



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

7th December 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Congratulations once again to our inter-school athletics team. We have listed the names of children who were placed at this event in this newsletter.

Well done too to our Kapa Haka group who performed brilliantly at their event last week at Rosebank Primary School. You made your whānau and Kaiako very proud. Thank you to Matua Jarrod, Whaea Nicky and Whaea Kelcey for preparing them so well for their performance and to everyone else who helped on the night.

This week saw the last of the classes visiting Arataki and I know that everyone enjoyed this experience. A big thank you to all of the parents and family members who were able to come along and help with supervision on their child's trip. Thank you too to everyone who was able to help us with today's sausage sizzle.

The junior school have got a few busy days coming up with tomorrow's athletics day, the Kōwhai assembly on Monday and the Pohutukawa Camp Day on Tuesday providing extra interest and excitement. The Rimu team will also have their final assembly on Tuesday.

Next Wednesday, the children will be spending some time with their 2024 teacher so that they know who this will be and which room they are in. Then on Friday afternoon, we will be sharing your child's end of year summative comment and achievement graphs with you through Hero.

Next Friday, we will officially farewell our Year 6 students at a ceremony in Te Whau. The library gate will be open from 12.20pm and family members are asked to arrive and be seat by 12.50pm.

Included in this newsletter is some exciting news about how the school will be organised for the future. We know that this will cause some initial confusion but over time, we just become part of who we are.

We will publish the last newsletter for the year next Thursday.

Have a great week everyone!

Neil Robinson

Principal

TERM FOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Mon 11 th December	<i>Kowhai Assembly – 10.00am</i>
Tues 12 th December	<i>Pohutukawa Camp Day Rimu Assembly 2.15pm</i>
Wed 13 th December	<i>Children spend time with their 2024 teacher</i>
Fri 15 th December	<i>Parents receive their child's end of year reports on Hero</i>
Fri 15 th December	<i>Year Six Graduation – 1.00pm start</i>
Wed 20 th December	<i>End of School Year - 1.30pm finish</i>



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Blockhouse Bay



DEPARTING STAFF MEMBERS

Two of our long-serving and very valued staff members are leaving the school to seek new adventures elsewhere.

Mandy Barrett

Mandy has worked at Blockhouse Bay School for 28 years and over that time has had many roles and responsibilities. In more recent years, Mandy has been Deputy Principal in charge of English Language Learning, Beginning School Literacy and many, many other responsibilities.

Over the years, Mandy has helped many staff members improve their practice including new teachers, English Language Learning Assistants, and our Kupu Toa Reading/Writing Learning Assistants. Her calm and knowledgeable guidance to staff has had a ripple effect over the learning of thousands of children who have been able to make accelerated progress because of this. There is no doubt that Mandy is a Learning Guru and we have been lucky to have her work so effectively with so many for so long. Mandy's Manaakitanga towards everyone has been a real asset to the school and her kindness and concern for the well-being of others has been a real feature of her time here. Mandy has chosen to return to her roots and take up a teaching role with individuals and groups of children at Diocesan College and we wish her all the best for this new position.

Christine Short

Christine had been deputy principal at two schools before leaving to go on maternity leave in 1988. We were lucky enough that she volunteered her time to help at Blockhouse Bay School in 1993 before being offered teaching roles in the school. Christine ran the English Language Learners classroom for 20 years and then more recently, specialised in reading recovery. Over her 30 year tenure at the school, Christine too has had a positive impact on thousands of children and she has been relentless in ensuring that their ability to go on learning has been as good as it can be. Her passion and enthusiasm for learning has been infectious over this time and once again, the school has been very lucky to have had her for so long.

Christine has decided to spend more time with her own family and we wish her all the best for a long and happy retirement.

SWIMMING POOL KEYS

The swimming season has started and a number of families have hired a key so they can use the pool out of school hours and in the school holidays. If you wish to hire a key please contact the school office before the 20th December.

Costs are as follows:

December - March 28 th	\$180.00	(\$130 hire, \$50 Bond)
February 7 th - March 28 th	\$130.00	(\$80 hire, \$50 Bond)

Key hirers will need to complete the form and sign acceptance of the pool rules along with payment.

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to be part of the pool committee.

EX-PUPIL SUCCESS

We love hearing about how well our ex-students have done and report these back to our community when we find out about these. This week, it is congratulations to Katie Dallow who has recently been appointed as Head Girl of Marist College for Girls. Congratulations Katie!

CHANGES TO HOW THE SCHOOL IS ORGANISED

The staff have spent a lot of time thinking and planning how we will set the school up in 2024. After 5 classrooms were demolished due to subsidence in the middle of last year, we have had to squeeze into the rest of the school while we waited for the new rooms to be built. We now have all our spaces back again so we have had the opportunity to think about how we could name the rooms in the future.

We are aware that the numbering of the rooms has been confusing for everyone over this time so we wanted to address this as well as trying to make this process as future proof as possible.

We have decided to take on several new ideas that will provide a framework for the children and teachers to work together and make it easier to identify where classes are in the school. Initially, it will lead to some challenges as we all come to terms with the different aspects of the new system, but over time, we believe that it will become embedded in what we do. Next year, there will also be signage to support people in learning where the new areas are. Information will be posted on Hero shortly.

Well done to the following children who placed in the Interschool Athletics.

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS RESULTS - WHAU CLUSTER 2023	
8yr old Boys 75m 3 rd Kahn McNamara	10yr old Girls 75m 1 st Saanvi Patel
9yr old Boys 50m 2 nd Callum Horsford	11yr old Girls 75m 3 rd Dejanae Peteru-Ulukita
9yr old Boys 75m 2 nd = Callum Horsford	10yr old Girls 100m 1 st Saanvi Patel
10yr old Boys 75m 3 rd Toby Lane	11yr old Girls 100m 3 rd Dejanae Peteru-Ulukita
10 yr old Boys 100m 3 rd Toby Lane	10/11 Girls 800m 1 st Caelan Capps
U10 Boys 400m 2 nd Callum Horsford 3 rd Otto Hart Tyson	U10 Girls Relay 2 nd Blockhouse Bay Pry
U10 Boys Relay 2 nd Blockhouse Bay Pry	10/11 Girls Relay 1 st Blockhouse Bay Pry
U10 Boys High Jump 1 st Callum Horsford	10/11 Girls High Jump 2 nd Sophie Miratana
10/11 Boys High Jump 2 nd Romil Bibin Thairan	10/11 Girls Long Jump 1 st Dejanae Peteru-Ulukita
U10 Boys Long Jump 2 nd Callum Horsford	

JOBS AVAILABLE AT LYNFIELD COLLEGE

We have a number of jobs at Lynfield College next year that might be of interest to your parents (those looking to return to the work force OR relocate to a position closer to home OR reduce hours).

These include:

- School nurse(s)
- Senior Science Technician
- Youth Engagement Leader
- Teacher Aide / Learning Assistant
- Hard Materials Technology Technician

https://www.lynfield.school.nz/Principals%20Message/Jobs%20at%20Lynfield%20College?_live_edit=1&mv_pc=4788



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