

Buckland's Beach Primary School December 2015 Newsletter

Dear Parents

This is the final regular monthly newsletter of the year! It is hard to believe that 2015 is almost gone. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our school community (students, staff, parents & whanau) for all the support given our wonderful school this year. We are all very proud to belong to such a good school and it is the contributions and attention to detail of so many talented people who make it what it is.



I hope everyone has an enjoyable end to the year, festive season and family time over the holidays. We look forward to seeing most of you back in 2016 and wish our graduating students all the best in their futures. We are proud of you!

Special greetings are extended to our new children and their families: Olivia Pan, Sabine Booth, Sebastian MacDonald & Lucas Russell Damasceno.

Board of Trustees News

The last board meeting for 2015 is scheduled for 6.00 p.m. Monday 7 December. The board continues to be busy considering implications of school reviews undertaken this year, budgeting and planning for 2016. The strategic direction of the school is reflected in a comprehensive annual plan being written at present. Work is underway collecting, collating and analysing 2015 student achievement information which will inform targets for 2016. The budget, strategic and annual plans and achievement information are all public documents shared in 2016.

Library facilities are now operational and the school is preparing for library usage at the beginning of 2016. Thanks to parents helping us move the book stocks.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank staff and parents for their support of the school during 2015. It has been a busy, productive year, with many successes. Thanks to so many of you for all that you have done to make this possible. Best wishes for the festive season and a wonderful family holiday.

BBPS Website

A new school website is well under construction. We hope to go live by the end of this year and will add and refine it in 2016. Hopefully, the new website will be a "one-stop-shop" for most of your needs – finding out what is happening, seeing your children's work, buying school lunches, making payments, asking questions, and so on. Watch this space!

New Sports Uniform 2016

A committee comprising Board, parents, and staff, have been working for some months on the design of a new sports uniform for Years 3-6 students in 2016. The school needs to replace depleted stocks of worn out, outdated sports uniforms and it can no longer sustain issuing these to representative teams, so an alternative is necessary. It has been decided to replace the whanau tops with a sports uniform which will look smart at both school and out of school events. Whanau representation will be shown by a coloured wristband.

The new design, chosen in consultation with students, is the same for all children, and will enable you to pass it on through your family or sell second hand. We have selected the same shorts BBI use so they will be able to be carried on through. The fabric and design we have chosen is both practical and durable.

There are two new options for headwear. A cap will be an optional alternative to a new bucket hat. As a sunsmart school, consideration has been given to a high back to

the sports top and a cap with good coverage. We hope older children participating in sport will be more enthusiastic about wearing a cap. The bucket hat will not have a drawstring, which has the potential to be a safety risk. New headwear will have a tag stitched in designed for names.

We hope the new uniform will be available to purchase during 2016 from John Russell Menswear and will advise you as soon as we can of timeframes.

The PTA will continue to fundraise in order to provide specialist sports uniforms such as leotards, netball skirts, rugby shirts, basketball singlet, soccer / hockey socks and swimming caps.

PTA News

Family Fun Night

Unfortunately again due to the unpredictable weather, the Family Fun Night is postponed until 11 March 2016. Please mark your diaries now. More information will be sent home before the end of term.

Santa Parade

Staff, students and the PTA have worked together so that BBPS is part of the Howick Santa Parade this year. It is this Sunday 2.30 p.m. in Howick, so do come along and look out for us. Give us all a cheer, as we are very proud to participate. Thanks P.T.A. for supporting this.

Staff News

Jenny Todd is taking a year's leave for health reasons and we wish her well. Lisa Ray has been appointed permanently as the new Team Leader of the junior school. As already announced, Robyn Millinchip is retiring this year and she is thanked for all her many contributions as Team Leader of the middle school. Debbie Rist takes up this position in 2016.

The fixed term positions of Marlene Jackson, Michelle Murray-Brown and Laura Ahern are

coming to an end. Laura is returning to America and Marlene is taking a break from full time work. Heather Madigan will be on maternity leave for 2016. All teachers have worked hard and contributed well to the life of BBPS and are thanked for what they have done. Newly appointed teachers for 2016 are Hannah Saul and Amber Davidson.

The positions of Ms JayJay Snider, Mrs Connie Cheng and Mrs Liz Downs also are fixed term and will cease at the end of the year. Thanks for all that you have done. Your contributions are valued.

