

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 1

8 February 2024



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 us all in learning.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VISION

Together We Grow

- Unity (Kotahitanga)
- Inclusive (Manaakitanga)
- Guardianship (Kaitiakitanga)

Together We Learn

Innovative (Auahatanga)
Happy (Uruhau)
Responsible (Tuutika)

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VALUES

Respect

Empathy

Active Learning

Courage

Honesty

WELCOME

Nau mai, haere mai ki te kura o Rotokauri. Welcome to the new students that have started at Rotokauri School recently –

Room 1: Kian Chand, Caleb Hippolite, Malachi Buckle, Isabelle Paki, Kaylee Wen and Lisa Jiang

Room 2: Calista Baker-Smith

Room 4: Jeffrey Lee

Room 7: Bivansh Chand and Ashleigh McLaren

Room 8: Cooper Merrilees, Jasmine Lee and Tarkshi Chand

Room 9: Jeremy Lee

We hope you and your whaanau/family enjoy your learning journey at Rotokauri School.

Ngaa mihi nui.

PRINCIPAL'S PIECE

Happy new year to staff, students, parents/caregivers and our school community. A very warm welcome back and a special welcome to all the new students mentioned above, and their families. There is a lot of important information in this newsletter so please take the time to read it through carefully.

Ngaa mihi
Desiree Smith

PTA NEWS

Lunches

Hi Rotokauri Families,

School Lunches are starting up next week (Monday 12th February).

They are available every Monday throughout the school year.

You can place your orders in the white box in the student foyer in either

-an envelope from home with name, room number and food order written on the front and money inside (change can be given if needed) OR

-by filling in a docket in the student foyer with the same information and either - stapling it to a brown pie bag with the money inside the pie bag (just fold it over twice so your money won't fall out) if you are ordering a pie OR putting it all in a ziplock bag if you are ordering Sushi or Subway.

Students need to pick up their order from the MPR at 1.00 p.m (school lunch eating time)

We offer:

PIE RANGE

\$4.00 Butter Chicken Pies

\$3.50 Mince

\$3.50 Mince and Cheese

\$2.50 Mini Mince Pie

\$2.50 Sausage Roll

(If there is another pie from Oxfords your child would order regularly please feel free to let me know as we can easily order it in)

SUSHI RANGE

\$7.50 Chicken and Veg Sushi

\$4.50 Chicken 4 piece

\$4.50 Salmon 4 piece

(We can also offer other sushi from St Pierre's if your child has a favourite, just let me know in advance and I can get you a price)

SUBWAY RANGE

\$6.50 6inch Sub with meat, lettuce, tomato cheese and a cookie

Ham

Beef

Vegetarian

Also, I would love some help for the year so if anyone is free on a Monday morning for 1/2 hr and again to collect from the Base Te Rapa and give out at school by 1pm please let me know. It wouldn't be every week and is flexible if you have things come up.

Thank you

Meg Westgate PTA. Contact me at: megsandcarlw@hotmail.com OR 021971251

BOT NEWS

Swimming Pool

Thank you to the swimming pool committee for a wonderful job over the holidays maintaining the school pool. Many families have used and appreciated this facility being open over the holiday period. Thanks goes to – Rhys and Cassandra Oldham, Angela Foster, Katie Willis, Malynka McNabb, Kim and Nathaniel Beets.

Painting

Doesn't the administration block look fantastic with its new coat of paint.

Property Developments

There has been a hive of activity happening on the school grounds over the holiday period – thank you to Brad Kells for his ongoing work to improve the school environment. Two new underground water tanks have been installed, fencing has been completed around our new sewage system, extra security cameras have been installed and work has begun on preparing the ground for our new turf.

ENVIRO TEAM

The Enviro team met for the first time this term and we had a fantastic turnout of children wanting to be a part of the exciting things that we will be doing to help Rotokauri School reach our Silver award. Here is a quick overview of what will be happening.

Visits from X man Paul who will be helping us with our Zero Waste theme throughout the term.

