

# Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 16

24 October 2013

## Less than a month away now!

The Rotokauri Car Show and Country Fair is on Sunday November 10th this year at Rotokauri School from 10am - 2pm.

It is always a great day with lots of cars on show and food stalls, as well as entertainment. Make sure you tell anyone you know that has a classic / performance / vintage / hot rod / stock / any type of show car that might be interested in this day. It is \$5 per car entry and a gold coin donation to come along and be part of this great day. Email [mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz) to register.

ENTRY COST  
CAR = \$5  
SPECTATOR = GOLD COIN

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY

**WHI**  
WEST HAMILTON  
AUTO REPAIRS

VINTAGE , SPORTS,  
PERFORMANCE, STOCK CARS  
and HOT RODS WILL BE ON  
DISPLAY AND ARE WELCOME

## ROKOKAURI SCHOOL CAR SHOW/COUNTRY FAIR

EVERYONE  
WELCOME!

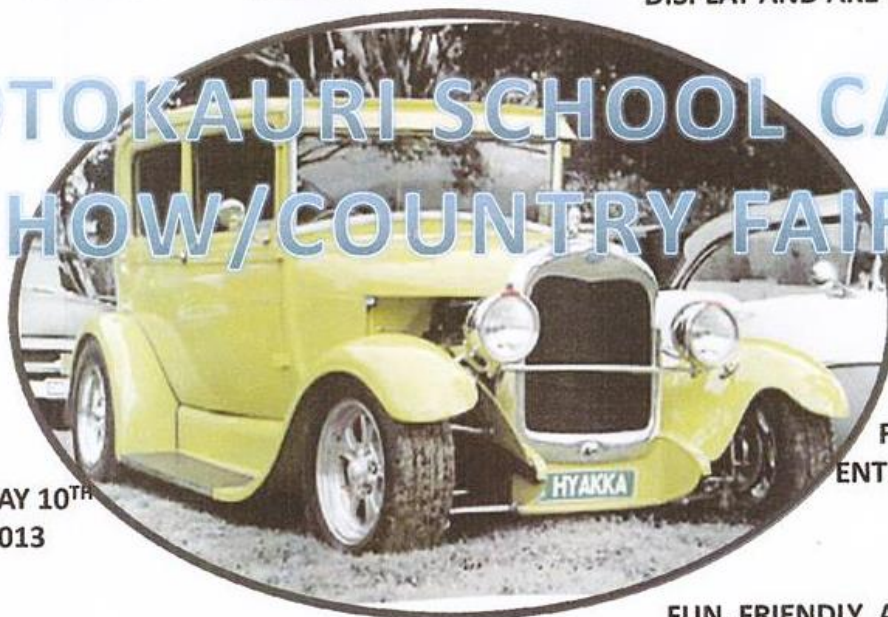
WHEN: SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 2013  
10AM - 2PM

WHERE: ROTOKAURI  
SCHOOL (462 ROTOKAURI  
ROAD) JUST 2 MINUTES  
FROM HAMILTON ZOO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
OR TO ENTER A CAR EMAIL  
[mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz)  
OR PH 8495068

MUSIC,  
FOOD STALLS,  
ENTERTAINMENT

FUN, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE  
SO BRING THE FAMILY ALONG.  
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS  
UPGRADING THE ROTOKAURI  
SCHOOL LIBRARY



**ROKOKAURI SCHOOL**  
462 Rotokauri Road  
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**Telephone (07) 849 5068**  
**Fax (07) 849 4371**

**Email: sverstraten@rotokauri.school.nz**

Dear Parents

*Nga mihi o te wa kia koe me to whanau.*

## **ROKOKAURI SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

Our positive environment will actively engage our students in learning.

## **ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VISION**

We are responsible, confident learners and communicators.

## **ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VALUES**

Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Persistence and Excellence.

## **TEACHERS RETURNING**

2014 will see Linda Marsh and Janice Skiffington returning to Rotokauri School. It will be great to have their input into our school again and catch up with all their news from their experiences while on leave. Janice will be teaching in Room 4 and Linda will be teaching in Room 7.

In their absence we can consider ourselves very lucky to have secured the services of Lois Amery and Penni Houghton who have done an excellent job with our students. It is my opinion that New Zealand teachers rank up with best in the world and this is why they are so sought after overseas. Three years ago I spent some time over in the Middle East and was amazed by the number of New Zealand teachers working there and the regard people had for them.

## **CLASSES FOR 2014**

We will initially start with 7 classes at the beginning of next year. As part of the planning process we determine the amount of children who are currently enrolled to come into our school in 2014 but we need to know the children who will be leaving at the end of 2013. With the exception of our current Year 8s, if your child will not be returning to Rotokauri School can you please inform the office as soon as possible so that classes can start to take shape.

