

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 6

15 May 2020



ROKOKAURI SCHOOL
462 Rotokauri Road
R D 9
HAMILTON 3289

Telephone (07) 849 5068
Fax (07) 849 4371
Email: office@rotokauri.school.nz
www.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 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

PRINCIPAL'S PIECE

Be kind



Wash and dry your hands



Welcome to Week 5 of Term 2 already.

I hope that all our Rotokauri mothers had a wonderful day on Sunday, celebrating Mother's Day with their families.

The Prime Minister's announcement that New Zealand is moving to Alert Level 2 is most welcome. I want to say a huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE to our families for all that has been achieved over the past weeks with distance learning. I am looking forward to having all our students and staff back at school very soon.

A special thank you to Mrs Claire Walker, Whaea Ariana and Mrs Win Schmits for all their hard work over the last three weeks, as they have been working with our Level 3 Bubble students. Well done to the students for following the new protocols that have been developed to keep everyone safe during COVID-19.

Keep warm everyone and we look forward to seeing you all at school on Monday, with some variations to what school would normally be like.

Ngaa mihi
Desiree Smith

THINGS THAT MAY HELP YOUR CHILD TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL



This information is provided by Sparklers, a wellbeing toolkit developed after the Canterbury earthquakes. They know a thing or two about what can help during tricky and worrying times, when our children may need some extra support.

1. While it may not feel like it, the best place for our children to be (if they can) is school! It'll be wonderfully social, normalise their experiences and while there might be initial worry, going to school will totally help. Psychologists call this 'exposure' – if we expose ourselves to the things we're frightened of, we become less frightened.
2. The Ministry of Education will continue to set guidelines over the coming weeks, and they are specialists who know what they're doing. We've been listening to them so far, and that's worked out well!
3. Teachers are cool – and are awesome supports for tamariki. Teachers know there'll be lots of different emotions in a room, and that kids might range from fine, right through to super scared. They will respond with aroha and empathy.
4. Kindness is an antidote to worry. Isn't that amazing? When we focus on fear, we tend to be driven by worries (hence all the toilet paper buying!). Focusing on kindness shifts our thinking to others – helping us act in caring ways, notice similarities and look for the good, all of which boost our wellbeing!

5. Your kids will be watching you bloomin' closely right now. If you're displaying worry, they'll be worried too. Sometimes we just have to pretend to be brave or calm, for them. A good mantra is: If I'm okay, then they're okay, even if I have to pretend sometimes.

If your child is super worried:

- Try not to over-reassure, as they'll think there really is something to worry about.
- Think about your emotions too – see our number 5 note above!
- Head to [Worries 101](#) and learn some strategies to help.

Finally, start talking (gently) about all the cool things about going back to school. If we show we're okay with this and highlight the positives, we can help them to see these too.



BOT NEWS

Property Developments

During the lockdown progress has been made with the property improvements that the Board have been working on.

- This week an arborist will be in school removing dead trees from our native area and completing maintenance on a number of trees around the school.
- We have received quotes for fixing the asphalt in the bus bay and an extension for the bus bay seating. These are now with the Ministry awaiting authorization to continue.
- Unfortunately the decking that was planned for the holidays is now on hold until the next school holidays in July.

BOT Elections

The board of trustees wish to announce that there are 2 vacancies on the committee and have agreed to hold a by-election to fill these positions.

Rotokauri School Board of trustees' by-election

Nominations are invited for the election of 2 parent representatives to the board of trustees.

A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations will be posted to all eligible voters.

You can nominate another person to stand as a candidate, or you can nominate yourself. Both parts of the form must be signed.

Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office.

Nominations close at noon on 5 June 2020 and may be accompanied by a signed candidate statement and photograph.

The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

Voting closes at noon on 19 June 2020.

Sharon Verstraten
Returning Officer

PTA NEWS

Meet Penny Postbox

Penny is the schools latest recycling initiative and has been affectionately named by the children. She will be collecting writing instruments that are no longer useful.

