



# School Newsletter

[www.rotokauri.school.nz](http://www.rotokauri.school.nz)

Issue: 12 - 21 August 2025

**Rotokauri**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our positive environment will actively engage us all in learning.



## VALUES

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



### 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.



## WELCOME

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

Room 5 - Lily Swain

## PRINCIPAL'S PIECE

Kia ora Rotokauri School whaanau

What a variety of weather conditions we are experiencing at the moment and along with this comes sickness. There have been notifications to the school that chicken pox and influenza B are in some of our classes. Please keep checking your child/children for any symptoms.

We have had a very successful last few weeks with our students competing at cluster cross country and junior/senior speech competitions. Congratulations to all the participants and well done to those students that were placed at either of these events.

Results are below.

I know that many times over the year I will mention the state of carparking at Rotokauri School. I do not apologise for this as one of our roles as educators is to keep our students safe inside the school grounds. What is disappointing is that the behaviour of drivers is not only irresponsible but also illegal. Noted by staff last week - unrestrained children in vehicles, children entering vehicles from the incorrect side of the vehicle (footpath side please), children sitting on the floor between the driver and passenger - please stop endangering our students. Both Sharon and myself regularly receive irate phone calls or aggressive face-to-face meetings with our local community complaining about our car parking situation and the impact it has on our neighbours. They and other drivers going past the school are complaining about drivers double parking, drivers parking up driveways, drivers making a mess on grass areas outside homes, drivers obstructing the school exits for vehicles turning left and right and cars blocking the roads at pick up time so members of the public cannot drive past. Also, a reminder again, that the busbay is for quick pickups - it is not designed for the driver or passenger to depart the vehicle to find their child.

Have an enjoyable fortnight.

Ngaa mihi  
Desiree Smith  
Principal

## BOT NEWS

### Elections

Thank you to those families that have already voted. This is your opportunity to vote for the school board to govern your child's school. If you have not received voting papers please notify the returning officer [sdyer@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:sdyer@rotokauri.school.nz)

### Paid Union Meetings

As you have probably heard through the media, educators across New Zealand, along with their respective unions, are negotiating with the government currently. This has resulted in secondary schools holding strike action which has had quite an impact on students and their families. The primary school sector is currently holding Paid Union Meetings across the country. These are being held during school hours. Rotokauri School has made a conscious effort to allow staff to attend these meetings and continue the teaching/learning in the classes. This has meant that the Principal and Deputy Principal, along with relievers and non-union staff have made themselves available, whilst other staff attend these important meetings.

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank the staff for their flexibility and teamwork to ensure that the student's learning has not been disrupted.

### Teacher Only Day

At our monthly meeting in August, the school board has approved a Teacher Only Day for Monday 8th December. This is due to Maths Professional Development that the school has been granted. This means that our last day for the end of the year is now Wednesday 17th December - it will be a half day.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Class Placements for 2026 – Let Us Know

As we approach Term 4, it is once again time for us to start planning our classroom environments for next year.

When we organize classes in our school we look at each of our students individually – their academic and social needs and abilities. We strive to achieve the best possible learning environments for all of our students and teachers.

While providing support, we also work to build resilience and independence in our students, so that they will be able to cope with change and the next steps in their educational journeys.

If you believe you have any special information that you feel we need to be aware of please send an email to [dsmith@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:dsmith@rotokauri.school.nz) or make an appointment and pop in for a visit.

If your child **will not be returning** to Rotokauri School in 2026 (other than the Year 8 students) could you please leave a message with the office.

## Sunhats

The school policy is that during Terms 1 & 4 all Rotokauri School students and staff must be wearing a Rotokauri sunhat whilst outside. These are for sale on your Kindo app for \$21.00 and can be collected from the school office. If you are unsure of the size you can try the hat on your child on collection.

These hats need to have no graffiti or embellishments, and must have a working toggle. Please ensure that students have these or they will have to play under the shade area at the top of the school.

