

**BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #8**  
**Friday 24 March 2023**



**Focus Value:**  
Manaakitanga - Caring

**School Goal:**  
To care about our school environment by keeping it tidy

Today is the Gala Day and we look forward to all the fun and food this community event brings. Thank you to the PTA for all their hard work and to the support showed by our community.

With rain washing out our first attempt, we have moved the Triathlon to Tuesday 28 March which is next week. All the times will be the same and we will be crossing our fingers for fine weather as there will be no further opportunities to run this event this term.

This week we had Olympic Ambassador, Callum Gilbert, visit the school to do a presentation about friendship, respect and achievement as well as his experiences at the Olympic Games in Tokyo. He also talked about the challenges of being a sportsperson even when you are trying your best you don't always get the result you are aiming for but over time you continue to improve. He gave some great motivational words to the students as they prepare for the triathlon next week.

**Looking Ahead**

	Monday 27 March	Tuesday 28 March	Wednesday 29 March	Thursday 30 March	Friday 31 March
<b>Week 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Triathlon</li> <li>7:00 PTA AGM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li> <li>9:30 Social Worker in school</li> <li>2:00 Kapa Haka Group practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate Technology</li> <li>9:00 Open Morning for new whānau</li> <li>Weetbix TRYathlon</li> <li>5:15 Open Evening for new whānau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li> <li>9:15 New Entrants' transition visit</li> <li>Basketball fees due</li> <li>Volleyball registrations close</li> <li>2:00 Celebration Assembly</li> </ul>
	Monday 3 April	Tuesday 4 April	Wednesday 5 April	Thursday 6 April	Friday 7 April
<b>Week 10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li> <li>Kid's Lit Quiz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lost Property on display</li> <li>Volleyball fees due</li> <li>Interschool swimming Years 6-8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li> <li>9:30 Social Worker in school</li> <li>Middle Team Celebration</li> <li>2:00 Kapa Haka Group practice</li> <li>Pizza Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate Technology</li> <li>Junior Celebration</li> <li>Senior Celebration</li> <li>Last day of Term 1</li> </ul>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>  <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>

**Lost Property**



We are at that time of term when we make an extra push to reunite lost property with its owners. Lost property will be out on display on **Tuesday 4 April**. Classes will be taken through but parents are welcome to have a look to try and reunite lost items with their owners. Any items left at the end of term will be donated to charity. The lost property cupboard is located in the corridor by Rooms 15/16.

***Our current school attendance rate for this week is 90%***

## Triathlon – Tuesday 28 March

The school triathlon will now be held on **Tuesday 28 March**. Any students who choose to participate in this event must ensure they have the correct gear to compete safely. It is a good idea to check bikes thoroughly before the day to ensure they are safe. Please note that cyclists must have a helmet, shirt and shoes.

On Tuesday, students can bring their bikes to a space near their classroom until the start of the event. The team events are in the morning and the individual events occur after lunch.

### Events and Times:

#### Team Events

10:00am	Years 3/4
10:40am	Years 5/6
11:20am	Years 7/8



#### Individual Competitors

1:00pm	Year 3 boys & girls
1:10pm	Year 4 boys & girls
1:20pm	Year 5 boys & girls
1:30pm	Year 6 boys & girls
1:40pm	Year 7 boys & girls
1:50pm	Year 8 boys & girls

#### Distances:

Years 3/4	25m swim (1 length)	2 km bike (1 lap)	1.5 km run (1 lap)
Years 5/6	75m swim (3 lengths)	4 km bike (2 laps)	3 km run (2 laps)
Years 7/8	125m swim (5 lengths)	6 km bike (3 laps)	4.5 km run (3 laps)

Supporters are welcome to attend the event and cheer on the students. Each event will start with the swim leg at the Bell Block Aquatic Centre, followed by the bike ride along Wynyard, Kingsford and Hua Streets and ending with the run in the school grounds.

If you are driving around the school on Tuesday please look out for our students on the roads around the school.

### Winter Sports

Basketball registrations close today. Payment of fees is due by Friday 31 March.

If you are able to assist with coaching a Year 3/4 team, please contact me as soon as possible by email to [sport@bellblock.school.nz](mailto:sport@bellblock.school.nz)



Volleyball registrations for Years 7/8 are open until Friday 31 March. Games are played on a Sunday afternoon at TSB Stadium. Please register via the school app or website. We will need a parent volunteer to coach the team – please email me if you are able to assist – [sport@bellblock.school.nz](mailto:sport@bellblock.school.nz)

### Nominate our school to WIN a \$10,000 sports grant!



AA Insurance Big Little Sponsorship is back!

Nominate our school for the chance to win one of two \$10,000 sports grants. Entering is easy! Teachers, students, parents, friends and whānau can all share the love and show their support for our school by visiting [www.aainsurance.co.nz/big-little](http://www.aainsurance.co.nz/big-little)

Entries are now open, so get your nominations in today!

## Better Start Literacy Instruction - Update

Last year, our Junior Team implemented training in the Better Start Literacy Approach. This structured approach to literacy was developed to help teachers systematically teach and build on phonics and decoding skills. The Middle Team has also undertaken some professional learning in this area that builds on what has been implemented in the Junior Team and the understanding of letter sounds.

