



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 31st May 2018

**PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:
MONDAY 4TH JUNE - QUEENS BIRTHDAY
NO SCHOOL ON THIS DAY.**

Kid's Lit Quiz 2018.

This year 17 Year 5 & 6 children attended the Kid's Lit Quiz competition. Two teams of 4 competed and did really well against teams of Year 7 & 8 children from all over Auckland! They have to answer 100 questions based around 10 themes.

'It was a good experience because we had to put our trust in our teammates and think of random answers. I put myself under pressure to get into the team and it worked out! I read books I would not have read if it wasn't for being in the Lit Quiz Group.'

Jonny Gibson Year 6



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM TWO – 2018

(Mon 30th April – Fri 6th July)

- Mon 4th June -Queen's Birthday (no school this day)
- Tues 5th June -Kowhai Assembly - 2.30pm
- Fri 8th June -Rimu Assembly - 2.00pm
- Tues 12th June -Pohutukawa Assembly-2.30pm
- Tues 12th June -ICAS Spelling and Writing
- Mon 18th June -Kauri Assembly - 2pm
- Tues 19th June -Kowhai Assembly -2.30pm
- Wed 20th June -BYOD Evening - PAC - 6.30pm
- Fri 22nd June -Rimu Assembly - 2.00pm
- Tues 26th June -Pohutukawa Assembly -2.30pm
- Tues 26th June -Board of Trustees Meeting
- Wed 27th June -Interschool Gymnastics Competition
- Fri 29th June -School Reports are sent home
- Mon 2nd July -Kauri Assembly - 2pm
- Tues 3rd July -Kowhai Assembly-2.30pm
- Wed 4th July -Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences (School will close at 1.00pm)
- Thurs 5th July -Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Fri 6th July -Rimu Assembly - 2.00pm
- Fri 6th July -Term Two Ends (3.00pm finish)

JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY

We were lucky enough to have a beautiful day for the Pohutukawa and Kowhai Cross Country on Tuesday. All of the children ran extremely well and put in a huge effort. It was great to see so many happy faces crossing the finish line. Well done for all of the perseverance you put into your training. Thank you to all of the parents that came along and showed your support, it was a really fun event.

Results are as follows:

Age 5 Years - Girls Dejanae Peteru-Ulukita Bella Zhang Jody Gosling	Age 6 Years - Girls Bella Jamieson Tia June Ticharwa Renee Sun
Age 5 Years - Boys Taylor Reardon Bruce Lei Younus Wahabzada	Age 6 Years - Boys Viliani 'Otutaha Felix Cai Zane Dennis



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Blockhouse Bay

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

Talofa Lava everyone. This week, the children have been taking part in a range of activities as part of Samoan Language Week which is designed to raise understanding of this culture. We focus on a range of cultures during the year and it is lovely to see the diversity of our school recognised in this way.

We have recently contributed to two initiatives whereby we donate unwanted resources to schools in the Pacific Islands and the recipients have asked me to thank the wider school community. We had a stack of unwanted book resources and these were taken to a school in Papua New Guinea and then we sent some surplus furniture to a school in Tonga. It is always great to help others who aren't as fortunate as ourselves!

A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned that our School Uniform Committee was looking into making some changes to address the issues that were raised in our 2017 School Survey. One decision that they have made is to have most of the uniform ordering done on-line. This will ultimately contribute to cheaper items and will also make purchasing easier for parents who work and find it difficult to come into school during our office hours. We are planning to have this start in term four and will provide more information closer to the time.

Congratulations to Mrs Kilpatrick and her team of helpers who did a superb job of organising and running the Junior Cross Country on Tuesday. The children did a great job of trying hard and there were lots of smiling faces from both them and the adults. Thank you to all of the family members who were able to join us for this event.

A reminder to everyone that school is closed on Monday for Queen's Birthday weekend. I hope that you all enjoy this extra time with your family and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school at 8.30am on Tuesday.

Have a great long weekend everyone!

Neil Robinson - Principal

WEST AUCKLAND INTER SCHOOL CHESS COMPETITION

Blockhouse Bay had 16 children competing in the West Auckland Inter-school Chess Competition held at Henderson North Primary School on Friday 25th May. The children from Years 4 to 6 made up four teams. There were 6 rounds and all our players had their share of wins, losses and draws. Congratulations to Abraham Deng in Year 6, who was one of only 3 children out of the 104 competing, to achieve a perfect score. Well done also to Team A (Abraham Deng, Xiaoyang Shen, Abraham Li and Sean Liu) who came third and each received a bronze medal. All the children enjoyed the day and improved their game as the day went on. A big thank you to the parents and caregivers who gave up their time to drive the children to and from the event.

