

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #5
Friday 6 March 2026

Focus Value:
 Respect - Whakaute



School Goal:
 I value my class time and listen to my teachers

The week got off to a very positive start at the Celebration Assembly with another group of students being awarded Triple A and Values awards. Well done to all the students who received awards this week.

Evlyn Gamlath, Ihaia Walker, Iyra Vaddem, Xanthe Turama, Cruz Northcott, Eva Piripi, Aubree Forbes-Knott, Slayde McCulloch, Charlotte Thompson, Jordan Dixon, Kataleah Matthews, Nico Newland, Tyler Gu, Emme Pringle, Andy Liu, Lilly Coleman, Hema Lopinti, Nya McLeod, India Skedgwell, Émile Bisson Vasseur, Luca Bailey, Rawiri Singh, Poppy Gibson, Xandrei Tamayo, Connor Bailey, Coby Kingsnorth, Chester Mattson, Dylan Franklin, Maali Soffe, Konrad Turama, Riddick Ramsay, Deegan Sole, Lohith Vadapalli, Raymond Martin, Elsa Ryan, Liam Mischeski

Our Year 5 and 6 students have had their camp out at Vertical Horizon this week and have certainly made the most of the beautiful weather. Camps have always been an important part of our programmes and are an experience that the students remember for a long time. It was great to see students pushing themselves to try new things and getting out of their comfort zones to have a go at some of the more challenging activities. Our students have all experienced both success and struggle while on camp. It was also really pleasing to see the students encouraging and supporting each other, and the sense of achievement when they were successful while trying something they had never done before. We are so proud of their efforts. Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to provide these opportunities and also all the camp parents, without whom we would not be able to run activities like this.

Today, our youngest students displayed their skills in the Mangati Team Swimming Sports. Great work by all the students who took part and thank you to all the families who were able to come along to support the swimmers. The students always enjoy having their families there to see what they have been doing.

Looking ahead to next week, we have our next cohort of new entrants starting school and the Year 4-8 Swimming Sports to look forward to during the short week.

Looking Ahead

	Monday 9 March	Tuesday 10 March	Wednesday 11 March	Thursday 12 March	Friday 13 March
Week 6	TARANAKI ANNIVERSARY SCHOOL CLOSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohort 2 starts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club Year 4-8 Swimming Sports 9:00 New Entrants' Transition Visit 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club Year 7-8 Immunisations 2:15 Celebration Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4-8 Triathlon 7:00 PTA AGM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club 9:00 New Entrants' Transition Visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Photo Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 Breakfast Club

Upcoming Dates

Some future dates to pencil in to your calendar:

- 31 March Parent Teacher Interviews
- 1 April Parent Teacher Interviews
- 2 April Last day of Term 1

Swimming Sports – Wednesday 11 March

On Wednesday next week, we have our first major school sports event for the year - Swimming Sports. We hope all students are able to take part either in the participation events or the finals as they earn points for their whānau with every event they participate in. Students and staff will be dressed up in their whānau colours showing their whānau spirit. It is always a great day of students giving things a go and ends with the hotly contested class, whānau and Staff vs Students relay. We welcome all our families to come along and support the Year 4-8 students in action. Please know it can get very loud!



Preliminary heats to determine the fastest six finalists have been held during class time. On Swimming Sports day, all full length races will be participation heats followed by the event final. Placings are awarded in the final only.

Wednesday 11 March – Year 4-8 Swimming Sports (Indoor Pool)

11:15am	Year 4	Width Participation Events and Swimming Demonstration
	Year 4	25m Freestyle, 25m Backstroke
	Years 5-6	25m Freestyle, 25m Backstroke, 25m Breaststroke, 75m 3 Stroke Medley
12:40pm	Years 7-8	25m Freestyle, 25m Backstroke, 25m Breaststroke, 50m Freestyle, 75m 3 Stroke Medley
1:50pm	Relays	

School Triathlon – Tuesday 17 March

On Tuesday 17 March we will hold our school triathlon for Year 4-8 students. We encourage all students from Year 4 upwards to give this event a go, whether they are elite level or trying it for the first time. Please talk to your child about whether they wish to enter as an individual or as part of a team (or both).



Any student who chooses to participate in this event must ensure they can competently swim and cycle and have the correct gear to compete safely. It is a good idea to check bikes thoroughly before the day to ensure they are safe. Please note that cyclists must have a helmet, shirt and shoes.

Supporters are welcome to attend the event and cheer on the students. Each event will start with the swim leg at the Bell Block Aquatic Centre, followed by the cycle leg along Wynyard, Kingsford and Hua Streets and ending with the run leg inside the school grounds. Please avoid parking on these roads wherever possible to ensure a clear path for our cyclists.

If you are driving around the school on Tuesday, please look out for our students on the roads around the school.

