



Roto Review

We live by
our motto of
AIM HIGH

Teena Koutou e Ngaa Whaanau



Thankfully we still have 7 weeks with our wonderful Mrs Booth, but it is with sadness that we are saying goodbye at the end of the term. Mrs Booth came to us with a passion for supporting students with additional needs and now she has found the perfect job for fulfilling that passion. A role with the RTLB (Resource Teacher for Learning and Behaviour) service came up. Although reluctant to apply, because it meant leaving our school and her class, it was too good an opportunity to pass up.

We will miss Anna's positive attitude, bright personality and want to do things differently (i.e. the chickens).

We will hold a Leaving Assembly for Mrs Booth on the last day of the term at 2.00 pm. As always, parents and whaanau are invited to be a part of the assembly.

Government Spin...

There have been a lot of snippets in the media about the government's saving of Maths with its Make It Count initiative. Most of the time I do not publicly express concerns over government directives but this time I must.

Firstly, there is no research to support the proposed "structured maths" approach they are lauding. In fact, according to Massey University Maths professors, structured maths does not exist. There are programmes overseas, such as the system in Singapore, which have some connection to the Science of Learning ideals and so are positioned as structured maths approaches. Our societal expectations and norms are vastly different to Singapore, so how effective will transferring this textbook based system be? A society where the norm is for hours of homework to be done outside of school. How many of you want this for your children?

So how are the government going to produce a non-existent structured maths programme within the next 5 months? Why are they purchasing massive amounts of commercially produced textbooks now, even though an identified structured maths programme is yet to be developed? How are they going to research, trial and test this approach before requiring all schools to adopt it in January 2025? (The structured literacy approaches (yes there is more than 1 way) that are happening now are firmly based on researched, tried and tested methods of instruction that have taken years to validate as effective.)

All this is urgently required because the adjusted assessment data showed 80% of Year 8s would not achieve the expected levels of the new curriculum. Data that is based on an assessment attempted by 853 students in 42 schools assessing students' Maths ability on a curriculum not yet being taught!

The current method of teaching maths has flaws and needs changing, but the rushed, unhindered, "speed is more important than research" approach the government is taking is more dangerous. Careful examination of what we are being told is required.

School Photos

Having told you to keep your eyes peeled for the online ordering info, Masterpiece have given us photo ordering envelopes instead. These came home with children this week and need to be back to school by 29th August with your orders and money. You can also pay online, but need to detail this on the envelope and reference it accordingly. Please check your envelope for all the information.

Cross Country

The final part of each day is currently dedicated to Cross Country practise, so this is why your children may look a bit sweaty when you collect them! Our Roto Cross Country is on Friday 23rd August, at 12.40pm. The notice came home this week in their bags, and is also on Skool Loop, so check that out for the timetable, as you are all welcome to come along.

From there, we go on to compete in a fun Rural Schools' Cross Country competition at the Karaapiro Domain on Friday 6th September. All students participate in this one, not just the seniors. Encourage your child to do some running up and down hills when they are not at school, as this will help them in the competitions!



Speeches

Our annual speech competition is coming up! Every child in the school is currently practising a poem, or writing their own speech. This can be a daunting exercise, but it is a great skill to develop! Please encourage your child/ren to practise at home, particularly in front of you, as this will help them when it comes to delivering their poem or speech to their own class. From there, the teachers will select finalists to go through to the speech finals night on 29th August. You will be notified if your child is through to this competition, and invited along to the evening.

The senior winner of our speech finals will go on to deliver their speech at the Rotary Interschools' Competition on the evening of 10th September!

UPCOMING EVENTS

23/8	Roto Cross Country
29/8	Roto Speech Finals Night 6.30pm
30/8	Kapa Haka Festival
4/9	Year 6 Orientation visit to CMS PTA Meeting 7pm - Five Stags
6/9	Rural Schools' Cross Country
10/9	Board Meeting 6pm Rotary Speech Competition
20/9	Interschools' Cross Country
26/9	Elgregoe Magic Show
27/9	Last Day of Term 3

Thank you!

We wish to thank the following businesses and families for supporting the school by nominating us with their fuel company - Southern Fuels. This has allowed us to purchase \$1500 worth of gear recently.

*Chamberlain Sheep Ltd
Datri Farm
Duck Park Limited
Gomez Welch Dairies Limited
Grat Farms Ltd
Hitchcock Farms Limited
Kairangi Farm Partnership
Koakau Dairy
Moorhouse Contracting
P & K Kleven Ltd
P K Mills Farming
Payne Farms Limited
Roto Farms Ltd
Roto Pastures Limited
SG & DM Watson Partnership
Vala Group Ltd T/A Futura
Van Goch Enterprises
WJC & BY Godfrey*

Kapa Haka Festival

Our Kapa Haka roopu will be attending the Kapa Haka Festival at the Don Rowlands Centre, Karaapiro, on Friday 30th August. We wish the roopu all the best at the festival. Learning waiata and actions to the waiata alongside haka is a big challenge. The tamariki have committed to it and are nervously looking forward to performing.

School Policies

<https://rotoorangi.schooldocs.co.nz>

User: rotoorangi Password: aimhigh