## Rotokauri School Newsletter



Issue No: 14 15 September 2016



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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 our students in learning.

#### ROTOKAURI SCHOOL VISION

We are responsible, confident learners and communicators.

#### **ROTOKAURI SCHOOL VALUES**

Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Persistence and Excellence.

#### **CHANGING DYNAMICS**

Thirty years ago family dinner tables were one of the biggest selling items on the market. Now European research shows that large TVs and reclining viewing chairs have eclipsed functional shared eating tables.

Did you know that modern cars are designed to have food and drink holders that align themselves with dimensions provided by major fast food outlets - really? "Eating dinner at the family dining table is no longer the norm and this trend is only getting worse" - quote from Listener 3<sup>rd</sup> September. In the 2007 New Zealand Children's Food and Drink survey, more than half of the parents said their children ate their main meal in front of the television, computer or play station. They also found that some families didn't own a dinner table and others choose not to eat together: children were left to eat alone while parents watched TV; teenagers often opted to eat alone in their bedrooms.

So what does all of this mean? What impact does it have on children? Often impacts take a generation to come to the forefront but not in this case. Families who eat together overwhelmingly produce children who eat healthier food and have greater academic achievement, lower rates of delinquency and better mental health. Eating together increases family bonds and leads to better communication. There are further studies being carried out on the impact of eating together but the facts are out there.

Much of my generations socialising took place at the dinner table. Often things were unsaid and just modelled at the table by our parents. Fascinating information.

#### **ZOO NEWS**

Learning takes shape in many forms and occurs in all environments. We have a close relationship with the Hamilton Zoo and over the years we have helped to design cages for the animals, completed marketing material, and many other things. A lot of the Zoos marketing material involves our students and has found its way into a number of publications including this week's Education Gazette.

## AN INHERENTLY PRACTICAL SUBJECT

Local mathematics educator Dr Nicola Petty was invited by Katy Thorne to join the excursion.

She gave the Papamoa College students a short talk on the importance of statistics in terms of society and citizenship.

"Statistics is an inherently practical subject. All statistical analysis has a real world context, and every statistical analysis is different for that reason. If students are only exposed to well-behaved, clean data like the type they usually get in textbooks, they miss out on part of the adventure of statistical analysis," she says.

Nicola found the talks at both the observatory and zoo to be fascinating and pitched at the right level for the class.

"It was clear that there are large amounts of data collected all the time in various scientific endeavours, and that data analysis and statistics is needed to make sense of it.

"I enjoyed seeing behind the scenes where the food is prepared for the different animals, and could see enormous potential for statistics and operations research there."

Nicola is also known as 'Dr Nic' and she writes an informative blog called *Learn and teach statistics* and operations research – find it at www.learnandteachstatistics.wordpress.com.

Find all LEOTC providers by region by visiting goo.gl/IC7gS4.  $\blacksquare$ 

Bu Melissa Wastneu



#### **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

In the last week of term we would like to put out an online Community Consultation Form for parents to fill out. Information gained from this will help to produce parts of our 2017 Rotokauri School Strategic Plan.

If you would like to fill out a hard copy of the Consultation form rather than online please let Sharon at the Office know. The Consultation period will run from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Your thoughts are important to us. All entries will go into a draw for \$100 voucher from Lola's Café.

#### WHERE DO WE INVADE NEXT? BY MICHAEL MOORE

Staff had the opportunity to look at excerpts from this movie which is available through Amazon. Part of the movie is about education. Countries that lead the International PISA results tend to come from Northern European countries e.g. Finland. Finland allows for a lot of creativity to surface through play. People in American schools would call play a waste of time. Here are some words to describe what happens when children play – hypothesising, observing, caring, listening, relating, memorising, comparing, performing, investigating, constructing, estimating, participating, formulating, mastering, negotiating, socialising, celebrating and this is just the beginning of the list.

#### **ENGINEERS NEEDED**

We are all aware that our car park is under pressure when 90 cars appear after three o'clock. We will be having conversations with the local Council and Ministry of Education in regards to solving this. This can take time, but in the meantime we have an idea that will keep our students safer while waiting to be picked up after school. This will involve some very minor changes to seating in the bus stand. I've been informed that the production of some simple steel brackets would allow for an additional seat to be installed. If you have the skills and time to help our students we would love to talk to you.

m.goodson@rotokauri.school.nz



#### **STOP WORK MEETINGS**

Over the next couple of weeks there will be rolling meetings up and down the country for PPTA members (Secondary School Teachers) and NZEI members (Primary School Teachers) as their unions unite to fight against the proposed changes to the funding of our schools.

Our staff joined thousands of others on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September at the Claudelands Showgrounds.

When all of the information has been gathered and analysed we will update you as to how this may impact your child's education over the coming years.

