

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 12

13 August 2015



Room 7 are showing we care by raising funds for the SPCA. We will be making yummy cupcakes and be selling them in the Multi-purpose room at morning tea time.

Plain cupcakes will sell for \$1

Iced cupcakes will sell for \$2

Donations are welcome.

Thank you for your support.

Delicious Burgers



A delicious burger for **\$3**

Available at our
Interschool Football Tournament
on Friday the 21st August.

Please support our Fundraiser for our Senior School Camp.

Tea, coffee, and milo will be also available: \$2 a cup.

Thank you for your support from Rotokauri School.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL
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HAMILTON 3289

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Fax (07) 849 4371
Email: office@rotokauri.school.nz
www.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.

ROOM 7 OPEN DAY

You are invited to visit **Room 7** on **Thursday, 3rd September** from **9.00 - 10:30 a.m.**
This is an opportunity for you to come in and see how we integrate technology as a tool into our classroom programme.

Please email me if you are attending this event: hkirkham@rotokauri.school.nz

We are looking forward to you visiting us.

Helena Kirkham

FEEDBACK FROM EMBLEM DISCUSSION

We shared with our community and students the changes that we would like to make to the school emblem. They reflect changes in philosophy of education at our school. Thank you to all the students who gave their views about the emblem during class discussions over the last 2 weeks. A number of the student's thoughts proved to be very insightful and we will follow up on their thoughts during this term with the staff.

PARENTS' TECH TRIP

Thank you to the parents who took the opportunity to visit our students at Hamilton Junior High last week. Tech has changed dramatically over the last few years to encompass best learning and teaching practices. Students are more in charge of their own learning rather than being hand fed information. Each project has an overall learning objective with a series of learning stages. This is fairly typical of what you might see over a six week learning sequence in the tech department:

1. Problem - What do we already know? Gather information and organise.
2. Identify the problem/s.
3. Generate ideas to solve problems.
4. Decide on a plan.
5. Implement the plan.
6. How well did I/we do, evaluate.

7. Share/communicate with an audience.
8. What have we learned from these experiences?

Often students will collaborate with others when going through learning sequences and the beauty of this inquiry collaboration system is that it can be used across curriculum areas. Often the teachers at Hamilton Junior High will work together e.g. producing a musical instrument at hard materials that can be used in music.

We are in discussions at present with the Tech department to see if we can have students stay for longer at Tech in Term 4.

It was fantastic to see our students using a variety of problem solving strategies to overcome problems when designing, constructing, trialling and evaluating their projects.



There are more photos of our students that can be viewed on our webpage. Look under the tab Year 7 and 8 Tech. While on our website have a look around at the other tabs as well e.g. classrooms or educational videos. You will have noticed our website has come a long way in the last 18 months. Many of our ideas have come from students, staff and parents. We are always open to new ideas being implemented.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

During the last part of Term 2 we really pushed the concept of Acts of Kindness. It's a real sign of maturity and empathy when you do something for someone else without the expectation that you benefit from it in some way. Our students know that helping people is just the right thing to do. Teachers can write down Acts of Kindness and put them into a special box which is situated in the student's administration entrance. Mr Watkins has organized a ride in a hot rod car for a lucky recipient whose name will be drawn out of the box at the end of the term. If you see a child perform an act of kindness please feel free to let us know.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Student and community consultation is an important part of our school culture. We encourage our students and parents to have a say in the future planning of our school, whether it be in curriculum or property.

During August and September parents will have the opportunity to answer questions in relation to school culture, curriculum, supporting the school, school administration and legislation.

We encourage as many people as possible to take the opportunity to give the Board feedback.

PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Our PTA is a fantastic group of parents. They have been the mainstay of much of the fundraising which has occurred at our school over the years. The list of their achievements is long and continues to grow. Here are just some of the things they can proudly say they have achieved:

- two adventure playgrounds
- PE shed
- bus stand at the front of the school
- financial support of camps and resourcing of classroom extras

Without an energetic PTA who continually raise money we would find it very difficult to fulfil all our student needs. Our PTA has some big projects planned for Term 4 including the Drive in Movie on Saturday, 14th November and the Car show / fair on Sunday, 15th November. What a big weekend that will be for our school. The PTA would love the support of new members to help out with these and other events. All of the PTA's good work impacts directly on our students' education and well-being. We would love to see new parents at our monthly PTA meetings. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 26th August at 7.30 pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcome.

A huge thank you to Claire Halpin for all the contributions she has made to the PTA over a long period of time. Claire has worked tirelessly on a number of projects and has also held positions such as Treasurer on the committee during her many years on the PTA.

The School would also like to thank the PTA for their recent financial contribution of up to \$10,000 towards the completion of the upper school area. The money will be used to develop a veranda area outside Room 8/library area. Without the PTA's support this would have been a difficult project for the school to undertake.

POLICEMAN JACOB GOLDSMITH

Many of you using the car park over the last couple of weeks would have noticed the presence of Constable Goldsmith. He is giving us some advice on how we can make our car park and road crossing safer. He is also looking at the driving habits of parents, caregivers and the community when using the school carpark and Rotokauri Road. Two things that he has helped us implement quickly which will make crossing of the road safer for the 15 students who cross daily are –

- There will be a meeting point designated by 2 fluoro coloured poles. These will mean that staff and parents who are coming into the car park are aware of children needing to cross the road. He has also given us permission to put cones out on the road. The students have been told that this is not a sign that cars will automatically stop for them.
- Constable Goldsmith has also given each student that crosses the road a fluoro jacket free of charge. I really hope that parents of children who cross the road make their children wear these.

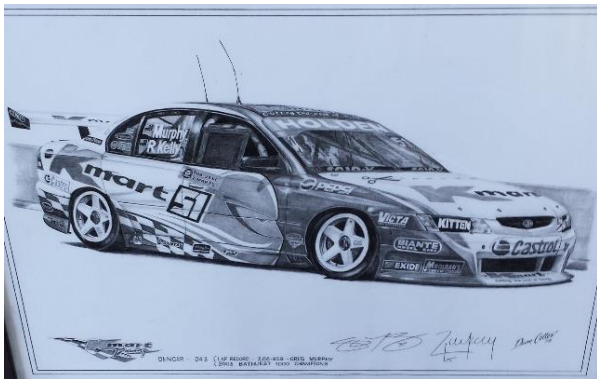
We would like to thank Constable Goldsmith for spending most of last Thursday afternoon educating those 15 students on road safety skills.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

You will have noticed that you are receiving more emails from our school during the last twelve months. Parents have informed us that this system ensures that information gets through. If you have changed your email address recently can you please inform the office so that our records are up-to-date.

ART AUCTION

We have asked in a number of newsletters and emails for pieces of artwork that can be sold in the Art Auction. All money raised will go towards the top of the school beautification project. I have offers from three people who said we can sell their art work. The artwork will be displayed on Trade Me. Here are some drawings by Dean Cotter who has donated artwork for the auction.



THANK YOU

Thank you to Fiona Webber for the work that she has done on the Board of Trustees and the PTA over a long period of time. We wish you all the best in your new job.

WHAT MAKES KIDS HAPPY?

As parents we often wonder what makes children happy. At school we are often asking ourselves the same questions. Some of the items below are difficult for a school to create and this is why education in the 21st century is such a partnership.

According to a number of websites these seven concepts will create not only happy children but allow them to grow into happy adults.

