



## A word from our Tumuaiki



Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

It is great to hear about the children working hard to learn their answers for the Knowledgathon. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event. This is the last week to collect sponsors so please help our FAB team by asking others to sponsor your child.

Congratulations to our inter school soccer teams who represented the school at their tournament last week. Thank you to Luke Williams and Merv Horsford for looking after the teams on the day.

We have not been able to have a Movie Night for some years but this will be happening at the end of next week, Friday 6th September - see Hero Post for details. See you there!

In a few weeks time, we will be sending around 80 senior children to the Winter Field Day to take part in either Rippa Rugby, Netball, Hockey or Soccer. Thank you in advance to the parents who will be helping us on these trips as well.

Ngā mihi maioha,  
Neil Robinson  
Principal



### Term Three Calendar of Events

#### Week 6

Fri 30th Aug - Pacifica Arts Visit Pohutukawa-9am-1pm

#### Week 7

Tues 3rd Sept - Pōhutukawa Assembly 2.30pm

Fri 6th Sept - Movie Night

#### Week 8

Tues 10th Sept - Rimu Assembly 2.15pm

Tues 10th Sept - Board of Trustees Meeting

Thurs 12th Sept - Champions of Champs Gym Comp

#### Week 9- Te Wiki o te reo Maori

(Māori Language Week)

Mon 16th Sept - Kowhai Assembly - 2.15pm

Wed 18th Sept -Winter Field Day 9am-3pm

Thurs 19th Sept - Ngā Toi Showcase afternoon

Fri 20th Sept - Kauri Assembly 2.00pm

#### Week 10 - Chinese Language Week

Tues 24th Sept - Pōhutukawa Assembly 2.30pm

Tues 26th September - Y6 visit BBI Intermediate

Wed 25th Sept - Winter Field Day Postponement Day

Friday 27th Sept - Term Three Ends - 3.00pm

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# PRINCIPALS SOAPBOX

## Is the NZ Education System Really That Bad?

Answering this question can be a little difficult as it is all about how you measure it, but one universally accepted way is to use statistics from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). This is an international (over 80 countries) assessment that measures reading, mathematics and science literacy.

The 2022 results have New Zealand in 14th place when aggregating all three of Reading, Writing and Mathematics results. (although in reality, it is higher than this because the results have Macao and Hong Kong listed as countries whereas most people would probably argue that they are part of China).

Either way we are in at least 14th place out of 82 countries.

Should we be striving to be better, absolutely, but maybe people who are saying we are in really bad shape could be carrying out a bit of a fact check.

Carry out your own fact check by [Clicking here](#) for a link to the 2022 PISA results

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY FOCUS

Over the last few years, both governments have increased the emphasis on children being at school if they are well enough to do so. Across the country, the number of children who are regularly absent is a real concern and this will be affecting their ability to gain qualifications and employment later in life. Absences also restrict children's ability to build friendships with other children who will learn to play with others if they are not at school regularly.

The Ministry of Education is now insisting that we let parents know that absences for reasons such as birthdays and trips away are classified as unjustified and that this information is recorded in the child's attendance records. Although we would be better than most schools, in term two this year, unjustified absences made up 10% of the reasons why children were away from Blockhouse Bay Primary, so this is a genuine issue.

*We note too that last term, nearly 70% of absences were for medical/sick reasons and we totally support parents keeping children at home when they are unwell.*

At the same time, the Ministry is asking schools to increase the emphasis on children arriving at school on time. In term two, over ¼ of our children were late to school at least once. Twenty-two individual children were late to school at least one day every week and another fifteen children were late at least twice a week. Having children arrive late is very disruptive for everyone and we strongly urge parents to organise for their child to be here on time.

Parents are likely to have heard about our latest initiative where children put a counter into a jar if they are here on time so that their Team might win a prize and this seems to be helping to get the children to school on time. Our long-term goal is for the children to see that getting to school on time (around 8.30am) allows them to interact with their friends and be more settled at the beginning of the day. It also helps the teacher who has begun their teaching and then has to adjust for children who are late.

Thank you for supporting your child to make the most of the learning time at school, when they are well enough to be here.



# NGĀ TOI SHOWCASE

Our Inquiry Learning for Term 1 and Term 3 had a focus on the Arts, in Term 1- Visual Art and this term- Music and Dance.

We wanted the children to learn that people tell stories and pass these on over time through the Arts. Different cultures tell these stories in different ways, through art, dance, music and drama. The way we tell these stories changes over time and will continue to change in the future.

The Pacific Mamas certainly helped the children with these ideas and the children loved taking part in the show that they put on.

(Pōhutukawa have their turn tomorrow). Now it's the children's turn!

On the afternoon of Thursday 19th September, we will be sharing Artworks which remind us that we are a school in Aotearoa and each class or group of classes will be performing for parents and whānau.

We warmly invite everyone to make a note of this date and then come and view our new Art, celebrate Māori Language Week and watch the children perform. Details below. Specific details will be shared soon.



## Ngā Toi Our Arts Showcase

Come and celebrate Māori Language Week. Enjoy new Art Installations, Dance and Music Performances.

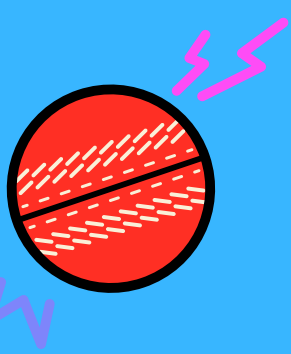
**Thursday 19th September**

12.10: Welcome-Te Whau - Rāmere Kapa haka and Performance Kapa haka

12.30- 1.pm: Explore our new Artworks with your whānau

1.30: Manu Group Performance -Te Whau & Te Manawa  
*(Watch our for the timetable)*





# MULTI SPORTS MADNESS COMING SOON!



Next term, our After School Care providers Bizzy Bodz, will be running fun, multisport activity afternoons once a week from 22nd October - 26th November. The sessions will last from 3.00-5.00pm and will be open to year 3-6 children who want to have a go at a range of different sports which will include T-Ball, Cricket, touch rugby, football and more. Children who go to After School Care on Tuesday's will be able to go from Multisport Madness to ASC if parents wish them to.

Closer to the end of the term, we will send home more information about these weekly sessions.

## ENROLMENT

## 2025

**Do you have a child turning 5 in 2025?**

**Do you know anyone else who has?**

**Have you/they informed the school office?**

To help us plan for 2025 we need to know how many children will be starting school with us.

If you or a neighbour has a child turning 5 and lives within our school enrolment zone, please check we have all the child's details on our enrolment list.

For more information:

Email the [schooloffice@blockhousebay.school.nz](mailto:schooloffice@blockhousebay.school.nz) or phone 627-9940 Thank you!



# KNOWLEDGEATHON 2024

Knowledge-a-thon Fundraiser  
Just 2 weeks to go!

We have raised just over \$10,000!

Thank you everyone who has signed up and got sponsors. We are fundraising for shelter and seating outside the Manukau Block. The fundraiser closes on 6th September. Check out the [prizes here](#).

Please share your child's fundraising page to keep collecting sponsors.

Thank you for your support.



## MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE **YOUR SMARTEST MOVE!**

If you need a salesperson with **local knowledge**, **energy** and **drive**, give me a call or say hi to me at the school crossing on Tuesday mornings.



Call **Roma Kaur**  
021 263 9947

r.kaur2@barfoot.co.nz

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