

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #39

Friday 12 December 2025

Focus Value:
Tū Māia – Standing Brave



School Goal:
Believe in yourself

It has been a fun final week of term and a wonderful way to conclude the 2025 school year. It was a pleasure to recognise the efforts and achievements of so many of our students at our Final Prizegiving on Wednesday. We also farewelled our Year 8 students at their Graduation Dinner on Tuesday, and all teams have marked the end of term with their Celebration Days.

Finally, I would like to thank our Year 8 Leavers for their contributions to our school during their time here and we wish them every success for their time at high school and beyond.

Te Rā Whanaungatanga – Friday 30 January 2026

A reminder that we have our Te Rā Whanaungatanga day on Friday 30 January. Classrooms will be open **between 9:30am – 10:30am** and again between **11:00am – 12:30pm** for families to meet the teacher in a less formal setting, share information that will help our teacher get to know the students and begin to develop a strong relationship between school and home.



It will also provide students with an opportunity to see their new spaces, bring in stationery to ease the load on the first day of school and get their desks set up.

Whānau may come in at a time that suits you and go to the classrooms where staff will be waiting to welcome you. Please note that students must be accompanied by an adult.

First Day of School – Monday 2 February

We look forward to seeing all our students back for the first day of Term 1 on **Monday 2 February 2026**. School starts at 8:55am.

Back to School Stationery 2026

We've teamed up with OfficeMax MySchool to make your back-to-school stationery shop super easy. And if you order in December, you'll go in the draw to WIN one of five \$1000 cash prizes*.

Your child's class list is already loaded. Just go to myschool.co.nz. Simply add your details, check that you want everything on the list, then click and confirm - and OfficeMax MySchool will get it underway, with free delivery on orders over \$70*. *T&Cs apply, see myschool.co.nz for details.

We encourage you to order early to ensure your child has all their stationery requirements ready to go in plenty of time for the start of Term 1. So go ahead and beat the back-to-school rush, order today with OfficeMax MySchool and give them the best start possible.

OfficeMax MySchool

Order Back to School stationery now and beat the rush!

Class lists are ready to view at myschool.co.nz

Are You an Expert?

In 2026, we're planning to tap into the amazing skills and expertise within our whānau and community. Do you have a passion, talent, or area of knowledge you could share with our students? Whether it's science, arts, technology, sport, culture, or something completely different — we'd love to hear from you. We are keen to partner with you to enrich our students' learning experiences. If you're interested in being involved or sharing your expertise, please get in touch with us! Email courtney.goldsworthy@bellblock.school.nz

Sports – Term 1 2026

Early bird sports registrations will open in January. If your child would like to play touch, cricket or rippa rugby in Term 1, please check the Kindo app and feel free to complete the registration process during the holidays. There is a very tight turnaround for Term 1 sports as registrations will close very early in Term 1. Advance registration is always helpful for planning purposes. Please note payment is required at the time of purchase to complete the registration. Please check that you have received an Order Confirmation email to ensure the registration has been received.

Expressions of Interest – Coaching

We are looking for expressions of interest from anyone who is interested in coaching a school sports team in 2026. This allows us to plan ahead for the teams that we will be able to offer for our players. If you are interested in coaching, co-coaching, refereeing or umpiring, please click [here](#) to complete the expression of interest form. We welcome coaches for cricket, touch rugby, rippa rugby, netball, hockey, basketball and volleyball.

PTA News

What a buzz it was seeing so many of our school community out and about and in high spirits enjoying the Bell Block Christmas Parade and Market Day over the weekend. To all those who purchased popcorn, candy floss, raffle tickets, Year 7-8 Technology creations or got their faces painted - thank you. The funds raised from this will go directly towards 2026 school camps. Our heartfelt thanks also go out to those who helped out in any way, from setting up to manning stands throughout the event to the Year 7 and 8 students who did ALL of the face painting. Anyone who saw the beautifully painted faces among the crowds will agree they looked phenomenal and very professional, what a talented bunch of students we have!

Collectively, the PTA wish everyone a happy holidays and thank you all for your support this year. We always appreciate new faces, if you're thinking about joining the friendly team or have some fresh ideas – we'd love to hear from you! Please email pta@bellblock.school.nz See you in 2026.



End of Year

A reminder that school closes at 12:00 midday today. We would appreciate your timeliness in collecting your children from their classrooms.

As we head into the holidays, I would like to thank our staff, students, families and our community for another successful year at Bell Block School, and wish everyone a happy and safe summer break. We hope you enjoy a well-earned rest and time with whānau and friends, and we look forward to returning refreshed for an exciting 2026 year ahead.

Conrad Hailes
Principal



COMMUNITY NOTICES:

LEARN TO SAIL WITH WAITARA BOATING CLUB

Wed 7th, Thurs 8th & Wed 21st January 2026
10.30am - 2pm daily
followed by weekly coaching through Term 1

\$150 per child

Our learn to sail courses are designed to introduce children aged 9-14 years and their parents to the sport of sailing. Boats and buoyancy vests will be provided for the course and coaching in Term 1.

Participant numbers are limited so book your space today

waitaraboatingclub@gmail.com
For more information and registration contact www.sporty.co.nz/waitaraboating

TARANAKI DOWN SYNDROME GALA

Support the TDSA community at our annual fundraiser!
Family fun, great vibes, and **TRAIN RIDES ALL DAY LONG.**

PUKEKURA RAILWAY
CNR LIARDET AND GILBERT

10am - 2pm
Sat 24th Jan 2026

Specialty Stalls
Bouncy Castle
Food Stalls
Fun Games
Face Painting
& Much More!

EPIC HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

IS YOUR CHILD OR TEEN INTERESTED IN TECHNOLOGY?

JANUARY 2026
For beginner & advanced coders
Ages 9&10, 11&12, 13&14, 15 to adult
Fun, Free & Educational!
Sign up at codingnz.com/holidays