

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 12

18 August 2016



Date: Saturday, 03 September 2016.

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Foundation Bar, Te Awa, The Base.

Tickets: \$20 single or \$35 per couple
(includes nibbles).

Teams of 6-8 – get one together or come
along and join others on the night.

Tickets available at the school office, or, email
pta@rotokauri.school.nz

Rotokauri School PTA fundraiser

All proceeds will go towards the Adventure Trail.



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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.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Acts of Kindness is something that was started by three people 12 years ago. What started as a simple idea has grown into an annual event. In 2015 we began observing Acts of Kindness. Students had to note when others had done something for them that was out of the ordinary or unexpected. Certificates were then presented at assembly.

Doing these sorts of things improves culture and students empathy for one another. Acts of Kindness quickly spread and sometimes these acts of kindness only cost us time.

Acts of Kindness Day takes place on 1st September. We will be encouraging our students to think about Acts of Kindness for the whole week and then carrying this on.

What about talking to a student that you have never spoken to before or simply smiling at people as you wander around the school. What about helping those that are not as fortunate or gifted as yourself without being asked or expecting something in return.

There is scientific evidence to suggest that being kind releases positive chemicals into the brain and therefore makes you feel good about your deeds.

CREATIVITY

The other day we touched on Creativity in a staff Professional Development meeting and will have further conversations on this topic over the coming week.

Everybody is creative in their own special way. The question I pose is - can creativity be taught? This article might start you thinking -

Twelve Things You Were Not Taught in School About Creative Thinking

By Michael Michalko

Created Dec 2 2011 - 7:15am



1. **You are creative.** The artist is not a special person, each one of us is a special kind of artist. Every one of us is born a creative, spontaneous thinker. The only difference between people who are creative and people who are not is a simple belief. Creative people believe they are creative. People who believe they are not creative, are not. Once you have a particular identity and set of beliefs about yourself, you become interested in seeking out the skills needed to express your identity and beliefs. This is why people who believe they are creative become creative. If you believe you are not creative, then there is no need to learn how to become creative and you don't. The reality is that believing you are not creative excuses you from trying or attempting anything new. When someone tells you that they are not creative, you are talking to someone who has no interest and will make no effort to be a creative thinker.

2. **Creative thinking is work.** You must have passion and the determination to immerse yourself in the process of creating new and different ideas. Then you must have patience to persevere against all adversity. All creative geniuses work passionately hard and produce incredible numbers of ideas, most of which are bad. In fact, more bad poems were written by the major poets than by minor poets. Thomas Edison created 3000 different ideas for lighting systems before he evaluated them for practicality and profitability. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart produced more than six hundred pieces of music, including forty-one symphonies and some forty-odd operas and masses, during his short creative life. Rembrandt produced around 650 paintings and 2,000 drawings and Picasso executed more than 20,000 works. Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets. Some were masterpieces, while others were no better than his contemporaries could have written, and some were simply bad.

3. **You must go through the motions of being creative.** When you are producing ideas, you are replenishing neurotransmitters linked to genes that are being turned on and off in response to what your brain is doing, which in turn is responding to challenges. When you go through the motions of trying to come up with new ideas, you are energizing your brain by increasing the number of contacts between neurons. The more times you try to get ideas, the more active your brain becomes and the more creative you become. If you want to become an artist and all you did was paint a picture every day, you will become an artist. You may not become another Vincent Van Gogh, but you will become more of an artist than someone who has never tried.

4. **Your brain is not a computer.** Your brain is a dynamic system that evolves its patterns of activity

rather than computes them like a computer. It thrives on the creative energy of feedback from experiences real or fictional. You can synthesize experience; literally create it in your own imagination. The human brain cannot tell the difference between an "actual" experience and an experience imagined vividly and in detail. This discovery is what enabled Albert Einstein to create his thought experiments with imaginary scenarios that led to his revolutionary ideas about space and time. One day, for example, he imagined falling in love. Then he imagined meeting the woman he fell in love with two weeks after he fell in love. This led to his theory of acausality. The same process of synthesizing experience allowed Walt Disney to bring his fantasies to life.

