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# BELL BLOCK SCHOOL

“Kia kaha i ngā wā katoa”  
Our Best Always

## NEWSLETTER

### WHATS INSIDE THIS WEEK

- End of Year Arrangements
- Swimming to Survive
- Friendship Seat
- Stories and more
- Dates for Your Calendar
- Community Notices



### CONTACT US :

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Phone (06) 755 0838  
Mobile: 027 310 9038  
Email: office@bellblock.school.nz  
www.bellblock.school.nz





## OUR VISION

To provide in partnership with home and community the educational opportunities for all pupils to develop into life long learners who actively contribute to society in a positive way.



7TH DECEMBER 2016

Dear Parents / caregivers

The end of the term marks the end of an era for some families as their last child leaves our school. For one family the link goes back 70 years. To all our families whose last child leaves our school this year, thank you for your support, loyalty and friendship. We hope you and your children will call in and see us.

END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

**Final Assembly in the Hall - Thursday December 15, starting at 7pm:** We expect all students to attend the final assembly which is a celebration of the year's learning when each teacher will present one student in their class with the Endeavour Award. Someone who always displays our school Values and tries their best with all learning.

Please arrange for you child/ren to meet in their classroom at 6.45pm and collect them from their classroom after the assembly, at approximately 8.30pm.  
Kapa Haka students will meet in Room 15 at 6.15pm.  
We know sometimes it is difficult to get babysitters for your pre school children, and if this is the case for you and you bring your pre schoolers with you, please keep them seated with you. You may be best to sit near an exit downstairs so that if they become restless you are able to leave easily.  
If they are allowed to walk or run around this can be a distraction for the students who try really hard to sit still and listen during what is our most important assembly of the year.

Upstairs in the hall is reserved for adults over 17 years of age unless accompanied by an adult.

SCHOOL CLOSING DAY AND TIME

School will close at 12.00 noon on Friday 16 December. The school bus does not run on that day. Some parents find their children are tired after the assembly and choose to keep them at home. If you do that please advise the school, to save a large number of phone calls being made.

KAPA HAKA PERFORMANCE AT PIHMS

We are pleased to be able to support PIHMS with our senior Kapa Haka rōpū performing at their graduation on Friday December 16 at 2pm. A separate notice has gone home to all senior Kapa Haka members regarding our final two performances for the year - the Leavers Assembly on Thursday 15th December and the PIHMS Graduation Ceremony on Friday 16th December. Please return the PIHMS permission slip to Mrs McKey as soon as possible.

STUDENT LEADERS 2017

We have been absolutely amazed by the high calibre of applications for our 2017 Head Boy, Head Girl and Whanau Leader positions. We have heard short speeches from all 22 applicants and every one of these speeches were presented to a very high standard. Our Year 6, 7 and 8 students vote, along with our staff, with the Student Council for the first half of 2017 being announced at our Leavers Assembly next Thursday evening.  
We are well aware that with such a strong field of applicants for only 10 positions, there will also be a lot of very worthy applicants who will not be successful this time around. Remember that leadership extends well beyond the shirt and badge, it is in everything you do and there will be lots of opportunities for you to be a great leader in our school. All applicants should be very proud of their achievements already, we are certainly proud of you!

## RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS!!

All library books need to be returned to the school library this week please.

FROM THE JUNIOR TEAM

The Junior classes visited the New Plymouth Fire Station recently as a conclusion to our Firewise programme. The children enjoyed learning about the job the fire fighters do and especially liked sitting in a real fire engine. A big thank you to those parents and grandparents who came on the trip to help. We hope that the children have shared their learning about fire safety with you and that you have talked about a family safety plan in the event of a fire happening. If anyone did not receive a copy of the book 'Tamati and Sam Get Firewise' please let us know and we will get one to you.



SWIMMING TO SURVIVE

This term for swimming the Middle Team is learning about Swimming to Survive. Last week we were lucky enough to have Cecilie Elliot from Swim Safe New Zealand in to help us understand the importance of swimming to survive. The students were placed in situations where they could not touch the bottom and had to manoeuvre around seaweed and bouys, swim with the weight of clothes and experience wearing and floating with a life jacket. We had lots of fun!



Tuckshop...THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL.....Subway Combo (mini sub, cookie & drink) \$6  
Chocolate Lego Cupcakes \$2  
Apple Slinky \$1.50 or BYO apple .50c

Check out the pictures on Facebook: The Tuckshop @ Bell Block School. EFTPOS available.

FRIENDSHIP SEAT

After a long wait, the friendship seat is finally in action. With three beautiful creations highlighting this area, the friendship seat cannot be missed. Aimee Witehira, Aaliyah Green and Tessa Georgeson worked very hard to finish their paintings before the end of the year under the watchful eye of Mrs McBreen and I. It was very hard to resist the temptation of joining in to help these three talented girls paint! I would like to thank the PTA for donating this wonderful seat - it will be very useful for the future students of Bell Block School. Thanks PTA!

(Left to right) Aimee Witehira, Aaliyah Green, Tessa Georgeson and Julia Padrutt.



MATHS

Maths is everywhere! Regardless of the age or ability of your child there are opportunities for them to practice their maths. If your child is learning to count - count things. You may count the number of steps in a staircase, the number of toys on the floor, the number of cars driving past, or anything else you can think of. The more your child counts, the better they will get. If your child is learning to add - add things. This could be easy things such as the number of knives on the table plus the number of forks on the table, or more difficult things such as the cost of items at the supermarket. Don't forget to subtract as well.  
With the holidays coming up this is a great time to reinforce what they have been doing at school. Have a fulfilled, number crunching Christmas!

As this is our last newsletter for the year may you all enjoy a safe and relaxing holiday break. We look forward to seeing the students back at school on Monday February 1, 8.55am.

Meri Kirihimete kia pai to tau hou.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at Bell Block School.

On behalf of the staff  
Roz Miller, Principal

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Friday 9 December	Celebration Assembly – 2pm in the hall Explorers Christmas Concert – 10:15 and 12pm in the hall Reports go home
Monday 12 December	Meet the Teachers for 2017 – 10-11am Blood Bank in the hall
Tuesday 13 December	Room 15 Celebration Day Out
Wednesday 14 December	Room 16 Celebration Day Out
Thursday 15 December	Final Leavers Assembly - 7pm in the hall
Friday 16 December	Last day of term – School finishes at 12noon Kapa Haka performance at PIHMS – drop off at 1:30pm
Thursday 2 February	First day of term one 2017



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Kelly Sports Xmas School Holiday Programme...Monday 19th December till Friday 23rd December! Mangorei School Hall - 8.30 till 5pm. \$25 half day/\$45 Full day. Visit our website www.kellyclub.co.nz to book now!

Waitara Boating Club is running a Junior Learn to Sail course during the school holidays. From 19th - 21st December, 12.30pm - 4.30pm. Cost: \$60 which includes the opportunity to continue sailing with the club for the remainder of the 2016-17 season with a dedicated boat and life jacket. Please call Annette Lamb, 021 08 252545.

Presence, not Presents...Give your children what they REALLY need these holidays! Wednesday, December 7. Doors open at 6.30, talks begin at 7pm. Supper provided! Puketapu School, Dillon Drive, Bell Block. Contact Anne 027-545-7761.