

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 5

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STUDENT COUNCIL 2014



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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.

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

We are proud to share with you our Rotokauri School Education Review Office Report for 2014. Many people have worked tirelessly over a number of years to make Rotokauri School a special place and this has been acknowledged in the review. Our school and community really understand the concept of TEAM (Together Everybody Achieves More) and this allowed us to excel in the following areas -

- student engagement
- use of student achievement information
- strong governance
- leadership that identifies the needs of the students
- teachers that provide relevant learning programmes
- collegial staff that help support students to become independent learners
- effective intervention programmes for students that need additional help

All of the above, plus much more, put us in the enviable position of being well placed to sustain performance.

As I said before, this report is very reflective of a team effort from our students, staff, board and the community. A quote from the report -

“There is a strong sense of wellbeing and belonging for students, families and staff clearly evident in all aspects of the school. This emphasis is strongly reflected in the schools charter and curriculum documentation. The positive and affirming relationship among students, teachers and families is a feature of the school.”

Please read the review that is coming home as a separate booklet and celebrate that your child goes to a high performing school that still has not lost the art of caring relationships.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is continually changing at an ever increasing rate. However, this can lead to miscommunication. We believe that it is important to be informed before making decisions so therefore we would like to clarify some of the statements that have been circulating about intermediate and high schools.

1. If you go to Peachgrove Intermediate and are a male you automatically get into Hamilton Boys High School.

To get into Hamilton Boys High School you have to be living within the Boys High School zone or you go into a ballot. The ballot does not include Peachgrove Intermediate as a priority.

2. If you are a female and go to Southwell you automatically get into Diocesan.

When enrolling at Diocesan students attend an interview and there is no preference given to the school you come from.

3. Intermediate schools have a special curriculum that supports the transition to a high school.

All schools that cater for Year 7 and 8 students follow the same New Zealand curriculum.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION INFORMATION

Each year we ask our parents through our community consultation process about their views on Religious Instruction. Parents have the right to have their child opt out of this tuition but interestingly enough less than 3% of the school population has decided to do this.

I've asked Tom Mclvor, a past parent of the school and current organiser of the programme to give you some information about Religious Instruction in schools.

The team of teachers at Rotokauri for Religious Education are grateful for the opportunity to share in helping the School teach values and foundational principles to the children for their lives.

We have 13 people involved in helping to teach at the School on Tuesday mornings. Our teaching is fully committed to endorsing Rotokauri School's Values which are Honesty, Respect, Persistence, Responsibility and Excellence. We have teaching resources approved by the School and we use the Bible as our basis for teaching these values. On top of the School's Values we teach about trust, integrity, caring and serving one another, accepting each other in our diversity of culture and skill. We desperately want to help these children to enter their teen years and adult lives with strong foundations for their character.

We want to thank the Board, Staff and parents for allowing us to be involved in the Rotokauri School Community and having fun doing it.

*Tom Mclvor
Co-ordinator*

SKIPATHON

Each year we try and get our whole student community involved in one major fundraising project. This year all of the money that we make will go towards purchasing music and science equipment. This is more than just a fundraising scheme as we try and teach the students the value of money. The old saying 'money doesn't grow on trees' is still true today as it was 100 years ago. It's important that students have a strong work ethic and combine their talents together for a common goal. Students get a great sense of achievement when new items enter our school that they have paid for. We have found this especially true with their efforts in relation to new computers and sports gear. As an incentive for our students to do well in the Skipathon Evolution Bikes has provided us with a bike at a reduced cost for the student who gets the most sponsors. The bike valued at \$750 can be seen below.



More information on the Skipathon and how you can win this bike in upcoming newsletters.

CHOICES

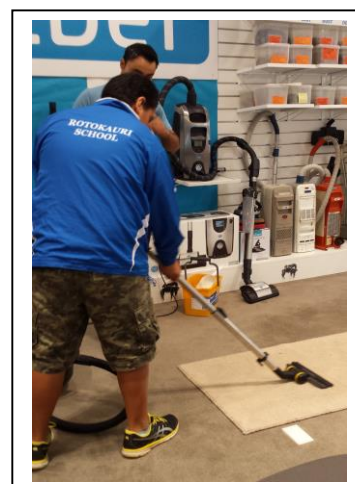
We all have to make choices in life and it is this problem that our students will have to solve in Term 2. We will be offering various musical lessons, sports teams and an environmental group. Some of these activities unavoidably clash and therefore students need to be very selective about their choices.

LEADERSHIP IN THE SCHOOL

Senior leadership at our school is paramount to the success. Our senior student's role model our expectations to the rest of the school. It's hard to put into words how well our seniors are performing this year. Those of you who have watched our biathlon/triathlon, swimming events and buddy system will know exactly what I am talking about. This year our senior council are continually giving us feedback as to what the students would like to happen at our school. Coming through loud and clear is an electives programme which we have decided to start in Term 2 (second week). All senior students filled out a student voice questionnaire which asked for their views about electives. Students have selected a series of topics that they would like to cover. These electives will be for Rooms 6 & 7 students and will take place on Friday afternoons. One of the criteria for the topics that they selected was that there was no cost for parents.

