



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

6th July 2017

PRINCIPAL'S SOAPBOX

Thank you to everyone who took the time to join us for the Parent/Student/Teacher conferences this week. We hope that you enjoyed this discussion regarding your child's progress and achievement.

Congratulations to the PTA who organised and ran another very successful fundraising event, The Comedy Night, last Friday. I was very disappointed to have missed the entertainment (Manflu can be very cruel) but have heard great things about the evening.

Term Three ends tomorrow with the usual mufti day and sausage sizzle and as usual, we finish at 3.00pm.

Visitors to the school will have noticed some work being done on the artificial turf area. We are looking forward to the children playing on this early in the new term and the official opening date will be announced in the first newsletter of term three.

We hope that you all have a wonderful holiday break with your family.

Neil Robinson
Principal

Year 5 & 6 Boys Gymnastic Team



CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM THREE

- Monday 24 July - Term 3 Commences
- Tuesday 25th July - BBI talking to Yr6 children
- Wednesday 26th July - Rm 5, 12&13 Conferences
- Thursday 27th July - Rm 5, 12&13 Conferences
- Friday 28th July - Rimu Assembly - 2pm
- Monday 31st July - Kauri Assembly - 2.15pm
- PTA Meeting, School Staffroom, all welcome.
- Tuesday 1st August - ICAS English
- Thursday 3rd August - Pohutukawa Assembly 2.15pm
- Y5/6 Mother Daughter Afternoon Tea
- Tuesday 8th August - Art Gallery Trip For Rooms 21&22
- Wednesday 9th August - Y5/6 Rugby Savings Day
- Kowhai Assembly - 2.30pm
- Thursday 10th August - Art Gallery Trip Rooms 20&23
- Information evening at BBI for parents - 6.00pm
- Friday 11th August - Rimu Assembly - 2pm
- Monday 14th August - Kauri Assembly -2.15pm
- Tuesday 15th August - ICAS Maths
- Wednesday 16th August - Y5/6 Winter Sports Day
- Thursday 17th August - Gymnastics Competition for selected pupils
- Monday 21st August - Year Six students visit BBI
- Wednesday 23rd August -Kowhai Assembly - 2.30pm
- Thursday 24th August - Whole School Assembly-2pm
- Friday 25th August - Rimu Assembly - 2pm
- Monday 28th August - Kauri Assembly - 2.15pm
- Thursday 31st August - Pohutukawa Assembly - 2.15pm
- Friday 1st September - PTA Disco evening
- Year 0-2 5-6pm, Year 3-6 6.30-8.00pm
- Wednesday 6th September -Kowhai Assembly-2.30pm
- Monday 11th September - Kauri Assembly - 2.15pm
- Thursday 14th September - Pohutukawa Assembly- 2.15pm
- Friday 15th September - Gymnastics Champion of Champions Competition
- Tuesday 19th September -Rimu Production Matinee 11.30am
- Wednesday 20th September -Rimu Production Evening Show 7.00pm
- Thursday 21st September Rimu Production Evening Show - 7.00pm
- Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th Sept - School Photos
- Thursday 28th September - Pohutukawa Assembly- 2.15pm
- Friday 29th September - Mufti Day / Sausage Sizzle
- Last day of Term 3 - 3.00pm finish

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STAFFING CHANGES

The end of term will bring about some staffing changes for the school brought about by both roll growth and changing circumstances for some teachers.

Laura Hiller will finish at Blockhouse Bay School tomorrow after working in the Kauri team since the start of 2015. She has brought her own unique style of teaching to the school infusing her sense of humour with a passion for children and their learning. Whaea Laura was definitely in two minds about leaving the school as she enjoys it here so much, but the lure of being able to teach Science exclusively was too tempting an offer. We wish Laura all the best for her new position and school.

Tracey Waller has made the call to reduce her teaching time and will not be teaching in Room 25 for the rest of the year. Mrs Waller will still be at the school however and will pop up in other classes on selected days.

Mrs Redell will be returning to the school in a part-time capacity next term and will also be teaching in a range of classes.

Mrs Angie Cannon will become the Room 2 teacher from the beginning of term three. Mrs Cannon has taught Year 4-7 children at St Cuthbert's College for the last six years, was at Gladstone Primary for three years before that and taught in various places overseas before coming to New Zealand.

Ms Serene Timoteo will be starting up a new class of 5 year olds in Room 19 from the beginning of the new term. Ms Timoteo has worked in some other schools in the district and has wide ranging experience particularly in the Arts, having taken classes for children outside of school and even has had some work exhibited in galleries.

Tracey Bough has taught in a range of schools in the South Island and has experience in junior school teaching and in early childhood. Miss Bough will take over as the Room 25 teacher from the beginning of term three.

A big welcome and/or welcome back to all these staff members.

2018 TERM DATES

We always like to give parents plenty of notice of our school dates so that holidays are not planned during term times. The following dates were approved at our latest Board of Trustees meeting. The Board took into account that Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School and Lynfield College have similar breaks and we know that parents would like us to line up with these wherever possible.

