# Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 1 15 February 2018

Welcome to our youngest members of Rotokauri School – starting school for the first time last week.



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Dear Parents

Nga mihi o te wa kia koe me to whanau.

# ROTOKAURI SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our positive environment will actively engage us all in learning.

### ROTOKAURI SCHOOL VISION

Together We Grow

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

Together We Learn

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

# **ROTOKAURI SCHOOL VALUES**

Persistence Resilience Integrity Diversity Excellence

# PRINCIPAL'S PIECE

Welcome back to Rotokauri School for another exciting year. We hope that you have enjoyed a relaxing holiday with your child/children. It is lovely to hear the excitement and laughter around the school. The students and staff have settled back into school life and are currently working on building a 'classroom culture'.

We start the year with a roll of 205 students and have 8 classes operating. We welcome a new family to Rotokauri – Mya (Room 1) and Holly Hoebergen (Room 4). We also welcome two new staff members – Ms Tanya Stone is teaching in Room 5 and Mr Neville Harding is teaching in Room 7. We hope that their time at Rotokauri School is enjoyable and look forward to working with them and extend a very warm welcome to them. Mrs Jacqualine Hill is on leave for Term 1 and we thank Mrs Win Schmits for filling in this position in Room 1 in her absence.

Rotokauri School is a great place to learn in. The most important thing families can do for their child/children, is to get to know and form positive relationships with his or her teachers. Please make sure you take the time to pop in and say hello or send an email to their classroom teacher, and come along to our Meet the Teacher evening which is scheduled for next week.

This week you will have noticed the Life Education caravan in the front of the school. All students have attended workshops in the caravan, thank you to the BOT for funding this opportunity for our students.

We have an exciting year planned and here are some main events to look forward to this term – Elgregoe, PCT Challenge, Get Set Go Day, Leadership Day, bi/triathlon, swimming sports, Leadership Camp and Rotokauri School Commonwealth Games Day.

I know that this is a long newsletter, but there is a lot to introduce at the beginning of the year. Please feel free to contact me at any time via phone, email (dsmith@rotokauri.school.nz) or knock on my office door.

Ngaa mihi

Desiree Smith

# **GENERAL MATTERS**

# **Staff/Classroom Structure**

Room 1 (Year 1)	Mrs Win Schmits – Term 1 Mrs Jacqualine Hill
Room 2 (Years 1 & 2)	Mrs Andrea O'Rourke
Room 3 (Years 2 & 3)	Mrs Mary Evans
Room 4 (Years 3 & 4)	Miss Kylie Christian
Room 5 (Years 4 & 5)	Ms Tanya Stone
Room 6 (Year 5)	Mrs Casey Sanders
Room 7 (Years 6 & 7)	Mr Neville Harding
Room 8 (Years 7 & 8)	Mrs Helena Kirkham
Office Administrator	Mrs Sharon Verstraten
SENCO (Special Needs Coordinator)	Mrs Karen Hollingsworth
Teacher Aide	Mrs Raewyn O'Brien
Teacher Aide/Librarian	Mrs Toni Rae
Caretaker	Mr Hans Verberne
Classroom Release/Management	Miss Ashlie Kempthorne
Release Teachers	Mr Ethan Vincent

# **Term Dates**

Term 1	7 <sup>th</sup> February – 13 <sup>th</sup> April
Term 2	30 <sup>th</sup> April – 6 <sup>th</sup> July
Term 3	23 <sup>rd</sup> July – 28 <sup>th</sup> September
Term 4	15 <sup>th</sup> October – 20 <sup>th</sup> December

# **Introducing New Staff**

#### Mr Neville Harding

Kia ora,

My name is Neville Harding and I am teaching in Rm7 this year. I grew up in Taranaki, studied in Auckland and have spent the last eighteen years working and teaching in Thames, Coromandel.

My interests include reading, trail running and cooking. I have two gorgeous children aged 18 and 14 and a cat called Spidey. I'm looking forward to becoming a part of the Rotokauri School community.