Adrienne from Enviroschools will be coming to meet with the team to discuss our next steps to gain our Silver award and also help us restart our worm farm so that we can utilise the worm waste to sell.

We are going to visit Xtreme Waste in Raglan this term or next.

We are going to revamp the veggie gardens, turning some into vertical gardens so that we can grow more in each of the beds we currently have. The enviro team will be working with the seniors on their Garden to Table project and helping the juniors with their planting (to be decided what they will be growing) using our new greenhouse.

The enviro team are currently deciding on what vegetables they would like to try and grow and eventually sell the produce at the front of the school.

We are in need of some items if you have any spare lying around: chicken wire, steel poles (roughly about 4 feet in length) bamboo sticks and arches, wood to build planter boxes. If you have any spare seeds or vegetable plants lying around as well, please send them to school and we can start our gardens.

If you have green fingers please come and help our students in the gardens. You can send an email to Claire Walker at cwalker@rotokauri.school.nz and she can give you

more details. Thank you to all the families that participated in the Potato in a Bucket competition. Results will be announced soon.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Staff

Room 1	Year 1	Mrs Suz Brosnan sbrosnan@rotokauri.school.nz
Room 2	Year 1 & 2	Mrs Andrea O'Rourke aorourke@rotokauri.school.nz
Room 3	Year 2 & 3	Whaea Julie Bradshaw jbradshaw@rotokauri.school.nz
Room 4	Year 3	Mrs Claire Walker cwalker@rotokauri.school.nz
Room 6	Year 4	Mrs Diana Donovan ddonovan@rotokauri.school.nz
Room 7	Year 5	Mr Kyle Park kpark@rotokauri.school.nz
Room 8	Year 6 & 7	Mr Sam Brinkworth sbrinkworth@rotokauri.school.nz
Room 9	Year 8	Mrs Jane Rickman jrickman@rotokauri.school.nz

Jaimee Carter	Deputy Principal and SENCO (Special Needs Coordinator) jcarter@rotokauri.school.nz
Andrea O'Rourke	Assistant Principal and Junior Syndicate Leader
Jane Rickman	Senior Syndicate Leader
Sharon Verstraten	Office Administrator office@rotokauri.school.nz
Bernie Ridley	Caretaker
Raewyn O'Brien	Teacher Aide
Sarah Dyer	Teacher Aide
Rhianna Moka	Teacher Aide
Cherie Moroney	Teacher Aide
Helen Rose	Teacher Aide

Term Dates

Term 1: 30th January – 12th April

Term 2: 29th April – 5th July

Term 3: 22nd July – 27th September

Term 4: 14th October – 13th December

Key Times To Remember

8.30 am Classrooms open – children arriving earlier must be seated in the busbay

8.55 am School starts

11.00 am Morning tea

12.30 pm Lunch

3.00 pm School finishes

Late Students

Any student arriving after the 8.55 am bell must sign in at the office on the VisTab.

Attendance and Absence Notification

There are many justified reasons why a student may be kept at home for the day and we ask that parents contact us by telephone, email or in person, ideally before 9.00 am so that the absence can be appropriately recorded. When notifying the school please let us know your child's name, the class they are in and the reason for their absence. Any unexplained absences on the teachers' roll after 9.10 am will be followed up by a telephone call to the parents/caregivers. If the school is not notified of the absence and a reason the child will be marked as Truant.

Absences are monitored by staff, as this is a requirement of the Ministry of Education.

Student Leave

If a student needs to take leave for any purpose and for any length of time please contact the Principal. A Student Leave form will need to be completed and signed prior to the student taking leave.

Staff Hours of Contact

Please note that our staff are available in their class from 8.30 am. Due to privacy this may not be the best time to raise a concern in front of other families (or your child) so it may be appropriate to email your concerns to the teacher and/or make an appointment to meet at a mutually agreed time. Because of their teaching load and duties during the day, staff will endeavour to give an email response within 24 hours, between the hours of 8.00 am and 6.00 pm from Monday to Friday. E-mails sent to staff during the weekend will not be responded to until Monday. We would prefer emails only be sent from Monday – Friday, unless it is an urgent matter.

