

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #18
Thursday 19 June 2025



Focus Value:
Manaakitanga - Caring

School Goal:
Be a helping hand

It has been a short but busy week at Bell Block School. Our prospective Student Leaders have been presenting their speeches and classes have been voting on their preferred candidate for the second half of the year. I am always impressed by the number of students we have applying for roles and the quality of the speeches they present. It is always such a hard decision and with limited places we always have very capable students who miss out. Although disheartening at the time, students continue to show their quality and bounce back quickly.

As the term comes to a close, we would like to thank Mrs Rhonda Sarten for her work as a Teacher Aide in our kura. After 28 years of service to our students and community, Rhonda has decided that the time is right for her to retire. Rhonda has worked with many students that needed additional support across the school with care and dedication. We wish her all the best for a relaxing retirement.

Next week will also be the last week for Mrs Janine van den Berg who is moving out of the province with her family at the end of this term. I would like to thank Janine for all her work in a number of roles during her time with us. Fortunately, we have been able to employ Mrs Cassie Batten to join our team as the new Room 20 teacher and we warmly welcome her to our school community.

Our Year 5 and 6 students had another sports exchange with our neighbours at Puketapu School. The students hosted our guests and played well in the traditional Bell Block derby. The victories were shared and we look forward to playing them again next year. This coming week we will host Stratford Primary School for our final sports exchange in this series. Games start at 12:00pm – please do join us if you’re able and cheer on the teams.

All classes across the school will be having their team Celebration Day next week to recognise all the amazing students who live our school motto every day. Your child will be able to share with you the activities that are planned for their celebration.

The term will come to a close on Friday with our Celebration Assemblies and we welcome you to join us in recognising our award winners.

Have a great long Matariki weekend and we will see all the students back on Monday for the final week of Term 2.

Looking Ahead

	Monday 23 June	Tuesday 24 June	Wednesday 25 June	Thursday 26 June	Friday 27 June
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lost Property on display 12:00 Interschool Game vs Stratford (Home) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club Outdoor Academy – TOPEC Pizza Day 1:40 Kapa Haka Group Practice Yarrows Cookie Order Collection Day 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 9:00 New Entrants' Transition Visit 9:30 Celebration Assembly Year 4-8 10:00 Celebration Assembly Year 0-3 Last day of Term 2

Matariki Holiday – Friday 20 June

A reminder that school is closed tomorrow, Friday 20 June, for Matariki public holiday.

Footpath Replacement – 18-24 June

We have been informed by the New Plymouth District Council that they need to replace the concrete footpath between the hall and the school boundary fence. The work has been delayed and will now commence on Monday 23 June (weather permitting) and is due to be completed by Friday 27 June.

Milk Top Challenge

Next week is the last chance to bring all your milk bottle tops to school. Please bring as many lids as you can from your 1, 2 or 3 litre dairy milk and cream bottles - washed and air dried. The big collection box is just inside the office door – let's see if we can fill it before Friday! Thank you to everyone who has supported this venture from their home or workplace.



Pizza Day – Wednesday 25 June



Pizza Day is on Wednesday 25 June to raise funds for the Student Council Legacy Project. Please place your orders via [Kindo](#) by **Sunday 22 June 2025**.

Lost Property

Our growing pile of lost property will be on display on **Tuesday 24 June** so please have a look outside Room 1 to see if you can reclaim any missing items. Classes will be taken to view it and parents are welcome to have a look as well. Any items left at the end of term will be donated to charity. It is wise to name clothes, especially sweatshirts and jackets, as these are often put down during breaks and forgotten about.



Notifying Caregivers of Head Injuries



From next term, there will be a change to the way we notify caregivers about student head injuries. Currently, our practice is to contact caregivers by phone for all head injuries. Moving forward, minor head injuries will instead be communicated via a **text message** sent to the child's caregivers. This will help us streamline communication while continuing to keep you informed.

We kindly ask that caregivers reply to the text message to acknowledge receipt. If you require further information about the head knock, please contact the school office directly who will be happy to discuss with you. Any injuries requiring immediate medical attention will continue to be escalated via a phone call to caregivers.

ICAS International Exam Opportunities

Each year, we offer the opportunity for our Year 3-8 students to take part in the ICAS exam programme run by the University of New South Wales in Australia. This consists of separate online exams in Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics in August and September. 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. There is a cost to parents for each exam. For more information about ICAS please click [here](#). To enter one or more exams, simply visit the Parent Payment Portal [here](#) and enter the access code EFJ836 **by Friday 25 July**.

PTA Fundraiser - Yarrows & Loaf Orders – Wednesday 25 June

A big thank you to everyone who ordered cookies, croissants or mini bites! Your goodies will be available for collection from the old Tuck Shop (near the library) from **3pm on Wednesday 25 June**. Reminder: many of these items come frozen so this is the only window to pick up your orders. If you have any difficulty with this, please contact us at pta@bellblock.school.nz.

Thanks again for supporting us to help raise money for the upcoming school camps in 2026. We are pleased to be able to help bring down some of the costs.



Term 3 Volleyball – Year 7/8



Registrations for Year 7/8 winter volleyball in Term 3 **close on Friday 27 June**. Please register via [Kindo](#) [here](#).

Ryan Hailes Memorial Scholarship 2025

We're proud to congratulate **Skye Ramsay**, recipient of the Ryan Hailes Memorial Scholarship for Term 2 for her outstanding achievements in sport. Skye has been training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) for three years, competing in events around New Zealand and consistently earning top results. Most recently, Skye claimed a gold medal at the New Zealand BJJ Nationals in her age group — a testament to her dedication and discipline. She also competed in the NZUTA Open Taekwondo competition, where she once again earned a gold medal in her division. We are pleased to support Skye in her sporting journey and look forward to seeing where her talent and determination takes her next.



High School Enrolments 2026

The process for enrolling Year 8 students for high school is soon to begin. Caregivers are responsible for organising the enrolment of their children at their preferred high school. We are happy to assist with co-ordinating promotional visits and enrolment interviews for **New Plymouth Girls' High School** and **New Plymouth Boys' High School** here at school, however open days and visits to the high schools are the responsibility of caregivers.

Promotional visits to the Year 8 students will take place as follows:

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| ○ New Plymouth Boys' High School | Tuesday 15 July |
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Open Evenings are as scheduled:

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| ○ New Plymouth Boys' High School | Wednesday 23 July | 3:30pm & 4:30pm – 6:00pm |
| ○ New Plymouth Girls' High School | Thursday 24 July | 3:30pm - 6:30pm |

If your preferred school is not included above, caregivers will be required to make contact with schools directly to arrange tours and enrolment.

Enrolment interviews will take place at Bell Block School:

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| ○ New Plymouth Boys' High School | Tuesday 12 August | 9:00am - 11:30am |
| ○ New Plymouth Girls' High School | Tuesday 12 August | 9:00am - 11:30am |

Enrolment interviews for NPBHS and NPGHS are booked by caregivers online – information for booking and a prospectus will be forwarded to caregivers from the high schools by Term 3.

Caregivers are required to attend enrolment interviews with students, and must complete an enrolment application prior to the interview. If you are unable to attend enrolment interviews on the scheduled dates, please contact the high school directly to arrange an interview on an alternate day.

Transition visits for Bell Block School Year 8 students:

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| ○ New Plymouth Boys' High School | Monday 17 November | 11:00am – 12:00pm |
| ○ New Plymouth Girls' High School | Monday 17 November | 11:00am – 12:00pm |

Conrad Hailes
Principal