**NEWSLETTER**

**Rāpare 3 o Haratua 2018 – Wednesday 3 May 2018**

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**Tēnā koutou, Kia orana,**

**Malo ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Aloha, Ia orana, Zdravo and Greetings!**

**Welcome Back!**

Welcome back to all our Rongomaites. We’ve had a wonderful start to the term especially with seeing so many of our tamariki at school on the first day looking all excited and enthusiastic. This term’s value focus is INTEGRITY. Integrity is basically being honest and having strong moral principles to do the right thing even when others are not watching. It’s about having the courage to make the right decisions/choices despite the fact that it may not be the popular choice.

Integrity is a value that will keep one's character strong throughout their lives.

**New Office Manager**

Last term, we farewelled a long-standing and highly respected member of our Rongomai School Community – Whaea Nicole. Whaea Nicole is settling in really well at her new school in Takanini and we wish her and her family all the very best on her new endeavours.

Replacing Whaea Nicole is our newly appointed Office Manager & Principal’s PA – Whaea Trina.

Whaea Trina is very familiar with Otara having been raised and educated in this community. I am very excited about having her join our team as she will make a wonderful asset to our school community and will definitely set a wonderful and positive tone in our school admin environment.

**Powhiri**

Next Friday 11th May is our powhiri to welcome all our new students and staff members. We welcome all parents and family members of our new students to join us for the powhiri which will start at 10.30am. It would be our privilege to host and welcome you into our Rongomai family.

**Ura Classes**

Great news!!! On Wednesday 16th May, Matua Ben (Rm 3 Teacher) and Miss Tumutoa (Rm 10 Teacher/Syndicate Leader) will be running afterschool Cook Islands ura/hula classes. These classes are open to any student who attends Rongomai School and is interested in learning Cook Islands dancing. The dance classes will be on Tuesdays from 3.00pm-3.30pm. Parents are most welcome to sit in the sessions or even join in. There is no cost for these Cook Islands ura sessions but we do ask that parents collect their children from school at 3.30pm. More information will be sent home next week for parents and families who are interested. Please speak to Matua Ben to express your interest.

**Mother’s Day**

In honour of all Mothers and Grandmothers, sKids is running a free competition to win a $50 MOVIE VOUCHER at Hoyts Cinemas.

All you have to do is post your favourite photo of you and your mum, or you and your children to enter. Please also write why your mum is the best mum in the world!

The winning entry will be the photo that gets the most likes, so get sharing and get your family and friends to like your photo! Closing date will be Thursday 10 May at 6pm.

[www.facebook.com/skidsotara](http://www.facebook.com/skidsotara)

**Life ‘s Choices/Bible in Schools**

This term, Matua Rush will be facilitating the Life’s Choices Programme also known as the “Bible in Schools Programme”. These sessions are only 30 minutes and our students attend once a week. Parents can ask to withdraw their child from these sessions by simply notifying the school in writing. Students who are withdrawn from these sessions will work in another classroom to complete independent work.

**Swimming Lessons**

Next week Rooms 4, 6 & 7 will begin swimming lessons at the Otara swimming pools. Transport to and from the pools has already been organised. A swimming notice has gone home to inform our families.

**Dance with Matua Chris**

Continuing on from classes delivered last term, we have an opportunity for after-school classes on Wednesdays on the following dates: 9/5, 16/5, 23/5, 30/5, 6/6, 13/6, 20/6, 27/6 & 4/7.

Session Times:

3.00pm – 5-7 year olds

3.30pm – 8-10 year olds

Dance Fee:

$20 for the whole term.

Chris Teava has been wonderful with Room 6 and 10 in Term 1 and we look forward to seeing him tap into the talent we have in our tamariki. Please contact the school office to register your child for dance.

**Platinum Netball Team**

If you are keen to put your 7 or 8 year old into competitive netball then please contact Daisy Tiatia for more information - 02041571500.

Platinum netball club are looking for Year 3-4 players to join their teams.

Name: ­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/05/18

Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s signature: ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*By signing this portion, you are confirming that you have read the newsletter.*

*Students, please place this portion in the Prize Draw box at the school office.*

**Samoan Parents Fono**

Working together with our families and communities, we would like to invite our Samoan parents to share any ideas/thoughts to help bring our Samoan language week together. Therefore, there is a meeting with Miss Faifua, Matua Vae, and Matua Lui to discuss this on **Tuesday 8th of May @ 5.00pm** in the School staff room. We would really appreciate your views so please attend this meeting to share them.

**Afterschool Guitar lessons**

Matua Lui will send out a newsletter with more information about session times and costs. These lessons will start in a couple of weeks.

**Kia manuia,**

**Whaea Pae (Principal)**