

Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 17

20 November 2014

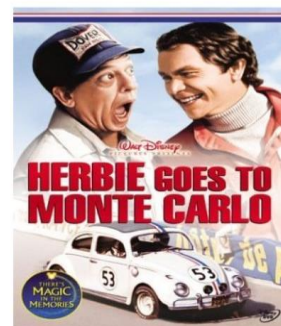


Presents the Rotokauri school Drive in Movie

Date: 06th December 2014

Location: Rotokauri school field,
Rotokauri Road

Movie: Herbie goes to Monte Carlo
Rating: G running time 100mins



CAR TICKETS - \$40.00 (as many people as you can fit in your car)

WALK IN TICKETS - \$5.00 (bring a blanket or chair)

Tickets available from: Rotokauri school office, Rotokauri road,
Florist ilene, 129 commerce street, Frankton or
email marie.carlson@outlook.co.nz

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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

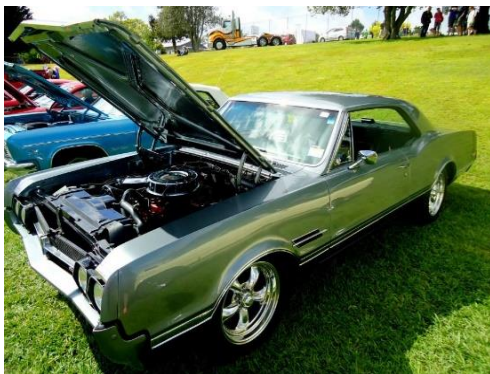
We are responsible, confident learners and communicators.

ROKOKAURI SCHOOL VALUES

Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Persistence and Excellence.

ROKOKAURI CAR SHOW

Thank you to all the people that supported the Rotokauri Car Show during the weekend. The weather was a little touch and go but we managed to get through the day pretty much unscathed. You would have noticed the classes running various stalls. This is an integral part of our enterprise studies. This gives our students a hands on experience of running a business for a day. They learn about pricing, marketing, demand and supply. Once again thanks for being a part of a very special TEAM effort.



DRIVE IN MOVIE

Our next major community event and the final major fundraising event of the year is our Drive In Movie on Saturday, 6th December.

Because of the limited space we have on the field we can only accommodate 120 cars. Remember if you miss out on a car spot you can buy a ticket for the seated area directly in front of the 11m screen. These tickets are available at the office now.

This will be an awesome family night and may become an annual event if it is well supported. Food will be available on this evening so buy some tickets and make a night of it. The film which will be shown is called Herbie Goes To Monte Carlo. Most of our children would not have seen this film. Come to think of it they may not have ever heard of the Herbie series. Great family viewing.

OPTIONS AT ROTOKAURI SCHOOL

The seniors are into their second and final week of options. Feedback from the students is very positive and for some of our students it remains the highlight of their year when they can follow an interest or passion. Of course this could not go ahead without the support of our parents and staff.

Thank you to all the parents and staff who have shared their time and skills to give our students some very special memories.

Photos from the Photography group at Raglan for the day





INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPEN MORNING

Thank you to the parents who came in and observed Room 7 at work. Our students are 5 weeks into the trial period. The students have developed a review questionnaire sheet in regards to the IT changes in Room 7 and will be passing these onto the Board.

I'm not sure whether all parents are aware but we spend over \$50,000 a year on Information Technology and this amount is only going to increase. Next year **IF** we go ahead with phone upgrades and server upgrades this figure will be pushed to over \$60,000.

Some of you may be in companies that every three years changes your computer infrastructure. Some of you may work in companies that get rid of 10, 20 or 30 devices. These devices could have an extended life in a school environment. If you have some business connections that may be able to help us out please contact me mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz

SCIENCE IN YEAR 7 AND 8

Next year our Year 7 and 8 students will be getting additional science lessons. We have managed to secure the services of Hamilton Junior High who have a new science block that incorporates safety designs such as extractor fans for experiments. We can now add chemical reactions and experimentation to our senior science curriculum.

COOL SCHOOL REPORTS

This year the staff and senior students undertook some professional development with the Cool Schools Programme. Earlier this month we were asked to put a couple of articles together for the Peace Foundation magazine. The following articles talk about our journey and the impact of Cool Schools on our students. I can honestly say that the course is definitely one of the more memorable courses I have been involved in as a teacher.

A Principal's Perspective:

Rotokauri School Principal: Mark Goodson

AS A PRINCIPAL YOU TEND TO GET A lot of emails on courses and programmes that promise they are going to change the world, starting with your school. I read these things with, at times, a rather sceptical mind. Especially if a lot of money is going to change hands!

In July 2013, one of my staff members came across a programme called 'Cool Schools'. We discussed this as a staff and on the basis of those discussions and enough information to sink the titanic, we embarked on implementing this programme into our school.

To do this we had to get everyone on board, so we decided to cut our summer holiday short, leave our sun-burned families at the beach, and come back to Club Med Hamilton for an in-service day.

