

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 5

11 April 2013



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 our students in learning.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VISION

We are responsible, confident learners and communicators.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VALUES

Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Persistence and Excellence.

IMPORTANT NOTICES TO READ

Staff Changes, pages 2 and 3
Bell Times, page 3
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BALLOON VISIT

We were delighted to participate in the 2013 ASB School Hop by hosting a balloon at our school.

On Friday, the 5th of April parents, staff and students started arriving by 6.50 a.m. on a slightly chilly autumn morning to view the balloon. The wind was to prove a problem and prevented the balloon from being able to fly; however, the students were happy watching the morning's proceedings.

Thank you very much to the P.T.A. members - Natalie McNamara, Hayley Yorke, Donna Hayde and Jo Campbell, who cooked a delicious breakfast for the balloon pilots and the ASB representative.

STAFF CHANGES

It is with sadness that I am leaving Rotokauri School at the end of this term, due to family circumstances. I feel fortunate to have experienced the beautiful rural outlook, the supportive parents and kind, caring staff, who I call my friends. More importantly, I feel privileged to have taught the most respectful, well behaved, wonderful children who have made my time here very special.

I wish everyone well for the future and I will be back to visit from time to time.

Kind regards,
Lisa Mitchell.

My name is Lois Amery and I am excited and pleased to be Room 4's teacher for the rest of the year. A lot of the children have already met me as a reliever in the school. I have been teaching for many years. I like to create a positive, supportive and caring learning environment for the children in class.

I am looking forward to getting to know the children, their families and the community of Rotokauri.

BELL TIMES

The two bells is a signal to the students to have a drink, go to the toilet and head into class. The one bell is when class time starts.

If you are delivering your child to class late, please do not interrupt class time. It would be helpful if you encourage your child to enter quietly and join in whatever activity is happening. The one bell at 9.00 a.m. indicates the parents need to leave children to start their learning.

RUBBISH

Rubbish, lost property and sports equipment lying around is a continual problem around the school. We brainstormed ideas with the students about how they can take responsibility for ensuring that the school is tidy.

The staff used ideas suggested by the students to develop a "whole school rubbish clean-up" project.

Every afternoon as part of the usual classroom clean-up routine, students from each room will make sure that the designated area outside their room is litter free. The areas also have to be free of lost property and sports equipment, as these have also been of concern.

A map of classroom areas has been provided to each classroom, as well as there being one on display on the staffroom window.

Miss Hamer and Room 3 have taken responsibility for monitoring the project and inspecting areas. Thank you.

Every week at assembly a "Rotokauri Tidy Kiwi Award" will be presented to the classroom whose area is the tidiest. Also, stand-out students who make a big effort to collect rubbish will be chosen by Room 3 and their names will go in a box and a name drawn out at assembly. The winning person will receive a free movie hire voucher from United Video or a Juicy.

ROKOKAURI TUIS 2013

We are excited to be launching choir in Term 2. Thank you to all of you who have put your name down. We are excited to have almost 50 Tuis this year! A large number like that will empty the playground on Monday lunchtimes!

We are fortunate to be involved in Kids for Kids this year. This programme is organised by World Vision and children all over New Zealand take part. All choirs learn the same songs and parts and then come together and perform on stage as one big choir of approximately 500! This concert will be on 6 August this year at Founders Theatre with Nathan King as the guest singer. Our year fours and older will be taking part in this concert. The songs for this concert are all from Aotearoa so it will have a lovely Kiwi flavour.

In addition to this event, we will be holding our annual Tui concert at the end of Term 3. The theme this year is Down-under and Upside Down and will include many of our Kiwiana songs and more!

Children who have signed up for choir will be receiving choir information and music at the end of term. This year we are coming up to the 21st century level by having the choir music available to choir members electronically rather than using CDs (we are trying to keep up with the times ☺).

Kara Dawson, Karlene Owsley and Suzanne Miller

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure that you name your children's clothes so that items can be returned. The Lost Property bin in Room 3 is building up already.

