

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 5

7 April 2016

Math-Whizz

Are you having trouble getting Math-Whizz on your ipad or tablet at home?

Here is a guide to help you. Unfortunately it is not quite as straightforward as we would hope just yet - Math-Whizz are currently developing their own App.

- Download Puffin Academy (there are two - download the purple one).
- Click on the 'Mathematics' tab up the top along the menu bar.
- Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on page.
- Scroll through the pages until you see a green and blue Math-Whizz logo. It should be on page 7 or 8.
- Open this link by clicking on the Maths-Whizz logo.
- Click the little star in the corner of your website address bar to add this particular page to your favourites. This will mean you don't have to go through the above steps every time!



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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.

CARPARK

You will remember that this term we trialled a new carpark system using our lower entrance. We had 3 regular users of the car park and the feedback from them was positive. Congratulations to Elizabeth Montgomery who won a \$50 voucher to Lola Café for being one of our regular users.

We will continue the trial for the early part of next term until the weather cuts up. So if you would like to save time/petrol/frustration I suggest you have a go at using the new carpark area. It makes dropping off and picking up your children a more relaxing experience. All it takes is for you to tell your child/ren that they are to meet you at the new car park.

HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION

The new legislation comes into operation on the 4th April. As a school we have completed a self-review which looks at six areas – communicating safety, leading safety, knowing safety, resourcing safety, reporting on safety, involving for safety. The above areas have sub-areas that the staff completed. Areas are scored on a 1 - 6 point system.

The area of strength for Rotokauri School is Resourcing Safety which includes time allocation for work to be completed safely, enough resources are provided to work safely, enough time is allocated to fixing health and safety problems, enough people are employed to complete the job safely.

As a Board we will be looking further into the area of accountability/responsibility because that is where there is grey area within school environments. We hope to be able to access more information from the Ministry over the coming months.

The Health and Safety of our students is paramount but at the same time we don't want to be in a position where our students lose their ability to problem solve and lose the wondrous art of common sense.

From a parents perspective is there something in our school environment / procedures that you feel needs more attention?

Please drop me a line mgoodson@rotokauri.school.co.nz

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Things change quickly in the field of IT and education is one area that is very responsive to change. We are currently looking at revising our Strategic Plan for IT. This involves getting feedback from past pupils, current Year 8 students, staff at Rotokauri and staff from other schools, including high school.

We will feedback information to you as it comes to hand. There will be an opportunity for you to have your say on IT as part of this whole process Jarrod Teale is the Chairperson of the IT subcommittee. This year a number of parents have come forward, like Jarrod, with specialist skills to help the school.

TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

Board of Trustee Elections are not far away. If anyone is contemplating running for a position on the Board they should take a booklet from the office foyer table called "A parent's guide to the role of The Board of Trustees".

TE REO MĀORI

Earlier this term we had a Māori Consultation Hui where a group of interested whānau met to discuss what we have proposed for te reo Māori and tikanga this year. We also shared ideas of things we can implement into our school. Another hui will be held next term. This will be advertised in the newsletter closer to the time. This term we have begun our school wide Te Reo Māori programme. We have started with greetings and farewells. We will continue for the rest of this term and next, including things such as; the students introducing themselves and their whānau, learning numbers, asking simple questions, learning and presenting their mihi, days of the week, months of the year, colours and parts of the body. The junior students are enjoying singing and moving to Māori action waiata.

We are in the process of organising a Marae visit for Term 3 and are planning a school hāngi. Watch out for more information regarding this in upcoming newsletters.

SCHOOL CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE

Please remember to use the school calendar on our website www.rotokauri.school.nz to keep up to date with what is happening at school.

SPELLATHON

Each year we try and do a fundraiser which has the children fully involved in a physical or learning activity that helps to financially support one of the school's strategic goals. This year the school will run a Spellathon on 30th June. All students will be involved. Students will be given spelling lists that are appropriate for their spelling ability, not necessarily age based. Our teachers have information on student's abilities and will use this to set up a spelling programme in Term 2.

All of the money fundraised by the students will go towards the Adventure Trail. It is important that our students work toward this common goal as it gives them a sense of TEAM = Together Everyone Achieves More.

Because they will have to put a lot of effort into this project they will have a better understanding of the value of money.

Early in Term 2 we will be asking for people to come forward to join an Adventure Trail subcommittee. More information on this at a later date.

SUGAR DEBATE

There is lots of talk currently in the media about the amount of sugar in our food/drinks and the short/long term impact it is having on younger generation. The following article is from The Listener. A number of schools in New Zealand have become Water Only schools and a recent newspaper survey showed that 93% of all parents surveyed wanted their children to have less access to sugar drinks. What I do know from teaching experience is that a child that consumes 2/3 cans of coke during lunchtime acts in a very different way than students who have had a healthy lunch.

EDITORIAL

Sweet relief

Enormous and complex problems always seem a bit less daunting if a simple scapegoat can be found, and when it comes to obesity, that appears to be soft drinks. With Britain now planning a deterrent tax on sugary drinks, including fruit juice, our Government will inevitably come under renewed pressure to make the same move.

Superficially, there is every reason not to bother. The evidence that selective food taxes work in decreasing obesity is scant. Globally it's still an experimental measure, and one from which some administrations have retreated in disappointment. Even in Mexico, where a much-touted soda tax has been in force for two years, the preliminary results are encouraging, but inconclusive and prey to other economic factors.