1. **They eat on time.** Sounds simple doesn't it? Feeding children at regular intervals means that their growing brains receive energy. When kids are fed they are calm and satisfied and so therefore experience greater happiness.
2. **They get constant sleep.** A constant sleep time and period of sleep is important for children. It gives their bodies and minds a chance to recharge. Lack of sleep causes children to become cranky and they will often lack the ability to concentrate, which impacts on their ability to learn. Children that are well rested generally will wake up and embrace the new day.
3. **They play without instruction.** Unstructured playtime seems to be a lost art these days. Years ago children would be outside playing all day making up their own fun games. These days children are often scheduled for play, the play is often planned by adults with little input from students. Often high tech toys do the playing for the children. Play is good for a child's socialisation and creativity. Through play they learn to work their own problems out and therefore feel a sense of achievement.
4. **They are allowed to express emotions.** Children do not have vocabulary to express all their thoughts in a way that parents can understand and support. Children need to be allowed to express their emotions in a way that stops them clamming up and internalizing their emotions.
5. **They get to make choices.** Children actually have very little control over their lives. They are constantly being told what to do and when to do it and even how to do it. A little bit of control allows them to help improve their decision making skills, which are vital to their health and well-being in their future.
6. **They feel heard.** Children are very intuitive. They understand if you are on autopilot and not really listening to them. When children know you are listening they feel more connected and therefore this improves their confidence and self-esteem.
7. **They experience unconditional love.** Children learn through trial and error - that's what childhood is all about. Children very rarely make the same mistake twice. We need to show support when they make mistakes. Children need to know love is unconditional. In saying that when your child makes a mistake stand beside them not in front of them. They need to know that sometimes there will be consequences but you will still be there for them.

MY OWN SOCIAL MEDIA



Elliot Wagland @elliottwagland · 48s

How to make 'friends' and gain 'followers' without using Facebook and Twitter (h/t @ianvogler)



INTERESTING

- Continuous effort not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking potential. (Winston Churchill)
- The task of leadership is to create an alignment of strengths, making our weaknesses irrelevant. (Author unknown)
- Creative minds are very rarely untidy. (Author unknown)

MATHS WHIZZ

We are now into our 3rd Term using Maths Whizz and the students and teachers are loving it. Maths Whizz is great because it provides differentiated programmes and each student's needs are continually evaluated and addressed. Next best thing to having their own private teacher!

We celebrate our success with maths during assembly by awarding the classroom who has made the biggest improvement over the week with a certificate. It has been great to see the students working so hard to improve their maths level.

Keep encouraging your child to use Maths Whizz at home. They need to be using both tutor and replay mode. We have put a video about Maths Whizz on our school website under educational videos and on our school Facebook page. It has some more information about the programme and how it works.

LOST PROPERTY

We are finding that our Lost Property bin in the Room 3 corridor is filling up rapidly. We have already had to cull a bin full of clothing that remained unclaimed. The Op shop was very grateful. To avoid your child's clothing being re-homed please name every item likely to be taken off when the temperature rises through the day. As long as there is a name on it, it will be kept in the school and returned to its owner. We try to make sure that un-named clothing is displayed for claiming on two occasions before we send it on.

SPARE CLOTHES

We would be grateful for some donations of clean unwanted underwear and track pants, suitable for 5 – 6 year olds. These can be taken to Room 1.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

We are looking at hosting a parent information evening run by the facilitators of the Waikato regions "Toughlove" organisation. This would be an interactive meeting with the opportunity to ask questions and learn new skills helping parents to provide a supportive and loving framework around the children's behaviour.

The 'Toughlove' philosophy encourages a self-help approach to solving family issues. 'Toughlove' offers families supportive parent meetings as a way of showing parents how they can help one another. This helps parents and kids gain confidence. 'Toughlove' does not aim to punish kids, but shows parents how to come up with loving solutions to help with family problems by teaching self responsibility.

We are looking for expressions of interest for a parent evening to be held here at school late in August, most likely on a Wednesday or Thursday night. If you would like to attend such an evening, please call the school office and give your name and the number attending. If we get the numbers to make it worthwhile hosting this event we will confirm a date and time in an upcoming newsletter. Expressions of interest for this evening close on **Friday August 14th**. Please contact Sharon before this date.

