

Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School

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Whanaungatanga



Rangatiratanga



Wairuatanga



Manaakitanga



Calendar:

TBC

Welcome to Term 4, week 2!

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Blockhouse Bay Intermediate

Welcome to the first newsletter of term four. Like many of you, we are well and truly over the weeks of restrictions and the impact of having to maintain distance learning rather than what we can all agree works best for our students. As our high schools manage the return of some students and organising for NCEA, our thoughts go out to our colleagues and the challenges and uncertainty for our families.

Our teachers continue to inspire with innovative ways of keeping our students motivated and we have quite a forum of sharing many great motivational techniques.

At BBI we have much higher engagement than is the norm and this reflects our outstanding attendance rates pre lockdown.

As you are all fully aware, Covid has thrust us into new territory and as a sector, we have had to navigate our way forward. Before any major decisions are made, we seek advice so that the information we share is the best we can receive.

Covid has taken away so much and already we plan for an uncertain end of to the school year and how best we can support and prepare our year eight students for



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high school and prepare the way for our year 6 cohort who will join us next year.

Already our traditional transitions have been heavily disrupted and as a school, we are developing new methods to gather the rich data we need both from our primary schools and for our high schools.

Please enrol your year eight students in their high school if you have yet to do so. ***This is imperative for placement. Please enrol your year six students coming to BBI. We want the very best for your child and we will be reaching out to the primaries shortly so we can place and staff our classes.***

End of year reporting

The National Administration Guideline 2 (NAG 2A) requires schools to report to students and their parents on progress and achievement based on good quality assessment information. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown we are unable to meet this NAG in 2021 as our access to good quality assessment information is limited.

We want to offer an opportunity to share with you successes of our ākongā since our Student Led Conferences in August. We would like to offer you the opportunity to book a 10 minute google-meet with your child and your child's teacher in the week of 8th November - 12th November. Your child should be able to assist you with accessing the google meet if you are unsure how to do this. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you this week to organise a time.

If our school does open up from November 15th, our focus will be on well-being, teaching and learning, and we will not be doing any formal assessments of students. We will be changing our assessment schedule for 2022 for our Year 8s, and the High schools already complete their own assessment at the beginning of the school year for their Year 9s.

Camp refunds

These are unprecedented times and we were extremely disappointed that we had to cancel camp this year. Some parents have asked about refunds for the chocolate fundraising and as we had never been here before, we sought advice from the Ministry of Education and the audit office about what happens in this instance.

The advice is as follows.

The following is advice given from the Office of the Auditors General ("OAG") who are the overriding auditors for public entities (i.e. school), around the management of refunds for trips/camps, and in particular how fundraising monies for these trips/camps should be managed.

The view of the OAG is that how funds collected specifically for trips/camps should be managed is dependant on the source of the funds:

- *Funds parents paid directly to the school as a contribution to the trip can be refunded to those parents, to the extent that the school has received refunds for any costs already incurred. This will be refunded.*
- *Funds raised from fundraising activities carried out in the name of the school cannot be repaid to individuals, because they are funds raised for the trip rather than for the individual participant.*

A school raising funds for a specific purpose should "in good faith" use those funds for the purpose in which they were given. If the school is unable to spend the funds on the stated purpose (as is the case with funds raised for trips/camps during Covid-19), the OAG's expectation would be that, where possible, the school spends the funds in a way that is consistent with the original reason for raising funds. If the school considered that the uncertainties of Covid-19 would make it not practical to carry forward the funds for future trips/camps, the school would need to consider alternative uses that would be acceptable to those who gave the funds.

Based on this advice, it **would not** be appropriate for the school to refund the proceeds from the chocolate bar fundraising to the parents and would likely raise an audit point in their annual financial reports.

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The school should instead look to carry it forward for a future camp, or use it in a way that the school feels would be acceptable to those who gave the funds.

The school Board met last night and considering that we had intended to fundraise for an honours board that these funds would go towards this.

