

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 7

23 May 2013

Quiz Night Foundation Bar

The PTA are holding another night of fun, trivia, rivalry and prizes.

This years' Quiz night will be held at the Foundation Bar – Te Awa on Saturday, 29 June at 7.30pm.

Get your family, friends and neighbours together.

Tickets \$20 single and \$35 double – complimentary nibbles included.

Pre-book your tickets now at the school office or email Antonia

chevvi@xtra.co.nz

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL
462 Rotokauri Road
R D 9
HAMILTON 3289

Telephone (07) 849 5068
Fax (07) 849 4371

Email: office@rotokauri.schoolzone.net.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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION

This is a reminder that the Rotokauri School Board Election will take place on 30th May. Voting papers have been posted and need to be returned to the school, in the envelope provided either by posting or hand delivery, before this date. Thank you to all the parents that rang up and offered their services on the board if we could not get the required number of 3. We have been successful in receiving 8 parent nominations for the BOT elections. The candidates are:

Miranda Collinson
Rosemary Pritchard
Eryca Rawiri

Matthew Snelgrove
Nick Spiers
Jarrod Teale

Helenne Tunnell
Fiona Webber

Candidate Statements:

Miranda Collinson

I have two boys, Devon and Isaac, currently attending Rotokauri School. I enjoy going to school events and helping at school trips and interschool sports days. The school community has a great atmosphere and I love being able to contribute to the school in a number of ways. I am currently the Board of Trustees (BOT) secretary and have learnt a lot about the governance of the school in this position. I have enjoyed working with a skilled team and now have a greater understanding of the role of the BOT in our children's education. I am currently employed part time at a research organization as a Project Manager. My job has provided me with many skills that have been used in my role as secretary for the Board, such as project management, report writing and financial planning.

Rosemary Pritchard

I am a married mum with two young children; the oldest in Room 1 at Rotokauri School. Previous to having my family, I completed a BVA (Bachelor in Visual Arts) and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Secondary School Teaching. I was HOD of Art for 5 years at St Johns College (a Catholic secondary school for boys in Hamilton), and have also worked part-time at Sacred Heart Girls College. Currently, I am developing my career as an artist (painter). I am also a trained pianist, and have an interest in building up the creative arts within Rotokauri School.

Providing learning opportunities from all areas of the New Zealand curriculum for our students is vital, I believe, in giving them an enriching education. I appreciate that children learn in multiple ways, and that our jobs as parents/educators is to foster their natural talents and abilities in supportive, creative ways. I firmly hold that our focus needs to be on developing our children/students 'whole person', including academic, sporting, creative, cultural, moral, social and ethical development.

I am a creative thinker who works well in a team. I enjoy finding workable solutions to problems and understand the value and importance of consultation with others. Having been both a teacher and a parent, I understand the roles and challenges of each. I also come with an understanding of the dynamics of the school environment. If I am elected to the Board of Trustees as a parent representative, I will do my best to represent the voices of the parent body at Rotokauri School.

Matt Snelgrove

My wife Mai and I moved into the Rotokauri area from 'inner city Hamilton' about 5 years ago, a move influenced by the rural environment, and also the quality of Rotokauri School. The education and welfare of our two children, Brooklyn (6) and Georgia (9) is paramount, and the move for us has in this regard been an absolute success. We continue to be impressed by the community spirit offered by the school staff and those involved with the school.

A quick bit about me I'm 40 years old (recent!), born in Masterton, and tertiary educated at Massey University in Palmerston North. I love any sports, particularly rugby. These days my sporting participation is limited to mountain biking, the occasional game of golf, and snowboarding (which I've taken up within the last two years, perhaps as my answer to a mid-life crisis?). Our family tries to spend as much time as possible experiencing the outdoors, and there's no better place to do that than in the Waikato.

I have intended to stand for the Board of Trustees at some stage, and for me now is the right time. My reason is simple: I want to protect the quality of education of our children by ensuring the Rotokauri School students and teachers are working within an environment that is conducive to learning, and set our students up for higher education. Primary School forms the basis of a child's education, so the importance of this period in our children's development cannot be underestimated.

