



Term Four Calendar of Events

Week 4

27th Oct Monday- Labour Day - School is closed
29th Oct Wednesday- Year 3-6 Athletics at Mt Smart
31st Oct Friday - Year 5s Bike Ready Cycle Skills

Week 5

3rd Nov Monday-Year 5s Bike Ready Cycle Skills
4th Nov Tuesday -Year 5s Bike Ready Cycle Skills
6th Nov Thursday - Whānau Reading at Home
Workshop - 9.00-10.00am and - 5:30-6:30pm

Week 6

13th Nov Thursday -Pō Whakanui (Performance Kapa
Haka performing at Rosebank Primary)
14th Nov Friday - Kauri assembly 2:15pm - 2:45pm
14th Nov Friday - End of Year Disco
Year 0-3 5.00-6.00pm
Year 4-6 6.30-8.00pm

Week 7

17th Nov Monday - Rimu Assembly 2:15pm - 2:45pm
19th Nov Wednesday - Whānau Hui (for Māori
whānau)
21st Nov Friday - Teacher only day - **School
Closed for the day**

Week 9

1st Dec Monday - Rimu Assembly 2:15pm - 2:45pm
5th Dec Friday - Kauri Assembly 2:15pm - 2:45pm

Week 11

16th Dec Tuesday - Year 6 Graduation 12:45 pm

**18th December Thursday - Term 4
ends at 1.30pm**

A Word from our Principal

Fakalofa Lahi Atu and welcome to Nueian Language Week.



Firstly, a big thank you all for having your children at home yesterday. Whilst not everyone will necessarily agree with this action being taken, from a school's perspective, we need to do everything we can to convince people to become teachers as there is a real shortage. Giving people every incentive to join the profession is critical if we are going to have enough people to teach our children and whilst our school does better than most, we still struggle some days to get relievers for our staff when they are unwell.

Diwali week was very popular with the children and they turned up in big numbers to watch each of the two shows last Friday. Thank you to Melinda Narayan and her team for arranging all of the experiences for the week, the parents who helped and well done to the children and adults that took part in the performances.

Next week, we are hosting Titirangi Primary's junior school so that they can use our wonderful Te Whau. This will mean us needing to move a few things around but we are pleased to be able to share our hall for our neighbours.

Next Wednesday is our annual Year 3-6 Athletics Day at Mt Smart so please take the time to look at the information below so that you know what your child will need for the day. This is always a real highlight and we love giving them the opportunity to take part in this event in a big stadium. Unfortunately, because of other bookings, if the weather is really bad, the Athletics Day will be cancelled and not just postponed. Sadly too, Sport Waitakere were not able to organise the Inter-school Athletics, so this will not be held in 2025.

A reminder that Monday is Labour Day and so school will be closed.

I hope that you all have a great long weekend and I look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday.

Ngā mihi maioha,
Neil Robinson
Principal



Term 3 Update:

66% of our students came to school regularly (90% or more).

Our highest attendance is on a Wednesday

Year 4s have 80% attending regularly - ka rawe!

Goal for Term 4:

Reach our school target of 75% of students attending regularly.

We will continue to update you about our attendance rates on Hero and Facebook.



Food Orders Dates- Term 4

These are organised by the Fundraisers at Blockhouse Bay (FAB) Team and are a great way to keep the income for this group coming in as they receive a small amount of money for each order. Ordering can be completed through Kindo so please ask the office if you are unsure of how to do this. The following dates outline what can be ordered and when:

Xi'an Food Bar Ordering Closes 12pm day before:

Thursday October 30th

Wednesday November 19th

Wednesday December 10th

Pita Pit Ordering Closes 9am on the day:

Wednesday November 12th

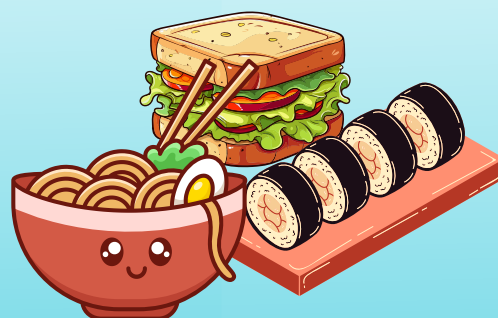
Wednesday December 3rd

Mai Sushi Ordering Closes 12pm day before:

Wednesday November 5th

Wednesday November 26th

Wednesday December 17th



Payment Information You can pay through the Kindo app. If you don't have Kindo, it's easy to set up by registering at mykindo.co.nz/Register or by downloading the app, available on [Apple](#) and [Android](#). If you need assistance, feel free to ask our friendly office staff!

Spare Clothing Reminder

As the weather continues to be wet and unpredictable, it's a good idea to have one spare pant and tops in their bag. Young children can often need a change of clothes during the day, and having an extra set on hand helps ensure their comfort and well-being.

At present, our supply of spare clothing is very limited. If your child has previously borrowed clothing from the school, we would greatly appreciate it if the items could be washed and returned to the office as soon as possible.



Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Diwali

Last week we celebrated Diwali – the Festival of Lights, a time that symbolises the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. It's a celebration of joy, togetherness, and new beginnings, observed by millions of people around the world.

Our week was filled with colour and creativity – from stunning Rangoli art and chalk designs on the courts to Indian games and storytelling. The highlights were our two Chota Diwali Concerts, where our talented ākonga performed music, dance, and welcomed everyone with confidence and pride.

