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BELL BLOCK SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER



WHATS INSIDE THIS WEEK

- School Gala
- Meet the Teachers
- School Goals
- ICAS International Exam
- New World Free Books
- Dates for Your Calendar



CONTACT US :

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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.



8th FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Ngā mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou katoa.
Wishing you all a very Happy New Year

There is nothing quite like the feeling in a school at the beginning of a new school year, from the first Teacher Only Day through to the time the first children come through the gate. There is this excited buzz as staff and students catch up with each other, share holiday stories and teachers begin implementing the learning programmes they have planned. Along with this for many is a butterfly or two in their tummies as new children join our school and some current students anticipate change. The butterflies should have flown away (to drier climates perhaps!) by the time you read this but if not please let your child’s teacher know if there are any settling in anxieties remaining.

It was our pleasure to welcome the following students to our school:
Laura Sarten, Alisha Cheav, Deacon Rowson, Libby and Esme Warner, Jack Yates, Matthew Hailes, Tayla Fredrickson, Cassidy Bhana, Archie Bunting, Braxtyn Callaghan, Braxton and Crudyn Hinz, Theo Honeyfield, Ruby Jeffries, O’Connor Lea’ana, Zach Peniero, Flynn Pollock, Joel Quickfall, Taylor Ulrich, Manaaki Young, Connor Mischeski and Nicholas Gunther.
The new entrant class was a particularly busy place with lots of whānau joining the new entrants on their first day at school. We love having whānau at school so please keep coming.
Mr Kade Forsyth, teacher in Room 15, and Mrs Deb Henderson, teacher aide, may also have had the first day butterflies. We are pleased you have both joined our staff.



PTA NEWS
School Gala – Friday 3 March
We are happy to announce that the Gala preparations are well under way and things are coming together nicely. It’s been a while since we organised a Gala event so hopefully we will have a beautiful day on the 3rd of March and a lot of people will be coming along to our biggest event of this year. We have set up a Facebook Gala event page. You can find it on the school’s Facebook page or search for “Bell Block School Gala”. If you have not done so already, please have a look and start inviting all your family and friends and spread the word! Thanks to every-one who replied via the flyers that were distributed at the end of last year. Many of you have offered to help on the day or offered help through donating books or baking etc. However we still need more helpers during the actual Gala event. Please help if you can, then everyone can enjoy the Gala with their family.
We will be following up with people who offered to donate 2nd hand books, garage sale items and baking soon. If you can help or donate items and you did not complete a flyer please contact Gösta on 022 3531639 or leave your name and number at the school office. More Gala news next week!

Furthermore - as some of you might have noticed, the PTA have donated the **A4 paper** again this year. Happy days!

Meet the Teacher and set goals for your child/ren -Thursday 23 February
We hope all our students will have at least one parent or guardian come to these very important meetings to discuss class programmes and to set goals for the first half of the year.
Interviews will be held in the classrooms between 8.00 - 8.30am and 3.10 - 7.30pm. Interviews must be booked online at www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code using the event code c255k. Please see the attached notice for more details.

FROM THE JUNIOR TEAM
It was lovely to see so many new students in the Junior team this year and we extend a warm welcome to them and their families. The classes are learning to get to know each other and developing the routines that will set them up for a successful year.
It is great to see that most children now have their stationery and a school hat - just a note that it is not necessary for the junior children to have a pencil case.
Swimming starts this week so if any parents are able to help out, please see your child’s teacher. Your help would be much appreciated.



LEARNING FOCI FOR TERM 1.....
All classes started the year with learning activities which build strong relationships between their students, teachers and teacher aides while investigating the major theme for the term, “My Digital World -Toku ao mamati - how can we communicate responsibly in a digital world?”
Respect – One of our five school Values will be the focus throughout the school and one Principal’s Award at each assembly will recognise students consistently displaying Respect.

