

TERM 3 2026 – NEWSLETTER #13

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Last Friday, our Primary Choir had the privilege of performing at the 70th anniversary of the Tauranga Primary Schools Music Festival, alongside 250 students from across Tauranga. Under the capable guidance of Mrs Rachael McKoy, our students performed beautifully, singing a carefully crafted repertoire of songs in addition to an individual item, 'Follow the Light' from the animated film 'David', in keeping with the evening's theme, Dream Big. A particularly special moment was seeing four generations — Katie McKoy, Mrs Rachael McKoy, Mrs Andrea Poole and Mrs Pat Liddle join the massed choir on stage to sing *Que Sera, Sera*. What a precious celebration of family, music and community!



TERM 3 KEY DATES

YO-Y3 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Mon 14th Sept – Primary Hall – 9.30am

KAPA HAKA HOBEC VISIT

Wed 16th Sept – Hobec – 9.30am – 11am

YO-3 TALENT SHOWCASE

Fri 18th Sept – PAC – 1.40pm

LAST DAY TERM 3

Fri 25th Sept - 3pm

TERM 4 KEY DATES

FIRST DAY TERM 4

Tues 13th Oct

YO PHOTOLIFE PHOTOS

Wed 14th Oct

CIVVIES DAY

Fri 23rd Oct – Charity – TBC

Theme - TBC

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

Facebook: [@bethlehemcollege](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemcollege)
Instagram: [@bethlehemcollege_nz](https://www.instagram.com/bethlehemcollege_nz)
Website: [Enrolled Families](#)



This week also marks the beginning of Māori Language Weeks at BCP. Over the next two weeks, our Primary Kapa Haka group will perform, and students will have opportunities to engage in poi, rākau making, waiata and string games. E1 has extended the invitation to visit classes to perform 'Tauranga Moana' and the school haka. We look forward to celebrating and learning together with respect and enthusiasm.





Finally, I am pleased to share an important update regarding digital learning at Bethlehem College Primary. Following a review of our Bring Your Own Device programme for Year 6 students, and after prayerful consideration of educational needs and parent feedback, BYOD will no longer be required for Year 6 from the beginning of 2027. Instead, BCP will provide school-managed Chromebooks that remain at school and are used solely as learning tools.

This change reflects our commitment to partnering with parents and stewarding technology wisely. Students will continue to develop essential digital skills, while handwriting, books, practical learning and other traditional approaches remain central to classroom life. We hope this approach will also support families in establishing healthy and balanced digital habits beyond school.

As a Christian school, our desire is that every aspect of school life contributes not only to academic growth, but also to the formation of young people who seek to use their gifts, culture, relationships and resources wisely for God's glory. Thank you for your continued partnership as we seek to provide an environment where every child can flourish.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jo West

WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

We are blessed to have our student service leaders share at our worship assemblies. Last week Aaliyah shared a devotion at worship assembly about her favourite verse - Philippians 4:13 *"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength"*. Aaliyah reminded us that Jesus Christ is always with us, no matter how we feel.

Logan Barnes shared a favourite passage of scripture, Psalm 23, with us this week. This well known passage about the Lord being our shepherd and leading us through life is a great reminder to trust God because He guides us and provides comfort for us. Logan spoke about the many relocations he and his family have experienced and how he has prayed for God to go before each of them, an act that has brought much comfort.



ASSEMBLY

A1 and A2 have been busy learning, creating and having lots of fun in A Block! Their recent assembly showcased their learning around God's Masterpiece, where they have been discovering patterns and becoming clever pattern detectives. They even taught the whole Primary school their pattern song and had everyone joining in!

The children have also been learning a new waiata, *Tū Teri Mai Ngā Iwi*, which they proudly shared with the school. Our learning about planets has also featured, with A1 and A2 delighting us with a fun planet-themed dance.

It was wonderful to see our youngest learners sharing their learning with such confidence, enthusiasm and joy. There is certainly lots of learning and lots of fun happening in A Block!



NC SPEECH COMPETITION

Peter Schulz (Y5) and Yanni Wu (Y6) represented our school at the North Cluster Speech Competition. They represented our school so well and spoke with confidence and clarity. Yanni was awarded runner up for the year 6 competition, and Peter came 1st place in the Year 5 competition. What a fantastic achievement!





DREAM
BIG

PRIMARY CHOIR FESTIVAL



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

As we near the end of term Operation Christmas Shoeboxes are still available at the primary office if you are interested. Thank you to the many families who have already shown an interest. The shoeboxes will be collected in the second week of Term 4.



<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

HAPPY PARENTING

In light of BCP's recent move to remove BYOD at Year 6 and with holidays on the horizon, I thought it might be a great opportunity to remind you of some of Rob Cope's hot tips about digital cyber safety.

