Rotokauri
PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Newsletter

www.rotokauri.school.nz

Issue: 14 - 20 August 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

Our positive environment will actively engage us all in learning.

TOGETHER WE GROW TOGETHER WE LEARN

VALUES

Unity (Kotahitanga)
Inclusive (Manaakitanga)
Guardianship (Kaitiakitanga)
Innovative (Auahatanga)
Happy (Uruhau)
Responsible (Tuutika)

REACH

Respect - Whakaute
We show that we value ourselves, value others, our school and our environment.

Empathy - Ngākau Aroha
We are able to step into the shoes of another person and try to understand their thoughts and feelings.

Active Learning - Mātātoa
We don't give up, even when we are challenged.

Courage - Mārohirohi
We are brave as we face new experiences and difficult situations.

Honesty - Ngākau Pono
Speaking and acting truthfully.

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WELCOME

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

Room 5 - Kyan Moore

PRINCIPAL'S PIECE

Kia ora koutou
Still some crisp mornings but what beautiful days they turn into. We are halfway through the term and it keeps gaining momentum.

Please remember that we are a **Nut Free School** and we would appreciate your support to keep our vulnerable children safe. 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 lunch boxes. 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.

Dumpling Squishy Toys
It has been drawn to our attention that there are a number of students bringing dumpling squishy toys to school. We politely ask that these are kept at home as some brands have been recalled due to a toxic content, however they are also very distracting in the classroom.
Identifying Unsafe Toys

- **Strong chemical odor**: Smells like a permanent marker or solvent.
- **Poor quality**: Feels oily, sticky, leaks, or tears easily.
- **Missing details**: Lacks a clear manufacturer name, address, or tracking info on the toy itself.

Mitey at Rotokauri School - how to support us!! A message from Katie McQuaid (coach)

We have an incredibly easy, cost-free way to support our tamariki's mental wellbeing!

Mitey (by the Sir John Kirwan Foundation) is currently featured in the **Z Energy "Good in the Hood"** initiative at **Z Rotokauri Station**, cnr Wairere Drive and Arthur Porter Drive in Hamilton. This means they have a chance to receive a share of $5,000 to help fund vital mental health education in our schools.

How you can help:
Next time you fuel up or pop into **Z Rotokauri during 18 August - 14 September**, you'll be handed an orange voting token. Simply drop your token into the **Mitey** voting box!
Every single token helps secure much-needed funding to teach our kids how to understand their feelings, build resilience, and look out for one another.

Thank you for helping us support the mental health of our young people.

Book Week is Coming!
Dust off your bookmarks and unleash your imagination! Book Week 2026 is right around the corner! From **31st August - 4th September**, our school will transform into a buzzing hub of stories, adventure, and literary magic.
Here is a quick sneak peek at what's in store:

- **Scholastic Book Fair**: Discover new worlds and snag incredible reads all week long in the library.
- **Mystery Reader Takeover:** Special guest readers will be dropping into classrooms for surprise storytimes!
- **The Famous Book Character Day**: Dress up as your favorite book character.
- **Guess the Book Cover**: Can you identify the names of all the book covers? Hint: They've been zoomed in on!
- **Grandparents Day**: Invite your Grandparents to school and show them your amazing classrooms!

Whether you're a fantasy fanatic, a comic book enthusiast, or just love a great tale, there's something for everyone. Start brainstorming those costumes and get ready to celebrate the joy of reading!

Grandparents/Special People Day
It is coming up quickly - our Grandparents and Special People In Our Lives Day is on Friday 4th September.

Timetable for the day:

8.30 - 9.00 a.m	Scholastic Bookfair is open in the school's multipurpose room
9.00 a.m	Classrooms open for visitors
10.30 a.m	Morning tea for visitors and students - morning tea supplied by school
11.00 a.m	Performance showcase - Kapa Haka, Jump Jam, guitar group

Have a great fortnight everyone. Stay warm.

Nga mihi
Desiree Smith

PTA NEWS

Please join the **Rotokauri School PTA Facebook** page here if you haven't already, to keep up to date with all our news!
Our next meeting is on 8th September. New members are welcome to join; we would love some extra hands as we prepare for our big event coming up in November.

