

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 1

13 February 2020



ROKOKAURI SCHOOL
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Dear Parents

Nga mihi o te wa kia koe me to whanau.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our positive environment will actively engage us all in learning.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VISION

Together We Grow

- Unity (Kotahitanga)
- Inclusive (Manaakitanga)
- Guardianship (Kaitiakitanga)

Together We Learn

- Innovative (Auahatanga)
- Happy (Uruhau)
- Responsible (Tuutika)

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VALUES

Respect

Empathy

Active Learning

Courage

Honesty

WELCOME

Nau mai, haere mai ki te kura o Rotokauri. Welcome to the twenty three new students that have started at Rotokauri School this year –

- Room 1 – Lucas Birchall, Jayden Day, Rydge Shortland, Corban Stratford, Thomas Warner
- Room 2 – Jackson Connolly, Lais Harihari
- Room 3 – Isaac Steger, Cooper Buckle
- Room 4 – Te Manawa Harihari, Leon Watkins, Khloe Woodward
- Room 5 – Liam Buckle, Samuel Watkins, Jordyn Harihari, Isabelle Steger, Mia Van Elzakker
- Room 6 – Haydin Bartley, Chloe Russell
- Room 7 – Amber Rapira-Kiel, Penelope Simpson
- Room 8 – Paul Davey, William Simpson

We hope you and your whaanau/family enjoy your learning journey at Rotokauri School.

Ngaa mihi nui.

PRINCIPAL'S PIECE

A very warm welcome back and a special welcome to all the new students mentioned above, their families and to our newest staff member Mrs Jane Rickman. We have

started the new year with 198 students enrolled and it is once again great to hear the holiday stories and witness the energy, enthusiasm and optimism for the coming year. This first newsletter for the year is jam packed with important information so please read it thoroughly and keep it handy for referring back to during the year.

Ngaa mihi
Desiree Smith

BOT NEWS

During the holidays the BOT have continued to work behind the scenes –

1. The swimming pool has been open to key holders over the summer season. The BOT would like to thank our caretaker Hans and the group of dedicated volunteer parents – Tanzey Dombroski, Rhianna Moka, Carie Aitchison and Anna Hapi. This facility is only operational due to the testing and cleaning that they do over the holidays. Solar panels on the roof of the staffroom have been replaced, so that the temperature of the pool water is a couple of degrees warmer.
2. Quotes have been sourced for building work on the decks and handrails around the school.
3. An application has been completed for a Ministry grant to put solar heating on our MPR.
4. Bark has been booked for the playgrounds as part of the regular compliance cycle.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Classes and Teachers

The following classes are operating this year –

Room 1	Year 1	Mrs Emma Vile
Room 2	Year 1 & 2	Mrs Andrea O'Rourke
Room 3	Year 3	Miss Jaimee Swindells
Room 4	Year 3 & 4	Mrs Claire Walker
Room 5	Year 5	Mrs Diana Donovan
Room 6	Year 5 & 6	Miss Ariana Matenga
Room 7	Year 6 & 7	Mr Scott Robertson
Room 8	Year 7 & 8	Mrs Jane Rickman

Introducing Mrs Jane Rickman (Room 8)

My name is Jane Rickman and I have recently joined the Rotokauri teaching team as a Year 7/8 teacher, moving from the Hamilton West intermediate team, where I taught for three years. I have worked with young people for over twenty years as a youth worker, early years' teacher and primary school teacher and I am passionate about education and well-being.

My absolute favourite pastime is spending time in the great outdoors with my husband Peter and our three teenage children, Daniel, Toby and Breanna. I'm excited to be a part of this special school and I look forward to getting to know you better throughout the year.

Term Dates

Term 1: 3rd February – 9th April
Term 2: 29th April – 3rd July
Term 3: 21st July – 25th September
Term 4: 12th October – 15th December

Teacher Only Days

This year we will be holding three Teacher Only Days during terms 1 – 3.

Teacher Only Day 1: 25th March – all staff will be attending a Literacy course.

Teacher Only Day 2: 28th April – staff will be attending workshops on the Local Curriculum.

