



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

SCHOOL CLOSES FOR THE YEAR NEXT Tuesday 15th December AT 1.30pm

Please ensure that you have made arrangements for your children from this time.
(no after school care on this day)

今年学期最后一天是12月15日(周二)。当天下午一点半1:30pm放学。

敬请家长按时把孩子们接回家，当天下午没有after school care。

Thursday 10th December 2020

Dear Parents and Whānau,

It was great to see our children taking part in the Blockhouse Bay School Santa Parade on Sunday. We had around 70 children on our float and some of our children were with other groups as well.

Remember to pick up your pool key from the office if you would like your family to use this over the break.

Booking times for Meet the Family on Tuesday 2nd February open at 6.00pm on Friday (tomorrow) evening. Please read the information sheet that will be sent out on Hero tomorrow for instructions on how to book a time that suits you.

As we are finishing school for the year at 1.30pm next Tuesday, this is the final newsletter of the year.

One of the victims of 2020 is the Yearbook which was not able to be completed this year. We do a lot of work on this in term three, and because we were in lockdown, this was not able to be done. We apologise to everyone for this.

Congratulations to the Year 6 children who took part in our Blockhouse Bay School Graduation ceremony yesterday. This is always a very important and much-looked-forward-to event and a large number of parents and family members were there to share this occasion.

Extra congratulations to our award and trophy winners who can be very proud of these achievements.

We have a range of property improvements going on at the school starting tomorrow and continuing over the holiday break so please keep an eye on your children if you are visiting the school over this time. Thank you too for helping us to 'keep an eye on our place'. People who might cause the school harm are a whole heap less likely to do so if adults are paying an interest in what they are doing.

On behalf of the Board and Staff, I would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday break.

Neil Robinson, Principal

TERM FOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Please check each week for any updates made to these dates.

Fri 11th Dec Sausage Sizzle / Mufti Day / Wacky Hair
Tues 15th Dec Last day of school year - 1.30pm finish



Congratulations to our 2020 Year 6 prizewinners.

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photographer's very first
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Blockhouse Bay

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TROPHY WINNERS for 2020

Well done to all of the year 6 children who received their Graduation Certificates yesterday. The following children were also recognised for their hard work and talent at this special occasion:

John Davies (Excellence in the Arts)	-	Maggie Marquardt
Jack Cooper (Service to the School)	-	Caleb Burrows
Walbran-Oakley First Class (All Rounder)	-	Naomi Crookenden
Sportsperson of the Year:	-	Akarsh Shankar
Leadership Award	-	Kabilan Manickam
Cultural Leadership	-	Annie Mahe
Dux (academic excellence)	-	Meghna Malik

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank this year's newsletter sponsors who help us by reducing the cost of keeping families up to date with what is happening at school. Please give these folk the opportunity to quote for work for you in the future if you are looking for someone who provides these services.

We have many, many people who help us during the year in a range of ways and we would like to thank you all for this. It is through the help of our whole Blockhouse Bay School, that we are able to offer such a wide range of meaningful learning experiences for our children and we know we are very lucky to work in such a supportive environment.

To those of you who are leaving us for the last time on Tuesday, good luck to you all. We are very much aware that for some parents, this brings to a close their connection with the school. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the work you have done over the years to support us to help your child and the school.

STAFFING CHANGES

Tuesday will be the last day for some of our staff members and we thank them for their service and dedication to the children and Blockhouse Bay School

Nicola Hew began working for us as a Beginning Teacher at the start of 2019. She was successful in her application because we could see what an excellent teacher she would become. Nicola has a wonderful nature with the children and well loved by everyone. She has been a very valuable member of the staff and the Pōhutukawa team and we will all miss her. Nicola and her husband to be are moving to Wellington where she will continue her teaching career.

Sonal Singh has had a range of roles in the school this year, starting as a volunteer and learning assistant while she waited for her teaching qualifications to be recognised. Once this happened, she became a reliever and then stepped in to a vacant teaching role when a junior teacher became sick. Sonal has loved teaching in Room 24/25 and her warmth and teaching skills have quickly endeared her to the children and staff. Sonal has won a permanent job at New Lynn Primary and we wish her all the best for this next phase in her career.

Next year, we will welcome back two teachers from parental leave. **Melinda Narayan** will return from the start of the year and **Saadiyah Musa** will be coming back from the beginning of term two. We are very lucky to have these two talented teachers returning to our school.

Vicky Pakes and Kay Java, thank you for the work you have done alongside the teachers and the Tamariki in our school. We value your patience, kindness and willingness to support them with tasks and activities in the classroom and on the playground. We wish you the best for 2021.

BLOCKHOUSE BAY SANTA PARADE

Last Saturday some of our students took part in the Blockhouse Bay Santa Parade on the school float. They all had a great time.

Congratulations to Suhavi Singh from Room 18- Suhavi was drawn to be the Blockhouse Bay Santa Parade Princess 2020.

Big thanks goes to Annette Bradley who organised and ran this event for the children.



MEET THE WHĀNAU CONFERENCES 2021

These meetings will be held on Tuesday 2nd February 2021. This is an opportunity for you, your child and family to come and meet your child's new teacher, get to know the classroom and share important information together before school starts.

These will be held from 8.20am until 7.00pm on this day.

You will receive information on Hero on how to book these meetings tomorrow. Bookings will open at 6.00pm tomorrow night. You can also go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the school code **6nz2u** and press the GO button.