A huge well done to all our amazing performers – you were outstanding! And a big thank you to our kaiako who organised activities and supported the tamariki throughout the week. Ka rawe koutou!



Use of the 'Countdown Carpark'

We apologise once again for the unexpected change to our use of the carpark next to the school this week. This is likely to remain in place until the end of next week. Parents may be aware that Asian grocery company Golden Apple will be moving into BHB Countdown from November onwards. I have received an email from the company confirming that our parents will be able to continue to use this carpark which is wonderful news for us all. There may be some restricted access while they are refurbishing their new store, but we are hoping that this will not affect us a great deal or for too long.

The school is looking forward to developing a good relationship with our new neighbours :)

Principals Soap Box

New, New Curriculum Given to Schools

Late in 2024, NZ primary schools were provided with a new curriculum for English and Mathematics and the expectation was that this would be phased in over the next twelve months. Schools were told that they needed to be teaching from these documents by the start of 2026.

Like most schools, we committed the hours of work that were needed to learn how to implement the new documents and to complete all of the necessary work in the background to link these to our assessment and reporting requirements. We believe that parents need to know where their children are in relation to the curriculum and there is a lot that needs to happen behind the scenes to achieve this.

The Ministry of Education told us that some refining of the new curriculum was possible in term four of this year, but that most of the new announcements at this time would be around adding Years 7-10 to the English and Mathematics documents.

Last Sunday, teachers and leaders across the country were totally blindsided by the issuing of two completely new Curriculums in these subject areas. It was heartbreaking to see that most of the work we (and other schools) had done over the last 12 months was for nothing and that we needed to start all over again. Money spent on training and resourcing have been wasted with no thought given to how these changes will impact children, parents and teachers.

The New Zealand Principals Federation sent out a press release about this, making the following points:

- The scale of change was once again not what schools had been told would happen
- Schools have wasted significant time and resources
- The new implementation timeline is unrealistic and not achievable
- The need to teach exactly the same things to all students does not take into account that children start at different levels and their learning moves at a different pace
- The new assessment tool is not operational and so we have no way of assessing children's starting point or progress
- The government is not consulting with principals or teachers about the new curriculum documents and not surprisingly, what is being asked is not achievable.

They summarised their frustration by saying "Principals are losing trust in the Minister and the system. We were all told to "just get started," only to face radical and unexpected changes at the eleventh hour without explanation or consultation".

As always, teachers and school leaders are very enthusiastic about making learning more effective for our children but the unrealistic expectations of the government and lack of consultation with the sector is quickly eroding trust between us.

Whilst I cannot influence what is happening at the national level, what I can assure you all is that as always, the Blockhouse Bay School staff will continue to work tirelessly to provide the best possible education for the children despite these unreasonable and unhelpful changes.

Part of implementing the curriculum this year has been bringing our pathways into line with the new document. These were scheduled to be shared with you on our website soon and we have decided to continue with this. Next year, we will change these again to align them with the version of the curriculum that has just been given to us.



ATHLETICS DAY 2025

We are looking forward to our Athletics Day for our Year 3-6 Tamariki next Wednesday. Here are a few things you need to know:

YEAR 3-6 ATHLETICS DAY 2025

When: Wednesday 29th October

Where: Mount Smart Stadium. O'Rorke Road Entrance, Penrose

Time: Buses depart school at 9:10am. Events taking place 10:10am - 2.00pm All children have to travel to the event on the bus.

Parents and whānau are very welcome to come and watch the children take part in this exciting event.

To make the day run smoothly and to add atmosphere to the event each Year group will need to wear a different coloured T-Shirt. Remember, ages are taken by the age the children are on the 1st November.

T-Shirt Colours



Please make sure your child brings the following items:

- Running shoes (no bare feet for running)
- School hat
- School jumper
- Rain coat (in case of rain)
- Appropriate running shorts/pants and coloured age group t-shirt
- Packed lunch and water bottle
- Sunscreen

There will be a food truck on site for children to purchase something if they would like to in their rest break. Please limit this to \$10. This is optional and we advise to also bring extra food as well.

Parent helpers will be notified by text.

If you have any questions, please email sallyk@blockhousebay.school.nz

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Business promotion

On every newsletter, we promote the contact details of some companies and business people who have chosen to commit funds to the school to use in whatever way we wish. We are very grateful to them for their generosity and invite our families to give these businesses the opportunity to quote for the services that they offer.

PUBLIC MEETING

Staying Safe Online

Join Dr Carlos Cheung, MP for Mt Roskill and an expert panel for the latest insights on social media and keeping young people safe in the digital world

6.30pm Thursday, 30 October
Fickling Centre – Hillsborough Room
Parents and family members all welcome



Authorised by C Cheung, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



HAIR RAISING HAT PARTY 2025

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

GAMES FOOD LOLLIES PRIZES

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER
5:45 PM - 7:30 PM

Blockhouse Bay Baptist Church
504 Blockhouse Bay Road

Create an amazing hairdo or an incredible hat!
Family friendly dress up is welcome as well.

A fun, safe alternative to trick-or-treating.

Have your photo taken to enter the competition
Prizes for: Family, Group, and for each age group.

Recommended for 4-13 year olds
(caregivers stay onsite).
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