

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 1

14 February 2013

Important Reminder Notice

NO Peanuts at School please

Just a reminder and to make new families aware:

We have a little girl in Room 1 who has a PEANUT allergy which means that if she should eat a peanut (even a tiny amount) she will probably have an allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This can be life threatening. Anaphylaxis constricts the throat (airways) making it very hard to breathe. An epi pen will be held at school and safety plans have been put in place.

In order to provide a safe environment for this child we would be grateful if you could please try to ensure that your child's lunch box contains food that is peanut free.

Most packets of snack foods show on the labels whether they contain peanuts.

Alternatives to peanut butter and muesli bars containing peanuts: Nutella (Hazelnut spread), Almond butter, Vegemite, marmite, honey, cheese etc. Many thanks.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL
462 Rotokauri Road
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HAMILTON 3289

Telephone (07) 849 5068
Fax (07) 849 4371

Email: office@rotokauri.schoolzone.net.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.

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our new families who have joined us this week. We hope that you and your children will enjoy Rotokauri School and the special caring environment that we provide.

The weather this summer has been stunning and no doubt you have enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

This term is busy and exciting with a number of special sporting and cultural events taking place. Please look at the end of this newsletter for the Term One Calendar.

For the first couple of the weeks the staff will work at bonding and TEAM building activities so that they can really get to understand how each child learns and socialises. Students will also be reminded of our school values and how to behave to show these values. Our values (Respect, Responsibility, Excellence, Persistence and Honesty) are the core of Rotokauri School. I wouldn't call them a set of rules as they are more important than that - they are a set of TEAM beliefs. This term the value that we are encouraging is **Respect**.

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

We need to empower students with a strong sense of what is socially acceptable and how to articulate with others when they are unhappy with a certain situation.

In our school we ask our students to do the following if they are upset with another child.

1. If someone is being mean to you.....
2. Say, "Stop it! I don't like it when you.....because....."
3. If they don't stop...
4. Move away from them.
5. If they still don't stop...
6. Tell a teacher.

Once a teacher is informed of a problem there is a procedure that is followed so that incidents are investigated. This procedure will be modelled by students at assembly.

NEW STAFF

This year we welcome Penni Houghton in Room 7. Penni has relieved at Rotokauri School and is well known to the students. She is relieving in Room 7 all year as Janice Skiffington is Acting Principal for Term 1 and then on leave for “the big OE” – Europe, Great Britain and the United States. Karen Hollingsworth joins us as the new SENCO and will be working to support our students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

NOTE FROM KAREN HOLLINGSWORTH - SENCO

It is great to be back at Rotokauri School, working as the school’s SENCO, replacing Jan Jerram who retired at the end of last year. I know I have big shoes to fill! Some families may remember that I worked at Rotokauri from 1997-2000 as the Reading Recovery and SARR Tutor.

My family moved to Auckland in 2000, returning to Hamilton in 2006. During the last 12 years I have had a variety of teaching and leadership roles in schools, working in general with children who have special educational needs.

I am looking forward to the challenge of the SENCO role and it is especially nice to be part of a school community again after being itinerant for the last 7 years.

Please feel free to make yourself known to me and say ‘Hello’. I am really looking forward to meeting and getting to know you all.

Karen Hollingsworth

OTHER STAFF DEVELOPMENTS

- Congratulations to Victoria Hamer who got engaged while she was in Wales over the Christmas holiday period. We wish you and Jason all the best for a great future together.
- Congratulations also to Mike and Janet Watkins who are expecting their second child in June.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Although we have never actually written it down we have always had an open door policy at our school. There is no signing in and out of the school by parents. I have always said that the health of a school can be determined by the support the parents are willing to give.

Parents come into our school at all hours of the day to support the teachers in reading, spelling and oral language groups, just to name a few. There are many skills that you as parents have which can support the school.

If you would like to know what is happening at the school feel free to talk to your child’s homeroom teacher. My door is also open to all parents at any time.

It’s only when parents have left our school that they realise what an open door policy we really have. For those parents whose children have departed for High School, count how many times you see the Principal and Management staff, let alone having a friendly chat with them in their office without having to make an appointment and signing in on the visitors book when you enter and leave the school.

