

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 1

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ROKOKAURI SCHOOL
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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 us all in learning.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VISION

Together We Grow

- Unity (Kotahitanga)
- Inclusive (Manaakitanga)
- Guardianship (Kaitiakitanga)

Together We Learn

- Innovative (Auahatanga)
- Happy (Uruhau)
- Responsible (Tuutika)

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VALUES

Respect

Empathy

Active Learning

Courage

Honesty

WELCOME

Nau mai, haere mai ki te kura o Rotokauri. Welcome to the new students that have started at Rotokauri School this year –

- Room 1 – Luke Vann, Tessa Spencer, Max Green, Violet Short, Blake Oulton-Hewitt, AJ Wirihana, Beauden Whittle, Archie Hibbert, Conor Emerson
- Room 2 – Kairo Sharma
- Room 4 – Hugo Spencer
- Room 5 – Jay East, Rhythm Bhagat, Coco Doody
- Room 7 – Liam & Ryan Barnes

We hope you and your whaanau/family enjoy your learning journey at Rotokauri School.

Ngaa mihi nui.

PRINCIPAL'S PIECE

Happy new year to staff, students and their families. A very warm welcome back and a special welcome to all the new students mentioned above, and their families.

There is a lot of important information in this newsletter so please take the time to read it through carefully.

Ngaa mihi

Desiree Smith

GENERAL INFORMATION

No Nuts or Sharing Food Please

We have a number of students with nut allergies, which means that should they touch or eat nuts (even the tiniest amount) they could potentially have an allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This can be life threatening as anaphylaxis affects breathing, blood pressure and can cause unconsciousness or death. Medication is held at school for these students and safety plans are in place.

Nuts can hide in all sorts of places - muesli bars, biscuits and spreads. Packets of snack foods show on the labels whether they contain nuts and we ask parents/caregivers to be mindful of what is placed in their children's lunchboxes.

Rooms 1 and 3 are also WHOLE EGG FREE - no whole eggs or egg sandwiches due to children with severe egg allergies.

In order to provide a safe environment for these children, we actively discourage children from sharing food at Rotokauri School. We would be grateful if you could discuss the potential dangers around sharing food at school.

Classes and Teachers

The following classes are operating this year –

| | | |
|--------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Room 1 | Year 1 | Mrs Emma Vile |
| Room 2 | Year 1 & 2 | Mrs Andrea O'Rourke |
| Room 3 | Year 2 & 3 | Miss Jaimee Swindells |
| Room 4 | Year 4 | Mrs Claire Walker |
| Room 5 | Year 5 & 6 | Mrs Diana Donovan |
| Room 6 | Year 6 | Mr Scott Robertson |
| Room 7 | Year 7 | Miss Ariana Matenga (Whaea) |
| Room 8 | Year 7 & 8 | Mrs Jane Rickman |

Term Dates

Term 1: 3rd February – 16th April

Term 2: 3rd May – 9th July

Term 3: 26th July – 1st October

Term 4: 18th October – 15th December

Key Times to Remember

8.30 a.m. Classrooms open

8.55 a.m. School starts

10.00 a.m. Brain break

11.00 a.m. Morning tea

12.30 p.m. Lunch

3.00 p.m. School finishes

Early Arrivals

- If your child/children arrive at school prior to the 8.30 a.m. bell they must sit quietly in the bus bay.
- Atmosphere Before School programme is available from 7.00 a.m. in the MPR.

Late Arrivals

- If your child/children arrive late to school (after 8.55 a.m.) please make sure that they check in at the office and complete the VisTab entry.
- Late arrivals are monitored by staff, as this is a requirement of the Ministry of Education.
- Arriving late at school can be quite distressing for your child as it brings attention to them and they may have missed vital pieces of important information that is shared at the beginning of a school day.
- If students do arrive late they need to enter the classroom quietly so as not to disturb the other students or the teacher.
- We ask that parents/caregivers say their goodbyes at the gate or if dropping off a younger child in the cloak bay, and request that the class is not disrupted by parents/caregivers saying goodbye or wanting to talk to the teacher. This is not the appropriate time.

Leaving Early

If it is necessary for parents/caregivers to take children out of school, either from class or at break times, we ask that you ensure that the classroom teacher, duty teacher or office administrator is informed and that the child is signed out in the office. We request that you wait at the office and your child will be contacted to come to the office to meet you. This ensures that the class teaching time is not disrupted. As a courtesy we would appreciate being notified ahead of time if you are intending to pick up your child/children early.

Office Hours

The school office is open at the following times:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday – Thursday | 8.15 a.m. – 3.45 p.m. |
| Friday | 8.15 a.m. – 2.15 p.m. |

We now have an answerphone at the office so if the office is closed or unattended, please leave a message.

Attendance and Absence Notification

There are many justified reasons why a student may be kept at home for the day and we ask that parents contact us by telephone, email, in person or via the school app; ideally before 9.00 a.m. so that the absence can be appropriately recorded. When notifying the school please let us know your child's name, the class they are in and the reason for their absence.

