

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #38

Friday 5 December 2025

Focus Value:
Tū Māia – Standing Brave



School Goal:
Believe in yourself

With a busy Week 9 now behind us, we have officially reached the final week of the 2025 school year.

Today we held our final Celebration Assembly of the year and it was our first opportunity to gather together as a whole school. We have missed being able to have the whole school together in the hall and it has certainly not felt the same running two separate assemblies each time. Fortunately, following an independent review, the council has agreed to reinstate the hall's original capacity limit of 660. This means that moving forward, we will once again be able to welcome our full school community into our Celebration Assemblies.

At today's assembly, we awarded our final Triple A and Values Awards for 2025. Well done to all the students who received these awards today and over the year.

Finn Simpson, Ataahua Nicholls, Ihaiia Russell, Sunema Simi, Riley Verveer, Alliyah Parayno, Meila Christiansen, Maddison Jupp, Taniora Cassidy, Harper Korff, Tame White, Chester Mattson, Harper Daniels, Amelia Williams, Kingsley Yang, Lily-Belle Te Whata, Emily Cooper, Likith Vadapalli, Zack Green, Atticus Doelman, Ashlyn-Rose Newport, Charlotte Bryan, Dembae Walsham, Jahraz Adamson, Khyrah Nicholls, Aubree Forbes-Knott, Grayson Whelan, Miane Laubscher, Allex Lockley-Marsh, Jacob Chapman, Lexie Old, Edi Coster, Layla Mann, Camaro Swan, Shyla Drummond, Chloe Bishop, Olivia Davis, Pippa Welton

We also presented our final two Honours Badges for 2025 to our Year 8 students, **Odyn Adlam** and **Maatai Taogaga**, who have spent the last two years working towards this achievement. This recognition celebrates their outstanding dedication, effort and citizenship as ākonga of Bell Block School. Well done to Odyn and Maatai and all the students who received Honours Badges this year.

Staff Acknowledgement

On Wednesday, as part of our farewell to departing staff, we unveiled a tree recognising the 28 years of service given to our school and its students by Teacher Aide, **Rhonda Sarten**, who retired earlier this year. In recognition of her service, we have planted an Evergreen Ash at the football field end of the senior playground, replacing the tree lost during Cyclone Gabrielle. On behalf of all the students and our school community, we thank Rhonda for her work and dedication. We also congratulate Miss Sharon Jones who has successfully completed her work as a beginning teacher and has now achieved her full registration. Well done, Sharon.

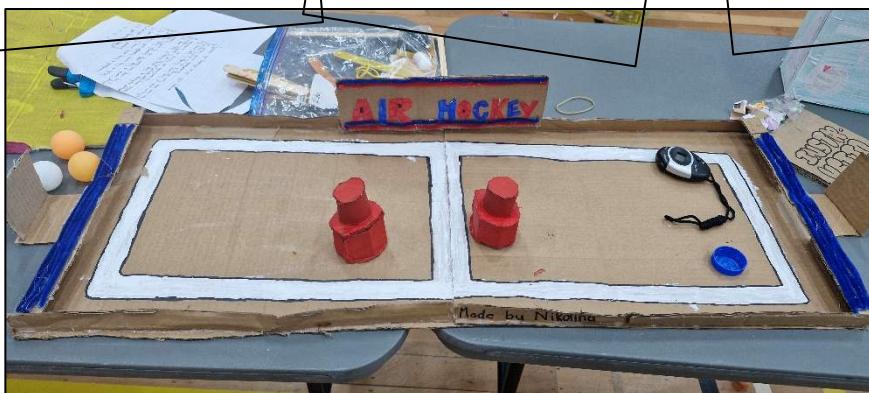


Looking Ahead

Week 10	Monday 8 December	Tuesday 9 December	Wednesday 10 December	Thursday 11 December	Friday 12 December
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Breakfast Club • 10:30 Kapa Haka & Year 7-8 Prizegiving Practice Trip to NPBHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Property on display • Hearing & Vision Screening • Year 0-3 Celebration Day • 5:45 Year 8 Graduation Dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Breakfast Club • Pizza Day • 9:30 Meet the 2026 Teacher • Year 7-8 Celebration Day • 6:00 Final Prizegiving & 2026 Student Leader announcements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of swimming for Term 4 • Year 4-6 Celebration Day 	<p>Last day of the school year</p> <p>SCHOOL CLOSES AT 12 NOON</p>

Arcade Game Day – Learning Inquiry ‘Forces’

It was an absolute pleasure to see the engagement of the students and our community at the Arcade Game Day on Wednesday. The students took so much pride in the games they had thoughtfully created and, most of all, were able to talk about the forces they had used in the creation and application of their designs. The hall was packed with students and whānau having fun trying all the variations, designs and styles of arcade games that our students presented. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend and provide an audience for the students and thank you to the students for the learning and hard work that went into these creations. It was a great way to finish this unit of learning and our school year.