REAL LIFE LEARNING

We sent our student council to Godfreys to buy a new vacuum cleaner for the school. They had to think of various questions in relation to the needs of the school and a fixed budget. In the end the students were given an opportunity to trial a vacuum cleaner before purchase.



REFURBISHMENT OF ROOMS 3 / 5 AND LIBRARY

The board are always looking at ways of improving the learning environments at our school. Students in Rooms 3 and 5 will come back after the break to find their rooms have been refurbished. The library will also receive a well-earned makeover. Those of you walking around our school during the weekends will have noticed the Administration Block and Multipurpose Room is receiving a new coat of paint as well.

PARENT EVENING

A reminder for Year 5 - 8 parents that we have an informal meeting tonight to show you the great things that we are doing in the senior levels of our school. Tonight our senior council and past pupils will talk about their thoughts and feelings about our school. They will talk about what they feel our school offers and how this makes for a smooth transition to high school. Our Year 5 - 8 parents will also have realised that for the last two days we have had open classroom visits. You are free to join either of the two senior classes tomorrow if you have a child in Years 5 – 8.

MATHLETICS

Have you seen what your child has been doing on Mathletics lately? How many points have they got? Where is their class coming in relation to the rest of New Zealand? Yes, Mathletics is designed to be fun and yet at the same time competitive. All research shows that boys excel when there is competition.

Week 8 (24/3/14 – 30/3/14)

Room 1	6201	Lewis Surgenor	3990
Room 2	10128	Jayden Ward	4499
Room 3	19521	Hayley Jorgensen	2920
Room 4	33884	Lucas Birks	2720
Room 5	74046	Parsa Soltanizand	9733
Room 6	79436	Natalia Coppins	16517
Room 7	86809	Tommi Rae	22700

Week 9 (31/3/14 – 6/4/14)

Room 1	5475	Lewis Surgenor	2170
Room 2	11995	Jayden Ward	5173
Room 3	24725	Oliver Campbell	4096
Room 4	27843	Ethan Phillip	3530
Room 5	66331	Parsa Soltanizand	15543
Room 6	131359	Alex Balck	18912
Room 7	115871	Sarah Miller	16334

THE BIKE RIDE

We had a lovely school ride around the Waikato riverbank on Sunday 30th March. The 12 km course took just over an hour to complete. It's only when you start riding around such places as the riverbank that you have an appreciation for how beautiful Hamilton is. Biking with your children along the riverbank is a safe way to strengthen family ties in the great outdoors. We will have another ride in the second term. This time we will go out towards Cambridge and stop to look at the new Velodrome.

ROTKAURI WEBSITE

School communication is starting to change. It seems that less people are reading our newsletters and therefore more information will now start to appear on our website. Classes are now producing items which would be of great interest to our parents. We are still not totally satisfied with the current layout and will be working on it during the holidays to make even further improvements. Next term for the first time we will use our website for the completion of community and student consultation. We are interested in making the website as interactive as possible.

TERM 2 PARENT EVENING

Wednesday 18th June will be a further and final opportunity for parents to see how Cool Schools operates in our school. We will also be talking to you about maths and how you can support your child.

PARK RUN

Each Saturday morning over one hundred people, including children run around the lake (even with dogs and pushchairs). This is a world-wide event and to be part of this all you have to do is go on-line and register. You then receive a barcode that tracks your progress over various runs. The course starting from the yacht club goes around the lake which is a distance of 5km.

It's a great thing to do with the family. New Zealand Homes sponsor the run. After the run people are treated to a barbeque and drinks (tea and coffee).

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY

What a summer! I don't think I can ever remember the Waikato being so brown in April. The great weather has allowed us all to get out more and I'm sure this increases our happiness and health factors. We hope families have an enjoyable holiday. Term 2 starts back on Monday, 5 May.

TERM 1 BOT REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

- Term 1 has been a busy time with ERO visiting at the start of the year, and full credit goes to all the school staff for a very favourable ERO Report. The findings and recommendations of the report have been collated and discussions of ways we can improve as a school have begun.
- The 2014 Rotokauri School Charter has been ratified and sent off to the Ministry of Education on the 1st of March.
- Our Chairperson, Matt Snelgrove has been re-elected to continue on in his role on the Board. Also, Janice Skiffington has taken over as staff representative, replacing Desiree Smith.
- This year there is a school-wide focus on lifting Maths achievement, and the Board have invested a substantial amount of resources to support this goal.
- Mark Goodson has met with the Council regarding the application to reduce the speed limit to 50km/h. The council will make their final decision on this in June. The safety of our students is paramount especially as Rotokauri Rd continues to get busier.
- A carpark sign for the loading zone area is currently being made to help keep people aware of the correct way to use it.
- Alterations to the windows in Rooms 3 and 5 will soon be underway to improve the safety of the students in those classrooms.

We look forward to another successful term, and hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable time over the term break.

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

SCHOOL DONATION PRIZE DRAW

Parents who have paid the 2014 donation in full will go into the draw for a \$75 Lola Café voucher. If you want to be in this draw please make your donation by Thursday, 17 April by 9.00 am.

