

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 Intermediate 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 17th May 2019

Intermediate Dates to Diary

AIMS Parent Info Meeting	Thursday 23 May 6.00pm
Nominations for BoT Close	Friday 24 May at 12pm
School Closed (Strike)	Wednesday 29 May
Meet the BoT Candidates	Thursday 30 May 7-8pm
BoT Election Day	Friday 7 June Noon
Te Reo Maori/Hangi Night	Wednesday 12 June

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

Intermediate Whanau Blogs

Turanga	http://whanauturanga.blogspot.co.nz/
Aparangi	https://aparangibalmoral.blogspot.co.nz/
	- Check our blog to find Year 8 camp information

Canteen Days: **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday only**

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

Teachers Strike
Wednesday 29 May
School Closed for Instruction

From the Balmoral Board of Trustees

Our Board's first consideration is towards our children. We believe we are not able to safely open the school on Friday 29 May for due to a lack of staff.

The Board also recognises the need for teachers to raise their concerns through taking strike action and withdrawing their labour.

This will mean that our school **will be closed on Wednesday 29 May**. Therefore, no classes or programmes will be operating. Parents will need to make alternative arrangements to care for their children on this day.

This decision has not been taken lightly and we appreciate your understanding.

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

Dear Parents, Whānau and Caregivers

Last week the teachers voted to strike over the recent offer from the Ministry of Education. This offer was not significantly different from the offer the teachers rejected last year.

It is a shame that we have got to this situation. New Zealand is currently suffering the greatest teacher shortage I have seen in my career. Our last teacher vacancy took over three months to find a suitable candidate. This shortage of teachers has not occurred overnight, rather it has been steadily getting worse for a number of years, for a variety of reasons.

Over the next few weeks we will see claim and counter claim made through the media by interested parties. We will also see inappropriate tactics used.

Most alarmingly to me in the latest offer from the Ministry of Education is their steadfast refusal to maintain pay parity for primary teachers.

In the 1990s primary teachers fought (**see adjacent poster from 1994**) and won parity with secondary teachers on the basis that “a teacher is a teacher is a teacher”. The common understanding has been that parity means teachers across the state sector should have the same base pay rates.

Because of the different term lengths across the various collective agreements in the sector, primary teacher pay rates now sit up to 3.9% behind other state school teachers. The MoE have not addressed this difference in the offer.

We have also seen the MoE offer primary full-time teachers, covered by the Primary Teachers' Collective Agreement, a one-off gross payment of \$500 however our secondary colleagues have been offered \$1000.

I do not believe this outdated thinking is appropriate in the 2020's. I believed and hoped that NZ had a commitment to pay woman the same as men, yet in a primary school workforce where of over 83% are women (vs approx 62% secondary) we have a Ministry of Education willing to perpetuate and extend this gender bias and inequality. I can understand why our teachers are upset. [Click here](#) to read what a teacher has to say about this issue.

The subtle differences in the offers have been deliberately designed to destabilise the relationship that primary teachers have with their secondary colleagues and create an us versus them environment.

The subtle differences in the offers have been deliberately designed to destabilise the relationship that primary teachers have with their secondary colleagues and create an us versus them environment.

These behaviours and attitudes towards women would not and should not be tolerated in a school environment and I am bemused that our Ministry of Education would model this type of behaviour and thinking.

If you disagree with gender inequality and believe this type of thinking and behaviour by the Ministry negotiators is inappropriate, I would encourage you all to write to our local MPs. Their email addresses are

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern: j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz

David Seymour: david.seymour@parliament.govt.nz

Melissa Lee: melissa.lee@parliament.govt.nz

Michael Wood: michael.wood@parliament.govt.nz

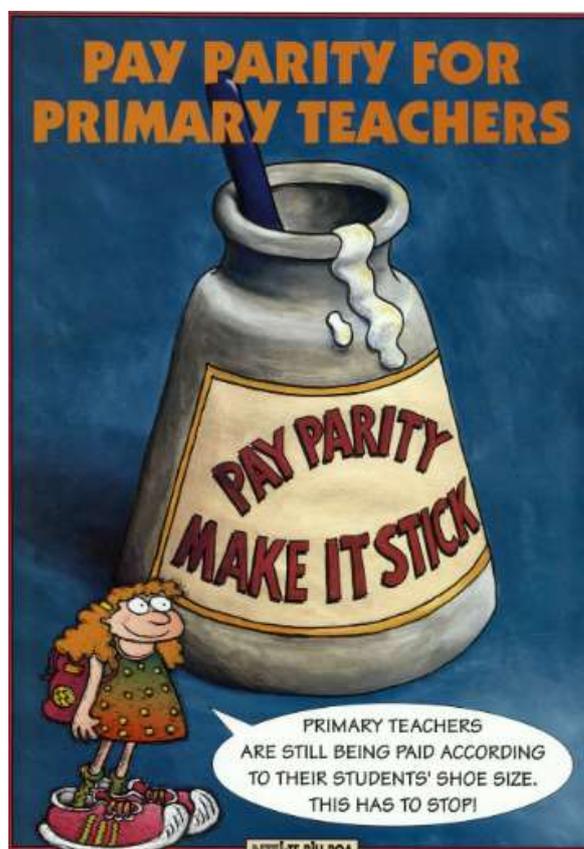
I do hope that we can have this dispute settled quickly without further disruption and loss of goodwill.