This year, we are enhancing this model by integrating the best parts of our rich literacy practice with BSLA. How have we started to do this?

- Greater emphasis on small group sessions that are more targeted to individual student spelling needs
- The team has created essential word lists to ensure consistency throughout the junior team.
- Broadening exposure to a variety of different text types including picture books, big books, poems, BSLA readers and leveled colour wheel readers.
- Both our Year 2 classes and the Middle Team are using The Code to teach spelling. This explicitly links to the phonic work that our Junior classes follow.

You may notice that your child is bringing home both Phonic Plus books as well as Colour Wheel texts. This is because we want our students to have the best of both literacy instruction at our school.

## Open Morning/Evening

### You are invited to the Bell Block School Open Morning/Evening

**THURSDAY 30 MARCH 9:00AM  
OR 5.15PM**



We would love to invite you to our Open Morning/Evening at Bell Block School on Thursday 30 March at 9am or 5:15pm, meeting at the school office. This invitation is extended to all families new to our school and to families of children who will be starting school for the first time. Whānau who are interested in seeing what our school can offer are also invited to attend.

Some of the people who work alongside us in school will be present to briefly share what their role is and to answer any questions you may have. These people include Conrad Hailes (Principal), Danielle Hill (Deputy Principal), Emily Doelman (Assistant Principal) and Raewyn Clarkson (New Entrant Teacher).

At our morning session, our Student Council will take you on a guided tour of our beautiful grounds, ending in Room 4, where children will be able to join in with the classroom programme, meet the teacher and make new friends.

We hope you can join us!

Kind regards  
Emily Doelman

**Assistant Principal/Junior Team Leader**



## Meet the Leaders



Hi, my name is **Leo Padrutt** and I am one of your Takahē Whanau Leaders for the first half of 2023. I enjoy doing a bunch of different sports such as surf lifesaving, skiing, rock climbing, mountain biking and many more. I am bubbly and approachable and I am looking forward to meeting you during break times.



Hi, I'm **Riley Smith**. A few things about me is that I love to dance - it gives me joy and happiness. I also like to march. Marching brings me to more people and I can make new friends. I love hanging out with my friends because they always have my back.

## Gala

Our amazing Gala is TODAY! Come along for lots of fun in the sunshine and enjoy food, entertainment and good company. You might even win a spectacular prize or two in our raffles or even on our Stalls. We have so many people to thank for donations and time in preparation for our exciting event – our Sponsors will be on display on our Sponsor board so make sure you have a look at all the amazing businesses who have made this possible.

We look forward to seeing you tonight from 5pm-7pm!



Follow us on Facebook (PTA Facebook page) where we will be sharing more information about our Gala.



## Major Raffles

### Raffle #1: Welder

A GYSARC 200, single-phase 200 A inverter welding station, Auto Darkening Welding Helmet, Gloves, Chipping Hammer and Stick Electrodes.

*\*Worth over \$950!\**

Kindly donated by Duroweld NZ Ltd. Tickets: \$5 each.



### Raffle #2: Firewood

Stay warm this winter with a load of 3 cubic metres of pine blocks.

*\*Worth over \$245!\**

Kindly donated by Woodward's Firewood. Tickets: \$3 each.



## PTA News

Amongst all the busyness of the Gala, we warmly invite you to the AGM for the PTA which will be held on **Tuesday 28 March at 7pm in the school staffroom**. Nibbles provided. All welcome.

**Conrad Hailes**  
**Principal**

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**BELL BLOCK JUNIOR RUGBY MUSTER**

Sunday: 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Saturday: 18<sup>th</sup> + 25<sup>th</sup> March  
1pm

Bell Block Rugby Clubrooms  
@ Hickford Park – Smeaton Road

**Girls + Boys**  
**Ripper – U6/U7**  
**Tackle/Rippa – U8**  
**Tackle – U9/U10/U11**

For more info contact Maiti 022-130-9628  
Or register to play at  
[www.sporty.co.nz/bellblockrugby/](http://www.sporty.co.nz/bellblockrugby/)

**SIGN UP NOW**  
**2023 SEASON**

First Kicks (4-6yrs)  
Fun Football (7&8yrs)  
Mini Football (9-12yrs)

Visit our Facebook page for sign up details  
BELL BLOCK UNITED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

End of Term  
**WHANAU FUN NIGHT**

FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
6:00-8:00PM

NORTHPOINT BAPTIST CHURCH  
116 MANGATI ROAD, BELL BLOCK

BRING FOOD FOR A SHARED KAI  
ALL RECHARGE WHANAU WELCOME

ReCharge is a Youth Group for kids in Year 7 & 8 at school.  
For more information contact us at [recharge@northpoint.org.nz](mailto:recharge@northpoint.org.nz)

**Safer speeds are coming for our school**

NPDC is creating a new, safer speed area outside our school as part of a district-wide programme.

Within the next two months you'll see permanent 30km/h signs installed around our school.

These new speeds will improve the safety of ākonga and the wider school community.

Please look out for the new speed limit signs and drive safely around our school.