

## BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #6

Friday 7 March 2025

**Focus Value:**  
Respect - Whakaute



**School Goal:**  
Respect ourselves - use positive self-talk, take care of our bodies, try our best in learning and stand up for ourselves

You may have noticed some outdoor areas of the school undergoing some work this week. We are very excited to begin two significant upgrade projects that will add to our outdoor environment. We have begun the work on an outdoor classroom space beside Room 20 that will have visual links to our school pepeha. The space will be used by classes during the day, especially in the warmer months, and will provide additional shaded spaces for students to use at break times.

The second project is the replacement of the fort on the Junior playground. We have selected a new addition that will be of a similar scope to the original but meets the playground health and safety regulations. It will have two new towers built with slides and climbing frames, designed in our school colours. Keep an eye out as the projects develop and add to our outdoor spaces.

This week our teachers have been continuing their development in delivering the Structured Literacy programme. The students have picked up the new structure and expectations well, with the programme running right across our school. Our professional development facilitator has been in classes this week modelling lessons and working with staff to continue to develop their practice.

Over the next couple of weeks, we have more opportunities for families to be involved in school life with the Swimming Sports, Celebration Assemblies and Triathlon events as well the school Gala on Friday 21 March.

### Parent/Teacher Interviews – 2 & 3 April

Next week we will also release booking times on the school app for Parent/Teacher Interviews so keep an eye out for the notification and book in for an appointment to meet with your child's teacher on 2 or 3 April. Interviews for Room 10 will be held on alternative dates of 27 March and 9 April.

### Looking Ahead

	Monday 10 March	Tuesday 11 March	Wednesday 12 March	Thursday 13 March	Friday 14 March
Week 7	<b>TARANAKI ANNIVERSARY</b> <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Immunisations Year 7-8</li><li>11:30 Swimming Sports Year 0-3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li><li>1:40 Kapa Haka Group Practice</li><li>Swimming Sports Year 0-3 Postponement Day</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>11:15 Swimming Sports Year 4-8</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li><li>9:30 Celebration Assembly Year 4-8</li><li>10:00 Celebration Assembly Year 0-3</li><li>Year 7-8 Technology</li></ul>
Week 8	Monday 17 March	Tuesday 18 March	Wednesday 19 March	Thursday 20 March	Friday 21 March
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li><li>Triathlon Year 4-8</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Splash &amp; Dash Biathlon Year 0-3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li><li>School Photo Day</li><li>1:40 Kapa Haka Group Practice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5:00 Board Meeting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8:00 Breakfast Club</li><li>Year 7-8 Technology</li><li>5:00 Gala Day</li></ul>

### Swimming Sports

We hope all students are able to take part in the Swimming Sports events next week, either in the participation events or the finals as they earn points for their whānau with every event they participate in. Students and staff will be dressed up in their whānau colours showing their whānau spirit.



Swimming Sports is always a great day of students giving things a go and ends with the hotly contested class, whānau and Staff vs Students relay. All our families are invited to come along to support the students in action at the Year 0-3 event on Tuesday and the Year 4-8 event on Thursday. Please know it can get very loud, particularly in the Thursday afternoon session!



### Tuesday 11 March – Year 0-3 Swimming Sports (Outdoor Pool)

11:30am Rooms 6, 7, 8 Participation Events  
 1:00pm Rooms 2, 3, 4, 5 Participation Events

Students will be participating in up to four events showcasing their swimming skills. We welcome all whānau to join us at the Bell Block Aquatic Centre to watch. Seating is available, please follow the signage.

### Thursday 13 March – Year 4-8 Swimming Sports (Indoor Pool)

11:15am Year 4 Width Participation Events and Swimming Demonstration  
 Year 4 25m Freestyle, 25m Backstroke  
 Years 5-6 25m Freestyle, 25m Backstroke, 25m Breaststroke, 75m 3 Stroke Medley  
 12:50pm Years 7-8 25m Freestyle, 25m Backstroke, 25m Breaststroke, 50m Freestyle, 75m 3 Stroke Medley  
 1:50pm Relays

Preliminary heats to determine the finalists have been recorded during class time. The heats swum on Swimming Sports Day are participation events only. All length races will be heats followed by the final.

### School Triathlon – Monday 17 March

On Monday 17 March we will hold our school triathlon for Year 4-8 students. We encourage all students from Year 4 upwards to give this event a go, whether they are elite level or trying it for the first time. Please talk to your child about whether they wish to enter as an individual or as part of a team (or both).

Any students who choose to participate in this event must ensure they can competently swim and cycle and 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.

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 cycle leg along Wynyard, Kingsford and Hua Streets and ending with the run inside the school grounds. Please avoid parking on these roads wherever possible to ensure a clear path for our cyclists.

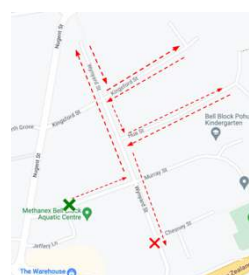
If you are driving around the school on Thursday please look out for our students on the roads around the school.

