



Rongotai College

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 7, Term 1, 2011

COMING EVENTS

Monday 21 March

Half term holiday
Whanau Group Meeting 6pm in the Tangi Te Keo

Tuesday 22 March

Celia Lashlie presentation 7pm in the Renner Hall

Wednesday 23 March

Study Skills session
Rugby Club meeting 6pm in the staffroom

Thursday 24 March

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

Monday 28 March to Friday 1 April

Summer Tournament Week

Tuesday 29 March

Parent Interviews (surnames A-M)
4pm to 7pm

Wednesday 30 March

Parent Interviews (surnames N-Z) 4pm to 7pm

Wednesday 6 to Saturday 9 April

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" – school production

Friday 15 April

Last day Term 1

Monday 2 May

First day Term 2

2011 TERM DATES

Term 1 Tuesday 1 February to Friday 15 April
Mid Term Break - Monday 21 March
Term 2 Monday 2 May to Friday 15 July
Term 3 Monday 1 August to Friday 7 October
Mid Term Break – Friday 26 August
Term 4 Tuesday 25 October to Friday 9 December

INTERIM REPORTS

Your son's Interim Report accompanies this newsletter. This report is designed to provide you with a snapshot of your son's attitude and progress so far this year. Please take time to work

through this report with him, using it to assist him in his study programme.

The report is based on the Key Competencies of the New Zealand Curriculum. These are the skills, attitudes and values that we all need to lead productive and fulfilling lives. In this set of reports, we have reported on the following key competencies:

- **Managing Self** – relates to organising himself, completing class and homework, attending lessons, being prompt and wearing the uniform correctly.
- **Relating to Others** – showing respect for other people and their points of view
- **Participation and Contributing** – participating fully in class and school activities, and acting in responsible ways.

I have included a copy of a poster we have produced entitled "The Key Competencies – following the Rongotai Way" with this newsletter. This will give you more information relating to the Key Competencies. A copy is also available on the website.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

The report is a starting point to give you information about how your son is progressing. **It is most important that you follow this up by talking with your son's teachers about his learning and how you can best help him.** This can be done by attending Parent Interviews. Parent Interviews will be held in the Renner Hall on Tuesday 29 March (surnames beginning A – M) and Wednesday 30 March (surnames beginning N – Z) from 4pm – 7pm.

Your son is most welcome to come with you. An invitation to attend and interview booking sheet is enclosed with this mail out.

YEAR 9 OPTION CHOICES

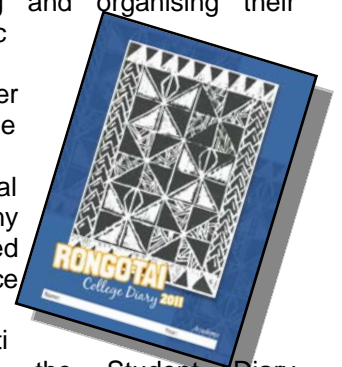
Students in Year 9 have been experiencing the range of our option subjects during the course of this term. Year 9 students will soon be issued with a form on which to enter their two option choices for the remainder of the year. Please encourage your son to discuss his option selection with you and with his teachers. If you wish to discuss your son's option choices in more depth, please contact the Year 9 Dean, (Mr Chris Fahey), your son's form teacher, or speak to option teachers who will be available at our parent interviews.

YEAR 9 PARENT EVENING

My thanks to all of you who attended the Year 9 parents' evening on Wednesday 4 March. Your support for your son's education is vital for his success. Your on-going contact with us is encouraged.

STUDENT DIARY

All students have been given a Student Diary this year, in order to provide them with a method of recording and organising their academic studies and other commitments. Traditionally many boys need assistance with organisation and the Student Diary provides a way to help.



Assignments, test dates and study to be done at home can be recorded in the diary. This provides a reminder for the boys and an opportunity for parents to know what your son's commitments are. I would encourage you to support your son with his organisation by making full use of the Student Diary.

READER / WRITERS

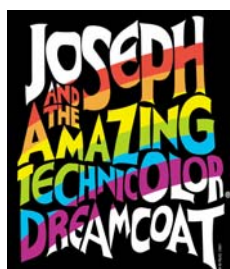
A small but vital way to help our school is to provide help to senior students needing extra assistance.

We need to find a number of reader / writers to help boys who qualify for assistance with the reading and writing of their NCEA assessments. This involves simply making clear to them what the words in the questions are, and writing down what they wish to say as an answer.

We intend to compile a list of parents and other adults able to help in this way. The longer the list is, the easier it is for all concerned. It involves a small time commitment of no more than three hours at different times of the year.

If you are able to help, or know of anyone else who may be interested, please telephone the school office.

CULTURAL NEWS



Rehearsals for this great show are well underway and the finishing touches are being put on

what will be a show packed with fantastic dance numbers, fun and humour as well as a few moving moments.

The cast consists of 45 of our boys and 15 girls from Queen Margaret College, St Catherine's College and Wellington East Girls' College, as well as a choir of boys and girls from Seatoun School.