Kia pai to mutunga wiki (Have a good weekend)

Naku noa

Malcolm Milner

Principal (Te Tumuaki)



My Apologies

On Wednesday we had two staff members ring in sick at midday. Later on Wednesday evening we had further staff inform us that they were going to be sick. Despite Katy and Trish working from midday on Wednesday, through the evening and again from very early on Thursday morning they were unable to find any relievers.

Unfortunately this meant on Thursday we had to split five classes. While this situation is never desirable and is not a good outcome for our pupils and staff, we have been placed in this unfortunate situation by the continued shortage of teaching staff.

Ramadan

Muslims around New Zealand will be fasting from both food and water, during daylight hours from the evening of Sunday May 5 to June 4 in 2019.

Ramadan is the holiest month in Islam, and it is considered special because the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad in this month and fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Eid Al-Fitr, which means "The celebration of breaking the fast" or "Eid" for short. On Eid, Muslims give a special charity to the poor, go to the mosque for prayers, exchange gifts and spend time with family and friends.

We wish our Muslim families all the best for this important month in their calendar.

Children On Air as Authors

At Balmoral we believe that success can be experienced and celebrated in many ways and should be far richer than just a mark in a book. We believe that through providing many opportunities for our pupils they can show and share their work in other places and feel fulfilled by this.

Last year our school was contacted by Prue Langbein regarding the online publishing of some of our pupils writing in Hei Hei, an online repository of children's writing. We have been notified that some of the work we submitted has been accepted.

If you scroll along to Episode 46, In The Beginning, you can hear some of the writing that children from Saffron's class wrote and recorded last year

<https://www.heihei.nz/config/browse/screen/audio-content/collection/details?cid=50352>

BoT Elections and Key Dates

On Tuesday night we held the last meeting for our current Board. I would like to acknowledge their input and support over the last three years.

We are now entering our nomination for trustees and our voting period.

Please ensure you vote.

In order to help you vote we will be holding a meet the candidates hui on Thursday 30 May from 7-8pm



Key Dates

Nominations Close	Noon Friday 24 May 2019
Voting Papers Sent by	Wednesday 29 May 2019
Meet the Candidates	Thursday 30 May 7 – 8 pm
Election Day (voting closes)	Noon Friday 7 June 2019
Count Votes	Thursday 13 June 2019
Board Takes Office	Friday 14 June 2019

School Camps and Outdoor Education

We have just finished our Summer 2019 outdoor education programme. This year all of our Year 5 to Year 8 pupils were offered an opportunity to attend a camp. This year the weather was superb for all three camps, which is not always the case! This made the

camps even more enjoyable. We received fantastic support from our community and I thank all those involved.

Later in the year we hope to run a tramp for selected Year 7 children to Pinnacles Hut as well as Waterwise sessions for all Year 7.



The Build Update

Early this week we met with the project team to discuss the school's contribution to landscaping. The MoE will provide a lot of concrete but if we want gardens, sun shades and nice places for children to sit and play we will need to provide these from our own funds. The Board approved \$500,000 towards playground development at their last meeting.

This week the main landscaping discussions have centred around the shade sails in the pool enclosure and when is the most cost effective time to do the ground work. With the loss of trees we will need to provide extra sun protection for our pupils

We also have been told that the foundations for the gymnasium have had their first concrete pour this week. In the photos below you can see the foundations for the pool changing sheds being prepared and below these two photo the concrete in the foundations.





Chocolate Fundraiser Bars 4 Books

This week the PTA, through Genevieve and her parent helpers, distributed chocolates. The enormous efforts behind the scenes is much appreciated as we hope to raise \$20,000 from this fundraiser.

Thanks to all the pupils and families who have taken home the chocolate boxes this week and those who have chosen not to have chocolates but have made a donation.

When 'not for profit' organisations such as schools make any money from fundraising, the benefits always go directly back to children and the community that they live in.

I am sure the pupils at our school will benefit this year from even greater number of high quality library books and so will those who are yet to join our school.

Every time you consume a bar you are purchasing a book for our school. A **Bar for a Book**



Bars 4 Books

Teacher Only Day Friday 25 October

The school will be closed on Friday 26th October which is the Friday before Labour Day for the staff to participate in a Treaty and Cultural Competency Workshop.

Term Dates 2020

In 2020 the school is required by regulation to be open for 384 half days. The term dates for 2020 are:

Term 1: Tuesday 4 February
Thursday 9 April

Term 2: Tuesday 28 April
Friday 3 July

Term 3: Monday 20 July
Friday 25 September

Term 4: Monday 12 October
Friday 18 December

Other Important Dates in the First Week

Thursday 6 February Waitangi Day

Friday 7 February Teacher Only Day (School Closed)

Lunchbox Challenge

Our environmentally conscious pupils have organised a competition between classes. This competition is for the pupils to bring in a naked lunchbox. Lunchboxes that count will have nothing single use e.g plastic wrap, tinfoil, packaging of any description

Over the next two weeks at various times there will be a lunchbox check. The first was held yesterday.