Teacher Only Day 3: 20th July – staff will be attending workshops on the new Digital Technology component of the curriculum.

Morning Entry to School

If children are arriving at school prior to 8.30 a.m. they are to wait in the bus bay or attend Atmosphere Before School Programme. They are not to enter the school grounds until the bell rings at 8.30 a.m. as this is the preparation time for staff.

Late Arrivals

Students arriving at school after the 8.55 a.m. bell need to sign in on the VisTab at the front office. Late arrivals and absences are monitored by staff, as this is a requirement of the Ministry of Education. Arriving late at school can be quite distressing for your child as it brings attention to them and they may have missed vital pieces of important information that is shared at the beginning of a school day. If students do arrive late they need to enter the classroom quietly so as not to disturb the other students or the teacher. We ask that parents/caregivers say their goodbyes at the gate or if dropping off a younger child, in the cloakbay and request that the class is not disrupted by parents/caregivers saying goodbye or wanting to talk to the teacher. This is not the appropriate time.

Leaving Early

If it is necessary for parents/caregivers to take children out of school, either from class or at break times, we ask that you ensure that the classroom teacher, duty teacher or office administrator is informed and that the child is signed out in the office. We request that you wait at the office and your child will be contacted to come to the office to meet you. This ensures that the class teaching time is not disrupted. As a courtesy we would appreciate being notified ahead of time if you are intending to pick up your child/children early – an email to the classroom teacher and cc the office please.

Attendance and Absence Notification

There are many justified reasons why a student may be kept at home for the day and we ask that parents contact us by telephone, email, in person or via the school app; ideally before 9.00 a.m. so that the absence can be appropriately recorded. When notifying the school please let us know your child's name, the class they are in and the reason for their absence.

Any unexplained absences on the teachers' roll after 9.10 a.m. will be followed up by contact, either by phone or email, to the parents/caregivers. If the school is not notified before or on the day of the absence with a reason, the child will be marked as Truant.

Staff Hours of Contact

Please note that our staff are available in their class from 8.30 a.m. Due to privacy this may not be the best time to raise a concern in front of other families (or your child) so it may be appropriate to email your concerns to the teacher and/or make an appointment to meet at a mutually agreed time. Because of their teaching load and duties during the day, staff will endeavour to give an email response within 24 hours, between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. E-mails sent to staff during the weekend will not be responded to until Monday.

Staff have professional meetings on Tuesday mornings (8.00 – 8.45 a.m.), Tuesday afternoons (3.15 – 5.00 p.m.) and Thursday afternoons (3.15 – 5.00 p.m.) so may not be available to address any concerns face-to-face on these days.

As a staff we are committed to open and positive communication with our families.

Communication with Families

Regular contact is made between the school and families through different methods.

- Our school newsletter is published once a fortnight, on a Thursday. This is usually emailed to families but a hard copy can be requested.
- Our [school website](#) features general information about the school, school event calendar and class webpages.
- The School Stream app can be downloaded onto your smartphone to receive instant notifications of events, reminders and cancellations. This app is available on iPhone, Android and Internet explorer pages.
- The [school Facebook](#) page is a great way to see photos from events and read good news stories.
- Seesaw: The Learning Journey app is used by students and teachers to share their learning with families. This app is available on iPhone, Android and Internet explorer pages. Teachers can provide the log in details for your child.

Please keep checking the noticeboard at the front of the school, the school calendar available on the webpage and your emails to ensure that you keep updated with events happening at school throughout the year.

Clothing

A plea from the staff – please ensure that all items of clothing and towels are named. At this time of the year we have a volume of clothing that continues to increase due to not finding the owner. Children, especially younger students, often do not recognize their own clothing. For younger children it is also handy to have a change of clothing in their schoolbag in case of accidents.

Brain Break Food

Because morning tea isn't until 11.00 a.m. and we are keen to support students to stay focused on their learning, they will be having a fuel 'brain' break at 10 a.m. This is a small bite to eat intended as an easy to eat, nourishing snack that provides some good energy between breakfast and morning tea. The fuel break will be approximately 5 minutes long. Parents/caregivers can help us by encouraging children to bring along brain food e.g. fruit, cheese/crackers, vegetables, a small handful of popcorn or pretzels and water to drink. For younger students it can be helpful to let them know which item is the brain break snack, so they don't eat their lunch at this time. Brain break food needs to come to school in a named container and will be brought into class as part of the class morning routine.

