



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

Thursday 5th December 2019

The Carnival was a total success with lots of money raised and happy smiling faces everywhere. We are aware that this is a wonderful community event as well and are really pleased to co-ordinate this occasion for everyone. There are still bills to pay and other expenses to add up, but we believe that the amount raised will be more than \$18 000 which is the most for some years.

The FAB/PTA have been collecting their money for a few years now so that they could afford to pay for the refurbishment of the playground by Rooms 12-15. We have now reached that target and hope to have the new play space up and running by the middle of 2020. A huge thank you to FAB Chairperson Jasmine Leaning and the rest of the team for organising Saturdays Carnival and to everyone who played a part in its success.

The Blockhouse Bay School Santa Parade takes place on Sunday 8th December and a large number of our children will be take part in the occasion. Thank you to teachers Jan Llewellyn and Annette Bradley for organising our children's entry into this annual event. We hope the weather is kind for you as well.

Neil Robinson
Principal



*Pictures are from the Junior Athletics Day held on Monday.
Results follow:*



TERM FOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please check weekly as dates and times may change.

- Fri 6th Dec** 2.15pm - Rimu Te Raranga Assembly
- Mon 9th Dec** Pōhutukawa Camp Day
- Tues 10th Dec** 2.30pm - Pōhutukawa Assembly
- Fri 13th Dec** 9.00am - Kauri Assembly
- Fri 13th Dec** 2.15pm - Whole Rimu Assembly
- Fri 13th Dec** School Reports go home and children meet their 2020 teacher
- Tues 17th Dec** 1.30pm - Year 6 Graduation Ceremony (Te Whau)
- Wed 18th Dec** Treat Day
- Thurs 19th Dec** End of Term Four - 1.30pm Finish

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.



Blockhouse Bay

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Junior Athletics Day

The Pōhutukawa and Kōwhai children enjoyed a fun and active day on Monday in the annual Junior Athletics. The sprint finals were exciting with some close finishes. The rotational activities were again created by a Year 5 class and Room 10 did a wonderful job at encouraging and teaching the children the skills in their activity. Thank you to the parents and whānau who came along and watched, it was great to see you there.

The following children were successful in gaining a place in the sprint finals.

7 Year Old Girls

1st Place Déjanae Peteru-Ulukita
2nd Place Jody Gosling
3rd Place Saanvi Patel

7 Year Old Boys

1st Place Romil BibanTharian
2nd Place Taylor Reardon
3rd Place Bruce Lei

6 Year Old Girls

1st Place Sophie Miratana
2nd = Place Fonuku Gallaher
2nd = Place Danya Capps
3rd Place Charlotte Kilpatrick

6 Year Old Boys

1st Place Alex Herbert
2nd Place Aidan Markovina
3rd Place Anders Williams

5 Year Old Girls

1st Place Aya Zanzoul
2nd Place Riley Makea
3rd = Place Emma Burrows
3rd = Place Freya Saleh

5 Year Old Boys

1st Place Callum Horsford
2nd Place Bradley Smith
3rd Place Yusuf Hassan

ORDER YOUR 2019 YEARBOOKS 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 will be sent home next Monday but feel free to contact the office if it does not make it home. Yearbook purchases are on a first come first served basis and cost \$25 each.

We expect the 2019 Yearbook to arrive at school on or around the 10th December and we will send them home with the children as soon as they get here.

Principal's Soapbox

Over the weekend, the government made two school-friendly funding announcements which should really help us to make ends meet in the future.

Firstly, they have committed to funding pay increases to our support staff which is only fair. On every other occasion previously, the government has agreed to pay support staff more money (which they most definitely deserve) and then made no increases to school funding which has meant that the money has usually come at the expense of another area of operations – curriculum budget or less hours for support staff. With the promise to pay for these increases, schools do not have to make sacrifices in other areas which we are very pleased about.

The second announcement was a one-off injection of money for property spending. Blockhouse Bay School will receive almost \$400 000 to spend on upgrading areas of the school that need it which was also a very welcome announcement. For us then it is thinking caps on – which area of the school needs it the most? We will let you know when this decision is made.

People will have different opinions about whether these initiatives are politically motivated, but we will most definitely, take it!

Neil Robinson
Principal

FAREWELL TO STAFF MEMBERS

At the end of the term, we will say goodbye to some of our wonderful staff members.

Helen Addison is retiring from teaching after 24 years of loyal and outstanding teaching service to our school. When she arrived in 1995, the school was quite a different place but still had that community feel and pride. Mrs Addison began teaching in a new entrant classroom which was where the Manukau Block is now. She then joined Kōwhai and became team leader after a couple of years.