## Team / Group Photographs

- Team Photographs will be taken on Wednesday, 10 September. We will be using the on-line ordering system so payment details will come home at a later date.
- **Remember to send your child with their sports uniform on the day of the photo and if necessary, to have black leggings or shorts and white socks so that the photographs look tidy with everyone looking like a team.**
- Team coaches and managers are welcome to come along to school and be in the photo. For an idea of the timetable on the day, please contact Sharon in the school office.
- Teams / Groups to be photographed are: Room 5, Netball, Hockey, Waterpolo, Touch (term 4 2024) Ki-o-rahi, Student Council, Peer Mediators, Cultural Ambassadors, House Captains, Kapahaka Performance Group and Cluster Cross Country and Swimming teams. EPro8 and Enviro Group.

## 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 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
- Year 7 student's vision only

*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 ie; 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.**



# WANTED

## DEAD OR ALIVE

Teams for our Wild Wild West Quiz night!!

points for  
best  
dressed  
team!!!



Teams of 6  
\$120 per team  
Saturday 6th September  
Whatawhata Hall  
7pm Show Down  
BYO for \$5 pp  
Nibbles supplied



RAFFLES  
SPOT PRIZES  
GAMES  
BRING YOUR  
GOLD

To secure your team please contact the PTA on  
[pta@rotokauri.school.nz](mailto:pta@rotokauri.school.nz)

REGISTER YOUR TEAM BEFORE THE 23RD AUGUST

# \$200 REWARD

For the Winning Team



## CELEBRATIONS

### Cluster Cross Country 2025

On Friday, 15th August, 38 Rotokauri Students represented the school at the Cluster Cross Country Competition. Our students were excited and enjoyed racing on the Waitetuna track.

Thank you for all of the parents who helped marshal, transport and support our kids. We appreciate your support. Congratulations to the following students who placed in their races:

10 Year Old Girls:

2nd place Heidi Viljoen

10 Year Old Boys:

1st place Thomas Warner

2nd place Jayden Day

12/13 Year Old Boys:

3rd place Liam Surgenor

### Senior Speech Finals Results 2025

#### Year 5

**1st** - Van Macdonald-Hooper - ADHD

**2nd** - Taj Judge - Having a 'Yes Day'

**3rd** = - Khloe Bennett - Why we shouldn't do speeches

**3rd** = - Ruby Wilson - Why we should use cucumbers

#### Year 6

**1st** - Harry Gyde - Solar Panels

**2nd** - Thomas Warner - All you need to know about karate

**3rd** - Ammon Hippolite - Why toilets deserve more respect

**Highly Commended** - Jayden Day - Why my mum shouldn't cook

#### Year 7

**1st** - Kaylee Quinlan - Pros and cons of social media

**2nd** - Esme Gyde - Nicknames

**3rd** - Scarlett Swain - Why we shouldn't do bottom trawling

**Highly Commended** - Jasmine Lee - Trojan Wars

#### Year 8

**1st** - Rebecca Cameron - Feminism

**2nd** - Peyton Martin - Why it is better to be a kid than an adult

**3rd** - Liam Surgenor - Why having a common name is better

**Highly Commended** - Nihil Maharaj - Why schools are like prisons

**Overall Winer of the Senior Speech Trophy: Van Macdonald-Hooper**

## **Junior Speech Finals Results 2025**

We are pleased to announce the winners of the Junior Speech Finals this year. All the junior students should be very proud of themselves, showing the value of courage and active learning.