## **MATHLETICS**

Over the course of the year we have gone into detail about Mathletics and even had a parent evening about it. The school has kindly budgeted ten dollars a child to take part in this programme and has bought additional IT devices to help support its use in our school. We also trialled Mathletics earlier on this year and the feedback and excitement from the students was fantastic to say the least. Mathletics is currently used in approximately 30% of New Zealand Schools.

The positives that we have noted in relation to Mathletics are as follows:

- Supports the schools Maths focus for 2013 and 2014.
- The access for students and parents is 24/7.
- Breaks down a lot of negative attitudes that students may have towards Maths. One Hamilton School believes it has improved student engagement by 45%.
- This is a New Zealand based system and follows New Zealand curriculum content.
- It is multi-leveled.
- We found that when we trialled it with our students they started to set personal Maths goals.
- Our students found it fun and educational.
- It helps with collaborative learning.
- It gave our students a sense of achievement.
- Our students showed that they were more willing to take risks.
- The programme catered for different learning styles.

## PARENT INPUT INTO MATHLETICS

Most schools ask for the full fee to be a part of this programme but as I said earlier we think this will have such an impact on maths learning that we as a school are prepared to budget a third of the cost.

**A maths curriculum fee of \$20 will enable your child full access to this programme. That's less than 50 cents a week for what is one of the leading online learning platforms available anywhere.**

**We would ask that this be paid as soon as possible so that we can start Mathletics straight away in Term One of 2014.**

Please pay Sharon at the office as soon as possible so that you child can be fully integrated into Mathletics.

## VANDALISM

Our students are very proud of our school environment and therefore they would have been very disappointed to see large rubbish bins thrown up onto the sunshades. This could have caused thousands of dollars in damage were it not for Tracy Nicol who informed school staff. Thank you to the volunteers that tidied up the school after this incident.

Unfortunately we live in an age where certain individuals see this as an appropriate thing to do to someone else's property. To create such mayhem at our school required students of at least high school age. People who do these acts have no respect for other people and interestingly enough have little respect for themselves. Often these acts are committed by people who have low self-esteem and even lower morals.

If you see anyone causing damage to our school please inform the Police and or Waikato Security 834 8106.

## NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

We have a number of new parents in the school and they may not be aware that we can email our newsletters home. Please see or email Sharon [sverstraten@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:sverstraten@rotokauri.school.nz) if you want to take advantage of this service.

## SUNHATS

A number of years ago the Board introduced a policy of wearing sunhats. It is common knowledge to most New Zealanders that we suffer one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world and that much of the damage occurs in our early years. Rotokauri sunhats are to be worn in Term 1 and Term 4. Students that do not have the appropriate sunhats have to play under the sunshade provided.

## SWIMMING

If you are interested in getting your children water safe for summer we have a professional coach available in December. Vicki Taylor is from the company 2 Focus which has worked with our students previously. All bookings for swimming lessons are to be made directly to Vicki on 0274595647.



### Swimming Lessons at Rotokauri School

**2Focus:** Graham Smith & Vicki Taylor have been coaching in country schools for six years, and coaching in clubs for over fifteen years; we come to your school to make full use of the school's pool.

#### What we offer

- Block course 5 x 30 minute swimming lessons
- Cost \$35.00 for the week
- Swimmers are coached to their individual ability
- Technique coaching in all swimming strokes
- Time: 8.00 am to 8.30 am
- Date: 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013

To book please contact Vicki Taylor, [v.taylor@windowslive.com](mailto:v.taylor@windowslive.com) or on Mob: 0274595647  
Information needed when emailing: Childs name, contact number, child's swimming ability and age.

## SWIMMING POOL KEYS

The Board, at their last meeting, decided that we would open the pool to the community for the 2013/14 season. Our pool is a tremendous asset to our school and community but it may interest you to know that many schools are actually closing their pools, which is really sad. Our pool will open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Each year we sell a limited amount of keys to families who attend our school. The cost of the key is \$70, which also gives you access to the tennis courts. These keys are sold on a first in, first served basis. Before buying a key you need to read and sign a pool use contract. Keys are available from the school office.

## END OF YEAR PRIZEGIVING CHANGE

We have had to move the prizegiving evening to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. This event will take place on the school grounds as usual and will give parents/families the chance to have a picnic and socialize before the prizegiving starts. More information about the prizegiving will be in a later newsletter.

## HONESTY

Honesty is one of the most important values a school can have. Last week while doing his senior duty Robbie Potter came across a cellphone in one of the rubbish bins and handed it in to the school office. Well done Robbie. Your honesty was much appreciated.