Please remind your children to check lost property before the school holidays.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2013

Last year we applied for Gifted and Talented Professional Development through the Ministry of Education. We were fortunate to be successful with our application.

From the GATE Professional Development Programme schools can expect training that :-

- enables teachers to become effective culturally responsive teachers for all students
- is based on research that has been demonstrated to have a positive effect on valued student outcomes.
- will improve student engagement
- will involve analysing student data in order to lift overall student achievement
- is flexible and responsive to the professional learning needs of teachers and school leaders
- will increase teacher's knowledge to enable effective culturally responsive teaching and learning for gifted and talented students
- will build the capability of the school to sustain continuous improvement
- will support the development of e-learning and the use of ICT so that different ways of learning can be supported.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS TERM ONE

During Weeks 1-6, we were completing assessments that provide information for organising programmes for children that need assistance.

Every child in Room's 1 and 2 were assessed on Alphabet knowledge and on basic sight words. Running Records were completed on every child in the school.

I have completed a Learning Support Register for those children who will require assistance. This list is partly based on the P.A.T results, other assessments and teacher judgements. Needs have been identified in Literacy and Numeracy, programmes have been put in place and teaching of small groups both outside of and within the classroom began in Week 7.

Mrs Raewyn O'Brien is working in the Junior School with small groups of children on improving alphabet knowledge, word lists and text reading. She is also assisting with a writing group in Room 1.

We also have Toni Rae working with 4 groups of 4 children requiring support for Mathematics from the middle to senior area of the school.

I am running groups across the Senior Syndicate working on improving comprehension and increasing vocabulary knowledge. It is hoped that the skills these children learn in these groups can be transferred into classroom programmes.

Students included in additional learning programmes will be re-assessed by mid Term 2. New groups of students will be chosen or new learning goals and teaching strategies will be put in place for the remainder of the year.

Two children have been discontinued from Reading Recovery and another two children are being assessed to start the programme.

We are very fortunate to have had 3 children accepted onto the roll of the Resource Teacher of Literacy. Mrs Elspeth Oliver will be working with these children in a small group of their classroom peers working at a similar level to increase their literacy knowledge and reading and writing strategies. Mrs Oliver also works very closely with the classroom teachers of these children, in order that skills and strategies learnt in her sessions are applied in classroom programmes.

The RTLB's have also accepted a referral from our Senior School to work with our teachers on improving student achievement in Writing. The RTLB will collect school data, make observations and plan a programme that is intended to increase teacher capacity in planning and providing classroom writing programmes that will benefit all learners.

Karen Hollingsworth, SENCO

POOL KEY RETURN

Thank you to the parents who have returned your pool keys. If you haven't done so already, please bring your keys back to the school office as soon as possible.

FEES OWING

Please remember to pay the following to the school office:

- Religious Instruction fee per year - \$5.00 per child
- Photocopying fee per year - \$4.00 per child
- Rooms 2 & 3 only – Newspaper in Education fee - \$3.00 Room 2 / \$3.75 Room 3
- Year 7 & 8 students only – Technology Fee \$100.00 per student per year.

Thank you to the parents who have paid their fees already 😊

INCREDIBLE YEARS: PROGRAMME FOR PARENTS

Early Years Group: For parents of children aged three to eight years where one or more children have significant behavioural concerns.

The programme will develop the confidence of parents and caregivers to build positive family relationships, make change and manage difficult behaviour with their children. Parents will come away from this course with the ability to encourage play, to praise and reward, to set limits and discipline children constructively.

This course is very well researched and has very positive outcome for those families completing the course.

Please contact Karen Hollingsworth to register your interest in attending the programme. Phone 8495 068 – Rotokauri School.

ASHTON SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR 2013

HELPERS STILL NEEDED! HELPERS STILL NEEDED!

We are still very short of helpers for the afternoon time slots.

WHERE: The Multipurpose Room

WHEN: April 15 - 18

Monday 15 April 2.30 - 7 p.m. (Parent Interviews)

Tuesday 16 April 8.30 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. & 2.30 - 7 p.m. (Parent Interviews)

Wednesday 17 April 8.30 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. & 2.30 – 4.30 p.m.