5. **There is no one right answer.** Reality is ambiguous. Aristotle said it is either A or not-A. It cannot be both. The sky is either blue or not blue. This is black and white thinking as the sky is a billion different shades of blue. A beam of light is either a wave or not a wave (A or not-A). Physicists discovered that light can be either a wave or particle depending on the viewpoint of the observer. The only certainty in life is uncertainty. When trying to get ideas, do not censor or evaluate them as they occur. Nothing kills creativity faster than self-censorship of ideas while generating them. Think of all your ideas as possibilities and generate as many as you can before you decide which ones to select. The world is not black or white. It is grey.

6. **Never stop with your first good idea.** Always strive to find a better one and continue until you have one that is still better. In 1862, Phillip Reis demonstrated his invention which could transmit music over the wires. He was days away from improving it into a telephone that could transmit speech. Every communication expert in Germany dissuaded him from making improvements, as they said the telegraph is good enough. No one would buy or use a telephone. Ten years later, Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone. Spencer Silver developed a new adhesive for 3M that stuck to objects but could easily be lifted off. It was first marketed as a bulletin board adhesive so the boards could be moved easily from place to place. There was no market for it. Silver didn't discard it. One day Arthur Fry, another 3M employee, was singing in the church's choir when his page marker fell out of his hymnal. Fry coated his page markers with Silver's adhesive and discovered the markers stayed in place, yet lifted off without damaging the page. Hence the Post-it Notes were born. Thomas Edison was always trying to spring board from one idea to another in his work. He spring boarded his work from the telephone (sounds transmitted) to the phonograph (sounds recorded) and, finally, to motion pictures (images recorded).

7. **Expect the experts to be negative.** The more expert and specialized a person becomes, the more their mindset becomes narrowed and the more fixated they become on confirming what they believe to be absolute. Consequently, when confronted with new and different ideas, their focus will be on conformity. Does it conform with what I know is right? If not, experts will spend all their time showing and explaining why it can't be done and why it can't work. They will not look for ways to make it work or get it done because this might demonstrate that what they regarded as absolute is not absolute at all. This is why when Fred Smith created Federal Express, every delivery expert in the U.S. predicted its certain doom. After all, they said, if this delivery concept was doable, the Post Office or UPS would have done it long ago.

8. **Trust your instincts.** Don't allow yourself to get discouraged. Albert Einstein was expelled from school because his attitude had a negative effect on serious students; he failed his university entrance exam and had to attend a trade school for one year before finally being admitted; and was the only one in his graduating class who did not get a teaching position because no professor would recommend him. One professor said Einstein was "the laziest dog" the university ever had. Beethoven's parents were told he was too stupid to be a music composer. Charles Darwin's colleagues called him a fool and what he was doing "fool's experiments" when he worked on his theory of biological evolution. Walt Disney was fired from his first job on a newspaper because "he lacked imagination." Thomas Edison had only two years of formal schooling, was totally deaf in one ear and was hard of hearing in the other, was fired from his first job as a newsboy and later fired from his job as a telegrapher; and still he became the most famous inventor in the history of the U.S.

9. **There is no such thing as failure.** Whenever you try to do something and do not succeed, you do not fail. You have learned something that does not work. Always ask "What have I learned about what doesn't work?", "Can this explain something that I didn't set out to explain?", and "What have I discovered that I didn't set out to discover?" Whenever someone tells you that they have never made a mistake, you are talking to

someone who has never tried anything new.