#### Ms Tanya Stone

After many years of teaching in Australia, and completing one of my teaching practicums at Rotokauri School I feel that not only have I come home, but I have also come full circle. Whilst living in Australia I completed my Masters of Education in Special Education, and I have also taught Gifted and Talented classes. I feel I am well placed to teach diverse needs and all ability levels.

On a more personal level, I have two grown up children of my own who still live in Australia, and a partner who currently is working in Canberra. I enjoyed doing the marathon trail with him, and at last count we did 9 in one year - with me strictly as a supporter! Closer to home though I now live on 2 acres on Pirongia Mountain and can be found most weekends either gardening or painting. I look forward to meeting you all and supporting your child in their learning.

# **Assemblies**

This year we are trialling a new system for assemblies. An informal assembly for students and staff will take place on Monday mornings from 9.00-9.15 a.m and the purpose of this assembly is to set up the week – what is happening, our expectations etc. A formal assembly where parents/caregivers are welcome to attend will be held on Friday afternoons from 2.25-2.50 p.m and the purpose of these assemblies is to celebrate the student successes and achievements.

# **Bell Times**

8.30 a.m.	Students may enter the school grounds.
8.55 a.m.	Students to class and parents to leave classrooms
9.00 a.m.	School starts
10.30 – 10.50 a.m.	Interval
10.45 a.m.	Two bell rings for students to go to toilet and have a drink
10.50 a.m.	Students to class (one bell ring)
12.30 – 12.45 p.m.	Lunch eating time – children to be released by duty teacher when bell rings at 12.45 p.m.
12.45 – 1.30 p.m.	Lunch
1.25 p.m.	Two bell rings for students to go to toilet and have a drink
1.30 p.m.	Students to class (one bell ring)
3.00 p.m.	School finishes

# **Absenses**

This is an important request and thank you in advance. If your child is absent from school please notify the school office by either phone or email. The school needs to know the reason for the child's absence as well, as this is recorded on our Student Management System and is a Ministry requirement. It would be appreciated if this could be done before 9.00 am. If there is no contact received from a parent or no explanation given, your child will be classified as Truant.

# Sign in Sheet

All people entering the school within the hours of 9.00 a.m. - 2.30 p.m. must use the sign in sheet at the office. This includes when you are dropping your child off at school late – please ensure that they have notified the school office of their arrival. If students are being picked up early during class time we would appreciate prior notification to the classroom teacher so that they can have your child/children ready.

# **Swimming Pool Update**

Thank you to the pool volunteers who have kept the school pool looking fantastic during the holidays. I am certain all the key holders have appreciated your efforts. The pool usually closes at the end of March but this is dependent on the weather. It is an expectation that students will be swimming in their class time, unless there is a note/phone call received providing an explanation as to the reason for non-swimming. Please check with your child's classroom teacher for the swimming timetable because classes are not swimming on a daily basis, in order to meet the swimming pool regulations outlined by the Ministry.

# **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.

# **Stationery**

Thank you to the parents/caregivers who have organised their child/children's stationery. We realise that there will always be some problems as new systems are introduced but we have been pleased with the response to the online stationery ordering system used this year. However, some families have not chosen Office Max to purchase their stationery from and as result some of the conversions provided by other purchasing agents do not match with what the class requirements are. The teachers will try to accommodate these issues but if this is not possible you may be asked to purchase the correct stationery.

# **Maths Whizz**

This is the final year of our contract with Maths Whizz. The students are able to access the Maths Whizz programme at school and home. Teachers will be using Maths Whizz in their classroom Maths programmes. The cost for the entire year is \$30 per student, this can also be paid to the school office.

# Medical Requirements

Please ensure 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.

#### Peanut Free

Currently at school we have a student with a PEANUT allergy, which means that if she should eat a peanut (even a tiny amount) she will probably have an allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This can be life threatening. Anaphylaxis constricts the throat (airways) making it very hard to breathe. Medication will be held at school and safety plans have been put in place.

