



# Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

*We Seek - We Strive - We Soar*

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Whanau,

The FAB team met this week to plan out this year's events and what committed team of people they are! In 2019, this group oversaw the collection of nearly \$60 000 for the school which could well have been the most ever, a superb achievement. The group would love to have more members to help out from time to time so please email [fab@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:fab@blockhousebay.school.nz) if you have some time available to help. Soon, we will be able to confirm what their fundraising in 2020 will be spent on.

It was only a matter of time before Coronavirus arrived in New Zealand with hundreds of thousands of people arriving in this country every month. We have been advised that hand washing is as effective as hand sanitiser although there is always sanitiser available at school when this is not an option (while our stocks last). Once again, we ask that everyone reinforces this message with their children at home as well as not coughing or sneezing into their own hands.

With only two weeks to go until the School Centenary, if you know of any ex-staff, Board, pupils or parents who would like to register for any of the events that make up the celebrations, please ask them to click on the [Response Form](#) or contact the school office [office@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:office@blockhousebay.school.nz) if you or they have any questions. We have a large number of children performing on the Saturday as well which I know the ex-school people will be looking forward to.

Holi events will be taking place all over the world over the next couple of weeks and these are always excellent family occasions to attend. Watch out for these and feel free to join into the Festival of Lights!

Have a great week everyone

Neil Robinson

Principal

*Pictured here are the Red Team winners of the A Grade T-Ball Competition*



### 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.

Fri 6th March	2.15pm -Rimu-Te Raranga Assembly
Tues 10th March	2.30pm - Kowhai 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
Tues 24th March	2.30pm - Kowhai Assembly
Fri 27th March	2.15pm -Rimu-Kete Whanau Assembly
Mon 30th March	2.15pm Kauri Assembly
Fri 3rd April	FAB Sausage Sizzle and Mufti Day
Fri 3rd April	2.15pm -Combined Rimu Assembly
Tues 7th April	2.30pm - Kowhai Assembly
Wed 8th April	2.00pm - Whole School Assembly
Thurs 9th April	3.00pm -Term One Ends

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# Blockhouse Bay

### **SOUTHWEST T-BALL COMPETITION**

Blockhouse Bay entered 5 teams into the Year 5 & 6 South West Interschool T-Ball competition held at Eastdale Reserve last Wednesday. The team's participation and sportsmanship was outstanding during and leading up to the competition. A big thank you to Andi and Carl Jackson, Chad Bryant, Kathy Parry, Praneal Badal, Anton Leyland, Jon Gwin and Megan Findlay who did an amazing job of coaching on the day.

Congratulations to Red team who placed 1st in A Grade, Blue Team placed 2nd in A Grade and Green Team who placed 3rd in B grade.

### **LYNFIELD COLLEGE KAPA HAKA PERFORMANCE AND BBQ**

This group are preparing for their ASB Polyfest and whanau/members of the community are invited to come to their dress rehearsal being held from 5.00pm at the Lynfield College Marae on Friday 13th March. Koha entry

### **FAB NEWS**

We had our first FAB (Fundraisers at Blockhouse Bay) meeting this week. Thanks to our committed team who came along to discuss our fundraising goals for this year! We need more FAB members so we can organise amazing events for the kids at school so would love if you could consider volunteering your time to join us. We are a friendly group that meet monthly to do our planning. Our next meeting on **Thursday 2nd April**, 7pm in the Staffroom.

If you have any questions about the FAB and what we do and how you might be able to contribute, you can contact Jasmine by emailing [fab@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:fab@blockhousebay.school.nz).

#### **FAB Date of Events:**

**Thursday 12th March (after school)** - Ice Block Pop Up Stall - \$1 ice blocks

**Thursday 19th March (after school)** - Ice Block Pup Up Stall - \$1 ice blocks

**Thursday 2nd April** - FAB Meeting 7pm Staffroom

**Friday 3rd April** - Sausage Sizzle & Mufti Day

**Friday 8th May** - School Disco

### **SCHOOL CENTENARY – TWO WEEKS TO GO!**

The programme is:

**Friday 20th March 10.00am – 2.00 pm School Open Day. Please come any time.**

\* Visitors are asked to go straight to Te Whau- Foyer (school Performing Arts Centre/hall) on arrival.

