



BLOCKHOUSE BAY INTERMEDIATE

NEWSLETTER



Whanaungatanga



Rangatiratanga



Wairuatanga



Manaakitanga

WELCOME TO TERM 1 WEEK 6

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Blockhouse Bay Intermediate

Welcome to the Term 1, Week six Newsletter

Last Monday, members of the leadership team, along with Matua Ash and students from Kapa Haka formally handed over Mrs Wong to Rosehill Intermediate School in Papakura.

We are immensely proud to gift a very important part of our whakapapa to Rosehill. Seeing anyone leave the nest can be sad, but it is a comfort knowing she will bring a richness of schooling improvement, curriculum knowledge and whanaungatanga to her new community.

Mrs Wong has a big and bright journey ahead of her, and we wish her well.

CALENDAR:

31st March - 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

(date change)

Student Led Conferences



24th - 27th March

Tongariro Trip

2nd April

Star Awards -12:30 p.m. start

Term 1 ends - 2 p.m. finish

20th April (date change)

First day of Term 2

Class and individual photos



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Student Led Conferences (SLC)

You will be aware that the date of our SLC has moved to Tuesday 31 March to allow for Eid. This year, new reporting against curriculum phases rather than curriculum levels will be introduced for Reading, Writing and Maths. This aligns the curriculum refresh with the new progress descriptors. We will share communication to explain how this will work as the year progresses.

Keeping Our Students Focused and Safe: A Note on Communication

To ensure our students stay focused on their learning and remain safe throughout the day, we want to share a quick reminder regarding our school communication policy. Lately, we've noticed an increase in students using their school Chromebooks to email home during class time. While we love that our kids are tech-savvy, this can create a few challenges for both teachers and families.

Why We Ask You to Use the Main Office

- **Safety First:** If there is a change to a pickup location or after-school routine, a student might not see your email before the final bell rings. By calling the office, we can guarantee the message is delivered directly to your child.
- **Emergency Management:** In the event of an emergency, the school needs to be the central hub for information to ensure all students are accounted for and supervised.
- **Minimising Distractions:** Chromebooks are vital tools for learning. Using them for personal messaging during lessons can pull a student's focus (and their classmates' focus) away from their studies.

How to Get in Touch:

If you need to reach your child or share an important update regarding their day:

- 1. Call the Front Office: Please phone us at 09 - 6266414**
- 2. Email the Office - for non-urgent end-of-day changes: email office@bhbint.school.nz before 2pm.**

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a productive and secure environment for all our students



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Absence for Eid

Because Eid is not a public holiday in New Zealand, the Ministry of Education provides specific guidance on how schools should record student absences for religious reasons:

- **Justified Absence:** Absence for a "recognised religious holiday" (like Eid al-Fitr or Eid al-Adha) is treated as a **Justified absence** (using the code **J**).
- **Parental Notification:** The Ministry of Education and BHBI requires parents to notify the school in advance.
- **More than one day:** If your child is absent from school for more than one school day due to celebrating Eid, they will be marked as **J** for one day and **E** for Explained but Unjustified for any other days.

NB: Both **Justified** and **Unjustified** absences do impact your child's overall attendance data.

Message from the Education Review Office for parents with children in Years 5-13.

Blockhouse Bay Intermediate has been approached by ERO (as part of their annual review cycle) to support them to gather important information for reporting. **Please help** out if you are able to. ERO's research centre wants to hear from parents and whānau about two topics: their children's use of AI, and their experience with the school in general, as part of two national projects.

Here are the [links](#) to the two short surveys:

- [Parent and Whānau Survey](#)
- [Parent Survey - A.I in schools](#)



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School Uniform Reminders

The school uniform is seen by the school, Board and community as the major form of identity and belonging to Blockhouse Bay Intermediate.

To keep our uniform clean and tidy, the following items are not allowed: rings, bangles, friendship bands, necklaces, fake nails, nail polish or makeup. Students often try to add something extra and this is asked to be removed at the first instance. This is something parents should know to help you reinforce correct uniform, should the occasion arise.

The school uniform and P.E. uniform are compulsory. Correct school uniform should be worn to and from school with correct P.E. uniform worn at school for fitness, P.E., sport and dance & drama lessons. If your child does not have a uniform item with a reasonable explanation, please communicate with the classroom teacher to organise a 'uniform pass' for a short period of time.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that hair that is longer than shoulder length should be tied up fully (not half up/half down). Plain black or navy blue hair accessories and head scarves for religious reasons are allowed.