Most packets of snack foods show on the labels whether they contain peanuts. Alternatives to peanut butter and muesli bars containing peanuts are Nutella (hazelnut spread), almond butter, vegemite, marmite, honey, cheese etc.

We also have another student who is allergic to several types of nuts. He could have an allergic reaction if he eats nuts. He understands he must not eat foods containing nuts and is managing this for himself.

At Rotokauri School we actively discourage children from sharing food.

In order to provide a safe environment for these children we would be grateful if you could discuss with your child/children the potential dangers around sharing food at school.

# **Religious Instruction**

We no longer have Religious Instruction at Rotokauri School. Therefore, all students will need to be at school by 8.55 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. There will be a staff meeting in the staffroom from 8.15 – 8.45 a.m. so staff (including the office administrator) will not be available during this time.

# **Lost Property**

Any clothing picked up around the school is placed in the pale blue wheelie bin in the MPR. On Fridays this clothing will be on display on the deck outside Room 4. To help with getting the clothing returned to its rightful owner we would ask parents/caregivers to name everything – especially during swimming season, and that they check the lost property box on a regular basis. Any clothing still remaining at the end of the term will be donated to charity.

# Meet the Teacher Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February from 5.30 p.m.

This is an opportunity for parents/caregivers to meet the staff/BOT/PTA, find out information about the school systems and classroom routines/expectations, and allows for teachers to answer any questions that they may have about their children's learning. Further information has been emailed today – please check the times carefully.

# **Cycling to / from School**

Students cycling to and from school must be 10 years of age and older. If a younger child is wanting to ride to and from school a letter needs to be written from the parents/caregivers and handed in to the school office. It is a requirement that cyclists wear the appropriate safety equipment while cycling e.g. cycle helmet.

# 2017 Year Books

There are still copies available if you missed out on purchasing one last year - \$5.00 each.

#### **Gifted and Talented**

Parents are invited to check on the school website for access to our Gifted and Talented Parent questionnaire. If you don't have access to the website feel free to contact Mrs Hollingsworth or Mrs Kirkham for one. We encourage parents who feel their child is gifted or talented in any academic, social, cultural or sporting pursuit to complete this short questionnaire. The information from this provides our teaching staff with valuable insights about your children.

Our school defines gifted and talented students as "Our school defines gifted and talented students as those learners who have the potential for outstanding performance (equivalent to 2 years and above their chronological age) and achievements in a wide range of areas."

By the end of Term 1 the teaching staff will have worked through the questionnaires from parents, alongside the teacher questionnaires and supporting school data to identify those students who will be included in our school G & T register. Teachers will then plan and implement learning programmes to support and extend these students. In many cases, this will take the form of providing differentiated/extension learning opportunities within the classroom. There may also be times where these students are able to access options for extension outside the classroom. We will also continue to give these students the opportunities to participate in external examinations such as ICAS and Science Technology Challenge, as we have done in the past. Parents will be contacted by letter for permission to be included in any additional programmes outside their regular class programme. If you require further information about the Gifted Talented programmes at Rotokauri School, do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Kirkham or Mrs Hollingsworth.

# <u>Life Education Programme</u>

We are very fortunate this year to be able to provide sessions for all students in the Life Education caravan this week with Harold and Nicky.

# Life Education helps children to:

- Develop life skills relating to their health and wellbeing.
- Understand how to make healthy choices.
- Gain knowledge about health and their bodies.
- Develop self-esteem and a positive understanding of themselves.
- Develop strategies for relating to others.

# **Senior Swimming Sports**

Our Rotokauri Senior School Swimming Sports will be held at Hamilton Boy's High School on Wednesday the 28th of February. All senior students (including those who are turning 8 years old on or before the 15th of March) will compete in this event. A payment of \$5 for each child is to be paid at the School Office as soon as possible please. This covers the cost of the bus and pool hire.