It is important that all our students have enough healthy food throughout the day – it is hard to learn with a hungry tummy!!

Assemblies

An informal assembly for students and staff is held on Monday mornings at 9.00 a.m. and the purpose of this assembly is to 'set up' the week. A formal assembly is held on Friday afternoons from 2.25 – 2.50 p.m. and the purpose of these assemblies is to celebrate and share the student's successes and achievements. Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend.

School Donations

This year the Board of Trustees has once again made the decision to leave the school donations at \$100 per child, maximum of \$250 per family. This is used to support the school budget. All donations are gratefully received and can be paid to the school office. You are able to claim a tax credit from all donations.

Tech

Our Year 7 & 8 students continue to be involved in Tech at Hamilton Junior High School. The Technicraft fee for the year is \$100 and this can be paid to the school office.

Stationery

Thank you to the parents/caregivers that have organized their child/children's stationery. We have been made aware that OfficeMax is experiencing difficulty with getting orders to families promptly and correctly. Students will start using their books from Week 3.

Medical Requirements

Please ensure that you come to the school office to fill out a medical form if your child requires medication during school hours. If your child needs to use an inhaler please ensure that they are brought to school, named and in a sealed plastic bag. No medications can be administered without written permission. If medication is held at school please take the time to check expiry dates during the year so that, if needed, the medication will work correctly when administered.

If your child has an allergy, is asthmatic or has other medical conditions that require a health plan please let the school office know so that these plans can be completed or updated (as per the Ministry of Health regulations).

Jaimee Carter (SESCO) has sent out asthma and medical plans this week which are due for updating for all children listed on our medical register. Please have them signed by a doctor as soon as possible and return to school. These plans will supersede your child's current asthma or health plan. If you would like to talk to Jaimee Carter about your child's health needs, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Touch Rugby

Thank you for getting the touch rugby notices back to school so promptly. Whaea Ariana is sorting through the teams and organising coaches and managers. Shortly you will be sent a link to register your child in their school team. **Fees are \$20 per child and are due to the school office by Monday 24 February before the first game on 27 February.**

Weetbix Tryathlon

All the very best to the students participating in the Weetbix Tryathlon this weekend at Waikato University.

Year 7 & 8 Immunisations

The Public Health Nurse has spoken to the Year 7 and 8 students about the upcoming immunisation programme. Forms were given to the students and these need to be returned, to the office, by Friday, 21 February (regardless of whether you are consenting or not).

UPCOMING EVENTS

School Picnic

The School Picnic was such a success last year so we have decided to turn it into an annual event. We will be holding the 2020 School Picnic **this coming Friday, 14 February from 10.25 a.m. to approximately 1.30 p.m.**

We invite all parents/caregivers to attend and join in with the children as they participate in many fun activities. Children will participate in the events in their House teams and will rotate through 8 activities. We will conclude the fun and games with a picnic lunch together under the trees, a tug-o-war between the Houses, and an iceblock for the children. We look forward to seeing you all on Friday.

Children will need:

- To wear their House colours.
- A change of clothes as some events will involve water.
- A NAMED towel.
- Morning tea and lunch (healthy snacks of course).
- Their NAMED water bottle (to be carried around the events).

Optional

- Families might like to bring a picnic blanket to sit on under the trees if you wish.

Meet the Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher evening will be on **Monday, 17th February**. Teachers will be in their classrooms during the time indicated on the timetable to outline their programmes of work, explain their expectations and answer any questions. If there are particular questions you wish to ask, please email these to the classroom teacher prior to the meeting time so that they can address these for you. There are 30 minute slots per class teacher at the following times –

5.00 – 5.30 p.m	Mrs Emma Vile	Room 1
5.30 – 6.00 p.m	Mrs Andrea O'Rourke	Room 2
5.30 – 6.00 p.m	Miss Jaimee Swindells	Room 3
6.00 – 6.30 p.m	Mrs Claire Walker	Room 4
6.30 – 7.00 p.m	Mrs Diana Donovan	Room 5
7.00 – 7.30 p.m	Miss Ariana Matenga	Room 6
7.30 – 8.00 p.m	Mr Scott Robertson	Room 7
8.00 – 8.30 p.m	Mrs Jane Rickman	Room 8

Biathlon/Triathlon

The annual Rotokauri School Biathlon/Triathlon will be held next **Friday, 21 February starting at 9.45 a.m.** There have been some changes to the organisation of the event and more information will follow early next week.

