



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Monday 3rd February 2020

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Happy New Year and *Xin Nian Kuai Le* to all children, parents, caregivers and supporters of the school.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2020 school year, [the Year of the Rat] particularly to our new pupils and their families. The staff are very excited about the learning year ahead and look forward to working with you all.

Apart from today, this newsletter will be given out every Thursday and will come home with the youngest or only child that you have attending Blockhouse Bay School. Please remind your child to give it to you as it contains useful information about what is happening at the school. A reminder to that the weekly newsletter is also available on our school website: www.blockhousebay.school.nz and can be emailed to you if you fill in the box at the bottom of the page on this website.

For your information, we have begun the year with approximately 550 children and are likely to grow to around 610 by the end of the year.

It was great to see so many families who could meet with their new teachers on Friday. If you were not able to make it to school, please feel free to drop in to meet your child's teacher.

Remember that it is compulsory for the children to wear their school hat every school day in terms one and four and that **all schools in NZ will be closed for Waitangi Day.**

Have a great week everyone.
Neil Robinson - Principal

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The world is certainly being rocked by what is happening with the Coronavirus and things are changing almost daily regarding this. You may have seen that the Prime Minister has made an announcement yesterday <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-restrict-travel-china-protect-against-coronavirus>. It includes the following information concerning all foreign nationals travelling from, or transiting through mainland China:

"The Government is placing temporary entry restrictions into New Zealand on all foreign nationals travelling from, or transiting through mainland China to assist with the containment of the novel coronavirus and to protect New Zealand and the Pacific Islands from the disease.

We are doing everything we can here to make sure that everyone is safe and parents are asked to contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

TERM ONE CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Further dates will be published in the First Newsletter next year. Please check the calendar weekly as dates and times may change.

Thurs 6th Feb	Waitangi Day - No school this day
Mon 10th Feb	Whānau Aroha Day
Wed 12th - Fri 14th Feb	Year 6 Camp - Lakewood Lodge
Fri 14th Feb	2.15pm - Combined Rimu Assembly
Mon 17th-28th Feb	Dental Caravan at school
Mon 17th Feb	2.15pm-Kauri Assembly
Tues 18th Feb	2.30pm - Pohutukawa Assembly
Fri 21st Feb	2.15pm-Rimu-Te Raranga Assembly
Wed 26th Feb	Y5/6 T Ball Tournament
Fri 28th Feb	2.15pm-Rimu -Kete Whanau Assembly
Mon 2nd March	2.15pm-Kauri Assembly
Tues 3rd March	2.30pm Pohutukawa Assembly
Wed 4th March	Y5/6 T Ball Savings Day
Fri 6th March	2.15pm -Rimu-Te Raranga Assembly
Fri 13th March	2.15pm -Rimu-Kete Whanau Assembly
Mon 16th March	2.15pm Kauri Assembly
Tues 17th March	2.30pm Pohutukawa Assembly
Wed 18th March	Y5/6 Cricket Field Day
Fri 20th-Sat 21st March	School Centenary
Fri 27th March	2.15pm -Rimu-Kete Whanau Assembly
Mon 30th March	2.15pm Kauri Assembly
Fri 3rd April	2.15pm -Combined Rimu Assembly
Wed 8th April	2.00pm - Whole School Assembly
Thurs 9th April	3.00pm -Term One Ends



Blockhouse Bay

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

Right here...

MULTI-AWARD WINNING

Magic Kingdom Childcare

(09) 626 4251
115 Boundary Rd, BHBay (next to Bupa)
www.chrysaliscare.co.nz

Revised 2020 Dates

Term One	Monday 3 rd February to Thursday 9 th April
Term Two	Tuesday 28 th April to Friday 3 rd July
Term Three	Monday 20 th July to Friday 25 th September
Term Four	Monday 12 th October to Tuesday 15 th December

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)

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

This week, we welcome the following new staff members to the school:

Mrs Athlene Wallbank	Mrs Nicky Swan	Miss Nida Irfani
Miss Jane Warne	Miss Suzy Lee	Miss Simran Joseph

We also have two trainee teachers who will be working at the school at different times throughout the year as they complete their training:

Dan Robertson will be based in Room 12 and Jessie McKenzie will be based in Room 18

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Your parent representatives work hard to make sure that our school is the best it can be. They meet most months and these meetings are also open to the public. Please ask at the office if you would like to speak to a Board member directly.

Chairman: Sheereen Ali

Treasurer: Tao Qin

Board Members:

Sally Kilpatrick (Staff Rep) and Neil Robinson (Principal), Nick Dempsey, Anton Leyland and Annuncia Gallagher.

Our next monthly Board meeting will take place in the school staffroom on Tuesday 25th February at 6.00p.m. These are always open meetings and we invite parents to contact Sheereen Ali for more information about the Board or if you wish to come along to a meeting.

THE SCHOOL DAY

The instructional school day goes from 8.50am - 3.00pm. The children should arrive at school **no later than 8.30am** so that they can be ready for the start of the first lesson.