Triathlon Team Events – Year 4-8

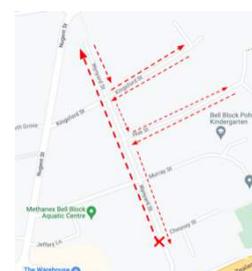
10:00am	Years 4-6
11:20am	Years 7-8

Triathlon Individual Events – Year 4-8

1:00pm	Year 4 boys and girls
1:10pm	Year 5 boys and girls
1:20pm	Year 6 boys and girls
1:30pm	Year 7 boys and girls
1:40pm	Year 8 boys and girls



Cycle leg – First lap



Subsequent lap

Distances

Year 4	25m (1 length) swim	2km (1 lap) bike ride	1.5km run
Years 5-6	75m (3 lengths) swim	4km (2 laps) bike ride	3.0km run
Years 7-8	125m (5 lengths) swim	6km (3 laps) bike ride	4.5km run



PhotoLife Photo Day



PhotoLife will be in school on **Thursday 19 March** to take class photos, individual portraits and sibling portraits. An email has been sent to all families detailing the process for viewing and ordering student photos online. All students will have their individual portrait taken and caregivers can choose to order packs containing a combination of class photos and individual portraits on the PhotoLife website using their child's individual photo key code. *Key codes are emailed to caregivers approximately two weeks after photo day.*

Should you wish your children to sit for a sibling portrait, please complete the sibling photo request form emailed to you and return to the office by email to office@bellblock.school.nz **no later than Wednesday 18 March**. *Only one form is required per family.*

Sports Registrations 2026

Hockey teams are now being finalised and players will be notified of team details via the school app in due course.

Term 2

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

For further information about each sport, including season dates and game details, please check our school website www.bellblock.school.nz.

Ryan Hailes Memorial Scholarship 2026

The Ryan Hailes Memorial Scholarship recognises emerging young sports people who demonstrate excellence in their chosen sport. The purpose of the scholarship is to offer financial contribution in recognition of the costs involved in competing at a regional and/or national representative level. If you know a deserving recipient, please apply in writing by email to sport@bellblock.school.nz. Applications for Term 1 must be received no later than *Friday 20 March*.



PTA News – Pepper & Me Fundraiser

Reminder: The Pepper & Me fundraiser is all go! With 20% of all sales using the special code going to support the school, now's your chance to grab your delicious sauces, seasonings, crumbs and much more to amplify your food & drinks.

Order at pepperandme.co.nz/FUNDBBS3/26 and enter the code: **FUNDBBS3/26** at checkout (valid until 25 March).

We appreciate all of the support!

PTA News – AGM

Our annual AGM is coming up on **Tuesday 17 March 2026 at 7pm in the school staffroom**. All parents and guardians are invited to join us. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcomed, we look forward to meeting you!

Conrad Hailes
Principal

pepperme

Fundraising Programme

Simply use the code **FUNDBBS3/26** *This is your code*

and 20% of all sales using the code will be donated to support

Bell Block School

At checkout please use the code above. Valid from 01/03/26 to 25/03/26. Excludes Pepper Post.

Fundraising made delicious! Check us out at pepperandme.co.nz

COMMUNITY NOTICES

WE ARE THRILLED TO INTRODUCE OUR
NEW PLYMOUTH YOUNG STARS!
 6 TO 18 YEARS
 The programme that is sweeping NZ.

SING. DANCE. ACT. PERFORM.
 1-DAY MUSICAL THEATRE
WORKSHOP

8AM - 6PM • SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE 6.30PM
 SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026
 JUST \$99 EACH!
 LIMITED SPOTS - BOOK NOW!

BELL BLOCK UNITED FC

WINTER REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

HEAD TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
 f Bell Block United Junior Football"
 AND REGISTER NOW!
 REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 31ST MARCH

Netball TARANAKI
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
 11-13 YEAR OLDS (AS OF 1 JAN 2026)

\$50 PP

- INGLEWOOD 7 APRIL
- HAWERA 8 APRIL
- STRATFORD 9 APRIL
- NEW PLYMOUTH 10 APRIL
- ŌPUNAKÉ 13 APRIL

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 1 APRIL. USE QR CODE TO REGISTER.

TE KURA PŪOPATANGA O WĀKAA'URANGI
TARANAKI DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
 Tararaki Diocesan School for Girls is delighted to invite you to our Term One open day

OPEN DAY
 Wednesday 18th March 2026
 10am - 2pm

Come and see for yourself what makes our school exceptional. Bring your daughter and enjoy a student-led tour of our school, see our teachers and students in action, visit the boarding hostel and hear from our current students.

No RSVP needed, just come along on the day. Can't make it? Not a problem, call our office and book a private tour for a date that suits you.

BELL BLOCK LIONS BOOK FAIR

Thursday 5th March 9am-6pm
 Friday 6th March 9am-5pm
 Saturday 7th March 9am-3pm

Bell Block Rugby Sports & Community Club Rooms
 Hickford Park

Eftpos available - Please bring your own bags
 All proceeds to local charity projects

HAVE A GO DAY

HOCKEY TARANAKI

FUN. FREE. ALL AGES. STICKS PROVIDED
 New Plymouth Turf - Hobson Street
 15th March 9am-12pm
 POP IN ANYTIME