Tickets are now available from the College Shop at \$12 for adults and \$8 for students, \$30 for a family (2 adults and 2 children, each additional child \$5). There will be limited door sales each night.



cost is \$50 a year with invoices being sent out in the first term (\$20 for first term only) then in Term Two (\$40 for rest of the year). These fees cover some of our maintenance costs.

Music Performances

Students taking Music have assessments in the next three to four weeks. You can support your son by encouraging him to put in plenty of practice at home, and perhaps even perform for the family.

School Performance Groups

It is expected that all students taking music lessons are involved in one of our extra-curricular

EVACUATION / DISASTERS

In the light of the recent earthquake in Christchurch, many parents are anxious about what would happen if an event such as a fire, large earthquake, tsunami or flood occurred in Wellington during the school day.

Rongotai College has a well developed Emergency Evacuation Procedure and holds regular evacuation drills (a copy of our evacuation procedures poster is attached for your information). The school holds stocks of food and water as well as medical equipment and blankets in case we are required to keep students safe at school. In the event of an emergency, students will be held at school and not be allowed to leave the school grounds until dismissed by the Principal or Deputy Principal, and then collected by their parents or a person listed as an emergency contact. For the safety of all, it is important in these circumstances that parents check with the school office or administration before collecting students and taking them off-site.

If and when it is deemed appropriate by the school that students need to be collected from school, this will be communicated to parents by

- An announcement that will be made on the local radio stations (Newstalk ZB, Classic Hits, More FM).
- A message left on the school phone (939 3050) asking parents to collect their children immediately.
- SMS and/or emails sent out to all parents we have email contact details for.
- A message on the school website.
- A telephone call by form teachers if it is practicable.

Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date. Please email the.principal@rongotai.school.nz if you have changed any details recently.

We are aware that many of our school community have friends and family in Christchurch and our thoughts are with them at this difficult time.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT Itinerant Programme

Music lessons are available for piano, guitar, bass, drums, voice, woodwind and brass. These lessons are very popular, meaning that they have been restricted this year to those taking option Music after Term One. The

groups. We have reduced the cost of lessons accordingly. We currently have a jazz group, a singing group/choir, and several bands preparing for RockQuest. A ukulele ensemble and barbershop quartet are beginning in Term 2. We encourage students to begin their own bands/groups. If your son would like to be involved in

any of this he should contact Mr Crayford at the Music Department.

Queries can be directed to greg.crayford@rongotai.school.nz



SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS RESULTS

Athletics

Rongotai College athletes competed recently at the Wellington Regional Athletics Championships at Newtown Park.

The following students gained places in this competition:

Ardie Savea – 1st in Senior Long Jump and 1st in Senior Triple Jump

TC Campbell – 1st in Junior Long Jump (new Rongotai record – 5.76m) and 1st in Junior Triple Jump

Tuga Mativa – 2nd in Senior 100m
Kone Aperila – 2nd in Intermediate Javelin

Denny To'o – 2nd in Junior Discus (new Rongotai record – 36.46m)

Harlem Kappely - 2nd in Junior Javelin

Hassan Roble – 3rd in Senior 3000m

David Rybinski – 4th in Senior 400m



Kone Aperila

Cycling

Congratulations to **Ari Evans** who won the match sprint, the 500m time trial and the team sprint at the recent Wellington Cycling Championships. Ari now has eight Wellington titles to his credit.

As we reach the end of the summer sports season, I would like to extend a thank you to all coaches, managers and supporters who have helped with our summer sports. Your

assistance has once again been invaluable.

Our winter sports will soon be underway. Playing sport has a huge number of benefits. Statistics show that students who are involved in sports are much more likely to experience academic success. Furthermore, playing sport enhances physical well-being, body image and self esteem. It helps students learn to set goals and to develop the self-discipline necessary to achieve them. It also teaches leadership and team-work skills and how to deal with success and disappointment. A final and very important reason for playing sport at school is that it is fun and you make good friends.

Parental support is an important contributor to success in all areas of school life, and I look forward to meeting many of you on our sidelines. When you are supporting your son, it is important to **keep your comments at all times positive and to be supportive of officials who have given up their own time so that your son can play sport.**

Please also note that by law **smoking is not permitted anywhere on school grounds.**

Coaches

To meet the continuing and expanding demands for sport in our school, Rongotai College is seeking people interested in coaching or managing winter sports teams in 2011.

We have boys competing in 24 different sports at both senior and junior levels: national, regional, local and social.

If you would like to be a part of the development and expansion of Rongotai College sport please contact Mr Ross Findlay, Sports Director, or Mr Scott Richardson, Co-Curricular Co-ordinator by phone (939 3050) or by email sport@rongotai.school.nz.

Sport Fees

Students of Rongotai College are expected to pay fees if they represent the college in sport. If you are unsure about the amount

of the fee then please contact Mr Scott Richardson, Sports Coordinator or Mr Ross Findlay, Sports Director. The fees are vital to the operation of sport, and can be paid at the Stationery Office.

