

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**  
PRIMARY + INTERMEDIATE

# Balmoral School Newsletter

## Te Kura o te Roto a Rangi

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[www.balmoral.school.nz](http://www.balmoral.school.nz)



### *Vision*

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

Friday 3 February 2018

### Dates to Diary

<b>Year 7,8 Meet the</b>	Monday 5 February 5.30pm
<b>Year 1,2 Meet the</b>	Monday 5 February 5.30pm
<b>Waitangi Day School Closed</b>	Tuesday 6 February
<b>Year 3,4 Meet the</b>	Wednesday 7 February 5.30pm
<b>Year 5,6 Meet the</b>	Thursday 8 February 5.30pm
<b>Intermediate Swim Sports</b>	Friday 9 February
<b>Whetu Y 3/4 Arataki Visit</b>	Tuesday 13 February
<b>Intermediate Immunisation Talks</b>	Thursday 15 February
<b>Primary Assembly</b>	Friday 16 February @ 9.15 am
<b>Maths Roadshow</b>	Monday 19 to Friday 23 February
<b>Primary Swim Sports</b>	Tuesday 20 February
<b>BoT Meeting</b>	Tuesday 20 February @ 7.30pm
<b>Class Photos</b>	Wednesday 28 February & Friday 2 March

**Canteen Days** starts 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**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our families and a special greeting to those of you who have newly joined our school community. Our school is a vibrant and happy place where children and staff learn in a positive atmosphere.

Many thanks to those parents and children who attended the Primary School Whakatau and the Year 7 Whakatau. I would like to acknowledge the whanau for their support of this welcome to our school's community. Thanks also to our staff whanau committee of Alice and Rose for coordinating this very important event.

I welcome parental involvement in our school and look forward to your continued participation in our school community in whatever way you deem appropriate.

We have had a very positive start to our school year so far and all the staff have worked hard over the last two weeks to ensure a great start for your children.

Thanks to all our parents who have sent their children to school well prepared for learning this week.

### **Kia pai to mutunga wiki (Have a good weekend)**

**Naku noa**

**Malcolm Milner**

**Principal (Te Tumuaki)**

## **School Hours**

### **Intermediate**

- **Classes begin at 8.35am**
  - **Intermediate children are allowed into school grounds from 8.00am**

### **Primary**

- **Classes begin at 9am**
  - **Primary children are allowed into school grounds from 8.30am**

No children are allowed in our grounds without parent supervision before these times. There are no staff around to supervise children. This is a Health and Safety issue.

At 3pm the bell will ring and all children are expected to have left the grounds by 3.10pm.

We do offer before and after school care on site through an independent contractor. You can contact Stephen and his team through [Balmoral@skids.co.nz](mailto:Balmoral@skids.co.nz) or 021 975632.

## Term Dates 2018

### Term One:

- Tuesday 30 January – Friday 13 April

### Term Two:

- Monday 30 April – Friday 6 July

### Term Three:

- Monday 23 July – Friday 28 September

### Term Four:

- Monday 15 October – Friday 14 December

## Sun Hats

Thanks to those parents who have sent their children to school with a school sun hat. Sun hats are compulsory at Balmoral School. Any child who does not have a hat is required to sit in the shade during morning tea and lunch.

Hats can be purchased from the school office for \$18.50

## Meet the Teacher Evenings

Next week we will be holding our information evenings for parents. The purpose of these evenings is to meet your child's classroom teacher informally. If you wish to talk about your own child's learning, I would recommend that you make an alternative time to speak to your child's teacher, as you will not have the opportunity to do so at these meetings.

### Year 7/8

**Monday 5 February**

**5.30pm – 6:00pm**

Please meet your child's teacher in their classroom at 5:30pm.

A meeting for Year 7 parents and their children about the upcoming camp this term will happen immediately after (approximately 6:05pm) in the Hall. We encourage all parents of children who are in Year 7 to attend the camp meeting at least.