BUDGET FOR 2013

The money that we receive from the Ministry of Education has to fund nine different areas as stated below. We, as a decile 8 school do not receive anywhere near the amount of funding that a decile 1 or 2 school would receive.

This limited funding has made us more self-sufficient over the years and through fundraising and school donations hope to collect an additional income during 2013. We are always open to new ideas and if someone has another way of generating income for our school, please drop me a line. The New World fundraiser idea came from a parent. Our Draft Budget for 2013 is on display in the front foyer. Once again feel free to comment on it.

AREAS TO BE FUNDED IN 2013

1. Learning Resources
2. All Information Technology Expenses
3. Teacher Expenses - Includes all professional development courses and appraisals
4. Equipment
5. Personnel - Includes Teacher Aide, office staff and caretaker
6. Administration - Includes accounting and all consumables
7. Property Management
8. Capital Expenditure
9. Environment

Running a school is very expensive. It's the parent donations at the end of the day that is often the difference between being able to do something for our students or not. Our Board of Trustees decided, because of the economy and the hardships, that we would keep the donation to \$100 per child with no family with three or more children donating more than \$250. We really appreciate the donations and wisely use every dollar.

MEET THE TEACHER – 25th FEBRUARY AT 7 P.M.

We like to meet the parents as early as possible and explain classroom routines and expectations.

A special newsletter with the times when each teacher will be available will be sent home in the near future. Meet the teacher will take place on Monday 25th February starting at 7pm.

The teachers will talk about classroom routines and expectations for 2013. The pool will be open and supervised, so that you can spend some uninterrupted time with your child's new classroom teacher.

GOAL SETTING

In past newsletters, we have talked about the importance of goal setting. Statistics will tell you that only 1% of the general population will keep their New Year's resolution. Goal setting for children is as important as it is for adults. It makes them more independent, responsible and gives them a sense of achievement and a sense of accomplishment. After going to the Meet the Teacher Meeting have a chat with your child about goal setting. It's important that the child sets the goal and that the goal has a defined time frame. The goal also needs your input in terms of support, which doesn't include nagging. It's also important that you, as a family, celebrate the success of a goal as a TEAM.

CAMP FIRE NIGHT AT THE SCHOOL – 15 MARCH

Last year we had our first camp fire night at school. It was an enjoyable, fun evening and sleeping at school in a tent is exciting.

If you have a tent, and you are willing to supervise your own children and take responsibility for them, this is an ideal opportunity to camp out and spend time with friends. The other option, if you do not own a tent, is to attend for the camp fire/barbeque. The overnight camp on the school grounds will take place on Friday the 15th of March. Please inform the office of your intention to come with your tent before Friday, the 8th of March.

Basic Programme

- 5.30 p.m. Set up tents on the school field.
- 6.30 p.m. People to bring their own barbeques / or bring things to put on school barbeque.
- 7.30 p.m. Play a few sports and games. Take the kids for a swim.
- 8.30 p.m. Build a big group camp fire — Toast a few marshmallows — Get a guitar, sing a few songs.
- 9.30 p.m. Put the children to bed and then a bit of quality parent time around the camp fire.

BASIC FACTATHON

Each year we do a fundraiser that involves the students doing or learning something. This year our main school focus is maths so we will be doing a Basic Factathon later in the term. This is a worthwhile fundraiser as the students are challenged to learn their basic facts and are tested at the end of the timeframe to see the progress that they have made. Knowledge of basic facts is essential to success in maths. Sponsorship forms will be sent home in Week 4.

MĀORI CONSULTATION MEETING

There will be a Māori consultation meeting on Tuesday 19th February at 6.00 p.m. We will endeavour to call all parents who have their child or children enrolled as Māori and they will also receive a letter about the meeting. Regardless of ethnicity anyone can attend this meeting, if their children are Māori or not. We have put it at a later time in hope of getting a few more parents attending. We will be discussing Māori achievement at Rotokauri School. We will also ask for ideas about future learning in Māori and ideas for wider school events.