Cluster Swimming Competition will be held on Wednesday the 15th March at Ngaruawahia.

# PCT Challenge

A group of Year 7 & 8 students will be chosen to represent Rotokauri School at this year's PCT Challenge.

This year's competition will consist of the following;

The PCT - The PCT is the police test which serving Police officers must pass every 2 years to remain as an operational officer. This involves all 4 members of the team working together to complete - pushing of a trailer, running 200m, balancing through a L beam, jumping a small obstacle, navigating a 'zig zag' course, going under hurdles, going through an open window, climbing over a 1.8m wall, drag body weight bag (approx. 75kg), climbing over a 2.2m high wire fence and finishing off with a sprint to the finish line where the whole team must remain for the last person to finish (you're only as fast as your slowest member)

Police car push – This involves the whole team. One member remains at the opposite end to where the car is with the remainder of the team in the car. Once the police siren sounds all members will then exit the vehicle and wait at the rear for the single member to put on a Police ballistics vest and sprint to the vehicle and push the car to where the single member started. The time will then stop once all members of the team are back inside the vehicle and seated with their seatbelts on.

Teams Challenge – This is a challenge where team work, using your mind and communication skills are used to complete the set task. This will be revealed on the day prior to beginning the task.

Swimming Challenge – this will be held at the Gallagher aquatics centre on Collins Road (don't worry it's only a short walk). Here, the teams will complete the swimming part of the competition.

A BBQ sausage sizzle will be provided, however please ensure you bring water, sunhats, sunscreen and extra food for your team during the event.

Please encourage your child to compete in this.

# **Get Set Go Day**

This is an exciting event for our Years 1 & 2 students, held at Whatawhata Primary School on Friday the 2nd of March. Rooms 1 & 2 will be involved in this. More information will be coming home over the next few days.

# **Tech - Change of times**

Our Year 7 & 8 students continue to be involved in Tech at Hamilton Junior High School. This year the Tech times have changed. Students will be transported by bus at **8:30 am** on a **Wednesday** morning. This means that the Bus Bay is not to be used for parking please. Year 7 & 8 students will need to be at school no later than 8:25 am please. Thank you for your support.

# **Class and Portrait Photographs**

Photographs will be taken on Thursday, 22 March. Information envelopes will be coming home in the next few weeks.

# PTA Meeting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 7pm All Welcome

(Meeting in the Rotokauri School Staffroom)





# **CELEBRATIONS**

#### **Weetbix Tryathlon**

Congratulations to the following students that completed the Weetbix Tryathlon on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Bianca Wallis, Cooper Hobbs, Carter Jessop, Cory Burt, Cole Turney, Sophie Fairclough, Talei Phillips, Ava Viljoen-Thomson, Ashtyn Gyde, Grace Cox, Lewis Surgenor, Hannah Hobbs, Paige Moka, Riley Cornelissen, Liam Janssen and Cole Viljoen-Thomson.

# **End of Year Prizegiving**

Congratulations to all the recipients of certificates and trophies at the end of year prizegiving last year. The following students received Rotokauri School trophies for 2017 Senior Riley Trophy for attitude, participation and cooperation – Eden Miller Junior Riley Trophy for attitude, participation and cooperation – Matthew Webber Art for outstanding talent and commitment - Hazel Rodney/Sarah Teale Dance for outstanding talent and commitment – Sophie Barris Music for outstanding achievement, commitment and talent – Vanessa Campbell Senior Sportsperson of the Year – Rebecca Perham, Nick Westgate Middle School Sportsperson of the Year – Seth Westgate Junior School Sportsperson of the Year – Cory Burt Swimming excellence – Isla Kahaki, Seth Westgate Information Technology - Reiley Samuels-Porter Environmental Trophy - Corey Molloy Kapahaka Trophy - G'arni-Lee Clark Year 8 Netball Trophy - Rebecca Perham Year 7 Netball Trophy - Molly Fletcher Year 5/6 Netball Trophy – Anaiya Nelson