### Triathlon Team Events – Year 4-8

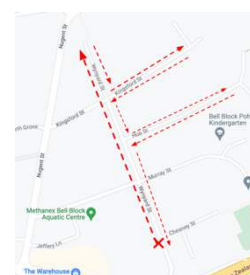
10:00am Years 4-6  
 11:20am Years 7-8

### Triathlon Individual Events – Year 4-8

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



Cycle leg – First lap



Subsequent lap

### Distances

Year 4	25m (1 length) swim	2km (1 lap) bike ride	1.5km run
Years 5-6	75m (3 lengths) swim	4km (2 laps) bike ride	3.0km run
Years 7-8	125m (5 lengths) swim	6km (3 laps) bike ride	4.5km run



## Splash & Dash Biathlon – Tuesday 18 March

Students in Years 0-3 will participate in a swim and run Biathlon on 18 March. We encourage all students to give this event a go. Students will be swimming at the pool first, followed by a run on the school field.

### Biathlon Individual Events – Year 0-3

1:00pm Year 3

1:30pm Year 2

2:00pm Year 1

### Distances

Year 1 2 lengths swim 3 laps run

Year 2 2 lengths swim 3 laps run

Year 3 3 lengths swim 4 laps run

There will be two girls and two boys races for each year group. Certificates will be awarded for the placegetters of each race at the Year 0-3 Celebration Assembly. Parents are invited to join us and cheer on your child. Please meet at the pool before moving to the school field for the run leg. Please be aware of our speedy runners when choosing your viewing spot.

## PhotoLife Photo Day

PhotoLife will be in school on **Wednesday 19 March** to take class photos, individual portraits and sibling portraits. PhotoLife flyers were sent home with students today detailing the process for viewing and ordering student photos online. All students will have their individual portrait taken and caregivers can choose to order packs containing a combination of class photos and individual portraits on the PhotoLife website using their child's individual photo key code. *Key codes are emailed to caregivers approximately two weeks after photo day.*



Should you wish your children to sit for a sibling portrait, please complete the sibling photo request form sent home today and return to the office drop box **BEFORE 19 March**. *Only one form is required per family.*

## Sports News

Winter netball and hockey teams are now being finalised. Team details will be notified via the school app. Volleyball registrations for Year 7-8 students are open. All relevant season information is available on the school website [sports page](#).

Volleyball (Years 7-8) **Registrations close Friday 28 March**

On completion of the registration form via *myKindo*, please check your email for an 'Order Confirmation' to ensure the registration has been received by the office. Registrations must be received by the closing date.

## Basketball

Expressions of interest for basketball teams for the 2025 season have now closed.

A ballot will held to randomly select players from all registrations and you will be notified of the outcome via the school app. A request for payment will be sent to successful players.



If you have any questions about basketball teams or the ballot process, please contact the Sport Co-Ordinator by email to [sport@bellblock.school.nz](mailto:sport@bellblock.school.nz) or phone the office on 755 0838.

## GALA NEWS



## Donations

A big thank you for all of the donations that have come in this week. We are still taking items for the White Elephant stall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8:25-8:55am at the old Tuck Shop (near the library). If you missed the classroom collections this week and were still wanting to contribute, we will gratefully take any additions on Wednesday next week, also at the old Tuck Shop.

### Important Ticket Info

The school Gala on 21 March from 5-7pm runs on a ticket system with food, games, activities and raffles all accepting tickets only. This makes for a super smooth process during the event. There are just a few exceptions to this including the food trucks and White Elephant stall. This year we are excited to offer additional ways to secure your tickets ahead of time. Note: 1 ticket = \$1.

Gala Tickets - purchasing options:

1. **Kindo pre-order** - You can pre-order Gala tickets from Friday 7 March - Thursday 20 March at 12 noon through Kindo. The pre-ordered tickets will be available for collection on Friday 21 March from 8.30am – 5.00pm from the school office and must be collected by an adult. Please show your Kindo receipt of purchase (phone or paper copy) to receive your tickets. *\*Please note that tickets cannot be refunded at any stage.*
2. **Pre-purchase tickets on the day** - You can also buy tickets directly from the school office by EFTPOS or cash from 8.30am - 4.30pm on Friday 21 March.
3. **At the event** - Tickets can also be purchased by EFTPOS or cash at the Gala ticket booth from 4.30pm – 7.00pm.



### Food

Come along hungry as dinner will be sorted on Gala Day! We have a delicious line up of food on offer with many local businesses joining us including the Bell Block Bakery, Smok'n Comrades, Hungry Bread, Tinklebell and VIBE Container/Van. There will also be pizza, American hotdogs, sausages, candy floss, ice blocks and drinks (drinks courtesy of Landmark Homes).



### Giveaway



Keen to win 30 tickets to use at the Gala? We currently have a giveaway running over on the Facebook event page, [click here to enter](#). Tell your friends and whānau about this amazing community event so get tagging!

### Facebook Event

Keep updated in the lead up to Gala through the [Facebook event](#) and stay tuned for an exciting giveaway coming soon!



**Conrad Hailes**  
Principal

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**BELL BLOCK UNITED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

Registrations for the 2025 season are open!

First Kicks (4 to 6yrs)  
Fun Football (7 & 8yrs)  
Mini Football (9-13 yrs)



Registrations close on 31 March 2025.

For more information or to enrol for the 2025 season please refer to our Facebook page 'Bell Block United Junior Football' or [email bellblockunited@gmail.com](mailto:bellblockunited@gmail.com)