

BELL BLOCK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Week 1, Term 2: Friday 24 April
#10



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have had a wonderful start to the week as we settle back into our school routines. It has been fantastic to see students reconnecting with friends and engaging positively in their learning once again. We have also shared some special moments together as a kura through our Mihi Whakatau and ANZAC Assembly.

thank you

As we begin the term, I would like to make a couple of acknowledgements:

Firstly, thank you to Miss Gardner-Harrison for her organisation of the Mihi Whakatau, and to Whaea Kelsey Waitere for supporting the manuhiri with the karanga. Your contributions helped create a warm and meaningful welcome.

Secondly, thank you to Mrs Lamb and Mrs Julian for their organisation of our ANZAC Assembly. This was a very special commemoration for our kura, and it was wonderful to be joined by whānau and representatives from the Waitara RSA.

A huge thank you also goes to our kaiako for their commitment and dedication during their non-contact time to prepare engaging and high-impact teaching and learning programmes for their classes. Equally, I acknowledge our support staff — we truly wouldn't be without you, and the work you do does not go unnoticed.

Last, but by no means least, I congratulate our students on such a positive start to the term. If this week is the benchmark we are setting, we are certainly on track for a phenomenal 11 weeks together.

We will be moving to a fortnightly newsletter schedule, with our next edition coming out on Friday 8 May (Week 3). In the meantime, please join our Facebook page [here](#) or visit our [website](#) for the latest updates and information.

Ngā mihi nui,

Courtney Goldsworthy
Tumuaki Whakakapi – Acting Principal



THE WEEK IN PICTURES



LEARNING SPOTLIGHT



Kids' Lit Quiz

Eight students (two Bell Block School teams) travelled to Sacred Heart Girls' College on Thursday to participate in the highly anticipated Lit Quiz for 2026.

There were 22 teams from the Manawatu/Taranaki region all vying for a place at the National Title in Wellington next month.

Both of the Bell Block School teams did exceptionally well, with one of our teams answering a staggering 10 out of 10 questions correctly during a 'Manga' round, and BOTH teams won a round each, pocketing prize money!

While we didn't come away with the regional title this year, our students had fun, gave it a go and represented our school with pride.



Room 4 create poppies for ANZAC Day



KAPA HAKA

This year we've taken a new approach to Kapa Haka due to the overwhelming interest from our students and having a new tutor on board. We had 189 students register – an incredible response.

Our purpose is to grow confident learners connected to te ao Māori, while building a sustainable Kapa Haka programme across the whole kura. This means developing skills from an earlier age, rather than focusing only on Years 5-8.

To ensure fairness, we held trials to form our whakangahoe (non-competition) and whakataetae (competition) groups. Due to high interest, we are hoping to bring on a second tutor, allowing for additional groups. If your child would like to trial, please encourage them to practise He Pikinga Pou Pou at home. The new tutor will lead selections.

We hope to hold a second round of trials next week (date to be confirmed).

Attendance, commitment, and participation will be monitored, with support provided to help students meet expectations.

Thank you for your patience and support as we grow Kapa Haka in our kura.

PhotoLife



Ordering details for school photos have now been emailed to caregivers by PhotoLife. Photos may be ordered online any time here: [PhotoLife Website](https://www.photolife.co.nz). If you have not received the email please check your junk/spam folders.

Queries may be directed to PhotoLife by emailing enquiries@photolife.co.nz or phoning 0800 50 10 40.

If you have not received the email from PhotoLife, please contact the school office for your personal access code.

DEADLINE

Sunday May 03, 2026



ezlunch.

Ordering Ezlunch through Kindo is quick, easy, and one less thing to think about in the morning. You can order from home (or on the go), and your child's lunch is delivered to school, ready to eat.

- 1 Log in to the Kindo app (or set up an account [here](#))
- 2 Pick from the menu on Thursdays or Fridays
- 3 Your child collects their lunch at school

WIN

Every Ezlunch order placed between 27 April - 22 May goes in the draw to win 1 of 5 x \$50 Kindo credits each week. Terms & Conditions apply.





Mark Your Calendar



April 27

ANZAC Day Observed -
SCHOOL CLOSED



April 29

1:00 Open Afternoon



May 04

2.15 Celebration Assembly



May 05

Hearing & Vision Testing
7.00 PTA Meeting



May 06

Hearing & Vision Testing
2.00 Sports Assembly



May 07

5.00 Board Meeting



PAK'nSAVE

NEW WORLD



[Download Sticker Collection Sheet here = 1 point](#)

[Download Cut-Out Label Collection Sheet here = 10 points](#)

JOIN THE FUN! NAU MAI HAERE MAI

1 Open Afternoon Wednesday 29 April: 1.00pm-2.45pm

We warmly invite our community and whānau to our Open Afternoon. The Open Afternoon will be led by students, showcasing their learning and sharing the improvements they have made since the beginning of the year. Whānau are encouraged to explore all areas of the students' life at Bell Block School. All welcome - we would love to have as many of our families come along as possible, starting with sharing lunch with your child at 1pm.

2 HELP: Road Patrol Volunteers

We are looking for some wonderful parent volunteers to help with our school road patrol. We especially need support for Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Road patrol plays such an important role in keeping our children safe, and we truly value the time and care our volunteers give. Even a small amount of help makes a big difference, and we would be so grateful for any support you can offer. If those times don't suit, but you're available on another day, we would still love to hear from you.

If you are able to help, please contact the school office and they will provide you with further details.



STAFF UPDATES



We are excited to announce that Mrs Abby Piercy is expecting her first child. She will be continuing as the classroom teacher for Room 12 for the duration of Term 2 and we look forward to supporting her as she prepares for this new chapter. We will keep you posted on staffing arrangements, while Abby is on leave, in due course.

