

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 1

13 February 2014

MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

Tuesday, 25th February 2014

Teachers will be in their classrooms during the following times to outline their programmes of work, explain their expectations and answer any questions.

7.00 p.m.	Mary Evans	Room 1
7.15 p.m.	Desiree Smith	Room 2
7.30 p.m.	Victoria Ford	Room 3
7.45 p.m.	Janice Skiffington	Room 4
8.00 p.m.	Casey Sanders	Room 5
8.15 p.m.	Mike Watkins	Room 6
8.30 p.m.	Linda Marsh	Room 7

- Karen Hollingsworth, our Special Needs Coordinator, will be available from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. (in her office).
- The swimming pool will be supervised by staff from 7.00 p.m. to 8.15 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday evening.

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 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

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

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 weeks the teachers will be working on an Internet Safety Unit which will be relevant to your child's age. The general topics to be covered will relate to digital citizenship and cybersafety.

Teachers at the start of the year work hard to form a positive classroom culture. TEAM building activities and bonding discussions are common practise at the start of the year. This allows teachers to understand how each child learns and socializes. Students will also be introduced to our school values which gives them a moral compass of what we expect from all people who enter our school. Our values are an important cornerstone of the Rotokauri Curriculum. The Values are an important set of beliefs that keep us tight as a TEAM.

For our new parents TEAM means Together Everybody Achieves More.

This term all staff members will be focusing on Responsibility as our value and this will be supported by the key competency Managing Self. It's vital that we make our students self managers, so that they become independent learners.

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Life is all about building positive relationships with other human beings. With the advent of many new Information Technology devices our students are building relationships through different mediums than the ones we grew up with. As a school we have decided to focus on a programme called Cool Schools. The staff attended an in-service day during the holidays which focused on ways of introducing this programme. More information on Cool Schools will be given to you over coming weeks.

The feedback we got from our 2013 Student Consultation process was that students thought Rotokauri School was a friendly safe place to start their first 8 years of education.

What we have tried to do collectively as a school is to empower our students with a strong sense of what is socially acceptable and how to articulate with others when they are feeling unhappy with a certain situation.

In our school, as part of our Building Positive Relationships Policy, we ask our students to do the following if they are upset with another child:

If someone is being mean to you.....

Say "Say stop it I don't like it when you.....because....."

Move away from the situation and find a real friend.

If they don't stop then –

Go tell a teacher and clearly explain the situation.

NEW STAFF

This year we welcome back Linda Marsh who has been on maternity leave. Linda is a great asset to Rotokauri School and we look forward to working with her again.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Miss Hamer who got married in January. Victoria's married name is Mrs Ford.

We also say congratulations to Miss Donoghue who got married during the holidays and then jetted off to Hawaii. Casey's married name is Mrs Sanders.

COMMUNITY MEETING

The Education Review Office will be at our school from 17th February to the 21st February as part of their normal review cycle. They will be speaking to the Board, management, staff, students and parents. As a parent you are invited to attend a community meeting to be held on Tuesday 18th February at 2.45pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Because of this meeting we will not be having our normal assembly.

DEADLINE FOR CHARTERS

It has been well publicised in the media that all schools are expected to have their Charter in to the Ministry of Education by 1st March.

The Board have seen a draft copy of the Charter in December and then a revised draft edition in January.

We would like to give parents the opportunity to look at the Draft Charter, so there is one situated in the rack in the foyer by Sharon's office. I want you to write any comments you see fit all over this document or after you have looked at this document you may want to send me some of your thoughts via email: mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz

Any comment that you make will be passed onto the Board at our February meeting. For those who don't get a chance to see our Charter here it is in a shorter version.

STRATEGIC PLAN AIMS FOR 2014

Aim One:

All students are able to access the New Zealand Curriculum as evidenced by progress and achievement in relation to the National Standards.

Aim Two:

To provide school leadership and effective governance to improve outcomes for priority groups: Maori, Pasifika and learners with special needs. (These students are seen as priority learning groups by Government mandate).

Aim Three:

To sustain identified school priorities – Environmental, ICT and Sport.

All of the above goals have accompanying pages of plans that support the staff and students with trying to succeed in completing each goal. The plans also involve certain staffing requirements and other funding considerations.

SCHOOL BUDGET

As a decile eight school we will be funded \$241,730 by the Ministry of Education for 2014. Our school's expenditure is based around the following 10 major components - learning resources, computer expenses, teacher expenses, equipment, personnel, administration, property management, capital expenditure, environment and special events.

Any other money we receive is through locally raised funds.

If you would like to see a further break-down of our 2014 budget please see the copy placed in the rack outside Sharon's office.

MATHLETICS

Last year in July we started to introduce Mathletics to our community, staff and students. We followed this up with a community meeting and various articles in newsletters over the following months. We even managed to get free access for our students for 2 trial periods. The feedback from our students was very positive and the benefits of Mathletics include -

- Modern gaming format makes practicing skills and strategies fun.
- The content is based on the New Zealand Curriculum and covers all strands from Year 1-13.
- Instant feedback on answers, including explanations of what the student has done.
- Teachers can set regular course work and allow students to compete on live Mathletics.
- Mathletics can be used as part of the classroom programme and homework.

