



ISSUE 1

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE ROTORUA & DISTRICT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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WHO'S ON THE EXEC BOARD

- Colin Watkins
- Roger Dempster
- Tony Pope
- Andrew Sinclair
- Bob Stiles
- Deb Epp
- Garry De Thierry
- Linda Woon
- Lynn Burrell
- Warwick Moyle

ROTORUA INTERMEDIATE WIN MATHLETICS 2009



In June this year, Matua Mark and I came up with a crazy idea to open our school 24/7 for the NZ Math week Mathletics Competition. We came first in New Zealand in 2008 and set a goal to retain our title in 2009.

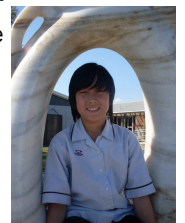
To make this event unique, we sought community sponsorship of prizes to present to our students for commitment, improvement and achievement. Mad Butcher (Fenton Street), Pak n Save, Westend New World, The Hall Family, The Wild Family, Rotorua District Council (Youth Projects), Rotorua Intermediate School and Symmonds & Ball provided food, money & prizes for our event.

We registered every student

(728) in our school and made sure their log ins and passwords were at the ready. We had just over 200 students attend school after hours and at least 60 of these students chose to sleep over. Our usual bed time was around 11.30 pm, with maybe another half hour for the moving, whispering and cell phones to stop. The first couple of mornings were 6.30am starts, and by Friday it was closer to 7.20am. Cereal, toast and Milo, and our students were back on their computers again. Luckily for us, we have a team of committed staff who volunteered their time to ensure the event was well supervised. Garry de Thierry, our Principal, stayed every night and helped our students with their Math.

After a long, fun-filled, number crunching week, we all eagerly awaited the news we wanted to hear. An email from Yvonne Blanch, 3P Learning on Wednesday 2nd September confirmed we had won and retained our title of 1st in New Zealand. We had 19 of our 24 classes in the Top 50 classes in New Zealand with one of our classes **Rutherford 1 gaining first place** (see photo). 22 of our students made the Top 100. Thank you to everyone that made this memorable event a success.

Written by Hinei Taute, Deputy Principal, Rotorua Intermediate School



Andrew Park (Rutherford 3) came 7th in New Zealand

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PD/GUEST SPEAKERS



SCHOOL/COMMUNITY/RPA EVENTS

- **Westbrook School Quiz Night** - Friday 30th October - Adults only - BYO - Teams of 6 @ \$60 per team - Heaps of Prizes - Teams come dressed in a theme - Limited to 50 teams so get your entry in early - Accept the challenge and put a staff team in!
- **WESTPAC Rotomaths Competition 2009** - Wednesday 28th October at the Sportsdrome - 5pm-7.45pm - Entry fee \$10 per team - Entries close Friday 23rd October - For an information pack and entry form, contact Serena on 027 225 7275.
- **E-DAY** - Saturday 12th September - The former Challenge Petrol Station, Te Ngae Road, Rotorua - 9am-3pm - Recycle your electronic waste - Cars only!

**“I may have not
got where I
intended to go,
but I think I
have ended up
where I
intended to be”**

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- BEST 2009** - There were 160 teachers who attended on a wet Saturday, travelling from as far away as Waitara down South, and Maramarua in the North. They heard a very informative presentation on Educating boys from David Whitehead as well as attending a wide variety of workshops presented as Beaut Examples of Successful Teaching. Well done and thank you to all of our Presenters/Helpers and attendees for making BEST 2009 the success that it was. A special Thank you to Sitech Systems Ltd for their generous sponsorship contributions. Next years BEST will focus on issues around effective integration of ICT across the curriculum.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Otonga School culminated their Matariki celebration by taking the whole school to spend a day at their marae of Tangatarua at Waiariki. The students made poi, did weaving, copied the carved designs and learned the stories of the whakapapa of the whare hui.
- Otonga School this term are exploring globalisation issues with the theme "One Light, Many Flames". The children are learning how many different cultures celebrate similar events with traditions that involve fire, candles or flames. Some of the parents have come into school to share their light festivals. The artwork created from their studies will be the focus of an art parade that is open to their families on 23rd September.

"Believe nothing, no matter where you read it, or who said it, no matter if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....

- Education Rotorua Meeting on 16th September
- Next RPA Meeting on 18th September at REC
- Lip-sync at the Blue Baths on 18th September
- Star Test Meeting on 22nd September at REC
- Next Exec Meeting on 24th September at REC
- Octobers RPA Meeting on 16th (first week back) at REC

LEAVERS/STARTERS/SECONDMENTS

- **Lynn Burrell**, Mihi School - Lynn is on secondment to the Ministry of Education - Katie McIndoe will take her place until her return.
- **Rachael Chator**, Galatea School - Rachel is leaving us to take a position at Mount View School in Taupo - She will be replaced by Debbie Atkinson from Mapiu School in Te Kuiti.



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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