CONTACT DETAILS

When your child is ill or has had an accident at school we may need to contact you urgently throughout the day. Recently a number of phone numbers that we hold appear to be inactive.

If you have changed any of your phone, email or emergency details, please let the school office staff know so that we have your updated information.

FUNDRAISERS AT BLOCKHOUSE BAY (F@B) UPDATE

Reduce, reuse, recycle fundraiser

Single use plastic is bad news for our environment. The FAB are going to be selling The Rubbish Whisperer reusable produce bags and stainless steel straws to fundraise towards the new playground. The lightweight produce bags hold approx 1.5kg of produce and come in a pack of five. The straws come as a pair with a cleaning brush. Order forms will be coming home soon with online payment.

Friday 8th June, 3-3:30pm at the PAC- Visit our stall with sample bags and straws where you can order and pay cash or online.

Support the FAB and help the environment at the same time.

Monday 11th June - 7:30pm in staffroom

Join us for our open Carnival ideas meeting. Come along and share your ideas, experiences, contacts and resources to help us plan our biggest fundraiser event of the year.

Join our mailing list- email pta@blockhousebay.school.nz with the subject "friend" and like our facebook page - Blockhouse Bay Primary School PTA

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARENT/CHILD/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Next week we will send home information about how parents can book a time to meet with their child's teacher for the mid-year conferences. These take place on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th July. The teachers enjoy meeting with families to have these discussions so if these dates do not suit you, please organise a different time with your child's teacher.

Please note that **school closes for the day at 1.00pm on Wednesday 4th July** so that we have enough time for these meetings to take place. School finishes at the usual time of 3.00pm on Thursday 5th July.

PARENT MEETING FOR *BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE* - Wednesday 20th June - 6.30pm

This meeting is **open to all interested parents** but is particularly targeted at those who have children in **Years 4-6**. We had originally advertised a date in May for this meeting but we did not consider Ramadan, so we have rescheduled it for next month.

At this meeting, students will be sharing what and how they learn on devices and teachers will be available to answer questions. We will also be having a guest speaker from 'Family Zone' who offer online software available for parents that monitors what their children are viewing in real time.

WACKY HAIR DAY - Thursday 21st June

Wacky Hair Day is designed to provide a bit of extra fun in the school day whilst encouraging the children to donate a gold coin to a worthy cause, by dressing their hair up in a funny way. Wigs are fine but some families choose to dress up their children's hair in a whole range of ways. Because there can sometimes be some mess involved, the children are allowed to wear mufti on this day if they are taking part in Wacky Hair Day.

PRINCIPALS SOAPBOX - WORRYING SIGNS FOR EDUCATION IN NEW ZEALAND

Teacher recruitment and retention data shows there is a crisis looming in education.

Over the past 6 years there has been:

- A 40% drop-off in those choosing to train to teach.
- 40 % of new teachers leaving the profession in the first five years.
- And, 35% of our experienced teachers will be eligible to retire during the next 10 years and many are leaving early.

The Minister of Education Chris Hipkins has described recruitment and retention of teachers as "a ticking time bomb."

Fortunately our school has not been unduly affected, but nationwide the availability of teachers is declining. This is not good news for New Zealand children. We all want well trained, skilled, passionate teachers in every classroom. Children also need high quality relieving teachers, skilled, energetic principals and competent support staff. Our school has these now, but we worry that if nation-wide trends continue, we will all be impacted by the shortage.

Over the next few months teachers and principals will be negotiating our new employment agreements. We will be focusing on improvements to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers to work with our children. That means competitive pay, but also providing more time for teachers and principals to complete planning and assessment tasks and to focus on every child's learning.

The result of inaction will be a poorer education system in New Zealand and we are prepared to go into bat to stop this from happening.

In a few weeks' time, teachers across the country will have a paid union meeting to discuss the government's latest collective agreement offer and some schools will close so that these can take place. Blockhouse Bay Primary will not close but we will send half of our teachers to two different afternoon meetings so the children can still be looked after at school. More details will be provided about these meetings soon.

各位家长：

下个星期一（六月四日）是公共假期 – 女王生日

当天学校将会关闭，学生们不需要上课。

谢谢。

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