The term dates for next year are:

Term One	Tuesday 30th January - Friday 13th April	(11 weeks)
Term Two	Monday 30th April - Friday 6th July	(10 weeks)
Term Three	Monday 23rd July - Friday 28th September	(10 weeks)
Term Four	Monday 15th October - Friday 14th December	(9 weeks)

NETBALL RESULTS

BHB Diamonds vs. Marina View Thunderbirds (Lost). Player of the Day Charlotte Davies

BHB Sapphires vs. Kaurilands Stormers (Lost). Player of the Day Selitema Gallaher / Dhruvi Visnagara (Previous Week)

GYMNASTICS FUN FESTIVAL

The Fun Festival last week was again a huge hit with our students. The venue was packed out with Gymnasts from schools across West and Central Auckland. Our team looked amazing with their routines, and it was very evident that all the hard work that they had been putting in to their training before school and during lunchtimes had paid off. A big thank you to our team of parent helpers who have been training them up so well, and helped out with transport on the day!

The Auckland Zones competition is on next term. This is up another level from the Fun Festival and only selected students will be going into this competition according to their scores. A notice will be going home on Friday to those students who have made it into the Auckland Zones squad, and it will detail all the important training and competition information.

SPEED STACKING MEET UP

Looking to try new things over the school holiday? Our next, Blockhouse Bay Speed Stacking club, session will be held on Sunday 23rd of July which is the day before school comes back for term three. This will be held in the Technology room.

Remember that these sessions start from 2-4 pm and will be a \$2 donation entry free. Parents please arrange for pick up from these meet ups if you are unable to attend. Further details can be found on the facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Blockhouse-Bay-Sport-Stacking-Club-106378676610005/>

PTA NEWS

Thanks to everyone who supported our Adults Comedy Night with Urzila Carlson last week. We all had a great time and lots of laughs at the same time as raising funds for our school and your kids!

TOMORROW- Last day of term Mufti and Sausage Sizzle

Children can order tomorrow morning with their classroom teacher. Options are Hellers mixed meat sausages, halal lamb sausages or cheese toasties- \$2 each.

If your child wants to come in mufti (wear their own clothes) for the day, please send an additional gold coin. **SEND ALL MONEY TO CLASSROOM TEACHER TOMORROW MORNING PLEASE.**

White elephant collection- Sunday 6th August 4pm-5pm at school pool.

Hold on to all your unwanted toys, games, books, puzzles, homewares and good condition kids clothes. Drop them off at our next carnival white elephant collection on the date above. Thanks for your support.

Reusable book covers- if you like to cover your school books, check out www.lovethecovers.com for a range of slip on, durable, reusable, plastic book covers. They come in a range of cool designs and at the checkout you can select Blockhouse Bay School and the company will make a small donation to our school for each book cover purchased. Samples can be viewed at the school office.

PTA Treasurer needed- we are looking for someone to take over the role of treasurer on the PTA. If you would like to help and can spare an hour a week, please contact Annette at pta@blockhousebay.school.nz for more information.

Like our Facebook page- Blockhouse Bay Primary School PTA for more regular news and updates.

WAITAKERE HALF MARATHON AND FUN RUN- who do you know that is taking part?

Blockhouse Bay School is registered with this event so that anyone who enters (apart from the 2km race) can choose our school to receive \$5 per entry. If you know of anyone who is going to register for one of the races which take place on the 15th October, please ask them to nominate our school to receive this money.

DIGITAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS- Comment from the Principal

This initiative was announced last week by the new Minister of Education Nikki Kaye and was the result of a large amount of dialogue and consultation with the entire educational community. I am sure that you are aware our school has been moving in this direction for some time, so we are pleased to see that this will be supported by the government in the years to come. Apart from providing a safe learning environment, preparing the children for their future is the most important responsibility that parents and teachers have and we are looking forward to being part of this initiative.

Anyone who saw the TV show "What Next" that was on recently will have seen that more thought is needed to prepare our children for their lives in the middle of the 21st Century, bearing in mind that we are nearly 1/5 of the way through it already!

In announcing the new change, Minister Nikki Kaye said that:

To participate successfully in society and get the jobs and careers they want, young New Zealanders will need to be confident using a broad range of digital technologies in a variety of settings.

Digital fluency is now an essential life skill for our young people. And by digital fluency, I don't mean just being able to use technology effectively. It's also crucial that young people develop computational and algorithmic thinking skills and knowledge, so they can become innovative creators of digital technologies.

Of course, this can only happen if teachers are trained to facilitate this new learning and although our staff have been working towards this, we are enthusiastic about being part of this new learning. The Minister seems keen to achieve this without adding to teacher workloads which is admirable. Across the country, teachers are struggling to cope with the additional hours that are required of them and some are choosing to leave the profession because of it, so it is reassuring to hear our Minister acknowledging this.

Although it is likely to be some years before the benefits of this new initiative are visible in the classrooms I for one am pleased to hear our new Minister is focused on preparing our children for the future and not the past. If you have read some of my previous Soapbox items, you will have seen that I have been critical of the lack of consultation with professionals in designing aspects of educational initiatives and so I think it is only fair to recognise this positive new direction.

Have a great holiday everyone.

Neil Robinson
Principal


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