



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 11, Term 1, 2011

### COMING EVENTS

**Friday 15 April**

Last day Term 1

**Monday 2 May**

First day Term 2

ANZAC assembly and welcome to Mr Shaun Tavernor, our new Assistant Principal

**Wednesday 4 May**

Parents' Association meeting 7.30pm in the staffroom

**Monday 23 May**

Whanau Group Meeting 6pm in Tangi Te Keo

**Thursday 26 May**

Board of Trustees' Meeting, 6pm in Tangi Te Keo

**Monday 6 June**

Queen's Birthday holiday

**Friday 10 June**

Reports posted home

**Friday 17 June**

Rongotai Experience – no school for most students

**Monday 20 June**

Whanau Group Meeting 6pm in Tangi Te Keo

**Tuesday 21 June**

Rongotai College Open Evening – no afternoon school for most students

### 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

As Term 1 comes to a close, there have been many positive things happening within our school. Reports were sent out

last month, and I was very pleased with how most of our boys have settled down. In particular, I was very pleased to see the large number of 'Excellent' and 'Very Good' comments on the Key Competencies that were given by staff.

The Parent-Teacher Interviews were also very successful. It was gratifying to see the large number of parents who attended. I am sure that those of you who did attend gained some very useful feedback on your son's progress to date.

### NCEA

No doubt at some stage over the next few weeks you will see 'league tables' for NCEA results for 2010 published in the media. I am glad to report that the results for Rongotai College will make extremely pleasing reading.

Across all areas of NCEA achievement, our results have continued to improve, making Rongotai College one of the New Zealand's most improved schools. We are now one of the highest achieving mid-to-large, Decile 6 schools.

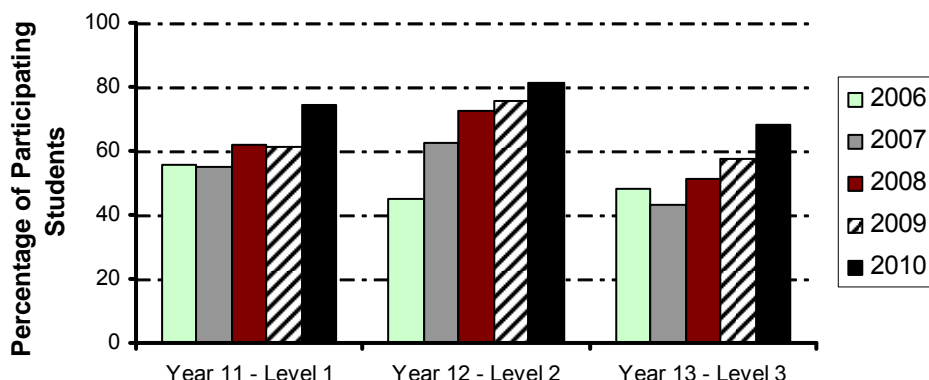
The following graph shows the NCEA achievement for Rongotai

College students 2006-2010, and it clearly shows this improvement in the students' performance. In 2010, we were extremely pleased with the results of all year groups, with the most notable improvement being for Year 11 students working at NCEA Level 1, and Year 13 students working at Level 3. At all levels, our students achieved above the level of our benchmark, and also, I might add, above the levels of some local higher decile state and integrated schools.

Another very pleasing aspect of the NCEA results was the number of students gaining endorsed certificates, which has also significantly improved again in 2010 – in fact, over 1/3 of all the Level 1 certificates gained by Rongotai College students were endorsed with Excellence or Merit. Well done, Year 11 of 2010!

