



# Rongomai School

Empowered to Take Risks; Determined to Succeed

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## NEWSLETTER

**Rāapa 26 Hōngongoi 2017 – Wednesday 26 July 2017**

**Tēnā koutou, Kia orana,  
Malo ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Talofa lava,  
Malo e lelei, Mauri, Namaste and  
Greetings!**

### **Welcome back!**

It's only Day 3 into the third term of this year and all of our kids and teachers have "hit the ground running". It's full steam ahead and we're all pushing through to ensure our tamariki receive the very best, and the most from schooling at Rongomai. Check with your child daily and ask them about their learning at school. By doing so, helps them to see that their schooling is important to you (not just their teacher) and can be shared and enjoyed at home as well. If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please speak with their classroom teacher. Our teachers are in their classes from 8.15am if you ever need to see them. Alternatively, call them and arrange a time that is more convenient for you both to meet.

### **Cultural Profiles**

Last term, Miss Faifua and I hosted a group of parents in the library. We are developing cultural profiles for our students and basically want to know what things Maori, do our Maori community want their child/ren to know by the time they leave Rongomai at the end of Year 6. We also want to know the same things for our Cook Islands, Samoan, Tongan, Niuean, European, Asian and Other Pasifika groups i.e. Tahitian, Hawaiian, Kiribati.

We believe that schooling today needs to be built on the foundations of where children come from - their culture, home values and family. This is why getting your parent voice and input is so important to us. By school working together with our families, then our tamariki will thrive and succeed in whatever they choose to do in life. We will still continue to deliver the main curriculum subjects as every other primary school in the country but we believe our children deserve and need much more.

## Cultural Profile Winner

As mentioned, we had a group of parents visit us in the Library last term. Well done to all the students who brought their parents in and because you did, your name went into a prize draw. The winner of the prize draw is the lovely Jayla Russell in Room 3. Thank you to Jayla's dad John for participating. The Russell whanau have won a box of groceries, a student lunch box and a few loom band kits for Jayla, Aleiqua and Brooklyn! Ka mau te wehi!



## Dentist

Next Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July, the dental therapist will be onsite for two weeks. Hopefully if all goes well, they'll be able to see more of our tamariki this time round.

## Enrolment Process

As of next week, we will be rolling out our new enrolment process. This is just to give

our teachers more time to transition and prepare learning resources for their new students. Starting at a new school can be a scary experience for a lot of children so we want to make sure that their new-to-Rongomai experience is positive and exciting. In saying this, new students will start in their new classes on either a Monday or a Thursday pending all the necessary enrolment documentation has been received by our office staff. Please contact our office for more information outlining our enrolment process.

## Transition Process

We now have a formal transition process for all soon-to-be 5 year olds, which begin at least a month before a child turns 5. Our new entrant teachers (Whaea Alleena and Miss Vaha'akolo) have set aside dates and times each week where any soon-to-be 5 year old can sit in and get to know their new classroom and teacher. Please enquire at our school office for more information.

## Stationery

We still have students who do not have their stationery. All stationery lists are available inside our office foyer. Please help us to

help your child by ensuring they have the necessary stationery for learning.

### **Maths at Home**

This term our teaching staff have embarked on a new professional development contract focusing on teaching Maths in our school through a Pasifika cultural lens. Maths is a major focus for our entire school as this was an area that we identified many of our students needing more support in. Please join us in raising our students' achievement in Maths by implementing some simple math activities at home. Here is a very helpful website with a lot of creative, simple and practical activities to use at your home.

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/maths-our-house>

### **Teina and Clicks – Children's Theatre Programme**

We have been fortunate to receive an invitation to see the show *Teina and Clicks* at the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau. Our buses and entry into the show has been covered by local sponsors and will therefore not cost our parents anything. Simply complete the permission slip for your child and send it back to school tomorrow.

Unfortunately, we have limited spaces and tickets and will not require any parental supervision. We have an adequate number of staff to supervise our students on this type of trip. We will leave next Tuesday at 10.30am and anticipate a return time of 12.30pm.

Next week is also Cook Islands Language and Culture Week and we are asking that all of our students wear their Pasifika attire. It can be Tongan, Samoan, Niuean, Vietnamese, Hawaiian, Tahitian etc. It'll be great to take our children to see Teina and Clicks in their Pasifika gears. There will be spot prizes every day of the week for the best dressed student.

### ***A synopsis of Teina and Clicks***

Teina and Clicks is a story about a boy who wants to be respected. Teina asks his grandfather to teach him the secret of making fire. If he could make fire, surely everyone would respect him. But Grandpa gives Teina a challenge harder than any he's faced before. With the help of Clicks, the most famous crab in the Pacific, Teina tries his best to pass Grandpa's challenge. Along the way he learns important lessons about determination, honesty and the true meaning of respect.

## Year 6 Trip

Next Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, Matua Vae is taking our Year 6 students to the Vector Whitewater Rafting Park to learn about water safety and try out water rafting as well.

Matua Vae will be sending out permission slips for this trip with more information, later in the week.

## Home School Partnership

Next week, we are running a one hour Reading workshop for parents. The purpose is to inform you of our student achievement in Reading as well as give you some practical tips on how you can help your child improve their Reading at home. Every parent that attends will have the names of all of their Rongomai children go into a prize draw. We will draw the winners at the end of the workshop. We start at 6pm so please be on time :-)

**WHEN:** Wednesday 2 August

**WHERE:** School Staffroom

**TIME:** 6-7pm

Please bring your children along if you cannot find a babysitter. We will organise childcare for 3/4 year olds plus any of our Rongomai students.

Please do not let childcare be a barrier to you being able to come to this parent workshop.

## Powhiri/Tuoro

Every term we welcome all new students and their families. Next week we will be welcoming all new students with a Cook Islands welcome – Tuoro which is very similar to the powhiri. More details to follow.

## Parent Voice Survey

In our last newsletter, I shared some of the feedback we had received from parents and caregivers. Here is more of what you had to say about Rongomai:

**QUESTION: What would you like the school to help you with so that you have the confidence to help your child at home?**

*Extra homework, writing, reading comprehension, Maori. More feedback about my child's progress as to what needs work on. Books to read. Just making sure they get their work done. Sending them home with lots of books to read. Send a letter every fortnight about how my kids are doing e.g. if they are doing good or bad. Spelling bees would be helpful as my child's spelling is terrible. To keep me updated if they have homework. Wanting to know about sports for my son. Good...just a little complaint...I don't like that the kids sit on the cold concrete in the mornings*

Thank you for your feedback and we will do our utmost best to implement your requests as much as we can.

Please complete the permission slip below  
and return it to school tomorrow.

Kia manuia,

Paeariki Johnson – Principal

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**Teina and Clicks Permission Slip**

Child's Name: ..... Room: .....

I give permission for my child to see *Teina and Clicks* at the Vodafone Events Centre on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>  
August 2017.

Yes / No

(please circle your response)

Parent's/Guardian's Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....