

Rotokauri School Newsletter

Issue No: 6

15 May 2014



Raft Building Day Rooms 6 & 7

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL
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HAMILTON 3289

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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

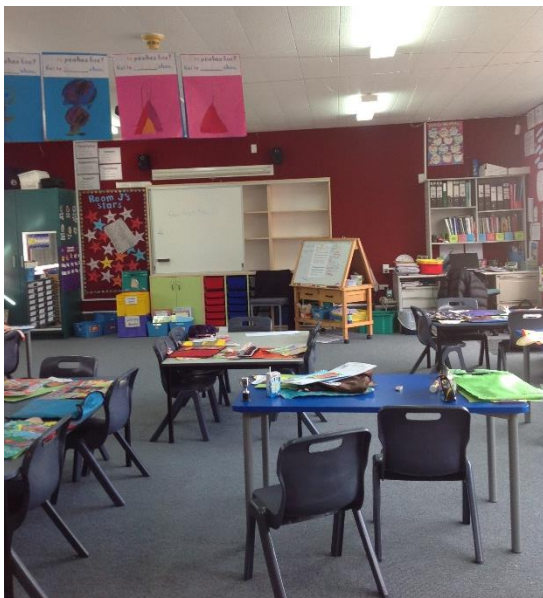
Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Persistence and Excellence.

PROPERTY CHANGES

We are extremely lucky to have a proactive Board of Trustees who are continually looking at ways to improve our students teaching and learning environments.

During the Easter holidays Rooms 3, 5 and the library underwent full internal refurbishments. These refurbishments included lighting, lino, carpet, autex covering on the walls, plus new whiteboard and storage systems. These changes do not come cheap but our Board appreciates and understands that we must provide our students with a modern environment so that students can work to their full potential.

I know that our students and staff really appreciate working in these new environments. What a great investment in our student's education.





STARTING TOMORROW

Senior electives will start tomorrow for Year 7 and 8 students. The students have selected from the following – sports, science, technology challenges and art. We'd like to thank Heather Perring (a very good artist) for offering her services to our senior students. These programmes are funded by the school and so there is no need for parents to pay for equipment.

These electives will be on for 8 weeks. Then we will get feedback from students in relation to their worth and enjoyment.

SPECIAL LEADERSHIP CAMP

Anyone who has been to any of our extramural activities will have seen the way the senior students take on leadership roles. In 2015 we would like to start a new initiative which involves taking our Year 8 students away to Coromandel for a couple of days. This camp will be designed to provide leadership skills for our senior students and allow them to bond as a group. The camp is in its infancy stage with organising, but already we have planned activities that will bring the best out of our students. More information will be given to our current Year 7's parents tomorrow in a special letter. I agree with some of the statements made by Bear Grylls in the article.



BRITAIN

Teach life skills, says Bear

School children should be taught survival skills like lighting fires and tying knots rather than maths and Latin, TV adventurer Bear Grylls says. The star and father-of-three said parents are doing their children a "disservice" by not exposing them to risk. "If I had to write the education curriculum for every kid in this country, it wouldn't be Latin and maths," Grylls, who was educated at Eton, told *Radio Times* magazine. "It would be . . . how to light a fire, tie a knot, use a penknife, build a raft, get on with people, eat healthily, keep fit, be part of a team and learn effective leadership. "And that's it. It's a shame that, as a society, so many have lost these skills." He said that, while he did not want to "bring up Rambo", his six-year-old son had already learnt how to handle a knife. He said for children to achieve "anything in life" they have to be taught "how to embrace and manage risk". "If you try to negate risk in children's lives, you do them a disservice, because you teach them not to be afraid of risk. There is risk everywhere, even when you go out on the street." PA

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

We have 85 pieces of IT equipment in our school which must give us one of the best ratios of equipment per child in any school. There has been a very measured approach used in the school to providing these for the students. This has taken 3 years to achieve and costing \$150,000 (from our IT budget).