Rotokauri Car Show and Gala - 14th November

Jar toss
Students can now bring in **filled jars and cuddly toys** in exchange for **housepoints**! The popular jar and teddy toss games can only take place thanks to your kind donations.

Please ensure that jars are clean and avoid using jars that have contained strong-smelling food, as the smell still lingers even after washing.

If you are filling jars with lollies, please make sure the lollies are **individually wrapped**. Alongside treats, jar-filling ideas could include craft supplies, stickers, or small toys.

Students should pass these onto their teachers, who will then award them housepoints.

Help on the day
If anyone is able to offer hands on help for the full day of the car show please get in touch. The more help we have, the more stalls we can run, and the more fun we can offer the children and community. 💙

Sponsorship for the Car Show & Gala
We are looking for some businesses to be our special sponsors for the event. Do you know any that might be interested? Please reach out to us at pta@rotokauri.school.nz if so! We are currently looking for gold, silver and bronze sponsors - for more information please read this letter.

We also are also currently asking businesses for:

- Prize donations
- Raffle items
- Goods or services
- Food or beverage sponsorship

Thanks in advance for all your support as we prepare for our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Hearing and Vision Testing

This will take place for some of our students on Monday 24 August. Please read the following notice with regards to this visit.

WaiKids
WAIKATO CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTH
Waikato District Health Board

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 problems.

Which children are routinely checked?
- Children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their B4 School Check
- Children absent from previous visit require rescreens or follow up
- New Immigrants

If there is a genuine hearing concern, parents/caregivers or teachers may request a hearing check - NB parents must consent to this. The Vision Hearing Technician will only be able to undertake a maximum of 5 screens on any visit. If there is a concern regarding vision, parents/caregivers are encouraged to seek advice from an optometrist. A subsidy is available for families/whanau that have a Community Services card or High Use Health card.

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/caregivers of all test results
- Enter results on Ministry of Education database (Enrol)

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

If the technician needs to contact parents/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 their vision or hearing, they should let the school know.

Te Hanga Whaioranga Mō Te Iwi – Building Healthy Communities Waikato District Health Board

AIMS Games Fundraisers

Thank you to all the families that supported the recent fundraisers organised by the parents of students going to the AIMS games - two barbeques at Bunnings, sweatshirt sponsorship and the lunchtime disco. The funds raised will make a big difference to the cost for attending such an event.

What's Happening in Term 3?

Monday 24th August	Tech - Years 7 & 8
Monday 24th August	Vision & hearing checks
Monday 31st August	Tech - Years 7 & 8
Monday 31st August - Friday 4th September	Scholastic Bookfair at Rotokauri School
Wednesday 2nd September	Cluster Year 7 & 8 speeches at Rotokauri School
Wednesday 2nd September	Book Character Dress Up Day
Friday 4th September	Grandparents/Special People Day
Monday 7th September	Tech - Years 7 & 8
Sunday 6th - 11th September	AIMS Games tournament
Tuesday 8th September	6.30 pm PTA meeting
Monday 14th - Friday 18th September	Maori Language Week
Monday 14th September	Tech - Years 7 & 8
Tuesday 15th September	5.30 p.m BOT meeting
Wednesday 16th September	Team Photos
Thursday 17th September	Waikato Full Primary School Cross Country at Rotokauri School
Friday 18th September	Waikato Full Primary School Cross Country postponement date
Monday 21st September	Tech - Years 7 & 8
Thursday 24th September	Arts Festival at Rotokauri School

CLASS SHARING

Recently in Totara Room 3

Our students have been putting their measuring skills into action. We have been learning how to measure objects using centimetres and metres. Working together, we measured a variety of objects around our school, making estimates first and then checking to see how accurate our measurements were. It has been great to see the students working together and applying their learning in a practical way.

We have recently started our PMP and gymnastics sessions, and the students have been loving getting active and trying new challenges. Through these activities, they are developing important physical skills while building their confidence and resilience. It has been fantastic to see them giving new things a go, supporting each other and having fun while learning.