Christina Barruel led this in-service day. It was her knowledge and enthusiasm that once again sold us on

Peer Mediation and the difference it could, and would, make. During the day we got a chance to revert back our childhood days through role play and work out mediation solutions for various scenarios. There are not very many courses you can go to these days and come away and say to yourself "Gee, I've learned something and I've had a good laugh" - (good for staff team building).

In March, we cut ribbons, made speeches, had firework displays and generally waited with baited breath to see how the students would respond to and adopt the programme.

The point of difference with this programme is that it is run by the students for the students. Basically, what you are doing is empowering the students to find their own solutions in a very systematic transparent way. Now some Principals may not like this concept because they

feel in some way the teachers are left out of the loop but, with the tracking associated with this programme, it actually gives you better view of what is really going on in your school.

We have regular meetings with our mediators and they continue to help us refine the Cool Schools programme. We have even used the documentation to report to our Board.

I personally believe that the Cool School programme fits nicely beside other school programmes and is a very good way of enhancing and refining school culture.

Go on, give it a go!



Rotokauri School Principal:
Mark Goodson.

Peer Mediation at Rotokauri Full Primary School (Hamilton)

By Karen Hollingsworth – Cool Schools Co-ordinator

OUR SCHOOL IS A FULL PRIMARY school (Years 1-8) on the outskirts of Hamilton with a warm country atmosphere. We have a current roll of 194 children. As the newly appointed (beginning 2013) Special Needs Coordinator, I noticed that whilst on the surface we had a very happy, inclusive environment in our rather 'sheltered, semi-rural part of the world', there were some children who needed help in becoming more resilient problem-solvers. Small playground issues were often bought to the duty teacher's attention (or shared at home) when we felt as a staff the student's should have been able to solve these small problems for themselves.

So at the beginning of 2014, we as a staff shared a day of professional development led by Christina Barruel. We left this day feeling totally inspired and excited by the possibilities that implementing 'Cool Schools' would bring to our school. The programmes philosophy fits alongside the Key Competencies in our school curriculum and our school values of Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, Excellence and Persistence.

The first step towards implementing the programme was that the staff committed to implementing the programme within the classroom. We also ran an evening consulting and sharing with our school community (parents/families). This was a very important stage in the process, as without parent buy-in we felt the Cool

Schools programme and its principles of student led conflict resolution could be totally "de-railed". Fortunately, this evening was extremely successful (led expertly by Christina), and along with the information supplied to our school Board of Trustees and our school wide community, we believe the principles of Peer Mediation were embraced both in the classroom and at home. Finally, our Year 8 teacher called for applications for the Peer Mediator roles from the students, interviewed the candidates and assisted in training the successful applicants. We were finally in business by Week 8 of Term 1 and ready to go!

We now have 12 Peer Mediators (6 pairs) 'working' in the playground. At first, we had rather large numbers of mediations, probably due to the novelty factor involved. (In fact, we had a total of 17 mediations during the last 2 weeks of the Term 1). By Term 2 however, things had settled somewhat (29 mediations over a 9 week period) and the Peer Mediators were honing their skills and impressing the staff and I with their leadership and communication skills. We also began to notice patterns of regular causes of conflict (and repeat "conflictees"), which helped us to 'nip some potential issues in the bud'. An interesting aspect of looking at the data was that the students themselves were seeking out mediation and were beginning to also suggest and use



Rotokauri School Peer Mediators 2014. Left to right: Back Row: Izayah Duncan, Ryan Bright, Kate Jowsey, Amber Belle, Paris Miller, Jemma Bradbury, Mrs Hollingsworth (Cool Schools Co-ordinator). Front Row: Bjorn Barris, Caylee Farrell, Alex Dashfield, Hannah Dawson. Absent: Mrs Marsh, Libby Kells, Sarah Miller.

mediation systems for solving conflict in the classroom (and sometimes at home – we hear!).

With Term 4 looming, our Mediators are looking forward to training our Year 7 students who have been chosen to continue the job in 2015. We are also looking forward to a "treat day out" towards the end of the year to reward and congratulate our students for all their hard work and commitment to their roles as mediators.

The benefits of the 'Cool Schools' programme has been noted by parents and teachers alike. We are looking forward to continuing into 2015 with the full support of our Board of Trustees, the wider school community and our staff. Collectively we are all sold that the children are learning the most valuable life lessons and will be well prepared, effective and empathetic communicators.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Just a reminder about a couple of school policies. First of all Rotokauri School is a Smoke Free environment. Furthermore, this is not only a school policy but a law under the Smoke Free Environment Act January 1st 2004

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

A few years back our senior students wrote a Mobile Phone Policy which the Board adopted. All our students know that mobile phones are not allowed at school. We have had parents in the past give students phones to use at school. Any phone found on students at school will be taken from the student by myself and parents need to see me for its return. It is one rule for everyone. Any child who sees me using a cell phone at school can collect \$20 off me.

PLANS FOR AREA OUTSIDE ROOM 1

There is still time for members of the community to hand in ideas and visions of what they feel would suit the area outside Room 1. A subcommittee will meet on Wednesday 26th November at 5pm. The more ideas the merrier.