The importance of IT and the impact it has on our students learning cannot be underestimated. The world of IT, at times foreign to older generations, comes very easily to our students. For them it's just perceived as a seamless part of their everyday lives. The way we use IT in education is continually changing to meet the needs of the students. As a staff and Board we are currently discussing Information Technology and the ever increasing pace of change that our students will have to adapt to. It's only when you understand change and globalisation that you can become very specific about passing on skills which will help our students to be productive members in a quickly changing landscape. Some of you when reading this will be thinking what is he talking about? If you and your children follow the following links things will become a little clearer.

I am currently asking for feedback from our senior students and giving you a chance to send me your thoughts about the clips as well (mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz).

Did you know 3.0 shift happens

www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9WDtQ4Ujn8&safe=active

How will the world be in 2020

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBOCORT1k9w&safe=active

CHANGES IN THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE

Our teachers communicate with parents in a number of ways - in person, phone call, texting and emailing. It's important that you update information with the office so that lines of communication can be kept open.

For those of you who have been following the development of our webpage you will have noticed that a lot more information is starting to appear. It is inevitable that we will at some stage move from paper to online communication.

If you go to our school website you will find a community questionnaire that we would appreciate you completing. This is the first of two online surveys. The other is a student consultation survey. We would encourage all parents to fill out the survey so that you can have your say. Feedback in relation to the consultation survey will be given early next month.

PARKING SIGNAGE

Everybody learns in different ways but often signs are the most direct way of communicating important information. You will notice that we have a series of expectations (outlined on our new signage) for those using the school bus stop. After years of dealing with carpark issues we have devised a simple set of rules that will keep all of our children safe. Please adhere to the messages on the sign.

1. Do not leave your car unattended in the bus stop.
2. Do not stop at the crossing to pick your children up.
3. Do not move forward as others depart from the bus stop.
4. Do use the pedestrian crossings to navigate the carpark by foot.
5. Do follow the instructions of staff and wardens.

CALENDAR

If you want to know about what is happening at school during 2014 please look at the online calendar on the website.

LUCKY BOOK ORDERS

Lucky Book orders are due back to school by Friday, 30th May. Please hand in completed forms and money to the office.

CHILD OF OUR TIMES (SNIPPETS FROM SUNDAY STAR TIMES)

- 1 million children in New Zealand between 1995 and 2009 (Generation Z) were born when technology isn't just cool to play with, it's something that many of them have not been without. It's something that is woven into the fabric of their lives.
- In the United States 8-18 year olds are spending on average 7 hours and 38 minutes a day using entertainment media.
- The immediate downside of all this screen time is that Generation Z is having trouble with their weight and will continue to do so. New Zealand figures show that 10% of kiwi kids between the age of 2 and 14 are obese. Research suggests that by 2027, 78% of men and 62% of women will be classified as either overweight or obese.

FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOL SENIOR CAMP

JUICIES

As part of our fundraising, Juicies and Hot Milos will be on sale this term every Friday at lunch time. The cost is \$1.00 each.

TUPPERWARE

Room 6 and Room 7 are currently selling Tupperware as part of their fundraising for camp. If you would like a brochure, please see Mrs Marsh in Room 7.

ROOM 7 – WRITING TO BE SHARED

As the wheels slowly move down the ragged old oyster driveway. The moss covered wonky fence made out of branches is swaying slightly. Long wheat grass is dancing with the wind. The lonely tree stands silently with its hair waving through the cool air, not another tree in sight.

Jemma Bradbury

The long old wooden mossy fence speeds across the muddy track. The fence digs into lush green grass separating the road from the gold field behind. Trees are planted amongst the yellow weeds. The beautiful scene is the middle of nowhere, hiding its view from people or things that might harm it.

Paris Miller

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE

Many of our new parents with children recently turning 5 have not seen our wonderful ERO Review. We have decided to republish this glowing TEAM report because we are proud of what we do at Rotokauri School. The ERO review can also be viewed on the Rotokauri School website.

Education Review Report

Rotokauri School

The purpose of ERO's reviews is to give parents and the wider school community assurance about the quality of education that schools provide and their children receive. An ERO school report answers the question "How effectively is this school's curriculum promoting student learning - engagement, progress and achievement?" Under that overarching question ERO reports on the quality of education and learning outcomes for children and for specific groups of children including Māori students, Pacific students and students with special needs. ERO also reports on the quality of the school's systems for sustaining and continuing improvements.