NEW WORLD VOUCHERS

We have New World vouchers on sale now at the school office. You can buy them for \$50 and they are worth \$55 when you spend them in store. If you haven't signed up your Fly Buys card yet, pick up a form from the school office. Remember every time you shop at Te Rapa New World you are helping support our school!

Thanks for your ongoing support.

POOL KEY RETURN

If you hired a pool key over the summer and you haven't already returned it, please do so as soon as possible to the school office. Thank you.

Piano / Keyboard Lessons available at Rotokauri School in Term 2!

My name is Alison Tait and I will be offering 30 minute piano lessons on **Tuesdays** (during the school lunch hour and after-school) once a week in the school library. Start date: Tuesday 6th of May (week 1 of Term 2).

Minimum age: 6 years.

My music qualifications include Grade 8 Piano and second year music papers including performance at Waikato University.

Payment: Lessons are billed per term, full payment is required before the first lesson, by cheque or internet banking. Paired lessons are \$12 each. Individual lessons are \$22 each. There is a small additional cost of a piano book and notebook.

If this is an opportunity your child would like to take up, please ask them to collect a contract sheet from the school office, fill it in and return it to the office by the last day of Term 1. I will then contact the parents/caregivers to arrange the details. The student will also need to have a keyboard/piano at home for practising on. If you have any other questions, please contact me on Ph: 853 5994. Or email me on: amtait@hotmail.com

BREAKFAST

GET CREATIVE!





**fruit and
yoghurt
smoothie**



**sunshine
toast**




**mouse
traps**




**homemade
leftovers**


SMART BREAKFAST SWAPS




Nutrigrain & milk




Weetbix, milk & banana




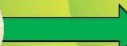



Coco Pops & milk



Porridge, yoghurt & fruit







Winter is coming!!

Word of Life Interns are heading on a mission trip, and Tom McIvor is selling firewood as a fundraiser for this.

2 cubic metres for only \$100 including delivery.

Please contact Tom on 027 274 8324 if you are interested in purchasing this before winter kicks in!

Kids Golf Holiday Programme

Get your kids active these holidays. Introduce them to golf.

Each day the kids will learn and practice a different golf skill.

Based at St Andrews Golf Course and also using Callum Brae Pitch 'n' Putt.

This will be a fun filled three mornings with lots of games and activities to build their interest and skills in golf. For kids that play golf we will extend their skills.

- Cost: \$120 1st Child, 2nd Child (same family) \$90
- Tuesday 29th April – Thursday 1st May
- 9am -12pm daily
- Ages 8 - 13yrs.

Spaces are limited so BOOK NOW.

Email: andrew@standrewsgolf.co.nz

Phone the Pro Shop at St Andrews Golf course: (07) 849 5088



VIOLIN LESSONS - SPACES STILL AVAILABLE!!

My name is Clara Lange and I am an experienced teacher of music having taught violin, piano and guitar privately and as an itinerant teacher in schools to pupils from pre-school age through to adults in one on one and group teaching roles for seven years.

WHEN: Fridays (during the lunch hour) once a week. Start date: 5th May

WHERE: Rotokauri School

Minimum age: 6 years

Payment: Individual lessons will cost \$25 or lessons in a group of 2 or 3 will be \$18 each with the added benefit of no extra travel for parents/caregivers. The start date is week 1, Term 2. Students sign up on a term by term basis.

If this is an opportunity your child would like to take up, please ask them to collect a contract sheet from the school office, fill it in and return it to the office by 16TH April. If you have any other questions, please contact me on email:

claraelange@hotmail.com or cellphone: 027 647 0403

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Whitiora Bible Church

Phone: 8381452 or see school notice board for more information.

Computer and Laptop Repairs

- Repairs and Upgrades
- New and used laptops and PCs
- Wifi and network Setup
- Virus removal

Mike Keightley

M - 0210582304

E - mike.kei@xtra.co.nz



Tots Love Country Early Learning Centre

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family-focused
centre in a
country setting.



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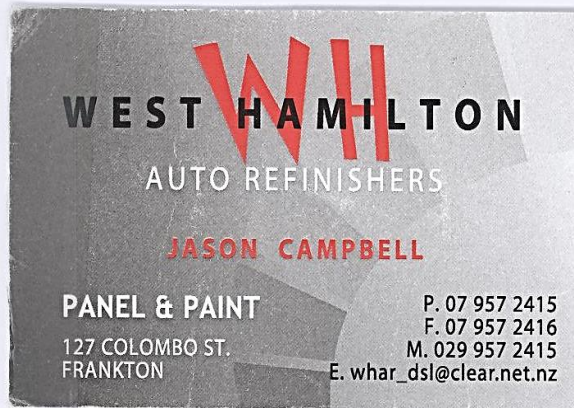
VOCAL TUTOR

Zoe Termaat - Private, one on one vocal tutor
Contactable by phone: 022 165 8468
or email: zviolet.termaat@gmail.com

Teaching from: Claudelands

Anyone interested, please contact me and
I will send through a copy of my portfolio,
available hours and pricing details.

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