The winning class will receive a beeswax wrap making session with Mrs Afosa!

Let's get behind this and make our school more sustainable.



Scholastic Book Fair

Next week we are holding our annual Book Fair, where a wide range of text will be available to buy. This year it will be held in the corridor from the Specialist area to the Staffroom. Books will be able to be purchased before and after school, and children will be able to browse the books at lunchtime. Classes will visit the fair during the week

School Library Message

I'm enjoying being back at Balmoral in our school library. I have been a parent and learning support here, and worked in all sorts of libraries – tertiary, public, special, and now back to where my heart is – the school library where I hope we can enhance literacy and love of reading.

It was a privilege to accompany some of our children to the Writers Festival schools day. This Sunday is a free family day at Aotea Centre. Some amazing speakers – details are here - writersfestival.co.nz

Nicola and I are keeping our library open until 3.30 Monday through Thursday this term. Pop in to see us

Liz and Nicola

News From the Writers' Festival

Readers Writers festival reflection

On Tuesday the 14th of May, a group of students from Year 5 -8 were lucky enough to be able to attend the Readers Writers Festival. We heard from several authors who were incredibly inspiring. One of the main messages I took away was that you are never too young to be published and the everyday things that happen in life make the best stories!

It was a truly inspirational experience and I went home and started writing right away. I consider myself so lucky that Balmoral gives me so many opportunities to do so many amazing things.

Mia Gardine





Balmoral school Whittaker's library book fundraiser

We've been busy this week handing out boxes of Whittaker's chocolate to families across the school. Thanks to those who have chosen to support this fundraiser. Each box of chocolates sold allows for the purchase of one new library book!



Sold your box of chocolates already? Ready to sell more? Don't forget you can collect extra boxes from the back door of the school office on a Wednesday

morning between 8:45-9:00am OR Friday afternoon between 3-3:15pm. To say thank you - we'll also be handing out little prizes to families who come and collect another box of chocolates to sell.

Can't make those times? See the Office Angels at school reception to collect another box, or email Genevieve at Balmoralschoolchocolates@gmail.com and we'll get the chocolates to you!

Parent permission is required before collecting extra boxes of chocolates.

Don't forget:

PRIZES!!!!

Amazing prizes up for grabs for those who participate in the fundraiser!!

- Sell 3+ boxes of chocolate by the end of the Queen's Birthday long weekend and you'll go into a **draw for a \$50 cash prize**. Sell more than 3 boxes, and you will receive an additional entry for each box sold (i.e. 3 boxes sold = 1 entry, 4 boxes sold = 2 entries etc).
- \$100 Westfield voucher for the top Primary and Intermediate sellers.
- Spot prizes available to anyone who has sold a box of chocolates during the Term including a **DRONE, SMART BRACELET HEALTH TRACKER AND UE WONDERBOOM SPEAKERS**

Community Notices



AUCKLAND GIRLS'
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
PER ANGSTA AD AUGUSTA

Auckland Girls' Grammar School Open Day

Thursday 30th May - 9.30am -12.30pm

We invite you to visit our school on Thursday 30th May. Our senior students will lead school tours throughout the morning and our Principal will give short talks at 10.00, 11.00 and 12 noon.

Information Evening – Thursday 30th May 6.30pm – 8.00pm.

We will also be holding an Information Evening from 6.30 – 8.00pm. All prospective students for 2020 and their parents are very welcome to attend this evening.

The evening will be useful for those students who are interested in enrolling into Nga Tumanako o Kahurangi, our Maori Whanau Unit.

Auckland Girls' Grammar School welcomes enrolments from throughout the Auckland region and we hope that you will take this opportunity to find out more about us.

Parking at Gate 2, 16 Howe Street, Newton

For more information please phone 09 307 41 80 or email enrol@aggs.school.nz

Monday 20th May



Northern Mystics vs Central Pulse

Doors Open: 6.30pm

Centre Pass: 7.40pm

Adult tickets start from just \$15.00 each and kids tickets only \$10 (across all price zones)

Team Ticket Pass: 10 tickets for \$110 – great value as this averages at only \$11 per ticket

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After School Sessions

Weekend Sessions

School Holiday Programmes

Virtual Sessions

Parent Child Sessions

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OR ATTEND OUR OPEN DAY**

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(09) 815 0825

Renovating this winter?

Need a place to rent for a couple of months in Balmoral School Zone?

We are one of the Balmoral School family's and we will be renting out our Mt Eden 3 bedroom House - fully furnished, all linen provided with central heating, unlimited WiFi, lawns mowed and all amenities included in the rent. We will even consider your pets staying too - just move in and enjoy. Available from end of June to end of August.

If you are interested contact Florence on 0212566037