Tomorrow you will also receive information on HERO about your child's new room for next year and other relevant information for 2021.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION IN 2021

We spend a lot of time working out how the school will be organised each year and preparing for 2021 was no exception. It is quite common for us to have two-year levels in the same class and we have found that this is very beneficial to students as it extends their opportunities in both leadership and social development.

Numbers of students at each level is also a consideration as we are staffed on total numbers of students in the school rather than particular year groups and we need to make sure that the class numbers are even. Therefore in 2021, we have a number of mixed level classes which we have found to be very successful in previous years.

We can assure everyone that these classes are not streamed academically, and that each child is taught at their level irrespective of the class they are in. To make these decisions, we consider the children's relationships with each other and then tried to align them with specific teachers where we thought this would be beneficial for each student, resulting in effective learning groups.

CLASSES FOR NEXT YEAR

On Friday we will be letting the children know which class they are in for 2021 if they are returning to Blockhouse Bay Primary School. We do this so that the children are not worried about this during the summer break.

Deciding which children will go to which class is a very complex task and the staff spend many hours working on this. As part of this process, we look for a balance of gender, ability, ethnicity and needs. We also consider other factors such as friendships, personalities that we feel will get on with each other and keeping certain children apart if necessary.

For these reasons, moving children from one class to another after they have been decided is quite problematic as it can have a domino effect and upset the balance of what we have tried to achieve. Parents who do wish us to give consideration for a change will need to email the office letting us know why you wish this to be considered. We will then consider this request, although once again, it is unlikely that a change will be made unless there are **very** compelling reasons to do so.

Ask Avinesh
What is your property worth now?

2021 CLASS TEACHERS

Team	Room	Teacher/s	Year
Kauri Y4-6 	10	Melissa Murray/ Claire Schultz (Tues)	Y5/6
	9	Jane Warne	Y5/6
	8	Nicky Swan/Claire Schultz (Wednesday) (Whānau Kotahi: Team Leader : Rms 7,8,9,10)	Y5/6
	7	Athlene Wallbank	Y6
	6	Hayley Davies	Y4/5
	5	Angie Cannon Te Papakainga Team Leader : Rms 4,5, 6 / Felicity Davis (Thursday/ Friday)	Y4/5
	4	Simran Joseph	Y5
Rimu Y2-4 	1	Emma Best	Y3/4
	2	Amanda Whittome	Y3/4
	3	Deanne Ellis (Kete Whānau: Team Leader)/Jan Llewellyn (Thursdays)	Y3/4
	13	Annette Bradley	Y3
	14	Shelly Brown	Y4
	15	Brenna Innes/(Te Raranga: Team Leader), Melinda Narayan (Thursday)	Y2/3
Kōwhai Year1 & 2 	19	Vivienne Aherne	Y2
	20	Denise Lawson/Melinda Narayan (Wednesday)	Y1/2
	21	Robyn Joyce/Team Leader/ Sally Kilpatrick (Wednesday/Thursday)	Y1/2
	22	Breanne MacKinnon/Melinda Narayan (Friday)	Y2
	23	Nida Irfani	Y1/2
Pōhutukawa Year 0 & 1 	16	Mina Lala	Y0/1
	17	Hena Farooq/Bronwyn Woodward (Thursday/Friday)	Y0/1
	18	Stacy McIvor/Megan Le Gallais (Friday)	Y0/1
	24	Suzy Lee	Y0/1

School Leavers – notice re ezlunch / Kindo school shop

If your family is leaving our school and moving to another school that does not use ezlunch or Kindo for school payments, you need to close your account. If you're not sure about the new school, log in, go to *My Details* and click on the list of schools, scrolling to find your new school.

If your new school is NOT on the list, use the 'close account' button on that screen. You can choose to donate your balance to school (where available) or have it paid out to your nominated bank account.

FAB NEWS

Thank you to everyone for your support of our fundraising ventures this year. With the money raised, we have been able to contribute to the new walkway cover in front of Rooms 4-9 which will make things much better for the children in terms of their learning and in other areas as well.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Can you volunteer a couple of hours tomorrow to help with our Sausage Sizzle? We will not be able to run the Sausage Sizzle without enough helpers. Please email fab@blockhousebay.school.nz if you are able to help tomorrow - we meet after the school bell at the Te Whau (PAC) and finish up around 11am. If you can't help for the entire time, we would be grateful if you could just come for however long you can.

Sausage Sizzle, Mufti & Wacky Hair Day!!! - TOMORROW
Hellers, Halal and Vegetarian Sausages available. \$2 for a sausage and Gold Coin Donation for Mufti & Wacky Hair.

Entertainment Books

Grab an Entertainmentbook book between now until 31 January 2021, and on top of the 20% we receive towards our fundraising goal we will receive an additional \$10 for a Single City Membership or \$20 for a Multi City Membership!! They would make a great gift for Christmas! www.entertainmentbook.co.nz

Our FAB Team would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who has helped us and support our fundraising efforts this year. Also a huge **THANK YOU** to our our regular sponsors: **Barfoot & Thompson Blockhouse Bay, Countdown Blockhouse Bay and Hellers.**

*The staff at Blockhouse Bay Primary
would like to thank you for your support in 2020
and wish you all
a very safe and
Merry Christmas*



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