10. **You do not see things as they are; you see them as you are.** Interpret your own experiences. All experiences are neutral. They have no meaning. You give them meaning by the way you choose to interpret them. If you are a priest, you see evidence of God everywhere. If you are an atheist, you see the absence of God everywhere. IBM observed that no one in the world had a personal computer. IBM interpreted this to mean there was no market. College dropouts, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs, looked at the same absence of personal computers and saw a massive opportunity. Once Thomas Edison was approached by an assistant while working on the filament for the light bulb. The assistant asked Edison why he didn't give up. "After all," he said, "you have failed 5000 times." Edison looked at him and told him that he didn't understand what the assistant meant by failure, because, Edison said, "I have discovered 5000 things that don't work." You construct your own reality by how you choose to interpret your experiences.

11. **Always approach a problem on its own terms.** Do not trust your first perspective of a problem as it will be too biased toward your usual way of thinking. Always look at your problem from multiple perspectives. Always remember that genius is finding a perspective no one else has taken. Look for different ways to look at the problem. Write the problem statement several times using different words. Take another role, for example, how would someone else see it, how would Jay Leno, Pablo Picasso, George Patton see it? Draw a picture of the problem, make a model, or mold a sculpture. Take a walk and look for things that metaphorically represent the problem and force connections between those things and the problem (How is a broken store window like my communications problem with my students?) Ask your friends and strangers how they see the problem. Ask a child. How would a ten year old solve it? Ask a grandparent. Imagine you are the problem. When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.

12. **Learn to think unconventionally.** Creative geniuses do not think analytically and logically. Conventional, logical, analytical thinkers are exclusive thinkers which means they exclude all information that is not related to the problem. They look for ways to eliminate possibilities. Creative geniuses are inclusive thinkers which mean they look for ways to include everything, including things that are dissimilar and totally unrelated. Generating associations and connections between unrelated or dissimilar subjects is how they provoke different thinking patterns in their brain. These new patterns lead to new connections which give them a different way to focus on the information and different ways to interpret what they are focusing on. This is how original and truly novel ideas are created. Albert Einstein once famously remarked "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."



THINKING

And, finally, **Creativity is paradoxical.** To create, a person must have knowledge but forget the knowledge, must see unexpected connections in things but not have a mental disorder, must work hard but spend time doing nothing as information incubates, must create many ideas yet most of them are useless, must look at the same thing as everyone else, yet see something different, must desire success but embrace failure, must be persistent but not stubborn, and must listen to experts but know how to disregard them.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Over any one year this school will complete up to 28 self reviews.

Reviewing policies, processes and programmes is important if we are to support the needs of our students to the best of our ability.

We asked 81 Year 4 - 8 students a series of questions in relation to our school. The following are a few excerpts –

- I feel I belong at school = 89%
- At school we celebrate the good things we do = 84%
- Teachers and students care about each other = 93%
- I feel safe at school = 89%
- Behaviours like hitting or bullying are not ok at school = 100%
- Teachers treat everyone with respect = 96%
- Teachers get on with students from different cultures = 94%

As with anything there are things that we intend to work on to improve. Schools need to be a place that students enjoy coming to. It's a place where they feel safe and uncover the talents they never thought they had, it's a place where they learn how to build friendships that can last a lifetime.

ROAD AND PARKING

Thanks to everyone who wrote to the Waikato Council, including our students, regarding the roading problems outside our school.

For our students the problems associated with the roading and parking has been a real learning experience. They have tried to think of the problem and give solutions to the Council. Often the Council will only do things when there is enough people concerned enough to write in.

OLYMPICS

It has been a while since an Olympic Games has inspired our students to the degree this one has. Social media has meant they have access to information and are aware of up to date results and stories about every event. What is new this time around is our students are more aware of political and environmental issues involving Brazil and Rio. The conversations I have heard around the classes have been fantastic. Our students have been inspired to give their views on all aspects of the Olympics, their enquiring minds have been working overtime posing questions for the teachers that need further research. The love of learning is a wonderful thing to view. Keep those conversations about the Olympics happening at home.