The development of pride in belonging to the school is fostered through the wearing of the school uniform. Thank you for your support.

Reporting Absences

Don't forget to report any absences. Given the size of our school, all absences will be followed up. You can report an absence through our website or by calling the office and leaving a message. Always report absences to the office and not directly to the classroom teacher. If you drop your child off late or they arrive late, they must sign in before going to class, to avoid unnecessary calls to parents.

All visitors must report to the office

If you are picking up your child early or dropping something off, we require all visitors to report directly to the office and not to approach the class. Classes are busy spaces of learning and as a busy intermediate, classes are often out at spec or other learning activities. The office is the best place to help you.

Ngā mihi
Michael Malins
Principal



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Introducing our STAR Attendance Graph!

You may have seen the Government's goal that 80% of students attend regularly (meaning they attend school more than 90% of the time). Here at BHBI, we have that same goal!

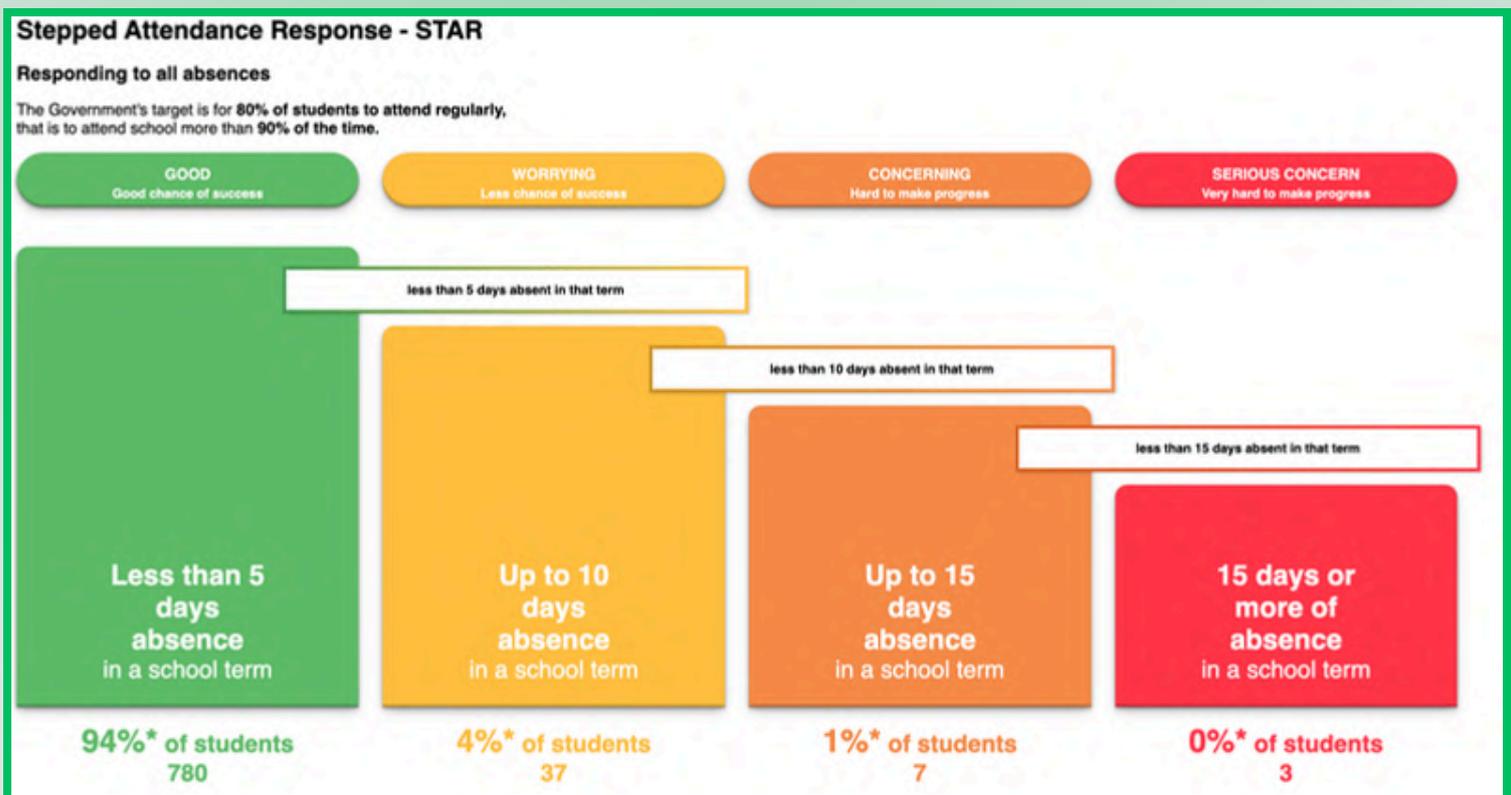
To show you how we are doing, we are introducing our Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) graph. We'll be sharing this graph to show the breakdown of our students' attendance by term.