### **Year 1 - Nursery Rhyme Presentation Results**

**1st** - Asees Kaur - Two littly dicky birds

**2nd** - Myla-Rose Joyce - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive

**3rd** - Ivey Griffin - Little Miss Muffet

**Highly Commended** - Jordi Ngatai - Incy wincy spider

### **Year 2 - Speech Results**

**1st** - Leo Hefferon - Hunting is the best

**2nd** - Saydee Winikerei - Why pets are the best

**3rd** - Ben Fyers - Why Minecraft is the best

**Highly Commended** - Calista Baker-Smith - Snakes are the best

### **Year 3 - Speech Results**

**1st** - Ayaan Kotte Godage - Why lions are the best

**2nd** - Carter Beer - Football is the best sport

**3rd** - Tyler Lester - Why pizza is the best food

**Highly Commended** - Poppy Sadler-Singh - Fairies are real

### **Year 4 - Speech Results**

**1st** - Archer Crellin - Why birds shouldn't be kept in cages

**2nd** - Colette Griffin - Why you should read more books

**3rd** - Charlotte Land - Summer is better than winter

**Highly Commended** - Te Aria Kingi - Why we should wear PJ's to school

**Overall Winner of the Junior Speech Trophy: Archer Crellin**



## Values

Week 4		
Addison Harris	Room 2	For demonstrating the value of <b>active learning.</b>
Dil Judge	Room 3	For demonstrating the value of <b>respect.</b>
Lily Finnerty-Mills	Room 4	For demonstrating the value of <b>active learning.</b>
Conrad Ryan	Room 5	For demonstrating the value of <b>respect.</b>
Piper McNabb	Room 6	For demonstrating the value of <b>active learning.</b>
Elijah Sinclair	Room 7	For demonstrating the value of <b>courage.</b>
Taj Judge	Room 8	For demonstrating the value of <b>respect.</b>
Mannat Waraich	Room 9	For demonstrating the value of <b>respect.</b>

Week 5		
Jackson McConnell	Room 1	For demonstrating the value of <b>courage.</b>
Ameera Stevenson	Room 2	For demonstrating the value of <b>empathy.</b>
Emilynn Viji George	Room 3	For demonstrating the value of <b>respect.</b>
Murphy Cairns-Eade	Room 6	For demonstrating the value of <b>respect.</b>
Ruby Wilson	Room 7	For demonstrating the value of <b>empathy.</b>
Conor Emerson	Room 8	For demonstrating the value of <b>respect.</b>
Ivy Lu	Room 9	For demonstrating the value of <b>respect.</b>

# Class Certificates

## Week 4 - Term 3

Class	Student's Name	Certificate Comment
Rātā Room 1	Zack O'Brien	For recognising Heart Words when reading and joining the sounds to read words. Keep it up!
Rātā Room 1	Holley Emerson	For working really hard to learn the letter names and sounds. Keep it up Holley!
Mānuka Room 2	Addison Harris	For amazing us with your confidence and sharp thinking in maths this week.
Mānuka Room 2	Coby Harker-Ferguson	For being such a keen writer you didn't even want to stop for lunch.
Tōtara Room 3	Eliza Jenkins	For showing great focus and determination in all learning.
Tōtara Room 3	Emilynn Viji - George	For showing great focus and determination in all areas of learning.
Ponga Room 4	Aroha Bhagat	For putting in the practice in the hard mahi to practice your speech. Well done!
Ponga Room 4	Leo Ruston	For putting in the practice in the hard mahi to practice your speech. Well done!
Rimu Room 5	Harasses Kaur	For trying her very best in every activity in the class.
Rimu Room 5	Nivaaz Badesha	For being so enthusiastic in her learning.
Mataī Room 7	Evie Hodgson	For working hard in all areas and showing empathy to others.
Mataī Room 7	Blake Oulton-Hewitt	For working hard in maths using new strategies.
Nīkau Room 8	Cooper Wiseman	Showing great progress in math.
Nīkau Room 8	Alex Oldham	Being so responsible and helpful in class.
Kauri Room 9	Billie-May Murphy	For being an active learner in all areas of her learning
Kauri Room 9	Ammon Hippolite	For being an awesome leader in production.
Kahikatea Room 10	Scarlett Swain	For showing courage when working on your speech
Kahikatea Room 10	Chloe Gyde	For your hard work and showing leadership in our jump jam dance rehearsals.

## Week 5 - Term 3

Class	Student's Name	Certificate Comment
Rātā Room 1	Avyaan Sagar	For presenting his nursery rhyme confidently and capturing the audience's attention. Well done!
Rātā Room 1	Layla Tremayne	For showing a lot of courage when presenting her nursery rhyme. Well done!
Mānuka Room 2	Brielle Cowley	For your presentation of your nursery rhyme. We enjoyed it.
Mānuka Room 2	Kabir Hari	For your presentation of your nursery rhyme. You showed great courage in front of the class.
Tōtara Room 3	Reign Makuch	For showing amazing courage and confidence when presenting your speech!
Tōtara Room 3	Kian Chand	For being a fantastic listener and showing great focus during learning time.
Ponga Room 4	Oscar Hapi	For putting in the mahi and working hard to practice your speech.
Ponga Room 4	Everly Baker	Showing awesome courage while presenting your speech.
Rimu Room 5	Conrad Ryan	For showing good listening skills in the class.
Rimu Room 5	Lily Swain	For showing courage during her presentation of her poem.
Matai Room 7	Teagan Mancer	For an awesome speech. Very informative. Well done.
Matai Room 7	Kayla van Rooij	For being a fantastic member of Room 7. Always willing to help.
Nikau Room 8	Conor Emerson	For great effort, courage and standard of his Year 5 speech.
Nikau Room 8	Dot Warbrick	For great effort, courage and standard of her Year 5 speech.
Kahikatea Room 10	Ella Wen	For writing and delivering an entertaining and thrilling speech at urban legends.
Kahikatea Room 10	Shaan Judege	For always being your best and showing respect and empathy to others.