AGRICULTURAL DAY ENTRY FORMS

Entry forms were attached to the last newsletter and are on the school website under newsletter attachments and notices (www.rotokauri.school.nz). Paper copies are also available at the school office if you do not have a printer. **Entries close on Thursday, 22nd September** as we have to give our school's entry numbers to our co-ordinator on this day and paper work for the event is processed in the school holidays. **Sorry, no late entries will be accepted.**

AGRICULTURAL DAY – TROPHY RETURN

If you were awarded a trophy at last year's Agricultural Day, please return it to school ready for this year's prize giving.

AGRICULTURAL DAY – HELPERS NEEDED...PLEASE

To make this day run smoothly we are totally reliant on volunteers. Below are jobs we need help with. If you can spare a few hours of your time it would be really appreciated. Please see Sharon in the school office if you can help.

- **Calf and lamb stewards 1 x each section** - to assist the judge by organising the children with their animals, writing down the judges results and tying ribbons on the animals.
- **Flower Show Scribes x 1** – to assist the judges by writing the certificates once judging is complete.

PTA NEWS



CAR SHOW & GALA – SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2016:

It's that time again when we start planning for our Car Show & Gala in November, this takes a lot of effort in the way of sourcing sponsorship and prizes for the day. We are looking for the following help; if your family, friends or business are able to help in any way this would be greatly appreciated, more details will follow but what we are looking for is:

Products, Prizes or Services:

To be used in: 6 main Raffles, Mystery Envelopes, Quick Fire raffles, Silent Auctions

Sponsorship for our Gala Games:

We have some existing and some new games this year where there are set up costs plus the cost for prizes for the kids. Ranging from \$50 to \$100, if you are interested please email and we will let you know what is available to sponsor.

Sponsorship for our Car Show:

If you would like to sponsor or donate prizes for the car show that would be great.

Giveaways: If anyone has any bulk items ie, from their work that were from promotions but would be suitable to use as giveaway prizes for the Gala Games.

New / Unused Items:

If you have any new unused items to donate we will gladly take these to use as prizes.

A box is set up in the school office to place any items in.

If you are able to help with any of the above or would like more information you can contact us at: pta@rotokauri.school.nz

Thank-you

Rotokauri School PTA

Chocolates / money – Please return these by tomorrow, Friday 19th August. If you would like to sell more come to the office. Thank you to everyone who has helped us with this fundraiser.

TEAM / GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

Team photographs will take place on Thursday, 1st September. Envelopes are coming home soon. If your child is in a team / group and you don't get an envelope please contact the office. **If you would like to purchase a photograph, please have your envelope and money to the school office by Thursday, 1st September.** If you do not get your envelope to the school before the photograph is taken, you can still order a photograph but you will have to send your request and payment to Photolife directly.

If you managed or coached a team and would like to be in the photo, contact Sharon for the approximate time of your photograph.

INTERESTING

"Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care".
Theodore Roosevelt

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage". Lao-Tzu

"I am a great believer in luck and the harder I work the more luck I have".
Thomas Jefferson

"Train people well enough so they can leave. Treat them well enough so they don't want to". Richard Branson



DESTINY FAMILY & PARENTING CENTRE & TE AUKAHA TRUST PRESENT

GOOD MEN *Great Fathers*

FAMILY VIOLENCE & SUICIDE PREVENTION

6PM, THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2016

DESTINY CHURCH HAMILTON, MAIN ENTRANCE EUCLID AVENUE, BEHIND WASH WORLD, 5/550 TE RAPA ROAD, HAMILTON - DOORS OPEN 5.30PM



FREE EVENT

SPOT PRIZES

LIVE BAND

FREE BBQ

MEN ONLY!

FEATURING

The Laughing Samoans

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1 glass
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Study Arboriculture in Te Awamutu

Our practical Arboriculture programme will teach you by getting out there and doing it. You will learn about tree care, using chainsaws, health and safety, first aid, tree identification, tree climbing and pruning.

The course runs from 10 October–24 May 2017, 9am–4pm, 3 days a week.

**Find out more at the Info Session on Monday 19 September, 11am,
at Te Awamutu Brass Band Room, 560 Albert Park Drive.**

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