



Blockhouse Bay

Primary School

We Seek - We Strive - We Soar

9th November 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa,

What a week it has been with all of the Diwali activities going on around the school! Thank you to the staff members and parents who contributed to these and especially to teacher Melinda Narayan who organised and ran the weeks events.

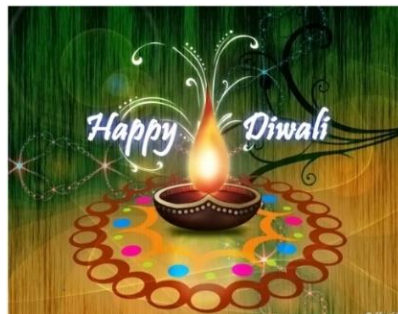
I was lucky enough to spend some time supporting one of the trips to Arataki this week and what a highlight this was. It is easy to forget about the world-class slice of nature that is just on our doorstep and I know that the children will enjoy and learn a lot from their visit.

I am also lucky enough to have been granted a sabbatical for term two 2024. These are awarded to a small group of Principals across the country each year so that they can have some dedicated time to look at an aspect of education in New Zealand. I will be away for the whole term and my theme of study will be around the effectiveness or otherwise of Kahui Ako and hopefully, will lead to some ideas for how the Lynfield Kahui Ako might do things differently. Our school is very well set up to cover for me in my absence and I am sure that Elizabeth Crisp and the team will do a great job.

Happy Diwali everyone!

Neil Robinson
Principal

TERM FOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Mon 13th November	<i>Kōwhai Assembly – 2.00pm</i>
Tues 14th November	<i>Arataki Trip - Rimu, Rms 7,8 Pōhutukawa Assembly 2.30pm</i>
Wed 15th November	<i>Years 4-6 Interschool Athletics</i>
Thurs 16th November	<i>Arataki Trip - Rimu, Rms 10,8</i>
Fri 17th November	Teacher Only Day (No school this day)
Mon 20th November	<i>Arataki Trip - Rimu, Rms 2,3</i>
Tues 21st November	<i>Arataki Trip - Tōtara, Rms 21,22 Kauri Assembly 9.00am</i>
Tues 21st November	<i>Rimu Assembly 2:15pm</i>
Wed 22nd November	<i>Interschool Athletics (Savings Day)</i>
Thurs 23rd November	<i>Arataki Trip - Tōtara, Rms 23,24</i>
Mon 27th November	<i>Kōwhai Assembly – 2.00pm</i>
Tues 28th–Thurs 30 Nov	<i>Science Fair</i>
Tues 28th November	<i>Arataki Trip - Kōwhai, Rms 12,13</i>
Wed 29th November	<i>Arataki Trip - Kōwhai, Rms 14,15</i>
Thurs 30th November	<i>Arataki Trip - Pōhutukawa, Rms 16,18,17</i>
Mon 4th December	<i>Arataki Trip - Pōhutukawa, Rms 19,20,17</i>
Tues 5th December	<i>Pōhutukawa Assembly 2.30pm</i>
Wed 6th December	<i>Tōtara Assembly – 9.00am</i>
Tues 12th December	<i>Pōhutukawa Camp Day Rimu Assembly 2.15pm</i>
Fri 15th December	<i>Year Six Graduation</i>
Wed 20th December	End of School Year - 1.30pm finish



DIWALI

Diwali or Deepawali is also known as the Festival of Lights. Diwali commemorates the return of Lord Ram to his kingdom, Ayodhya, after an exile period of 14 years. The people of Ayodhya lit the city brightly and welcomed Ram, Lakshman, and Sita by lighting diyas and decorating their homes.

The Diwali festival is also believed to symbolize Goddess Lakshmi coming home. People celebrate by lighting many clay lamps called 'diyas' around their homes. They also worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha on this day as they are believed to bring good luck, prosperity, and wealth.

Tomorrow, the **10th of November**, the children can come dressed in their beautiful and colourful Indian cultural clothes. Children are also welcome to wear bright-coloured clothes of any kind if they wish. This is not a designated 'Mufti Day' so no money will be collected. The children have had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities throughout this week and have thoroughly enjoyed them.

Wishing you all the best in your preparations for Diwali.

2024 Term Dates

We like to provide these to parents as early as possible so that families can plan their time away in the school holidays. Here are the dates for Blockhouse Bay School for **next year**:

Term One	- Wednesday 7th February to Friday 12th April
Term Two	- Monday 29th April to Friday 5th July
Term Three	- Monday 22nd July to Friday 27th September
Term Four	- Monday 14th October to Friday 20th December

SWIMMING POOL KEYS

We are very pleased to announce that after all the hard work that has been done to fundraise for our Swimming Pool repair that we are about to open it on Monday 27th November for the 2023/24 Summer season. As in previous years families of the school will be able to purchase a key so you can use the pool out of school hours and in the school holidays.

Keys will be available for purchase (Eftpos or Cash only) from Wednesday 22nd November at the school office.

Costs are as follows:

December 2023	\$180.00	(\$130 hire, \$50 Bond)
February/March 2024	\$130.00	(\$80 hire, \$50 Bond)

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

Note that we will not be able to have the pool open to the school community unless we have enough people who volunteer to be on the committee (see information to follow).



SWIMMING POOL COMMITTEE REQUIRED

We are very pleased to announce that this year, families will once again have the opportunity to hire a key from the school and then have use of the pool after school, on the weekends and through the Christmas holidays. Before we can confirm this though, we need to secure the services of a Pool Committee who oversee the use of the pool out of school hours from when the pool opens, to the end of March 2023.

The Pool Committee works on a roster system and take it in turns to come in each morning to take the covers of the pool and then put them back on night. They also refill the supplies for the toilet and keep a general eye on what is happening in the pool area. We secure the services of a caretaker to look after the quality of the water. For this service you will be given a key (free) and will have the full use of the pool for your family.

If you think you can help with this over the Christmas holiday time, please email the office@blockhousebay.school.nz

HONEY

We have some jars of honey for sale at the school office for \$10.00 per jar. If you would like to purchase, please see the school office.

This is honey made from the school beehives.



FAB LUNCHES

Don't forget to order lunches. Orders can be made on the mykindo.co.nz website

The options and dates for November are as follows:

Bakeaholic by Preeti - 16th November
Sushi - 23rd November

TUTORING AVAILABLE

With 23 years of teaching experience, I am starting a private tutoring service for neurodiverse and ESOL learners aged between 5-8 years old. I can assess and create lesson plans tailored to individual needs.

I am passionate about teaching and developing a love of learning. If you are worried or think the little person in your life needs a little support with their learning, then I would love to hear from you.

Joshinta Pulini – Registered Teacher

Mob: 0220145120

Email: pjoshinta@gmail.com

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6 Exminster St
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland 0600

Phone 09 627 3555
nitin@aucklandortho.co.nz
www.aucklandortho.co.nz

