

Tena koutou, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Fakalofa lahi atu, Bula vinaka, Ciao, Namaste, Al Salaam a'alaykum, Ni hao, Merhaba, Konnichiwa, Hola, Annyong hasayo, Greetings



# Balmoral School Newsletter

## Te Kura o te Roto a Rangi

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### Vision

*To value diversity and to develop curious, confident and connected learners.*

Friday 4 May 2018

### Dates to Diary

Labour Day	Monday 22 October
New Entrant/Sport Photos	Thursday 25 October
Intermediate Athletics	Tuesday 30 October – Mt Smart Stadium
Primary Y 3-6 Athletics	Wednesday 31 October – Three Kings
Koru new parent's morning tea	Thursday 1 November 9am - Staffroom
PTA Nosy Neighbours	Saturday 3 November
Possible Teacher Strike	Monday 12 November

**Canteen Days 2019** - opens 7 February - **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**

Please check the calendar on our school website ([www.balmoral.school.nz](http://www.balmoral.school.nz)) for up-to-date events and times

**Tena koutou e te whanau, he mihi nui kia koutou katoa**

### Dear Parents, Whānau and Caregivers

At the end of last term many of you attended our annual visual art festival. The quality of student work and the creativity of both staff and children never fails to amaze me.

There is an ever increasing body of [international](#) research that demonstrates a direct link between an arts-rich education and an increase in students' confidence.

The evidence also identifies that the arts have a positive influence on children's intellectual abilities across all learning areas, their problem-solving skills, acceptance of differences and general life skills.

Visual arts also enables societies to celebrate a cultural component and is also an essential part of a responsive curriculum.

It enables our school curriculum to build self-reflective and creative individuals. The resulting art can also bring great joy to all.



**Kia pai to mutunga wiki (Have a good weekend)**  
**Naku noa**  
**Malcolm Milner**  
**Principal (Te Tumuaki)**

### **Possible Strike Action Monday 12 November**

Our teaching staff are currently participating in a strike ballot starting this Tuesday, October 16, for a national week of one-day strikes by region in November of all primary principal and teacher members. This follows the overwhelming rejection of the Ministry's second offer. The NZEI has had no further offer from the Ministry.

As the majority of our teaching staff are union members parents need now to be thinking about how they will supervise their children on Monday 12 November when our school could be closed again.

There is a fair amount of dissatisfaction amongst staff over the current pay dispute especially since some of our employment contracts expired in May. They also strongly feel the current offer does not attempt to address workload issues nor encourage teachers to join or to stay in the profession.

We also do not believe that the efforts to recruit 900 teachers from overseas is a sustainable solution for our school, as training overseas staff will place more stress on an already stressed and depleted workforce.

Further information will follow from the Board of Trustees about Monday 12 November.

### **Staffing for Term 4**

We have a number of staffing changes this term. We welcome back from maternity leave Lauren Polglase, our Hard Materials Technology Teacher

Taylor Adair has also returned to school to teach Room 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  and it is great to have someone who knows our school well to fill this position.

Rose Currin Brown who previously taught in Year 8 (Room 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) is now permanently teaching ESOL to our new learners of English.

## Staffing for 2019

Staffing at our school, like most Auckland schools, remains very fluid. There continue to be extremely high numbers of positions advertised which creates a lot of choice for job seekers.

In the last month we have received resignations from the following teaching staff. We wish them all the best for 2019.

- Maureen O'Meara has resigned after nineteen years work at Balmoral and she is looking forward to working part-time.
- Trish Ramsay has resigned after ten years work at Balmoral and is looking forward to other teaching career options.
- Congratulations to Alice Sievwright who has been appointed AP (SENCO) at Westmere School.
- John Hazel will finish work at the end of the year and will spend the first six months of 2019 travelling through the Philippines with his family.
- Charlotte Eglinton is moving to Tauranga with her young family.
- Molly Henderson has won a teaching position at Hobsonville Point.
- Fern Watson has resigned and is moving to Australia to teach yoga.
- Storm Desmond will leave teaching at the end of the year to work with at risk youth and to travel.

Katy, Trish and I have advertised teaching roles in the Education Gazette and are hoping to fill these vacancies over the next month.

Due to the increasing supply pressure all across New Zealand, it can be a major challenge to attract and retain quality teachers. Early this week the Ministry of Education predicted a shortfall of [850 teachers](#) in New Zealand for 2019. The education unions are saying the numbers are higher.

