

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 4

24 March 2016



Rotokauri School is closed:

Good Friday - 25th March
Easter Monday - 28th March
Easter Tuesday - 29th March

Enjoy this special time with family and friends. Be happy and safe.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL
462 Rotokauri Road
R D 9
HAMILTON 3289

Telephone (07) 849 5068
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.

EASTER BREAK

There has been some confusion around the country about the Easter break holiday for state schools. Rotokauri School will be closed on Friday 25th March and will reopen on Wednesday 30th March.

CHARTER

This year we are sharing our entire Charter online with our community. Go to our website and feel free to give us feedback.

THANK YOU PARENTS

Thank you to Ross Thomson from Line Marking Services who is helping our community with the production of painted games on the upper area of the school. We would also like to thank Kerina Jessop who is helping the staff to produce a design to improve the use of space in and around Rooms 2/4/5. Thank you to all the parents who maintained the pool throughout the 2015/16 swimming season. Our students' water skills have improved out of sight. When we get support from our parents with various skills anything is possible.

FUTURE PROOFING ARTICLE

There has been a lot of talk about Modern Variable Teaching spaces recently. I could go on about the positives and negatives based on my own experience as a student who was taught in one of these configurations and then as a teacher that taught for 8 years in a variable teaching space. I will let you make up your own minds from the following Waikato Times article which featured on Saturday 27th February.

Future-proofing Kiwi classrooms

New Zealand classrooms are evolving into large, open spaces.

Education reporter **Jody O'Callaghan** asks are they working, or do we risk our schools turning into "carpeted barns"?

(Waikato Times – Weekend – Saturday, February 27, 2016)

Modern. Flexible. 21st Century. Innovative. Whatever the latest catch phrase, Kiwi classrooms are changing.

Gone are the days of teachers standing in front of a whiteboard facing a classroom of children seated at lines of desks.

New school buildings have four external walls and open-plan spaces divided into casual seating, some desks, and some segregated quieter areas. Aranui's new Haeata Community Campus will be an example of this, fitting up to 300 pupils within four walls.

The Ministry of Education has embraced "innovative" – or previously "modern" – learning, and expects designs for new or replaced school buildings to "deliver flexible learning spaces".

Head of infrastructure Kim Shannon said it shared the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) view that pupils learned best when self-led, but social and collaborative.

When asked what proof the ministry had that these new classrooms worked, it said "the OECD's work is based on a strong foundation of research", and new teaching approaches had evolved from this. OECD recommended innovative learning be attuned to learners' motivations and emotions, sensitive to individual differences, demanding but without excessive overload, and promote "connectedness" across subjects.

Shannon said this aligned closely with the curriculum.

There were steps a school with traditional, "cellular" classrooms could take to become more innovative without touching the property, but providing more flexible spaces encouraged collaboration and supporting individual learners' needs.

"As such, we expect new schools and new teaching spaces are designed and built to be flexible learning spaces."

It futureproofed spaces to cater for evolving education practices.

Many schools testified that the new classroom layout worked "very well for them", she said.

Pegasus Bay School, north of Christchurch, has been a modern learning environment (MLE) poster school since it opened in May 2014.

It had many primary and secondary educators from overseas and New Zealand, ministry officials, and even community groups like Probus visit to see the new approach in action, principal Roger Hornblow said.

So many that he had to limit visits to once a week to minimise disruption.

It was a smooth transition, since staff were prepared for the MLE transition after more than five years of preparation and a successful trial run.

"Moving in to the new school was a relief, as we had been teaching in an MLE style in a single-cell environment.

"I remember when we got here one child came up to me and said, 'it feels like this school was made for us'."

Hornblow had no concerns about the evolution of classrooms.

"If the [ministry] wasn't moving towards this style of teaching, we would have done it anyway."

Children had more control.

"They can choose where they sit, how they sit and who they sit with."

Having more teachers in a space with more children allowed them to group more effectively, provide a larger skill base, and allow for more learning between staff.

Despite the positive testaments, a sabbatical report published by Cashmere High principal Mark Wilson raises some concerns about leaping in with both feet.

Ahead of his school's planned \$20 million redevelopment, Wilson looked at whether MLE actually improved achievement.

According to his report, it was "frequently difficult to get any specific data" from schools using MLE. Many he visited were yet to reach their projected rolls despite rapid growth of the city's population and schooling demand.

Research showed improvements in physical space quality – like sound, temperature, light – improved educational outcomes.

"However, there is no consistent evidence that the use of open learning spaces make any positive difference to student achievement."