\* Student ambassadors will lead tours around the school. The children in classes have been studying about what it was like for their great grandparents 100 years ago, so they should have some interesting things for the visitors to see.

\* Tea/coffee served in staffroom

**Friday 20th March 7.00pm-9.30pm Evening function for ex-Board, ex-staff and ex-School Committee members - \$10 per person (pay at the door)**

\* Finger food served. Cash bar and non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase.

This event is open to any ex- or current staff, Board of Trustees or School Committee members.

**Saturday 21st March 11.00-4.30pm Official Welcome, school tours, mix and mingle**

Please go straight to Te Whau (school Performing Arts Centre/hall) on arrival.

\* 11.00-12.30pm Walking tours of the school

\* 12.30-1.30pm Program starts - Speeches and children's group performances

Venue - Te Whau (school Performing Arts Centre/hall)

\* 1.30-2.30pm Walking tours resume for those that missed + meet with others from your time at the school.

\* 2pm onwards Afternoon tea served in the Te Manawa (Library and Makerspace)

## Novel Coronavirus Update

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education is providing constant updates to the school and the school is following all advice provided. We would like to assure you that we are reminding all children to wash their hands frequently and to cough safely. As always if your children are unwell they should stay at home and seek medical advice. We would also like to provide the following information from the Ministry of Health. Please refer to their website for further information. [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)

## Frequently asked questions

**What is Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)?** Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

A novel coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that hasn't previously been identified in humans. In January 2020 officials identified a new coronavirus, COVID-19.

### How worried should I be?

The current chances of catching COVID-19 in New Zealand are low. There are currently only three confirmed cases in the country and the risk of an ongoing outbreak is considered low-to-moderate. For most people, the virus causes only mild symptoms – the international evidence suggests this is especially the case in children and young people. You are at greatest risk of infection if you have had face-to-face contact (closer than one metre for longer than 15 minutes) with someone confirmed as having COVID-19.

### Should I still be sending my children to school?

Yes, children should continue to attend school as normal. This would only change if:

- A student or staff member at your school was confirmed as having COVID-19, **and**
- Your child had had 'close contact' with the infected person.\*

*\*Close contact means being face-to-face (less than a metre) with an infected person for longer than 15 minutes. Contacts of close contacts are **not** considered at risk of catching the virus.*

### What can I do to protect my child at school?

As with other respiratory illnesses, it's important you remind your child/ren to practice safe hand, cough and sneeze hygiene to reduce the risk of infection. They should:

- Frequently and thoroughly wash (with soap and water for at least 20-30 seconds) and dry hands. A video on how best to do this is available [here](#). "Nanogirl" Dr Michelle Dickinson has also made an [excellent video](#), aimed at children, showing why hand washing is so important to get rid of viruses.
- Practice good cough and sneeze hygiene. That means:
  - Maintaining a distance of a metre or more away from other people.
  - Coughing or sneezing into their elbow or a disposable tissue, then putting used tissues in the bin and washing their hands afterwards.
- Carry disposable tissues in their bags/pockets. Hand sanitiser is also a useful alternative option if soap and water is not readily available.
- Avoid touching their faces. Viruses can enter the body through the eyes, nose and mouth.

Information about hand, cough and sneeze hygiene is available on the [Ministry of Health](#), [World Health Organization](#) and [Auckland Regional Public Health Service websites](#).

### Is it safe for my child to attend school activities like assemblies, swimming and camps?

Yes, students can continue attending these activities as normal. This would only change if:

- A student or staff member at your school was confirmed as having COVID-19, **AND**
- Your child had had 'close contact' with the infected person.\*

When attending these activities, your child should continue to practice good hand, cough and sneeze hygiene, as described above.

*\*Close contact means being face-to-face (less than a metre) with an infected person for longer than 15 minutes. Contacts of close contacts are not considered at risk of catching the virus.*

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