Findings

1 Context

What are the important features of this school that have an impact on student learning?

Rotokauri School, located on the north eastern boundary of Hamilton City, provides education for students from Years 1 to 8. At the time of this Education Review the school roll of 173 included 25 students who identified as Māori. The school continues to operate a Ministry of Education approved enrolment scheme to manage roll growth.

Since the 2009 ERO review the school roll has remained constant but there have been some changes among the teaching staff, including the appointment of new deputy and assistant principals. At the 2013 board of trustees' elections two new trustees were elected and a new chairperson was appointed. The board has undertaken significant developments of the school's buildings and grounds. In 2011 the school celebrated its centennial.

Teachers have participated in professional development in the areas of writing, mathematics and inquiry learning. Students and teachers benefit from learning and working in spacious, well-resourced and attractively presented learning environments. The school's values of respect, excellence, honesty, persistence and responsibility underpin a strong culture for learning that is evident in the school.

Rotokauri School has a very positive ERO reporting history and has responded well to the areas for review and development identified in the 2009 ERO report.

2 Learning

How well does this school use achievement information to make positive changes to learners' engagement, progress and achievement?

The school makes good use of achievement information to make positive changes to learners' engagement, progress and achievement.

Trustees are knowledgeable about student achievement and use this information as a basis for their decision making about the provision of additional staffing, professional learning for teachers and resourcing.

School leaders make effective use of achievement information to identify students who require additional support or extension, setting school-wide targets for improvement, and to monitor trends and patterns. They report school-wide achievement information to the board of trustees and also to the wider community.

Teachers effectively use achievement information to group students for instruction and to provide relevant learning programmes. The school is continuing to strengthen moderation processes that support teachers to make robust judgements in relation to the National Standards in reading, writing and mathematics.

Parents are well informed about their children's progress and achievement including two written reports that clearly show achievement in relation to the National Standards. Parents shared with ERO their appreciation at the approachability of teachers and school leaders to further develop meaningful partnerships with families to support children's learning.

National Standards results from 2013 indicate that student achievement in reading and writing was similar to national comparisons. School leaders have identified slightly lower levels of achievement in mathematics and have implemented a comprehensive strategy to raise these results.

3 Curriculum

How effectively does this school's curriculum promote and support student learning?

Rotokauri School's curriculum effectively promotes and supports student learning.

The board of trustees, school leaders and teachers place high priority on literacy and mathematics learning. This priority is clearly reflected in class programmes.

Features of the school's broad-based curriculum include:

- a wide range of leadership opportunities for students
- many opportunities for parents and community members to share their knowledge and expertise with students
- frequent trips into the local environment and regular school camps for older students
- extensive opportunities for students to participate and experience success in a wide range of sporting, cultural, and academic events and competitions.

Useful guidelines have been developed to support the teaching of literacy and mathematics at the school. ERO and school leaders agree that a useful next step is to develop clear learning expectations in each of the other subject areas.

Teachers work collegially to promote positive learning outcomes for students. ERO observed examples of teaching practices that effectively support students as independent, self-managing learners.

Students at risk of not achieving benefit from a wide range of intervention programmes that are provided by experienced teachers and teacher aides. These programmes are effectively monitored and supported by the special education coordinator who also accesses useful support from Ministry of Education funded providers.

A strong sense of wellbeing and belonging for students, families and staff is clearly evident in all aspects of the school. This emphasis is strongly reflected in the school's charter and curriculum documentation. The positive and affirming relationships among students, teachers and families is a feature of the school.

How effectively does the school promote educational success for Māori, as Māori?

Achievement information from 2013 shows that Māori student achieved at similar levels to their non-Māori peers in reading and mathematics and at slightly higher levels in writing. The school's data also indicates high levels of attendance by Māori students. Māori students' sense of identity and belonging is enhanced by school visits to local marae and participation in Māori cultural experiences. The school regularly consults with whānau and Māori students to identify their aspirations and use this information to develop meaningful goals in the school charter. There are high expectations for Māori students to experience success by whānau, school leaders and teachers.

School leaders and ERO agree that priority should be given to:

- strengthening links with local iwi and hapū
- implementing a systematic and sequential programme for te reo and tikanga Māori across the school.