### REMINDERS

# <u>Carpark</u>

Thank you to the parents/caregivers that are currently using the bottom carpark as an alternative for picking up their child/children. This takes the pressure off the top carpark. The median strip on the road is not supposed to be used for parking in for long periods while waiting to enter the carpark. Therefore, we ask that all vehicles entering the bus bay zone promptly pick up children and then move off. It is not designed for parents/caregivers to park and leave your vehicle in the bus bay zone or for vehicle to block the traffic flow by waiting for a long period of time for your child/children to arrive. If you child is not in the bus bay zone please find a carpark and wait for them there. A friendly reminder that the pedestrian crossings are to be used by all adults and children on the school grounds. There have been a number of incidences where parents/caregivers have ignored the pedestrian crossings and even after being reminded by staff and students continue to walk randomly across the carpark area. This is not acceptable and the students have noticed the lack of consideration shown for our school rules. It is always our aim to keep everyone SAFE whilst on our school property. Your attention to this would be appreciated – please ensure all adults picking up your child/children are made aware of the Carpark Rules on display.

# **Hearing and Vision Testing**

This testing is taking place tomorrow, Friday 16 February. Not everyone will be tested. If you do not want your child tested please contact the school office.



# Information Sheet on Vision and Hearing Checks in School

Vision Hearing Technicians from Community and Southern Rural Health will be visiting our school. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing defects. Which children are routinely checked?

- Catch up screening for children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their B4 School Check
- Children absent from previous visit, require retests or follow up
- New Immigrants
- All Year 7 student's vision only

If there is a genuine concern, parents and teachers may request a vision or hearing check NB; parents must consent to this

#### What tests are carried out?

#### Ears

- Audiometry (hearing test)
- Tympanometry middle ear function test (only carried out when hearing test is not within a normal range)

#### Eyes

Long distance vision tests – not a complete visual examination, but a simple screening test *NB All of these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort.* 

# The Vision Hearing Technician will:

- Notify parents of all test results
- Enter results on Ministry of Education database (Enrol)

The Vision Hearing Technician will obtain personal details from the school ie; names, date of birth.

If the technician needs to contact parents or caregivers following the visit, addresses and phone numbers will also be required.

Our Service may share this information with other health professionals involved in the children's care.

If any parents/caregivers **do not** want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a vision or hearing defect, they should let the school know.





# Please carry on collecting these for our school all year round

Collect Yummy Stickers for our School to get a share of Sports Equipment.

**Collect Yummy Stickers Here:** 









Purchase either bags with cut-out labels or individual apples with yummy stickers. Bring these to school and place on the Yummy Sticker Charts provided in each classroom or on your chart at home and drop into the office when complete. (the underside of your child's lunchbox lid makes a great temporary place to get the stickers to school safely)

You can print a yummy sticker chart from:

http://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/pdf/Sticker\_Collection\_Sheet.pdf
To view the items that are available to our school:
http://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/pdf/2016-YummySportsGear.pdf

# TE RAPA JUNIOR RUGBY WEIGH INN

Friday 2nd March 5pm to 7pm

Sunday 4th March 10am to 12pm

Both at the Te rapa clubrooms on vickery st New players need birth certificate Subs

\*\$50 per child

\*\$25 per each extra sibling

Subs to be paid at weigh in if possible

Eftpos available

See u all there

FOR MORE INFO OR IF YOU CANT MAKE ONE OF THESE DATES CONTACT JASON BRYANT 0275938967





# WEIGH IN AND MUSTER SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2018

Te Kowhai Rugby welcome all players (new and current) to weigh in and register for the 2018 Rugby season for all junior rugby (under 6/6<sup>th</sup> Grade through to under 13/13<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Venue:

Te Kowhai Primary School Pavilion

Date:

Saturday 3rd of March 2018

Time:

10:00am to 11:00am (Weigh In)

11.15am Draft Teams Announced

11:15am to 11:30am (Muster) Parents and Players need to stay for team

announcements after they have weighed in

**New players:** Please bring a copy of your birth certificate or passport for your player registration.

#### Uniform:

- Your child will need Mouthguard, Boots and Socks (Socks are \$15 and can be purchased on the day).
- Rugby Shorts and Rugby Jersey will be provided.

