

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #1
Thursday 5 February 2026

Focus Value:
Respect - Whakaute



School Goal:
Use my Attitude, Ability
and Action to be the best
version of me – every
single day

A warm welcome to Bell Block School for 2026

It is great to have our students back and full of excitement and enthusiasm for the year ahead. The school has been abuzz with families and students getting settled in for the new year. Some students were feeling a bit nervous for the first couple of days but this tends to pass quite quickly. If your child is still feeling this way next week, please let the classroom teacher know.

For 2026, we have several new staff joining our team this year. We welcome Mrs Christine Julian to Room 20, Susan Banks and Monty Mills who will be joining our Teacher Aide team and John Banks who will be taking on some outdoor projects. We welcome back Ms Jade McMurray who will be in Room 19, Miss Monique van Beers who will teach in Room 17 and Mrs Alex Thompson who will be our Science teacher for Term 1. Mrs Sharleen Valentine and Mrs Cerise Smith also join our staff as release teachers and Matua Kaarena Kingi will be running our Kapa Haka programmes to start the year.

2026 Bell Block School Staff

It is with great pleasure that I can introduce our full staff for 2026.

Principal Mr Conrad Hailes

Deputy Principal Mrs Courtney Goldsworthy

Rm 2	Ms Tracey Jacobsen	Rm 11	Miss Madison Mitchell
Rm 3	Miss Sharon Jones	Rm 12	Mrs Abby Piercy
Rm 4	Mrs Raewyn Clarkson (Team Leader Mangati Yr 0-3)	Rm 13	Ms Wendy Foster (Team Leader Waihowaka Yr 4-6)
Rm 5	Ms Rachael Ingram	Rm 14	Miss Ruhina Leong
Rm 6	Miss Charlotte White	Rm 16	Mrs Sarah Oxenham
Rm 7	Miss Chloe Gardner-Harrison	Rm 17	Miss Monique van Beers
Rm 8	Ms Bridget Payne	Rm 18	Mrs Danielle Doyle (Team Leader Waitaha Yr 7-8)
Rm 9	Mrs Lynda Lamb	Rm 19	Miss Jade McMurray
Rm 10	Miss Hannah Purser	Rm 20	Mrs Christine Julian
Science Teacher	Mrs Alex Thompson		
Health & PE Teacher	Mrs Lisette Charlton		
Literacy Support	Mrs Robyn Jourdain		
ELL Teacher & Maths	Mrs Cassie Batten		
ELL Teacher Aide	Mrs Heather McCallum-Day		
Part-Time Teachers	Mrs Aleisha Parkinson, Mr Mark Bridger, Mrs Sharleen Valentine, Mrs Cerise Smith		
Teacher Aides	Ms Michelle Hight, Mrs Jo Hutchinson, Miss Kaia Williams, Ms Janelle Ferries, Mrs Susan Banks, Mr Monty Mills		
Executive Officer	Mrs Kim Hill		
Office Manager	Mrs Kim Thomas		
Admin/Sports Co-Ordinator	Mrs Gayle Davis		
Librarian & Resources	Ms Cindy Manukonga		
Caretaker	Mr Colin Rutherford		
Outdoor Projects	Mr John Banks		
Cleaners	Mrs Helen Langlands and Crest Clean		
Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour (RTLB)	Miss Tennille Yandle		
Social Worker in Schools (SWiS)	Ms Kayla Harris		
Kapa Haka Tutor	Matua Kaarena Kingi		

As you can see, we have a large staff working hard to support the students and their families and keep our school looking great. All teachers' email addresses are available from the school website www.bellblock.school.nz.

Looking Ahead

	Monday 9 February	Tuesday 10 February	Wednesday 11 February	Thursday 12 February	Friday 13 February
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club Swimming starts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club Year 7/8 Bike Trip 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club
	Monday 16 February	Tuesday 17 February	Wednesday 18 February	Thursday 19 February	Friday 20 February
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 2:15 Celebration Assembly – Class Councillors announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PTA Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club Open Afternoon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7/8 Bike Trip 5:00 Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club

Waitangi Day – Friday 6 February

A reminder that school is closed on Friday 6 February for Waitangi Day.

School Swimming

One of the major focusses for Term 1 is swimming. Please help your child to be organised for these sessions by talking about what gear they need to bring. It is a perfect opportunity to develop self-management skills especially in the upper levels of the school.

