

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 6

9 May 2013

B o o k F a i r 2 0 1 3



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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.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

I would like to thank all the staff for the wonderful work they achieved with our students and community during my sabbatical absence in Term One. Our school is lucky to have such a high calibre teaching staff. A special well done to Janice Skiffington and Desiree Smith who did a wonderful job leading the school during a very busy Term One. Janice, Desiree and I know that leadership does not just come from one person alone (although a lot of leaders would like to think so). The real trick of leadership is to get good people around you and allow them the licence to do amazing things with our students. The other thing that sets schools and businesses apart in terms of culture is positivity and people skills. Desiree Smith has that in bucket loads and will continue in her role as Deputy Principal until the end of the year in Janice's absence. Mike Watkins will be stepping into the role of Assistant Principal until the end of the year. Both Desiree and Mike have worked within our school for a number of years now and will do an excellent job.

CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I would just like to thank Darryl Yorke, Fiona Webber, Tim Dashfield, Ron Woolerton, Miranda Collinson and Nick Spiers for their wonderful contribution to our school over the past three years on the Board of Trustees. During their term of governance as board members they have made many changes which supported the needs of all our children. They can feel proud that they made a real difference to Rotokauri School continuing to be a positive environment for students and community members.

Thank you to you all.

NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nominations close for the Board of Trustees elections on the 16th May. Governance is the main priority for all New Zealand school boards. The important question is - what is Governance?

Governance is planning the overall direction of the school. The Board must insure that adequate systems are in place in the following areas:

- Goals, plans and budgets are approved and reviewed.
- Performance against aims and targets is monitored.
- Significant risks, whether educational, health or property development are identified, eliminated or mitigated.
- Statutory compliance is adhered to.
- Proper accounting and auditing practices are operating.

Governance is made far easier when you have a group of people who understand how to work together as a TEAM. It has been my experience that when the Board work together as one making decisions for the benefit of every child in the school then we create a very positive learning environment.

TEAM PLAYERS

There will be people out there wondering if they would like to be part of the Board. A number of business organisations use the philosophy of the 4C's to be truly effective:

- Communication - the ability to communicate well as a member of a group, talk effectively with other team members and listen attentively to what other team members say.
- Commitment - the ability to be very committed to the goals of the team and the members of the team. The ability to work for team goals not individual goals.
- Co-operation - the ability to help other team members achieve the tasks they are assigned. Enhance team spirit and acknowledge the accomplishment of others in the team.
- Connection - the ability to work with people who are different from yourself.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

It's important that our community has a better understanding of candidates before they cast their vote. If you intend to be a candidate for the Board it's important that you send a biography of yourself to Sharon before Wednesday 22nd May office@rotokauri.schoolzone.net.nz This biography will then be placed in the next newsletter on Thursday, 23rd May in preparation for Election Day which is on May 30th.

Your biography should be no longer than 400 words.

School Newsletter Copy NZSTA

The School Trustee Elections are being held this year, and we need you to get involved.

Our school is governed by a democratically elected group of people called the Board of Trustees. These trustees make important decisions about our school's strategic direction, student achievement outcomes, resources, staffing and much more.

Being a trustee is an important and rewarding role. Parents, families, whānau and people from the wider community can all be trustees. We're looking for a range of people with a variety of skills, experiences, and attributes who believe in making a positive difference to our children's learning.

If you're interested in standing for election or nominating someone you know, please contact the school office phone: 8495 068 and speak to Sharon Verstraten, Returning Officer for Rotokauri School.

National Election Day is 30 May.

Make sure your vote counts. All parents of full-time students who are on the school voting roll can and should vote in the elections. Look for your voting papers in your letterbox and make sure your vote is received by noon 30 May.

BALLOT

There are some years where we don't run any ballots at this school, while in other years we may run up to 3 ballots. This year I have decided to run two ballots. One ballot has already been completed. In the next ballot we are seeking children who will be turning 5 years of age between 13th July and 21st December. We will also be looking for 5 Year 3 students and 1 Year 6 student. Many of you have told me over the years that your friends would love to bring their children to our school. For more information ring Sharon or look in The Waikato Times on Saturday 18th May.

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. 😊

ROKOKAURI CURRICULUM

One of the things that makes me most proud of Rotokauri School is the development of our curriculum, which is continually been reviewed and reflected on. The success criteria of how the curriculum is truly functioning within the school is displayed in the following key indicators:

- Inclusive, positive environment.
- A balanced curriculum with emphasis on Literacy, Numeracy and Key Competencies.
- Students actively involved in learning.
- Evidence of values being practised.
- Strong connections between school and community.

We then ask the questions - how does this show itself within our school? How are we promoting this at our school? We often seek feedback from our students and parents on these areas so that we can get a full picture of what is taking place at our school. A full copy of our curriculum can be found on the table as you enter our administration block. Please feel free to view this document.

