

BC PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

BETHLEHEM COLLEGE
EXCELLENCE through CHRIST

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Here we are already at the end of week 4 in what has been a great time of learning for our BC children.

Last week's community picnic sponsored by our wonderful PTA was a great opportunity to mix and mingle with one another, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us, I trust it was a fun relaxing event for you all.



YEAR 5 & 6 SWIMMING SPORTS

Friday 13th March
Greerton Pool

YEAR 5 & 6 CAMP

18th – 20th March

LIFE EDUCATION

Starting Wednesday 25th March

MUFTI DAY

Friday 3rd April

PRIMARY EASTER SERVICE

9:30 – 10:30am
Thursday 9th April
Events Centre

Our Vision
To be a Christian learning
community of excellence
where lives are
transformed.



@BCPrimary

CHALLENGING
THE INTELLECTUAL

DEVELOPING
THE CULTURAL

EXERCISING
THE PHYSICAL

SHAPING
THE MORAL

BC PRIMARY



The end of last week was a difficult time for most Tauranga folk as the events that occurred led to major travel disruptions for most people. Much of what followed on Friday especially was unprecedented and as a result there were concerns especially for our bus riders, many of whom had their rides extended by hours. Better communications with the buses would have helped alleviate the concerns, we are sorry about this.

Please contact the bus company directly regarding any complaints/concerns. The contact details are listed [here](#). If there are behavior issues Mr John Wilson is the contact here at school - john.wilson@beth.school.nz.

Monday Worship

Mrs West shared last week about being courageous and this week Mrs Wong taught us about what worship is. The brief message along with singing together as a Primary are a wonderful way to start our week.



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Team Te Aka breakfast around the world



JUMP JAM started this week



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IMPORTANT notice about device usage in Primary

Please click [here](#) for BC Device Rules.



EARLY DISMISSAL

Any child who is leaving school during school hours MUST be checked out at the Primary Office - this is a safety requirement so thank you for your cooperation.



MORNING ARRIVAL/ AFTER SCHOOL

In the interest of safety we would ask please that children are not at school before **7:30 am** or after **3:30 pm**. Exceptions are after school activities eg sports practice.

Children who arrive between 7:30 - 8:00 am may go to the Library prior to going to their classrooms.



STEPSWEB – Year 3-6



Please click [here](#) to access important information about StepsWeb if you have a child in Year 3-6.

ITINERANT LESSONS

Guidelines are [here](#) for parents with students involved.



LOST PROPERTY

Please check at the end of C block nearest the Kauri grove for any lost items.



Bethlehem College PTA Facebook



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COMING UP

Parent student goal setting conferences coming up on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th will allow you to spend a quality 15 minutes with your child and their teacher to share some expected growth goals.

Please do remember if you would like to discuss further you can organize another time at a later date with your child's teacher.

Please note the time of your conference and remember this is for both you and your child.

On **Thursday 27th** the children will finish at **1:30 pm** directly after lunch.

Those who do not have their conference that afternoon may choose to pick your child up between **12:30 - 1:20 pm**. If you pick up your child you must **check out** at the Primary Office before leaving the campus please.

Mr Martin, Mrs West and I will be looking after all remaining children in the **Primary Hall** from 1:30pm till 2:15pm and from 2:15 - 3:00pm in the adjacent PAC. So if you have a conference between those times please come to the PAC to collect your child. School buses will run at normal time on this day therefore leaving the campus at 3.25pm.

Thank you.

Nga mihi

Karen Whenuaroa
Head of Primary

Other Information

First Credit Union



First Credit Union provides a school banking service to all pupils at Bethlehem College Primary. Getting started is easy - just pick up an application pack from the school office (their latest newsletter should have gone home with your child last week), fill in the application form and return it to the school office. If your children are already doing school banking, remember that the school banking is collected on Thursday each week!