The Management and Board believed in this programme so we have subsidised the programme by paying towards its implementation (approximately \$2,000).

What we need from our parents now is **\$20 per child**. This will enable your child to have full access to this programme in 2014. The \$20 per child was placed on the student's stationery lists for 2014.

Thank you to all the parents who have paid this programme fee and we look forward to the rest of the money coming in promptly.

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, as you would find mandatory in other schools (although we do ask that you do not interrupt teachers while they are teaching). We have always said that the health of a school can be determined by the support the parents are willing to give.

Over the years parents have helped and supported us in every facet of the curriculum, which we have really appreciated.

MEET THE TEACHER

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

You should have received a special newsletter on Tuesday, 11th February with the times when each teacher will be available to talk to you. Meet the Teacher will take place on Tuesday, 25th February starting at 7.00 pm.

The teachers will talk to parents about classroom routines and expectations for 2014.

The pool will be open and supervised so that you can spend some uninterrupted time with your child's new classroom teacher.

GOAL SETTING

Over the years 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 Resolutions. Goal setting for children is as important as it is to adults. It makes them more independent, responsible and gives them a sense of achievement and a sense of accomplishment. After you have been to the Meet the Teacher evening 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 and 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.

COROMANDEL FISHING TOURNAMENT AND CAMPING WEEKEND

This year's fishing tournament is on 22nd March. We are combining the tournament with the overnight camping that has, in the past, been held at school. Mark your calendars and make campground bookings at Shelly Bay holiday Park Ph: 07 866 8980 or (shelly@world.net.co.nz) This is where we do the weigh in for the fishing tournament so it is very handy. Once we have finalised the sponsors more information will be available in the newsletters and from the school office.

POOL HELPERS

Thank you to all the wonderful pool helpers who did a tremendous job keeping our pool immaculate during the summer break. Just a reminder that only official key holders who have signed pool user documentation are allowed to use the pool. In the past we have found that key holders have passed their keys onto friends or their teenage children.

The pool swimming season will officially end on Friday, 4th April after we have completed our school biathlon and triathlon.

KIWI SAFE SWIMMING PROGRAMMES

Last year our staff did some professional development with Wendy Smith on the Kiwi Swim Safe Programme (which is funded by State Insurance). Some of the things that were learned will be incorporated into this seasons swimming lessons

CARPARK SAFETY

Each year we talk to our parents and students about car park safety. The school board has invested financially by making the car park exit wider. Widening the exit does not alleviate all of our safety concerns. Parents have a huge part to play in the safety of our children when they drive a motor vehicle on our school site. Parents need to drive very defensibly and be prepared for the unexpected, after all we are dealing with children who are as young as five and do not cognitively understand the concept of time versus speed. We all need to be proactive in the car park. If you are new to the school or 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 wardens. Sometimes you may be asked to move your car if you are causing an obstruction.

ATTENDANCE

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

ON TIME

Parents that have been at our school for a number of years realise that at this time of the year teachers are doing a lot of testing. This information is used for grouping of children in relation to maths and reading and other programmes in the classrooms. Children that turn up late often find they have missed the instructions for the testing procedures. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time. Coming before 9 o'clock allows students to socialise with their friends and touch base with their teacher. A bell will ring 2 minutes before 9 o'clock each morning and this is to signify that students are to organise themselves for class and that parents need to leave the teaching spaces.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

We have Religious Instruction at our school for 30 minutes per week on a Tuesday morning (from 9.00am to 9.30am). 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 starts on the 25th February.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL PUBLISHING PERMISSION / INTERNET USE

Rotokauri School may include examples of students work and images of individuals and groups of students in activities at the school on its website and Facebook page.

Rotokauri School publishes student material online for the following purposes:

- To educate the students in accordance with the National Curriculum including the role and use of technology in society.
- To encourage the student to be a part of and participate in the school community.
- To promote the school and student achievement in the wider community.

If you **do not** want your child's photo to be published in school printed or online publications, we ask that you write a letter to the school outlining your wishes and drop it into the school office as soon as possible.

Also, while your child is attending Rotokauri School, there will be times that they are instructed and supervised using the internet to improve their learning experiences. If you **do not** want your child to use the internet, please inform the school in writing of your wishes.

UKELELE AND GUITAR LESSONS

These will begin from the week of the 24th February, on Tuesday (and possibly) Monday lunchtimes. The group lessons are 30 minutes long, and cost \$10 each. If your child is interested in taking up one of these instruments (students aged 5 and up may learn ukulele, 8 – 13 year olds may learn guitar) for a minimum of a term, please pick up a sign up sheet from the school office with more information and have it returned to the office no later than **Thursday, 20th February**. A full terms payment is required at the start of the first lesson, and needs to be given to the tutor at the first lesson. He can also assist you in choosing a quality instrument. The tutor is John Maydon. He has been teaching guitar since 1984 and is an accomplished musician and teacher. This is a great opportunity for Rotokauri students to learn and experience music in the school.

