



Rongotai College

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 8, Term 2, 2010

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 16 June

- Parents' Association Quiz Evening
- Football and rugby traditionals
against St Patrick's College
Silverstream

Friday 18 June

Rongotai Experience – no school for
most students

Monday 21 June

Samoa Parents' Association
meeting in the staffroom at 6.30pm

Tuesday 22 June

Rongotai College Open Evening –
no afternoon school for most
students

Thursday 24 June

Board of Trustees' Meeting, 6pm in
the Mackay Library

Friday 2 July

Last day Term 2

Monday 19 July

First day Term 3

Wednesday 28 July

Students receive Subject Selection
books for 2011

2010 TERM DATES

Term 1 Tuesday 2 February to
Thursday 1 April
Term 2 Monday 19 April to Friday
2 July
Term 3 Monday 19 July to Friday
24 September
Mid Term Break - Monday
30 August
Term 4 Monday 11 October to
Friday 10 December

We have almost reached the half-way stage of the 2010 school year, and with this newsletter we have reported to you on your son's academic progress. These mid-year reports are an important signpost, and highlight current levels of achievement, behaviour and effort. As a family, you

should discuss the contents and take the opportunity to strengthen areas of weakness in your son's learning programme. For Years 11-13 this is vital as in Term 3, there is a major focus on assessment and preparing for NCEA.

A highlight of the term occurred on Friday 4 June when the Old Boys' Association held its annual assembly and luncheon. A good number of Old Boys attended including foundation student, Mr Ernie Sellens (96 years old). Old Boys and current students enjoyed the talk by Old Boy, **Mr John Lister, O.B.E** (1952-57). Mr Lister has had a distinguished career in business as General Manager of Watties Exports, and as CEO of New Zealand CCS and latterly the Spirit of Adventure Trust. He talked about what school was like in his day, his life since leaving school, and how to make the most of your opportunities in life. For me, an over-riding message was that ordinary boys can do extraordinary things!

Another major event that you may have seen in the news involving the college was the launch of a Football Academy by one of our most famous Old Boys, **Wynton Rufer**. The Academy, which will be overseen by Wynton and a professional coach, will operate a specific Rongotai College programme at lunchtime for identified students that will focus on developing technique and skills. The Academy coach will also work with local primary and intermediate aged children with

an after-school and holiday football programme. This is an exciting development for us at Rongotai, and hopefully we will be able to operate academies in other sports in the future.

ENROLMENTS 2011

We are now entering the stage of the year where we are actively promoting our school to prospective Year 9 students for next year. The best form of advertisement is by word-of-mouth. Please tell your friends about your son's positive experiences at Rongotai College and encourage them to look closely at Rongotai College when they are choosing a secondary school for their son. Our prospectus is available from the college office.

We are presently involved with two very important events related to enrolments. The first of these is our **RONGOTAI EXPERIENCE** when we invite Year 8 boys from our contributing schools to Rongotai College to experience our school. This takes place on **Friday 18 June**. The Year 8 boys come into our school in two groups from contributing schools and spend either the morning or afternoon involved in various learning activities in different subject areas. **There will be no formal classes for your son(s) on this day although some of them will be required to help with our Rongotai Experience.**



If you require your son to attend school on this day he will be given supervised study. Please tell him to report to the office at 8.55am.

The second important event is our **OPEN EVENING** which will be held on **Tuesday 22 June**. Please encourage any of your friends who have a son in Year 7 or 8 to come into the college and experience the "Rongotai Way". The evening begins at 7pm and concludes around 8.30pm.

Departments will be setting up displays for the Open Evening from 12.30pm onwards. Some students will be required to help with this, but if your son is not required **he will be released from school at 12.30pm**.

If you require your son to stay at school for the afternoon he will be given supervised study. Please tell him to report to the office at 1.30pm.

If you have friends who are interested in Rongotai College for furthering their son's education, and would like further information subsequent to the above two events, please tell them to contact me, and I will take them on a tour of the college facilities.

