

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #35
Friday 14 November 2025

Focus Value:
Tū Māia – Standing Brave



School Goal:
Be brave enough to
give things a go

I would like to start by thanking all of our community who filled in the Community Consultation Questionnaire over the last few weeks. We are a community school and your feedback helps us to focus on areas for improvement and build on what is going well. We appreciate the time and consideration that was shown in the feedback. We will begin analysing the responses as we develop our plans for 2026 and beyond.

On Monday, our teachers undertook a second day of training with the updated mathematics curriculum. We acknowledge the inconvenience this Teacher Only Day may have caused for our community and appreciate your understanding and support. We continue to work hard to ensure we are able to deliver the best possible learning programmes during this time of change in education.

End-of-year assessments continue next week and it has been really pleasing to hear about the progress our students have made throughout the year. Our teaching and learning programmes will continue as usual to maximise the learning for our students as we head towards the end of the year.

The end of term is always an exciting time as we celebrate the hard work and success of our students while also fitting in the many special events that come with the end of the year.

Looking Ahead

	Monday 17 November	Tuesday 18 November	Wednesday 19 November	Thursday 20 November	Friday 21 November
Week 7	8:00 Breakfast Club 11:00 Year 8 Visit to NPBHS & NPGHS	Pack the Bus	8:00 Breakfast Club - Kapa Haka Group Practice - Year 0-3 Athletics (Year 4 Long Jump)	Year 4-8 Athletics and Sprint Finals	8:00 Breakfast Club 9:00 New Entrants' Transition Visit 9:30 Year 4-8 Celebration Assembly 10:00 Year 0-3 Celebration Assembly
	Monday 24 November	Tuesday 25 November	Wednesday 26 November	Thursday 27 November	Friday 28 November
Week 8	8:00 Breakfast Club - Swimming starts - Year 4-8 Athletics Postponement Day	- Year 0-3 Athletics Postponement Day - Road Patrol Celebration Trip	8:00 Breakfast Club - Student Leader Speeches 11:00 Community Helpers' Morning Tea 12:15 Sports Assembly Year 4-8 - Kapa Haka Group Practice	5:00 Board Meeting	8:00 Breakfast Club 9:00 New Entrants' Transition Visit

Honours Badge Achievement

Congratulations to our Year 8 students, **Charlotte Russell, Connie Upton-Fleming and Zack Green**, who have been awarded their Honours Badge. This recognition celebrates their outstanding dedication, effort and citizenship as ākonga of Bell Block School. We are very proud of their achievement.

Pack the Bus – Tuesday 18 November

On Tuesday 18 November, our school and community will be supporting four local charities and Taranaki families in need with the *Pack the Bus* event.

If you are able to bring along one of the following donations, it would be very much appreciated.

- non-perishable food item
- new unwrapped children's gift
- cat/kitten food
- dog/puppy food

The donations will be collected and distributed to *On The House*, *Roderique Hope Trust*, *Taranaki Animal Protection Trust* and *We Love Dogs Charitable Trust*. Donations may be dropped off to the Pīwaiwaka Room near Room 13 on Monday or Tuesday. Thank you for your support.

Athletics Days

Our schoolwide Athletics Days are coming up and, once again, we invite our families to come along and see their children in action. Events in both track and field will take place and the students will be giving their best across several events and relays. It is always a great couple of days and we look forward to many of our families being able to support the students and their efforts.

* Years 0-3 – Wednesday 19 November (Postponement date 25 November)

The Year 0-3 students have their Athletics Day on Wednesday 19 November where they will participate in long jump, agility/hurdles, shot put and sprints on the school field.

* Year 4 – Wednesday 19 November & Thursday 20 November

Our Year 4 students will have their long jump event on Wednesday 19 November from 12:00pm until 1:00pm. On Thursday 20 November, the Year 4 students will participate in high jump, shot put, discus and fun hurdles from 9:15am until 11:10am. Pre-determined finalists will compete in sprints from 1:55pm. Heats have been held during class time so that the fastest eight finalists can be determined. You may wish to check with your child to see if they have qualified for a sprint final. Class and whānau relays will be held from 2:20pm.

* Years 5-8 – Thursday 20 November (Postponement date 24 November)

All Year 5-8 students will take part on Thursday 20 November in high jump, long jump, shot put and discus. The highly anticipated 100m and 200m sprint finals will be held from 1.55pm. Sprint heats are held during class time so that the fastest eight finalists for each year group and gender can be determined. You may wish to check with your child to see whether they have qualified for the 100m or 200m sprint final.

