 children. Please contact the office if you have not received this information.

A reminder that this occasion lasts for around 90 minutes so is not suitable for pre-schoolers.

Please be seated ready to start at 1.20pm

TIMETABLE CHANGE FOR NEXT YEAR

Over the last 12 months, we have been looking at various information to see whether or not a change to our school timetable would have positive impacts on children's learning. Quite a few schools we have talked to have implemented a change and have reported to us that they prefer these new times. One factor that we have taken into account is where the children's break times are in the day. We feel that the morning break is too short and does not allow enough time for the children to recharge for the next classroom learning time. At the same time, most if not all of our issues in the playground happen in the last 20-25 minutes of our lunch break which suggests that it is too long.

In 2018 then, we will be trialing a new timetable at school. The new arrangement will see us having two 40 minute breaks in the day, which will include eating time of 10 minutes for each. Given that they may want to eat more in the first break, this might have implications for how parents pack the children's lunch (two equal parts as opposed to one small and one large). The first learning block is longer too, so we will be having a 'Brain Food Break' at around 10.00am so that the children's tummies do not rumble too much. This time will vary from class to class and will depend on what they are doing at the time.

The other issue we have is that some children prefer not to eat very much of their lunch at the beginning of lunch time as they are very keen to go and play. This has led to parents reporting to us that children are returning home at the end of the day with quite a bit of their food still in their lunchbox. The solution that some schools have employed is to send the children to play straight away for the Second Break and then have the children eat the rest of their lunch at the end of the break, which for us would be 1.30-1.40pm. These schools said that the children quickly adapt to this organisation and actually prefer it, so we will be trialing this system as well.

Note that the start and finish times remain the same and **children should still be arriving around 8.30am** each day.

The new times will be:

8.50-10.50	Block One (includes a Brain Food Break)
10.50-11.30	First break – eating from 10.50-11.00am or longer if the children wish to
11.30-1.00	Learning Block Two
1.00-1.40	Second Break – eating from 1.30-1.40pm
1.40-3.00	Learning Block Three

We will be reviewing these changes later in the year and will make changes if we feel it is necessary.

SCHOOL SURVEY

The next part of the survey that we are presenting are the percentages from the section on how people feel about the work of the Principal. Please note that the percentages do not always add up to 100 as some people answered 'don't know'.

Principal of Blockhouse Bay Primary. How satisfied are you that he:

Criteria	People who scored 1-3	Percentage scoring 1-3	People who scored 4-6	Percentage scoring 4-6	People who scored 7-10	Percentage scoring 7-10
Is approachable and accessible	1	1%	5	6%	77	88%
Is knowledgeable and professional	2	2%	3	3%	77	88%
Is friendly to adults and children	2	2%	3	3%	80	91%
Keeps us up-to-date with what is happening at school	1	1%	3	3%	78	89%
Follows up on issues where appropriate	2	2%	2	2%	62	71%

The staff and Board will use these percentages and the feedback from the comments made by parents, for their future planning and decision making.

YEARBOOK 2017

We currently have just 40 yearbooks left. Be in quick to get your record of the year's events.


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