

Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School

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Whanaungatanga



Rangatiratanga



Wairuatanga



Manaakitanga



Calendar:

First day of term 1:

- 31st January, 2023
- All students in school by 8.30am
- Year 7's to the hall, Year 8's to the main court

School office:

- Opens on the 24th of January, 2023 at 8am.

Meet the Teacher:

- 9th February, 2023
- Please meet in the school hall

2023 term dates:

- **Term 1:**
31st Jan - 6th April
- **Term 2:**
24th April - 30th June
- **Term 3:**
17th July- 22nd September
- **Term 4:**
9th October - 14th December

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year...

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Blockhouse Bay Intermediate

A very warm welcome back to our year eight students, to our new students and whānau and welcome to our new staff and RTLB cluster 6 staff who are joining our school from 2023. This newsletter is to welcome you to the school and to outline a number of important start of year events / notices.

We are looking forward to welcoming all our students, whānau and new staff back on Tuesday 31 January, beginning with a Pōwhiri on the main court at 9.00am. It is important that new staff and families meet in the hall ready to be Karanga (led) out to the main court by our year eight students. Year sevens will be excited and we do ask that they respect the importance of the event and keep noise to a minimum.

Due to Covid we were unable to Pōwhiri in 2022, so this is a first for our year eights and many of our new staff at BBI. It is ok if we are a bit rusty, the most important thing is that it is happening and this is the first major step in bringing staff and students into our whanau. Please note that due to the ongoing risk of covid, we will not hongi new staff, rather shake hands or elbow bump as per people's preference.

Year sevens will then return to the hall for class placement with their teachers and we ask parents to please leave the school. Your children are in capable hands and we would like to get them to their new classes and settled for their first day.

A separate email will follow with words to the waiata sung after each speaker for our year eight's. We encourage all our year eights to practice over the weekend and join in on the day.

Every week BBI focuses on a school value. Our values are central to our school! Encourage your student to display these values at all times 🌐

cont...**Rain impact on Pōwhiri**

In the event of rain, we will have to make changes and we will only be able to Pōwhiri the year seven students and new staff in the hall. Sadly, there is not enough room for parents in this space. This is not ideal but it is the best we can manage.

Meet the teachers Thursday 9th Feb 6-7pm (starting in the school hall)

This is an opportunity for new families to be welcomed by our staff and the senior team. Have a chance to meet your teacher and the whanau your child will be joining and to also hear about how the class operates.

Māori Pasifika fono (TBC) 2 March 6 – 7.30

Another important event to start the year is our Māori/Pasifika fono. This event is an opportunity for our Māori and Pasifika community to come together over a light Kai and performance to meet new families, strengthen connections and have a casual kōrero with staff and each other. Please join us and have some fun.

Summer Reading Programme

Congratulations to all the students who took part in our Summer Reading Programme. To be eligible to earn a red star, all your library books and reading activities need to be returned to Donna in the Library by Friday 3rd February.

Uniform and adolescent hygiene

A reminder that Intermediate school prepares the way to High School, as such our uniform is a source of pride and identity and we have high expectations for our students to wear their uniform with pride. To enter and leave the school in full formal uniform. We check students' uniforms regularly and will contact parents if we see areas that may be slipping.

Adolescence bodies are in a state of change. Hormones kick in at different times and this impacts on body odour. We encourage the use of deodorant for everyone's sake as well as the regular washing of pe uniform if it is getting ripe. These will dry overnight.

In terms one and four students will change back into school uniform after fitness or after PE.

School pick up / drop off

We encourage students to be responsible and encourage walking home with friends as much as possible. The front of the school is busy at 3.00pm. Gates will be closed and we encourage you to make a place to meet that is close to the school.

Please do not try to pick your child up in the school grounds. This is dangerous and causes chaos at the school gate. Safer communities together.

Phones

Students are permitted to bring phones to school. They are to be turned off at the gate on arriving and can be turned on once outside of school grounds. Phones are handed to the class teacher and collected at the end of the day. Phone use is not permitted in the school grounds and may be confiscated. If students need to contact home, they can ask to be sent to the office, who will contact home.

Report an absence

Remember to report an absence. We are a large school and all absences will be followed up. You can report an absence from our website or by calling the office and leaving a message. Do not report an absence to the classroom teacher, always report to the office.

Covid and masks.

We are very aware that covid is still in the community and that a new variant is starting to make its presence felt. We have strong risk mitigation measures in place and we continue to provide sanitiser and encourage the use of masks should any student, staff or member of the community wish.

We encourage all parents entering the school office to wear a mask.

Noho ora mai,
Michael Malins
Principal