My profession and background should prove to be of value as a member of the Board of Trustees. After graduating from Massey University with a Bachelor of Business Studies I moved to Hamilton in 1995 and commenced my career as a commercial property valuer. I have had several property related positions over this time, including a three year period with Solid Energy (2001-2004) as the Asset Manager, which amongst other things involved property acquisition and disposal management. I have also owned a valuation firm, and more recently I was a director of the global property company CBRE, and developed the Waikato valuation division over the last five years. I resigned from CBRE earlier this year to take on my new challenge with Colliers International as a valuation director, also with the intention of building a successful localised business.

My role in business (within a local environment and also part of a global company) has provided me with key local and national contacts, but more importantly for the Board of Trustees I have gained a skillset that should be of benefit to Rotokauri School.

This is my time to give back to the Rotokauri community.

Nick Spiers

I'm Nick Spiers, married to Lene with boys Rasmus and Julius (Rm 5). I was seconded onto the board several months back to fill in for the then globe trotting property manager. I've enjoyed my time with the board for the purely selfish reason that it makes me feel good to contribute to the school and pupils by being involved in the role the board plays. It's also been great to be working

with a good team of folk who genuinely care about the school.

I'm an engineer so tend to the practical side and like to spend the schools money like it's my own – yep, moths in the wallet! In the projects I've executed at the school I've been really keen to involve the kids where appropriate. This is not purely to save money but I feel it's really important that the kids get to experience dealing with people and businesses and then to effect the work themselves. It's great for their confidence and gives them far more satisfaction than simply writing a cheque.

As an example, the student council last year chose the pool changing shed upgrade as a project. They dealt directly with contractors to get initial prices and although they had a very reasonable quote to do the work I persuaded them to do it themselves – purely because it wasn't the easiest option. With guidance they then dealt directly with suppliers, chose colours, painted, etc. And with a little luck the kids in the junior school saw what they did and saw that this was folk doing something for themselves. It's also like a mini work experience. They got to do some decorating, building, haggling!! But mostly just real life experience that may plant some seed of passion for the future.

Folk support school functions really well and there are many people who donate their professional services for free and I'd be keen to promote community involvement in projects as they appear around the school. Swing a hammer, paint a fence, it all saves the school money but more importantly it promotes 'community' and sets a great example for kids who see their adults getting stuck in. (Just lost my first votes didn't I!)

Well that's my rant. Well done if you read this far, now all you need to do is vote – for someone. Because it's really important that a school has a strong board of trustees.

Jarrold Teale

My name is Jarrold Teale and I have been nominated for the board of trustee parent elections.

I am a parent of two children within the school; Andrew in room 5 and Sarah in room 3.

I believe that within the next few years, school policy and direction will be heavily influenced by the rise in technology adoption. The school has been a recent recipient of the government funded SNUP program and I'm sure you have all had the stories come home about how cool the iPads are. The next challenge is to leverage this modern technology to deliver the best education possible for our children.

I have over 10 years' experience working within the IT industry, working to combine business process, people's roles and technology to provide effective solutions. It is these skills that I wish to leverage for the benefit of Rotokauri School children.

Over the last couple of years, I have been successful in supporting the school through donations of computer technology such as laptops and network switch gear. I have also presented to both parents and senior students about topics such as internet security and social media.

Please help me in my goal to continue my support of Rotokauri School and especially to guide our children through the coming years.

Helenne Tunnell

I am a full-time mum to three daughters, two of whom attend Rotokauri School in Room One and Room Two. My husband and I have both travelled widely and I lived and worked in the UK for many years before we moved back to Hamilton 8 years ago. I have a Bachelor of Social Work from Massey University, and Post Graduate Diploma's in Human Resource Management and Strategic Management from The University of Waikato, and Professional Supervision and Development from The University of Auckland.

