



Bledisloe School News

Term 2, 24 June 2021



Waiohiki Marae Opening

Our school was honoured to be asked to be part of tangata whenua at the recent opening of the whareniui, 'Hau Te Ana Nui' at Waiohiki Marae. Our students performed as part of the haka pōwhiri and we thank Charla Hawakirangi for her fantastic work preparing our tamariki to take part. It was a beautiful and emotional event and very special to be there with many of our school whānau and pupils from years gone by. We send our congratulations to the hapū of Ngati Pārau and look forward to being an ongoing part of the life of Waiohiki marae.



Hāere Ka Mr Webb!

Mr Paul Webb is leaving our school at the end of the term and we wish to thank him for his important contribution to our school over many years. I have included part of Paul's letter to his class parents to give you some background;

'With a tinge of sadness and a hint of excitement, I wish to inform you that I have accepted a Year 7 / 8 teaching position at Peterhead School starting in Term 3. This means sadly, that I will be leaving my teaching position at Bledisloe School and Pukekura (Room 11) at the end of Term 2.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful Bledisloe School caregivers and whānau for their support as the students and I have learnt and grown together over the past 14 years. I feel truly privileged to have taught and coached so many diversely talented students and worked alongside equally talented whānau and teachers within our Bledisloe School community.

I am excited, both personally and professionally, that I will be returning to my childhood school and community to continue the next phase of my learning journey as a teacher. I am very proud of my connections to Pāharakeke (Flaxmere), and I look forward to giving back to the community that has given so much to me.'

We will be working hard to ensure that the transition for Pukekura students is as smooth as it can be and that our students will continue to have options to participate in sports in our playground. We will keep you updated with our plans.

Structured Literacy

There has been information in the media recently about a "new" way to teach children to read and write. As always in education, nothing is ever really brand new! Structured literacy refers to an approach that is all about teaching students the 'code' of reading. So, looking at sounds, groups of sounds and letters and how they join together to make words. Our teachers are trialling aspects of this approach with some students and we will be looking carefully at the results we are getting before we decide how widely to implement this program. We will always do what is best for our learners but also see the value in taking the best from all approaches to meet the needs of all students.

Travel Expo

The middle school have been having a 'virtual' world trip this term and are looking forward to sharing their learning with you at the Bledisloe Travel Expo!

Even though our travel options are limited at the moment you can still come along and plan your next overseas adventure for when borders open!

Middle school whānau are invited from 11am on Monday 5th July, look for notes home with more details

Responsible

Respectful

Resilient

Matariki Coming Up

On Hero's Community feed there is a slide show of the pūrākau (story) that we are sharing here at Bledisloe School for Matariki. This is a Te Ao Māori perspective that we share with the tamariki (children) and we are aware that there are also other stories that we are exposed to e.g. The Seven Sisters, The Nine Stars of Matariki, Punaga etc. We talk about these with our tamariki in their journey to becoming critical thinkers. If you want to kōrero with your tamariki about Matariki, this attached resource can help you understand the perspective we are teaching it from.

This year we are celebrating Matariki from Friday 2nd July until Saturday 10th July as according to Dr Rangi Matamua, te marama (moon) is in the correct phase, ngā whetū (stars) are present and Tamanuiterā (sun) is placed right in the sky for us to see what we need to see. We look forward to developing our mātauranga (knowledge) in this area in regards to the signs that are celebrated here in Ahuriri. If you have knowledge of this, please contact clogan@bledisloe.school.nz.

On Thursday July 8th we will be having our Matariki evening here at Bledisloe School from 5.30pm, nau mai haere mai. (more details will follow closer to the date.)

Sports in Term 3

Recently a note came home which asked which sports your child may be interested in playing in Term 3. **An important thing to note is that we do require payment for the sports where there is a charge.** Currently we have over **\$1200** owing from Term 1 and Term 2 sports. This creates a significant issue in our budget as we are not funded to provide out of school sports fees and must pay these invoices from our operating budget which is limited.

A reminder that we welcome your involvement in coaching teams and hope that you will contact us if you can help with this. A teacher will always be available at games to manage and organise the children so you can focus on coaching.

Camp Wellington

Camp Wellington is coming up next term. We have contacted our parent helpers and there will be a meeting for all parents on Tuesday 27 July. A reminder that we would love to see payments coming through from families before the camp leaves. A small amount every week or fortnight would be great! We are currently waiting for the result of our grant applications so keep your fingers crossed for us!

Coming Up

Thursday 8 July	Matariki Evening
Friday 9 July	Last day Term 2
Monday 26 July	Start of Term 3
Friday 13 August	Spooner Shield - Seniors
Mon-Fri 23-27 August	Camp Wellington - Seniors

Teacher Only Days

As part of the Primary Teachers Collective agreement signed in 2019, all schools in NZ were given 8 Teacher only days to use for professional Development and to support teacher's workloads. We have 5 more days to use by June 2022 and we will be using 3 of these on the following days:

Monday August 30th

Thursday October 21st

Tuesday December 14th

Thank you for your support of this professional learning time for our staff.

James Norcliffe Visit

The middle school enjoyed an author visit on Tuesday from James Norcliffe. They have all been reading his book "Mallory Mallory and the Revenge of the Tooth Fairy". James entertained and inspired our children with his creative thinking and the process he goes through when he is writing a story.



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