Parents would be "reluctant" to

accept the new teaching practice without evidence of achievement, according to his report.

He detected "significant unrest" from parents whose primary schools removed internal walls.

Despite recognising "disgruntled" parents withdrawing pupils, the schools did not relate this to their inability to convince the community of the validity of changes.

Nothing had changed about

how students learned – even current "digital natives" – and traditional teaching methods like direct instruction were still effective.

He discussed how the new environments created some concerns about an increase in student numbers per teacher.

"Convincing the wider public of the merits of MLEs is yet to be achieved.

Bullying might be decreased with it harder to disguise, but he

also witnessed distractions created with one class's sexual health discussion attracting the attention of two other classes seated nearby.

Another school installed retractable glass walls to divide their open learning space due to issues with noise.

Wilson surmised that new schools with large, open-plan areas "certainly appeared cheaper in their construction costs".

"I could understand why some cynics of MLE schools have nicknamed such schools as 'carpeted barns'."

A Wellington audiologist in 2015 called modern classrooms "hostile auditory environments" for children with auditory processing disorder.

Wilson found a school that acknowledged issues for students with Asperger syndrome not coping with open learning.

Hornblow said Pegasus Bay had seen some issues with some special needs pupils having sensory overload – "more children, more happening, more stimulation" – but teachers used coping strategies like utilising segregated spaces.

Open classrooms came under fire in Australia in 2015, when research by Macquarie University PhD candidate Kiri Mealings showed students were distracted and teachers were getting strained vocal chords.

Fifty to 70 per cent of surveyed children said they could not hear teachers very well, or at all, in open-plan classrooms.

Canterbury University distinguished professor of e-Learning Niki Davis said she taught teachers how to adapt to digital technology in a modern learning setting.

The "big changes are actually quite scary" for the public to understand. Issues were more about the way spaces were used than the spaces themselves.

"But of course there are some bad designs."

Some Christchurch private schools have noticed parents enrolling their children over concerns about the direction of state schools.

Christ's College headmaster Garth Wynne said flexible learning spaces might not be so flexible if they never allowed for traditional teaching.

The private school's classrooms were "relatively traditional in the physical sense" but with contemporary learning.

"Because something may look traditional, it doesn't mean it's not flexible."

So can a school resist the ministry's push for this kind of school layout?

Shannon said the ministry always reached an agreement on the design with schools before building. Some aspects were mandatory – like high levels of lighting, acoustics and ventilation.

And to deliver flexible spaces, teachers might choose to operate the same way as they would in traditional classrooms, using partitions and sliding doors to separate the new spaces.

Hornblow's advice to other schools following in its footsteps?

Slow down, and trial before committing.

"Don't just join two classes together and announce you are MLE. You need to take children, parents and staff on the journey."

JUNIOR SCHOOL UPDATE

JUNIOR SWIMMING SPORTS RESULTS

On Wednesday 16th March, Rooms 2, 3 and 4 travelled to Waterworld to compete in the Junior School Swimming Sports. Thank you to the many parents and grandparents that came along to support the children and for all your assistance with time keeping, starting races, supervising students, taking photos and assisting staff. We were extremely proud of the children's behaviour and believe that they showcased our school values. All students participated with enthusiasm and determination. They should be very pleased with their efforts. We have some very capable young swimmers at Rotokauri School.

Below are the results from the competition and some photos.

Flutterboard	1st	2nd	3rd
5 yr old girls	Bianca Wallis	Lola Fau	
5 yr old boys	Ryan Jorgensen	Joseph Warbrick	Jay Williams
6 yr old girls	Carter Jessop	Talei Phillips	Mya Aitchison
6 yr old boys	Cory Burt	Caleb Jacobs	Olly Kells

Back Noodle	1st	2nd	3rd
5 yr old girls	Bianca Wallis	Lola Fau	
5 yr old boys	Ryan Jorgensen	Joseph Warbrick	Jay Williams/Riley Boswell
6 yr old girls	Mya Aitchison	Neve Townsend	Carter Jessop
6 yr old boys	Cory Burt	Caleb Jacobs	Cole Turney

Freestyle	1st	2nd	3rd
5 yr old girls	Bianca Wallis	Lola Fau	
5 yr old boys	Ryan Jorgensen	Joseph Warbrick	Jay Williams
6 yr old girls	Mya Aitchison	Carter Jessop	Tamsin Rose
6 yr old boys	Cory Burt	Cooper McLean	Olly Kells