In England I worked predominately in the field of Child Protection and working with asylum seekers as a social worker and in team management and practice consultant positions. In Hamilton, I have been employed by Health Waikato in both acute inpatient and community mental health teams, and by IDEA Services (IHC) where I managed community residential units, overseeing up to 30 staff, budgets and responsibilities relating to the facilities that those staff were employed in. Most recently I was employed as a Behavioural Support Specialist working with both adults and children with Intellectual Disabilities and their support networks.

My professional career has provided me with the ability to make objective and strategic decisions, based on all the information available, and I have in my roles worked extensively with a wide network of statutory agencies, community organisations and individuals as well as intensive work with families, often in extremely stressful situations, to ensure best outcomes. When working with children I have found that their voice is often overlooked and I am passionate about ensuring that their voice is heard and taken account of. These skills will put me in good stead if elected as a member of the Board of Trustees.

I believe we all, as parents, have a role to play in ensuring that Rotokauri School is providing our children with the best possible safe learning environment and education that is available. If elected to the Board of Trustees I will strive to ensure that the children at Rotokauri School are supported to be the best that they can be in all areas of their development. I believe that every child at Rotokauri School should be provided with an educational environment that will enable them to develop a solid grounding to assist them as they progress to secondary education.

Fiona Webber

I am married to Andrew and we have 3 sons, Alex (12 years old in Year 8), Braedyn (10 years old in Year 6) and Matthew nearly 4.

Currently I am a board member standing for re-election and have held the positions of Secretary and Finance in that time.

I have a background in education having worked in early childhood centres and currently work for the BNZ as a Business Manager, where I have worked for the last 6 years.

NATIONAL STANDARDS RESULTS

As you are aware National Standards results are sent off to the Ministry at the end of the year. These cover the core subjects of reading, writing and maths. I would like to share our results from last year. From these results we form strategic goals and plans for our school. Students who have needs are supported through special programmes. This year already we have run the following support groups: alphabet groups, reciprocal reading, reading recovery and reading (accuracy and comprehension). Some of our students have also been included in writing support groups and maths support groups. It is important that we support all areas of the ability spectrum. This year all our staff are involved in Gifted and Talented professional development which runs for the entire year. To meet the needs of all our students we have employed four additional staff (other than our classroom teachers). Karen Hollingsworth, Raewyn O'Brien, Glenda Strong and Toni Rae do an excellent job with our students.

2012 National Standards Reporting

Insert School number and name

Number:	1930
Name:	Rotokauri School

Maths	Well below		Below		At		Above		Total Number
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	
All students	1	0.5%	59	31.9%	96	51.9%	29	15.7%	185
Māori	0		8	32.0%	13	52.0%	4	16.0%	25

2012 National Standards Reporting

Insert School number and name

Number:	1930
Name:	Rotokauri School

Reading	Well below		Below		At		Above		Total Number
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	
All students	1	0.5%	44	23.8%	92	49.7%	48	25.9%	185
Māori	0		6	24.0%	15	60.0%	4	16.0%	25
Pasifika	0		2	100.0%	0		0		2
Male	1	1.2%	22	26.5%	43	51.8%	17	20.5%	83
Female	0		22	21.6%	49	48.0%	31	30.4%	102

2012 National Standards Reporting

Insert School number and name

Number:	1930
Name:	Rotokauri School

Writing	Well below		Below		At		Above		Total
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number
All students	1	0.5%	60	32.4%	100	54.1%	24	13.0%	185
Māori	0		10	40.0%	11	44.0%	4	16.0%	25
Pasifika	0		1	50.0%	1	50.0%	0		2
Male	1	1.2%	39	47.0%	36	43.4%	7	8.4%	83
Female	0		21	20.6%	64	62.7%	17	16.7%	102

BALLOT SPACES AVAILABLE

If you have friends who want to get their children into our school this is their golden opportunity. We are currently looking for 11 students turning 5 between 13th July 2013 and 28th February 2014. We are also looking for five Year 3 students and one Year 6 student that can start immediately after the ballot.

Ballot application forms are still available from the office but need to be returned by 3.15pm on the 31st May.

BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Building positive relationships between students in schools is vital if you want build and maintain a healthy learning environment. At our school students generally treat one another with a high degree of mutual respect. If a child feels they are not being treated fairly by another student they should follow the procedures as listed below. This procedure has been talked about at assembly and has been in use at our school for a number of years.

Procedure for students to help them build positive relationships

If someone is being mean to you.....

Say, " Stop it I don't like it when you.....because....."

Move away from them and find a friend.

If they still don't stop....

Tell a teacher.

CONSULTING WITH PARENTS AND STUDENTS

During this term we will be consulting with our students to find out what they think of our learning environment and how we can best help them with their needs. We would like to be as inclusive as possible and will be asking our juniors as well as our seniors to have a say in the consulting process. Teachers will be on hand to discuss the questions with all students.

We will also be sending out a Community Consultation Package. The information we receive from you helps us to plan for the future of your child and our school. This year we have tried to make the questionnaire a little easier for parents to fill out without diminishing the quality of information that we receive from you. All parents who fill out the community questionnaire will go into a draw for a \$100 restaurant voucher.

The questions in the Community Consultation Package will relate to the following categories - school culture, student learning, community engagement, inclusive schooling and Rotokauri staff. There will be other areas but the above will form the basis of the review.

The Community Consultation goes out today and needs to be handed in by 3pm on Thursday, 6th June to be considered for the prize.

ROKOKAURI CURRICULUM

You will obviously be aware of our Mission Statement, Vision and Values which appear at the start of every newsletter but are you aware of the Principles of the Rotokauri Curriculum that guide the direction of our curriculum.

They are as follows:

Learning to Learn - Students will develop the skills to manage their own learning. Students will reflect on their learning process. Students will be actively involved in their own learning.

High Expectations - Students will be encouraged to achieve personal excellence. Students will celebrate their own and others successes.

Coherence - Students will experience a balanced curriculum incorporating all learning areas, key competencies and values. Students will be encouraged to make connections in their learning. Students will experience a supported transition to their next learning challenge.

Community Engagement - Students will be positively supported by an actively involved learning community.

Inclusion - Students will have their learning needs catered for in an equitable way.

Cultural Diversity - Students will respect cultural differences and traditions.

Treaty of Waitangi - Students will have the opportunity to learn Te Reo Maori and Tikanga culture.

Future focus - Students will explore future focused concepts such as sustainability, citizenship, enterprise and globalisation. Students will be involved in environmental sustainability practices.

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING SCHOOL

We try and provide an environment that engages our students to the point where they do not want to be away from school. Year in and out we have an average school attendance above 90 percent. There is a strong correlation between attendance and academic performance which I have discussed in previous newsletters. Students who regularly attend school also have superior social skills. Getting our children to school on a daily basis is a win/win for everybody.

If your child cannot attend school on any given day please ring the school and give Sharon or myself the reason for non-attendance.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

Coming back to the school after having the first term off writing a report has been interesting. You can gauge a lot about a school by what you see happening in the classroom. Since coming back I have viewed our students showing a lot of independence and on task behaviour. I have also viewed the students showing empathy for one another. From the teacher's perspective I see them really encouraging our students to greater heights and achievements. The teachers can be heard throughout the school encouraging students to produce great work. Walking into classrooms I sense a real partnership has developed between our students and teachers during the first term. When all parties are fully immersed in the learning process great things can be achieved.

INTERNET PROVIDER

Last month we finally had the school snup upgrade completed. We have selected Lightwire as our internet provider. Lightwire have offered to install a wireless repeater on our school site so that the rest of our community could benefit from this service. Any equipment installed on site will comply with the 1999 New Zealand Radiofrequency Fields Exposure Standard NZS2772.1: 1999 and Ministry of Health recommendations.

CAR PARK

Probably the most dangerous area on our school grounds is the car park. Presently we have parents who park their car in the loading zone and then walk off to collect their child. This clogs up the whole of the car park and endangers our students' safety. Please do not leave your car unattended.