Staff have professional meetings on Tuesday afternoons (3.15 – 5.00 pm) and Thursday afternoons (3.15 – 5.00 pm) so may not be available to address any concerns face-to-face on these days.

As a staff we are committed to open and positive communication with our families.

Communication with Families

Schools are busy places with lots going on. We don't want any of our school community to miss out on the things that are happening. As much as we try and share information, we ask that you actively seek out and use the following sources to keep up-to-date with key events and information.

School newsletter

Our school newsletter is published once a fortnight, on a Thursday. This is usually emailed to families but a hard copy can be requested.

Rotokauri website

Our [school website](#) features general information about the school, school event calendar and class webpages. This is currently being upgraded.

Facebook

The [school Facebook](#) page is a great way to see photos from events and read good news stories.

Please keep checking the school calendar available on the webpage and your emails to ensure that you keep updated with events happening at school throughout the year.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held on Fridays at 2.25 – 2.45 pm and we are pleased to invite parents/caregivers to these. They will be held outside the Principal's office in fine weather and inside the MPR when weather is not so good. This is a time to celebrate the successes of our students with class certificates being presented, school notices shared and classes showcasing their amazing work.

School Donations

This year the Board of Trustees has once again made the decision to leave the school donations at \$100 per child, maximum of \$250 per family. This is used to support the school budget. All donations are gratefully received and can be paid to the school office. You are able to claim a tax credit from all donations.

Tech

Our Year 7 & 8 students continue to be involved in Tech at Hamilton Junior High School.

The Technicraft fee for the year is \$100 and this can be paid to the school office. Students attending Tech on Mondays need to be at school by 8.25 am. They need to wear closed in shoes to attend.

Contact Details

Can you please make sure you let the office know if there are any changes to your family's circumstances, such as changes of address, phone number, email address or family arrangements. We want to ensure that everyone can be contacted if necessary.

No Nuts or Sharing Food Please

We have a number of students with nut allergies, which means that should they touch or eat nuts (even the tiniest amount) they could potentially have an allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This can be life threatening as anaphylaxis affects breathing, blood pressure and can cause unconsciousness or death. Medication is held at school for these students and safety plans are in place.

Nuts can hide in all sorts of places - muesli bars, biscuits and spreads. Packets of snack foods show on the labels whether they contain nuts and we ask parents/caregivers to be mindful of what is placed in their children's lunchboxes.

Rooms 3, 6 and 8 are also WHOLE EGG FREE - no whole eggs or egg sandwiches due to children with severe egg allergies.

In order to provide a safe environment for these children, we actively discourage children from sharing food at Rotokauri School. We would be grateful if you could discuss the potential dangers around sharing food at school.

Gifted and Talented

At any time during the year, parents are welcome to complete a Gifted and Talented Parent Questionnaire. If you feel your child is operating **at least 2 years above** their same age peers in one or a range of areas that may include academic achievement, creativeness, the arts/drama/music or sporting ability, social and

emotional awareness and/or spiritual/cultural knowledge and skills.

Please see Ms Jaimee Carter, should you require further information about the opportunities at Rotokauri School for gifted students.

Parent Gifted and Talented Questionnaires can be accessed at any time from the school website under the tab Special Programmes and are available at the school office.

Parking at Rotokauri School

Thank you to everyone that is complying with the carpark guidelines. Our road patrol student volunteers are new to their positions and are still training, so please be kind and patient to them.

Please remember to remain in your parked vehicles if you are in the busbay or in the bottom section of the top carpark – these are two areas where vehicles are meant to move smoothly through – the bottom section is not for angle parking please.

Students in Rooms 6, 7, 8 & 9, if they do not have younger siblings, are expected to be picked up from the bottom carpark. We continue to work on systems that will make pickups run smoothly.