Mike Watkins and Lisa Mitchell

POOL HELPERS

Thank you to all the parents who kept our pool running during the holiday period. You all did a wonderful job. Anyone using the pool must lock it with their key when leaving, even if other families are still using the pool.

LUCKY BOOK ORDERS

The last day for Lucky book orders is 7 March. Please have any orders with payment to the school office by this date. If you have any questions about your orders, see Victoria Hamer in Room 3. 😊

CARPARK SAFETY

It is very important that parents, when using our car park, model the correct rules. If you send friends or grandparents to pick up your children please make sure they are aware of our basic car park safety rules.

1. If you are going to leave your car to pick up your child please do not leave your car in the drop off zone.
2. Please continually move to the front of the drop off zone when the opportunity arises.
3. Please do not encourage your child to run across the car park to meet you. You and your child should always be using one of the two pedestrian crossings that have been provided.
4. Do not stop at the pedestrian crossing to pick up your child as it causes cars to bank up behind you.
5. Please follow the instructions of the staff and senior road patrol wardens.

Sometimes you may be asked to move your car if you are causing an obstruction. Thanks for keeping our students safe.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is going to be away it's vital that you contact the school – phone 849-5068. When talking to a staff member from 7.45 a.m. onwards please include the child's name, class and most IMPORTANTLY why your child is away. We have to track all students' attendance via our computer system. Parents will be contacted if a child is away for continued, unacceptable reasons.

WHOLE SCHOOL FITNESS TEST

All students will be fitness tested by Mr Goodson on Thursday, 28th February and Friday, 1st March.

ON TIME

Parents who have been at our school for a number of years realise that a lot of our testing and grouping of children for reading, writing and maths takes place at the beginning of the year. Students who turn up late often find they have missed the instructions of the testing procedures. Please ensure that your child is on time. Coming before 9.00 a.m. allows students to socialise with their friends and touch base with their teacher.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

We have Religious Instruction at our school for 30 minutes per week on a Tuesday morning from 9.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. Often, these lessons support the values that we have at our school. **If you do not want your child to attend these lessons please inform me in writing.** Religious Instruction will be starting on 19 February.

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
- Rooms 2 & 3 only – Newspaper in Education fee - \$3.00 Room 2 / \$3.75 Room 3
- Year 7 & 8 students only – Technology Fee \$100.00 per student per year

PARENT SURVEY

WIN A \$75 DINNER VOUCHER TO SAVAGE ROCK

(A copy of this questionnaire will be sent home on Monday, 18 February)

In 2012 we ran a fitness programme throughout the school in the hope of improving our students' fitness / health and therefore improving their self-esteem / confidence.

What did we do? We tested every child in the school in February of 2012 using the following 5 exercises:

- Leg Power=Standing Jump
- 500m run
- Pull-Ups for boys/Hang for girls
- Shuttle run
- Sit Ups

Each teacher then put in a fitness programme to support the improvement of those initial results. Students were taken out 2/3 times a week, weather permitting, to undergo specific exercises that would improve their initial results.

When we retested the students in November we found that the majority of the students had made significant improvements to their original physical test.

We have received feedback from the students in which they answered questions very similar to the ones we are about to ask you. Now it is your turn to give us your views.

A copy of this questionnaire will be brought home by your child on Monday for you to complete and send back.

Please return this form to the office by 9.00 a.m. Friday, 22nd February to go into a draw for a \$75 voucher to Savage Rock.

Regards Mark

COROMANDEL FISHING TRIP / COMPETITION

The annual Rotokauri School fishing trip at Coromandel is presently being organised for Saturday, 23rd March. At this stage it is just a fun day of fishing but if we are able to find sponsorship the fishing trip will be a competition. Either way, we are still going ahead with the day and a weigh in. Keep the day free and an eye out in the newsletter for more information. Please contact Mike Watkins if you are able to sponsor the fishing competition or know of anyone that may be interested.

