

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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Vision

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

Friday 4 May 2018

Dates to Diary

Whakatau for new students	Tuesday 1 May 9.30am
PTA Balmoral Comedy Club	Saturday 5 May Mt Albert War Memorial Hall 6.30pm - Midnight
CZ Futsal Boys	Tuesday 8 May
Y 7 & 8 Netball Season begins	Tuesday 8 May
Whetu Maths Family Night	Wednesday 9 May
Intermediate Maths Family Night	Thursday 10 May
Primary Assembly	Friday 11 May 9.15am
Hiringa Maths Family Night	Wednesday 16 May
Scholastic Book Fair	Wednesday 23 – Friday 25 May
Paid Union Meeting	Wednesday 20 June 12.30pm
Whittaker's Chocolate Fundraiser	All payments must be made by Friday 29 June

Canteen Days starts 7 February **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**

Please check the calendar on our school website (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

A very warm welcome back to all our families. On Tuesday we held a whakatau at school to welcome new families. A whakatau is a traditional Māori welcome, whakatau literally means to settle. This ceremony is our way of welcoming new students and staff, along with their families, into the Balmoral School community and has become a very important and special event in our school calendar school.

I would like to thank and acknowledge all the people who participated on Tuesday.

Kia pai to mutunga wiki (Have a good weekend)

Naku noa

Malcolm Milner

Principal (Te Tumuaki)

Staff Changes

At the end of last term, we said farewell to a number of staff. Kirsty MacDiarmid left school to work for the Ministry of Education as a National Advisor for ESOL. Carol-Anne Kempster left to work in the United Kingdom. Alyshia Jacobsen and Emma Wallace both left on maternity leave.

I would like to welcome the following staff into our school community this term.

Joe Teague to Year 8

Fern Watson to Year 7

Amanda Boyce to Year 5/6

We also have two new support staff in our school. Diane Schaumkel and Denise Mackenzie have been employed to support children in classrooms alongside teachers.

I am sure you will all make them feel welcome into the Balmoral School Community

Staffing Challenges

The staffing teacher recruitment data shows there is a crisis looming in education. The number of people enrolling in teacher education courses is declining (primary teacher trainees dropped from 5740 in 2010 to 4065 in 2016), 40% of new teachers leave the profession in their first five years, and more experienced teachers are leaving before retirement. Many Principals are choosing to leave the profession early as well. We also have had an increasing population in this time.

Recently our school advertised a position and received five applications but only two applicants we believed were suitable to interview. Last year we struggled to find relief teachers and had to split classes. Nationwide the availability of teachers is declining.

This is not good news for your child/children. We want well trained, skilled, passionate teachers in every classroom. Children also need high quality relieving teachers, skilled, energetic principals and competent support staff.

Our school has these now, but we worry that if this nation-wide trends continue, Balmoral will be impacted by the shortage.

Over the next few months teachers and principals will be negotiating our new employment agreements. We will be focusing on improvements to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers to work with our children. That means competitive pay, but also freeing up teachers and principals from paperwork and compliance, so that they have more time to focus on every child's learning.

Please support us in trying to improve the profession, because if we can do that, we'll achieve an improved education for your child.

The next paid union meeting planned for our school is Wednesday 20 June at 1.30pm.

Building Progress

During the break the school has had some minor work completed. The MoE have organised builders to put plywood on the base of The Shires and handrails down our main steps to the field.

We have not yet heard about how the Design Review Panel has gone with the major school rebuild.

The Ministry of Education has also informed the school that Portacom plan to commence works on site on Monday 20th May 2018. This will be on two more relocatables by Room 30 near the Eldon Road Gate. The works are schedule to take 12 weeks to complete.

Pinnacles Tramp Year 7

During the week 22 May we have three groups of nine children tramping with three staff members up to Pinnacles Hut in the Coromandel. This trip Outdoor Education experience is extremely expensive as we have to employ relieving teachers to cover staff who are tramping.

The school subsidises this and lowers the cost to our students by taking one trip in a weekend. This way we do not have to employ relievers. I appreciate and value working with generous staff who are prepared to donate their time to reduce costs to our community and make things accessible to a greater number of children.

This is an important ethos for all those who work in social services such as education, in the commercial world I believe they have something similar called pro bono.



WHITTAKER'S CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER 2018



Following on from the huge success of previous years campaigns, we will again be running the Whittaker's Chocolate Fundraiser. This is a fun, community activity and a major fundraiser for the school. Because our school is rated 9 in the decile system we receive less funding from the government than lower decile schools. As a result, the PTA engages in fundraising exercises which are crucial to help provide 'extras' such as access to a swimming pool, gym equipment, IT resources and additional books for our wonderful library.

In 2017 we raised \$20,000 which was used to buy new books for the library, and further equipment for explore time. This year, money raised will be used to purchase \$10,000 of books for our school library, instruments for the music room and equipment for the science labs.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

On Wednesday 16th May and Thursday 17th May, every child, apart from those who have opted out, will be given one box of Whittaker's Chocolates to bring home.

Each box contains 30 bars of chocolate which you need to sell for \$2 each and an envelope for collecting chocolate money. All chocolate money must be returned to the school by Friday 29th June.

There will be lots of prizes for children who sell chocolates! FOR MORE DETAILS REFER TO CLASS LETTER DISTRIBUTED EARLIER THIS WEEK. Any questions please get in touch with our PTA volunteers from the chocolates team on balmoralschoolchcolates@gmail.com

THIS SATURDAY NIGHT – THE BALMORAL COMEDY CLUB!

THANKS TO RAY WHITE MT EDEN & THE CLASSIC COMEDY CLUB

Reminder for those coming along... doors open at 6.30pm so come early to grab a drink, check out our amazing raffle prizes and find your allocated table. Please bring **cash** for the bar and raffle tickets.



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
BALMORAL COMEDY CLUB SPONSORS

Ray White Mt Eden | Classic Comedy

Sabato | Bread and Butter Bakery | Lisa's Dips | Oceania



PRESENTS
A BALMORAL SCHOOL PTA FUNDRAISER

BALMORAL COMEDY CLUB



SAT MAY 5TH

MT ALBERT WAR MEMORIAL HALL

2HR LIVE COMEDY SHOW FOLLOWED BY LIVE DJ
DOORS OPEN 6:30PM SHOW STARTS AT 7:30PM

TICKETS \$55

BOOKINGS: EMAIL steph.vercoe@gmail.com

HURRY! LIMITED NUMBERS AVAILABLE



TRAIN WITH NATZ FITNESS CLASSES

WHEN: Every Monday and Wednesday mornings 6:30 – 7am

WHERE: Girlguiding Auckland Regional Centre,
132 Grange Road, Mt Eden

WHAT: 30 min H.I.I.T (open to all ages & fitness levels)

\$10 Casual Classes

\$100 11 Classes



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