Thursday 18 April 8.30 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. & 2.30 - 4 p.m.

The annual book fair is on next week to coincide with the Senior and Junior School Parent Interviews.

The children will view the Book Fair on Monday and bring home a wish list. The wish list will tell you the names of the books that they are interested in and the prices.

When you come to the parent interviews you may want to buy some books for your children or maybe even gifts for later in the year.

Thirty percent of the price of every book you buy is donated to our school to spend on new library books.

We need volunteers to sell books at the Ashton Scholastic Book Fair.

If you are able to help, please complete the form below and send it to the office.

Thank you

Janice Skiffington, Toni Rae and Judith Baker

-----✂-----

I can help with the 2013 Book Fair.

Name _____

Please circle the dates and times that you are able to help out.

Please also record shorter of different timeframes if you are available.

Date				
Monday 15 April	2.30 - 3.30	3.30 - 4.30	4.30 - 5.30	5.30 – 7.00
Tuesday 16 April	8.30 - 9.30 a.m.	2.30 – 4.00	4.00 - 5.30	5.30 – 7.00
Wednesday 17 April	8.30 - 9.30 a.m.	2.30 - 3.30	3.30 - 4.30	
Thursday 18 April	8.30 - 9.30 a.m.	2.30 – 4.00		

The grey shaded boxes are the time slots that we still require help.

BASIC FACT-A-THON

The basic Fact-a-thon test was held on the 27th of March. Each student's scores were recorded on the form and sent back home so that sponsorship money could be collected. Please encourage your child to bring the sponsorship form and money back by Friday, 12 April.

The \$20 warehouse gift vouchers for the most sponsors and the most money raised will be presented at assembly on Tuesday, 16 April. However, to be eligible for the prizes money and forms must be returned by Friday, April 12.

Thank you for all your efforts supporting your children.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS 2013

We are seeking people to stand for the Board of Trustees election 2013. We are looking for people who can:

- Be learner focussed
- Ask questions
- Be a part of a team
- Think creatively
- Crunch numbers
- Run a business
- Step forward!

The following notice will be in the Waikato Times this Saturday, 13 April in the Public Notice section. Nomination forms will be posted to all eligible voters on 17 April. Nominations close at noon on 16 May for the Board of Trustees Elections.

Rotokauri School Board of Trustees Election

Nominations are invited for the election of 5 parent representatives to the Board of Trustees.

A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations will be posted to all eligible voters.

Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office.

Nominations close at noon on 16 May and may be accompanied by a signed candidate's statement.

The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

Voting closes at noon on 30 May 2013.

**Signed
Sharon Verstraten
Returning Officer**

SNUP

The School Network Upgrade Project is currently underway at school. SNUP subsidises and manages upgrades of internal data and electrical cabling for schools. This allows for future network expansion and optimises the use of ultra-fast broadband.

The SNUP contractors are minimising the disruption to our school as they perform their jobs.

SNUP work is due to be completed by the end of the term at the latest.

STUDENT COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE

The Student Council wrote and distributed a questionnaire to Senior School students to discover:

- what students want improved at Rotokauri School,
- what new things students would like,
- what activities students would like this year.

The Student Council members counted up the results of the questionnaire.

The results were:

- 58 votes for a canteen
- 28 votes for bigger changing rooms
- 15 votes for a water slide

So, the Student Council will be trying to get a canteen started or increase the variety of products sold. Mrs Hill has been organising a waterslide for down the hill and the Student Council will work alongside her.

