

# Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 9

2 July 2014

**Saturday  
9th August**

## **Rotokauri School PTA presents**

**7.30pm**

**Foundation Bar  
Te Awa  
The Base**

**Tickets:  
\$20 pp  
or \$35  
double**



## **Fundraiser Quiz Night**

**Tickets can be  
purchased at the  
Rotokauri School  
Office**

**Or**

**Email Donna:  
jdhayde@xtra.co.nz**

**Get your team together and join us for an  
evening of fun and rivalry!**

**Ticket price: \$20 per person or \$35 double  
(this includes nibbles)  
All proceeds go towards blinds for the Multi  
Purpose Room**

**Saturday 9th August 2014 at 7.30pm**

**Venue: Foundation Bar**

**FOUNDATION**  
bar kitchen lounge

**ROKOKAURI SCHOOL**  
462 Rotokauri Road  
R D 9  
HAMILTON 3289

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

**Email: [office@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:office@rotokauri.school.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.

## **SKIP-A-THON**

The Skip-a-thon was a resounding success. It wasn't all about making money for science and music equipment. It was about improving our student's co-ordination and fitness as well. It was about our seniors showing some leadership skills and helping out the younger members of the school. It was about creating a situation where we could come together and celebrate a new skill that we had learned. For those of you who could not make the event have a look on our Facebook page.

Thank you to all the students who took part. All money received from the Skip-a-thon and sponsorship cards need to be returned to school if you have not already done so. Once all of the sponsorship forms have been officially checked we will be able to announce the winner of the bike. The announcement of the winner will be made in the last week of term at our regular Tuesday assembly.

At the time of writing this newsletter we have collected over **\$5,000!!**

Each class, as part of the Skip-a-thon, was also given a \$10 Smiggles card to give out to a student that has done something, not only on the day of the Skip-a-thon, but also during the six weeks that led up to the big event.

Congratulations to the following people:

Room 1 - Angus Elliot - for enthusiasm and improvement in skipping.

Room 2 - Lamayne Clark - for enthusiasm and perseverance for improving his skipping skills.

Room 3 - Nevaeh Grason - for enthusiasm and improvement in skipping.

Room 4 - James Ladbrook - for bringing in the most amount of money in the class.

Room 5 - Ryleigh Beyer - for persistence to improve his skills.

Room 6 - Braedyn Webber - for the encouragement he gave to others and persistence.

Room 7 - Kate Jowsey - for showing persistence.

## **CORRECTION TO THE SCHOOL DONATION PRIZE OFFER**

Thank you to all the people who have contributed a school donation since the special newsletter went out two weeks ago. The Board of Trustees wishes to advise that parents and caregivers who have made a prior arrangement to pay their donation will also be included in the draw for \$500. This must be in place by Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> July. This was not made clear in the original notice and we apologise for any confusion or distress this has caused. If you have any questions regarding payment options don't hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely Rotokauri School Board of Trustees

## **SCHOOL INTERVIEWS**

Just a reminder that we have interviews taking place in Term 3 for Rooms 4 - 7. You will receive the interview form which will verify the day and time that the interview will take place early next term. Please insure that you are on time for the meeting.

## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Firstly, thank you to all of our parents who have completed the parent survey. More people have completed this survey than any of our previous paper surveys. Question 7... As part of the introduction said that we would be introducing BYOD in 2015 for our seniors. This was followed by IF WE. This of course could have caused confusion. The Board, in the best interests of student learning, have broadened their search as to how we may increase our IT education to our students. More researched information will be passed onto parents as it comes to hand. Once again thank you for taking the time to complete the review. This review closes on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

Communication with parents is vital and we are always looking for ways of improving this. Our main means of communication is through our newsletter. This year we have widened our ways of communicating to make sure we capture a wider audience. You will have noticed that our webpage has improved and teachers are now often texting or emailing our parents. What we would like to do in Term 4 is email all newsletters to our parents. This saves resources, time and the chance of little Johnny losing the newsletter on the way home.

To make sure that this system works we need to make sure we have all of your current email addresses. If parents / caregivers are separated we need both sets of emails. Before we start this new system we are giving parents a whole term to inform us of the email addresses they would like the newsletter sent to. If you do not have access to a computer please inform the school and we can send a paper copy.