Acceptable waste:

Correction tape and empty correction fluid pens and pots, felt tips, fountain pens including their ink cartridges, gel pens, highlighters, markers, mechanical pencils (with the lead removed) and pens.

NON acceptable waste:

Chalk, crayons, glue sticks, rubbers, rulers, sharp objects like scissors or cutting instruments and wooden pencils.

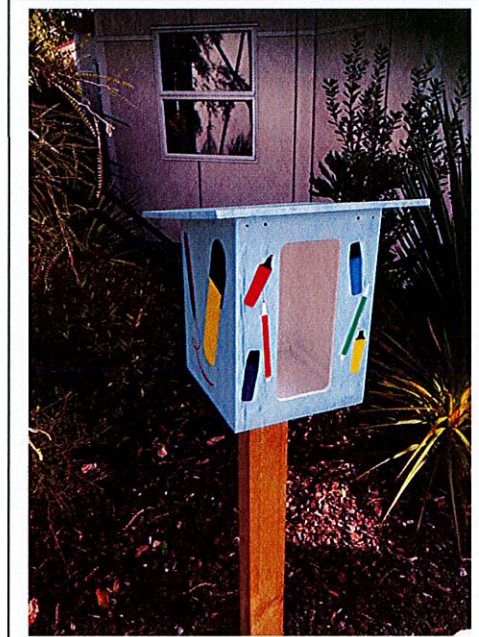
These writing instruments will then be forwarded to a company called Terracycle who recycle them into things like garden furniture. If you want to know more about the programme, check out this link:

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-NZ/brigades/writing-instruments-recycling-nz#how-it-works>

Penny was built by a school dad in January then painted in Springhill (on the way to Auckland) where she was stuck for the lockdown. The finishing touches will be done this weekend then she will be ready to start serving the community. Penny is not just for the school and school families so spread the word, anyone can drop writing instruments off here. We will also be approaching other local schools to let them know about Penny and hopefully get them to advertise in their school newsletters.

You can find Penny in the garden to the left of the school's main entrance from Monday.

If you have any questions about this, please contact enviro@rotokauri.school.nz



GENERAL MATTERS

Pool Key and Tennis Court Key Return

If you hired a key for the summer can you please return them to the school office as soon as possible. Tennis court keys will need to be returned too.

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).

General Election

This year the General Election is scheduled to be held on Saturday 19th September and Rotokauri School will once again be a polling booth.

The Electoral Commission is very keen to employ people from the community in voting services, including people from our school – parents or teachers. There will be plenty of roles starting soon and more roles available the closer it gets to the Election. All roles are paid and the rates are good with more information available here: <https://elections.nz/jobs/work-at-the-2020-general-election/>

I will be meeting with the Returning Officer in the next couple of weeks so if you would be interested in working at the General Elections please let me know via email.

Spanish Lessons



Spanish Club at Rotokauri School - Term 2

Dear Parents,

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/>

When: Wednesdays 3pm-4pm

Where: Rotokauri School Library

6 week term: 27th May - 1st July

Cost: \$15 per session. 6 week term = \$90

FIRST SESSION IS FREE TO TRY

NEW STUDENTS CAN JOIN ANYTIME

**To register to join or to ask any questions contact Amber at
amber@lcfclubs.co.nz**

CELEBRATIONS

This week I would like to celebrate our wonderful students work during lockdown. The teachers have shared special work with me and these children will receive a certificate and juicy when they return to school on Monday.

Room 2

My drawing in chalk of my frogs lifecycle

Did you know frogs start as eggs, then they turn into tadpoles, then the tadpole grows legs and becomes a froglet then there tail drops off and it becomes a frog.

I didn't know that there was a name in between tadpoles and frogs!