By Te Waiti Rawiri, Simeon Kahuroa, Rob Potter and Paige McCollum

TERM ONE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 12	Room 4/5 trip
April 15	Book fair this week Senior School Parent Interviews
April 16	Senior School Parent Interviews
April 17	Junior School Interviews
April 19	Last day of Term 1

TERM TWO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6	First day of Term 2
May 16	Nominations close at noon for Board of Trustees Elections
May 22	Rotokauri School Cross Country
May 30	Board of Trustees Elections
May 31	Arbor Day planting Inter-school Cross Country – Waitetuna
June 3	Queen's Birthday – No school
June 5	I.C.A.S. Science Competition
June 20	World of Maths
June 21	Hard Court Day
June 22	Quiz Night
June 24-28	Wearable Arts museum visits
July 1-5	Zero Waste Programme
July 5	Disco

NEW WORLD VOUCHERS

New World vouchers are on sale at the school office. The vouchers are sold at the school office for \$50 and are worth \$55 when you spend them in store at Te Rapa New World. All the money raised from selling these goes straight back into our school and will be put towards the school library this year. Thanks Te Rapa New World ☺



NEW WORLD

Te Rapa

CORDIAL

Raro or cordial is considered a fruit drink so contains mainly sugar, water and flavourings.

Each small glass (200ml) contains 4 tsp sugar and children often drink more than one glass in a day.

1 packet of Raro made up to 1 litre contains 20 tsp sugar.



Stand up for Kids - Protect our Schools Rally

Educators around New Zealand are joining marches and rallies on Saturday 13 April because we're concerned about the impact the Government's education policies are having on children and their learning.

Hamilton Rally Details:

11am at the Band Rotunda (Memorial Park cnr Bridge & Victoria Sts). We will be marching across Bridge St bridge, into Grey St, through the shopping centre to Steel Park for BBQ and speakers.

Educators have had enough of the Government's refusal to listen, respect or even properly pay the people at the heart of our schools. Instead, it is bulldozing through policies that we know are bad for children.

Whether it's the rushed and flawed implementation of National Standards, the botched implementation of Novopay, the hasty mergers and closures of schools in Christchurch, the imposition of league tables, the introduction of charter schools that don't have to employ qualified teachers, we are asking the Government to stop, look and listen to the voice of educators and school communities.

We want to make sure we have a strong, vibrant, well-resourced public education system that invests in our children.

We're asking you to join us - to stand up for kids and defend our world-beating education system from failed overseas policies based on privatisation, competition and a one-size-fits-all approach to children's learning.

These events are being organised by NZEI Te Riu Roa members, who together represent 50,000 people working in education.

Please join us on Saturday 13 April at the Band Rotunda if you feel strongly about this cause like we do.

For more information visit www.standup.org.nz or speak with Miss Donoghue.

Swimming Sports

Nervously glancing at the finish line
The whistle blows, then...

BANG!

I fell into the pool by fright!
Swimming as fast as I could.

Feel my heart thumping,
Team shouting "Go Red!"

Got out the pool,
SO EXHAUSTED!

The Winner!

I stumbled up the stairs
Sitting and waiting for the next race...

By Reiley – Room 4



Swimming Sports

Walking down the stairs
Through the stadium

Freaking out!

I stride up to the edge of the pool

A shiver went down my spine

My body got into a bullet shape

Ready to go...

BANG!

I plunge into the pool

The race has begun!

By Reuben – Room 4



Swimming Sports

Walking down to the marshalling area,

Legs shaking, teeth chattering,

My feet are shuffling along the ground

I stand on the edge of the pool,

I am ready and pumped!

My hands above my head; as pointy

as a hedgehogs spikes...

"On your marks, get set..." **BANG!**

SPLASH! I was off...

I can see the end already,

WOW, I'm even in the top five!

Yay, the race is over!

Now I nervously watch the other heats.
I head back to where I was sitting with my
head held high.

By Ashley – Room 4



Swimming Sports

I was shaking as I stumbled to the pool
Birrrrrpppp! The whistle blew
In the pool ready for backstroke
“Take your marks...” BANG!
Splish, splash!
The shimmering water splashing over my
face as if it was raining SMACK!
My hand hit the wall
Coughing and spluttering I stumbled
out of the pool
“Go Red! Go Red!”
The cold air hit my body
I hobbled over to where other
swimmers were shivering.
As soon as I was announced 2nd place
A small, boiling, bob planted itself in my
stomach and grew bigger...
I was so proud of myself!
BANG! Another race begins...