Rongotai College Rugby Club

The Rongotai College Rugby Club is looking for new members. Any parents wishing to be involved are invited to a meeting on Wednesday 23 March at 6pm in the staffroom.

MA'A NONU PRESENTATION

Ma'a Nonu recently attended assembly to speak to the students and present the school with two of his All Black test jerseys, including the black jersey he wore against Australia last year and the white jersey worn against France in 2009. These jerseys will be framed and put alongside the New Zealand representative jerseys of other old boys that are on display in reception.

Ma'a is obviously proud of his old school, and engaged the boys with his talk. The messages he gave – that hard work can help turn your dreams into reality, that a good education is vital for your future and that you should stand-up and say 'NO' when you might be doing something that you know is wrong – are powerful messages that the boys can take forward with them.



Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

NOTICE BOARD

CELIA LASHLIE



Celia Lashlie will speak at Rongotai College at 7pm on Tuesday 22 March. Tickets are available from the College Shop for \$15 each. (Limited door sales will be available on the evening if not sold prior.) This is a fundraiser for the school. Tell your friends about it and bring them along – all the community are welcome.

Celia Lashlie, author of *'He'll be Ok! Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men'*, is an internationally renowned speaker, who has recently returned from a number of international speaking engagements. She has developed insight into the minds of teenage boys and what they are feeling in this period of their lives. There are challenging suggestions for parents if they want to see their sons become the good men they want them to be.

'JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT'

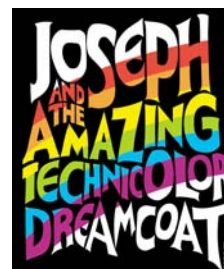
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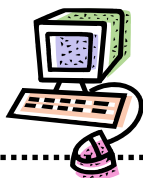
ANNUAL DONATION

You will receive a request for payment of the annual school donation and subject related costs in the next few days. The annual donation at Rongotai College is \$175 for the first son and \$75 for each other son (discounted by \$25 if paid by 31 March or an automatic payment covering this is set up before 31 March). School donations paid before 31 March may be claimed in your 2010 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 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.

COLLEGE SHOP

Opening hours of our College Shop during term time are:

Monday to Friday
8.50am to 2.50pm.

SNAPPER CARDS & STUDENT ID



Students can apply for a Snapper ID card or an ID card. Snapper ID cards cost \$20 and ID cards cost \$7. These can be ordered from Ms Randal. Payment must be made at the time of ordering. They take approximately one week to arrive.

***T*hinking**

The student is an active learner, which involves:

- *Being curious and asking relevant questions*
- *Making links and connections*
- *Solving problems*
- *Reflecting on progress and trying to improve the quality of his work*
- *Being prepared to suggest new ideas or solutions to problems*

***R*elating to Others**

The student shows respect for other people and their points of view, which involves:

- *Listening actively*
- *Contributing positively*
- *Speaking politely to others*



The Key Competencies - Following the Rongotai Way

***U*sing Language, Symbols & Text**

The student communicates effectively and appropriately, which involves:

- *Using clear language*
- *Learning and understanding the specific words of the subject and using them appropriately*
- *being able to understand and interpret texts, graphs, symbols and the visual language of his subjects*

***M*anaging Self**

The student is the best he can be in class, which involves:

- *Organising himself – has all items of equipment that he needs for learning*
- *Completing all his class and homework*
- *Attending every lesson and is on time*
- *Wearing his uniform correctly and with pride*

***P*articipating and Contributing**

The student participates fully in class and school activities, which involves:

- *Volunteering to help others out*
- *Acting in responsible ways*
- *Working and sharing with others*
- *Working cooperatively with others*

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

For Fire, Earthquake or pre-warned Tsunami

Evacuation Alarm - siren and voice requesting that you leave by nearest exit.

- Follow your teacher's instructions.
- Leave bags behind.
- Use the evacuation route for the room you are in.
- Walk quickly, **DO NOT** run.
- Assemble in form classes on the Stadium Field.
- Roll check.
- Wait for further instructions – **DO NOT** leave the school grounds unless directed to.

Earthquake

If you feel an earthquake:

- Take cover under a desk, in doorway or assume "turtle" position.
- Hold onto the legs of the desk to stop it moving away.
- **DO NOT** run outside.



When shaking stops:

- Follow your teacher's instructions.
- **DO NOT** leave the building until an evacuation is ordered by siren and voice instruction.
- ☛ If an evacuation is ordered, follow the evacuation procedures described above.
- ☛ **DO NOT** leave the school grounds unless dismissed by Principal or Deputy Principal.

Tsunami

Alarm sounds – short bursts on the bell siren followed by a continuous ringing.



Downstairs classes:

- Follow your teacher's instructions and walk quickly to the **nearest** stairwell in the main building and assemble in your designated rooms upstairs.

Upstairs classes:

- Remain where you are. Take cover.
- ☛ Stay where you are in upstairs rooms until an evacuation is ordered by siren and voice instruction. If an evacuation is ordered, follow the evacuation procedures described above. **DO NOT** leave the school grounds unless directed to.