Karen Hollingsworth (Special Needs Co-ordinator)

PARTY IDEAS

BAKING

Bought cakes can be high in sugar and fat so try swapping for homemade baking like fruit muffins.

Easy Fruit Muffins

- 1 & 1/2 cups self raising flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup low fat milk
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1 egg
- 1 cup any fruit (fresh, frozen, canned)

Mix flour and sugar. Add eggs and liquids.
Fold in fruit. Pour into greased muffin tin.
Bake 20 minutes at 180°C.



Developed by Sport Walkato 2015

ROKKAURI SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

COLLECTING NOW



A school book fair will be held at the school gala/car show on Sunday 14th November. We are looking for good quality books (children and adults), sorry, but no magazines, encyclopaedia, compendiums or readers digests. We would also like clean plastic bags.

Books may be dropped off on the **table in the MPR** and plastic bags placed in the box provided or please contact me. Book Fair co-ordinator: Miranda Collinson ph 849-7623.

PTA NEWS



Email: pta@rotokauri.school.nz

Ever bought something but not used it?
Ever received a gift, appreciated the thought but don't have a use for it?
The PTA would love to take your new un-used items off your hands and re-gift them in our Gala Raffles this November.
A drop box has been set up in the school office for any items you would like to donate.



NZ Listener 1 year Subscription

Is anyone interested in purchasing a 1 year subscription to the NZ Listener?

This would make a great Christmas Present if you know someone who reads this magazine.

The voucher needs to be redeemed by 02/12/2015 and will go to the person with the best offer.

Please email your offer to: pta@rotokauri.school.nz

The new owner of this voucher will be contacted at the end of August.

IS YOUR LIFESTYLE PROPERTY FOR SALE?

I have customers interested in buying a lifestyle property in your area.

Are you looking at selling yours?

Please contact me so I can discuss this opportunity with you.

John Donderwinkel - Your Local Rural/Lifestyle Sales Consultant Specialist

Ph 0274357259 johnd@propertybrokers.co.nz

Drive in Movie If you purchased tickets for last year's drive in movie please bring the ticket into the school office to get it exchanged for a current ticket.

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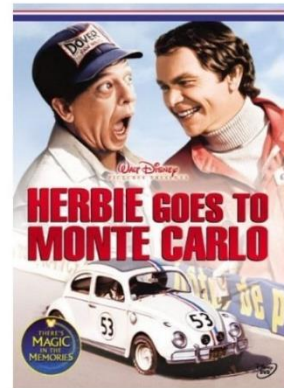
Presents the Rotokauri School Drive in Movie

Date: 14th November 2015

Location: Rotokauri School field, Rotokauri Road
(only 2 minutes from Hamilton Zoo)

Movie: Herbie goes to Monte Carlo

Rating: G running time 100 minutes



CAR TICKETS - \$40.00 (as many people as you can fit in your car)

WALK IN TICKETS - \$5.00 (bring a blanket or chair)

GATES OPEN 6.30pm Gates Close 8.00pm Movie starts at 8.30pm

Tickets available from: Rotokauri School office, Rotokauri Road,
Florist ilene, 129 Commerce Street, Frankton or
email marie.carlson@outlook.co.nz

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LONG TERM RENTAL WANTED

Country house / cottage wanted for long term rental by working man with well behaved cat.

Both non smokers.

Quiet and tidy.

References available.

Phone: 021 152 3747



child, youth
and family

A service of the Ministry of Social Development

Do you want to make a difference to a child's life?
Child Youth and Family are in need of part time and full time caregivers
you may not be able to commit to full time care.....however!

There is a high demand for part time caregivers who would be
willing to provide our existing caregiver's with a break

This could be overnight, weekends or school holidays

Training & financial assistance is provided



If you are interested please contact:

Sarn Vellucci – Supervisor Care Services Team Waikato East 07 9571232
sarn.vellucci004@cyf.govt.nz

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