By Eden – Room 4



Swimming Sports

Walking down the steps
I am very, very nervous
I get to the start of the pool
I get ready
The whistle blows
BANG!
I smack the water
Now I'm in the race
I'm swimming as fast as a motorbike!
Yay! I'm at the finish!
Exhausted!
I am soaking.

By Olivia. W – Room 4



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DANCE DANCE DANCE

Jodie Dooley's Dance School. Jazz Ballet and Hip Hop classes

If you have a 5 year old or a child turning 5 this year, come on over to the big Te Kowhai Hall on the Ngaruawahia Road opposite the Te Kowhai school on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30pm and join in with our Jazz Ballet classes.

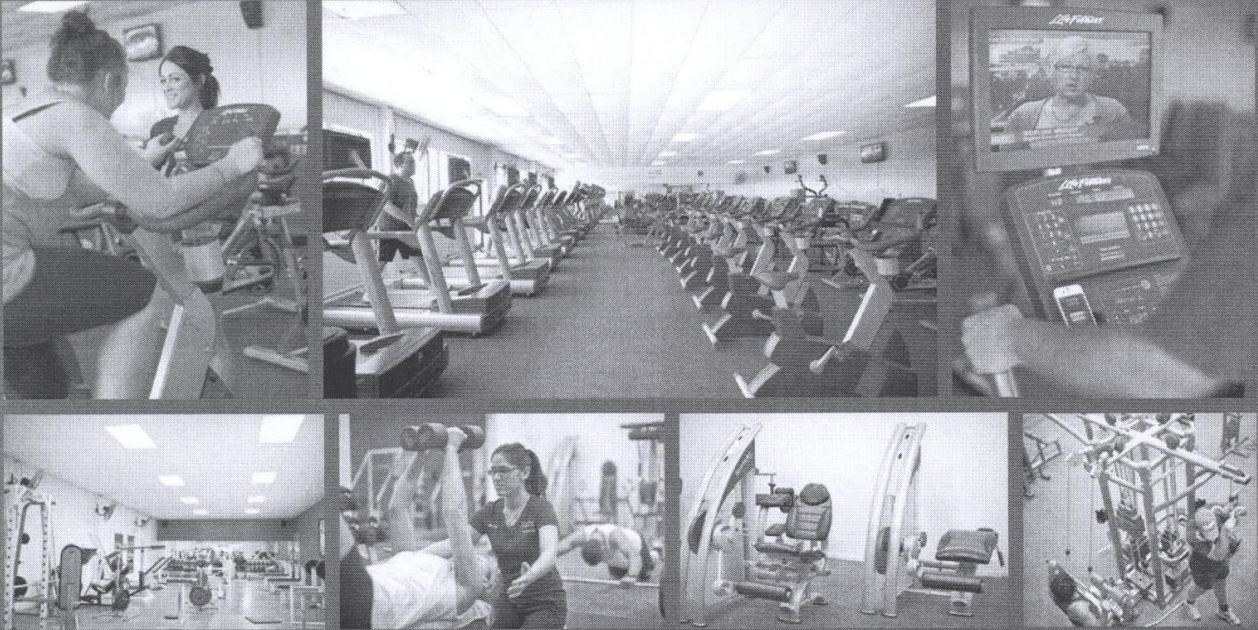
Our Hip Hop dance class starts from the age of 8 (or turning 8 by Dec 31st 2013) Hip Hop has become one of the most popular styles of dance since the movie Step Up. Come and join one of our groups and learn the fun and fast steps of Hip Hop.

We also have more Jazz Ballet classes available from the ages of 3years old right up through high school.

All classes are held at the Te Kowhai Community Hall across the road from the primary school.

**Contact Jodie Dooley 8293299 or 02102560246
or visit the website at jodiedooleydanceschool.co.nz**

Discounted Gym Memberships available to ROKOKAURI SCHOOL PARENTS & STAFF



\$14.80 per week
Normally \$17.80pw

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MORE BALLOON PHOTOS



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