CLASSROOM RELEASE TIME

Each year in the newsletter we explain about the release of our classroom teaching staff. This is part of their collective employment contract. Each classroom teacher is given two days per term release from their homeroom duties. The exceptions to this are management staff and beginning teachers. We, as a school, are very prescriptive as to what classroom release time is used for. Teachers from our school use this time for classroom planning, assessment, meetings with outside agencies and professional development. The testing they do during this time can often not be completed in a normal classroom situation e.g. testing that requires one-to-one in a quiet environment. Classroom release time is about supporting the needs of our children.

SCHOOL DONATIONS

Thank you to all the parents who paid their school donation in Term One. The Board made the decision last year not to increase the donation. We understand that these are difficult economic times and that is why we have a number of ways that this donation can be paid off in small increments. Every little bit helps our students. Please speak to Sharon in the school office about making payments.

HOW TO RAISE SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

The New Zealand Listener 26/1/13 produced a really good article about rearing successful children which I would like to share with you. Matt Sanders, a New Zealand psychologist, uses the words values, respect and discipline as the cornerstone for rearing children to be successful in life. Parenting is not an easy task and it seems to be becoming more difficult in a world that has become increasingly complex. Here are some simple tips from www.triplep.net on parenting:

- When your child wants to show you something, stop what you are doing and pay attention. Spend frequent small amounts of time with your child doing the things you both enjoy.

- Give your child lots of physical affection.
- Talk to your child about things he or she is interested in and share aspects of your day.
- Give your child lots of descriptive praise when he or she has done something that you would like to see more of.
- Children are more likely to misbehave when they are bored, so provide them with engaging activities.
- Teach your children new skills by first showing the skill yourself, then giving them opportunities to learn it. Speak politely and prompt your children to speak politely.
- Set clear limits on behaviour, stay calm and give them clear instructions to stop misbehaving and what you would like them to do instead. Praise your child if they stop. If not follow through with an appropriate consequence.
- Find time each week to let yourself unwind or do something that you enjoy. It is difficult to be a calm relaxed parent if you are stressed or anxious.

SABBATICAL REVIEW

In Term One I was given the wonderful opportunity to follow up on some of the work we have been doing with our students over the last couple of years in terms of tracking fitness. My premise to gain the sabbatical from Teach NZ was the following:

To improve the overall health and fitness of students and therefore improve their self-esteem / confidence.

Basically, every student at our school was tested twice over the year (2012) in 5 different physical areas. In between the two tests a regular exercise programme was implemented to support and improve the student's initial baseline data.

The gains that the students made were amazing and these can all be viewed in the 35 page report that is available in my office. What I want to share with you is some basic feedback we gained from the students and the parents in relation to the self-reviews that were completed in Term One.

EXTRACTS FROM THE STUDENTS SELF REVIEW (Years 4 – 8)

1. Does doing fitness and strength activities make you feel better about yourself?

Yes 79% No 5% Not sure 16%

2. Have you seen an improvement in your fitness and strength over the last year?

Yes 84% No 5% Not sure 11%

3. Should we at school do -

Less fitness 9% Same amount of fitness 41% More fitness 50%

EXTRACTS FROM PARENTS SELF REVIEW - Completed by over 70 parents.

1. Do you think that regular fitness and strength exercise made your child feel better about themselves?

Yes 95% No 3.5% Not sure 1.5%

2. Did you see an improvement in your child's fitness last year?

Yes 90%

No 7%

Not sure 3%

3. Do you think your child was proud of their achievement last year?

Yes 86%

No 4%

Not sure 10%

4. Do you think the school should do -

Less fitness 0%

Same amount of fitness 63%

More fitness 37%

As I said, this was just scratching the surface of what I found. After completing this study I believe there is a strong co-relation to fitness and how children feel about themselves. There is also strong evidence to suggest that fitness increases in children can relate to improvements in academic performance.

Where to from here for Rotokauri School? I believe many schools have put sport and other cultural activities on the back burner since the introduction of National Standards. I think physical fitness complements the National Standards, in that a high percentage of our students crave physical activity. Physical activity definitely improves student's self-esteem levels and concentration levels.

The students and parents want physical activity in our school as suggested by the reviews. We, as a school, have already tested the students in two physical areas at the start of 2013 and will implement a timetable and programme to support the students making gains in these areas. The junior school have also been tested by Richard from Sport Waikato in the areas of: running, galloping, hopping, leaping, jumping, skipping and side stepping. These skills will be integrated into the PMP programme for Terms 2 and 3.

BASIC FACT-A-THON

Congratulations to Gemma Yorke who managed to get the most sponsors and the most money in last terms Basic Fact-a-thon. Gemma managed to collect \$143.70 with 19 sponsors.

The total amount of money raised from the Basic Fact-a-thon was \$2,956.40.

All profits from fundraising activities this year are going towards the modernising of our library. Well done everyone for getting in behind this fundraising scheme.

BOOK FAIR

Janice Skiffington, Judith Baker and Toni Rae were instrumental in organising the Scholastic Bookfair held at the end of last term. They would like to thank the following parents for assisting them with running the bookfair: Ann-Maree Vincent, Jo Campbell, Hayley Yorke, Saranne Teale and Natalie Martin. Without their help they would not have been able to hold the bookfair.