This improvement is due to several factors: our students and teachers both worked hard last year with a focus of setting high standards for achievement; furthermore, our Qualifications Attainment Programme, where boys did not get the privilege of study leave until they had earned it was also successful. However, we have not lowered our standards - at Rongotai College,

**Rongotai College NCEA Achievement 2006-2010**  
**Percentage of Students Achieving NCEA**



we offer more Achievement Standards and fewer Unit Standards than most schools of a similar decile and type, because we believe this gives your son the academic challenge he needs to achieve to his potential. There can be a temptation with NCEA to construct courses made of a high number of Unit Standards which may be easier to pass, because this makes the school's results look good. **We have not been tempted to do this.**



## CULTURAL NEWS

A real highlight of the year to date has been the very successful season of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", that finished last week. We were all very impressed by the quality of performances and the wonderful way the 100 or so students in the cast, orchestra and back-stage crew from Rongotai College, Wellington East Girls' College, Queen Margaret College, St. Catherine's College and Seatoun School worked together.



*Ben Paterson, Laura Harris and Jayden Daniels*

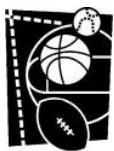
I would like to extend my congratulations to all the students who participated – their talent and their enjoyment was evident to see! There were some outstanding performances by principals Jayden Daniels, Ben Paterson (Narrator) and Shaun Bedford (Pharaoh), who were supported by a fine cast and outstanding orchestra.

Also, I extend my thanks to all the staff who gave their time so willingly and readily for the production. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Ms Tasker (Director/Producer),

Mr Crayford (Musical Director), Ms McAuley (Artistic Director) and Ms Honeyman (Stage Manager). Well done to all!



*Shaun Bedford as Pharaoh*



## SPORTS NEWS

### Congratulations to:

**Jerome Raemaki**

(Year 12) was recently named in the New Zealand Black Sox Softball team to play in North America later this year. It is an outstanding achievement for a schoolboy – let alone a Year 12 student – to be selected in a full, men's New Zealand team in a major sport.



**Luke Karini**

(Year 11) was recently named in the New Zealand Under 17 Mixed Touch Team after impressing at the National Touch Championships.



All winter sports teams are now being prepared by coaches to begin the season. It is great to see that so many students have registered to play for College teams.

### Sports Fees

Students of Rongotai College are required to pay fees when they represent the college in sport.

These fees are now due. The fees have already been invoiced, and are to be paid to the school shop. **Please note that your son will not be able to play for the school unless he has paid his fees prior to the start of the season, or you have made arrangements to pay the fees over the next few months. I do not want to be put in the position that we have to pull boys out of teams, or to default teams due to the number of boys who have not paid their fees. However, we will take such actions if we have to.**

If you are unsure about the amount of the fee then please contact Mr Scott Richardson, the Sports Co-ordinator, or Mr Ross Findlay, the Sports Director.

If you are interested in watching games at the college, or following a particular team, we post sports draws on our website each week.

Please note that under the Smoke Free Environment Act, it is against the law to smoke anywhere on school grounds.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you who are involved in supporting our college in so many ways. This ranges through various parent groups, our cultural activities, our sporting activities and support for your son's study programme at home. Please enjoy the vacation. We are all looking forward to a busy and fulfilling Term 2.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**

### PE UNIFORM

Our new PE uniform is working very well, and looks great. We know that many of you have found purchasing the shirt and shorts difficult, so have decided to allow your son to wear any royal blue or black shorts in the future.



**Noel Leeming**



*Friends & Family School Fundraiser*

# Save the date

**Tuesday 3rd - Sunday 8th May 2011  
at Noel Leeming**

You are invited to a special school fundraiser at Noel Leeming - join us for a range of fun activities, an exclusive shopping offer where proceeds benefit the school.

**FUN  
ACTIVITIES**

**PROCEEDS GO  
BACK TO THE  
SCHOOL**

**EXCLUSIVE  
SHOPPING  
OFFER**

**This Noel Leeming Friends & Family event is coming soon - so be sure to save the date so you don't miss out!**



Noel Leeming,  
the only appliance  
store with Fly Buys

If you would like to know more about this fundraising event,  
please contact your local Noel Leeming store.  
Store details can be found @ [www.noelleeming.co.nz](http://www.noelleeming.co.nz)



**Noel Leeming**

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