



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

25th August 2022

Dear Parents and Whānau,

There is always lots going on at school but there is an extra special buzz around the place at the moment and this is for several reasons.

With assemblies, sporting events, parent meetings and visitors to the school (MOTAT and Nanogirl), we are starting to get back to 'normal' and have these exciting events that are great for children and their learning.

Congratulations to our Gymnastics team who represented us at the Auckland finals last week. The competition was really strong, and these athletes can be very proud of how well they did. Good luck to our soccer teams who are having a tournament against other schools in the area next week.

The other 'buzz' going on at school is all the noise caused by the demolition of the Kowhai classrooms. Thank you to everyone for their patience while we go through this process. More details about this whole project can be found below.

Lastly, voting closes for the Board elections on the 7th of September at Midday. Please send your forms into the office so that they can be counted or contact the office if your forms have not arrived. Have a great week everyone!

Neil Robinson
Principal



Term Three 2022 - Calendar of Events

Please check regularly as dates and times may change

Mon 29th Aug	7.00pm FAB meeting in Te Manawa – Room 9
Mon 29 th Aug	Wed 31st Aug MOTAT at school (Pōhutukawa, Kōwhai, Rimu)
Fri 2nd Sept	9.00am - Tōtara Assembly
Tue 6th Sept	9.00am - Kauri Assembly
Tue 6th Sept	2.20pm - Kōwhai Assembly (<i>note earlier start time</i>)
Wed 7th Sept	Winter Field Day for selected senior students
Wed 7th Sept	2.20pm Rimu Assembly
Tue 13th Sept	6.00pm - Konohete- Kapa Haka
Wed 14th Sept	Winter Field Day - Save Day
Thurs 15th Sept	9.00am Champ of Champs Gymnastic Comp Y4-6
Tues 20th Sept	9.00am Kauri Assembly
Tue 20th Sept	2.30pm - Pōhutukawa Assembly
Wed 21st Sept	2.20pm - Rimu Assembly
Fri 23rd Sept	9.00am - Tōtara Assembly
Tue 27th Sept	2.20pm - Kōwhai Assembly
Thurs 29th Sept	9.00am - Year Six Students visit to BBI
Fri 30th Sept	Term Three Ends - 3.00pm

**BARFOOT
THOMPSON &**

LICENSED REAA 2008

**Demolition has started on
Rooms 19-23.**

**The children have certainly
enjoyed watching the excavator.**

REVIEW OF MASK WEARING

At the start of the term, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health recommended that children from Year 4 and up should wear masks at school, especially when they are inside. They also asked adults to wear masks at school wherever possible. Initially, this was a decision that was to be reviewed after a few weeks, and the call has been made to extend this further on into the term. Last week we had only two children and no staff members with Covid 19 and although there will be a range of contributing factors, mask wearing is very likely to be contributing to this. Thank you to everyone who continues to work together to help keep all of us safe and healthy.

NANOGIRL SCIENTIST AT BLOCKHOUSE BAY SCHOOL Tōtara & Kauri Friday 26th August

Tomorrow, we have one of the Nanogirl Scientists in to give two interactive science assemblies with our students.

The science communicator visiting our school will be Isla Christensen. Isla "aka Bio Blitz". She is working towards her Masters Degree in Environmental Management at the University of Auckland. She is passionate about climate change, loves filmmaking and is an enthusiastic Nanogirl presenter. This ties into our theme of inquiry into renewable energy and thinking like a scientist. The cost of these shows is covered by the school.

MOTAT VISIT - Pōhutukawa, Kōwhai & Rimu Monday 29th August - Wednesday 31st August

The MOTAT educators will be coming to work with our Pōhutukawa, Kōwhai & Rimu students to learn all about renewable energy. They have designed a special programme that has been tailored to our school inquiry. Students will create solar cars and wind turbines.

The cost of these workshops is covered by the school.