ELECTRICAL TESTING

As you walk around our school many of you would have noticed that all electrical appliances have tags on them. These tags indicate the last time the item was checked. We would like a parent to do the electrical testing of our appliances. If you are interested in helping the school out let me know. mark@rotokauri.schoolzone.net.nz

MINUTE SECRETARY

Early next month a new board will have formed and we would like the services of a new Minute Secretary. We would prefer someone who does not have a direct link to the school. This position is not suitable for someone who currently has a child at our school because from time to time their maybe some privacy issues discussed but you may know someone who is looking for some additional work. The board meets on a Wednesday in the third week of every month for approximately 2-3 hours. If you know someone who is interested please drop me a line. mark@rotokauri.schoolzone.net.nz

INTERNET SAFETY

Over the next couple of months we will be going over internet safety with our students. Parents also need to be aware of internet safety concepts.

Casey Donoghue put these ideas together and they may be a good starting point for discussions at home.

- Whether you're in a chat room, sending emails or just surfing the net, you need to take responsibility to be safe.
- Talk to your parents/teachers about which sites are off limits and which ones are okay.
- Keep your passwords secret and change them regularly.
- Never assume someone is who they say they are.
- Never give out your phone number, address or photo to an online pen pal or someone you meet in the chat room unless you talk to your parents first.
- Never agree to meet with an online acquaintance without talking to your parents.
- Do not respond to mean or threatening messages.
- Always follow these guidelines no matter what computer you're on or where you are.

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. ☺

STRIKE PERCUSSION PERFORMANCE

On Thursday 16th May 2013 the Strike Percussion group came to Rotokauri School and played us percussion songs with drums. It looks very hard to everyone but to them it seems like a piece of cake! They answered our questions and told us when they had first started percussion and drumming. They played us about five songs and it was breath-taking.

By Nat Aitchison, Room 5

If you haven't already, check out the video of the performance on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/RotokauriSchool

LUCKY BOOKS

Lucky Book orders need to be in by May 31st. Please hand them into the school office.

NEW WORLD TE RAPA

Last term we raised over \$2,000 from selling the New World vouchers at our school office. This will all be put towards the library. Thanks to everyone who is signed up to the Fly Buys scheme and who shops at Te Rapa New World. If you are not already signed up and if you would like to be a part of the scheme please pick up a form from the school office.



MORRINSVILLE NETBALL FUNDAY

Last Wednesday's netball funday was a fantastic day and there were some great games played by all teams. The three teams that played on the day were the Roto Gangsters, Rotokauri Mist and Roto Daisies.

The children were fantastic and were a real credit to our school. A big thank you to all of the parents who came along to support the children and provided transport. We couldn't attend these events without your help. Another thank you goes to the 2 coaches of the other teams, Jacque Patterson and Donna Hayde and the 2 umpires Bruce Parry and Natalie Martin. A very special thanks to Natalie who also umpired my year 3/4 team so I was able to coach from the side line. A job well done ☺

Miss Hamer



BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

Set your standards high
You deserve the best.
Try for what you want
And never settle for less.

Believe in yourself
No matter what you choose
Keep a winning attitude
And you can never lose.

Think about your destination
But don't worry if you stray
Because the most important thing
Is what you have learned along the way.

Take all that you've become
To be all that you can be
Soar above the clouds
And let your dreams set you free.

SMART SWAPS

This term's nuggets are all about giving you some advice on 'healthy swaps' for you and your family. The swaps will give you ideas on easy, healthy and super yummy snack and drink suggestions.

Remember: The healthier choice doesn't have to mean a lot more work or more money!



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Beautiful

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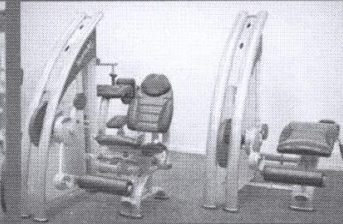
(07) 847 5718

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www.floristilene.co.nz

Florist ilene would like to offer all Rotokauri School community a 10% discount on all flower purchases collected or delivered within Hamilton. Just mention this ad when talking to one of our floral designers.



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
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