I cannot recall a time in recent educational history where all of the teaching unions got together to discuss the future of our children. Bulk Funding has many implications for our students' education and their future opportunities in life. Teachers across New Zealand in all unions are concerned about the implications that Bulk Funding will have on this generations' education. This is not about teacher wants it's about students' needs.

Thank you parents for being so supportive.

#### **SPEECHES**

Our school vision relates to students being resilient, creative, responsible, confident learners and communicators. No better time can this be seen than our annual speech competition. These are a tradition that has been around for 20 years. Many of our students excel at speaking in front of an audience no matter what that audience may be. Past winners of our school competition have gone on to be winners at inter-school events and then ended up in leadership roles at High School. This year our speech finals will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September starting at 9.00 a.m. You are all welcome to come along and enjoy our student's talents. Speeches are judged on a set criteria e.g. topic, introduction, body language and conclusion.

For those students who did not make the finals you too deserve a pat on the back for having the confidence to get up in front of your peers.

#### **INTERNET SAFETY**

With the holidays coming up many more students around New Zealand will have unlimited access to the internet through home computers. Normally we would send home educational material on this but rather than this please take time out as a family to think about the safety of our students during the 2 week holiday. What are your family's safety concerns? What are you doing as a family to eliminate these concerns/worries? What websites are out there that can help families navigate this ever changing environment?

Feel free to share information with us at school so that we can pass onto others.

#### **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

We are currently freshening up our website. Most parents these days go online to check on what a school may be doing. Over the last couple of years we have had less telephone calls regarding school organisation and policy. This is because most things parents want to know is now online. It is not unusual for the school to get over 400 hits per month.

If you have an idea that will help freshen up our website please let us know mgoodson@rotokauri.school.nz

#### PTA QUIZ EVENING

The Rotokauri PTA has always worked hard to put the cream on the cake for our students. This well organised and motivated group of parents always have the best interests of the students at heart. This year they are working with other shareholders to raise enough money for the Adventure Trail.

Part of this fundraising included a Quiz night at The Foundation Bar. It was great to see the team work that went into making this event such a success.

A special thank you to all of those involved for making such a memorable night. As a Community we now look forward to The Car Show and Gala which will be held on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you PTA for your wonderful efforts.

#### LOST PROPERTY

We have found many items of lost property have been named this winter, and/or students have recognized their clothing. Well done. We do still have quite a hamper of unclaimed socks and jerseys. After 2 weeks in the lost property these will be removed from school and washed. On Monday, 19 September at 3.05 pm on the Room 3 deck there will be an opportunity to purchase this freshly laundered clothing. Pairs of socks will be sold for \$1, and jerseys could go for anything between \$2 - \$5.

#### **GYMNASTICS**

A team of Rotokauri students attended the Hamilton Gymsports Festival on 31 August. This is the first time since 2010. Our students acquitted themselves extremely well after training 4 lunchtimes a week for only a month. We are very proud of them. Many thanks to the parents and teachers who gave their time to assist with lunchtime coaching, transport, and support on the day. The two boys who trained themselves at home for the trampoline competition even came away with a handful of first, second, and thirds. We will be entering students again next year. We also plan to boost our gymnastic equipment with the purchase of our own minitramp, a beam, a wedge for supporting forward and backward rolls, and more mats. These items will also be used for the junior PMP programme as well. Congratulations to the following students for your persistence, effort, and good sportsmanship at the Festival.

Tamsin Rose Bella'Capri Nelson Cooper McLean Ella Prangnell Anaiya Nelson Ryan Jorgensen Grace Cox Nalei Nelson Nadia Peng Bella Wilson Ella Caulfield Karenza Curtis Bridgette Donny Ella Burt Kayla Westgate Hannah Hobbs Hayley Jorgensen Lily Allen

Isla Kahaki Jessica Cuff Keira Cowley Savannah Smith Alicia Norton Carter Jessop

Jesse Zillwood Darian Templeton Ciaran Williams-Thomas

#### **SUNHATS FOR TERM 4**

For Terms 4 and 1 all students need to wear a Rotokauri sunhat, which is available from the school office - \$15.00 each. These hats are not to be individualized (no graffiti or accessories added) by the students. Failure to have a hat means the child has to sit in a shaded area during break times.

#### ROTOKAURI NETBALL UNIFORMS

Can all netball skirts and dresses be **washed** and returned to Mrs Kirkham in Room 7 by **Wednesday** the **21**<sup>st</sup> **September**. Thank you.

#### INTERESTING

Politics is the art of turning influence into affluence - Writer Unknown

Train people well enough so they can leave. Treat them well enough so they don't want too - Writer Unknown

You are what you do, not what you say you'll do - Writer Unknown

Every child in a school needs to feel they belong. Every child in a school needs to know someone cares for them - Suzanne from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Whakawatea

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around - Writer Unknown

There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way it treats its children - Nelson Mandela

#### AGRICULTURAL DAY ENTRY FORMS

Entries close next week on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Sorry, no late entries will be accepted.