michael@rotokauri.schoolzone.net.nz

TERM ONE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

15 February	Seniors Vote for Student Council
19 February	Maori Consultation
20 February	Board of Trustees Meeting
21 February	P.T.A. Meeting
25 February	Meet the Teacher Basic Factathon starts
28 February	School Fitness Testing
1 March	School Fitness Testing
6 March	School Biathlon and Triathlon
11 March	School Swimming Sports
12 March	Class Photos
13 March	Junior School Interviews
15 March	Camp Fire Night Inter-school Swimming Sports at Ngaruawahia
23 March	Fishing Trip
29 March	Good Friday – school closed
April 1	Easter Monday – school closed
April 2	Easter holiday – school closed
April 12	I.T. morning
April 15	Book fair this week Senior School Parent Interviews
April 16	Senior School Parent Interviews
April 17	Junior School Interviews
April 19	Last day of Term 1

COACHES NEEDED

Please start sending me e-mails if you are interested in coaching a sports team. Netball and soccer are always popular sports in our school and we often do not have enough coaches to field teams. If I find out early how many coaches we have for which ever sports then I know how many children I need to make the teams up. So please email me as early as possible with what sport you want to coach and grade/year/age level.

michael@rotokauri.schoolzone.net.nz

Thank you.

P.T.A EASTER RAFFLE

The P.T.A will be having an Easter Raffle later on this term. We are asking for any Easter goodies, non perishable, that will help fill our baskets. Please bring any items to the office if you would like to help.

Thanks.

FABER-CASTELL COLOURING PENCILS

If you have recently bought Faber-Castell colouring pencils and have the promotional sticker please bring it along to school. If we get 300 points we can get an art box for the school. Thanks.

MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 STUDENTS



RURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

School immunisations 2013

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Public health nurses will be delivering two school-based immunisation programmes in your child's school this year.

Year Seven Students

These students will be offered the Boostrix vaccine which is a booster for their early childhood immunisations of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough) in Term 1.

Information about the year seven programme will be given to students at school and this session may include watching the Ministry of Health DVD *Year Seven Immunisations*. This DVD presentation is designed specifically for this age group.

At this information session, your child will be given a consent form to bring home for you to read and choose whether or not to have your child immunised by the public health nurses at school. **Whether you choose to immunise or not, the form needs to be returned to school.**

- Please check with your doctor or practice nurse if you are unsure if your child has had a tetanus injection in the last two years.

Year Eight Girls

These students will be offered the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine which is available **free** to girls and young women aged 12-18 years.

Information will be given to the students about the HPV vaccination programme at school. This may include viewing the Ministry of Health DVD *HPV Vaccine Information – a vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer*. This DVD presentation is designed specifically for this age group.

Your child will be given a consent form to bring home for you to choose whether or not to have your child immunised by the public health nurses at school.

- Information on the immunisations is included on the consent form which will be given to your son / daughter at the information session.
- Please complete the consent form and answer all the questions and return the form to school.
- **If your child is not being vaccinated at school you still need to fill in the section with your child's name and details on it.**

For information on these vaccines phone **0800 IMMUNE (466 863)**

Public Health Nurse **Maria Crawford** Ph **07 838 3565**

If you do not want your child to receive this education and/or to view the DVD the Public Health Nurse uses, then send a letter to the Office so that your child can be removed from that class presentation on the day of the education session.

2013 SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

Please be aware that the Easter break is during Term 1 and includes the Tuesday after Easter Monday. The information below is taken from the Ministry of Education website www.minedu.govt.nz Term dates have been altered to reflect Rotokauri School's start and finish days for the year.

	Start date	End date
Term 1	Thursday 7 February	Friday 19 April
Term 2	Monday 6 May	Friday 12 July
Term 3	Monday 29 July	Friday 27 September
Term 4	Monday 14 October	Friday 20 December

Other holidays

Section 65C of the Education Act 1989 states that every board shall ensure that all schools it administers are closed on Saturdays, Sundays and on the following days:

- New Year's Day
- 2 January
- Waitangi Day
- **Good Friday (29 March – during Term 1)**
- **Easter Monday (1 April – during Term 1))**
- **Easter Tuesday (2 April – during Term 1)**
- Anzac Day
- the Sovereign's birthday
- Labour Day
- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day
- and the day observed in the locality in which the school is situated as anniversary day.