SCHOOL GOALS.....
Every three years the Board of Trustees and staff have an in depth look at our school’s Charter and in particular what we are aiming for. Our “big picture” goals are broken down into strategic and annual plans with the specific actions to answer the “how are we going to get there”. We are interested in your thoughts about the seven goals. Please email me or make a time to see me to share your thoughts. principal@bellblock.school.nz
1. To actively engage with our community.
2. To have high student achievement in all levels of the school, and in all learning areas, where students enjoy learning and the majority of students achieve at or above national expectations.
3. To ensure teaching and learning programmes maintain a focus on literacy, numeracy, inquiry learning and thinking skills, integrating purposeful digital learning.
4. Professional learning for staff will focus on raising student achievement through high quality, targeted teaching.
5. Students will learn about sustaining our environment and eco friendly practices.
6. Our school community will display understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and Tikanga Māori and will use Te Reo in every day situations.
7. Students will learn about and live the Values that are part of the school culture along with the Key Competencies contained in the NZC.

TE REO PHRASE OF THE WEEK
Whānau / Family – the main family unit in Māori culture. Whānau also means ‘to give birth’. Rā whānau means ‘birthday’.



Entries close for Term 1 for Ravens Inline Hockey School League on February 17... Games start **23 Feb.** League will run for 7 weeks through to 6 April then recommences in Term 4. Entry forms are available on the Sports notice board in the office. Any questions please see Mrs Miller - In line Hockey Coordinator.

CRICKET.....
There are still places available in our cricket teams for Term 1. These games are played on Saturday mornings starting on the 18th of Feb at various sports grounds. (Year 1 & 2s will play on Friday nights). Subs are \$15. If you would like to register your child please contact the office to fill in a registration form. Unfortunately it is first come first served, as we have limited spaces left!

RUBBISH.....
By now your child may have shared with you our initiative to reduce the rubbish in our school grounds, about which we have been concerned for a long time and we have tried lots of different ways of reducing the rubbish. This was also commented on in the school survey too. We are asking that if children bring food in wrapping of any kind they put the wrappers back in their lunchbox. This includes food scraps too which will enable parents to see what their children are actually eating. You may like to put a disposable bag in the lunchbox for the scraps and wrappings to go in to. Each week one class will take responsibility for checking the grounds.

ICAS INTERNATIONAL EXAM OPPORTUNITIES.....
Each year we offer the opportunity for our Year 3-8 students to take part in the ICAS International test series. This programme is run by the University of New South Wales in Australia and consists of separate exams in Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics at different times throughout the year. These tests are quite challenging and suitable for children achieving above the expected level. They are not compulsory and are often chosen by parents and children as a learning extension challenge. All entrants receive a breakdown of their results as well as a certificate. There is a cost to parents for each exam. To enter, simply collect an entry form from the office, tick the tests your child wishes to enter and send payment to the office as soon as possible. All entries must be in by **Wednesday 29 March**.

TUCKSHOP.....
THIS WEEK’S SPECIAL - Chocolate Slice \$2 & Fruit Salad \$3
Check out our Facebook page: The Tuckshop @ Bell Block School. EFTPOS available.

NEW WORLD FREE BOOKS OPPORTUNITY.....
We have been given the opportunity to receive free books for our library. Every time you buy a Kelloggs product from Waitara New World place your receipt in the bin provided. The more we get the more free books we will receive.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR	
Thursday 9 February	Intermediate Overnight Camp at BBK School
Friday 10 February	Celebration Assembly & Student Council Induction 2pm in the hall
Thursday 23 February	Meet the Teachers
Friday 24 February	Celebration Assembly 2pm in the hall
Friday 3 March	School Gala
Friday 10 March	Celebration Assembly 2pm in the hall
Monday 13 March	Taranaki Anniversary Day – school will be closed
Thursday 16 March	Junior School Swimming Sports & Explorers Swimming Sports
Friday 17 March	Y3-8 School Swimming Sports
Monday 20 March	School Triathlon
Thursday 23 March	School Photos
Friday 24 March	Celebration Assembly 2pm in the hall
Wednesday 29 March	ICAS entries close

On behalf of the staff
Roz Miller, Principal