Room 4's Learning Update

Creating Charlotte's Web

As a class, we have been enjoying the novel Charlotte's Web. Inspired for our Mitey lesson, we created our own "Charlotte's Problem-Solving Strategy Web," where students matched different feelings with practical ways to overcome them.

Some of our class examples included:

- Nervous: "Tell my mum what happened"
- Sad: "Find a favourite place to go in the house to help calm you"
- Bored: "Occupy yourself"

Introducing the learning of Leonardo da Vinci

Last week, our class was introduced to the Renaissance legend Leonardo da Vinci. To step into the shoes of a true inventor, students took on the challenge of building the longest bridge possible using a limited set of supplies. It was fantastic to see their creative problem-solving and engineering minds in action!

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

Cross Country

On Thursday, 30th July, our whole school participated in our annual Cross Country. Our students showed great grit, determination and resilience as they tackled the challenging course. It was fantastic to see everyone giving it their best and encouraging their classmates along the way.

Thank you to all of the parents and whānau who came along to support and cheer on our students. A big thank you to our staff for helping to organise and run the event. Below is a list of results from the day.

5 Year Olds

	1st Place	**2nd Place**	**3rd Place**
Boys	Gurjazz Singh	Koa Phillips	Finn Nicol
Girls	Zoey DeZoete	Lily Swain	Amara-Jayde Kelemete-Vaniqi

6 Year Olds

	1st Place	**2nd Place**	**3rd Place**
Boys	Ryker Wenzlick	Sione Maile	Zack O'Brien
Girls	Brielle Cowley	Edie Crellin	Aoife Parkes

7 Year Olds

	1st Place	**2nd Place**	**3rd Place**
Boys	Shay Gill	Harry Martin	Ben Fyers
Girls	Ivey Griffin	Pippa Cloete	Lexi Viljoen

8 Year Olds

	1st Place	**2nd Place**	**3rd Place**
Boys	Seán Parkes	Kit DeZoete	Nirmaan Pannu
Girls	Anaiyah-Lee Kelemete Vaniqi	Murphy Cairns-Eade	Mia-Rose Storer

9 Year Olds

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Boys	Vincent Warner	Liam Harrison	Dánilo Standring
Girls	Te Aria Kingi	Alice McGowan	Georgia Esselbrugge

10 Year Olds

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Boys	Luke Vann	Wyatt Harker-Ferguson	Zac Hoebergen
Girls	Ada Westgate	Ruby Wilson	Sophie Quinlan

11 Year Olds

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Boys	Thomas Warner	Miloš Standring	Aston Burt
Girls	Ashleigh McLaren	Indi Payne	Heidi Viljoen

12+ Year Olds

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Boys	Carter Moka	Koby Rose	Riley Glover
Girls	Miley Fraser	Jasmine Lee	Ella Wen

Cluster Cross Country

On Thursday the 6th of August, a group of students represented our school at Waitetuna School for the Western Cluster Cross Country. It was an awesome day, and the sun was shining! Our students showed great determination, resilience and sportsmanship as they challenged themselves on the course. It was fantastic to see them supporting and encouraging each other throughout the event. We are very proud of the effort and positive attitude they showed on the day.

Congratulations to the following students who placed:

6 Year Old girls : 2nd Place - Brielle Cowley
8 Year Old Girls: 1st Place - Anaiyah-Lee Kelemete Vaniqi:
11 Year Old Boys: 1st Place - Thomas Warner
12 year Old Boys 3rd Place - Carter Moka

Junior Speech Finals 2026 Results

On Monday, 17 of August, we held our annual junior speech competition. This event was judged by Sarah Dyer, Jaimee Carter and our student judge Van MacDonald Hooper who won the 2025 Speech Cup. All junior children presented a speech to their class and should be very proud. Year 1 students recited a nursery rhyme and the Year 2, 3 and 4 students wrote and presented persuasive speeches. Congratulations to the following placegetters:

