



ISSUE 13

THE ROTORUA & DISTRICT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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EXECUTIVE BOARD 2011

Your Executive Board for 2011 is as follows:

President	-	Deb Epp , Mokoia Intermediate School
Snr Vice President	-	Colin Watkins , Westbrook Primary School
Jnr Vice President	-	Bob Stiles , Owhata Primary School
Treasurer	-	Warwick Moyle , Kaharoa Primary School
Secretary	-	Eden Chapman , Horohoro Primary School
Welfare & Social	-	TBC
Prof Development/BEST	-	TBC
Sponsorship/Bus Partners	-	TBC
Competitions	-	TBC
Sports & Cultural	-	TBC
Rural	-	TBC
Liaison with Ed Rotorua	-	TBC

WHO'S ON THE EXEC BOARD

- Deb Epp
- Colin Watkins
- Bob Stiles
- Warwick Moyle
- Eden Chapman
- tbc
- tbc
- tbc
- tbc
- tbc
- tbc
- tbc

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AP/DP Association** - As a group, we try to get together once or twice a term to discuss issues that are pertinent to our roles in school and to share resources and ideas. We also try to arrange a guest speaker a couple of times a year and are always open to ideas on who you would like to speak to the group or on topics of interest. Subs for the year are \$50 per person and your school will be invoiced for these before the end of the term. The AGM was held on Tuesday 29th March and the officers for 2011 are:

Chairperson	-	Sue Bewley, DP Rotokawa
Past Chairperson	-	Wendy Morgan, DP Westbrook
Secretary	-	Lisa Dinning, Waikite Valley
Treasurer	-	Rachel Weinberg, AP Westbrook

Information about meeting dates and purposes will be coming your way early term two.

- **ICT Cluster** - Our curriculum/ICT Cluster visited schools in Wellington on Monday and Tuesday this week. Our first visit was to Murutai School to look at the use of Blogging to communicate with families. Their website is full of interesting blogs and Murutai TV whereby students post up video clips each week on things that have happened around the school. In the afternoon, we visited Perry Rush at Island Bay School to look at their curriculum planning and use of Ultranet LMS. Perry was, as always, a very interesting and passionate speaker, the school uses a very transparent and easy approach to the self review of inquiry learning across the school. On Tuesday, we visited Tawa Intermediate to find out more about their use of Eportfolio's (Mahara) to track teacher reflections, PRT folders and student work. The students were wonderfully articulate in explaining why they find eportfolios useful and how they balance using them at school and home. We finished with a visit to Kelburn Normal to look at their work around the key competencies, learning letters and their views on success criteria and learning intentions. Once again, it left us with lots to reflect on, the school is taking a very innovative approach to writing and have created a separate genre to encourage children to commit to paper their thoughts and ideas about their own leaning journey.

Each of the schools were fantastic places to visit. The Principals and teachers were open to us walking through classrooms and seeing their schools on a normal wet and windy Wellington day with students and teachers working as usual in their classrooms

By Lorraine Taylor, on behalf of Mamaku, Kaharoa, Kawaha Point, Otonga, Horohoro, St Marys, Rotorua Primary and Ngongotaha Schools

ARTICLES - R.I.S'S RESTRUCTURE IN SCHOOL



Reported by: Chantelle Cobby, Emma Wong, Kiana McQuade, Leah Stephenson, Phoebe Johnston, Rhyan Puha and Savani Kannan-gara.

Here at Rotorua Intermediate we are undergoing a new timetable. This timetable enables us to maximize effective use of prime learning time. We now have 3 breaks to re-energize our minds with food and exercise. Our focus of attention is enhanced because we are only focusing on one subject during one period of time. This means that we do not need to use time to re focus our attention to the next subject in a small amount of time. This new system will benefit both students and teachers in a number of ways, such as we gain focus on learning which enables us to not waste time and to get on with the tasks provided from our teachers.

8:40am – 10:15am	(1 hour 35 minute Class)
10:15am – 10:35am	(20 minute Interval)
10:35am – 11:50am	(1 hour 15 minute Class)
11:50am – 12:10pm	(20 minute Lunch)
12:10pm – 1:25pm	(1 hour 15 minute Class)
1:25pm – 2:00pm	(35 minute Student Engagement)
2:00pm – 3:00pm	(1 hour Class)

After two terms the timetable will be revised on the benefits and areas in need of change. At this time, we will be able to contribute our opinions about it. So far most students have open minded views about the timetable. Here are some positive student thoughts about the timetable.

We have a better frame of mind and longer attention span during class

Due to more frequent breaks, we are not sitting in class learning for extremely large periods of time, often losing our attention of what we are learning. With this new break system we can re-energize ourselves with food and possibly exercise, enabling us to have more of a positive learning mind for the next block.

Each student can engage with others in their own personal way

This is through the new 35 minute student engagement block, which is all about sport. Each of our 23 classes are scheduled for some sort of sport or brain extension activity, e.g. board games, uni-hockey, tug-o-war plus many more where they play against another class in a fun, non-competitive way.

More focused blocks of learning one subject

One of the many positives of the new schedule, in particular for the teachers is that we can have more of a focus on one subject, without having to change from one subject to the next in a block, meaning that we can learn as much as we possibly can. With our old blocks, half of the block was focused on one subject and then we'd have to change halfway through, which was a large challenge and often a bit of a waste of time.

Making great use of all of our time

As well as making use of our learning time, we are making use of our lunchtime and student engagement breaks and in a way are learning to manage our time even better. With these breaks we are always doing something constructive and valuable, making the most of every school day.

Extra Curricular Learning

When we first started our new timetable, there were concerns with tech, the canteen and other learning extensions; such as library and I.C.T sessions. However, all of these have worked out fine and each has been solved, meaning that our school is at its best! Students and teachers are being flexible and are trying to figure out how to manage drama, band, choir, dance and song writing.

There are still some concerns...

Less time to eat

Took us a few days to get into the swing of things so some of us were not getting to eat lunch and were going home hungry.

Play time not our own time

All our time is used for either student engagement or eating.

We have to change in and out of our P.E uniform a lot

We can't stay in our P.E uniform for the whole day so we lose about ten minutes of learning time changing.

Even though we have had some ups and downs with the new timetable it is fair to say that most students are happy that the new timetable maximizes their prime learning time.

- None at present!
- RPA Meeting dates are still to be confirmed.



FOR SALE

- **Rotorua Education Centre** - Shortly, the Education Centre will be having a “garage sale” - Watch this space for some amazing bargains :-)



THE RPA NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE:

ROTORUA EDUCATION CENTRE

The Rotorua Education Centre is an initiative of the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust and the Rotorua Principals’ Association to develop educational initiatives in local schools. The Ed Centre provides a range of services to teachers in the Rotorua District.

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