At the bookfair \$1,952.50 worth of books was sold, which helped the school to purchase \$585.75 worth of books. Thank you to everybody that purchased books. The teachers and students are also thankful to the families who donated books to their classrooms.

STRIKE PERCUSSION VISIT

New Zealand's premier percussion ensemble is coming to our school to perform a 45 minute show on Thursday, 16th May. It is a high energy show which draws on styles from around the world to introduce a broad range of modern percussion.

This is a performance for the whole school. The cost is \$3.00 per student and the PTA have generously agreed to pay the remaining cost. The permission slip and payment needs to be returned to the school office by Tuesday, 14th May.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please be aware that there are a number of events happening during the term which have a cost to attend or participate in:

- Strike Percussion Visit - \$3.00 per student
- World of Maths - \$4.50 per student (families with 3 or more students at school \$4.00 per child).
- Museum visit - \$6.00 per student.
- Junior school – Hamilton Zoo visit \$5.50 per student.

Please check the calendar of events for dates.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR TERM 2

Wednesday, 8 th May	PTA meeting
Thursday, 16 th May	Nominations close for BOT Percussion show
Wednesday, 22 nd May	Rotokauri School Cross Country
Thursday, 30 th May	BOT Elections
Friday, 31 st May	Arbor Day planting
Monday, 3 rd June	Queen's Birthday – No School
Friday, 14 th June	Interschool Cross Country – selected team
Friday, 21 st June	Hard Court Day
24-28 th June	Classes visiting the Wearable Arts Collection at Museum
Friday, 5 th July	School Disco
Friday, 12 th July	Last Day of School

ARBOR DAY HELP NEEDED

The PTA are needing some parents to help out at the Arbor Day on Friday, 31st May. We need some extra hands to help serve 1500 sausages to hungry children/volunteers. No special qualifications required :-). If you think you may be able to spare even an hour during the morning it would be appreciated.

Please contact Donna 8506536 or 021648520 or jdhayde@xtra.co.nz. Thank you.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Thank you to everyone who has purchased their Entertainment Books. The 2012 book expires 1 June 2013. We still have 2013 books available. Please contact Antonia chevi@xtra.co.nz to purchase this year's book.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL IS ON FACEBOOK!

A brand new Facebook page for Rotokauri School has been set up to keep you up to date with the latest happenings around the school. It will be updated regularly with pictures/videos of what the students have been up to.

To find the page type “**Rotokauri School Education Facebook**” into **GOOGLE** and it should be the first result that is found. Once you are in the page, make sure you **LIKE** it so that when the page is updated you will see it in your personal newsfeed.

NOTE: Permission to Publish Images

As a note on this topic, if you do not wish your child’s image to be published within any school publication either in print or online, you will need to write a letter outlining this and drop it off at the school office. We are changing to this system to ensure we have accurate information. The previous system was not allowing us to have a true indication of parent’s wishes.

Images on any website or Facebook page will not include any student’s full name.

The ASB logo consists of the letters 'ASB' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is stylized with a white diagonal slash.

Thank you

Rotokauri School!

*For being fantastic hosts to our pilot
and their crew as part of the ASB
School Hop 2013. We have received
fantastic feedback and are so happy
we could send a balloon to your
School this year. Please send any
feedback to*

*nicky@balloonsoverwaikato.co.nz, we
would love to hear from you.*

Thanks again!

Nicky White

Balloonist Liaison Manager

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 tuning 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**

Healthy Habits PT Studio

Come and give Boot Camp a try, the first session is free so drag your mates along and have some fun.

- Mon & Thurs 6.30am @ Te Kowhai school.
- Mon & Thurs 5.30pm @ Ashurst Park.
- Tues & Fri 6.00am @ the Lake.

Call me for one on one PT options also.

Sandra 8494334 or 021584466

<http://www.facebook.com/healthyhabitsPT>

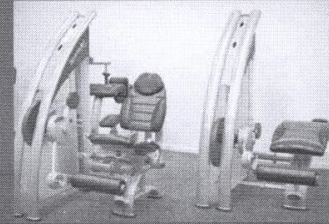
HOT DRINKS

Tea and coffee contain caffeine, so they should be for adults only.

Milo has a lot of sugar in it (1 teaspoon Milo has ½ teaspoon of sugar), a low fat milky Milo is a good way to get calcium but limit the Milo to 1 teaspoon and don't add any sugar.



Discounted Gym Memberships available to ROKOKAURI SCHOOL PARENTS & STAFF



\$14.80 per week
Normally **\$17.80pw**

- Over 160 free carparks
- Free use of over 100 gyms throughout NZ
- 24 hour use
- Group exercise classes
- Discounted membership
- Subsidised personal training when you join
- REPs certified staff and facility (independently audited annually)

To book a tour
contact Sherryn
07 849 6775 or 027 504 2070
sherryn@firstplacefitness.co.nz

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