Mrs Doyle will be heading off on maternity leave at the end of Week 4. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the care, dedication, and hard work she has given to our students and school. We know you will join us in wishing her and her whānau all the very best as they begin this exciting new chapter.



We would like to say a huge WELCOME BACK to Mrs Renee Pearce as she returns from maternity leave, providing a smooth transition as the classroom teacher in Room 18.

We would also like to welcome Mr Alistair Hassall and Mr Michael Montgomerie, both working within the Waitaha (Year 7-8) Team on Thursdays and Fridays.



SPORTS NEWS



We're excited to see our students hitting the turf and courts again as winter sports get underway. Best of luck to all our teams, whether you're playing netball, hockey, basketball or volleyball, we know you'll represent our school with pride, teamwork, and great spirit.



Waihowaka Yr 5-6: Interschool Sports Tournament

Our Year 5-6 students are busy with their preparation for the Interschool sports exchanges this term. All students in Year 5-6 are practising on Thursday afternoons in their chosen sport - either rugby, football, netball or mixed sports. There will be four sports exchanges with other Taranaki schools spread across the term. Further details about game days will follow when arrangements have been finalised.



Year 6-8 Interschool Swimming Competition

Late last term we were privileged to host other full primary schools from our region for our Interschool Swimming Competition. This year we welcomed Year 6-8 swimmers from Puketapu School, Mangorei School, Omata School, Oakura School and Lepperton School. We congratulate all of the students who participated for representing Bell Block School so well.

Here are the results for the Bell Block School place-getters:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Year 6 Girls | |
| 25m Backstroke | 2 nd Emme Pringle |
| 25m Breaststroke | 1 st Emme Pringle |
| Year 6 Boys | |
| 75m Medley | 3 rd Brodie McKenna |
| Year 7 Girls | |
| 25m Freestyle | 1 st Lucy Upton-Fleming, 3 rd Nya Soffe |
| 25m Backstroke | 1 st Eve Goldfinch |
| 25m Breaststroke | 1 st Lucy Upton-Fleming, 2 nd Eve Goldfinch |
| 50m Freestyle | 1 st Lucy Upton-Fleming |
| 75m Medley | 1 st Lucy Upton-Fleming |
| Year 7 Boys | |
| 25m Freestyle | 3 rd Charlie Parkinson |
| 25m Breaststroke | 3 rd Charlie Parkinson |
| 75m Medley | 2 nd Charlie Parkinson |
| 50m Freestyle | 2 nd Charlie Parkinson |
| Year 8 Girls | |
| 25m Freestyle | 1 st Emma Davis, 2 nd Olivia Davis |
| 25m Backstroke | 1 st Emma Davis, 2 nd Olivia Davis |
| 25m Breaststroke | 1 st Olivia Davis, 2 nd Emma Davis |
| 50m Freestyle | 1 st = Olivia Davis, Emma Davis |
| 75m Medley | 1 st Olivia Davis |
| Year 8 Boys | |
| 25m Freestyle | 1 st Jack Goldfinch, 3 rd Archer Pringle |
| 25m Backstroke | 2 nd Jack Goldfinch |
| 25m Breaststroke | 2 nd Jack Goldfinch, 3 rd Archer Pringle |
| 50m Freestyle | 2 nd Jack Goldfinch, 3 rd Archer Pringle |
| 75m Medley | 2 nd Jack Goldfinch |
| School Relay | |
| 2 nd Bell Block School | |

Thank you!

These events cannot run without the support of many people, so a huge thank you to Mrs Abby Piercy for all the work she put in to ensure the event ran smoothly for everyone involved.

Thank you to our staff members who chipped in to help keep time, organise swimmers into races and record scores (to name a few of the many jobs).

Thank you also to the parents that were able to come along and support your swimmers. Your support means a lot.

SPORTS ASSEMBLY

MAY 06, 2PM

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of students from Triathlon and Swimming Sports!

Ryan Hailes Memorial Scholarship



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.

DEADLINE
Friday 29 May

COMMUNITY NOTICES



CONTACT US
waitarasoccer@gmail.com

 **WAITARA JUNIOR FOOTBALL**

FINAL CALL FOR PLAYERS

11/12TH GRADE GIRLS PLAYERS

WE HAVE A GREAT TEAM READY TO GO... IT JUST NEEDS A FEW MORE PLAYERS!

FOR ANY GIRLS BORN 2013, 2014, 2015, RETURNING PLAYERS, NEW PLAYERS, GIVE IT A GO PLAYERS. ALL WELCOME!

RUN WITH TEMPOFIT KIDS IN TERM 2!

CRUSH YOUR CROSS COUNTRY

TERM 2 2026

STARTS 4 MAY

TUE @ OMATA SCHOOL
3:05-3:50PM (5-8 & 9-13 YEARS)

WED @ PUKEKURA PARK
3:30-4:15PM (5-8, 9-13 YEARS)
4:20-5:10PM (11+ YEARS)


FRI @ ŌĀKURA
8:00-8:45AM (8-13 YEARS)

FRI @ EAST END
4:00-4:45PM (5-8 & 9-13 YEARS)

FOR KIDS WHO LOVE TO RUN!

REGISTER FOR A FREE TRIAL
TEMPOFIT.ORG/TEMPOFIT-KIDS

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD



Whānau Mānau Kī

Bell Block Pohutukawa Kindergarten

Come and join us at Bell Block Pohutukawa Kindergarten. We have been teaching and nurturing the tamariki in our community for 50 years. Your child can attend for up to 20 hours free using your 20 ECE hours. We presently have spaces available and would love to meet you. Feel free to give us a call and/or come for a visit.

39 Murray Street, Bell Block 067550130
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bellblock@wmkindergartens.org.nz