Rob Cope's Top Tips for the School Holidays

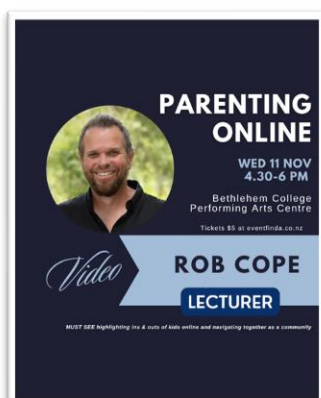
Simple, strong steps every parent can take to protect their kids online

- 1. No Devices in Bedrooms... Ever! Make this non-negotiable. Phones, tablets, gaming consoles – they don't belong where kids sleep.**
"A lot of parents say, 'My kid can't sleep without their tablet.' That's just the culture you've created."
- 2. Install Filters on Every Device: All devices, including phones and home Wi-Fi, must be filtered. No child should have unfiltered internet access – not even for a second.**
"If your child has a device without a filter, it's only a matter of time before they discover porn – it's not if, it's when."
- 3. No More Zombie Town: Start reclaiming back family life. Sit at the dinner table. Talk – Laugh – Be bored together.**
"We don't sit at the table anymore. Life's become a chaotic mess. We need to bring the family back."
- 4. Connection Beats Control – Talk to your kids about everything. Explain boundaries, don't just enforce them. But don't be afraid to draw the line when needed.**
"Sometimes you've just had enough. That's OK. Say: 'this is what's happening. Stop it. End of story.'"
- 5. Be the Parent — Not the Best Mate: Lead. Guide. Protect. That's your role.**
- 6. Half an Hour a Day is Plenty: Rob recommends a maximum of 30 minutes screen time per day. Kids will push back, especially if they're used to hours. But the shift is worth it.**
"We removed the TV for one week. My 14-year-old son read a 550-page book. My stepdaughter wrote four chapters of her own."
- 7. Model It Yourself: Kids copy what they see. If you're glued to your phone, don't be surprised when they are too.**



NOTICES

- **Library Closed:** From Wed 16 to Tue 22 September, the library will be closed for all students except seniors studying for exams. All other Primary and Secondary students need to make alternative arrangements if they need a place to meet before/after exams, or to hang out - this includes before school. This will support students studying and enable the librarians to conduct their annual stock take.
- **BC Businesses:** Need a referral for a business? Have a business you'd like to list? Want to connect with other businesses? Check out our BC Business page [here](#) and join us at our next event on Monday 14 September 4.30 pm.
- **Yearbook:** One free Arotahi yearbook is given to each family - either to the departing senior OR the eldest child, as well as a pdf version of the magazine available to download for free. For those families wishing to order additional copies, these can be purchased for \$20 per copy [here](#) through 25 September.
- **Rob Cope Parenting Evening:** Don't miss our final session of the 2026 edition of Rob Cope's Parenting Online video session on Wed 11 Nov. Practical tips on parenting throughout the years. \$5 tickets [here](#).
- **Chapel Carols:** An invitation to the BC Community to celebrate the gift of Jesus by signing up to sing, read, play, act and more in the spirit of Christmas! Join us Friday, 27 November and enjoy a decorated chapel and a Christmas bikkie care of our cooking classes. Sign up for a 30-minute+ set [here](#).
- **Chapel Worship:** All welcome Wednesday mornings 8-8.30 am for mid-week worship in the chapel, with chapel open until 9 am.
- **Alumni:** Calling all past students, friends, parents and staff of Bethlehem College (Primary, Secondary & Chapman)! We would love to connect with you. Join our BC Connect group today to reconnect with BC friends here: www.beth.school.nz/about/alumni.
- **RightNow Media:** As part of the BC community, you have a membership to RightNow Media. Whether you're looking for encouragement in marriage, practical parenting wisdom, spiritual growth resources, or safe Biblical content for your children, this library is here for you. Our hope is that this resource strengthens your faith, encourages your family, and supports you as you lead your home. Sign up for free today: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/bethstudents>.
- **BC Rowing Quiz Night:** Book your tickets for a fun night out, while supporting our rowing team on Sat 31 Oct. More info and tickets [here](#).



Marriage and Menopause

A workshop for husband's and wives
to navigate this season of life

 **Changepoint Church**

 **Tuesday 15th September**

 **7:00pm**

 **\$65 per couple**

Hosted by
Enhanced Relationships



ENHANCED RELATIONSHIPS
Strengthening Your Marriage

THE MARRIAGE BOX WORKSHOP WITH DAVID & KIM JEPSEN

REGISTER NOW

 **Friday 18th and
Saturday 19th of September 2026**

 **Friday 7pm to 9.30pm Saturday
9am to 5pm**

 **Changepoint
131 Poike Rd Ohauiti**

Learning tools that will help you create
a blueprint for your marriage

SCAN LINK



www.enhancedrelationships.com/register

AJS Celeste

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Mount Maunganui, NZ
dancer.amanda11@gmail.com

Rhythmic Skills Classes

Term 4 2026

- Learn gymnastics skills and rhythmic gymnastics apparatus handling.
- Improve flexibility & strength.
- Increase co-ordination.
- Encourage confidence.
- Classes are designed for children aged 5+ years.

futuregymnasticstga@gmail.com

CLASSES:

Monday 3.30pm - 4.30pm (5 & 6 years)
Monday 4.00pm - 5.00pm (7+ years)
Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.30pm (5 & 6 years)
Wednesday 4.00pm - 5.00pm (7+ years)
Thursday 4.00pm - 5.00pm (Advanced RG Skills)

**Come along and
join us today!**

 **FUTURE
GYMNASTICS TAURANGA**