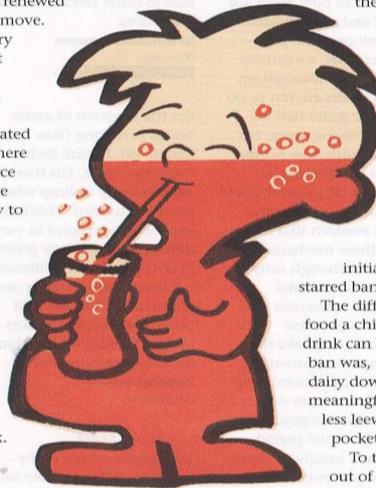
Both here and globally, soft-drink consumption is declining already, but the obesity rate is still going up. Such drinks comprise less than 2% of caloric consumption. In Britain, it's expected the new tax will dent obesity by less than 2%. Despite some propaganda, there's no evidence from anywhere it's been tried that a soft-drink tax would have anything like the deterrent effect of a tobacco tax.

Yet a sweet drink tax is one of those happily perverse public policies likely to succeed more indirectly than directly. Even its modest likely direct benefit makes it worth doing. Across the population, sweet drinks do most harm to children, particularly those from low-income families. Children cannot make an informed choice – even “healthy” drinks such as fruit juices and smoothies can contain more than a child's daily allowance of sugar. Sugary drinks are a significant factor in setting them up for a lifetime of poor health.

Even a small fall-off in kids' consumption will have impressive long-term health benefits. A large study reported by the *Economist* recently found that for each can of sweet drink added to a person's daily diet, the risk of diabetes rose by 22%. In reducing childhood tooth decay alone, the tax would earn its keep.

But a tax like this freight's side benefits. Britain has given the

food industry two years to reformulate its drinks with either less or no sugar before the tax – at two rates, depending on the sugar content – comes into full force. This should mean most drinks become at least appreciably less unhealthy, if not actually graduating to nutritional honours, within a very short time. Then there's the tax's educative value. Before long, every parent and child in Britain will be aware that sweet drinks are bad for them.



Soft drinks are a significant factor in setting children up for a lifetime of poor health.

In New Zealand, where the tax idea has been debated vigorously, the message is getting through even in the absence of political will. At children's sporting and cultural events, water is increasingly becoming the main hydration provided.

The Education and Health ministries are working on how to support schools toward a water-only policy, an inspired initiative that is likely to succeed where the ill-starred ban on unhealthy tuck-shop food never could. The difference is that there's only so much bad food a child can eat in any given day, whereas sugary drink can be consumed continuously. The tuck-shop ban was, sadly, easily overridden by the junk-filled dairy down the road. But if we make sweet drinks meaningfully more expensive, children will have less leeway to dodge the water-only ban with their pocket money.

To those who say, “Keep the Government out of my supermarket trolley”, the state has a responsibility to protect children as much as possible from parents' poor choices. Adults can always beat the tax with a SodaStream at home.

Britain's decision to invest the soft-drink tax revenue in children's sports is an inspired riposte to the health activists who seek to downgrade the value of exercise in the fight against obesity. Aside from keeping children active, with its immense long-term health benefits, sport is also where children can most vividly learn about the value of food and drink as fuel. Far more than from a sedentary school lesson, they will viscerally understand that Silver Ferns and Phoenix players don't get there on pies and soft drinks.

So, yes, it's small in direct impact, but a tax on fizzy drinks would be that most felicitous piece of public policy: a social experiment that harms nobody, and does a lot of incidental good. ■



SHOULD NEW ZEALAND HAVE A TAX ON SUGARY DRINKS?

Email letters@listener.co.nz or go to listener.co.nz/letter-to-the-editor

GETTY IMAGES

APRIL 2 2016 www.listener.co.nz

3

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be Week 2, Term 2. Any important notices will be emailed.

SCHOOL DONATIONS

Thank you to all the parents who have paid their school donation. This makes all the difference to what we can achieve with our students. Please feel free to look at our school budget which is situated in the rack just outside Sharon's office.

PEANUT FREE POLICY

Just a reminder that this only covers peanuts and food products that have traces of peanuts. All other forms of nuts are fine.

HAUORA...HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. When someone says thank you, reply you're welcome.
3. When you say you are sorry look a person in the eye.
4. Never laugh at someone's dream.
5. Remember that great love and great achievements require great risk.
6. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

CROSS COUNTRY

Your children may want to start training, as our School Cross Country is early in Term 2. We will be holding it in Week 2 Friday, 13th May (postponement day is Friday, 20th May). Using the results from this event, we will be selecting our Interschool Cross Country team. They will represent Rotokauri School on Friday, 27th May at Waitetuna School.

TOP SCHOOL GAMES 2016

These amazing students represented Rotokauri School at the recent Top School Games held at Te Kowhai School. They competed with such enthusiasm, displayed a wonderful team spirit, and modelled sportsmanship in every activity. They did themselves and our school proud. A big thank you goes out to our wonderful parents who helped out with transport and for being there to support the team as a whole. We are proud of our students and really value all the support you give us in events such as this.



A THOUGHT

Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you up with experience.
Mark Twain

Entertainment Books Due back 13th April



Thank you to all of those who have purchased the book or app or have returned the book to the office.

Please make payment or return your book by Wednesday 13th April. You can return the form to the school office or pay online on the link below.

www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/15484g0



Our Next Meeting is Wednesday, 11th May
7.30 pm - In the Staffroom
All Welcome



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Developed by Sport Waikato 2015

EGG-CELLENT EGGS

EGG CUSTARD!

Custard is a good choice if you're having dessert.

- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp honey
- 1/4 tsp vanilla essence

Whisk all ingredients together. Stir over a very low heat until the custard coats the back of a spoon. Serve hot or cold with fruit.



Developed by Sport Waikato 2015

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Tuesday 26 April until Friday 29 April

9am to 3pm

\$10 per family per day

Registrations Essential

AM & PM Tea provided

Please bring a packed lunch

Waikato Bible Church

24 Abbotsford Street
Whitiora
Hamilton
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