From the Bell Block School Board

Our Board had its regular meeting last week and would like to share the following message with you:

As you may be aware, recent changes to the Education and Training Act have removed the legal requirements for school boards to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. However, our commitment to honouring and upholding Te Tiriti remains unwavering. At Bell Block School, we uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a living partnership founded on equity, dignity, and respect for all peoples – not merely a symbolic or procedural commitment. As such, Te Tiriti will continue to be woven into the fabric of our kura as a regular part of what we do. While we are no longer required to report our tikanga mō te kura to the Ministry, our school values, direction, and community-developed events will remain unchanged.

Over many years we have worked closely with Te Atiawa iwi and Puketapu hapū to develop our tikanga, programmes and school to meet the needs of all learners, develop a strong connection to our place and for our students to have a sense of belonging that lasts well after they have left our school, moved on to high school and beyond.

At our school, the values of *Whakaute – Respect, Manaakitanga - Caring, Takohanga – Responsibility, and Tū Māia - Standing Brave*, again developed by our community, are deeply aligned with the principles of partnership, participation and protection that underpin Te Tiriti. The Board and school believe that upholding Te Tiriti within the educational context enables all ākonga and their whānau to be successful. Our policies, practices and everyday actions will continue to reflect Te Tiriti through our inclusion of te reo Māori, tikanga, mātauranga Māori and commitment to inclusive approaches that honour all whānau.

Our curriculum is already grounded in culturally responsive pedagogy, localised curriculum and ongoing professional development to build the cultural capacity of all kaiako. We are also committed to building strong relationships with Te Atiawa iwi and Puketapu hapū. Together, these commitments will continue to embed Te Tiriti throughout the daily life and direction of our kura.

Vision and Hearing Screening

Vision and hearing screening is completed by Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Vision and Hearing Technicians at our school. **The technician will be visiting our school on Tuesday 9 December** to test eligible children for vision and/or hearing. Eligible children include:

- **New Entrants**

Routine screening is completed for children who are new to school, and/or have not completed their B4 School Check and/or require further testing post B4 School Check.

- **Year 7 Students**

Routine vision screening is completed for all Year 7 students and Year 8 students who have not completed the Year 7 screening and/or students that require further testing.

If you have any queries or concerns, or do not wish for your child to have this screening done, please contact the school office.

Lost Property

Our lost property will be on display on **Tuesday 9 December**. 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 encouraged to have a look as well. Any items left at the end of term will be donated to charity.



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. Orders via the [myKindo](#) app. Orders close this **Sunday 7 December 2025**.

If your child is absent on Wednesday and has ordered pizza, please contact the office to advise alternative arrangements for their order.

Breakfast Club

A reminder that the final day of Breakfast Club for the year is **Wednesday 10 December**. There is no Breakfast Club on Friday 12 December.

Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 10 December

Our Meet the Teacher morning will be held this Wednesday 10 December from 9:30am -11:00am and will provide students with an opportunity to meet their teacher in their 2026 classroom with the 2026 class.

Te Rā Whanaungatanga – Friday 30 January 2026

Early next year we will also hold our *Te Rā Whanaungatanga* day again. This was introduced at the beginning of this year and was well received by both our community and staff as a way of settling students into the new year and reducing the anxiety of the first few days of school.

Whanaungatanga is about creating family connection. It is built through shared experiences, getting to know each other and working together throughout the year.



Our *Te Rā Whanaungatanga* will provide families with the opportunity to come to school with their child and meet the teacher in a less formal setting, share information about the child 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. We hope this will assist students to feel more settled at a time that some students find uncomfortable.

Classrooms will be open on **Friday 30 January between 9:30am – 10:30am** and again between **11:00am – 12:30pm**. 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

The first day of Term 1 is **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 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. #Zip Pay in 4 is available to approved applicants only and subject to completion of satisfactory credit checks. For more information visit myschool.co.nz/zip. T&Cs and late fees apply. Zip Co NZ Finance Limited FSP 598969.