#### Subs are \$35 per player

Cash, Cheque, and Eftpos facilities available at Weigh In We will also be selling club T-Shirts for \$35 for Youth and \$40 for Adult sizes

Please also let us know if you are able to assist with Coaching or Managing.

If you have any questions or are unable to make the above weigh in and would like to play for our club please email us on <a href="mailto:rkerby@fairviews.co.nz">rkerby@fairviews.co.nz</a> or phone Ryan on the number below. We will be able to reserve your place in a team and advise additional open weigh in times.

Ryan Kerby President / Code Convener 0276592616

# **Marrzipan**

This week Emily from Marrzipan spoke to all the classes about the drama classes that she runs on a Friday morning at school. Information is listed below (flyers available at the office) –

Guess what? Marrzipan are running awesome confidence through drama classes at YOUR SCHOOL - Yippee!!

Marrzipan have gained a huge reputation in New Zealand for the development of shy children, especially those with anxiety, autism and selective mutism. Saying that, this is a class for the super crazy and dramatic types too, as we focus on positive leadership and social skills. Our classes focus on inner and outer self-confidence, and are super fun and exciting for children. Parents are kept up to date with weekly emails about what's been covered in class and why, as well as what you can work on at home. We have two awesome showcases at the end of every term too, so you can see your child's development first hand.

You can sign your child up for a **Trial Lesson** via our website <u>www.marrzipandrama.co.nz</u> (we have contact numbers on there too, should you prefer to talk to a human!)

# **Waikato Community School of Music**

Hamilton Community Centre of Music (as they were previously known as) offers affordable music tuition. They are group based music classes and cater for all ages and abilities. Classes run from 8.00 a.m – 12.30 p.m at the University of Waikato, during school term times. Fees and enrolment information is available by phoning 07 838 4611, email <a href="mailto:enrolment@hccm.org.nz">enrolment@hccm.org.nz</a> or visit the website www.hccm.ac.nz

# **TENNIS LESSONS**

Starting: Thursday 15 February - (7 weeks)

**Time:** 4 .15-5.00 for Novices and 5.00- 6.00pm Advanced

Where: Rotokauri School Tennis Courts

**Tutor:** Alby Ellis, PE teacher at Hamilton Boys High School

**Cost:** \$70 - to be paid at beginning of term.

**Information:** Alby has a fun, friendly effective method for teaching the children tennis. He has been successfully teaching tennis at our school for a number of years and also teaches at other schools and St Peters tennis club.

Tennis court access: Rotokauri School Tennis Court keys can be purchased from the school

office for use out of hours

**Contact:** Miranda at <a href="mailto:Collinsons@hotmail.com">Contact: Miranda at <a href="mailto:Collinsons@hotmail.com">Collinsons@hotmail.com</a> with your child/rens name, age, experience

or any questions



#### LOCAL RENTAL ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Small family (one, 8 year old child) relocating back to Hamilton for job transfer from the South Island, needing rental accommodation in the Rotokauri area from Term 2 onwards - anything considered.

- Good, reliable tenants
- Character and landlord references available
- Non-smokers

EMAIL: tarsha@legaldt.co.nz

**PHONE**: (03) 762-6057 **MOBILE**: (021) 557-978





#### Waikato Ear Health

# Now at Northcare Medical Centre, Pukete - Wednesdays No referral required

- Professional ear care by experienced NZ registered nurse
- Ear Micro-examination and micro-suction (performed under direct vision using a microscope)
- For removal of wax, skin, debris and foreign objects.
   Adults \$48 Children (over 4yrs old) \$38
   Ph 0800777327 for appt



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