Wednesday 19 November

12:00pm-1:00pm	Year 4 Long Jump
1:30pm-3:00pm	Year 0-3 Team (Rooms 1-8)

Thursday 20 November

9:15am-11:10am	Year 4-6 Team (Rooms 9-14)
11:30am-1:25pm	Year 7-8 Team (Rooms 16-20)
From 1.55pm	Sprint Finals 100m & 200m (Years 4-8 finalists)
Approx. 2.20pm	Class and Whānau Relays (Years 4-8)

Sports Assembly – Wednesday 26 November

Certificates for Year 4-8 placegetters from our Athletics Days will be presented at a special Sports Assembly on **Wednesday 26 November at 12:15pm**. Whānau are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate our students' achievements and sporting success.



Parafed Taranaki and Halberg Foundation Visit

Yesterday some of our classes were lucky to have a visit from Molly at Parafed Taranaki and Max from the Halberg Foundation. Our students learnt about wheelchair sports and got to experience what it's like to face physical challenges and find new ways to move. It really made us think about how everyone can take part in sport — just in different ways! It was such a fun and eye-opening experience. Our students enjoyed taking turns in the wheelchairs, racing around, playing games, and challenging themselves to think and act differently. A huge thank you to Molly and Max for visiting Bell Block School and helping us learn more about inclusion, empathy, and accessible sport.



Pizza Day – Wednesday 10 December

Our final Pizza Day for the year will be held on Wednesday 10 December to raise funds for the Student Council Legacy Project. Please note that the Meatlovers pizza is no longer available. Pizza flavours on offer are Hawaiian, Pepperoni and Cheese. Orders may be placed via the [myKindo](#) app and will close on **Sunday 7 December 2025**.

Sun Safety



School sun hats are compulsory during break times in Term 4 and Term 1. Hats are available for purchase on [myKindo](#) for \$16.50 and will be delivered to the student's classroom. Students not wearing a hat will be encouraged to play in the shade. Sunscreen is also very important and is provided for the students by our PTA.



@school App - Notifications



The @school app is our main form of communication from school to home. Please ensure that you are logged in and receiving notifications. Notifications can be received either by email or by push notification to your phone – or both! Click on the three dots in the top right of the app and Settings to check which notifications are enabled for each child. If you need assistance with your UserID or password, please contact the office by email to office@bellblock.school.nz who will be happy to help.

Yummy Apple Stickers

Thank you to everyone who saved and collected the Yummy stickers from their apples. With your support we have earned over \$500 worth of new sports equipment for the school! Being active makes a huge difference in the lives and wellbeing of our tamariki and having new sports equipment provides much enjoyment during break times.



Bell Block School Board – Vacancy for Parent Representative

A vacancy exists on the school Board for a fifth parent/community representative. If you are interested in the position, please send an email to the Board Secretary kim.hill@bellblock.school.nz by 21 November 2025. Please include an outline of your connection to the school and community, and relevant skills/experience to assist the Board in voting for a new representative. Here is a useful webinar outlining the role of a parent representative: <https://vimeo.com/807796713>. The Board will select the new representative in its November meeting on 27 November.

Final Prizegiving – Wednesday 10 December at 6:30pm

This year, our whole school Final Prizegiving will be held in Ryder Hall at New Plymouth Boys' High School. With our roll size, this venue provides space for our whole school community to come together. We hope that by sharing this date early, whānau can make arrangements to join us as we celebrate our amazing students and wrap up a wonderful year. Students will need to arrive by 6:00pm and Prizegiving will start at 6:30pm.

Term Dates 2026

TERM	START OF TERM	END OF TERM
1	Monday 2 February	Thursday 2 April
2	Monday 20 April	Friday 3 July
3	Monday 20 July	Friday 25 September
4	Monday 12 October	Wednesday 16 December

Conrad Hailes
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES:



FREE! Junior Cricket Years 1 - 4

NORTH TARANAKI HUBS

H	NEW PLYMOUTH OLD BOYS CC
U	THURSDAYS: 4.00-5.00pm
B	4 WEEKS, 6 NOV - 11 DEC (2 reserve weeks)
1	WESTERN PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH



H WOODLEIGH CRICKET CLUB

U THURSDAYS: 4.00-5.00pm

B 4 WEEKS, 6 NOV - 11 DEC (2 reserve weeks)

2 SUTHERLAND PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH

H NEW PLYMOUTH MARIST UNITED CC

U THURSDAYS: 5.15 - 6.15pm

B 4 WEEKS, 6 NOV - 11 DEC (2 reserve weeks)

3 LYNMOUTH PARK, NEW PLYMOUTH

TARANAKI CRICKET

TO FIND OUT MORE SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT:
<https://www.taranakicricket.co.nz/programmes/taranaki-smash-play-2025-26>

TO FIND OUT MORE SCAN QR CODE:

SCAN ME

