



Rongomai School

Empowered to Take Risks; Determined to Succeed

Rāpare 11 o Hakihea - Thursday 11th December 2025

Farewell to our Year 6s



On behalf of all our staff, I want to acknowledge and farewell our wonderful Year 6 students.

Watching you grow over the years has been a privilege — one we don't take lightly. You've brought energy, character, challenges, and plenty of laughter to our school, and we're proud of each one of you.

You leave us carrying the RICH foundations that have shaped your time here - **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **CH**eritage. These values have guided your choices, your relationships, and the way you've stepped up as leaders in your own quiet and not-so-quiet ways. Hold tight to those foundations; they'll steady you well as you move into the next chapter.

As you head off to intermediate, know that your teachers, support staff, and everyone who has walked alongside you are cheering you on. Your future schools are lucky to have you.

From all of us at Rongomai: go well, go confidently, and never forget the roots that helped you stand tall.

Once a Rongomaite, ALWAYS a Rongomaite!

Year 6 Graduation speeches

Katelyn Elia's Speech



Family, friends and of course, the faculty. Aloha, kia orana, and talofa lava. My name is Katelyn and I'm a proud Hawaiian, Cook Islander, Samoan, and student leader of Rongomai.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Lord above because without him, nothing is possible. Also, thank you to the faculty past and present for guiding me throughout the years. Although these 6 years have been quick. I have learnt so much from so many and have grown to be the best version of myself.

Today, we are celebrating our graduates who are starting a new chapter in our school life. No matter where we go or what we do in life. We will all be proud to have our foundations built by Rongomai. Just like my proud brothers before me.

My time here at Rongomai has been nothing but amazing. I met a lot of people that I'm proud to call my friends. Some here, some not. Year after year, I watched people leave and now I can't believe I am one of them. Some of my favourite times and proudest moments was performing in the Cook Islands group with my brother Clayton. It was always fun to learn and perform. But I think my singular most fun time was the Senior Camp this year. Especially the mudslide. A sad time I've had during my years here was coming to school and finding out that we have lost a great leader, a visionary, a role model and one of the most beautiful hearted people. We know the late Paeariki Johnson truly is the reason why Rongomai felt like a family. May you rest peacefully and watch us from above.

To my fellow Graduates. Congratulations for making it this far. Continue to carry the Rongomai name with pride. Good luck wherever you may go. Put God first and may you succeed in life.

To the wonderful teachers who managed to put up with me, from the gumby and fun Matua Ben, then the humorous and wonderful Maine Christina, to my dearest Maine Terangi, you are always a ray of sunshine for me as I come into school. You make me forget that I just finished fighting with my brothers for the front seat. I admire your work ethic and pride in teaching us kids our culture. You all have beautiful hearts and I am proud to have been your student. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and of course, I wish you were still here to see this day because you played a big role in my life but I know you are watching us from heaven Whaea Paeariki. I miss you. I love you. We all do.

Once again, thank you to everyone here in attendance. My name is Katelyn Agnes Elia. I say these things as a humble daughter of God. Amen.

Sypré-Rylee Simeki's Speech

Fakalofa lahi atu and greetings to you all. My name is Sypré-Rylee. Today we are here to farewell our awesome Year 6 students of Rongomai School 2025. Rongomai is a place that has helped shape who we are today. Thank you to all our teachers and LAs for pushing us to be great, supporting us, and believing in us. Wherever we go, we will carry our Rongomai RICH Values with us. To our amazing whānau — thank you so much. We appreciate everything you do for us, and we love you all.

And now to my fellow Year 6s — we made it! Yaaay! We have created so many great memories this year. I hope you are all very excited for the next chapter. I wish you all the best, and don't forget our Rongomai RICH Values. Be safe, and God bless. Nga mihi nui and thank you.



Layton-Monroe Johnson's Speech



Kia ora, Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, heeey and warm Pacific greetings to you all.

My name is Layton-Monroe Johnson, and today... I officially graduate from Year 6. I know — please try to hold your applause until I've completed my solid as speech.

Standing here feels a little unreal. I started at Rongomai as a tiny 5-year-old who thought the junior playground was huge, the Year 6s were giants, and that teachers literally lived at school. Now here I am... the giant. And no, teachers still don't sleep at school — even though some of them act like they never leave.

But today is special for another reason too. Before I go any further, I want to honour someone who should have been here with us. Someone who loved our school, loved our community, and loved me — my Noni, our former principal, Whaea Paeariki. She wasn't just a leader. She was a light. She taught us to walk proudly as pasifika kids, to believe in ourselves, and to lift others as we rise. Even when she was busy running the school, she always had time for a laugh, a hug, or would give you one of her big smiles — a smile all of us knew too well. Even though she's not here today, she is still a part of Rongomai. Her strength, her kindness, and her belief in us stays with me — and with all of us — forever. This one's for you, Noni. I hope I've made you proud.