While talking about communication it has come to our attention that a number of parents have changed their cell phone number and forgotten to inform us. Sometimes it's vital that we get in contact with parents as quickly as possible e.g. a child may have hurt themselves on the adventure playground. In these sorts of instances obviously parental contact is important. Can you please update your email and phone numbers by contacting Sharon at the office. Thank you.

## EXCITING EVENING IN THE FUTURE

The PTA are always thinking of ways of supporting the school and bringing the community together. This time I think we have come up with something special and unique “**a drive in movie**”. We aren’t talking about a white canvas on the back of the shed, we are talking about an 8 metre by 10 metre professional audio visual unit. Putting this on for the community is not cheap and it’s important that we all support the PTA in this special endeavour. The Drive in Movie will take place on the school grounds Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Put this into your diary now as it will be a special family event. The number of cars will be limited to 125 tickets. There will also be tickets for those people that want to walk in and sit on the ground to view the movie. They will go on sale early in Term 4. This will be based on a first in first served basis. More information will come out in newsletters during Term 3. Exciting times ahead.

## A PLEA FOR HELP FROM GARTH’S APPRENTICE

Hi, Nick Spiers, property manager on the board of trustees here. I’d like to enlist your help in keeping our school in a safe and welcoming condition. I have regular walks around the school on the lookout for things that need repair, cleaning or servicing, or generally aren’t up to scratch. The problem I have is that I only have two eyes located approximately 1,650 mm from the ground and although I try to see everything I’m sure there are many opportunities for improvement I miss. Now I know there are at least 180 other pairs of eyes ranging from my level to, judging by my boys knees when he gets home, ground level, at the school every weekday. I’d like to tap into this resource to hear about anything dodgy or concerning that folk encounter around the school grounds or buildings. So if you, or your kids see anything that you think needs attention or generally bothers you (Grounds and buildings – dress style and ability to sing should be discussed in another forum) I’d be grateful if you let the school know. I’m happy to field questions if you bump into me around the place but as my memory is shocking (my mum still labels my clothes for me) the best option is to leave a note at school reception or send an email to [office@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:office@rotokauri.school.nz)

So if you see something you like let us know so we keep doing it, but tell us if there is something you aren’t happy with – we may not be aware of it. Make sure you leave a means of contact if you want a response but anonymous is also fine.

Many thanks, Nick.

By the way, ‘up to scratch’ is from the phrase used in pugilists’ (someone who fights with their fists) fights. A line was scratched on the ground to which the contestants had to put their forward foot before the fight could begin. So, ready to go. (From ‘Thefreedictionary.com’)

## MATHS TARGET

This year we selected 51 children to get additional support over and above what they may be receiving inside the classroom. Staff discuss these students’ progress on a term by term basis and put plans in place to support their progress.

## HONESTY

We push honesty at our school which is just one of our five values that make up our school culture. At Friday night's disco I was handed a total of \$14.00 that had fallen out of students pockets while dancing - that's honesty.

## POSITIVE THINKING

There is evidence to suggest that positive thinking has the ability to increase your life by 4 to 6 years.

One way of doing this is write down two things a day that you are happy about or positive about. This can be completed at the end of the day when you have a chance to reflect.

This then becomes a happiness diary for your children to read in the years to come.

Being a positive adult means that a young child has a better chance of inheriting that trait.

## HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Try everything twice.
2. Keep only cheerful friends.
3. Keep learning and experimenting.
4. Enjoy the simple things.
5. Laugh often, long and loud.
6. Tears happen, endure, grieve and move on.
7. Surround yourself with the things you love.
8. Cherish your health.
9. Tell the people that you love that you love them often.

## SUCCESSFUL LIVES

Successful lives can mean different things to different people. For some its money and power. For others its relationships and happiness. Success can be built on values and philosophies of life. Bill Gates the founder of Microsoft has some interesting philosophies:

- Change the world or go home.
- Blaze the trail.
- Make an impact.
- Humanities greatest advances are the ones that level the playing field.
- A sense of urgency.
- Live your values.
- Your best gets better with the right people.
- Innovation is the heart and soul.
- Be the platform.
- Take care of the people.
- The toughest feedback you hear is the feedback you most need to hear.
- Celebrate success but learn from failure.
- Empower people.