Bell Block School Swimming Timetable - Term 1 2026						
	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Inside Pool	11:30 - 12:15	Room 19	Room 20			
	12:15 - 1:00	Room 17	Room 18			
	1:40 - 2:20		Rooms 9/10/16	Rooms 17/20	Rooms 11/12	Rooms 9/10/16
	2:20 - 3:00		Rooms 11/12	Rooms 13/14	Rooms 18/19	Rooms 13/14
Outside Pool (Juniors)	12:15 - 1:00	Rooms 7/8	ORS	ORS	Rooms 5/6	Rooms 7/8
	1:40 - 2:40			Rooms 5/6	Rooms 2/3/4	Rooms 2/3/4

Student Council

Today we had a special Induction Assembly where our new Student Leaders were sworn in to their roles. They always do an amazing job and represent our school with pride and diligence. Congratulations go to all our Student Leaders for the first half of 2026:

Head Girl	Nya McLeod	Head Boy	Jack Goldfinch
Kōtuku	Pīwaiwaka	Kererū	Takahē
Sophie Stretton	Pippa Welton	Olivia Davis	Miila Lawrence
AJ Wilson-Manas	On You Han	Emma Davis	Liam Johns-King
ICT Student Leader	Alisha Wong		

School App – '@school'



The parent app '@school' is our main form of school communication. Please ensure you are logged in to the app and receiving notifications. If you prefer to receive an email rather than a phone notification, you can change your settings in the app to receive email alerts when new communications are sent.

To enable email notifications:

1. Log in to the @school app
2. Click on the three dots in the top right corner
3. Select Settings
4. Tick Enable Email Notifications.

Please note: This needs to be done for each child. Once enabled, you will now receive an email notification for any school communications.



Did you know that the school app can also be accessed via a website? If you do not have the app, you can use the '@school' website to stay informed - www.atschool.co.nz. You will need your UserID and password to log in. If you do not have these details, please contact the office who will be happy to help.

If you need any assistance setting up the school app, please email the office – Email office@bellblock.school.nz

Payment Portal – 'myKindo'



Our school uses *myKindo*, an online payment portal, for all school payments. MyKindo allows you to pay for everything your child needs in one convenient place, including sports payments, school hats, camp donations and school events. You can access *MyKindo* by downloading the app from the App Store or Google Play, or via the website <https://shop.kindo.co.nz/app/login>



Attendance

With the government's continued focus on attendance, our school also closely monitors attendance and expects that all students attend school regularly.

It is expected that appointments and personal 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.

We understand that it can be difficult to know whether your child is too unwell to attend school. Te Whatu Ora advice is that healthy young children can experience up to 8-12 colds or upper respiratory tract infections each year, which is a normal part of childhood. If in doubt, your child should attend school – often they will feel better once they arrive and settle into the day.

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

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 settle into their classroom before learning begins and do not miss important information for the day ahead.

If your child arrives at school before 8:25am they must wait in the covered area outside Room 1. All classroom teachers are in their classroom from 8:25am each morning to greet the students as they arrive.

Leaving Early

If students need to 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.

Donations Wanted

We are seeking donations of board games or indoor activities for our *Whakawātea*, a calming space students can access during break times. If you're able to help, donations can be delivered to the school office. Thank you for your support.

Sports Registrations 2026

Registrations for 2026 school sports teams are open.

If your child would like to join a school sports team this year, please complete the registration via [myKindo](#). Detailed information about each sport, including season dates and game details, is available on our school website www.bellblock.school.nz.

Term 1

Cricket (Years 1-8) Registrations close Wednesday 4 February

Touch Rugby (Years 1-8) Registrations close Friday 6 February

Rippa Rugby (Years 1-8) Registrations close Friday 6 February

Term 2

Basketball (Years 1-8) Expression of interest close Friday 20 February

Hockey (Years 3-8) Registrations close Friday 27 February

Netball (Years 7-8) Registrations close Friday 13 March

Volleyball (Years 7-8) Registrations close Friday 13 March

Term 3

Netball (Years 3-6) Registrations close Friday 13 March

Netball Update

Netball Taranaki has introduced a new futureFERNs programme format for 2026:

- Year 3–6 teams will now play during Term 3 only (July - September)
- Year 7-8 teams now play only ten rounds instead of fifteen (June - August)
- There is no change to the team entry timeline or registration closing dates.

Registration Confirmation

Once you have completed the registration via myKindo, please check that you receive an automatic Order Confirmation email. This ensures that the school has received your child's registration.

If you are having any difficulty making payment of sports fees, please contact the office in strict confidence before the deadline to discuss alternative arrangements.

If you have any queries about any sports teams, please get in touch with our Sports Co-Ordinator by email to sport@bellblock.school.nz or phone 755 0838.