Any unexplained absences on the teachers' roll after 9.10 a.m. will be followed up by a telephone call to the parents/caregivers. If the school is not notified of the absence and a reason the child will be marked as Truant.

Absences are monitored by staff, as this is a requirement of the Ministry of Education.

Staff Hours of Contact

Please note that our staff are available in their class from 8.30 a.m. Due to privacy this may not be the best time to raise a concern in front of other families (or your child) so it may be appropriate to email your concerns to the teacher and/or make an appointment to meet at a mutually agreed time. Because of their teaching load and duties during the day, staff will endeavour to give an email response within 24 hours, between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. E-mails sent to staff during the weekend will not be responded to until Monday.

Staff have professional meetings on Tuesday afternoons (3.15 – 5.00 p.m.) and Thursday afternoons (3.15 – 5.00 p.m.) so may not be available to address any concerns face-to-face on these days.

As a staff we are committed to open and positive communication with our families.

Communication with Families

Schools are busy places with lots going on. We don't want any of our school community to miss out on the things that are happening. As much as we try and share information, we ask that you actively seek out and use the following sources to keep up-to-date with key events and information.

School Newsletter

Our school newsletter is published once a fortnight, on a Thursday. This is usually emailed to families but a hard copy can be requested.

Rotokauri Website

Our [school website](#) features general information about the school, school event calendar and class webpages.

School app

The School Stream app can be downloaded onto your smartphone to receive instant notifications of events, reminders and cancellations. This app is available on iPhone, Android and Internet explorer pages.

Facebook

The [school Facebook](#) page is a great way to see photos from events and read good news stories.

Seesaw

The Learning Journey app is used by students and teachers to share their learning with families. This app is available on iPhone, Android and Internet explorer pages.

Teachers can provide the log in details for your student.

Please keep checking the noticeboard at the front of the school, the school calendar available on the webpage and your emails to ensure that you keep updated with events happening at school throughout the year.

Clothing

A plea from the staff – please ensure that all items of clothing and towels are named. At this time of the year we have a volume of clothing that continues to increase due to not finding the owner. Children, especially younger students, often do not recognize their own clothing. For younger children it is also handy to have a change of clothing in their schoolbag in case of accidents. The Lost Property bin is in the student foyer and we encourage families to check this on a regular basis.

Brain Break Food

Because morning tea isn't until 11.00 a.m. and we are keen to support students to stay focused on their learning, they will be having a fuel 'brain' break at 10.00 a.m. This is a small bite to eat intended as an easy to eat, nourishing snack that provides some good energy between breakfast and morning tea. The fuel break will be approximately 5 minutes long. Parents/caregivers can help us by encouraging children to bring along brain food e.g. fruit, cheese/crackers, vegetables, a small handful of popcorn or pretzels and water to drink. For younger students it can be helpful to let them know which item is the brain break snack, so they don't eat their lunch at this time. Brain break food needs to come to school in a named container and will be brought into class as part of the class morning routine.

It is important that all our students have enough healthy food throughout the day – it is hard to learn with a hungry tummy!!

Assemblies

An informal assembly for students and staff is held on Mondays at 12.00 noon and the purpose of this assembly is to 'set up' the week. A formal assembly is held on Friday afternoons from 2.25 – 2.50 p.m. and the purpose of these assemblies is to celebrate and share the student's successes and achievements. Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend our Friday assemblies.

School Donations

This year the Board of Trustees has once again made the decision to leave the school donations at \$100 per child, maximum of \$250 per family. This is used to support the school budget. All donations are gratefully received and can be paid to the school office. You are able to claim a tax credit from all donations.

Tech

Our Year 7 & 8 students continue to be involved in Tech at Hamilton Junior High School.

The Technicraft fee for the year is \$100 and this can be paid to the school office. Students attending Tech on Mondays need to be at school by 8.25 a.m. They need to wear closed in shoes to attend.

Stationery

Thank you to the parents/caregivers that have organized their child/children's stationery. We have been made aware that OfficeMax is experiencing difficulty with getting orders to families promptly and correctly. Students will start using their books from Week 3.

Medical Requirements

Please ensure that you come to the school office to fill out a medical form if your child requires medication during school hours. If your child needs to use an inhaler please ensure that they are brought to school, named and in a sealed plastic bag. No medications can be administered without written permission. If medication is held at school please take the time to check expiry dates during the year so that, if needed, the medication will work correctly when administered.

If your child has an allergy, is asthmatic or has other medical conditions that require a health plan please let the school office know so that these plans can be completed or updated (as per the Ministry of Health regulations).