But I also want to acknowledge someone incredibly special who has carried our school forward when it mattered most — our current principal, Miss Faifua. It is not easy to step into leadership suddenly. It is not easy to take over a whole school while grieving the loss of someone who was not just a colleague, but a close friend for many years. And it is definitely not easy to be strong for everyone else when your own heart is hurting. But Miss Faifua did it. She stood up. She led us. She kept our school moving through trials, changes, challenges, and emotions that most people will never see.

She didn't ask to be put in that position so abruptly — but she took it on with courage, love, and determination for the sake of our students, our families, and our staff. And that is something we honour today. Miss Faifua, thank you for carrying our school through one of its hardest seasons. Thank you for leading with strength and heart. And thank you for believing in us, even on the days we made your job... very interesting.

Now... let me talk about the real reason you're all here: our chaotic, funny, legendary Rongomai journey.

I've had a lot of teachers and a lot of moments — some inspirational, and some just straight crack-up.

Like Matua Lui, when he'd growl at us in Samoan but sister here can't understand, so zero effect, sorry Matua.

Or Matua Vae, who's so competitive that his name rhymes with Pae who was also very competitive, and this should probably be assessed.

Matua Ben, no one claimed that he was fast but the video evidence from athletics definitely showcased that he was so fast, he came first to last.

Maine Terangi, always happy and always bringing the Kuki vibes ❤️ she's definitely the president of the Cooks in Otara.

Massive shout out to Mr Afemata who always bought me chicken and chips cos I'm obviously the fave student here (lol).

Whaea Lei is just Whaea Lei, no words, but love you. Whaea Claudia, the owner of everything, Ms Afemata who gives the biggest and best hugs, Whaea Sonia who helped me so much with my reading and writing during lockdown and Whaea Naomi who gives me an hour of peace every weekend from my aunty.

Matua Altar, who's always so positive and has the best candy floss, Maine Christina who always loves me and gave me my brother El Chapo who I love so much, even though he's chewed through many of my school shoes.

Whaea Marama whom I mastered my talent of eyebrow conversations with over zoom during lockdown. And low-key one of my faves.

The office staff, especially not the mean one but Whaea Trina who's just the best and not the mean one. Love you nanny T.

And finally again, Miss Faifua, who like many of the staff at Rongomai believed in me and who actually would roast my mum and have my back because if you know my mum, she believes in roasting your children.

Growing up at Rongomai has been more than learning. It's been laughter, attitude, hugs, chaos, culture, challenges, and memories that shaped who we are. I came here as a little kid who went to kohanga, who would follow my noni around and play up during staff meetings, to starting school just before lockdown. And now I'm leaving as someone who knows where I come from, knows my worth, and is proud of being a Pacific Islander, and my palagi intermediate will be surprised when I, an Otarian, is their president and head prefect.

To our staff: thank you for pushing us, putting up with us, and believing in us.

To our families: thank you for sending your kids to Rongomai, it's the best decision you could've made because it's the best school in Otara and because they got the honour of meeting me.

And to my fellow Year 6s: we survived it all — sports days, lockdowns, tests, loss and grief, the free school lunches and the mean office lady that's not Whaea Trina. As we move on to intermediate, remember this: We are strong. We are talented. We are mighty. And we are capable of amazing things. Rongomai will always be home. And we will always carry our people with us. Once a Rongomaite, Always a Rongomaite.

Thank you all so much. Fa'afetai tele lava, meitaki ma'ata, fakaaua lahi, and kia ora.



Final Quiz Phrase 😊

The final phrase must have been extra tricky as no one managed to guess “**Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap.**” This sun-smart reminder encourages us all to stay safe in the summer heat: **slip** on a shirt, **slop** on sunscreen, **slap** on a hat, and **wrap** on some sunglasses. As you head outdoors this summer, remember to take extra care so you don’t get burned!

Important Dates

2026 - Term 1

January:

20th: Office Open for Enrolments, Uniforms, and Stationery

26th: Auckland Anniversary (Public Holiday)

28th: School Starts Back for Term 1

February:

6th: Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)

9th: Staff Only Day (school closed)

April:

2nd: Last Day of Term 1

Last Day of School

Just a reminder that school will finish on **Tuesday, 16 December at 12:00pm**. Please ensure your child is picked up on time and has appropriate supervision for the remainder of the day.

Summer Reading Programme

Our Year 3–5 students will receive books to enjoy over the summer holidays, which will be delivered by our staff directly to your homes. A newsletter has already been sent out with more information for all students involved. This included a permission slip that needs to be signed and returned by **tomorrow, 12th December 2025**.

2026 Office Opening Hours

Our school office will be open from **Tuesday, 20th January 2026** between **8:30am** and **1:00pm** for enrolments, and for purchasing uniforms and stationery.

First Day Back

School will re-open for 2026 on **Wednesday, 28th January at 8:45am**. Please ensure your child arrives on time. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please contact the school **each day** they are away.

Sathya Sai Summer Promotion

Enrol Your Child at Sathya Sai Preschool!

- No fees – completely free!
- Free snacks & hot lunches
- Whānau grocery bag & ready-to-start school kits
-  Plus, go in the draw to win a Christmas hamper!