I actually believe we have a number of students in our school that could have a huge impact on all sorts of areas in their future lives. Often the trick with students is giving them the belief in themselves.



## ARTICLE FROM THE SUNDAY STAR TIMES

In the last newsletter we talked about resilience. Being a parent myself I found this article from the Sunday Star Times on 22/6/14 very interesting.

Children are becoming more anxious, fearful and angry – and it's all our fault, researchers say.

**Marika Hill** and **Sarah Harvey** investigate.

"PEOPLE MIGHT capture me, or steal me," one child says.

Another says he is frightened to leave his parent's side. "I feel really safe and like nothing's going to happen with my mum next to me."

These responses, and many others like them, come from a Massey University study that delved into what it is like to be a modern child.

The study found attachment-parenting and a reluctance by mums and dads to leave children alone were making their offspring fearful and anxious.

Researchers tracked the movements of 253 Auckland children, finding they seldom ventured beyond school, home and friends' houses.

Some youngsters never left their front gate without adult supervision.

In the study, children were asked about their adventures. For many the answer was a video game.

Massey University professor Karen Witten says good parenting has come to be seen as keeping watch over children. Parents liked to know their children were in supervised care because of the reassurance they were being monitored.

Around 60 per cent of children are now driven to school by their parents, up from just a third in 1990.

"This isn't necessarily in the child's best interests, as children need to be left alone from time to time for their social, physical and brain development," Witten says.

"Kids do different things when they're out on their own. When they meander on a walk home they play games, and are much more physical en route."

Witten says parents in the study spoke of the world being more dangerous, with faster cars on the road, drunks, dangerous dogs, and "shady" characters in the street.

Children picked up on those grown-up fears.

# Adult fears cramp kids

"They're embodying this notion of fear and they can't be alone because their entire life they've been picked up and dropped off," Witten says.

"They've been living within this bubble wrap all their lives, so they think that is what's safe."

Parents' fears do not appear to be backed by statistics.

The Ministry of Health's national mortality statistics show the rate of children dying or being seriously injured in accidents and motor vehicle crashes has remained steady or fallen over the past decade. And child protection agency Child Matters says child abduction remains extremely uncommon.

Children are most at risk of abuse by someone in their home, the agency says.

Grant Schofield, AUT University professor of public health, says the pressure to pay the mortgage meant two-parent working families must shuttle their children from school to supervised care.

It was economics that determined that, not parenting style.

When children were home, parents wanted to spend precious time with their children, so free play was sacrificed. "But it's unsupervised playtime that is crucial in the development of children's ability to manage risk and control emotion."

Friends, an organisation which deals with at-risk youngsters, says children are increasingly showing signs of anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder and suicidal thoughts. A total of 31 people aged 10-14 committed suicide between July 2007 and July 2013.

Spokeswoman Jenny Bell said

busy schedules, bad diets, increased screen time and a lack of exercise all had an impact.

"Children coming through these days are different in that they do not seem to have the resilience to cope with life's ups and downs and hence the increase in anxiety.

There are a lot of factors at play; it's definitely a growing phenomenon."

Auckland father Mark Bracey is part of a parents' movement fighting against the "cotton wool" parenting style.

"A sense of freedom and independence has been lost," Bracey says.

"It's that feeling to be independent and play. I went to school every day on a bicycle. Everything has changed. The zone of play has shrunk."

"You see life very differently from a windscreen of a car," he says.

"I'm fearful we're going to have two or three generations who are missing out on activity and experience of risk-taking. They're sitting at home or the classroom."

The Bracey family has just one car and relies heavily on bikes and public transport.

The children walk to school. Daughter Sena, 15, says she doesn't feel scared biking to sports practice.

"It gives me a sense of independence. When I go out I feel trusted and more like an adult."

Sena's brother Rei, 17, said some of his best childhood memories were kicking a football around with neighbourhood children.

"We were not told what to do. There was no guidance. There was a sense of risk. That made it more exciting."

