

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 16

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Agricultural Day 2014



See more pictures on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/RotokauriSchool

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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.

NEW TEACHERS FOR 2015

With both Victoria and Linda on maternity leave in 2015 we have cast our net far and wide to look for new teachers who can continue to inspire students to the same level that the ladies have done. Thank you Linda and Victoria, you are a real asset to our school. A number of people have watched our two successful applicants teach and we believe we have found the best fit possible for our staff and students in 2015. The following are quick blurbs to give you an insight into our new teachers. We are sure that you will welcome them into our team. Please make them feel welcome when they arrive.

Hi everyone! My name is Ashlie Kempthorne and I am thrilled to announce that I will be joining the teaching team in 2015. I live a hop, skip and a jump away from Rotokauri School, and in my younger years attended Te Kowhai School and Fraser High. My parents own Heavy Metal Haulage (a local trucking company) and apart from my 3 week old nephew, I am now the only one in the family who doesn't work there! In my spare time you will find me enjoying the great outdoors, playing my guitar, or spending time with my furry best friend Shylo! I absolutely love working with children so am very excited to begin at Rotokauri and really look forward to meeting each and everyone of you. ☺

Hi everyone, my name is Victoria Cooper and I am very excited to be joining the team at Rotokauri next year.

I have been teaching at Sunnyvale School in Auckland for the past 7 years where I have taught children from the age of 5 through to 11 years old.

I grew up in a little coastal town west of Auckland called Piha. I have lived in Piha for 28 years where I have grown to love the ocean. I have been a lifeguard and travelled to Huntington Beach in America for a life guard exchange and also am a keen surfer. My dad got me into surfing when I was very young and I have been doing it ever since. I am looking forward to meeting all of the children, parents and staff at Rotokauri School.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2015

Before this article appeared in the newspaper the junior department at Rotokauri School had been discussing the trend they had noticed in relation to oral language skills over a period of time. As part of the 2015 strategic plan these trends will be targeted. As you will see from the article below these trends have become prevalent in all schools, no matter what their decile.

NZ pupils struggling to speak

Exclusive Use of gadgets and parents too busy to talk suspected of hindering children's language development

Nicholas Jones education
nicholas.jones@nzherald.co.nz

Fewer children starting school can speak in sentences, prompting an investigation by education chiefs.

Primary schools around the country have noted a decline in the spoken-language abilities of new entrants and the Ministry of Education will look into the reports.

School leaders and a specialist in linguistics suspect the problem could be down to children using gadgets too often and parents not talking to them enough.

The ability of youngsters to express themselves in the classroom is essential to their cognitive development and future learning.

Willowbank School in Auckland's Dannemora has started testing all new entrants for oral language ability after staff noticed many were struggling to speak in sentences.

Julie Cowan, deputy principal at the decile 9 school, said conversations with other schools indicated they, too, were noticing the problem among native English-speaking pupils.

Material put out by the ministry gives examples of what children should be able to do upon starting school, including asking questions about a picture, following directions in a group setting and holding a conversation.

"Those are examples of the things we are finding quite a few of our chil-

Future orators

- Help your child with simple activities and, in doing so, have lots of conversational exchanges.
- Tell children words and expressions but also make sure they are able to frequently try out new language.
- Read aloud to your children and give them time to think over what they have heard. Ask lots of closed questions (with one-word answers) and open questions (those with many different answers).
- Try to talk *with*, not *at*, your children.
- Encourage them to retell their favourite stories from books or their own experience.

dren are coming in and not being able to do," Mrs Cowan said.

New starters could have the spoken-language ability of 2- or 3-year-olds, and even those whom teachers viewed as "average" often came in at levels below a 5-year-old.

Mrs Cowan believed there were many causes. "Maybe the fact that children are spending more time on devices and

DESIGN REQUIRED

Next year we hope with the support of the Ministry to make a few physical changes to our MPR room and the area outside Room 8 and the Library. This leaves a space outside Room 1 that could be redeveloped in keeping with the other changes. Now we know we have many talented parents out there who may have some creative ideas about what that space could look like. Please feel free to send any design ideas you have in to us.

LEADERSHIP CAMP

Last weekend four staff members Casey, Mike, Shane and myself spent a weekend in Coromandel doing the same activities that our 2015 Year 8's will be doing in mid-February. Students will, as part of this leadership camp, undertake a number of bush walks and also be involved in a canoe trip, along with a number of other outdoor activities. We would like to thank the Board and PTA for their financial support in helping to fund this camp for our students next year. It is hoped that by the end of the camp the students will have learned a number of skills that will prove useful throughout their lives. It is also hoped that after the students have spent time together undertaking a number of problem solving activities they will have a good understanding of the skills they have as individuals and as a TEAM.

Students that are going on this camp will need to maintain a certain level of fitness during the long summer holiday break in preparation for the outdoor activities.