OfficeMax
MySchool

Order
Back to
School
stationery
now and
**beat the
rush!**

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

You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Zip# is also available, so you can pay in four interest free payments over six weeks and still get your order right away. Plus, you'll be helping our school earn school rewards* that we use to purchase much needed extra resources for our school. Quotes for WINZ are available by contacting 0800 724 440 or via email enquiry@myschool.co.nz.

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.

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.goldsorthy@bellblock.school.nz

2026 Parent Help Needed – Road Patrol Duty

As we begin preparations for 2026, we are looking for parent volunteers to support with Road Patrol duty at the following times:

- Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday mornings 8.25am - 8.55am
- Monday afternoons 3.00pm - 3.15pm

This role involves arrival 5-10 minutes before the times stated above to meet the Year 6 Road Patrol students. You will gather the high-vis vests and flags, support the students to unlock the signs and carry them out. You will supervise the students and support them with their calls for the duration of road patrol and help them lock the signs away and return vests and flags at the end.



If you are able to help with any of the times above, please contact our Deputy Principal, Courtney Goldsworthy, as soon as possible to let her know which days/times you can help with.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Email courtney.goldsworthy@bellblock.school.nz

Sports

A heartfelt thank you to all the players, parents, coaches, managers and supporters for your involvement in our school sports teams throughout 2025. It is fantastic to see so many students getting involved, giving things a go, and making the most of the sporting opportunities on offer.

Sports Uniforms

A reminder to return all sports uniforms and Player of the Day trophies to the office as soon as possible please.



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

Join us this Saturday 5 December from 9am for the Bell Block Lions' Christmas Parade Market Day. Pop on over to the school field and get into the spirit with Christmas-themed face painting for \$3-\$5. Get your fix of popcorn and candy floss (serving from 11am) and grab a raffle ticket for your chance to win a hamper, perfect for the holiday season.



As you wander through all the festivities of the day, make sure to pop over and tautoko (support) our awesome Year 7 & 8 students. They've been hard at work creating all sorts of beautiful goodies, ready for you to browse and buy. Every dollar earned helps towards our Year 7-8 students getting to their 2026 school camp in Wellington.

End of Year School Reports

The end of year school reports are now available via the [@school](#) app and have been emailed to each caregiver. We encourage caregivers to share the contents of the school report with your child/ren.

Final Prizegiving – Wednesday 10 December at 6.30pm

Our Final Prizegiving will be held at New Plymouth Boys' High School and will begin at 6:30pm. Students need to arrive by 6:00pm (Kapa Haka performers need to arrive by 5:30pm). We hope you can join us to finish off the year and celebrate the successes of our students.

Final Week

Next week we have a lot to look forward to with each team having their Celebration Days, the Pizza Day, our Final Prizegiving and the Meet the 2026 Teacher morning. These activities will bring the year to a close at **12:00pm midday on Friday 12 December**. We will also farewell our Year 8 students who will have their last week at Bell Block School before moving on to high school next year. They will have their Graduation Dinner on Tuesday and the traditional Light a Candle ceremony at the Final Prizegiving to acknowledge their contribution to our school and to wish them well for the next step in their lives.

End of Year

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

Conrad Hailes
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES:



AQUATIC CENTRE

The outdoor pool is open for recreational swimming after school from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.



Term 4 School Holidays Junior Badminton 2025

New players are welcome and bring a friend!

Venue: Star Gym, Westown

Date: 6th, 9th, 13th, 16th, 23rd, 27th, 30th January and 3rd February 2026

Time: 3pm till 5pm – 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th January 2026 (Friday)
: 5pm till 7pm – 6th, 13th, 27th January and 3rd February (Tuesday)

\$ 8 per player, with rackets, shuttles and equipment provided.

More for details contact Duncan at 022 69 33533 or email, sdo@taranakibadminton.org.nz

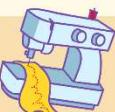


Victoria's Sewing Alterations & Repairs

Join My Christmas Sewing Class!

Make Your Very Special Christmas Stocking

Looking to add a personal touch to your holiday decorations this year?
Come and sew your very own handmade Christmas stocking

Ages: 6- 12
Boys and girls are welcome!
Time: 9.30am -11am
Dates: 15th, 19th, 22nd of December
Location: Bell Block, confirmed upon booking
Cost = \$20 for a lesson
***ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED**

Contact **Victoria** on **022 121 8075** to confirm your child's space ASAP