

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #22
Friday 1 August 2025



Focus Value:
 Responsibility - Takohanga

School Goal:
 Be prepared for learning
 every day

This week we've had a number of students and staff away due to winter illness. With the ongoing teacher shortage, finding relievers can be a challenge, so we appreciate everyone's flexibility and understanding. We continue to remind students about the importance of washing their hands regularly and coughing into their elbows to reduce the spread of illness.

Our annual sports team photos were held this week for both summer and winter codes. It was great to see so many of our coaches and managers make it along for their team photos. We are so grateful for the time, commitment and energy you give to supporting our students through sport – thank you.

We're pleased to welcome back our Reading in Schools volunteers this term. These wonderful helpers work one-on-one with our Year 0–4 tamariki, giving them valuable opportunities to practice their reading and build positive connections with adults in our wider community. The sessions are always a highlight.

Our Kapa Haka rōpū is beginning preparations for the upcoming Puanga Festival in late October. During practice this week, we were excited to welcome Kodie, a young leader from our local community, who worked with our boys on their haka performance. It was a powerful experience that helped build their confidence and presence on stage.

Looking Ahead

	Monday 4 August	Tuesday 5 August	Wednesday 6 August	Thursday 7 August	Friday 8 August
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club ICAS Writing Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICAS Digital Technologies Exam 5:30 Parent Literacy Information Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 1:40 Kapa Haka Group Practice 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club LEAD Conference 9:00 New Entrants' Transition Visit 9:30 Year 4-8 Celebration Assembly 10:00 Year 0-3 Celebration Assembly
	Monday 11 August	Tuesday 12 August	Wednesday 13 August	Thursday 14 August	Friday 15 August
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICAS English Exam Enrolment Interviews NPBHS & NPGHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 1:40 Kapa Haka Group Practice 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 9:00 New Entrants' Transition Visit

Literacy Information Evening – Tuesday 5 August at 5:30pm

We warmly invite all whānau to join us for our Literacy Information Evening in the school hall on Tuesday 5 August at 5:30pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to see, hear, and experience the teaching and learning happening through Structured Literacy at Bell Block School.

We're excited to welcome Esmee Elias-Tito, our Learning Matters consultant, who will present the research behind this evidence-based approach and explain the key components that shape how we currently teach reading and spelling.

After the presentation, you'll have the chance to explore examples of teacher and student resources showcasing our scope and sequence, classroom activities that reinforce spelling concepts, the texts we use to support reading development, and more. Teachers will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

He waka eke noa – we're all in this together. Come along and learn how you can support your child's literacy journey!

A reminder that nominations are open for the election of five parent representatives to the Bell Block School Board. Don't forget to put your name forward if you are interested in standing as a candidate. Nominations close at **noon on Wednesday 6 August 2025**.

You can nominate yourself or someone in your community to stand as a candidate. Nomination forms are available from the school app under 'Documents' or from the school office. Completed forms should be delivered to the school office or emailed to returning.officer@bellblock.school.nz. You may provide a candidate statement and photograph with your nomination.



There is a list of candidates' names on display in the office and the list is updated as nominations are received.

The electoral roll is held at the school office and is available for inspection during normal school hours.

Standing for election to the School Board is a great way to get involved in your child's education and be part of some of the most important decision making for Bell Block School. The Board is elected by members of the school community to ensure that the school community has a voice in how its school operates. The Board's core role is to govern the school. Here is a [video link](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Returning Officer, Andrea Crowe. Email returning.officer@bellblock.school.nz

Cross Country – 25/26 August

Our annual schoolwide cross country events will be held in Week 7. The Year 0-3 Junior Cross Country will be held on **Monday 25 August** on the school field and the Year 4-8 students will run on **Tuesday 26 August** at the Mangati Walkway. Parents are encouraged to attend and cheer on their runners. Further information and timing details will follow.

Oral Health Education

As part of our health curriculum, we were fortunate to have Nicole from the Community Oral Health Service visit each class this week to share practical tips on caring for teeth and making healthy food choices. A big thank you to Mrs Charlton for organising this visit. Nicole taught our students how to brush correctly and explained that lollies, doughnuts, juice, flavoured milk and fizzy drinks are "sometimes" foods/drinks because they contain a lot of sugar. We need to be careful of sugary foods like roll-ups, muesli bars and dried fruit because they stick to our teeth causing harm. When sugar mixes with dental plaque, it creates acid—and if acid sits on our teeth for too long, it can cause holes (tooth decay).



We also learned that when we are aged six years old and over, we only need a pea-sized amount of toothpaste when brushing our teeth. Brushing twice a day—once in the morning and once before bed—for two minutes each time is the key to keeping our teeth clean and strong.

School Gates

A reminder that during the school day our gates are locked to ensure the safety of our students. If entering the grounds during the school day, please use the main gate next to the shops which is always unlocked.

Attendance

With the government's continued focus on attendance, as a school we too, continue to monitor attendance and expect that all students attend school regularly. **During Term 2, 72% of Bell Block School students attended school regularly** (regularly = at least 90% of the time).

This term we are pleased to acknowledge the efforts of 122 students who attended school every day during Term 2. 100% attendance is determined by following the Ministry of Education guidelines for being present at school. Attendance codes included in the calculation are Late to Class, Approved External Appointment and Board Approved Offsite Learning.