Using additional funding from the government, in 2005, Mrs Addison took on the role of 'Enrichment Director' and worked to provide a range of programmes for children across the school. From 2017 and 2018, Mrs Addison again led our Kōwhai Team and this year has worked as a part-time teacher again in Kōwhai.

At our whole school assembly last week, some of our children tried to list all of the extra things that Mrs Addison has done at the school and this was a long list indeed - Mediators, Travelwise, Enviro Group, ICAS, Walk to school Wednesday's, Trash to Fash, Lit Quiz, Speech writing, Talent Show, Robotics, EPRo8, and a whole range of enrichment and extension groups.

Mrs Addison's ability to engage children's brains and extend their thinking is legendary and many children (and parents) have commented on this across the years. She is a superb teacher who is very well liked and respected across the Blockhouse Bay School community. We wish her all the best for a long and happy retirement.

Atama Cassidy started working at the school as a beginning teacher in 2016. He had been here previously as a trainee teacher and it was easy to see that he would add value to our school, and we were lucky enough to have him join our team.

Mr Cassidy's warmth, compassion and friendly nature ensured that he has always been liked and appreciated by everyone. He taught originally in a year 3/4 classroom in Rimu and then moved into Kōwhai in 2017. This year, he was appointed to a team leader role back in Rimu and has also done a superb job of overseeing the promotion of Pasifika initiatives across the school.

Mr Cassidy's move to England has been held up for a few months, so he will take on a teaching role at Rosebank School before starting his OE later in 2020. We wish him all the best of luck for these exciting opportunities and know that he will do a wonderful job, everywhere he goes.

Ying Zhou started working as a Learning Assistant this year. She has built good relationships with the students and they have responded well to her. Ying has a positive outlook on life, she is kind and caring and a great member to have on staff. We are unsure at this stage whether or not Ying will return but wish her the best as she takes this time to welcome a baby into her family.

SANTA PARADE - this Sunday

If you returned your reply slip to walk in the school float at the Blockhouse Bay Santa Parade, please meet Ms Llewellyn and Mrs Bradley on Exminster Street between 10-10:30am on Sunday.

Dress in your most Christmassy clothes! In case of rain, please check the Blockhouse Bay community Facebook page where they will cancel the event if needed.

PARENT UPDATE – CONTACT SHEET

Parents and Caregivers should have received a print out of your contact details home. Please check the details and update any changes and return this sheet back to the office.

Alternatively you can email the office with the change of details at office@blockhousebay.school.nz

Blockhouse Bay Village
Santa Parade 2019
Sunday, 8 December
Entertainment starts: 9.30am
Parade starts: 10.45am

Join us at the annual Blockhouse Bay Santa Parade to celebrate Christmas Around The World!

FREE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE KIDS:

- Bouncy Castle
- Face painting and Balloons
- Photos with Santa
- Music and Cultural groups
- Clowns
- ... and more!

To register a float please email:
manager@blockhousebay.org.nz

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Some changing circumstances have meant that we have made some decisions that will affect children and whānau next year. Please make a note of these details so that you are prepared for these dates.

Meet the Family Meetings

'Meet the Family Meetings' are an opportunity for each child and family to meet their teacher and share important things together right at the start of the year. Each appointment is for 10 minutes. Some parents have told us that they struggle to get to these meetings that usually take place in the first couple of weeks of the new year. Some also find the fact that we send the children home early difficult to manage.

We have therefore 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 they would 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! Very shortly we will send home details about 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.

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. They 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 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)



FAB NEWS

What an amazing Carnival Day we had on Saturday! THANK YOU to everyone that came to support the Carnival and to all the wonderful helpers involved in making this such a great event. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes in planning and organising an event like this, but we would not be able to do it without the helpers.

We would also like to say **THANK YOU** to ALL our generous sponsors below:

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Westpac Mussels

If you would like be involved in planning any of our School's fundraising events next year, come and join our dedicated FAB committee!! Our first meeting for 2020 will be on Monday 17 February at 7pm in the staffroom. If you have any questions or would like to find out more information, email Jasmine at fab@blockhousebay.school.nz

Lastly, our Term 4 Sausage Sizzle will be on the second to last day of term (Wednesday 18 December). This will be a **FREE** sausage sizzle for the kids. We will need some helpers to cook and pack the sausages for the kids so please get in touch if you are available to help with our last Sausage Sizzle of the year!

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