Children competing in the TRIATHLON will need a roadworthy bike and a helmet as well as their togs. Children competing in the **BIATHLON** will need their togs. Please indicate to your child's teacher whether your child will be competing in the BIATHLON or TRIATHLON as this helps us to organise the heats for the day.

Hearing and Vision – Visit on 6 March 2020



Information Sheet on Vision and Hearing Checks in School

Vision Hearing Technicians from Community and Southern Rural Health will be visiting our school. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing defects.

If any parents/caregivers **do not** want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a vision or hearing defect, they should let the school know.

Which children are routinely checked?

Children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their B4 School Check.

Children absent from previous visit, require retests or follow up

In special circumstances, parents, teachers or others may request a vision or hearing check

New immigrants

All Year 7 student's vision only

What tests are carried out?

Ears

Audiometry (hearing test)

Tympanometry – middle ear function test (only carried out when hearing test is not within a normal range)

Eyes

Long distance vision tests – not a complete visual examination, but a simple screening test

NB All of these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort.

The Vision Hearing Technician will:

Notify parents of all test results.

Enter results on Ministry of Education database (Enrol)

The Vision Hearing Technician will obtain personal details from the school i.e. names, date of birth.

If the technician needs to contact parents or caregivers following the visit, addresses and phone numbers will also be required.

Our Service may share this information with other health professionals involved in the children's care.



Class Photos & Portraits – 26 March 2020

Photographs will be taken on 26 March. There is a new online system being implemented by Photolife this year so hopefully this will make ordering and paying for photos a lot simpler for everyone. More information will be given out as it is received.

I understand that this is a lot of information to take in all at once. Please take the time to read through everything to familiarize yourself with the way that we operate at Rotokauri School. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact one of the staff members.

CELEBRATIONS

At our assemblies the following children received certificates.

Assembly Awards

Week 1

Room 1	Madison Beets	For being really brave getting into the school pool at swimming time.
Room 1	Jayden Day	For being brave during his first week of school. Keep up the great attitude to learning Jayden!
Room 2	Anna Haldane	For starting the year demonstrating the values of active learning and respect at all times.
Room 2	Turner Wallace	For beginning Room 2 as a wonderful role model.
Room 3	Zeke Sia	For being kind to the Environment.
Room 3	Isaac Steger	For being respectful and having great manners.
Room 4	Rhys Jorgensen	For coming into Room 4 and settling really well. Well done.
Room 4	Evie Wilson	For showing the Rotokauri values and helping her new classmates when needed. Well done.
Room 5	Mia Van Elzakker	Great learning for the first week of school.
Room 5	Hannah Towl	Beginning the year with great work ethic.
Room 6	Haydin Bartley	For having a wonderful start to the term and year. You have settled into Room 6 perfectly. Ka pai.
Room 6	Chloe Russell	For having a wonderful start to the term and year. You have settled into Room 6 perfectly. Ka pai.
Room 7	Melisa Soltanzand	For being an 'Active Learner' in the classroom.
Room 7	Mason Newbold	For showing 'Respect' in the classroom at all times.
Room 8	Oscar Stratford	For demonstrating the school value of active learning by staying focused and writing an interesting and chatty letter.
Room 8	Corey Molloy	For demonstrating the school value of empathy by being a buddy and supporting two new students to feel welcomed into Room 8.

Western United AFC

SOCCER

Muster

**Sunday March 8th,
9am**

Grading

BREMWORTH PARK, Dinsdale.