It is expected that appointments and trips are scheduled for outside school hours and during school holidays. *Any planned absence from school of more than five days must be notified to the Principal via email in advance.* Parents can expect to be contacted by their child's teacher or our Attendance Officer if their child has been absent from school on multiple occasions.

It can be difficult to know whether your child is too ill to attend school. Te Whatu Ora advice is that healthy young children can have up to 8-12 colds or upper respiratory tract infections each year and these are a normal part of childhood. If in doubt, your child should attend school – often they will feel better after arrival.

Student attendance (along with effective teaching) has the greatest impact on student engagement and achievement. We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our students in school, on time, every day. We are building life skills, friendships and preparing your child for future success.

Every day of school matters.

Arriving Late/Leaving Early

A reminder that students arriving after 8:55am must sign in at the office and take the late slip to their teacher. We appreciate students being on time every day so they have time to get settled before the school day begins and are not missing out on important information relevant to the day ahead.

If students must leave school early they must be signed out by a caregiver at the office. Students will not be permitted to leave school during the day without a caregiver. If someone other than a caregiver (or emergency contact) is collecting your child early, please notify the office in advance or your child will not be released from school.

Term 4 Sports

Registrations are now open for Term 4 school sports teams.



Touch	Years 1-8
Cricket	Years 1-8
Hockey	Years 3-6
Netball	Years 1-2

Registrations close on FRIDAY 29 AUGUST at 11.59pm. Payment must be made at the time of registration via the [myKindo](#) app. If you are having difficulty making payment, please contact the office before the deadline to discuss alternative arrangements.

Full information including season dates is available on the school website www.bellblock.school.nz
If you have any queries, please email sport@bellblock.school.nz or telephone the office on 755 0838.

Touch Rugby

Touch rugby is open to all ages, boys and girls. Games are played on a Wednesday afternoon at Hickford Park. Fees \$50-60.

Cricket

Cricket is open to all ages, boys and girls. Games are played on a Friday evening at 5.30pm or a Saturday morning at 9am (depending on grade) at various grounds around New Plymouth. Fees \$30.

Hockey

Summer hockey is available for players in Years 3-6 only. Games are played on a Saturday morning at the New Plymouth turf on Hobson Street. Fees \$50-\$60.

Netball

Term 4 netball is for players in Year 1 and 2 only. This is a great introduction to netball for our youngest players and the focus for this age group is on exploring netball. Games are played on Wednesdays, 4 aside on 1/3 court size. With a small team and small space to play, your child will have many opportunities to have their hands on the ball, increasing their involvement and fun. It allows players to catch, pass and shoot from day one – a programme designed just for them. There is no charge to participate.

Volunteer Coaches/Managers



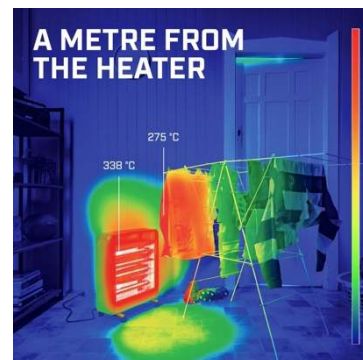
We are always on the lookout for willing volunteers to coach or manage our sports teams. Please consider putting your hand up if you're able to as we rely heavily on adult volunteers in order for the teams to go ahead. Email your expression of interest to sport@bellblock.school.nz

Lunchonline Subway Promotion



Emily Doelman
Acting Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES



TARANAKI COMMUNITY RUGBY

NORTH TRIAL DATES

 ROSS BROWN <small>2024 COMMUNITY RUGBY</small>	3RD AUGUST @1PM	VOGELTOWN PARK
 CONRAD SMITH <small>2024 COMMUNITY RUGBY</small>	3RD AUGUST @1PM	VOGELTOWN PARK
 MICHAELA BLYDE <small>2024 COMMUNITY RUGBY</small>	9TH AUGUST @2PM 16TH AUGUST @2PM	VOGELTOWN PARK
 KENDRA COCKSEDGE <small>2024 COMMUNITY RUGBY</small>	NO TRIAL - COACHES ARE COLLECTING NOMINATIONS	CONTACT BENS@TRFU.CO.NZ

The Taranaki Rugby Football Union (TRFU) is hosting its annual 'Junior Rugby Festival' during the period of the Friday 12th September to Sunday 14th September. The competition is to be held at Clifton Rugby and Sports Club.

The festival is a highlight of the junior rugby calendar in Taranaki and attracts a large number of players, coaches, and supporters. It's a chance to witness the next generation of Taranaki rugby talent showcasing their skills and rugby passion.

The festival is made up of four (4) grades of representative rugby teams:

- Ross Brown: Open weight rugby – Year 7-8 students
- Conrad Smith: Restricted weight but <55kg – Year 7-8 students
- Kendra Cocksedge: Girls U16
- Michaela Blyde: Girls U13

Expressions of interest are sought from rugby players in Year 7-8 who are interested in trialling for the Ross Brown and Conrad Smith grades NORTH squad.

Please complete [this registration form](#) by Friday 1 August 2025.