



# Rongotai College

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 1, Term 3, 2010

### COMING EVENTS

**Monday 26 July**

Whanau meeting, 6.30pm in Tangi Te Keo

**Wednesday 28 July**

Subject Selection books distributed to students

**Thursday 29 July**

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

**Tuesday 3 August**

Careers Expo

**Wednesday 4 August**

Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm in the staffroom

**Thursday 12 August**

Subject selection afternoon Dance

**Monday 16 August**

Progress reports sent home Samoan Parents' Association meeting, 6.30pm in the staffroom

**Wednesday 18 August**

Poly Club fundraising concert, Renner Hall

**Monday 23 August**

Whanau meeting, 6.30pm in Tangi Te Keo

**Wednesday 25 August**

Parent Interviews 4pm to 7.30pm

**Thursday 26 August**

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

**Monday 30 August**

Mid term break (no school)

**Monday 30 August to Friday 3 September**

Winter Tournament Week

**Thursday 2 and Friday 3 September**

Cabaret production

### 2010 TERM DATES

*Term 3* Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September

*Mid Term Break* - Monday 30 August

*Term 4* Monday 11 October to Friday 10 December

Welcome to you all as we start the vital third term of the school year. This term is important for senior students in particular, as it is a term of **internal assessments for NCEA** and also of **school examinations** to prepare for NCEA externals.

### ATTENDANCE

It has been pleasing to note that over half of our students have achieved 95% or more attendance to date this year, while over 70% of students have achieved at least 90% attendance. The average for the school is currently 89%.

The main reason for me mentioning this is that international evidence suggests that **when a student's attendance drops below 90%, their learning and level of achievement declines**. This is backed up by our own research into the achievement of Rongotai boys in NCEA – in general terms, the higher the rate of attendance, the greater the number of credits earned.

We would like to work more closely with parents to improve the attendance levels of our students. In the next few weeks, we will be putting in place a system where if your son is absent from school for the first two periods each day and it has not been explained, a text or email will be sent to you to highlight his absence and ask you to explain his absence by return text or email.

Absences can be explained by telephone (939 3050) or by email ([attendance@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:attendance@rongotai.school.nz)).

### UNIFORM

Rongotai College is committed to encouraging every boy to be the

best he can be. As part of this commitment, this term we are stressing the importance of neat and tidy uniform. As I mentioned in the June newsletter, boys who wear non-regulation items or who do not wear the uniform appropriately contribute towards a poor tone in the school and present a poor image in the community. They also present a poor image of themselves.

We believe that it is the responsibility of every student to play his part by wearing his uniform with pride, and expect a neat appearance, with socks up and shirt tucked in at all times.

We ask you to ensure that your son is wearing regulation school shoes (black leather dress shoes, not sports shoes, slippers, kung-fu style shoes etc) every day and that he has an appropriate jacket (a Rongotai jacket, or a plain black jacket with no stripes, logos or writing on it). **Beanies and non-uniform caps are not part of the uniform and should not be worn.**

If your son wears dress uniform, we ask you to reinforce with him that he must look smart. Please make sure that his white shirt is large enough for it to be buttoned to the neck and that he knows how to tie his tie.

If for some reason your son cannot be in full uniform, please write a note which he can bring to the Deputy Principal who will excuse him for the day. Boys who are in incorrect uniform or who repeatedly fail to dress tidily receive detentions.

### 2011 ENROLMENTS

Our enrolments for 2011 are very encouraging. We have begun our process of organising

enrolment interviews. If you have friends who are intending to send their son to Rongotai College next year and have not yet enrolled, please ask them to do so promptly to be a part of this enrolment process.

### 2011 SUBJECT SELECTION

Your son will be given a booklet explaining subject selection for next year on **Wednesday 28 July**. Students select their subjects on Thursday 12 August. We will send you a copy of his choices by the end of the term. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your son's choice of subjects for next year, please contact his dean at the college. Our deans are:

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

### SCHOOL DANCE

We will be holding a dance on the evening of **Thursday 12 August**. The dance will start at 7pm and conclude at 10pm. **ALL SCHOOL RULES APART FROM UNIFORM RULES APPLY AT THE DANCE. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO ALCOHOL, SMOKING AND DRUGS.** Staff and prefects give up their time to supervise dances. Please inform your son that our dances are for the enjoyment of all who attend and staff and prefects should not have to spend their evening enforcing school rules.

### NZQA FEES

A reminder that NZQA assessment fees for all students in Years 11, 12 and 13 must be paid by **Friday 3 September**. An invoice was sent to you with the June Newsletter.

The fees are not just for students sitting examinations – they are a registration fee to have all credits earned this year recognised by NZQA. Non-payment results in your son not receiving any of the NZQA credits he may gain this year, and he will not receive any qualifications that might result.

Financial assistance should be claimed as soon as possible.



## CULTURAL NEWS

Congratulations to **Simon Cross** (Year 12), who has been selected as a saxophonist in the NZ Youth Jazz Orchestra. It's quite an honour, as there are only two tenor saxophone players taken from across the country.

Congratulations to the **Level 3 Drama** students for their enjoyable performance of *Macbeth* on Thursday night.



## SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to the following boys who represented New Zealand overseas during the school holidays:

- **Luke Bryant** (NZ Under-17 Underwater Hockey)
- **Sean Ford, Jed Harland, Finn O'Brien and Kel Quinn** (NZ Under-19 Handball)
- **Jerome Raemaki** (NZ Under-19 Softball)

The wet winter has disrupted many of the sporting codes and I would like to thank all the coaches, managers, parents, staff and players for your continued support, especially those whose competitions have been affected. Hopefully we can get through the remaining rounds, especially for football and rugby, and look forward to having the college represented in as many games as possible on finals day.

All of our team coaches are volunteers. As a country we probably all have a view on who should coach the All Blacks, who should be in the side and the tactics they should employ. However, on the sideline of Rongotai fixtures we would appreciate it if comments could be channelled into positive support and encouragement of our sons and their team mates on the field, rather than comments directed at coaches.

### Sports fees.

It has been disappointing to note that only 50% of all sports fees have been paid this year. I would be reluctant to withdraw teams due to there being large numbers of non-financial members, but it is something I would consider if the situation does not improve. Your contribution is needed so that we can continue to provide the best for our sports teams.

Please make every effort to pay your son's fees as soon as you can. If you wish to discuss any matters relating to fees please contact the Sports Co-ordinator ([myles.scholey@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:myles.scholey@rongotai.school.nz)) or our Director of Sports ([ross.findlay@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:ross.findlay@rongotai.school.nz)) or telephone them at the school.

Finally, it is vital that you continue to keep reminding your son of his study programme and study habits as this term progresses. His teachers and dean are available for help and advice and you should encourage him to talk to them. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your son's dean.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We would like to invite you to our next meeting on **Wednesday 4 August** at 7.30pm in the staffroom.

Please come along and meet us, have a cup of tea or coffee and hear what's happening at school from Suze Randal.

We look forward to meeting you. If you are interested in joining the Parents' Association or wish to know when future meetings are please email our secretary Christine Cross [cross.family@paradise.net.nz](mailto:cross.family@paradise.net.nz)