4 Sustainable Performance

How well placed is the school to sustain and improve its performance?

Rotokauri School is well placed to sustain and improve its performance because:

- school leaders are reflective and are focused on school improvement
- the board of trustees provide effective governance
- teachers have a strong commitment to their ongoing professional learning
- there are high levels of community support, including an active Parent Teacher Association.

School leaders identify and collate an extensive range of information relating to school improvement. There is a need to refine and condense these processes to ensure a more aligned and focused approach to ongoing school development.

Board assurance on legal requirements

Before the review, the board of trustees and principal of the school completed the *ERO Board Assurance Statement and Self-Audit Checklists*. In these documents they attested that they had taken all reasonable steps to meet their legislative obligations related to:

- board administration
- curriculum
- management of health, safety and welfare
- personnel management
- financial management
- asset management.

During the review, ERO checked the following items because they have a potentially high impact on student achievement:

- emotional safety of students (including prevention of bullying and sexual harassment)
- physical safety of students
- teacher registration
- processes for appointing staff
- stand-downs, suspensions, expulsions and exclusions
- attendance.

Dale Bailey

Dale Bailey
National Manager Review Services
Northern Region

2 May 2014

About the School

Location	near Hamilton	
Ministry of Education profile number	1930	
School type	Full Primary (Years 1 to 8)	
School roll	173	
Gender composition	Girls 54% Boys 46%	
Ethnic composition	NZ European/Pākehā Māori Other	80% 15% 5%
Review team on site	February 2014	
Date of this report	2 May 2014	
Most recent ERO report(s)	Education Review Education Review	August 2009 October 2006

MATHLETICS RESULTS

Term 1 - Week 11

Class	Points Awarded	Top Student
Room 1	7361	Quinlen Dixon
Room 2	4231	Jayden Ward
Room 3	9777	Thomas Keightley
Room 4	37093	Heidi Perring
Room 5	49447	Vanessa Campbell
Room 6	48040	Alan Pruden
Room 7	38804	Cole Warren

Term 2 - Week 1

Class	Points Awarded	Top Student
Room 1	6415	Grace Cox
Room 2	2561	Jessica Tunnell
Room 3	10546	Oliver Campbell
Room 4	26307	Maddison Balck
Room 5	54209	Petrice Vincent
Room 6	23401	Summa Dixon
Room 7	15520	Tommi Rae

TRIVIA FACTS

- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors
- Stewardesses is the longest word to be typed with the left hand

INTERESTING

Success belongs only to those who are willing to work harder than anyone else.

(Room 5 quote)

PTA UPDATE

The PTA had their annual AGM last term, thank you to all that attended. During this meeting some changes were made to the current committee members. Donna Hayde, Chairperson stood down, Justine Fryer, Treasurer stood down, Marie Carlson, Secretary stood down.

New members elected are as follows - Marie Carlson, Chairperson, Claire Halpin Treasurer and Kerryn Williams, Secretary. We wish to thank all the previous committee members for their time and effort they have put into their roles on the PTA. Without their help we would not have such a successful PTA group.

LOST PROPERTY

Last term there was so much unclaimed lost property that it filled a large black sack. Unfortunately, none of what was left had a name on it, so we weren't able to find out who it belonged to and return it to them. As a result, Lost Property will only be held in Room 3 for ONE WEEK. It will be on display once a week (on a Friday) for the children to claim back. Any named items will be returned to the owner and any unclaimed items will be removed from the Lost Property. Please could you encourage your child/children to name their items of clothing. Thanks for your help on this matter.

Mrs Ford

ATMOSPHERE BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

Hello and welcome to all Rotokauri parents.

We are looking into the possibility of starting up before school care here at Rotokauri from 7.30 – 8.45 am Monday to Friday. Atmosphere are currently running a great After School Programme at Rotokauri School. If you are interested in enrolling your child in the before school care, please contact Anna on 021 825 621 or see Sharon in the school office.

BIKE RIDE

A few weeks back parents and children rode around the river bank. If you are interested, another ride will take place on Sunday, 25 May starting at 10.00 am from the Western side of Karapiro Dam. The ride will follow the bike trail to the Velodrome where people can then rest at the café. The distance is approximately 15 km. Parents are to ride with their children and take full responsibility for their child's safety.