## Soul Sista's Circle

Evening class with Suz from Nurturance Wellbeing Studio

Come and join the fun on Wednesday's from 7-8pm  
in the Rotokauri School Multi-Purpose Room (opposite office)  
for strength work, self-care and empowerment.

Active wear, yoga mat and water bottle recommended.

Cost: \$10 a session or \$90 for 10 sessions

(cash or internet banking)

Try out your first class for free!!

You are welcome to hang around  
for a cup of tea and chat afterwards



Contact Suz for more details:

[suzwoodward.nurturance@gmail.com](mailto:suzwoodward.nurturance@gmail.com)



## THE COLLECTIVE AGENCY

*A full service marketing agency,  
designed to deliver results.*

Get in touch

Sue Esselbrugge  
[sue@thecollectiveagency.co.nz](mailto:sue@thecollectiveagency.co.nz)  
021 227 4179

[www.thecollectiveagency.co.nz](http://www.thecollectiveagency.co.nz)



Website Design | Digital Advertising | Brand Development | Social Media | Strategy

Bring your  
dream pool to life.

Narellanpools<sup>o</sup>

Phone 07 850 1662, [waikatosales@narellanpools.co.nz](mailto:waikatosales@narellanpools.co.nz)

[narellanpools.co.nz](http://narellanpools.co.nz)







P 021 240 0676 • [shaun@cmce.co.nz](mailto:shaun@cmce.co.nz) • [www.cmce.co.nz](http://www.cmce.co.nz) 

**For all your earthwork needs,  
no job too hard or too small.**

**Give us a call today - phone 021 240 0676**

- Fencing
- Retaining walls
- Decks
- Concrete prep
- Culverts and drainage
- Landscaping
- Shed building
- Driveway establishment
- Subdivision
- Calf shed cleaning

**New Year,  
New Priorities.**

**Let's talk property.**

BROOKE DEVCICH | SALES CONSULTANT



THIS IS MY BACKYARD TOO.





Ph: 07 595 0514

info@gumbootsandgrasshoppers.co.nz  
www.gumbootsandgrasshoppers.co.nz



Wei Sen Hartles & Co.

**Walk to School at  
573A Rotokauri Road**

4 BED + OFFICE | 2 LIVING | 2 BATH | 2 CAR

Licensed RE/MAX 2008

Auction | 3rd September 2025 12:00 pm

**Jono Hartles**  
027 606 5150  
jono.hartles@lugtons.co.nz

**Kelsey Hartles**  
022 014 5634  
kelsey.hartles@lugtons.co.nz

**Lugtons**

**LOOKING TO BUY OR  
LEASE AROUND  
200 M<sup>2</sup> FOR MY  
TINY HOUSE**

Contact Susanna, Fridays  
to Wednesdays after 5pm,  
on 027 538 9789



# PLAY CRICKET



## 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](mailto:info@hamiltonoldboyscc.com)



**YOUTHTOWN**  
SINCE 1932

# GIRLS JUST WANNA KICK!

WEEK 1 - 22nd - 25th September  
WEEK 2 - 29th September - 2nd October  
AGES 7-15  
\$40 PER DAY  
8:30am - 3:30pm  
Horsham Downs School



[www.youthtown.org.nz](http://www.youthtown.org.nz) | @youthtownnz | 0800 004 566




## DKJ Welding services provides:

- Certified Welding
- Stainless Steel Fabrication
- Plant Installation & Mechanical fitting
- Onsite Maintenance
- Process Pipework
- Project Management