After School Care

Unfortunately, we cannot provide After School Care at Rotokauri School. However, we are working in partnership with the Western Community Centre to make this available off-site. Students are picked up from the school at 3.00 pm by the swimming pool and are taken to the Western Community Centre where they are provided care and activities, until parents/caregivers can pick them up.

For further details or bookings please check out the Western Community Centre webpage (look up Western Stars After School Care) or phone Melissa on 02041311382

COVID Update and Requirements

COVID is once again present in our classrooms and the school will be doing our best to minimise the risk to students whilst at school. As guided by the Ministry of Education we will –

- Have hand sanitiser available in each classroom for students to use.
- Ensure that indoor spaces are well ventilated and have lots of fresh air.

Please continue to notify the school if your child has COVID or if they are in contact with others that have it.

Sunhats/Sunscreen

It is a school requirement that students and staff wear school sunhats in Terms 1 & 4. Sunhats must have no graffiti or embellishments and a toggle that ensures the sunhat stays on whilst playing. New sunhats are available from the school office.

Sunscreen is provided in each classroom. Teachers will remind students to apply sunscreen at each break but it is the responsibility of students to apply this. It is recommended that students come to school with a layer of sunscreen that has been applied at home.

Stationery

Thank you to the families that have purchased their stationery packs through Office Max. We ask that all stationery is purchased before Monday 12th February so that students can start using them.

Medications

Please ensure that you come to the school office to fill out a medical form if your child requires medication during school hours. If your child needs to use an inhaler please ensure that they are brought to school, named and in a sealed plastic bag. No medications can be administered without written permission. Please do not bring 3 times a day antibiotics to be administered at school – this dosage is manageable at home. Only 4 times a day antibiotics will be given at school if needed.

If medication is held at school please take the time to check expiry dates and how much medication is available throughout the year, so that if needed the medication will work correctly when administered.

If your child has an allergy, is asthmatic or has other medical conditions that require a health plan please let the school office know so that these plans can be completed or updated (as per the Ministry of Health regulations).

Photos of School Events

Every year a team of senior students work to put together the school Year Book. They strive to make it a memorable photographic record of school events held throughout the year. If anyone takes photos at any 2024 school event of their child and would be happy for them to be used in the 2024 Rotokauri School Year Book (printed publication only), please email them to sdyer@rotokauri.school.nz noting who is in the photo and at what event.

Scholastic Book Club

Rotokauri School is again participating in the Scholastic Book Club this year. Twice a term during the school year students will bring home a Club catalogue with a different selection of books offered. You'll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. Every order placed earns Rotokauri rewards points which are used to purchase new books and resources for our school.

Books are inexpensive (some books cost as little as \$2) and span a wide range of children's reading levels and interests. It is easy to order. Just look over the catalogue with your child, select the books you want, and either order online using the LOOP link listed on the catalogue, or, fill in and return the order form to the school office with payment before the date stamped on the front of the catalogue. The books will arrive at school one - two weeks after this date. If you want the books to be gifts, make a note of it on the order (or tick the gift option if ordering online) and books will remain at the school office for pick up instead of being handed to your child.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

Monday, 12th February, 2024

Teachers will be in their classrooms during the following times to outline their programmes of work, explain their expectations and answer any questions. If there are particular questions you wish to ask, please email the staff prior to the meeting time so that they can address these for you.

These are 30 minute time slots per class teacher.

This is a meeting for parents only, we kindly request that students and preschoolers are not in attendance.

4.30 – 5.00 pm	Mrs Suz Brosnan	Room 1
5.00 – 5.30 pm	Mrs Andrea O'Rourke	Room 2
5.30 – 6.00 pm	Whaea Julie Bradshaw	Room 3
6.00 – 6.30 pm	Mrs Claire Walker	Room 4
6.30 – 7.00 pm	Mrs Diana Donovan	Room 6
7.00 – 7.30 pm	Mr Kyle Park	Room 7
7.30 – 8.00 pm	Mr Sam Brinkworth	Room 8
8.00 – 8.30 pm	Mrs Jane Rickman	Room 9

The swimming pool will be supervised by staff from 4.30 – 6.30 pm.