FAB MEETING MONDAY - Being held in Room 9 (next to the room that was our staffroom)

We hope that the children have enjoyed the Milo and Cookies fundraisers that have been held over the last couple of weeks. Our next meeting will start at 7.00pm on Monday 29th August (next week). Everyone is welcome to come along and help organise our future fundraising events.

KNOWLEDGE-A-THON IS COMING!

On Monday 5th September we will be launching our Knowledge-a-thon Fundraiser! All the money collected for this fundraiser goes to our Fundraising @ Blockhouse (FAB) team who will use it to rejuvenate the playground markings around the school. We would appreciate your help to support your child to raise money and help learn their facts, although they will also be working on them in class.

This year we have partnered with New Zealand online fundraising company 'Raise It'. 'Raise It' specialise in working with New Zealand schools to maximise their fundraising efforts. Collecting sponsorship online makes it super easy for everyone - no more door knocking, your child can collect more donations from further afield (friends and family living overseas, work colleagues etc) and no need to worry about handling all that cash and bringing it into school! Look out for more information about this on Hero with all the details on how to sign up and get fundraising!

We have some great prizes up for grabs - including spot prizes for just signing up! Pop it in your diary for Monday 5th!

SO WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH CLASSROOMS AT BLOCKHOUSE BAY SCHOOL?

All going well, the demolition of Rooms 19-23 will be completed next week, and this will be followed by reinstatement of the land (planting of grass etc) and the installation of fencing. The temporary fencing is likely to stay in place while we get this part of the project completed. In amongst all of this, the Ministry of Education has Geotechnical staff looking into how they can stop further erosion from happening in the future.

The next step is to install some more 'temporary' classrooms at school, and these are likely to be placed on the school field alongside the cricket pitch. Whilst this will mean less field space for a while, we believe that it is the least disruptive place in the school to have these buildings. We are trying hard to have these buildings installed as soon as possible but it is quite possible that they will **not** be available for use at the beginning of 2023.

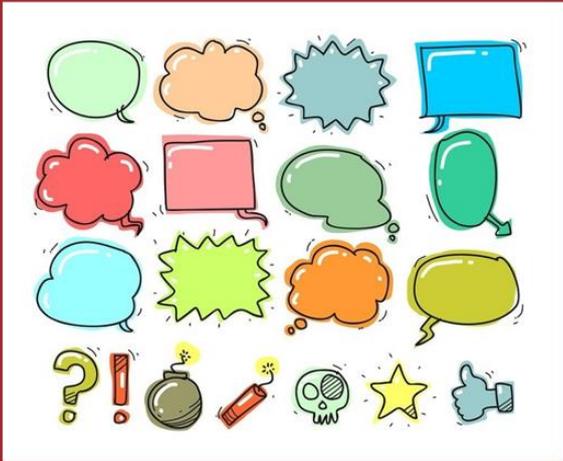
At the same time as all this is happening, we are in negotiations with the Ministry of Education about a long-term solution to our classroom shortage. The preferred option at the moment is a two-story classroom block being built somewhere on the school site but of course, we need to make sure that the grounds have been stabilised first. Given the length of time this will all take combined with how long it takes to build new classrooms, this process is likely to take some years to complete.

You now know as much as we do about this process, but we will keep you updated as more information comes to hand. As always, we will continue to prioritise the children's learning and will attempt to minimise any disruption to this and the operations of the school.

A REMINDER THAT THE SCHOOL WILL BE LOCKED UP THIS WEEKEND TO ALLOW FOR THE SAFE DEMOLITION OF THE KOWHAI CLASSROOMS



Kids Comic Book Drawing Club



Blockhouse Bay Library
Sunday, 28 August
2:00pm – 3:00pm

Do you like making comic books? Come along to our new kids' club and have some fun making comic books together.

This club will run on the **last Sunday** of every month.

For kids aged 8-11 years.

A parent or guardian must stay with children aged under 14 years

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