## THANK YOU

This school could not operate without the generosity of our parents. Thanks to Michael Sumner we now have a vast array of sport cones that can be used by our sports coaches and teachers.

Thank you to Jarrod Teale who helped the Board recently in relation to information technology. Your advice I'm sure will help the school scale another step of the IT ladder. Thank you also to Richard Jorgensen for his help with the basketball hoops.

## BOT REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

### August and September

The Board of Trustees for Rotokauri School met on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 12<sup>th</sup> September. At the August meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing from the student council members who presented the results of a recent survey showing that Rotokauri School students would like more IT and sports equipment available to them. The safety of the students was also discussed. Our school is a very safe environment and students predominantly feel happy and supported in it. There is now an extra teacher on duty and more organised sports on at lunchtime for the students to enjoy. The School's website is currently under review – we look forward to seeing the finished result.

In the September meeting, special mention was made of the extremely high standard of speeches this year, with Rotokauri School winning the Year 5/6 and Open sections at the interschool speech competition at Te Uku. This is great to see, as enabling our students to be confident at public speaking is a very important life-skill.

Casey Donoghue shared with us how she uses IT in her class, and discussed the benefits it offers her students to enhance learning in the classroom.

Ten more i-pads have been leased by the school to assist students with their learning.

These will be available for use, in the classrooms, using a booking system.

The swimming pool will be opening over the 2013-14 summer break.

Report compiled by Rosemary Pritchard, Personnel Officer on the BOT.

## CARPARK

Students' safety in the car park is paramount at Rotokauri School, especially at the moment with the road works. Please ensure that you are parking in the appropriate places, walking students across the pedestrian crossing and entering / departing the carpark with care.

## NO LUNCH ORDERS TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2013

School lunches will not be available to purchase the day after Labour weekend as all four lunch ladies will be attending Group Day at Gordonton School.

## THE LUNCH LADIES NEED HELP

One of our crew is leaving Rotokauri School next year, so we have a vacancy for someone who has 2 Monday mornings a month to spare to help us with the bought lunches.

You will only need to be there for 1½ hours (9am-10.30am) one week and 3 hours the other week (9am-10.30am) then (11.15am – 12.45pm). So that's only 4½ hours per month.

We have a roster but can easily swap around to suit family commitments etc.

You will always be working with someone else and full training will be given.

If you are interested in joining us please let Sharon Verstraten in the office know.

Thank you

Hayley, Donna, Claire and Judith

## FEES OWING

**Please remember to pay the following to the school office:**

- Religious Instruction fee per year - \$5.00 per child
- Photocopying fee per year - \$4.00 per child
- Room 2 – Newspaper in Education fee - \$3.00
- Year 7 & 8 students only – Technology Fee \$100.00 per student per year.

Thank you to the parents who have paid their fees already. ☺

## INTERESTING

Our job as parents is not to make everything perfect for our kids. (Paul Donohue – Child Psychologist)  
Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, but only saps today of its strength. (AJ Cronin)

**Eat a rainbow of 'glow foods' every day!**

**By eating different coloured 'glow foods' everyday your body gets a variety of vitamins and minerals. These play different roles in your body. The more colours you eat, the more you will glow from the inside out!**



**Eat a rainbow of 'glow foods'  
every day!**



### **RADIANT RED**

**Homemade berry smoothie made with low fat milk, yoghurt and berries**

**Pop a small handful of cherry tomatoes in your lunchbox**

**Slice watermelon into different shapes for a juicy afternoon snack**



**HAVE YOU ENTERED  
ROUND THE BRIDGES?**

**[roundthebridges.co.nz](http://roundthebridges.co.nz)**

**Download your training programme and the 2km Kids Challenge will be a breeze! There is also the 6km and 12km run or walk for adults.**



**EVERYONE'S  
DOING IT!**

**new zealand HOME LOANS  
ROUND THE  
BRIDGES**

**2KM  
6KM  
12KM**

**SUNDAY  
17 NOV**

## **Christmas at the Park - Talent Competition**

We are encouraging talented kids of all ages to enter this competition for a chance to perform at Christmas at the Park, Flagstaff.

The entry details are displayed in the Notes tab on the Christmas at the Park - Flagstaff facebook page.

Sponsors of the

## Rotokauri School Coromandel Fishing Tournament



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### Magnolia wanted

I am looking for magnolia for my shop, if anyone has a tree and wouldn't mind me giving it a good trim could you please let me know on  
0274 303 844

Thanks  
Marie Carlson

Don't forget we offer a 10% discount to the  
Rotokauri community