Classes for 2016

Please help your child look forward to the changes a new year brings! We know that new classes can cause some anxiety. I assure you that every effort is made to give your child a good teacher, friends and a class in which they are happy and will learn. We take considerable time in arranging classes that are a balance of boys and girls, different ethnicities, abilities and special needs.

At the beginning of the year all teachers help children settle in and adapt to new routines and support those who need it. Your positive approach over the holidays is another way you can help your child adapt to his/her new class.

Class lists will be displayed at the foyer and on classroom doors from 10.00 a.m. Friday 29 January. Children will visit 2016 teaching teams (except for new teachers) on their last day of 2015 for an orientation and so they know what to bring and where to assemble on the first day back.

School Grounds over the Holidays

Friends and neighbours of the school are asked to monitor its usage over the holidays. If you have any concerns about property please don't hesitate to ring 111. For urgent maintenance needed please ring Dorothy on 021 243 3687 or Garry on 021 242 4665.

The P.T.A.'s astroturf project will be undertaken over the holiday period. For this reason, the school grounds will remain closed, except for SKIDS holiday programme and the swimming pool.

Swimming Pool

Parents can purchase swimming pool keys so that their families can use it over the holidays. The usage agreement has been reviewed and needs to be read carefully prior to using the pool.

The cost this year will be \$80 per key with \$10 (bond) refundable upon return. The new changing rooms and toilets will be operational and we are working to get these cleaned beyond regular school times.

E-Learning 2016

BBPS is committed to providing the best learning and teaching possible. We believe in providing tuition in the basics but also in providing an enriched curriculum, which stimulates creative and critical thinking and the development of key competencies. E-Learning is essential in a future-focussed curriculum and over the last 3 years teachers have committed to regular ongoing learning. This year, 4 staff members have undertaken postgraduate study in Applied Practice: Digital and Collaborative learning as well.

The 18-month Year 5 & 6 trial of BYOD has been very successful and a full review of e-learning has been undertaken. As a result, BYOD is now extended to the Year 4 classes in 2016. Parents are given a choice of providing devices for their child to use at school and a newsletter sharing details has been forwarded already.

In 2015 the board took out a lease for additional devices in every classroom and this will be extended in 2016, so that access to digital devices for all students is improved.

In 2016 we hope to offer various workshops to parents so that they can learn what their

children are doing at school in e-learning and how they can get involved. Our recent open morning is an example. It was well attended and I know those who came were interested in seeing their children's e-learning in classrooms.

Weetbix Tryathlon 2016 Reminder

Our school will once again be signing up for this enjoyable event.

Who: All children 7 years and up (Parents must take their own child)

When: Sunday 21st February 2016

Where: Vellenoweth Green, St. Heliers School
Early Bird discount closes: 12 noon Thursday, 21 January 2016

Enter from home using the link

<https://regonline.activeglobal.com/Register/heckin.aspx?EventID=1764261&startnewreg=1>

(Go to this school newsletter on the BBPS website for this link)

This link cannot be accessed from the main Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon website, so please save this for future reference. Our school group discount code **BUCK0703** Link to the School Group! All participants who link to a school group from home will also receive the SPECIAL SCHOOL GROUP entry price of \$35.00.

Sports News

Due to there being quite a large number of bees on the field, it is recommended that students bring named sports shoes to wear during PE and lunchtime sports.

Mrs Trotter has also suggested that students bring a named water bottle when participating in PE to enable them to stay hydrated during the warmer weather.

Basketball: our teams have played very well over the term and worked well together. The last games are still to be played.

Summer Hockey: again the teams have worked well together and show commitment and enthusiasm.

Inter school athletics: we had a team of 57 students go to Inter school athletics. Everyone tried their best and there were some great results. Thank you to Miss Redpath and Mrs Millinchip who went with our team.

Touch rugby: the team has played well and tried their best with mixed results. They have a friendly home game against Pigeon Mountain on Monday 7 December.

Sports Uniforms: All uniforms that are not still being used need to be returned to the school office thanks. Thanks.

Cricket 2016: trials will begin soon for the Inter school cricket team for 2016.

Student Council

A big thank you to the many families who have already donated gifts to our Giving Tree for the Salvation Army. Remember to wrap your gift up, write the gender it is best suited for and the age group. If you have not had a chance yet, you have until 10 December. Thank you from the Student Council.

Building Resilience in Children

Please find enclosed a Michael Grose article which may be of use supporting children through the changes in their schooling as the new year approaches.