Cricket – all ages



Cricket is played on a Friday night or Saturday morning (depending on grade) at various grounds around North Taranaki. The season runs for 7 weeks from 13 February until 28 March. Fees are \$30. There are places available in the team. Please email sport@bellblock.school.nz if you are interested.

Touch – all ages



Touch is played on Wednesdays at Hickford Park and runs for 6 weeks from Wednesday 25 February until Wednesday 1 April. Fees are: Year 1-6 - \$50, Year 7/8 - \$60

Rippa Rugby – all ages



Rippa Rugby is played on Thursdays at Clifton Park, Waitara and runs for 4 weeks from Thursday 5 March until Thursday 26 March. Please note the change of venue this year. There is no charge to join a team.

Coaching



Our sports teams rely on adult volunteers from the community to coach, manage and assist school sports teams. Please consider putting your hand up to assist in whatever capacity you are able to so that we can continue to offer as many opportunities as possible to our students.

Overdue Sports Uniforms and Player of the Day Trophies

If you have a sports uniform or Player of the Day trophy at home, please return it to the office as soon as possible so that it is available for the summer sport teams.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available in the Technology Room (in the corridor near Room 13) every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 – 8:30am. All students are welcome to enjoy free Weetbix and great conversation.

Lunch Orders

We are pleased to offer lunch orders for students and staff twice a week.

- Thursdays: Subway
- Fridays: Sushi from St Pierres



Orders can be placed online via [myKindo](#) and will be delivered to school at lunchtime. The cut-off time for orders is 9.00am the same day. Advance orders are possible and, if necessary, may be cancelled up to 9.00am on the day if your child is absent that day.

Being Sun Smart



Our school sun hats become compulsory from Monday during outside play in Term 1. Any students without a hat will be encouraged to be in the shade during break times. Hats are available for purchase on the [myKindo](#) app for \$16.50. Hats will then be named and delivered to the student's classroom.

Thanks to our PTA group, sunscreen is readily available around the school for students to use.

Lunch and Water Bottles

To help reduce the amount of rubbish at school and promote our school values of responsibility for our spaces, we ask that students bring all lunch rubbish home in their lunch boxes. We encourage all our families to provide a healthy lunch each day to support students' learning and wellbeing. We also ask that all students bring a clearly named water bottle to keep in the classroom, helping them stay hydrated and focused throughout the day.



School Website – www.bellblock.school.nz

A reminder that our school website is a hub of information. You can find the latest school news, calendar of events, stationery lists, sports information, teachers' emails...and more.

PTA News

A big welcome, and welcome back, to school from the PTA. All parents and guardians are invited to our first PTA meeting of 2026 on **Tuesday 10 February at 7pm** in the school staffroom - everyone is welcome! The PTA is a friendly group of parents and staff who come together to support the school, share ideas, and raise funds for things that benefit our children, all while building a strong school community. We always appreciate new faces so come along, we'd love to meet you!

[Follow us on Facebook](#) to stay up to date with all the latest happenings and events.



Our School Vision, Values and Principles

At this time of year, we spend time setting our standards and routines and developing both class and school culture. These are all based around the school vision. This has been developed with community input and underpins the culture we strive for in the school and what we want to see from our students. It is a perfect time to discuss the vision with your child and set some goals to achieve this year.

The grey part of our logo represents a korowai or cloak. A school and community supporting students to live the motto *Our Best Always – Kaha i ngā wā katoa*. This is the representation of Triple A - **Ability, Attitude and Action**.



The black side of the logo represents the mountain. The strong, unchanging foundation of what we do. This represents our school Values.

**Respect – Whakaute
 Manaakitanga – Caring
 Responsibility – Takohanga
 Tū Māia – Standing Brave**

The blue side of the logo represents the rivers and sea. It is an adaptable, unstoppable force that impacts the landscape over time. This represents our school Principles.

**Learners – Nga Ākonga
 Teaching and Learning – Whakaako Me To Ako
 Family – Whānau
 Leadership – Rangatiratanga
 School Culture – Tikanga Mo Te Kura**

2026 will be another exciting year of opportunity and learning. We are looking forward to working with you to maximise the learning and personal growth of every student here at Bell Block School.

**Conrad Hailes
 Principal**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

East End Surf Life Saving Club Juniors are having a Jingo Music Trivia Night on Thursday 12 February @ 6pm to raise money to help their competition squad to get to Nationals! Come along for a fun night with raffles, lucky buckets with amazing prizes to be won! Four rounds of fabulous fun for \$20 per person! Food and drinks also available for purchase and tickets can be bought online at: <https://events.humanitix.com/jingo-bingo-eeslc-junior>.