Year 1
First Place: Eknoor Kaur - I'm a Little Teapot
Second Place: Zoey DeZoete - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Third Place: Lily Swain - Humpty Dumpty
Highly Commended: Finn Nicol - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Year 2
First Place: Edie Crellin - Why Manta Rays are the Best Animal
Second Place: Jackson McConnell - Why Cats are the Best Pet
Third Place: Ivey Griffin - Why Soccer is the Best Sport
Highly Commended: Jordi Ngatai - Why Ice Cream is the Best

Year 3
First Place: Eliza Jenkins - Why Everyone Should Have a Home
Second Place: Devyn Sharma - Why You Should Be a Cat Owner
Third Place: Ryan Mackrell - Why you Shouldn't Be Scared of Sharks
Highly Commended: Lotti Phillips - Why Horses are a Good Pet

Year 4
First Place: Zaylee van den Heever - Why Kids Should Do More Maths At School
Second Place: Ayaan Kotte-Godage - Littering
Third Place: Aroha Bhagat - Why Art Should Replace Homework
Highly Commended: Amaia Matenga - School Is Great For Your Brain

Congratulations to Zaylee van den Heever for winning the Junior Speech Cup for 2026.

Senior Speech Finals

The senior speech finals were held on Wednesday 19th August. This event was judged by Sarah Dyer, Mrs S and Miss Smith. Congratulations to all the participants for their outstanding work. The judges enjoyed listening to the variety of informative and entertaining speeches. Also, well done to the senior classes that showed great respect whilst listening to fifteen speeches across Years 5 - 8.

Year 5
First place: Archer Crellin - Why Carrier Pigeons Are Better Than Mobile Phones
Second place: Te Aria Kingi - Why You Should Have Friends
Third place: Evie Hippolite - Why Your Pet Secretly Despises You

Year 6
First place: Anthony Williams - World's Weirdest Records
Second place: Van MacDonald-Hooper - Tourettes
Third place: Ruby Wilson - Technology
Highly commended: Paige Robinson-Hastings - Coeliac Disease

Year 7
First place: Heidi Viljoen - Why My Siblings Belong In A Zoo
Second place: Ashleigh McLaren - Why You Should Go On Holiday Every Year
Third place: Cohen Harris - Dyslexia
Highly commended: Enzo Maresca-Allison - My Whakapapa

Year 8
First place: Ella Wen - Medieval Gore
Second place: Scarlett Swain - Why We Shouldn't Deep Sea Mine
Third place: Hugo Hodgson - Seat Math Can Be A Personality Test
Highly commended: Koby Rose - Why We Should Expand Our School Subjects

Congratulations to Ella Wen for winning the Senior Speech Cup for 2026.

Values

Week 2		
Mackenzie Russell	Rātā Room 1	For demonstrating the value of **respect.**
Avyaan Sagar	Mānuka Room 2	For demonstrating the value of **courage.**
Avitaj Sangha	Tōtara Room 3	For demonstrating the value of **active learning.**
Addison Harris	Ponga Room 4	For demonstrating the value of **active learning.**
Everly Cleland	Rimu Room 5	For demonstrating the value of **courage.**
Liam Short	Pūriri Room 6	For demonstrating the value of **active learning.**
Colette Griffin	Mataī Room 7	For demonstrating the value of **empathy.**
Ayaan Kotte Godage	Nīkau Room 8	For demonstrating the value of **courage.**
Paige Robinson-Hastings	Kauri Room 9	For demonstrating the value of **empathy.**
Rangjot Dhaliwal	Kahikatea Room 10	For demonstrating the value of **honesty.**

Week 3		
Neeshay Mani	Rātā Room 1	For demonstrating the value of **respect.**
Olivia Etheridge	Mānuka Room 2	For demonstrating the value of **honesty.**
Harjot Sidhu	Tōtara Room 3	For demonstrating the value of **respect.**
Reign Makuch	Ponga Room 4	For demonstrating the value of **empathy.**
Ivy Cleland	Rimu Room 5	For demonstrating the value of **respect.**
Amaia Matenga	Pūriri Room 6	For demonstrating the value of **active learning.**
Alice McGowan	Mataī Room 7	For demonstrating the value of **empathy.**
Cooper Wiseman	Nīkau Room 8	For demonstrating the value of **empathy.**
Teagan Mancer	Kauri Room 9	For demonstrating the value of **active learning.**
Scarlett Swain	Kahikatea Room 10	For demonstrating the value of **active learning.**