Our target for everyone is to be in the GREEN, "GOOD" category.

Being in the Green means having less than 5 days absent in a school term. This gives your child the absolute best chance of success, helping them make great progress both socially and academically.

We know that some students have made excellent progress moving out of the "Concern" categories, and we celebrate that! Our goal is to continue working together with you, our community, to support all students in achieving "Good" attendance.

Attendance matters. Every day counts.



FROM THE LIBRARY



As well as over 9000 library books, we also subscribe to **Wheeler's ePlatform** where students can access eBooks and audiobooks 24/7. To access these resources please follow the steps below. If you need any help accessing the ePlatform please contact donnalm@bhbint.school.nz



BOOKS



BOOK
OF
THE
WEEK



From Onjali Q. Rauf, author of *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, comes another incredible story, told with humour and heart. This story highlights the challenges of living with a relative experiencing Dementia, alongside the unbreakable bond between a child and a grandparent.

Just after his tenth birthday, the last thing Zak expects to hear is that his mum is having a baby and he has to give up his room for an ageing old grandmother who is coming to live with them!

With the help of his friends and a series of cheeky pranks, Zak is convinced it'll be no time before he can reclaim his rightful territory! But Zak soon discovers that his nani is no ordinary old grandma but a former chess prodigy, able to outwit and outdo him - and his friends - at every turn.

Just as both players begin to forge a mutual respect and a friendship that might finally overcome all obstacles, Zak begins to notice things. Like how Nani sometimes forgets where she is... Or who *Zak* is...

In a desperate bid to ensure his nani never forgets again, Zak enters her into the chess competition of a lifetime. But will Zak's nani remember long enough to play?

Getting Started on a Chromebook

It's really simple to borrow an ebook or audiobook on your chromebook.

1. You need to login to our [Library Webapp](#), and from there search and select a book.
2. Follow the URL link.
3. Sign into the Wheeler's ePlatform using Login SSO (Single Sign On).
4. Simply hit the 'borrow' button and you can start reading or listening immediately.

Getting Started using the APP

1. Download the ePlatform app from your app store
2. Add New Library
3. Search Library - Type in Blockhouse Bay Intermediate. We subscribe to the Junior Platform (for Primary and Intermediate age students) and the Senior Platform (for Intermediate and Secondary age students).
4. Sign in using Blockhouse Bay Intermediate via your Google account
5. Simply hit the "borrow" button and your can start reading or listening immediately.





SPORTS NEWS



NZ AIMS GAMES **INDIVIDUAL** Sporting Codes

Registration of Interest: Closes Thursday 2nd April 2026

The Zespri AIMS Games is a national event held in September, in Tauranga, that brings the best Intermediate age athletes together to compete against each other. Each year, Blockhouse Bay is represented in a number of individual codes during the competition. This is a registration **ONLY** for **INDIVIDUAL SPORTING CODES** (not team sports). Parents/Caregivers must be able to manage their child for the duration of the AIMS Games Competition. You will also need to find your own accommodation. There are registration costs for each sporting code.

Your child should currently be competing at a Regional OR National level in the following sporting codes:

1. Badminton
2. BMX
3. Canoe Sport
4. Cross Country
5. Golf
6. Gymnastics
7. Indoor Bowls
8. Mountain Biking



9. Rock Climbing
10. Squash
11. Swimming
12. Table Tennis
13. Tennis
14. Yachting
15. Surfing
16. Orienteering

If your child is interested, please email me your child's details, chosen sports and level that they are competing in. Once again, this is just an *expression of interest*, and by emailing your child's details does not guarantee they will be registered to compete at The Zespri AIMS Games.