Last month the Board of Trustees wrote to Chris Hipkins (Minister of Education) asking for him to enable the board to offer priority places for children of staff to attend our school as we were aware some schools do allow this. The Board have received a reply from the Minister that we are unable to do this. The Board will continue to work in a variety of ways to ensure that our school can offer incentives to attract and retain staff. To do this they will need the full support of our community.

## Property Update

In the holidays Liz Oorthuis and I met with the MoE and the construction companies who had expressed an interest in tendering for the school rebuild. We also met with the sub-contractors who might submit a tender.

On Monday the school was informed that the tender period for the Balmoral school project has been extended and the revised due date for submission of tender bids is the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018. This change of date may further delay the start of the build.

We have also been informed that there is asbestos in some of the classrooms to be demolished. The school has asked that all asbestos removal work, as well as potential demolition works, is to be completed over the Christmas break. The Ministry of Education may now issue a separate contract for demolition in order to meet this requirement.

The MoE has also agreed to update the drawings showing the new classrooms. As soon as these are available we will display them at school.

Designs are being finalised for our school gymnasium. Frank Cleary from Babbage Architects met with Liz and myself and the project team. Frank was able to identify key design issues that we were able to modify for our building. We are sure that the community will gain the benefit of an incredible facility for many years to come.

We would like to acknowledge all the people (parents, children, staff, the wider community) who have worked incredibly hard from selling chocolates to donating their time which has ensured that we have the money available to invest in the gymnasium.

## **Managing our School Rebuild**

At various times during our rebuild we may experience some inconvenience. In last month's Board of Trustees newsletter the Board identified that the school pool will be shut this season. Making the decision to close the pool is not something we want to do, as at Balmoral we all work hard to provide our pupils as many opportunities as possible. While this closure may mean our children might not have access to a school pool during 2019 we will still be able to provide a balanced curriculum and a PE and Sport programme to meet the NZ Curriculum.

During the build it is important that we all work together to enable the construction crew to complete their tasks as quickly and safely as possible, and this may mean we have to suffer some short term pain for some long term gain.

In 2019 we have also further reduced the number of out of zone students we accept for Year 7. Next year we will only have a total of 11 out of zone students in either Year 7 or Year 8 and these are all students who currently have a sibling attending our school. This would be one of the lowest number of out of zone rolls in Auckland.

These measures have all been taken to ensure that we can effectively manage the rebuild with as little disruption as possible.

## **Classroom Organisation for 2019**

The school takes great care in the placement of individual children.

Class placement cannot be based on friendships or parent requests so please do not ask for this.

Each class is formed with careful consideration of the following information:

- attitudes/work habits
- relationships
- range of abilities
- recommendations of previous teacher

- equity balance

Classes will be made up in syndicates in consultation with the Associate Principals.

Classes will be mixed up to go to the next teacher.

The Principal or Associate Principal has the prerogative to move a child if the needs of that child or teacher are not being met.

This structure is an honest attempt to provide the best conditions for children and teachers alike.

## Whakatou

On Tuesday we held our beginning of term Whakatou. It was once again a very nice way to welcome ākongā (learners), kiako (teachers) and the wider whānau into our school community.

I would like to thank the whānau who attended and those who worked behind the scenes to ensure that we can welcome people appropriately into our community.

## Congratulations

### The Wave

I flew towards the boy, his hand outstretched,

The roaring wind urged me on,

The sand felt hard under my flowing soul,

The boy's eyes widened,

His hand floated forward and touched

My wave.

- *Charlie Pritchard*

Congratulations to Charlie Pritchard who has made it into the shortlist of 72 entries for the Red Room Poetry Object which is a competition to celebrate students' poetic prowess and unique relationships with special objects.

This competition received 2556 entries from Years 3-10 in Australia and New Zealand.

**The winners will be announced during a live-stream video event on Thursday 6 December 2018**, in partnership with Museum of Arts and Applied Sciences (MAAS).

[Click here](#) to see Charlie's poem and other entries

## Piha Mill Camp to Close

We have just received this information from the Piha Mill Camp. This is very sad news and ends a very long association with Piha and our Intermediate School.

*As some of you may remember back in February of this year the Glenesk Road valley area of Piha suffered from a flood which affected a large number of*

properties along Glenesk Road. Subsequently to the flooding event, Auckland Council the owners of Piha Mill Camp facilities, undertook a number of assessments around the camp facilities. As a result of that assessment Auckland Council have confirmed that the Piha Mill camp area is subject to flooding and inundation at a level and velocity that it is unsafe to continue operations. They have also indicated a potential for the loss of life in such an event. Their confirmed conclusion and recommendation from the assessment report is to cease all camping operations remove, the existing buildings and allow the area to revert back to its natural state.