Entry forms are on the school website under newsletter attachments and notices (www.rotokauri.school.nz). Paper copies are also available at the school office if you do not have a printer.

#### **AGRISEA AVAILABLE - FREE**

It was a bit late getting to us but if you would like a free bottle (or 2) of Agrisea animal supplement, please come to the school office.

#### **AG DAY TRAINEE JUDGES NEEDED**

**THE HAMILTON NORTH AGRICULTURAL GROUP** require new trainee (associate) judges urgently for School Ag Day's in our area.

If these Ag days are to continue, we need to have new people volunteering to be judges so that we have enough to attend schools Ag days in the future.

Calf, Lamb and Goats judges needed. We are especially short of lamb and goat judges. The Hamilton North Group covers 8 schools:

Gordonton, Horsham Downs, Puketaha, Horotiu, Te Kowhai, Rotokauri, Orini and Whitikahu Schools.

You will never be asked to judge at the school your child attends, or at the Gordonton School Group Day, so you won't miss out on seeing your child compete. What does it involve?

Judging is for such a short time during October each year and only for a few days. Ages:- High school upwards – anyone - Parents; teenagers; grandparents; members of the community. You will be paired up with experienced judges for a few hours for 1 to 2 days during October each year to gain experience at one of the above schools Ag Days and maybe also in another Groups area. It usually takes 3 years depending

on how experienced you are. It is surprising how much knowledge an Ag Day parent or past Ag Day pupil has and would make excellent judges. There is one training day each year to attend as well. Training days will have experienced judges there to share their knowledge and ideas which is very valuable to the junior and associate judges coming through.

The Judges training days this year are as follows:

Claudelands: Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September at 12 noon. Light lunch provided. Matamata: Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September at 11am. Morning tea provided. Kihikihi: Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September at 10 am. Morning tea provided.

If you cannot make the training days, but are interested in volunteering your time to become an Ag Day judge, please phone Linda 02135582 or Sally-Ann 07 8243850 for more information.

#### **TENNIS LESSONS**

**Starting:** Wednesday, 19 October - 30 November 2016 (7 weeks)

**Time:** 4.30 - 5.15 pm for Novices and 5.15 - 6.00pm Advanced

Where: Rotokauri School

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

**Cost:** ~ \$70 - \$10/45 minute lesson to be paid at beginning of Term to Alby.

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.

**Contact:** Miranda at <u>Collinsons@hotmail.com</u> with your child/rens name, age,

experience or any questions.





#### CAR SHOW & GALA - SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2016:

It's that time again when we start planning for our Car Show & Gala in November, this takes a lot of effort in the way of sourcing sponsorship and prizes for the day. We are looking for the following help; if your family, friends or business are able to help in any way this would be greatly appreciated, what we are looking for is: **Products, Prizes or Services**:

To be used in: 6 main Raffles, Mystery Envelopes, Quick Fire raffles, Silent Auctions **Sponsorship for our Car Show:** 

If you would like to sponsor or donate prizes for the car show that would be great. **Giveaways:** If anyone has any bulk items ie, from their work that were from promotions but would be suitable to use as giveaway prizes for the Gala Games. **New / Unused Items:** 

If you have any new unused items to donate we will gladly take these to use as prizes.

A box is set up in the school office to place any items in.

If you are able to help with any of the above or would like more information you can contact us at: <a href="mailto:pta@rotokauri.school.nz">pta@rotokauri.school.nz</a>

Thank-you

Hats and Shirts - Available from the school office



\$15.00









## **ROTOKAURI SCHOOL BOOK FAIR**

Last year our school raised over \$1000 at the **book** fair thanks to the donations, work and purchases by the community. We have decided to have another **book** fair this year.

The **book** fair will be held at the school gala/car show on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. We are looking for the donation of good quality **books**, sorry, but no magazines, encyclopaedia, compendiums or readers digests. If you are planning to clean out your cupboards could you **bring the books along to school**. **The collection point will be in the multi-purpose room**.

We would also love some **clean plastic bags** to place the books into once they are sold.

If you have any queries, please contact Book Fair co-ordinator: Miranda Collinson ph 849-7623

# Rotokauri School Car Show and Gala 2016 Sponsors







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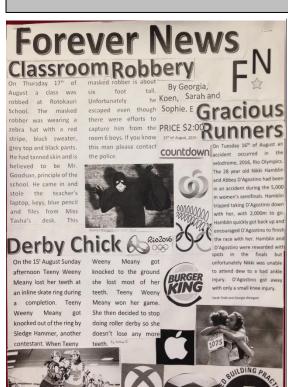






Please support these businesses who are so kindly supporting our school

#### **ROOM 6 - REFINING WRITING SKILLS**









## Lake Work Underway

A large scale restoration of Lake Rotokauri on the outskirts of Hamilton being undertaken by the Waikato District Council is now underway.