Email adamv@bhbint.school.nz

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

A Successful Cultural Exchange

On the 5th and 6th of March, Blockhouse Bay Intermediate (BHBI) had the privilege of welcoming back Fukushima Futaba Junior High School for an amazing cultural exchange. We were thrilled to host 41 students and seven teachers from Japan, kicking off their visit with a powerful traditional welcome. Our BHBI Kapa Haka students performed a haka and our school waiata, Pura Nei. In return, the Japanese guests reciprocated by performing fantastic dance items in their groups.

Over the two-day exchange, the Futaba Future students seamlessly joined BHBI classrooms alongside their local buddies. The daily schedule included math and specialist classes, like Visual Arts and Te Ao Māori. During these hands-on sessions, our visiting students got practical experience learning about traditional Māori herbal medicine, "Rongoā," and even made their own kawakawa tea!



Welcoming Fukushima Futaba Junior High School

A major highlight of the visit was the chance to share knowledge with one another. The Futaba Future students led engaging presentations that enriched us with facts about their wonderful country. They were able to explain how to catch freshwater shrimp in the beautiful rivers of Japan, and another detailed their research on making paper out of banana skins and scraps. BHBI students absolutely loved learning all these new things.

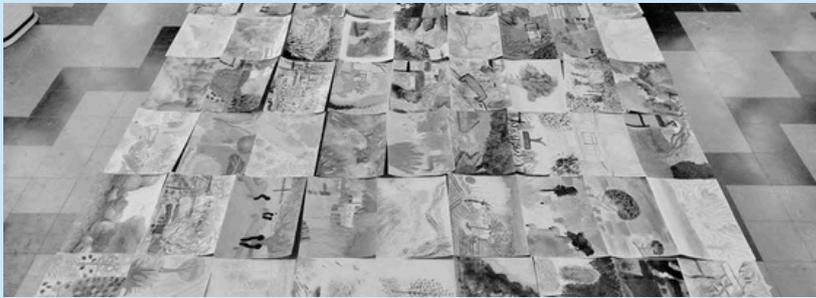
Ultimately, this exchange was a fantastic opportunity for BHBI students to experience Japanese culture firsthand. A huge thank you goes out to our community of families for opening their homes to host the Futaba Mirai students, offering them a genuine taste of everyday Kiwiana life. Some of our past BHBI students were also able to reconnect with their Futaba buddies on this exchange. This visit fostered strong international friendships, and our school community is already eagerly anticipating our next exchange!





ARTS NEWS

WOW!
LOOK AT ALL THE FABULOUS
ENTRIES FOR OUR 'GNT' ART
EXTENSION GROUP



We are so
proud
of everyone who submitted
their impressionist
landscape work.
Thank you, thank you.
All of this
beautiful
art will be on display
in the library from the
beginning of week six.

Note: Due to limited time and space, we are only able to take 24 students into the GnT Art Group - a list of these students has been posted on both the library and art room windows.



COMING UP



ST MARY'S COLLEGE 2027 Enrolments are now OPEN

Join our Mercy Family

Enrolments for 2027 are now OPEN for Year 7 and Year 9 students and a limited number of places at other year levels
St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions
We invite you to submit an online application



2026 OPEN DAY

Thursday 26 March 2026

Two sessions available, commencing 2.00pm & 6.00pm
Both sessions deliver the same information

No need to rsvp - just come along to your preferred session

www.stmaryak.school.nz

11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13



MARIST COLLEGE

Catholic Girls School, Years 7 to 13

Open Day

Thursday
26th March 2026
9:15am

A centrally located non-zoned
Catholic girls secondary school, Years 7 to 13
www.maristcollege.school.nz

COMING UP

Specialist Subjects Costs Important Notice

Specialist Subjects cost is now overdue (statements have been emailed to families concerned). We need these to be paid as soon as possible. This assists with the cost of materials they use in your child's specialist classes ie art, design tech, music, science and dance & drama
Our friendly office staff accept eftpos/visa payments, cash.