Class Certificates - Week 2 - Term 3

Class	Student's Name	Certificate Comment
Rātā Room 1	Reign Rakena	For making progress with his communication skills!
Rātā Room 1	Raaya Sami	For a big improvement with her handwriting! Well done!
Mānuka Room 2	Lily Swain	For your progress in literacy. You are putting so much effort in! You should be very proud.
Mānuka Room 2	Melo Clark	For your positive attitude and enthusiasm in reading.
Tōtara Room 3	Harjot Sidhu	For working hard on completing your speech.
Tōtara Room 3	Eva Lu	For your focus and dedication towards learning.
Ponga Room 4	Arlo Hewitt	For all your hard work you put in your training for cross country. You ran so well!
Ponga Room 4	Ryan Mackrell	For your dedication with your speech. You have been such an active learner with your willingness to do it well.
Rimu Room 5	Shiloh Clayton	For making excellent choices in class and being an active learner.
Rimu Room 5	Ivy Cleland	For being an active learner and working hard to complete all her work.
Mataī Room 7	Carter Cowley	For working hard in maths using a protractor.
Mataī Room 7	Eason Lu	For working hard in maths using a protractor.
Nīkau Room 8	Zaylee van den Heever	For being super prepared with her speech.
Nīkau Room 8	Monik Prajapati	For showing the value of Respect by having great focus in class.
Kauri Room 9	Teagan Mancer	For consistently showing our school REACH values.
Kauri Room 9	Ashleigh McLaren	For consistently showing our school REACH values.
Kahikatea Room 10	Scarlett Swain	For her research into the topic for her speech and determination to get it to fit the time limit. Well done!
Kahikatea Room 10	Nikki Rossbotham	For stepping up and taking a leadership role with our cross country day refreshments.

Class Certificates - Week 3 - Term 3

Class	Student's Name	Certificate Comment
Rātā Room 1	Vansh Prajapati	For showing great improvement in his sounds!
Rātā Room 1	Isla Matenga	For showing great improvement in her maths!
Mānuka Room 2	Willow MacCulloch	For your hard work learning to present your speech.
Mānuka Room 2	Isla Hewitt	For being an active learner in maths, learning to multiply.
Tōtara Room 3	Jordi Ngatai	For working hard on his letter formation in handwriting.
Tōtara Room 3	Layla Tremayne	For working hard to improve your handwriting by having your letters on the line.
Ponga Room 4	Belle Paki	For showing great determination and care with the start of your calendar art drawing.
Ponga Room 4	Kian Chand	For the hard work you put into all areas of your learning. You never stop amazing me.
Rimu Room 5	Everly Cleland	For being kind and caring towards others in our class. Keep it up Everly!
Rimu Room 5	Taylor Griffin	For working hard to do her very best when completing her tasks. Well done!
Pūriri Room 6	Anaiya-Lee Kelemete-Vaniqi	For your amazing presentation in your book work.
Pūriri Room 6	Leo Ruston	For having the courage to present your speech.
Mataī Room 7	Dot Warbrick	For always using the REACH values. Well done.
Mataī Room 7	Colette Griffin	For always using the REACH values. Well done.
Kauri Room 9	Cohen Harris	For being an active learner by working hard on his inquiry and his speech.
Kauri Room 9	Kayden John	For showing kindness towards his peers and working hard on his inquiry.

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JOIN THE FUN AT OLD BOYS CRICKET CLUB THIS SUMMER!
Boys and girls of all skill levels welcome!
Join us and develop new skills, meet new friends, and have fun
Find out more by contacting info@hamiltonoldboyscc.com

Marist Junior Cricket Club
JUNIOR CRICKET PROGRAMME
Registrations are now open for Term 4 Junior Cricket!
Cricket starts here. From first-timers to future stars, there's a team for everyone at Marist Junior Cricket.
When: Year 1-6, Softball, Friday Nights and Year 5-8, Hardball, Saturday Mornings
Cost: $60
Email juniors@maristsuburbs.com for more information