SUBJECT SELECTION

Your son will receive his Subject Selection Handbook early next term. He will make subject choices for next year in Week Four. This early notification of his intentions is necessary so that we can begin planning timetable and staffing needs for the coming year.

Students are encouraged to speak to teachers, family and friends about career choices and academic courses. They can access more information by visiting the Careers Office or contacting our Careers Advisor, Mr Williams.

If you require any advice, please note Mr Williams' email address. He is happy to follow up your enquiry with information which specifically targets your questions. You can reach him at his email address:

mike.williams@rongotai.school.nz

Subject Selection Afternoon will take place on Thursday 12 August, when boys will be asked to state which subjects they want to study in 2011.

OLD BOYS ON THE WORLD STAGE

I am sure the school community will join me in wishing two of our Old Boys the very best of luck as they play in their respective World Cups over the next few weeks.

Chris Killen (1995-98) will be playing for the All Whites in the FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Chris heads into the tournament in good form, having recently scored against Australia in a warm-up match.

Julian Savea (2004-08) is currently in Argentina with the New Zealand Under-20 Rugby team, competing in the IRB Junior World Championship. Julian, older brother of current 1st XV Captain Ardie Savea, showed that, like Chris, he is in great form leading up to this tournament by scoring four tries against Tonga in a recent warm-up match.



UNIFORM

It is one of the statements of "The Rongotai Way" that boys must wear the correct uniform at all times. The winter months provide a number of challenges, as boys decide to wear a number of items that are not part of the **correct uniforms**. In particular, beanies and jackets of many different colours are sometimes worn on the way to and from school. The correct uniform does NOT include beanies, but does include black or navy blue jackets. The Uniform Shop, now located in the main reception area, has new black school jackets for sale (see Rongotai Notice Board on page 4).

If a boy is unable to wear the **complete uniform**, then he must present a note from home to the Deputy Principal when he gets to school in the morning. No discipline measures will then be taken and a chit will be issued for the appropriate number of days.

If, however, he is incorrectly dressed and has no chit, he will be given a Uniform Detention.

Three Uniform Detentions will result in a Principal's Detention and may lead to further disciplinary procedures.

We stress to all our students that wearing the uniform correctly, both in and out of the school, is visible evidence to our

community of the high standards we set and maintain at Rongotai College. I also believe in the adage "Look good Feel good".

NZQA ASSESSMENT FEES

Enclosed with this newsletter is an invoice for NZQA assessment fees for all students in Years 11, 12 and 13. NZQA fees are collected by the school on behalf of NZQA, and are not payments to the school. The last date the school will accept NZQA fees is 3 September 2010, and fees not paid by this date must be paid direct to NZQA. Fees not paid to NZQA by the due date of 17 September 2010 will incur a late payment fee of \$50 in addition to the assessment fee. Non-payment of NZQA assessment fees will mean that your son will not have any credits gained this year recognised by NZQA. These fees can be paid by automatic payment. Please contact the college office for more information.

Also enclosed are details of the NZQA financial assistance scheme and an Application for Financial Assistance form. If your son is eligible for assistance, his application form must be completed and returned to the school by 2 July 2010. If you require assistance completing the form or have questions about examination fees please contact the school.



SPORTS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

Underwater Hockey

Congratulations to Luke Bryant on his selection in the New Zealand Under 18 Boys' Underwater Hockey team.



Cross Country – Regionals

Congratulations to Hassan Roble who won the Regional Secondary Schools' Cross Country Open race recently. Although he fell at the first jump, he finished the first among a very strong field of runners. Hassan led by 40 metres for most of the race.

Barkhad Mohamed finished 4th in the Intermediate race.

The Rongotai College Intermediate three man team of Barkhad, Ciaran Ryan and Andy Hodren finished in 4th place, while the six man team of Barkhad, Ciaran, Andy, Shane Drage, Ivan Wilby and Joseph Wesley also finished in 4th place.

Grayson Poll of Year 9 also performed well.