7 year olds	1st	2nd	3rd
Front kick – girls	Kyah Duncan	Bailey Brooks	Isla Kahaki
Front kick – boys	Seth Westgate	Alex Porter/Asher Hapi	Ben Milne
Back kick – girls	Isla Kahaki	Grace Cox	Paige Moka
Back kick – boys	Seth Westgate	Mārama Tangiora	Alex Porter
Freestyle – girls	Isla Kahaki	Bailey Brooks	Grace Cox
Freestyle - boys	Seth Westgate	Mārama Tangiora	Alex Porter



RUBEN THE ROAD SAFETY BEAR VISIT

On Wednesday 16th March Rooms 1 – 4 had a surprise visit from Ruben the Road Safety Bear. He spoke to the children about safe walking, biking and travelling in cars. The messages that he gave them are vital for keeping our children safe.

Points to remember:

1. Seat yourself right, buckle in tight.
 - It is safest to use a booster seat until you are at least 148cm tall.
2. Helmets on right and tight.
 - Wear your helmet every time you ride your bike or scooter.
3. Look out for sneaky driveways.
 - It is safest to play in outdoor areas that are fenced and away from driveways and vehicles.
4. Stop, Look, Listen and Link.
 - Choose the safest place to cross the road.
5. Be bright, dress bright.
 - When wearing bright colours you are more noticeable to other road users.



TRIP TO PIRONGIA

On Wednesday 13th April, Rooms 1 – 3 will be going on a trip to the Pirongia Forest Park. They will be completing the Mangakara Nature Walk. The Room 1 and 2 buddies will be accompanying the juniors. Further information will be distributed to the classes next week.

INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING RESULTS 2016

On Friday the 18th March the following students competed in the Interschool Swimming Competition held at the Municipal Pools in Ngaruawahia.

<u>8 Years Old - Girls</u> Ella Burt Kayla Westgate Hayley Jorgensen	<u>9 Years Old - Girls</u> Georgia Westgate Tyla Brooks	<u>10 Years Old - Girls</u> Ella Kells Molly Fletcher Miya Tangiora	<u>11 Years Old - Girls</u> Rebecca Perham Sophie Kells Darryn Nevill Charlize Nevill	<u>12 Years Old - Girls</u> Georgia Snelgrove Zahra Warnock
<u>8 Years Old - Boys</u> Layton Farrell	<u>9 Years Old - Boys</u> Isaac Collinson Kian McNamara	<u>10 Years Old - Boys</u> Cooper White Ryleigh Beyer Adam Fryer Jakim Warnock	<u>11 Years Old - Boys</u> Nicholas Westgate Dylan Westgate Liam Townsend Reiley Samuels-Porter	<u>12 Years Old - Boys</u> Devon Collinson Kieran Bradbury

Our students did themselves and the school proud. We really appreciate the parents who helped out on the day with transporting our students and serving as marshals. Events such as this would not be able to happen without your support.

BOYS		25m Breaststroke	25m Backstroke	25m Freestyle
9yr	1		Kian McNamara	Isaac Collinson
	2	Isaac Collinson		
	3		Cooper White	
11yr	1		Nicholas Westgate	
		50m Breaststroke	50m Backstroke	50m Freestyle
11yr	3			Nicholas Westgate
12yr	2	Devon Collinson		
	3		Kieran Bradbury	

Girls		25m Breaststroke	25m Backstroke	25m Freestyle
8yr	2	Kayla Westgate		Ella Burt
12yr	2	Sophie Kells		Rebecca Perham
	3	Rebecca Perham	Rebecca Perham	
		50m Breaststroke	50m Backstroke	50m Freestyle
12yr	2	Sophie Kells		Rebecca Perham
	3		Georgia Snelgrove	Georgia Snelgrove

Relays

Year 7/8 – 2nd equal - Rotokauri



Carlos Hicks, Quade Taranaki, Johnny Rickard and Jordan Forlong will be in action at the Knees of Fury event. PHOTO: CHRISTEL YARDLEY/FAIRFAX NZ

Forlong set for battle of Rotokauri School

BEN STRANG KICKBOXING

When Jordan Forlong steps into the ring at Knees of Fury in Hamilton on Saturday night, he will face a familiar foe.

His opponent, Thomas Naguren, is a former school-mate and it will be the first time Forlong has fought against someone he knows.

Forlong's fight will be the battle of Rotokauri School.

The talented teen always knew a fight against Naguren could be on the cards one day, given their similar weights and skill levels, but actually being in a fight will be different.