One of the first stages of the restoration work has been to install two floating wetlands — a small one (approximately 75m2) in a main waterway leading into Rotokauri and a large one (approximately 340m2) one in the silt trap that picks up water flow from the Te Rapa area. The floating wetlands were built and installed by Native Awa. The artificial wetlands accelerate the settlement of sediment coming into the catchment and provide bio-filtration and nutrient uptake to help with improving water quality.

Project manager Ben Wolfe from Waikato District Council says the wetlands are more than just the plants taking up nutrients.

"The benefit also comes from the root system of the plants providing a substrate for microorganisms to colonise, which is especially beneficial for bacteria that breakdown waste products. The system acts in a similar way to an aquarium filter, cleaning water through the microbial digestion of organic materials. Additionally the floating wetlands themselves provide habitat for birds and fish as well as providing shade in the summer months," he says.

The Waikato River Authority funded nearly half a million dollars towards the project in 2015. The improvement of the water quality in Lake Rotokauri is seen as a direct benefit to the Waipa River.



### Lake Rotokauri Management Committee – AGM

Interested in what else is happening with the restoration of the lake and other projects planned to enhance our local treasure?

The Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September at Hamilton Zoo starting at 7.00 p.m.

For further information contact the Chair – Heather Perring heather.louise.perring@gmail.com

Mrs Jacqualine Hill stayed at this orphanage in January this year.

The Little Flower Children's Home in Pedong. India.



The Little Flower Children's Home in Pedong North East India has been providing a safe caring home environment for children for almost 35 years. The children are lovingly cared for by Pastor Jonathan and Usha who care for up to 35 children at a time. The children's home can get very cold in the winter, being in the foothills of the Himalayas and the flooring in the dormitories needs replacing. Additionally new mattresses are needed and some of the bathrooms need upgrading. Financially there is only enough coming in to cover the children's basic needs and education so extra funds are needed to hopefully complete the upgrade at the end of this year. The outside of the buildings have undergone a recent upgrade. It is a beautiful setting, and the forests around this area look remarkably like NZ.

"I became involved in this fundraising effort after staying here for 2 nights. The children have been taught to live a life of gratitude, and are an absolute pleasure to be with. They are a testimony to the love that Jonathon and Usha have poured into them. I now have only email contact with them, but friends of ours in India oversee donations/expenditure and are in regular contact with them. I would like to set up correspondence between the Little Flower residents and our students later in the year. They speak English well as it is compulsory in the schools they attend. I took the following photos while I was staying there."

Mrs Jacqualine Hill



If you would like to assist by donating it can be done through the "givealittle" site.





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## Squiggle 'Olympic' Holiday Programme

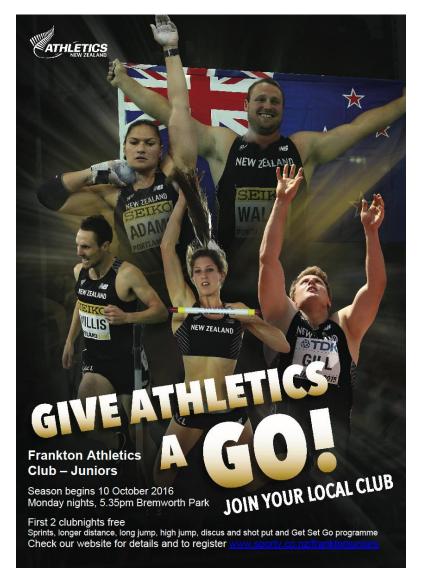


Squiggle holiday programme is OSCAR approved and is great for kids aged 5 to 13. Young Engineers (motorised Lego) is one of our most popular activities kids love! We'll also be busy with Olympic team sports, cool arts and crafts, wheelies, quizzes and making yummy food! To top it off, we're heading to Rainbow Springs in Rotorua and Ten Pin Bowling in Hamilton! Squiggle runs from Waikato Diocesan School (Fairfield) and Tai Wānanga School (Ruakura) from 8am-5.30-pm Mon-Fri. To enrol, please go online – <a href="https://www.squiggle.org.nz">www.squiggle.org.nz</a>.

Kind regards, Ariana Paul

Director – Squiggle Ltd <u>www.squiggle.org.nz</u> 021-2424567 <u>ariana@squiggle.org.nz</u>









ENROL NOW for our MOTOWN "70's & 80's" Workshop!

Epsom (Central Auckland), Howick (East Auckland) and Westlake (North Shore) –  $26^{th}$  –  $30^{th}$  September 2016

Southwell (Hamilton) - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Hayley Govorko** 

**Managing Director** 

Artz on Show Ltd. - P.O. Box 26550, Epsom, Auckland 1344

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