Auckland Council have also indicated that further assessment of the campgrounds needs to be taken to determine whether there is any viable option to undertake rectification works which will actually allow for the reopening of the camp facility.

Unfortunately adverse weather events are beginning to have an impact on our programmes and the health and safety of children and staff is of paramount importance. We are currently investigating another venue for our Year 7 students.

## Library

Shhhh – can you find it? It's very spooky...

Our talented library volunteer Mika Kondo has created a very special Halloween scene on a secret shelf in the Library.

It is made entirely out of origami. Mika emigrated from Japan in January of this year and has been volunteering in our library.

Pupils and classes are being encouraged to try and find the scene when visiting the library. If you see Mika in the library please say hello – she is very keen to meet people and practice her (very good) English.

Thanks and Happy Halloween from the Library.



## Athletic Days Primary and Intermediate

Currently our pupils are learning a variety of athletic skills during their sport and PE lessons.

Each year in Term 4 we book a venue off site to hold our championships. While we could hold these championships at school we know that our children enjoy the opportunity to participate at another venue and believe that it raises the intensity and sophistication of the competition, as well as allowing them to complete more activities as a large group than they would be able to do in the more limited space available at school.

Part of your activity fee is used to pay for buses and the hire of these external facilities.



# Nosy NEIGHBOURS

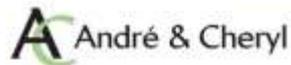
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3, 12-4PM



Grab some friends and  
**BOOK NOW!**  
ABSOLUTELY NO DOOR SALES.  
TICKETS WILL SELL OUT SO GET IN QUICK!  
Email [pta@balmoral.school.nz](mailto:pta@balmoral.school.nz)



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LOTS OF GREAT SPOT PRIZES AND SILENT AUCTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE, KEEP AN EYE ON THE FRIENDS OF  
BALMORAL SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS.



## Help Needed!

We have ten beautiful homes, (all in our school zone) ready for viewing however we need people stationed at the doors to each house to check that all visitors have tickets to the event and that they remove their shoes before entering. Please consider helping out for an hour even if you have tickets to the event. It is still possible to help out and get around the houses! **Many hands make lights work for this day, we need over 40 volunteers for this event so please consider helping out for an hour.**

## Teachers Day 13<sup>th</sup> November HELP NEEDED!



We are organising a morning tea for our wonderful teachers and support staff at Balmoral School. The plan is to hold a morning tea for all of the teachers, grounds staff, teacher assistants, office ladies and student teachers to say thanks for all of their efforts with our kids. Last year we had a roster of parents who oversaw playground and office duty so all school staff could attend together and we would like to do the same again this year but we need your help!!

### Help needed:

- Home baking to be dropped at school on Tuesday November 13.
- Goodies acceptable to be served at morning tea and treats for goodie bags both gratefully accepted
- Items for the goodie bags - last year we had coffee vouchers, a mug, soap, toiletries and home-made treats.
- Help out on playground duty from 10.15-11.15 on November 13

Please get in touch with Kristen or Merrin if you can help out!

[kristendemonchy@gmail.com](mailto:kristendemonchy@gmail.com) or [karmer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:karmer@xtra.co.nz)



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Head to our Facebook page

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Select "See first"

Now these posts will always appear at the top of your timeline!

[www.facebook.com/balmoralschoolpta/](http://www.facebook.com/balmoralschoolpta/)



Thank you so much to those who came along and supported our High Rollers evening. It was such a fun night! The funds raised have paid for the new junior playground cover which was installed during the holidays - all ready for the upcoming summer.



### BALMORAL SCHOOL PTA

The PTA work hard each year to come up with fundraising initiatives that are going to be enjoyed and embraced by our school community to provide additional funds to allow the school to purchase a range of items that support our kids learning, development, and enjoyment during their time at Balmoral.

In addition to the \$10,000 donated to our school library through the Chocolate Fundraiser, your support this year has already bought new blocks for developmental play in the junior school, robotics equipment for our Intermediate School, ipods to aid in our music department for all ages, and sports equipment including balls, hoops, skipping ropes etc in our Primary & Intermediate sports trolleys.

We can't wait to share more photos with you as our fundraising continues. THANK YOU! to everyone who has supported us!



Community Notices

Blockhouse Bay Reserve

# VIKINGS TAG

now on

## THURSDAY NIGHTS

Starts 18 Oct 2018  
\$300 per team

Open Mens & Mixed  
Social Mens & Mixed



Limited spaces

**REGISTER NOW!**



For more information, contact  
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021 2080 679