SCHOOL IMMUNISATIONS 2014 – YEAR 7'S & YEAR 8 GIRLS

Please read the full notice later in the newsletter. On 20th February, Maria Crawford our Public Health Nurse, will be at Rotokauri School for an information session regarding the immunisations that will take place during 2014. If you **do not** want your child to be present at this education session, please contact the school office.

HEARING AND VISION TESTING

Please read the full notice later in the newsletter. The Vision Hearing Technician will be visiting our school on Monday, 3 March. She will only be testing a small selection of children – usually ones that need rechecking or that missed a previous visit. However, if you feel your child needs to be tested for either hearing or vision, please contact the school office. If you **do not** want your child tested, please tell the school office.

MĀORI CONSULTATION MEETING 2014

Thank you to the parents who attended the consultation last night. We discussed last year's meeting outcomes, and what has happened in the school since then. We also discussed achievements and sharing our goals and strategies for all children at Rotokauri School in 2014. We also talked about any ideas, concerns and initiatives that we could look into for our long term plan for 2014.

Michael Watkins

TERM ONE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Just remember that a lot of our important dates appear on the big notice board at the front of the school.

13 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You've Got The Power Show (gold coin donation and supported by the PTA)All classes starting Life Education Programme
17 th - 21 st February	Education Review Office Visit
25 th February	Meet the teacher evening
3 rd March	Hearing and Vision testing
18 th March	Class Photos / Portrait Photos
22 nd March	Fishing competition in Coromandel
25 th March	School Swimming Sports
4 th April	School Biathlon and Triathlon
17 th April	School finishes for Term 1
5 th May	School starts for Term 2

COMPETITION WINNER

At the end of last year Room 2 competed in a colouring competition with one of the educational publishers. Congratulations to Tyla Brooks for coming third in New Zealand for her age group. Tyla won \$50 worth of books for the school library.



RURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

School Immunisations 2014

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Public health nurses will be delivering two school-based immunisation programmes at Rotokauri 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).

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 female students

These students will be offered the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine, which is available to girls and young women aged 12-18 years. The vaccine helps protect women against infection from four types of human papillomavirus that can lead to most cervical cancers and genital warts. Three doses of the vaccine are given over six months at school, commencing in March. It is offered to year 8 girls as it is recommended to be given long before girls become sexually active, and some studies have shown a more effective immune response in girls aged 9-15 years, when compared with girls over 16.

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 visit www.immune.org.nz or phone **0800 IMMUNE (466 863)**

If you have questions about the school based programme, please call our public health nurse, Maria Crawford PH: 838 3565 ext 22137

Information sheet on hearing and vision checks in school

Vision Hearing Technicians from Rural and Community Services will be visiting our school.

The objective of the vision is to identify previously undetected hearing and vision defects.

Which children are routinely checked?

- catch up screening for children who have not completed hearing and vision checks as part of their B4 school check
- children absent from previous visit, require re-tests or follow up
- in special circumstances, parents, teachers or others may request a hearing or vision check
- new immigrants

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
- colour vision tests (Year 7 boys only)

NB All 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 data base (ENROL)

The vision hearing technician will obtain personal details from the school i.e names, dates of birth, ethnicity.

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

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

If any parent or caregiver does not want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a hearing or vision defect, they should let the technician know by leaving a message with the school.

Eat a rainbow of 'glow foods' every day!



COLOURFUL CREATIONS

Make a **fruit kebab** with your favourite different coloured fruits! How many colours of the rainbow can you fit on your stick?



This term's nuggets are all about **BREAKFAST!**



Eating breakfast every day boosts your energy levels and provides your body and brain with fuel to keep you going throughout the day.



Te Kowhai Kindergarten

473 Bedford Road, RD8 Te Kowhai. 07 829 7686

tekowhai@kindergarten.org.nz

Session times:

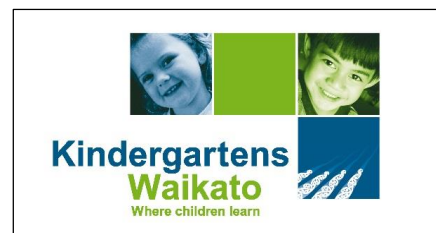
Mornings 8.15am—12.15pm. (20 free hours—no charge).

'School Day' 8.15am—2.15pm (\$41.75 per week).

We have 100% qualified and experienced teachers. Please check out our outstanding ERO reports. We are also a Bronze Enviroschool—taking care of Papatuanuku.

Call in at any time or phone for an info pack and enrolment form. We can enrol children on the waiting list from birth. Now allocating places for 3-5yrs for 2014.

We are not zoned and feed into several local schools.



Sponsors of the

Rotokauri School Coromandel Fishing Tournament



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Bookbags

Handcrafted fabric bookbags for boys and girls in the junior school are available for purchase from Rosemary Pritchard. These come in a variety of designs and are fully lined and washable. Email: rosemary.pritchard@gmail.com, or phone: 829 3088 if interested in viewing/purchasing. Cost: \$20 each.