DECILE RATING

Over the last couple of weeks you will have seen material in the newspapers about decile rating changes in Hamilton. I have been told by the Ministry of Education that our decile rating will remain the same and this has now been confirmed in writing. The decile rating is something which is totally out of the control of the school. A school decile rating is calculated from information derived from the General Census.

YEARBOOK

This year's edition of the Yearbook is now available for sale. There is a copy in the office to view before you purchase if you wish. It has memories of events over the year and contains lots of photos. Please send your \$5 to the office to get your copy.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our wonderful swimming pool painters Linda Prangnell, Sandra Munro, Terry Buyn and Garth McCormick. The swimming pool will be open from Monday, 24 November.

SWIMMING POOL KEYS

These are available from the school office for \$75.00. A form needs to be signed by an adult so please do not send the money with your child. For those of you that have volunteered to be our pool cleaners over the summer, your free keys are available at the school office to collect. Again, a form will need to be signed so please call in to sign this and to collect your keys.

MATHLETICS AND WEETBIX TRYATHLON 2015

Parental information about Mathletics and 2015 Weetbix Tryathlon are added as attachments to this week's newsletter email.

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP VISIT



Thanks to Brendon McLaughlin who took our group of cricket enthusiasts to see the ICC Cricket World Cup when it was in town recently.



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Dear parents/guardians,

The eyes of the sporting world will be on New Zealand next year when the future legends of football showcase their talent at the FIFA U-20 World Cup. Our school has been given a fantastic opportunity to be part of this global event, whilst also raising funds for our school's football programme.

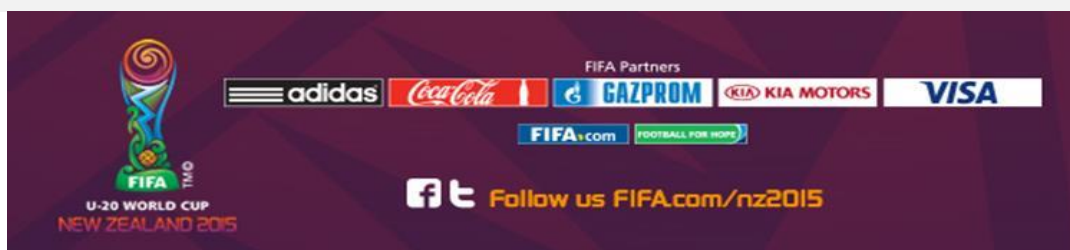
The Local Organising Committee (LOC) has reserved seats for us at Waikato Stadium with our school's name on them and every Venue Pack purchased will result in 5% cash going back into our school's football programme. More than \$30,000 has already been raised for schools and clubs with this fundraising opportunity. Venue Packs give you access to all Group Stage matches and Round of 16 at our local stadium and include a 25% discount off ticket prices.

This offer for our school only lasts until 12 December 2014, so we've got to get in quick. It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put our school on the world stage plus see history in the making as the world's future stars come to play.

Once the offer has closed, we will contact all those who have signed up to join us and let you know how to make payment for your venue packs. Thank you in advance for assisting our school with this football fundraising venture.

To take advantage of this special offer please click on the link below to declare your interest and help kick off our school's journey to the FIFA U-20 World Cup ([30 May-20 June 2015](#)).

*Tickets subject to availability, FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Ticket Terms and Conditions and Purchase Conditions. Payment for venue packs to be arranged directly with school.



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STUFFED SPUDS

1. Scrub 5 medium potatoes, prick and microwave till soft; halve potatoes,
2. scoop out and mash flesh
3. Cook 1 diced onion and 200g of bacon
4. Add 1 tin of creamed corn, 1½C of diced vegetables and mashed potato
5. Mix and spoon into potato shells and sprinkle with cheese and bake at 180°C for 10 minutes; serve with salad



TIP:
Try replacing
creamed corn with
baked beans or
chilli beans!



DELISH FISH DISH

1. Boil 6 potatoes and mash
2. Melt 3Tbsp margarine and stir in 3Tbsp flour; gradually add 2C of low-fat milk, stirring until thick
3. Add 2 hard-boiled eggs, 2C of sliced vegetables and 450g of smoked fish and mix
4. Pour into a dish, cover with potato and grated cheese; cook for 20 minutes at 180°C



TIP:
Choose fish canned
in water or brine
rather than oil!



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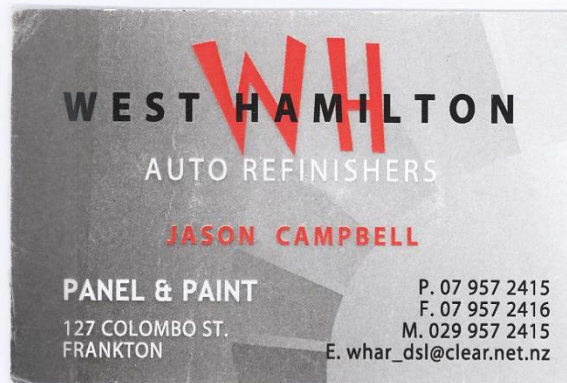
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