### Years 1 and 2

**Monday 5 February**

**5.30pm – 6:00pm**

Please meet your child's teacher in the respective classrooms. There will be a short introduction of the staff and a broad outline of the year's work. Afterwards there will be a period for parents to ask questions.

### Years 3, 4

**Wednesday 7 February**

**5.30pm – 6:00pm**

Please meet your child's teacher in the respective classrooms. There will be a short introduction of the staff and a broad outline of the year's work. Afterwards there will be a period for parents to ask questions.

### Years 5,6

**Thursday 8 February**

**5.30pm – 6:00pm**

Please meet your child's teacher in the respective areas. There will be a short introduction of the staff and a broad outline of the year's work. Afterwards there will be a period for parents to ask questions.

Later this term you will have the opportunity to attend a student led conference to discuss your child's learning. There will be another conference in Term 3. If you wish to discuss confidential matters without your child present please arrange an alternative time to meet your child's teacher.

## **National Standards and Reporting**

Recently there has been a discussion in the media about the end of national standards. Some reports have said that this means that schools and teacher will not be able to tell you honestly where your child is achieving as well as their next steps. These types of comments are extremely unhelpful to us as educators. We will continue to use a variety of assessment tools to be able to inform you of your child's learning. These tools will include norm referenced tests such as PATs, Running Records, School Entry Assessments, on line maths tests (GLOSS) and more.

More importantly, the abolition of standards enables us to not have to tell students from age 5 that they are below standard. We can now work on a Growth Mindset and tell them they are not there yet.

Furthermore, it allows schools to really explore our New Zealand Curriculum. You can read here how some New Zealand schools are doing this.

[Article in Spinoff](#)

## **Staff Changes**

I would like to welcome Storm, Charlotte, Louise, Adrianna, Rosie and Molly who are new teachers in our primary school. In our intermediate campus, I would like to welcome Danielle, Michelle, Elsie and Jacqui. I am sure they will enjoy working in our school community.

Lauren Polglase (Materials Technology) will be on maternity leave from the end of this month. Fortunately, we have appointed Sharon Browne to relieve in this role until Lauren returns. Sharon previously taught in this area at our school.

Alyshia Jacobsen will be taking maternity leave from Term 2. Amanda Boyce will be taking up this role in Term 2.

Michelle Murray resigned during the school break and has begun a new role as a sports teacher at Ponsonby Intermediate. We have advertised this position and hope to appoint in the next month. Carol Anne is teaching in this role until the end of Term 1.

Emma Wallace will be taking maternity leave from Term 2.

We are currently looking for a teacher to relieve in Emma's class and despite the current teacher shortage, we are still hopeful that we can appoint for this position.

## **Caregiver Portal**

Many thanks to all those who have logged on and used the caregiver portal to purchase stationery and pay school fees. This is a very efficient form of payment collection and for you to access information regarding your children. If you need further help in using this technology, please contact our Office Angels otherwise known as Tech support.

## **Communication through Email**

Email has allowed us to communicate more efficiently and effectively within our Balmoral School environment and as a community.

To ensure all parties (staff, students, parents and the wider community) find that email continues to be effective we have developed school guidelines around its use. Please find below the guidelines that are relevant to parents.

Thank you for joining staff in following these guidelines.

Teachers will reply to an email within two working days, as during the day they are expected to be working with children. Please do not expect an immediate response from them or email them in an afternoon about change of plans for after school.

### **Email Etiquette**

1. Try to decide if you are sending this email for the purposes of information giving, or some other reason: organisation of events, meetings and information giving are the best use of email as a form of communication.
2. Keep the email brief, and include a clear subject line as a header so people can identify swiftly if it is relevant to them.
3. Make sure that it is clear in your email what the purpose of the email is - do you require specific action, or is the email for information only?
4. Avoid using email for complaining or venting - this is not an appropriate use of the medium.
5. Do not use email as an excuse to avoid personal contact. A simple 'rule of thumb' is to ask yourself if you would say what you have written to the person's face.