Alternatively internet banking
Office hours are 8:00am - 3.30pm
office@bhbint.school.nz
Thanks in advance!



ezLunch is a convenient and affordable way to have healthy hot and cold lunches delivered directly to school for your child.

Create an account at ezLunch so you can order your child's lunch online or by text message.

Orders must be placed before 9 a.m.

Students can also purchase food from the school tuck shop.

TUCK SHOP



COMING UP



MUSIC LESSONS at Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School

Does your child want to learn to play music?

Would you like after school lessons with a professional Music Tutor with many years of teaching experience? You can enrol your child in piano/keyboard lessons at Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School! **We deliver a fun, varied and structured curriculum. Students learn songs in styles ranging from traditional to contemporary, after school on Tuesdays.**

For information on piano/keyboard lessons, contact Lih Foo.

Email: lih.foo@musiqhub.co.nz

Phone: 021 2076 231

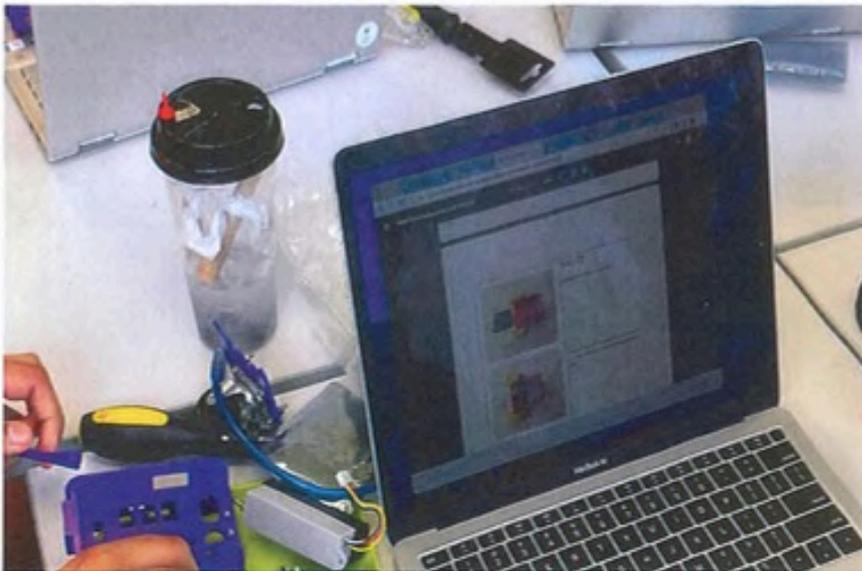
MUSIQHUB



COMING UP

WHAU LOCAL BOARD

Brain Play STEM sessions



Blockhouse Bay Library

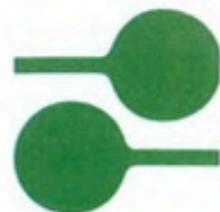
Saturday 14 March, 2 sessions available

Join us for a STEM Stop-In at Blockhouse Bay Library! Dive into a world of interactive activities like 3D design, animation, coding, robotics, and more. Unleash your curiosity and creativity with Brain Play!

For kids aged 5-13. A parent/guardian must stay in the library with children aged under 14.

Book a one-hour slot: 1.00-2.00pm or 2.00 – 3.00pm

To book, visit the library, phone 093770209 or email blockhousebaylibrary@aklc.govt.nz.



OUR VALUES



Relationships

Whanaungatanga

- Lifelong learners
- Maximising potential
- Personal excellence and integrity
- Active participants



Respect

Manaakitanga

- Effective relationships
- Identity & Languages
- Celebration of cultures
- Respect
- Accepting differences
- Equity (resources)
- Knowing who and what we are/aware and accepting of ourselves and others



Wellbeing

Wairuatanga

- Students value: physical, emotional, spiritual well-being
- Social/whanau
- Environmental excellence



Leadership

Rangatiratanga

- Students understand that they are members of a wider, global community
- Service to people and places
- Compassion and care
- Developing potential



TERM DATES 2026

TERM 1: 5TH FEBRUARY – 2ND APRIL

TERM 2: 20TH APRIL – 3RD JULY

TERM 3: 20TH JULY - 25TH SEPT

TERM 4: 12TH OCT - 17TH DEC

HOURS

SCHOOL: 8:40AM - 3.00PM

OFFICE: 8:00AM - 3.30PM