SENIOR CAMP 2012 FEED BACK

Hi Mark

I would like to congratulate the Students and Teachers for a wonderful camp held at Papamoa last week. The way the students conducted themselves was a credit not only to their parents but to the school as well. Mr. Watkins, Mrs. Skiffington, Miss Hubbard and Miss Forsyth ran a very enjoyable and entertaining camp. In particular, I felt Mike's organizational skills were very good and his leadership skills appeared to go from strength to strength each day as the camp progressed.

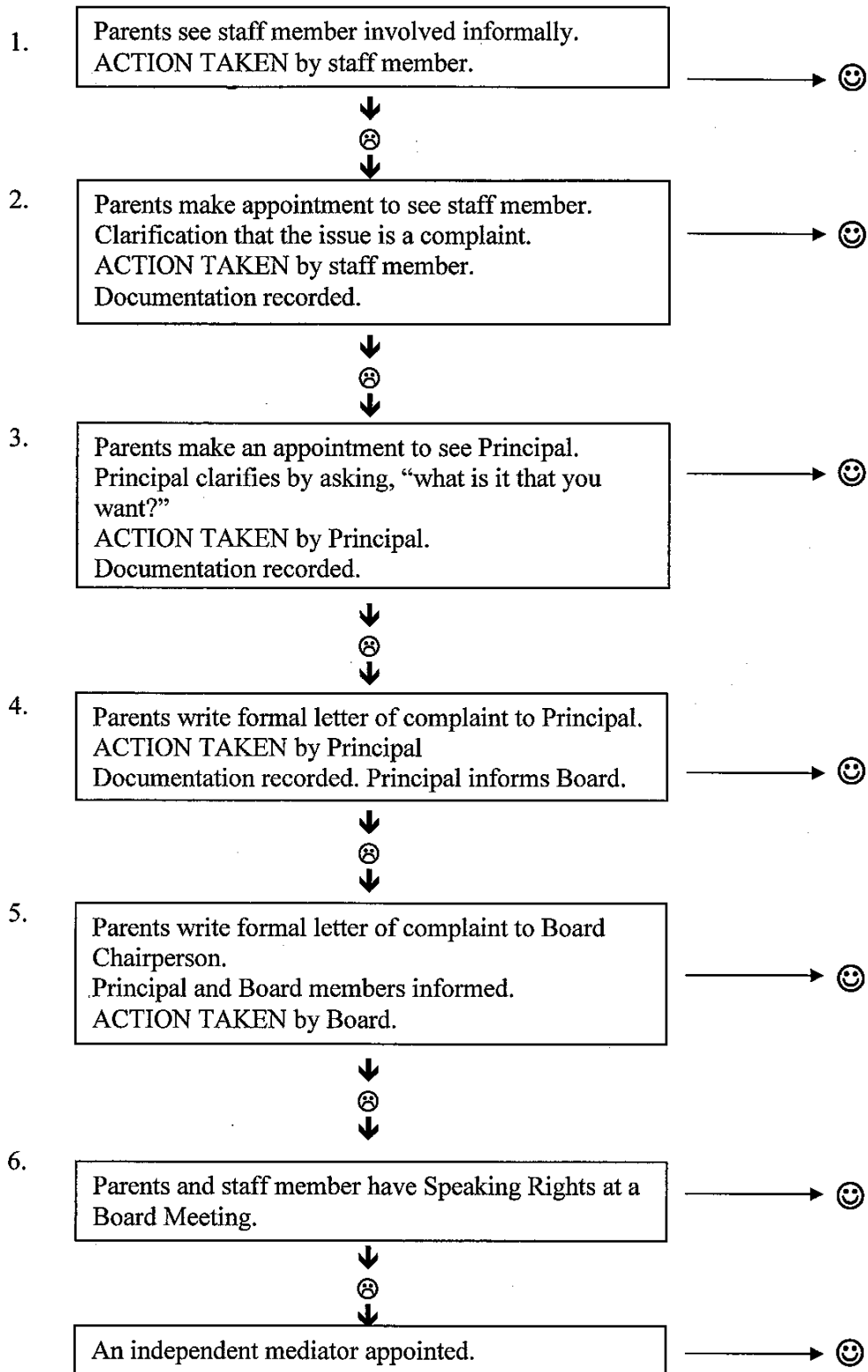
Special thanks to the students, some of whom I had never met before. Some were a little shy to start with, but by the end, they knew my name, laughed at my jokes and generally were at ease in my company. You could see their confidence growing daily and their individuality shine through.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be involved as a camp parent and to have the opportunity to be involved with such a wonderful group of students, teachers and parents in what was a great week.