RAFT BUILDING DAY – ROOMS 6 AND 7

On Friday, 9th May Room 6 and 7 participated in a raft day. We were all in groups of 2 - 6 so everyone brought along supplies from home. We had around an hour and a half to construct our rafts and get them up to the pool to test them out. Just before we got them to the pool, it started raining so everyone was frozen. One by one each raft got lifted into the slimey pool and two members from each group had to sit on it for a minute. Out of the nine groups, one half sunk so they were sitting in the water and one completely flipped over but all the others were successful. The winning group won a \$50 gift card for Subway and the group that won was Emma Clifton, Emma Fryer and Rihai Kahuroa.

By Gemma Yorke







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Make your own from a small handful of dried fruit, nuts and seeds

TERM 2 NUGGETS ARE ABOUT MATARIKI

Matariki marks the Maori New Year. It is a time to celebrate new beginnings, renew relationships and prepare the land for crops and planting.



PREPARE A VEGGIE GARDEN

Find a sunny spot, turn the soil, remove the weeds and add compost to provide nutrients to the ground. You can also grow veggies in a bucket, tyres or sack.



DRUM TUITION AVAILABLE

at Rotokauri School

Experienced drummer / tutor –

30 years experience as a professional drummer and 20 years experience as a drum tutor.

\$20 per ½ hour lesson (one on one).

Lessons will be either at lunch time (12.30 – 1.30 pm) or after school.

A drum kit will be provided. Pupils will need a pair of drum sticks and a clearfile book.

Payment will be cash on the day of the lesson.

Any enquiries phone / text Malcolm Boyd 021 152 3747

VIOLIN LESSONS



Clara Lange - experienced teacher of music

Group or individual lessons available. Teaching at Rotokauri School at lunch time or after school. If this is an opportunity your child would like to take up, please contact me on:

027 647 0403 or claraelange@hotmail.com

PIANO / KEYBOARD TUITION AVAILABLE

Piano/keyboard teacher available at Rotokauri School Tuesday lunchtimes and after school.

Individual lessons \$22 per 30 min lesson, paired lessons (beginners only) \$15 per lesson.

Ph Alison 853 5994, cell 027 4588 088 or email amtait@hotmail.com for more info.

HOUSE TO RENT

4 Bedrooms

2 Lounges

Open fire dining room kitchen

2 car garage

Rotokauri area

Phone Kay 849 1440 evenings

Computer and Laptop Repairs

- Repairs and Upgrades
- New and used laptops and PCs
- Wifi and network Setup
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Mike Keightley

M - 0210582304

E - mike.kei@xtra.co.nz



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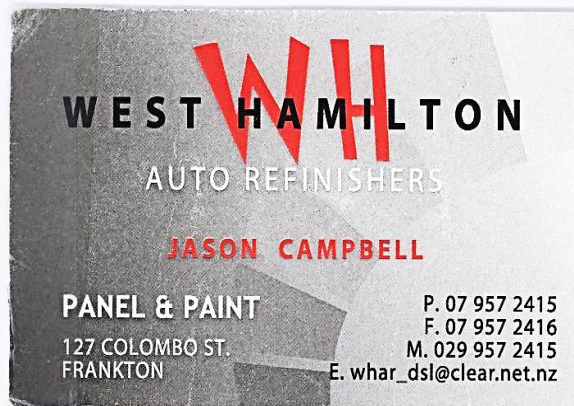
VOCAL TUTOR

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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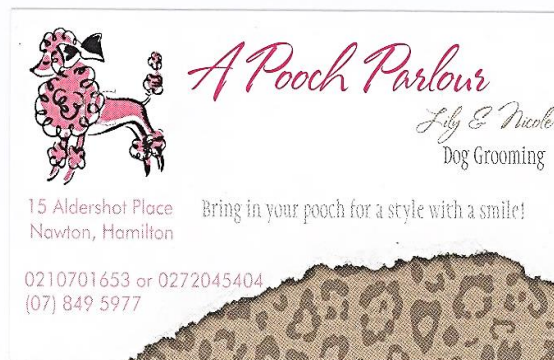
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