I had lots of fun creating this drawing

This is a frogs lifecycle

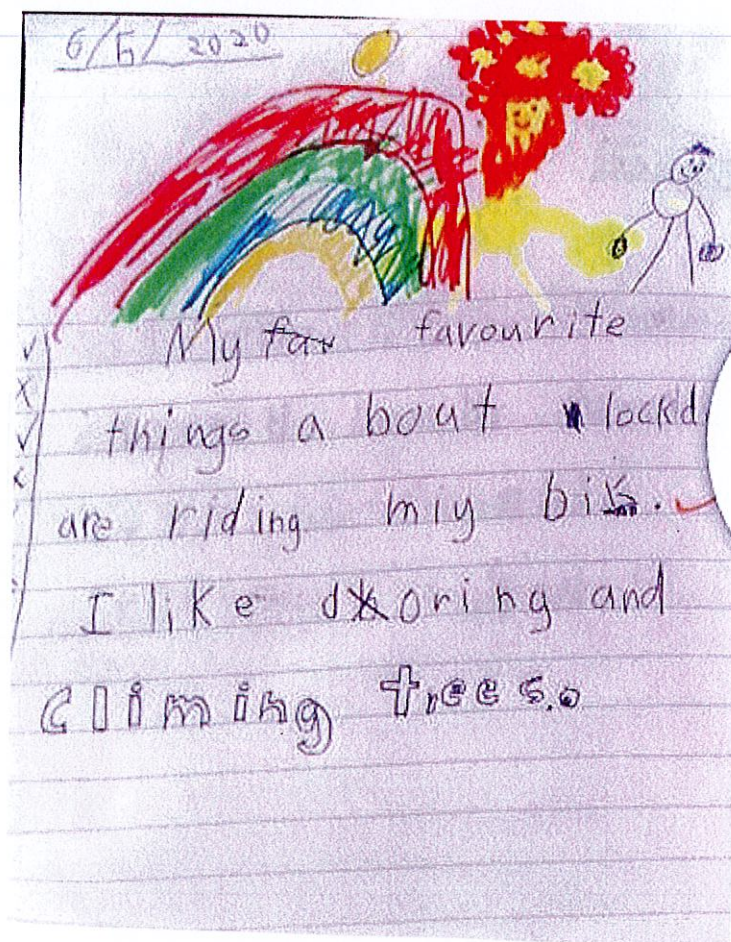
Mackenzie Moroney-Pearson

Mackenzie's preferred learning style is definitely using her artistic skills. She tapped into her creative ways to respond to tasks and extend her learning such as this beautiful life cycle drawn with pavement chalk on her driveway.

Hugo Hodgson

Hugo story reads "My favourite things about the lockdown are riding my bike. I like drawing and climbing trees."

Hugo persisted with his learning day after day and should be so proud of his efforts. He also kept his teacher's spirits up with lovely audio messages and even send through challenges and learning tasks for her to do.



Gorillas



Gorillas are huge mammals with black and grey fur that covers their body. Their eyes and ears are tiny but they have large flat noses. An adult gorilla is very strong, it can weigh 190 kg. The adult male Gorilla has a silver coloured back and is called a silverback. There are four different types of Gorilla species.

Gorillas mainly live in the jungle and rainforest in Africa but you might also find them in zoos. They use the jungle to make their homes. They like to live in these places because there are many plants for them to eat.

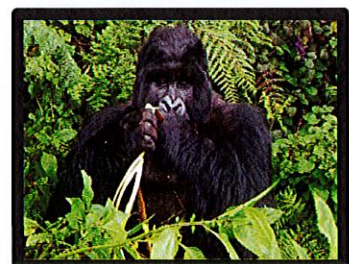
Gorillas are not picky eaters, they are Omnivores. They eat hundreds of different plants like bamboo shoots, vegetables, tree bark and roots, grub bugs, leaves and ferns, fruit and flowers, seeds, grass, stems and branches.

Gorillas like to live close to their families, they move around in groups of five to thirty. A silverback is recognised as the leader of the group and the females are the nurturers. A female will look after her baby and carry it on her back until it is three years old.

Gorillas are now an endangered species. Hunters are killing them for their meat and capturing them to sell to circuses. Their natural habitats have also been ruined by humans creating cities. All these things have meant that the Gorilla is in need of protection.

Gorillas have so much personality that they are almost considered human-like. A Gorilla's personality is generally gentle and shy, but because of their size and strength people can be scared of them. Studies have shown that they have 98% human characteristics. This makes the Gorilla a very special mammal to our world.