### **Parents to Staff email (Contact your child's teacher if you wish to talk about their learning)**

1. If you have any concerns about your child you need to contact your child's classroom teacher to make a time to meet to discuss your concerns. This can be done via email. Please inform your child's teacher of your concerns before the meeting so they can prepare.
2. If your concerns can be addressed via a conversation on the phone please inform your child's teacher and this will be arranged.

3. Please do not expect a reply from a teacher immediately as our expectation is that they will be working with children during the school day. Teachers will reply to emails within two working days.

## **Building Progress**

Over the school holidays we had our field levelled and seeded. Unfortunately, the seed has not struck as well as we had hoped and the fences will be up for another couple of weeks.

On Wednesday, we moved the fences to allow a larger playing area. This will allow use of the field around the Portacom classrooms until the remainder of the field strikes fully. This will require a bit more time with the irrigation unit which City Parks have booked in.

We have locked the St Aubyns Road Gate while we wait for the grass to take. Please can you all keep off this part of the school for the time being.

The temporary accommodation site on the western side of the field has now been fully sectioned off from the field while they establish the four classrooms.

## **Dogs at School**

At the end of last term, a number of parents raised an issue with me that a parent had their dog at school, and it was not on a lead.

As a school, we encourage parents to bring their dogs onto school grounds. Therefore, it is essential that parents who walk their dogs to school behave responsibly and ensure that their dog is on a lead and under the control of their owner at all times.

If your dog is one that barks a lot, is young or jumps up at people, we ask that you do not bring them onto our school grounds. Also, please keep dogs away from areas where there is lot of noise and movement such as directly outside classrooms at 3pm.

We expect dogs to be on a lead at all times in our school, even outside of school hours. Dogs are not allowed to run free in our school.

The Board of Trustees would not like to have to ban all dogs at all times from our school grounds. If we are all considerate and behave as responsible dog owners we can ensure that dogs can continue to frequent our school grounds.

## **Cyber Safety Agreement**

Next week you will receive by email a link to the cyber safety agreement as a Google Form which you will need to complete for each child. Once you have completed this your child will be able to use our digital devices.

## Community Notices

Mount Albert Grammar school is urgently looking for homestays for term 1 and term 2. The homestay fee is \$290.00

Per week. Please call on 8462044 extn 8227 or 8123 or email on [homestay@mags.school.nz](mailto:homestay@mags.school.nz)

Thank you so much.

Kind regards,

**Deborah Ball** | International Homestay Co-ordinator

[homestay@mags.school.nz](mailto:homestay@mags.school.nz)

Ph +64 9 846 2044 xtn 8123

Alberton Avenue, Mount Albert, Auckland 1025



**MOUNT ALBERT  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

[www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)



*During each school term we provide group coaching  
for children 5 to 17, beginner to advanced*

**MOUNT EDEN TENNIS CLUB**  
22 Poronui Street

**Term 1**  
commencing Tuesday January 30 2018  
\$125.00 for 10 weeks (45 minute lessons)

<b>Monday to Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
3:45 - 4:30pm	3:45 - 4:30pm
4:30 - 5:15pm	
5:15 - 6:00pm	

**Racquets may be borrowed or purchased.**

Our goal is to combine technical coaching with fun in a small group  
allowing each child to enjoy mastering the game of tennis.

**To register**  
visit [www.tenniscoaching.co.nz](http://www.tenniscoaching.co.nz) • contact Josh on 022 639 0015  
[josh@tenniscoaching.co.nz](mailto:josh@tenniscoaching.co.nz)

For payment please pay Josh's Tennis Coaching Ltd 12-3030-0011599-00  
Don't forget coaching is always on.  
If raining we move the session inside for sponge ball tennis and games.



JOSH'S TENNIS COACHING