A very successful John Cowan evening was well attended by parents, many of whom gave positive feedback. Thanks P.T.A. for organising this event and also for the delicious supper. We are working to make BBPS a venue for parenting workshops led by "The Parenting Centre" in 2016 and will let you know details as they come to hand.

Best wishes for the holiday period.

Dorothy Bigwood

Upcoming Events

Year 6 Graduation & Prize-Giving

This is scheduled for Thursday 10 December 7.00 p.m. in the BBPS Hall. We look forward to seeing Year 6 students at this important ceremony, along with parents / whanau.

School Tuckshop / Changes in 2016

The last day for the school tuckshop will be Friday 11 December. The Student Council has requested a change of menu and we are working to meet this request, along with a system of payment via the internet in 2016. At this stage it seems prudent not to rely on bought lunches in the first week of school.

Stationery – 2016

Next year stationery packs will be available from Paper Plus (Crandall Peters) Picton Street, Howick from Monday 11 January 2016. Please ask for the pack of the year your child is in. Stationery lists, for those wishing to get their stationery at other locations, will be available at the office from Monday 25 January January.

School Office Holiday Hours

School will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 16 December and re-open on Tuesday 2 February 2016. The office will close at 12.30 p.m. on the 16 December and will be open from Wednesday 27 January, 9-12 noon. Should you wish to contact the school office outside of these times, please leave a message on the answerphone or email office@bbps.school.nz and we will get back to you asap.

Community Notices

"THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME LIKE READING MORE"

COOL READING CHALLENGES! FUN ACTIVITIES! AWESOME PARTY!

Launch into reading with Auckland Libraries' FUN, FREE summer reading adventure! 'Dare to Explore' is back with a captivating 'Dare to Unlock the Secret' theme for summer 2015 – 16.

Sign up and collect your activity booklet from your local library. Unlock the world of mysteries

and hidden messages, read about famous spies, explore the world of cracking codes and complete fun challenges wherever and however you spend your holidays. Visit the library to collect stamps and stickers along the way. Complete 4 challenges and get an invitation to a party to receive your certificate!

Dare to Explore will be available at your local library from Monday 7 December 2015 to Sunday 17 January, 2016.

Check: www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz or phone 09 301 0101.

Interested in netball for yourself or your child in 2016? It is so easy to miss out on winter sport registration because it happens in the middle of summer –our Registration is set for 10th of February 2016. Register your interest with Howick Netball Club now and we will keep in touch. We'll remind you to come and register in February 2016 and send you the registration forms and club newsletter when school starts.

Email us at howicknetball@gmail.com or ask to join us on facebook

The Campbell Institute is an English language school in Highland Park that offers a programme of English courses with part-time au pair roles in families. We are looking for host families for our late January intake for 3 and 6 month stays. Our au pairs help out in families for up to 20 hours a week for full board, \$70 pocket money and travel cost to school. For more information look at our website: www.campbell.ac.nz. Or contact Cathy on 534 4292 / 022 1099 434

KidsLink.co.nz is an easy to use website designed to help you understand your child's needs and connect you to relevant, local, current and trusted service providers – services which help you with all your child's learning, behavioural, physical, extra-curricular and care needs.

KidsLink is owned and run by teachers who've experienced a vast array of children's changing needs from babies to young adults. They are

focused on helping provide families with the right information to develop healthy, confident children so they can reach their full potential. Professional Services You Can Trust

Working with children & young people requires a different set of skills and empathy. That is why KidsLink is very selective about who may become a KidsLink Service Provider.

All service providers available on KidsLink.co.nz have been met by KidsLink. All KidsLink Service Providers have signed a declaration attesting to their qualifications & experience, professional membership and suitability to work with children & young people.

Can I Afford it? Using the website is completely free and you are under no financial obligation until you actively use a service provider. As KidsLink Service Providers' charges differ, ask about cost when making enquiries. www.kidslink.co.nz

BBI Uniform Shop sales - The Bucklands Beach Intermediate uniform shop will be selling 2nd hand uniforms in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) at the back of of Bucklands Beach Intermediate on the following dates:

Thursday 17 December 2015: 12-1pm
Thursday 29 January 2015: 12-1pm

All required uniform items for BBI (2nd hand) will be for sale. New caps, socks (girls and boys) and girls' tights will also be available for sale, as well as a limited number of new PE shorts.

All welcome. **Cash or cheque only** for purchases please.

Any queries please call the office at BBI or email the uniform shop co-ordinator Debbie Rowland at rowland@slingshot.co.nz. The standard price list can be emailed to you.