Prizegiving & Stars 2021

This year has been a challenging year with many cancelled opportunities; students have been unable to participate in activities, events or fulfil duties committed to.

Staff met online this week to discuss the awarding of end of year awards & stars for 2021. We have decided that a few of our prizegiving awards and the majority of our stars will not be awarded this year as the criteria has not been met.

We know that this will be disappointing for many students, however, we want to award our stars consistently and maintain the integrity of our star award system.

School upgrades update

We have managed to claw back the lost month under level four and have completed 18 of the 22 classrooms, with new furniture for when students do return.

The classes and school look amazing, as we have used this time to refresh all spaces.

While this is an amazing achievement, we know a school requires students and community to make it come to life. When students do return they will return to beautifully appointed spaces of learning.

We wish you a safe journey as we near the end of the road of lockdowns and together we will ensure as a school and a staff, we are prepared for whatever comes next.

*Nga mihi,
Michael Malins
(Principal)*

WOW!

Bird of the year 2021

Congratulations to the pekapeka long-tailed bat!

New Zealand only has two land mammals, and they're both bats. This is the first time our native bat has been included in Bird of the Year, and it has flown away with the title. These flying furballs are threatened by the same problems as our native birds - predators, habitat loss and climate change. The more we do to protect them, the more it helps their feathered friends, and vice versa.

If you want to support native wildlife click [here](#).



From the Library



We have had a great response to our Library Click & Collect service. If you would like to borrow books from the Library please complete this [Google form](#), we will then contact you to select your preferred click & collect time slot.



Our Wheelers eBook and Audiobook subscriptions have proved their worth over this lockdown period; this has been evident in our usage statistics. There has been a 137% increase of use in the Junior platform, and a whopping 622% increase in usage of the Senior platform.

Here are the links to the [Junior](#) and [Senior](#) platforms. The Junior platform has eBooks and Audiobooks, the Senior platform just has eBooks. Your username is your library code (the four digits that are part of your school email) and the password is Library1.

STOCKTAKE

Next week we will be starting our annual Library stocktake. If you have books at home, if possible, please can these be returned to the RETURNS BOX which is located outside the library. Books that are in classrooms can be returned at a later date, and books that have been borrowed as part of our Click & Collect service aren't due back until we are back at school.



 Happy

 reading,

 Donna

TOP 5 BOOK RECC'S

Top 5 Audiobooks

1. Harry Potter (all books in the series) by *JK Rowling*
2. James and the Giant Peach by *Roald Dahl*
3. Dog Days (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) by *Jeff Kinney*
4. Wonder by *RJ Palacio*
5. Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian by *Rick Riordan*

Top 5 eBooks Junior Platform

1. Holes by *Louis Sachar*
2. I Need a New Bum by *Dawn McMillan*
3. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by *JK Rowling*
4. The Getaway (Diary of a Wimpy Kid) by *Jeff Kinney*
5. Wonder by *RJ Palacio*

Top 5 eBooks Senior Platform

1. The Selection (The Selection series) by *Kiera Cass*
2. One (The Selection series) by *Kiera Cass*
3. The Witch's Kiss by *Katharine Corr*
4. The Crown (The Selection series) by *Kiera Cass*
5. The Rest of the Story by *Sarah Dessen*



A **big thank you** to Jamie and his team at *Green Bay New World* for their continued support with our school values and well-being initiatives by sponsoring student prizes. It's amazing having support from local businesses and we look forward to further collaboration in the near future.



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Luck is what happens when preparation and hard work meet opportunity

RayWhite

★★★★★ Google Review

Great local agent and very professional team.

I met with sales agent Shubhrtta to discuss and plan the sale of my house in Blockhouse Bay. Shubhrtta instantly made her time available and listened to what my plans were.

I love the urgency Shubhrtta displayed to put everything together to make the sale of my house feel seamless and easy. Also Shubhrtta kept me informed of local sales in the area so I could get an understanding of the local market. I was invited to several auctions to see how RayWhite operated and I was very impressed.

Roy Button

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