Thanks for being our official photographer Casey on our pre-camp trip. Photos can be viewed on our Facebook page.

SCHOOL AWARD CEREMONY

Lots of positive feedback, especially from grandparents, has been received about our end of Term 3 concert. We are glad that you got to see another curriculum area – the Arts. Our school award ceremony which celebrates excellence in a number of areas will be held on Monday, 15th December on our field, weather permitting. This year as a backup plan we have decided to book Fraser High School in case the weather does not want to play ball. A decision based on the weather forecast will be made at midday on the 15th December and parents will be informed by email.

The award ceremony will start at 6.00 p.m. and will take approximately 1 hour. We are very proud of our students' academic achievements and enjoy celebrating these with you. If this is held at school please feel free to bring a picnic tea.

ROOM 7 OPEN MORNING

We now have Room 7 set up in a way that every student has a device that can support their learning. In the last newsletter we answered a number of questions that had been received by the Board when they consulted with the community in Term 3 on this project. On Thursday, 13th November Room 7 will be open to the community so that parents can see for themselves the changes that Information Technology has made to teaching and learning. Linda will be showing a support programme called Dashboard which we have had installed.

Room 7 will be open at 9.30 am – 10.30 am. Please feel free to make any comments to Linda and/or myself on things that you may have viewed.

As part of the Room 7 Information Technology trial the students will be giving us feedback in regard to how these changes may have impacted on their learning.

A & P SHOW DAY SUCCESS



A&P SHOW

Last Friday Alexandra Dashfield, Jorja Scott and Jaimee Carlson went to the A&P show with their calves. They competed in all rings and Alexandra got a 6th in rearing, Jorja got a 2nd for leading and Jaimee got a 5th in leading and dairy type. They competed in group of three against 26 other teams and ended up coming 1st and winning the trophy. The school is very proud of these girls. We would like to say a big thanks to Avril and Jim McBeth for lending them their calves that have done us proud.

Written by Jorja, Jaimee and Alexandra

POOL PAINTING – THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER

If you have a few spare hours on Thursday, 13th November to come down and lend a hand to paint the pool, please contact the school. Great way of getting a tan for summer. Phone office 8495 068.

POOL OPENING

We are now one of only a few school pools in Hamilton that are open to their community during the Christmas break. This is a sad reflection on New Zealand society where once it was just taken for granted that every child had the chance to learn to swim.

Our pool will officially open on the 24th November. This year we are also getting the 2Focus Swimming Company to come and give private swimming lessons. If you are interested in this you can directly email them v.taylor@windowslive.com

2Focus Swimming Company will be running lessons from 24 – 28 November at lunch time. (Please see advert later in the newsletter for more information).

As for our pool key holders please make sure that you continue to support our school pool policy by following the rules as set out in the agreement you signed. Please make sure that you never let your child swim unsupervised and that when you depart the pool area the gates are locked. For our new parents the cost of a key, which also opens the tennis courts, is \$75 for the season.

KEY HOLDERS RESPONSIBILITIES

- No persons under the age of 18 are allowed to be a key holder.
- No glassware is allowed to be in the pool complex. Alcohol is banned.
- Never leave children unattended in a pool for any reason.
- No items in the pool are allowed that may damage the pump system.
- Do not dive in the pool. The depth is not sufficient enough to allow for safe diving - especially for adults.
- No running around the pool complex.
- Make sure you lock the pool gate when you have finished.
- Do not pass your key on to others.
- Do you know resuscitation techniques?
- Do you have a first aid certificate?

TROPHY RETURN

Please return all school trophies to the office so they can be taken in for engraving. These include all Agricultural Day and end of year prize giving trophies. Please return them as soon as possible as there is always a lot of schools and clubs wanting engraving done at this time of year.

ROTOKAURI CAR SHOW

People come from far and wide to attend this show with crowds of over 1,500 people attending. Our grounds can handle just over three hundred cars of all shapes, sizes and eras. The show is also a way of teaching our students entrepreneurial skills as they will be producing and selling products on the day. For this day to really be successful we need a wide range of vehicles to display on Sunday, 16th November. All vehicles are welcome so please put the word out to your family and friends. To display a car there is an entry fee of \$5. The show will officially go from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm, with gates opening 8.30am for stall holders and display cars.

Live music, great food and company.

NOTICE FROM THE CAR SHOW COUNTRY FAIR COMMITTEE

The Car Show Country Fair Committee Need a Little Bit of Help

We need 9 hours' worth of voluntary time to make the Car Show and Country Fair run smoothly on Sunday, 16 November.

If you could donate **one** hour or **two** hours of your time to help us it would be very much appreciated.

You will receive a **Free** Family Pass to enter the Car Show and Country Fair if you are able to help us.

