



Rongomai School

Empowered to Take Risks; Determined to Succeed

Phone: 274 6055 Fax: 274 5007 Email: admin@rongomai.school.nz

Website: www.rongomai.school.nz

NEWSLETTER

Rāapa 31 Here-turi-kōkā 2016 – Wednesday 31st August 2016

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

Daffodil Day

Thank you to all our students and staff who supported Daffodil Day by wearing something yellow last Friday. Thank you also to those of you who gave a gold coin donation. Every cent raised will help the Cancer Society of NZ in their work to help cancer sufferers and pursue further cancer research.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the many family members and friends whom we've lost to cancer. May they forever remain in our hearts!

Our school raised \$228.60 which is a fantastic effort and will make some small difference towards helping others.

Shaun Johnson Visit

Last Friday we were blessed to have Shaun Johnson from the Vodafone Warriors visit our tamariki. Our students and staff welcomed him in our usual warm Rongomai style – it was so much fun! Rooms 3, 5 & 8 impressed Mr Johnson with their beautiful singing and interesting questions while Rooms 6 and 7 challenged him to do the Cook Islands men's hula, and finally our adorable juniors – Rooms 4, 9 & 10 melted his heart with their cuteness and wonderful cards. Shaun Johnson also made a 'shout out' to our school on his facebook page encouraging his followers to support us to get a school hall – the man!

Neighbourhood Team Meeting

Last Thursday we held our very first neighbourhood team meeting at school. We were joined by members of the Otago Health Board, the Neighbourhood Police Team, teaching staff and a couple of

local residents. We are grateful to the Neighbourhood Police Team and the Otara Health Board for their support. Thank you also to our residents who braved their way through the heavy rain to attend. Your attendance and participation was much appreciated. We aim to host another neighbourhood team meeting and hopefully we'll see more of our residents in attendance especially our neighbours who live along Rongomai and Preston Roads.

The information gained from this meeting was invaluable and I encourage our local residents to attend the next one.

Police Calls

One message that was loud and clear from this meeting was that we need to be more vigilant at reporting any criminal activity. Unfortunately our area has one of the lowest calling rates for reporting disturbances and crime. Many of us complain about the annoying motorbikes that ride through the reserve behind the school, but very few of us actually ring the police to report it. Although it may seem like the police aren't doing anything to help us, we should still make the calls and report any suspicious activity and/or disturbances. If there is an increase in calls and reports, then there is a higher chance that our needs will be prioritised

more urgently and effectively. The more we call in and report, the more someone in authority will have to listen and do more to help us!

Vandalism in our School

It feels like our school is constantly under attack by vandals and thieves who continually cut through our fencing and damage school property which costs thousands of dollars to replace – money that we simply cannot afford! There are houses along Rongomai and Preston Roads that have a good view into our school. If you live in any of these houses that has a great view of Rongomai, can you please check on our school every day, especially outside of school hours and on weekends. If you see anything unusual, contact the police. You might actually find the culprits in the act in which case, call 111 immediately.

School Website

Just a reminder that our teachers are posting up blogs about the learning that is happening in their classrooms. Furthermore, our school newsletters can now be viewed on our Rongomai School Website. Simply click on the Newsletter tab to locate and view our newsletters. Other newsletters that are specific to our Junior Syndicate (Years 0-2),

Middle Syndicate (Years 3-4) and Senior Syndicate (Years 5-6) will also be posted up on our school website. This is our way of ensuring that our families are always kept in the 'know' about the school.

Further to this, can I please remind parents and families of our school to be mindful of the comments you post up onto our blogs or school facebook page. I've had to block and delete a couple of inappropriate comments made by facebook friends of our parents. Keep your comments positive, constructive and "PG".

Reporting Absences

Unfortunately parents are private messaging, vibering or texting their child's/children's absences to a private number that usually sends out schoolwide texts through our student management system. Your messages and texts are not being monitored by school staff as this number only sends out automated messages. All absences and other issues of concern must be made through to the school office phone - 274 6055. If you cannot get a hold of any of our office staff on this number then please

leave a message. Whaea Rachel checks our phone messages every morning.

Senior School Camp – Rooms 3, 5 & STEM

Our senior school camp is in term 4 which is only a few weeks away and we have just 3 weeks left in this term. Thank you to our wonderful families who have already paid for their child's/children's camp fees in full. If you are yet to pay for your child's camp, please speak to their teacher to organise payment. We need to get all camp money in as soon as possible.

What's coming up?

Next week is Tongan Language Week - Uike Kātoanga'l 'o e Lea Faka-Tonga!

This year's theme is 'Fakakoloa 'a Aotearoa 'aki 'a e Loto'l Tonga' which translates as 'Enriching Aotearoa with the Tongan Spirit'

We are all looking forward to learning more about the wonderful Kingdom of Tonga and celebrating its richness in culture and traditions. I know Matua Altar and his amazing team will have some exciting sessions lined up for our staff and classes to help us learn more about Tonga. *(PLEASE TURN OVER...)*

Life Education Programme

It's been a couple of years since we had Harold the Giraffe and the Life Education Caravan in our school and we are fortunate to have the programme at Rongomai next week! The Life Education Programme is part of our school curriculum and all classes will enjoy 2 sessions in the programme. The cost for the programme is \$2 per child.

Please send \$2 with your child tomorrow to pay for the programme. Payments can be made to your child's teacher or at our school office however, please ensure you have the correct money as our teachers and office staff may not have any change to give you – thank you!

Netball Tournament

Whaea Renee and Whaea Nicole have been working diligently to coach our netball teams in preparation for our Primary School Netball Tournament next week. Please get along and support our netballers next Friday at the Howick-Pakuranga Netball Courts starting at 9am til 2pm. All the best to our hardworking and enthusiastic netball teams and their coaches!

Also, a massive congratulations to Sheribyn Tiatia from our STEM class for making the Auckland Samoan Netball Squad! We so proud of you – go hard and represent Sheribyn!

Enjoy the rest of your week everyone!

Kia manuia,
Whaea Pae – Principal

Child's Name:	Room
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I have read this week's school newsletter **YES/NO**

I have paid \$2 for each of my children to attend the Life Education Programme **YES/NO**

Parent's signature: _____