**Grading is for 9th grade & above.
For all the grading times visit www.wuafc.co.nz
2nd grading Sat. 14th March for those unavailable Sun.**

BREAKFAST IDEAS

START YOUR DAY THE BREAKFAST WAY!

Eating breakfast is a great way to kickstart our brain and body for the day. Let's begin every day the right way - with a healthy breakfast!



Developed by Sport Waikato 2019

BREAKFAST IDEAS

A CRACKING BREAKFAST

Eggs are a great source of protein which helps us to grow strong, healthy muscles. Add some wholegrain toast for a tasty, filling breakfast.

- Scrambled - add herbs for extra flavour
- Boiled
- Poached



TIP:

Add spinach, tomato or avocado for extra goodness



Developed by Sport Waikato 2019



More than a third of our children in NZ are now overweight.

The most effective time to address children's weight issues is before they reach secondary school age.

Bodywise is a group programme for children aged 5 through to 12 years.

It involves participation of both the child and parent(s) in a 10 week group programme at Sport Waikato, Hamilton, with additional follow-up visits for a further 6 months.

Programme topics include: healthy eating for families, school lunches and snacks, getting active, promoting self-esteem and confidence, tips for dealing with bullying, problem solving and goal setting.

Adrianna and Anthonni are happy to receive any enquiries around being part of the Bodywise group programme.

For more information contact either:

Adrianna, Bodywise Dietitian:

P: 021955984 E. adrianna.hepburn@waikatodbh.health.nz

Anthonni Hall, Active Families Co-ordinator

P: 0273669676 E. anthonnih@sportwaikato.org.nz"

Saturday Music Classes

Enrolments are now open for Term One 2020 at the Waikato Community School of Music (formerly Hamilton Community Centre of Music). The first session is on Saturday 8th February. The school caters for all ages (3 to retired) and ability levels. We offer both group-format and one-to-one tuition. Group-format term fees range from \$39 to \$105 (9 lessons in Term 1) depending on age and instrument. The enrolment fee for any instrument class includes unlimited participation in our ensembles. One-to-one classes assist students to prepare for exams and earn NCEA credits.

A music appreciation/readiness programme (*Music Makers*) is available from age 3. *Young Voices* children's choir caters for those ages 9+. Classes are held on the University of Waikato campus in Hillcrest.

Contact us via our website [Waikato Community School of Music](http://www.waikatocommunityschoolofmusic.org.nz) or on 07 838 4611.



Spanish Club at Rotokauri School- Term 1

Fun Languages offers an opportunity for children aged 2-12 years old to learn Spanish. Our team are all fluent or native Spanish speakers and passionate about taking children on a journey of discovery through the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries. The focus is on fun games, activities, songs and crafts that will enable them to use their new language for real purpose.

Take a look at the content of our lessons [Spanish for Kids](https://lcclubs.co.nz/spanish-for-kids/)
<https://lcclubs.co.nz/spanish-for-kids/>

When: Wednesdays 3pm-4pm

Cost: \$15 per session. 9 week term = \$135

9 week term: 12th February- 8th April

FIRST SESSION IS FREE TO TRY

Please register your interest at amber@lcclubs.co.nz or call 022 199 3958

TENNIS LESSONS

Starting: Thursday, 13 February – 26 March 2020 (7 weeks)

Time: 4.30-5.15 for Novices and
5.15 - 6.00 pm Advanced

Where: Rotokauri School Tennis Courts

Tutor: Alby Ellis, PE teacher at Hamilton Boys High School

Cost: \$70 - to be paid at beginning of term to Alby.

Information: Alby has a fun, friendly effective method for teaching the children tennis. He has been successfully teaching tennis at our school for a number of years and also teaches at other schools and St Peters tennis club.


Tennis court access: Rotokauri School Tennis Court keys can be purchased from the school office for use out of hours.

Contact: Sacha sacha@photosacha.co.nz with your child/rens name, age, experience or any questions.





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Alex Short
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admin@nolimitspools.co.nz

FREE QUOTES

We build quality custom fiberglass pools, water features and spas on site to any size and shape. We also refurbish pools. Other services we offer include concrete, retaining walls, pipe testing, block walls, fencing, decks and tiles.