I was very proud to be apart of it and sincerely hope the school can continue to offer these opportunities in the future.

Regards
Paul Cadogan.

COMPLAINTS POLICY FLOW CHART



Complaints Policy

Ratified by the Rotokauri School Board of Trustees: April 2012

Chairperson signed:

Next Review date: April 2013

BOUGHT LUNCHESES ON MONDAYS

Reminder about Price Changes for Bought Lunches on Mondays.

Mince, Mince and Cheese and Potato Top Pies will now be sold at **\$2.50**.
Small Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls will increase to **\$1.80**.

Ordering Bought Lunches on Mondays

For new families if your child would like to have a bought lunch on a Monday you can order this in the Student Entrance to the Office.

Pies - Write your child's name, room number and choice on an order form and staple (only 1 staple necessary) to a brown pie bag (provided) and put the money inside the bag.

Subway You have the choice of Ham or Beef or Turkey, all of which will include lettuce and tomato. There is also a juice box and a cookie in the Subway pack. The Subway price will stay the same at **\$6.00**. Write your child's name, room number and choice on an order form and put it in a snap lock bag (provided) with the money. Could you please fold the order form so that the order is facing outwards as this saves us time when processing the orders.

Sushi You have the choice of Chicken or Salmon and each child will receive 4 pieces of Sushi and some Soy Sauce. The price is also staying the same at **\$4.00**. Write your child's name, room number and choice on an order form and put it in a snap lock bag (provided) with the money. Could you please fold the order form so that the order is facing outwards as this saves us time when processing the orders, There is also an 8 pack of sushi available, this is also chicken but has vegetables in the sushi and is served with soy sauce, ginger and wasabi. This pack is **\$7.00**.

Order Forms

Feel free to take a stock of the new order forms (available from the beginning of Term one, 2013) away to complete at home and send back in with the money if you find this easier.

If you have more than one child ordering lunch please complete a separate order for each child then attach all the orders together with a staple and put the money in 1 snap lock bag or pie bag.

All orders need to be in the orders box by **9.00am** on a Monday morning.

Thank you
From the PTA

CYCLE RACE

Hamilton City Cycling Club are holding their Club champs on the 9th March over a new road course that circles Lake Rotokauri and includes Exelby, Te Kowhai, Duck, Burbush and Rotokauri Roads. The races will start at approximately 9.00 am and finish early afternoon. Rotokauri School will be the base for the races.

Please be patient for the cyclists. We aim to cause as little disruption to residents / motorists as possible.

Phone Paul on 0272808205 for information.



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WATER

Make water your everyday first choice drink. It is freely available and contains no sugar. Aim for 6-8 glasses of water every day.

To make your own flavoured water, try adding slices of lemon, cucumber, mint or a squeeze of your favourite fruit.

Note: Bought flavoured water can contain 5-7 teaspoons of sugar!



THE AVANTIDROME REV CYCLING FESTIVAL

23rd of February 2013 in Cambridge
9.30am – 3pm

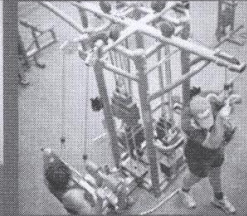
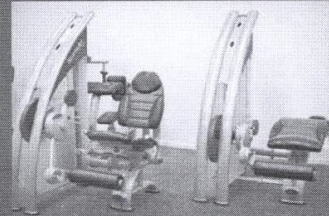
Cycling is a great way to be active as a family. Come down to Tom Voyle Park and take part in FREE bike challenges (10-3pm) and the FREE kids Rev mini (9.30-10am), a fun ride for 12 and unders on a 2km circuit. Other categories available for adults.



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Normally \$17.80pw

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