

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #36

Friday 21 November 2025

Focus Value:

Tū Māia – Standing Brave



School Goal:

Keep going,
even when it's hard

With the excitement of our Athletics Days and fantastic support from our families, the students gave it their all this week. Our Year 0-3 students started the athletics with their efforts across a range of activities, many doing five or more of the sprints during their rotation. It was also nice to see the encouragement of the older students as our youngest students lived our motto, *kaha i ngā wā katoa*. The Year 4-8 students also showed some impressive performances across both the field and running events. Well done to everyone who made the finals and all the students who just got out there and gave it their best efforts. Thanks also to our local Police for the free sausage sizzle they provided adding to the day. Results will be published in next week's newsletter and awards for Year 4-8 placegetters will be presented at the Sports Assembly on 26 November at 12:15pm.



The learning involved in our schoolwide inquiry unit on *Forces* is being put to the test with the students now building arcade games and tracks that show and test what they have learnt. Thank you for the support with all the cardboard that has been flooding into school over the past few weeks. We are inviting our families to come in and see what the students have created on **Wednesday 3 December**. More information about this day and the times will be shared shortly. We hope you can join us to give the students an audience to share their learning and creations.

We ended the week with the second to last Celebration Assemblies of the year. Well done to all the students who are still giving their best that were recognised with awards this week.

Piper Scrubsall, Nathan Collins, Hazel Guzuzu, Alexander Piwari, Neo Kendall, Théa Watson, Sachi Perez, Lucy Upton-Fleming, Konrad Turama, Novak Kendall, Saige Pullen, Eve Goldfinch, Nikau Russell, Sophie Trundle, Dallas Peters, Felix Evans, Liam Johns-King, Leo Bridger, Ruby Northcott, Adaline Bramley, Macie Crossan, Aubree Heal, Neiko Peattie, Dylan Franklin, Jah'Kahn Nicholls, Salote Mauga, Isla Turner, Jake Sanderson, Harmanjot Singh, Tyler Gu, Alex Ewing, Heath Logie, Harleen Sodhi, James Buckley

Practices continue for our Final Prizegiving which will be held on Wednesday 10 December at New Plymouth Boys' High School. Please join us if you are able as we present our class Endeavour Awards and school trophies.

Pack The Bus

On Tuesday, our school and community proudly supported four local charities through the *Pack the Bus* event. Thanks to the generosity of our families, we were able to contribute a wonderful collection of non-perishable food items, new children's gifts, cat food and dog food. The mascot, Perty the Mouse, delighted the students and was very grateful for all the donations. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed—your kindness makes a real difference.



Looking Ahead

	Monday 24 November	Tuesday 25 November	Wednesday 26 November	Thursday 27 November	Friday 28 November
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Breakfast Club • Swimming starts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Patrol Celebration Trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Breakfast Club • Student Leader Speeches • 11:00 Community Helpers' Morning Tea • 12:15 Sports Assembly Year 4-8 • Kapa Haka Group Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:00 Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Breakfast Club • 9:00 New Entrants' Transition Visit
Week 9	Monday 1 December	Tuesday 2 December	Wednesday 3 December	Thursday 4 December	Friday 5 December
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Breakfast Club 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Breakfast Club • Kapa Haka Group Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Academy – Paddleboarding & Kayaking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Breakfast Club • 9:30 Year 4-8 Celebration Assembly • 10:00 Year 0-3 Celebration Assembly • Reports published on school app

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.



Swimming Starts Next Week

Next week, our class programmes will include swimming sessions and these will continue for the remainder of the term. Classes will generally swim twice per week, with a strong focus on water safety—an essential skill as we head into the summer holidays. Swimming is part of the curriculum and all students are expected to participate unless the classroom teacher has been advised. Please check the timetable below for the days that your child needs to bring their togs and towel to school. Parent volunteers to take small groups of students are always welcome. If you are interested in volunteering to help your child's class, please make contact with the classroom teacher.

Bell Block School Swimming Timetable - Term 4 2025						
	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Inside Pool	12:15 - 1:00		Room 17 (2 lanes only)	Room 17 (2 lanes only)		
	1:40 - 2:20	Rooms 9/10	Rooms 19/20	Rooms 19/20	Rooms 11/12	Rooms 9/10
	2:20 - 3:00	Rooms 11/12	Rooms 13/14	Rooms 16/18	Rooms 16/18	Rooms 13/14
Outside Pool (Juniors)	12:15 - 1:00	Rooms 5/6	Rooms 7/8		Rooms 5/6	Rooms 7/8
	1:40 - 2:45	Rooms 1/4	Rooms 1/4		Rooms 2/3	Rooms 2/3

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. The Board will select the new representative in its November meeting on 27 November.