Ms Jaimee Carter (SENCO) will be available to meet with parents if required.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday evening.

Vision Hearing Technicians from Community and Southern Rural Health will be visiting our school. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing problems.

Which children are routinely checked?

- Children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their B4 School Check
- Children absent from previous visit, require rescreens or follow up
- New Immigrants
- Year 7 student's vision only

If there is a genuine hearing concern, parents/caregivers or teachers may request a hearing check - NB parents must consent to this. The Vision Hearing Technician will only be able to undertake a maximum of 5 screens on any visit. If there is a concern regarding vision, parents/caregivers are encouraged to seek advice from an optometrist. A subsidy is available for families/whanau that have a Community Services card or High Use Health card.

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

NB All of these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort.

The Vision Hearing Technician will:

- Notify parents/caregivers of all test results
- Enter results on Ministry of Education database (Enrol)

The Vision Hearing Technician will obtain personal details from the school ie; names, date of birth.

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

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

If any parents/caregivers **do not** want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for their vision or hearing, they should let the school know.

RURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

School Based Immunisations

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Public health nurses will be delivering two school-based immunisation programmes in your child's school during 2024

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). This is the same vaccination that would have been given to your child at age 4yrs if you consented.

Year Eight Students –

These students will be offered the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, this vaccine is given to help protect against cervical cancer and other HPV related cancers; the vaccination will be given in two doses within the year.

Information about the vaccination programme will be given to students at school and this session may include watching the Ministry of Health Presentation on Immunisations and 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 child 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 please complete section B and return the form 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.

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

If you change your mind at any time regarding immunisation, please contact the Public Health Nurse below.

If you have consented and your child is away on the day of vaccination, they will be offered a catch up within 4 weeks

Public Health Nurse: Jennie Hope
Email: jennifer.hope@waikatodhb.health.nz

Phone 027 354 9289

Te Whatu Ora

Health New Zealand

Waikato

Education and Immunisation Dates for Parents

The Public Health Nurse will be at the school for immunisation education and giving out of consent forms on the 4th March. If you do not wish your child to attend the education session, please let your school know.

Date of Immunisations

Year 7 Boostrix Monday 8th April

Year 8 HPV Dose 1 Monday 8th April, Dose 2 Monday 21st October

If parents have any queries or changes please contact the Public Health Nurse:

Jennie Hope

Jennifer.hope@waikatodhb.health.nz

Phone: 0273549289

CELEBRATIONS

School Picnic

What a wonderful day the whole school had on Friday 2nd February at our school picnic at Hamilton Zoo. Thank you to the parents/caregivers that came along to support the students and staff. We had beautiful weather and well behaved students and animals!! Our big buddies met their little buddies and spent the day bonding with each other. This has certainly got the year off to a great start.

Nate Westgate

Firstly I would like to Thank You All so much for the great effort and support of our family in fundraising to help us get Nate to the Futsal World Cup in Spain. The Rotokauri Community raised about \$1500 and we were blown away by it! So Thank You Very Much!!

The team played 5 games over 4 days in Blanes against American, Japanese and Brazilian Teams, they had a mix of wins and narrow losses.

They finished up 6th over all and only lost to the 3rd place getters in the final 30s of their game with them, showing that little old New Zealand is definitely right up there with the best in the world.

They had the most amazing experience and met and befriended boys from all over the world.

Nate thanks you for the support you have shown him in many ways be it \$, well wishes or even staying up to watch some of his games live!

It says a lot about the community in which we are raising our children. You are all such beautiful, thoughtful, caring and generous people.

Thanks once again,

The Westgate Family



Gumboots & Grasshoppers



Childcare & Learning Centre

ENROL NOW

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