Skool Loop App – Stay Connected

Rongomai School uses the free **Skool Loop app** to keep whānau informed. Through the app, you can view notices, newsletters, calendar events, and even submit absences.

To get started:

1. Download Skool Loop from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Open the app, select **New Zealand** → **Auckland** → **Rongomai School**, then tap **Select**.
3. You'll now have access to our school's hub with categories like Notices, Absentee, Calendar, Newsletter, and more.

Absences & Contact Details

It is very important that you report your child's absence **every day** they are away. Also, please ensure that your contact details (phone number, email address etc.) are all up-to-date. You can do this by visiting our school office.

To notify us of an absence, you can:

- 📱 Use Skool Loop – a free app available for download
- ✉️ Email us at reception@rongomai.school.nz
- 📞 Call or leave a message at 09 274 6055
- 💬 Message our Facebook page: Rongomai School
- 🌐 Submit an absence notice through our school website

New Zealand Traveller Declaration

Going overseas? Everyone returning to New Zealand must complete a free NZ Traveller Declaration online or in the NZTD app.

The app lets families and groups copy details to quickly create multiple declarations. It replaces the old paper arrival card and helps keep NZ safe.

Make arrival easier: complete it before your flight home at www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz.



Sun Safety

S	U	N	S	C	R	E	E	N	T	F	N	B	U	P
U	E	T	B	L	J	V	Z	S	F	O	X	M	N	I
N	Q	K	R	Y	V	D	H	A	I	F	B	A	S	L
G	Z	B	O	F	E	I	W	T	S	R	X	H	H	S
L	R	H	P	R	R	N	C	R	E	M	A	L	K	S
A	A	O	F	T	T	E	D	L	A	D	H	N	E	R
S	L	C	O	R	T	S	L	T	E	P	O	C	C	A
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J	E	K	M	N	P	Y	C	A	T	H	Z	H	A	V
Q	R	C	V	H	H	S	H	T	T	W	K	S	A	B
L	A	A	D	D	X	A	P	E	A	I	D	D	J	W
N	R	U	B	N	U	S	T	R	C	O	O	V	S	R
S	L	A	P	R	E	M	M	U	S	L	W	N	I	R

Aloe Vera	Slip	Sunscreen
Heatstroke	Slop	T-Shirt
Hydrate	Summer	Umbrella
Protection	Sunburn	UV Rays
Radiation	Sunglasses	Water
Shade	Sunhat	Wrap
Slap		

Birthdays 🎉

We'd like to send our warmest birthday wishes to the following students who will be celebrating their birthdays over the next fortnight:

DECEMBER

13th: Desmond
14th: Mele
Manu
17th: Yedaiah
18th: Lope
Andrew
Samuelu
24th: Hererani

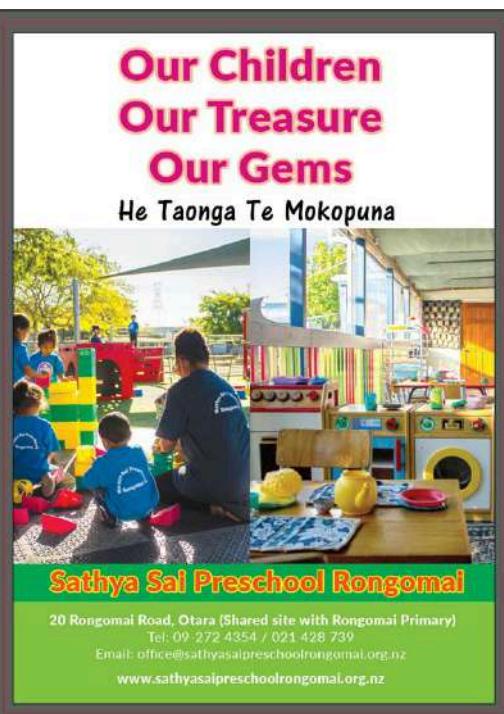
We hope you all had or have a wonderful day 🎉



Need a reliable source for quality uniforms?

Look no further than **B Uniform** – our school's trusted uniform supplier for years. They offer top-quality products, fast delivery, and affordable prices.

For more information, visit their website: www.buniform.co.nz



Thank You to our Sponsors

We would like to extend a very special thank you to our generous sponsors who support our Skool Loop app, allowing us to provide it free of charge for our community:



Finance Bloom: Supporting Kiwi families with smart, stress-free mortgage and lending advice. For more information, you can find them at www.financebloom.nz.



After: A textile recycling service that collects and repurposes unwearable clothing and bedding. Available in Auckland. Find out more at www.after.net.nz.

We'd also like to extend a thank you to our sponsor for our school website:



SR Investment NZ Ltd: A business specialising in a range of maintenance services, including house repairs, painting, cleaning, and more. For more information, you can visit their Facebook page: SR Investment NZ Ltd

If you would like to advertise on our Skool Loop App please email: content@skoolloop.com

Thank you all for your generous support, we greatly appreciate it.