

Kia Ora Whanau



Birkenhead
Primary School

Welcome to all our new families joining us and welcome back all our current families.

As your Board, Principal, and Senior Leaders, we are super excited about 2020. Over the holidays there has been a lot happening around the physical school and this is detailed below.

Teachers, support staff and Northcote Kahui Ako (Community of Learning) have worked together in a series of professional development opportunities. One of these was the hosting of educational psychologist Kathryn Berkett at BPS. Kathryn shared some great practical insights for teachers to support the growth of resilience in the classroom and gave teachers a chance to reflect on their own mindsets. We thought this information was so important that we have booked Kathryn to come back and present at a parent evening. This will be on **11 March at 7.00pm** in the school hall and will be funded by the school.

Along with a continued focus on Wellness, we have many other great events and learning planned for 2020. Many of our inquiry topics will relate to current events such as NZ Music Month, Summer Olympics, General Elections and Referendum.

We would like to welcome new staff to school – Samantha Knowles will be joining us as Deputy Principal of the Junior Syndicate, Imogen Field will join the Year 6 (Panuku) team in Room 18 and Rochelle Henry will join the Year 4/5 (Whanake) team in Room 17. All three teachers will be formally welcomed by a Whakatau at **9.00am on Monday 10 February**. This will be our first school event for 2020 and parents are welcome as always. For those who are unsure what a Whakatau is, it is a form of a pōwhiri that follows a more relaxed protocol.

Property Update: Senior classes (Rooms 14/15/16/17) – the arrival of portable classrooms enabling our new build transition has been delayed and they should be here late February. In the meantime the students will remain in the original senior block.

Room 1 – has become The BPS Transition Classroom. This room is where new entrants start school and can stay there as long as they require to be ready to move into a classroom. We made this more welcoming by adding a new ranch slider and deck area with a garden. Children settle into school much better when they have a safe space, as the playground can feel overwhelming for the first few days.

Rooms 7/8/9 – have been renovated over the break. We painted them and installed new lights, autex and carpet. Phase 2 of modernising the deck area will take place over the mid-year holidays.

You will have noticed the top court has temporary fencing around it. This enables Rooms 18 and 19 to move closer to the hall and allows better access to the new build site. The completion of this work has been delayed and will be finished during Term 1. Around the school we have replaced and repainted a number of roofs that were leaking. All of these works now conclude our planned upgrade programme. Over the next few months we will share how the school's future buildings will look.

Wishing you and your tamariki a happy start to the year at BPS.

Ngā mihi nui

Bevan Verryt & the BPS Board of Trustees