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DEVICE USE IN PRIMARY

Mobile phones and smart watches are now a feature of modern society and we have noticed an increase in smart watches in particular being worn by our Primary students. Students do not need mobile phones and or smart watches during the school day. These devices fall under our current Electronic Devices policy which says:

Electronic Devices - Devices are not to be seen or heard at any time anywhere on campus outside of a classroom between the hours of 8:15 am to 3:15 pm. Offending could result in the device's confiscation until the end of the day (for the first offense) or longer.

As outlined in the rule these items, should they come to school, need to be put away during school hours. They are not needed for student's learning and in fact can become a distraction not only to the owners but other students around them. If your child has a device for use outside of school hours they may keep it in their bag or place it in a set place determined by their class teacher to be returned at the end of the school day.

Please note, Year 6 i-pads are used only during class times under the supervision of their teachers and do not fall into the category in this context.

Further to this please be assured the school has systems in place to pass on any messages from parents to students providing these have been rung through to the School Office at 07 576 6769 by 2:30 pm.

Nb: in the event of an emergency after 2:30 pm our systems in place (instant messaging and notes) would be activated.

For further discussion, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the PLT.

Thank you for partnering with the school as we work to create the best learning environment for our students.

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ITINERANT LESSONS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

BC Primary over the years has allowed children to leave their class for additional music and or speech & drama lessons. This has been an arrangement that has been in place largely due to the fact that for many students who live far away from the college, taking such lessons can be very difficult outside of school hours.

The itinerant teachers first and foremost responsibility is to provide for NCEA students as directed by the Ministry of Education. They then fit in the additional tutoring for our Primary children. The itinerant teachers unfortunately are only in school certain days and for certain hours which makes timetabling a challenge.

The Primary school has asked that these lessons be primarily after 12pm due to the fact that during the morning, key lessons in core subjects are often taught, for example Maths, Reading, and Writing. When children miss this instruction time on a regular basis over the year they can effectively be missing up to 25% of the curriculum in a given subject.

We have been liaising with Mr James Williams, who is the Director of Performance Music at BC, to see how we can accommodate these additional lessons without impacting the core curriculum too much. Mr Williams has noted that the itinerant lessons that have the most positive impact on students in terms of continuing being involved and feeding into the musical life of the school, are the group lessons. It has been recommended that students in a group tutoring lesson should partake in any other private lessons outside of school hours.

We feel it is very important that parents understand the possible implications of the itinerant lessons for their child, especially if the time their child has been designated takes them out of class at a time that may impact their learning in a given area of the curriculum. While we are not suggesting your child cannot participate in itinerant lessons, we do feel it is valuable for you to have the opportunity to consider the implications in consultation with your child's teacher should either of you see this as necessary. We recognise that every classroom timetable is different and so the impact will be different for each child.

As a school we will be monitoring this and if necessary may make changes to how these lessons take place.

In partnership we continue to endeavour to provide opportunities and access to learning that will best suit the needs of your child.

For further discussion, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the PLT.

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STEPSWEB

Bethlehem College Primary would like to advise you that we will be using StepsWeb, an online literacy resource that will benefit your child in reading, writing and spelling for all year 3 – 6 students this year. StepsWeb is produced in New Zealand by an organisation called “The Learning Staircase”, and is based on strong research. We are confident it will benefit all students, due to the programmes ability to personalise learning. StepsWeb supports the learning of spelling, reading, vocabulary and comprehension. The programme is online and students will be able to access it both at school and from home, but for the most part will be used at school. The programme will be administered by classroom teachers and a password will be issued to all students.

There is a charge of \$10.00 per student to be involved in the programme to cover license costs, which will be **debited to your child’s account accordingly.**

Should you like more information about the STEPS program (including videos), please follow the link to <http://learningstaircase.co.nz/why-steps> or feel free to contact Mrs Jo West at school on the address below.

If you do not wish to have your child participate in this programme, please email: jo.west@beth.school.nz.

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