By Sophie Fairclough



My bedroom

Three stark white walls and one dark grey feature wall textured like crumbly bricks. A bed as tall as the Eiffel Tower with a surprisingly hidden useful desk and chair patterned like tree bark. The softest mattress in the world, it feels like you're floating on clouds and my pillows are the softest feathers.

By Maddix Anniss

Room 7

Research project by Lachlan Emslie



The famous ANZAC soldier from World War One that I have chosen is William Malone. He fought in World War One when he was 21. Born in Kent in 1859 he moved to Taranaki at the age of 21. Malone was a member of several boards and councils. Also he was active in local affairs as Chairman. Malone was a farmer and farmed during the day and studied law at night. In 1984 he was admitted as a solicitor. He is best known for his military achievements and for helping as a captain in the South African War.

When he was commander for the Wellington Battalion, he refused to send them to Gallipoli for a disastrous daylight attack on the Auckland Battalion, he said he would not send his men "over to commit suicide". William Malone was the oldest man in the battalion and he was "fit, hard and well." Malone was almost 6 feet tall and of solid build.

William Malone had 4 sons and 1 daughter. Sadly his wife died when giving birth to their last child. He then married someone else and they had 2 sons and another daughter together. Before he died he wrote three letters to his wife. That meant he knew that something bad was going to happen to him and he wouldn't return home alive. On the 8th of August 1915, his battalion seized the strategic heights of Chunuk Bair. He was accidentally killed by supporting artillery fire.

New Zealand Impacts!

I think that one of the reasons that the war made a big impact on New Zealand is because of all the lives that have been lost in or because of the war. So many people have died because of the war. Some of them were children terrified and trying to hide. The people that died in the war were so brave to stand up and fight for their country. I don't think they deserved to die just for fighting for their country. I think this is an impact because having people die is so sad, especially if they don't deserve it. Every year we celebrate ANZAC day to remember those who died in or because of the war. I don't know what it feels like to lose someone, but my great grandad was a war photographer and he died a little while after. Luckily not in the war. I never got to meet him, but I think that if he's like my Grandad he's probably pretty great.

Another impact that I think affected New Zealand is when New Zealand was at war, New Zealand realised that we don't have to be living in the shadows of the world. We can be a real country. We are capable, independent and most importantly we always are ourselves. I think the war was an important impact because it was the years that we realised that we were a separate country and we need to be noticed. So we took pride and we made the world realise us as a separate and independent country. New Zealand had found their identity. Then a little while after the name KIWI came about, so we started to call ourselves KIWI'S. So I think that was a big impact for New Zealand because it's when we found our identity and we became a unique country.

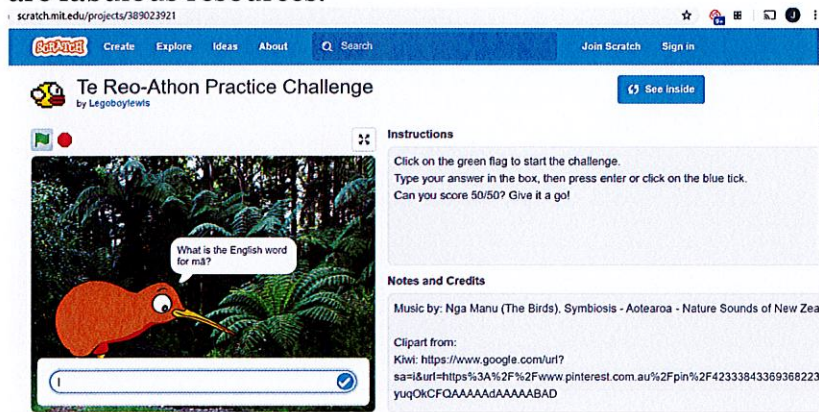
My last impact that I think affected New Zealand is the mental health issues and injuries. Because of some injury's they invented plastic surgery. Plastic surgery was invented a century ago and it was used on soldiers with bad injuries on their face. A surgeon named Harold Gillies discovered a new method for facial reconstructing in 1917. Many soldiers came back from the war with post-traumatic stress syndrome/ a mental sickness that they could have for the rest of their lives or if they're lucky just for a year or so. This can be very hard for the woman to look after everyone and still get money to pay for food and clothes. Because the husband, brother or son may not be able to do it because of an injury. This made an impact for the woman because it can be very hard to have full responsibility for the whole family. But I myself think that having a war is STUPID!