SUPPORT

It is pleasing to see great support on the sidelines throughout all sports and grades. This support does not go unnoticed. **Thank you** and we look forward to all of your support for the rest of the season.

SPORTS FEES

Sports fees are now overdue. All students who play sport at Rongotai College are required to pay fees. If you are unsure of the amount of the fee please contact Mr Myles Scholey, Co-Curricular Co-ordinator or Mr Ross Findlay, Sports Director. Fees are to be paid to the Stationery Office immediately. Please help support sport in our

college by paying your son's fees promptly.



CULTURAL NEWS

The Music Department was pleased to welcome Ms Karen Sewell, the Secretary for Education (CEO of the Ministry of Education) into the school earlier this week. She was here to visit the Year 11 Music programme, and in particular look at composing done by boys under the mentoring of Charlotte Yates. Ms Sewell spent an hour or so with the students, and was impressed by the quality of their compositions and how they used instruments and technology to aid their compositions.



ROCKQUEST

Four Rongotai College bands entered this year - "Tilby's Team", "Yellow Boi'z", "Elm Street" and "Meat". All bands performed admirably.



FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Included with this Newsletter is a flyer about the Quiz Evening, to be held on Wednesday 16 June.

For only \$10 you can enjoy an evening of fun and challenge. Spot prizes will abound and a light supper will be served.

The maximum number in a team is eight.

Fill out the form at the bottom of the flyer and ask your son to return it to Ms Randal, email suze.randal@rongotai.school.nz or simply phone the school to reserve your place.

All proceeds will be going towards initiatives which will benefit the whole school.

REPORTS

Your son's report is included with this newsletter. Please read through it carefully with him and help him to make any adjustments to his study programme from advice and guidance offered by his teachers. **Please note that the next Parent Interview Evening will be held on Tuesday 31 August, after progress reports have been sent home.**

If you have any immediate concerns about your son's schoolwork, please contact the appropriate form level dean. The Year level deans are:

- Year 9 Mr Bill Baird
- Year 10 Mr Ross Findlay
- Year 11 Ms Joanne Gapes
- Year 12 Mr Phil Sparks
- Year 13 Mr Paul Akula

Lastly, can I remind everybody that Term 2 is not yet over, and it is not the time to drop standards of behaviour or attendance. Much important work is still happening, and boys can ill afford to miss any of the NCEA internal assessments that will be happening over the remaining weeks of the term. Last year, we noted a significant drop in attendance over the last three weeks of Term 2 as 'Swine Flu' took hold. Please keep us fully informed if your son is absent due to illness.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

RONGOTAI NOTICE BOARD



ANCHOR MILK PROMOTION

For every litre of Anchor milk you purchase at New World, Miramar or Pak'n Save, Kilbirnie (until 30 June, 2010), please give your son the receipt to bring to school. Anchor will give the college 20 cents per litre towards the purchase of sports equipment.

Receipts can be handed in to the office.

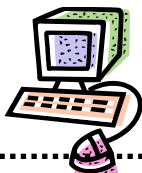
ANNUAL DONATION

You will have recently received a request for payment of the annual school donation and subject-related costs. The annual donation at Rongotai College is \$175 for the first son and \$75 for each other son. School donations paid may be claimed in your next tax return.

If you require assistance in setting up an automatic payment, please contact the college office. We are only too happy to help.

Our Operations Grant from the Ministry of Education barely covers our running expenses, making your donation essential for us to continue offering a quality education for your son.

ATTENDANCE EMAILS



The college has an email address for absences - attendance@rongotai.school.nz Please use this address as a means of advising the school of your son's absence. Please also advise the reason for his absence.

UNIFORM & STATIONERY SHOP

With the Stationery Shop and Uniform Shop now combined and adjacent to the new reception area, opening hours, during term time, are now:



Monday to Friday
8.50am to 2.50pm.

Jackets

The new school jackets (a black shell jacket) are now available from the Uniform Shop. The cost is \$75 each. The first 200 people to purchase a jacket will also receive a free pair of waterproof track pants (black) - great for training and sports trips.