Jaimee Carter (SENCO) will be sending out asthma and medical plans next week which are due for updating for all children listed on our medical register. Please have them signed by a doctor as soon as possible and return to school. These plans will supersede your child's current asthma or health plan. If you would like to talk to Jaimee Carter about your child's health needs, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Contact Details

Can you please make sure you let the office know if there are any changes to your family's circumstances, such as changes of address, phone number, email address or family arrangements. We want to ensure that everyone can be contacted if necessary.

Parking at Rotokauri School

Before and after school are very busy times at the front of school. Please support the safety of all our tamariki by parking in the correct places, not stopping on yellow lines and listening to the directions of road patrollers and staff. We also ask that families model appropriate behavior by using the designated pedestrian crossings and ensuring children enter vehicles in a safe manner.

During Term 1 the bottom carpark gate will be open in the afternoon for pick-ups.

Events

School Picnic

We will be holding the 2021 School Picnic next Friday, 12 February from 9.30 a.m. to approximately 11.30 a.m. We invite all parents/caregivers to attend and join in with the children as they participate in many fun activities. Children will participate in the events in their House teams and will rotate through 8 activities. We will conclude the fun and games with a picnic lunch together under the trees at around 11.30 -12.00 noon.

Children will need:

- to wear their House colours.
- change of clothes as some events will involve water.
- a NAMED towel.
- morning tea and lunch (healthy snacks of course).
- their NAMED water bottle (to be carried around the events).

Optional - Families might like to bring a picnic blanket to sit on under the trees if you wish.

Biathlon/Triathlon

The annual Rotokauri School Biathlon/Triathlon will be held in Week 3 on Friday, 19 February starting at 9.30 a.m. Children competing in the TRIATHLON will need a roadworthy bike and a helmet, as well as their togs and towel. Children competing in the BIATHLON will need their togs and towel. A family entry slip will be coming home next week for you to indicate which event your child is entering to help us with our organisation. Races were completed quickly last year so we recommend that you arrive by 9.30 a.m. to ensure you don't miss your child's race.

Weetbix Tryathlon - last week to enter!!!

The Weetbix Tryathlon will be held on Sunday, 21 February 2021 at Waikato University. Children can participate as individuals or as part of a team. Splash and Dash - for 6 Year Olds, Weetbix Tryathlon - for 7-15 year olds. We have created a school group if you would like to register your child. Click on the link <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=40594&G=120675> Click ENTER and follow the prompts. Click on register individual/team
Click link to School Group

Summer Sports

Term 1 sports start fairly smartly so we have a quick turn around for organising teams, coaches and managers. Please fill in the Google form to register your child for summer sports by clicking the following link <https://forms.gle/HscZ3Dg7o2St58Zh6>

Summer sports offered this term include:

Touch Rugby - Years 1-8

Futsal - Years 3-8

Flippaball - Years 3-6

Waterpolo - Year 7-8

Cricket - Years 3-8

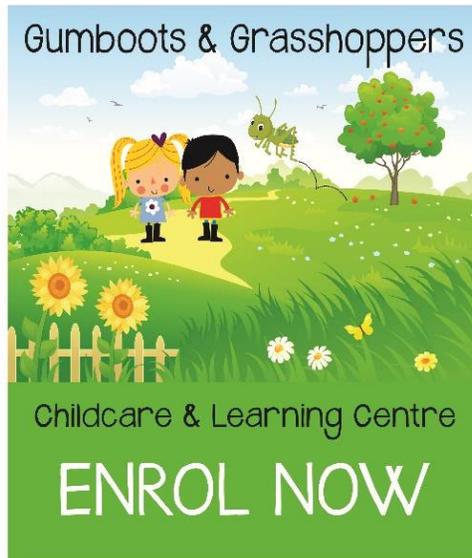
More information such as fees and playing days can be found at the top of the Google Form. Cricket entries need to be in by 9AM SUNDAY, 7 FEBRUARY. All other entries need to be completed by 3PM TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY.

If your child would like to play two different codes - you will need to fill in the form twice. If you have any questions or queries, please email jcarter@rotokauri.school.nz

Meet the Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher evening will be on Monday, 15th February. Teachers will be in their classrooms during the time indicated on the timetable to outline their programmes of work, explain their expectations and answer any questions. If there are particular questions you wish to ask, please email these to the classroom teacher prior to the meeting time so that they can address these for you. There are 30 minute slots per class teacher at the following times -

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 5.00 – 5.30 p.m. | Mrs Emma Vile | Room 1 |
| 5.00 – 5.30 p.m. | Mrs Andrea O'Rourke | Room 2 |
| 5.30 – 6.00 p.m. | Miss Jaimee Swindells | Room 3 |
| 6.00 – 6.30 p.m. | Mrs Claire Walker | Room 4 |
| 6.30 – 7.00 p.m. | Mrs Diana Donovan | Room 5 |
| 7.00 – 7.30 p.m. | Mr Scott Robertson | Room 6 |
| 7.00 – 7.30 p.m. | Miss Ariana Matenga | Room 7 |
| 7.30 – 8.00 p.m. | Mrs Jane Rickman | Room 8 |



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