By Ava Viljoen-Thomson

Room 8

Te Reo-Athon Practice Challenge

In Room 8 we are taking part in a Te Reo-Athon at the end of May. To help us practice our words Lewis and Ciaran put their excellent coding skills to use and created these two quizzes to help us practice. If you would like to try them for yourselves email Mrs Rickman, Lewis or Ciaran for the links. Their hard work, creativity and thoughtfulness has earned the two of them a Principal's Award this week. Congratulations boys, these are fabulous resources.



scratch.mit.edu/projects/389023921

Scratch Create Explore Ideas About Search Join Scratch Sign in

Te Reo-Athon Practice Challenge

by LegoboyLewis

See inside

Instructions

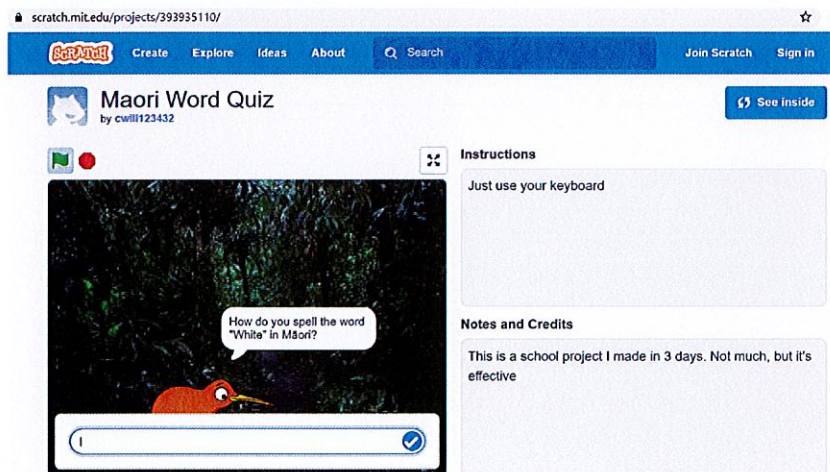
Click on the green flag to start the challenge.
Type your answer in the box, then press enter or click on the blue tick.
Can you score 50/50? Give it a go!

Notes and Credits

Music by: Nga Manu (The Birds), Symbiosis - Aotearoa - Nature Sounds of New Zea

Clipart from:
Kiwi: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.com.au%2Fpin%2F42333843369368223yuyq0kCFOAAAAAdAAAAABAD>

By Lewis



scratch.mit.edu/projects/393935110/

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Maori Word Quiz

by cwlll123432

See inside

Instructions

Just use your keyboard

Notes and Credits

This is a school project I made in 3 days. Not much, but it's effective

By Ciaran



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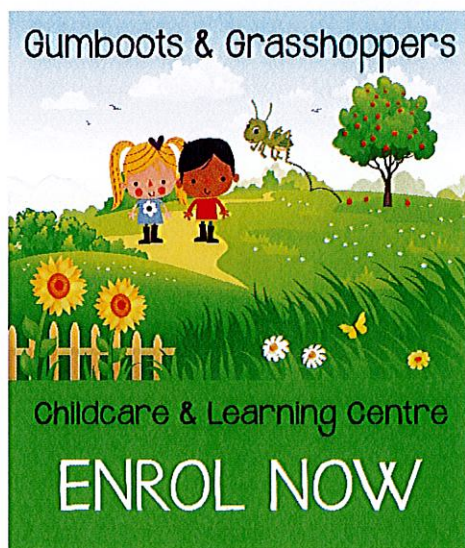
NO LIMITS

P O O L S

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