## COOL SCHOOLS AND MATHS EVENING

Thank you to all the parents who took part in The Cool Schools / Maths Evening. Hopefully the information and knowledge that the teachers imparted will give you a little more understanding about the maths curriculum and how you can support your child. Thank you also to the staff for their organisation and attendance.

## COMPUTERS

In the Waikato there are some major companies and council owned institutions that turn over their computers on a regular basis. Do you know of a company that is looking to off-load a group lot of computers. If so we would love to talk to them.

[mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz)

## WORLD CUP

The students at the moment are wrapped up in the Soccer World Cup. We have given our students the opportunity to select a team of their choice to follow during this tournament. Children that have selected the winning team will go into a draw to win a World Cup football. Thank you Mr Monaghan for supplying the ball.

## ROOM 6 WAR WRITING

Room 6 have been studying about World War 2 this term. The students have produced some amazing writing and projects. Here are two examples of our writing that meets our set criteria. The criteria for the writing was – to be descriptive, to share feelings and create emotion for the reader in some way.

### ***What War Looks Like***

*I was lying in bed with my pillow pulled over my head trying to block out the sound of bombs blowing up into the air, like birds getting a fright when it is duck shooting season. The Nazis were marching right outside the window like an angry herd of elephants. Their helmets were like turtles bobbing in the sea. Their uniforms were reflecting each other like mirrors. I wondered what was happening to my dad out in the war, bullets getting fired and planes crashing down. A trickle of a tear ran down my cheek like a mini waterfall. I tried to push the thoughts away but they just walked into my brain again. I squashed the pillow harder on my head trying not to cry but the tears just had to come out. This time it wasn't a mini waterfall it was a flowing river. I wish all this war stuff just didn't happen.*

By Zahra Warnock

### ***Running In World War Two***

*A boy with dark hair ran down the bare, cold street wearing no shoes, only clothes and feet.*

*Around the corner of my eye, a big green tank drifts by.*

*I panic and jump into a wooden, brown door, right onto the damp, wooden, creaky floor.*

*I look up with a face full of dread and fear, knowing that World War Two is almost here.*

*I take a peek across the empty lane, if this carries on I'm going to go insane.*

*I take a glimpse at the foggy damp town, and all it does is gives me a frown.*

*A metal object of grey drops a green cone on my head, this time I think I am surely dead.*

By Rihai Kahuroa



## INTERESTING

When educating the minds of our youth we must not forget to educate their hearts.

Dali Lama

Every child is an artist - the problem is staying an artist when you grow up.

Pablo Picasso

Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.

George Orwell

## Help our school raise money by shopping at New World!



Since the beginning of 2011 we have been lucky enough to have formed a wonderful relationship with Te Rapa New World, and we continue to do so as we head into our third term of this school year. New World has set up a sponsorship programme which helps schools raise money when people shop at New World Te Rapa. Over the last 3 years we have raised over \$23,000 for our school by being part of this wonderful scheme. It's all done by people shopping at Te Rapa New World. It's as simple as that!

The sponsorship programme works by friends and families of Rotokauri School registering their Fly Buys card and details to the school. The school passes on the Fly Buys card number to Te



Rapa New World as a way of tracking spending. At the end of each term New World Te Rapa tallies up the number of Fly Buys points earned by Rotokauri families and friends and donates a dollar to the school for every Fly Buys point earned. This is given to the school in vouchers, which the school then sells back to the community at a 10% discount. All of the money raised from these will go towards new resources for our school.

The school values this scheme so much that we would like to see more of our friends and families signing up their Fly Buys cards and helping to raise money for our school. It is really easy! All you need to do is pick up a form from the school office and fill in your Fly Buys number. Whenever your card is used at Te Rapa New World, our school earns points which is turned into cash! If you or any friends or family shop at Te Rapa New World please get involved and help us raise even more money for our school.

Please see Sharon at the school office to pick up your form!

Happy Shopping!  
Victoria Ford ☺

## WANTED – SOCIAL NETBALL PLAYERS

If any mums would be interested in joining us for some VERY social outdoor netball at Minogue Park on a Wednesday morning at 10.00 am (term time) for half an hour or so give Hayley a call or text on 0274983496. \$3.00 per game and we don't play if it's raining.



## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

### Whitiora Bible Church

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

## Ukelele and Guitar lessons - Term 3

If your child is interested in lessons, or would like to continue on with their lessons, please pick up a sign-up sheet from the office and return with payment to the first lesson in Term 3 (Tuesday lunchtime).

Tutor: John Maydon. Any questions, please contact me.

My email is: [johnnymaydon@gmail.com](mailto:johnnymaydon@gmail.com)

## VIOLIN LESSONS

### Spaces available for Term 3!

*Clara Lange - Experienced music teacher - primary trained*

**Music teaching experience** includes violin, piano and guitar privately and as an itinerant teacher in schools throughout New Plymouth for several years. Pupils range from pre-school age through to adults in one on one and group teaching roles.

**Trained** in classical violin, piano and contemporary singing. Music qualifications include Advanced Certificate Violin, Grade 7 Piano and Theory and a Diploma of Performance in vocals.

**Teaching** I include a range of styles in my teaching, having had wide experience and the enjoyment of playing and improvising in celtic, blues, rock and jazz bands over the years.

Individual lessons \$25.00 per 30 min lesson, paired lessons \$18.00 per lesson with the added benefit of no extra travel for parents/caregivers. The start date is week 1, Term 3. Students sign up on a term by term basis. If your child is interested please get them to collect contractform from the office and return it to school by the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**When:** Thursday/Friday before or after school and at lunch time.

**Enquiries** phone/text Clara Lange 027 647 0403 or [claraelange@hotmail.com](mailto:claraelange@hotmail.com)

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## A MESSAGE FROM MARLEINA RUKA

My husband John and I have lived in Wynvale Lane since December 2009. We take great pride in our community and although we don't have children at the Rotokauri School, we have always made ourselves available to take part in any event where Mark Goodson and the school require our support.

My journey with cancer started in 2003. At that time I believed cancer happened to other people; then, I started to lose close family members and dear friends. Helping to raise funds to fight cancer became a personal commitment and even more so when I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003.

The word Cancer became a reality for my family and me; however, through research and development I was able to receive the treatment I needed.

I learnt quickly, cancer does not discriminate and already this year I have lost two cousins to cancer and the impact to their young families is heart wrenching. I can make a difference by participating in 'The Ride to Conquer Cancer' and through this event, I can help raise much needed funds to hopefully prevent other families from having to struggle with this disease.

Cheers

Marleina



Marleina Ruka



We all have family, relations or friends, who have been affected by cancer. All have fought bravely but sadly not all win their battle against this disease. We want to help more people conquer cancer and survive.

My small part is to ride 200kms over two days to help raise funds. **ALL** money received will support cancer research at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre (ACSRC). The Cancer Society helps make a difference to thousands of people through out NZ.

My aim is to raise \$2500 through donations and sponsorship. All contributions to support this cause will be greatly appreciated.

Help us to tip the odds in favor of the cancer patient and help to *Conquer Cancer*.

**Please DONATE NOW!**

Thank you in advance for your help.

**If you want to donate online –Type or click on the link below then type in Marleina Ruka, under participant**

Ride to Conquer Cancer Link: [http://ak14.conquercancer.or&fr\\_id=1050](http://ak14.conquercancer.or&fr_id=1050)

## FLY A KITE



Kites were seen as connectors between heaven and earth, especially on the first day of the New Year. Try making your own kite to fly with the whanau.



## KI-O-RAHI

Ki-o-Rahi is a great game to play at school or with the whanau. Did you know the 7 pou that are used in the game Ki-o-Rahi



represent the 7 stars of Matariki?

[www.kiorahi.co.nz](http://www.kiorahi.co.nz)



## TI TI TOREA

Use this game to improve hand-eye coordination. Using rolled up magazines, have a go at creating actions that involve throwing and catching at the same time to music.



## TRADITIONAL MEALS MADE HEALTHIER

Ensure meals have lots of veggies. Puha, watercress and spinach are great. Reduce the fat in meat dishes like boil up by trimming off any visible fat before cooking.





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