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**.



ICAS International Exam Results

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students in the recent ICAS international exams. ICAS exams are designed to challenge students and stretch their higher-order thinking skills. The questions are intentionally demanding, encouraging learners to think critically, apply knowledge in new ways, and push themselves to their academic limits. Achieving a merit, credit or distinction endorsement is an impressive accomplishment and it is great to see students from Bell Block School doing well.

Mathematics

Sophie Stretton	Credit
AJ Wilsonmanas	Merit
Dinuga Wickramanththri	Credit
Jasper Welton	Credit
Liam Harris	Merit

English

Liam Harris	Distinction
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Science

Jasper Welton	Credit
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Digital Technologies

Liam Harris	Credit
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Spelling Bee

Dinuga Wickramanththri	Credit
Liam Harris	Credit

Reminder: 2026 School Camps – Donations Open

We're excited to be offering enriching camp experiences for our Year 5-8 students in 2026.

Year 5-6 Students

4-6 March 2026 – 3-day camp
Vertical Horizon, Inglewood
Camp Donation: \$220

Year 7-8 Students

23-27 March 2026 – 5-day camp
El Rancho, Wellington
Camp Donation: \$595

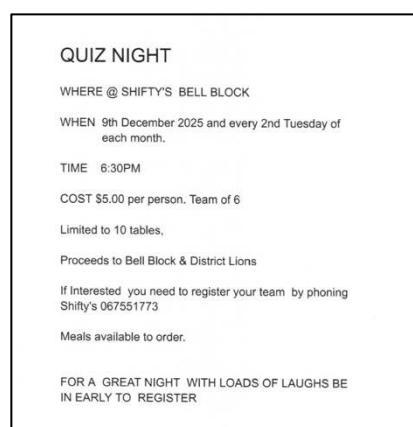
The Ministry of Education does not fund school camps or permit us to charge for them. However, we are able to accept voluntary donations to help cover the costs of providing these valuable learning opportunities.

We welcome camp donations to be made gradually over time. Please feel free to make part or full payment through your [Kindo](#) account at any time. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps us to continue offering memorable and meaningful experiences for our students.

Conrad Hailes

Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES:



PEAK MOMENT



MANAGING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR YOUR FAMILY: RULES, BOUNDARIES AND BIG EMOTIONS

Imagine your whānau is navigating social media challenges with confidence and connection.

You're setting boundaries calmly. Tamariki feel heard and supported. Screen time is balanced. Big emotions come and go.

What would that be like for you? Compared with now?

Whether kids are on social media or not, it's a good time to have a gentle conversation about rules and boundaries and what these might look like for your family.

Why? Because research shows that when parents set limits, monitor children's use and reduce their own social media activity, kids are less likely to have problems with social media.

Positive parenting strategies can create a calmer family atmosphere, leading to more fulfilling relationships, and better mental health for everyone.

Read Triple P's latest articles and find out how to [move beyond social media guilt and manage big emotions](#), and how to [set rules and boundaries that work for you](#).

And don't forget to check out their comprehensive [online courses](#).

Health New Zealand

Te Whatu Ora

Update on 2026 School-Based Immunisation Programme for Year 7 students

Kia ora,

We would like to inform you of some upcoming changes to the School Based Immunisation Programme (SBIP) for Year 7 students, which will come into effect in 2026.

As part of national changes to the immunisation schedule, Year 7 students will now be offered both their Boostrix (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Whooping cough booster) and HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccinations at the same time.

What this means for you and your year 7 child:

- The Public Health Nursing team will offer your child **both** immunisations on the same day in year 7 and no further immunisations will be required in year 8.
- Your child will bring home an immunisation consent form that will include **both** immunisations at the beginning of term 1 to return to school.

We understand that some students and parents will be apprehensive around this change. The Public Health Nursing team are committed to working closely with school-staff, students and whānau to alleviate any concerns, minimise disruption and maintain a smooth process for all involved.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Public Health Nurse.

Beta Climbing Gym Summer Holiday Programme 2025/2026

Starting from 22 Dec, each session runs from 9am-1pm, at Beta on Burton Street, Waiwhakaihio, New Plymouth.

Come in and see us, enquire on the website

www.betaclimbing.co.nz or

book through the links below:

[Betalings \(5-9yrs\)](#)

[Betakids \(10-13yrs\)](#)



Betalings
5 - 9yrs

Betakids
9 - 12 yrs

22 DEC
5 JAN
12 JAN
19 JAN
26 JAN

23 DEC
7 JAN
14 JAN
21 JAN
29 JAN

LIMITED
SPACES
AVAILABLE