We need:

- 8 People for 1 hour at a time at the two entrances at the Front of the School taking money from pedestrians and giving out programmes. (Choose an hour between 9.30am and 1.30pm).
- 1 Person for 1 hour of time directing the Exhibitors Cars towards the car entrance on Rotokauri Road. (10.30-11.30am).

Please email me hndyorke@xtra.co.nz and let me know which times suit you.

Thanks, Hayley

DRIVE IN MOVIE

Our community is looking forward to the inaugural Edge Protection Rotokauri School Drive In Movie Night. This will be taking place on Saturday, 6th December. Tickets will be on sale from the week starting 10th November. The cost of bringing a car will be \$40 and people walking in costing \$5 per person. There is limited car spaces available on the night and therefore it would pay to get in early. Food and drinks are available on the night. The film that will be shown is a classic Herbie film which is suitable for all age groups.

LEAP VOUCHERS

Thank you to the PTA for the Leap vouchers some members of our senior class enjoyed. These vouchers were given out to students who had worked hard in Term 3.

INTERESTING

The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

Robert M Hutchinson

HEADLICE

These have once again been reported in the junior and senior classrooms. Please regularly check your child's / children's hair for any signs. If you do find evidence of headlice please treat and retreat according to the instructions on the treatment lotion.

JUNIOR TABLOIDS

On Friday 31st October students from Rooms 2 and 3 participated in the annual Junior School Tabloids held at Te Uku School. Thank you to the parents that managed a team and those that came along to cheer on the children. A fun, activity packed day was enjoyed by all – despite the overcast weather and the odd shower or two. Below are some photos of the children participating in the Tabloid activities.

Sponge fun



Parachute



Sack race



DISCO – 7 NOVEMBER

The theme is the Princess / Prince and the Pauper. So come dressed up like royalty or like a pauper – poor and / or down and out.

Years 1-4 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm

Years 5-8 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

\$2.00 entry

Food is available to purchase.

Venue: Rotokauri School Multipurpose Room

Bring your permission slip on the night – Rotokauri School children only.

Enjoy the beach?

Learn beach education in a fun environment

- Water safety skills
- Lifeguarding
- Great summer sport
- Fitness/cross training
- Improve fitness
- Team building

Junior Surf
5 -14 year olds

Rookie & Lifeguarding
15 years - adults



Trust Waikato Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services * 07 863 5108 * info@waihbeachlifeguards.co.nz *



Summer is coming! Be safe at the beach!

Encourage your children to become a member of Trust Waikato Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services and learn **beach education** in a fun environment. There is a programme for all ages including **lifeguarding** opportunities for teenagers and adults.

For children aged 5-14 years there is a **junior surf** programme that teaches children a number of beach and water skills. Children learn to read wave patterns, ride a board, understand beach safety, all under the guidance of coaches and lifeguards.

Teenagers and adults can join a **rookie or lifeguarding** programme and become a member of the club protecting the community while they enjoy the beach.

New Zealand is surrounded by beautiful beaches, learn to be safe by enrolling now.

To become a member of this great club visit www.waihbeachlifeguarding.co.nz,
email: info@waihbeachlifeguards.co.nz or call the office on 07 863 5108 for more information



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New World Te Rapa is proud to sponsor your school.
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2 FOCUS Learn to swim

The 2Focus coaches are returning to Rotokauri School take swimming block courses. We will be in your school from the 24th November – 28th November 2014.

What we offer

- Block course 5 x 30 minute swimming lessons.
- Coach swimmers to their individual ability.
- Technique coaching in all swimming strokes.
- Supply all equipment needed, kick boards etc.
- We come to you, no down time from the class travelling to lessons.

Cost: \$40.00 for the week, 5 x 30 minute sessions.

Lesson times: 12.30 pm - 1.00 pm or 1.00 pm – 1.30pm

To book: email Vicki with your child's/children's full name, age and swimming ability. - v.taylor@windowslive.com

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Did you know that?

- High fibre breads, pita & wraps digest slowly & give long-lasting energy to **GO**
- Vegetable fillings ensure kids get vitamins & minerals to **GLOW**
- Cheese, eggs, lean meat, chicken, & tinned fish are great fillings to help kids **GROW** strong



Waikato District Health Board
Te Hanga Whaioranga Mō Te Iwi – **Building Healthy Communities**



GO, GLOW, GROW PIZZA

1. Use wholegrain pita breads as bases
2. Spread tomato paste and add your toppings
 - Courgette
 - Spinach
 - Onion
 - Mushrooms
 - Capsicum
 - Tomato
 - Roast veggies
 - Pineapple
 - Ham
 - Cooked Chicken
3. Sprinkle with grated cheese and bake in the oven until the base is crispy



TIP:
Choose edam
cheese: it's
lower in fat!



DRIVE IN MOVIE SPONSOR

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