We prefer that no child should arrive in the school grounds before 8.15am as staff members are busy preparing for the day and cannot supervise children before this time. Whilst we realise that this does not suit all parents, we feel that the children's safety is very important. Please contact the school office for details about our Before School Care programme if you wish to have your child at school before 8.15am.

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.

NUT ALLERGIES

Our school has some students who exhibit serious reactions to anything nut. All require Epi pens to be held in the school. For their sake, we try to be nut free at our school and ask that you please help us in this endeavour. **This includes not sending any nut products, nutella, or peanut butter to school.**

FLIPPA BALL NOTICE – starts soon

We are hoping to set up Flippa ball teams for the Term 1 season starting on Sunday 17th February! Flippa Ball is a really fun game played at amazing venues (Pools at St Cuthbert's, Diocesan Girls and Epsom Girls). Entry is for Years 4 to 6 students only. Please note that students must be able to stand up comfortably in a pool of 1.2m in depth, and that you must be committed for the entire season (around 7 games approximately). Previous experience is not required. Cost per child will be dependent on numbers, but is likely to be \$70-\$85 for the term. If your child is interested in playing please contact Mrs Whittome by email at amandaw@blockhousebay.school.nz, or leave her a message at the office, as soon as possible. Thank you.

SCHOOL DONATIONS

As announced last year, our school will not be asking parents to pay school donations for the foreseeable future. Also gone is the request that we have made over the last few years to make a donation to the FAB. We do wish to point out though that parents will still be asked to pay if they wish for their children to go to school camp (year 6) or to represent the school in sports or other events that are optional. Please feel free to ask the school office if you have any questions regarding this new initiative.

SWIMMING POOL

The repairs required for the pool were more extensive than was first thought and so it is not yet available for use. We will be able to give you an update on this in next week's newsletter, but we are still hoping that all children will get two weeks of swimming in before we have to close the pool at the end of March. Families who have hired pool keys can either wait for more information or have their money refunded to them by contacting the school office.

ONLINE SCHOOL SHOP - open now:

Working together with Kindo, Blockhouse Bay School offers a fantastic way to view and pay for your child's school needs online. No cash, no paper, no hassle! It is our preferred method of payment and we encourage you to set up your account today if you have not already done so.

New User

Setting up an account is easy. All you need is your email address which matches the one held by the school. Visit the school website 'Information Page' on details of how to register.

School Shop

Shop anytime, anywhere with our Kindo online School shop. Visit the school website Information Page on details of how to register & purchase from the School Shop.

You can: view and make full or part payments on your school family account register and pay for sports teams/trips, purchase school uniforms, complete permission forms online. Choose to pay-as-you-go or add funds to your Kindo account in advance, using internet banking, account2account or Visa/Mastercard (fees apply).

Questions: Contact the school office on 09 627 9440 / office@blockhousebay.school.nz or

Contact the Kindo helpdesk on freephone 0508 4 KINDO or email helpdesk@tgcl.co.nz

See it in action: We have a tutorial on how to use the shop to help you get started, simply visit the school website 'Information Page' for the link. It's an easy one-stop shop for all your school costs. HAPPY SHOPPING!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHINESE NEW YEAR - Friday 7th February

On this day, we invite all students to join with us in celebrating Chinese New Year. Students are welcome to wear traditional Chinese clothes on this day and a photo will of course be taken!

WHANAU AROHA DAY- Monday 10th February

On Monday the 10th February we are celebrating all of our unique whanau and cultures at Blockhouse Bay Primary with our Whānau Aroha Day. All children are invited to come to school in their cultural clothes that reflect their unique identity e.g. Chinese, Indian, Japanese, New Zealander, artist, musician etc.

We invite you to join us for a parade at 10.40am and then take part in a shared lunch with your child's class at 11.00am. We ask that you bring a special plate of food to share that is part of your family culture.

Please remember no nuts! Can you please include a list of the key ingredients in your shared lunch food.

SCHOOL CENTENARY

Blockhouse Bay School has a proud history of providing an outstanding education as well as a point of focus for the community. We look forward to celebrating and recognising this with people who have been associated with the school.

To recognise this once-in-a-lifetime occasion, we are planning to have events on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st March 2020. These will include :

- The opportunity to see the school 'in action' on the Friday
- Guided tours around the school (Friday and Saturday)
- An official 'Celebration Ceremony' (Saturday)
- Entertainment from children's performance groups
- Opportunities for ex pupils and parents to reconnect
- An opportunity for ex staff and Board members to reconnect
- Displays of memorabilia from days gone by

More details will be provided in the next couple of weeks. If you or anyone else wishes to register for this event. Please go to the school website, click on 'Information' scroll down to the 2020 Centennial Page and click on Expression of Interest. Alternatively, you can go to the school Facebook page and register there.

PARENTS OF YEAR 5 and 6 CHILDREN

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

If you have any questions about this, please contact the office and we will organise someone to give you a call.

FREE EARLY MORNING FITNESS CLASSES

A local person is offering to run these on the school turf from 7.00-7.45am every Saturday morning. For more details please phone 0211249639 or email redefining athleticism@gmail.com / Facebook RedefiningAthleticism / Instagram: redefining_athleticism




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