"I've never fought someone I know of

before," Forlong said.

"Usually when I go into a fight I'm meeting this guy for the first time. Before then I didn't know they exist, so it's going to be a bit weird fighting someone from the same school as me.

"We weren't friends or anything, but I know who he is, so it will be really weird."

Forlong returned in October from a six-month stint training and fighting in China.

Although he wasn't coached in China, he trained hard with other Kiwi fighters and had the chance to fight nearly every weekend.

At one event, Forlong fought in front of about 10,000 people, and fights were televised across the nation.

"Everyone gets into it," Forlong said

of the Chinese public.

"I fought some world-class dudes in China on a massive promotion called WLF. I feel like I learnt a lot about fighting while I was there.

"I improved. It wasn't so much technique and that, it was learning the fight game and getting more mature, that sort of stuff."

Fellow House of Pain kickboxers Carlos Hicks and Quade Taranaki will head to China this year, training in the same gym as Forlong did.

Both Hicks and Taranaki are fighting for South Pacific titles on Saturday, and coach Ethan Shepp hopes the three fighters could one day fight for world titles.

Knees of Fury 57 takes place on Saturday at the Hamilton YMCA.

DA VINCI MECHANICS EXHIBITION

As part of our Technology programme planned for next term, on Thursday, May 19th we are taking our students from Rooms 4, 5, 6 & 7 to the **Da Vinci Mechanics** exhibition at the Waikato Museum to partake in an exciting programme run by the museum's education team. Students will be invited to touch and handle the models to gain a first-hand appreciation of how they work before they create their own Da Vinci inspired replicas to take home. The trip will cost each student \$11, this covers the cost of admission into the museum and the cost to bus our students. A permission form will go home at the beginning of next term and the payment will be due by the end of Week 2. Early notice has been given so there are no surprises next term.

ADVENTURE TRIAL

We know that we have parents out there that have access to certain items that would be of use in producing an adventure trail for the students. We intend to email parents over the coming weeks with a list of items we require. We will also set up a subcommittee of people who are interested in bringing the students adventure trail plans to fruition.

ROTOKAURI SCHOOL FISHING TOURNAMENT 2016

Thanks to everyone that came. A big thanks to our sponsors - West Hamilton Auto Refinishers and The Meat Warehouse. The prize winners were:

Children section:

Biggest Snapper:

1st Thomas Perham

2nd Jorja Scott

3rd Vanessa Campbell

Average size fish: Liam Janssen

Biggest other species - Dylan White

Adult section:

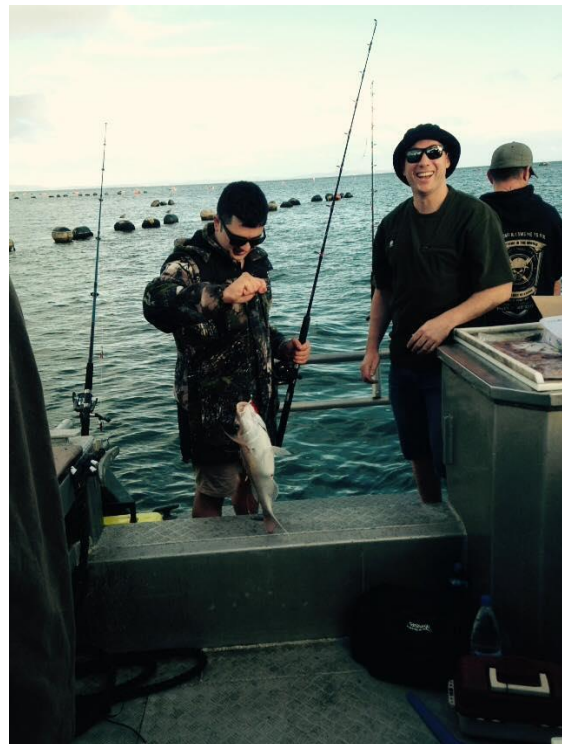
1st Des Hickey

2nd Anthony Janssen

3rd Tommi Rae

Biggest other species: Murray Matheson

We raised approximately \$1,500 to go towards the adventure trail to be built on the bottom field this year.



CAR PARK

The new car park has not been used to the extent that we had initially hoped. Those that are using it have good things to say about the ease of picking up their children in the afternoons. We will continue with the car park trial until the end of the term.

(A message from a happy parent)

Good morning

*I just wanted to flick you an email to let you know how **GREAT** the car park is down on the field.*

It's nice and easy for the kids to wander down and it's nice to not feel like you're in a rush to collect the kids and get out of the carpark for others. No one is pushing in or being silly with the carpark.

BIG thumbs up from me.

Thanks! Liz

SWIMMING POOL CLOSING

The school swimming pool will close on Thursday 24th March. This means that class swimming lessons will no longer be run from this date. Those families that hold swimming pool keys will need to return these before the end of Term 1.

PTA EASTER RAFFLE – THANK YOU

A big thank you to all of those families who sold and purchased tickets for the Easter Raffle you helped us raise \$908 to go towards the Adventure Trail. The winners were:

1st Sue Williams

2nd Evan Hastings

3rd Kelsey Dempsey

4th Paula Pickles

Easter Groceries: Siras Fau

Sold the most tickets: Rylee Carlson and Family and Archie Cameron and Family

Draw for getting tickets back on time: Barham Family



**Our Next Meeting is
Wednesday 6th April
7.30 pm
In the Staffroom
All Welcome**

SELLING OF SCHOOL FURNITURE

Thank you to the parents who bought furniture from the Senior Council. The proceeds will go towards the senior camp funds.

INTERESTING

“These kids that never have any accountability for their actions will continue through their life thinking nothing is their fault, and everything is owed to them”. (Author unknown)

Marrzipan Drama is running their first Waikato Holiday Workshop in the school holidays!

The Marrzipan Drama Holiday Workshop runs from 10am-4pm Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28th April. Students will devise their own play from scratch, create characters, direct each other, design the set, bring in costumes and get to perform to family and friends at the end of the final day! Past workshops have been a great hit! As well as having fun, the children develop confidence and public speaking ability, in a fun, relaxed environment.

For more information check out our website! Spaces are limited to 12 per group so get in quick!
W: marrzipandrama.co.nz E: workshop@marrzipandrama.co.nz T: 027 217 0693



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offers OSCAR approved school holiday programmes. Come and join us from 18th – 29th April from Waikato Diocesan School (Fairfield) or Tai Wānanga School (Ruakura). Squiggle is a fun, engaging and active holiday programme for girls and boys aged 5-12 years old. Open from 8am to 5.30pm, our Kiwiana theme this holidays includes activities such as flag making, NZ Idol, poi making, Buzzy Bee upcycling, learning about Powhiri and enviro clean-ups. We'll also be playing X-Fit games, building Lego models with Young Engineers, visiting the Da Vinci's Mechanics expo at the Waikato Museum and making a special trip to the Kiwi House in Otorohanga.

To find out more or to enrol, go online www.squiggle.org.nz and book your children in for a fun-filled holiday programme!

NUFC Football Registrations STILL Open

Northern United Football Club (NUFC) - a merged club of Hamilton North and Hukanui Rototuna Football Club - is **STILL** open for registrations for all kids aged 5 and up who want to play football. Registrations are online via their website - www.northernunitedfootball.com. Grading, for the two (2) top teams in each grade has been completed but there is plenty of space left in other teams for keen footballers. Join a team and have some FUN.

If you have any queries or want to know a little more, touch base with them on football.northernunited@gmail.com or 08004SOCCER.

EGG-CELLENT EGGS

BOILED EGG WITH VEGETABLE SOLDIERS!

- 1 soft-boiled egg (5-6min)
- ½ carrot chopped into sticks
- ½ capsicum cut lengthwise
- 1 piece wholegrain toast

Boil egg, prepare vegetables, cut toast into soldiers. Dip them into your egg!



Developed by Sport Waikato 2015

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ARTZ ON SHOW

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★ VOCALS
★ ACROBATICS

Our next Workshop is:
Peter Pan

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">18 - 22 April</p> <p>Auckland CBD Epsom Girls Grammar</p> <p>East Auckland Howick College</p> <p>North Shore Westlake Boys High</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">26 - 29 April</p> <p>Hamilton Southwell School</p>
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- ★ Proven to build self esteem and confidence
- ★ NZ owned and successfully operated for 13 years
- ★ Limited numbers per age group

WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT US?

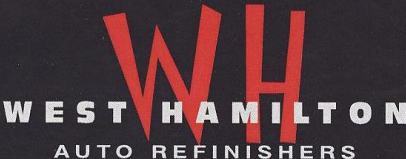
The Workshops are great for allowing children to gain confidence in themselves to perform in front of others.
This is not a child minding holiday programme - your children learn valuable life skills and confidence.

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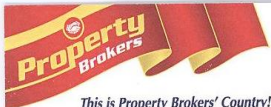


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