



Rongotai College

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 4, Term 1, 2010

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 2 March

McEvedy Shield Athletics – all students at Newtown Park
Board of Trustees' meeting, 6pm in the college's Mackay Library

Wednesday 3 March

Year 9 Parents' Evening in the Renner Hall, 7.30pm

Tuesday 9 March

Form class photographs

Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 March

Year 9 Camp

Monday 15 March

Samoan Parents' Association Annual General Meeting, 6.30pm in the college's staffroom

Wednesday 17 March

Pacific Island NCEA Level 1 Day

Friday 19 March

Interim reports sent home

Monday 22 to Friday 26 March

Summer Tournament Week

Thursday 25 March

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

Tuesday 30 March

Parent Interviews (surnames A-M)
4pm to 7.30pm

Wednesday 31 March

Parent Interviews (surnames N-Z) 4pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 1 April

Last day Term 1

Friday 2 April

Good Friday

Monday 19 April

First day Term 2

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

Term 4 Monday 11 October to Friday 10 December

Term 1 is progressing well. The school roll is currently over 660 students (an increase from 2009). I have visited a number of classes over the past few weeks, and my impression is that they have settled well, and are making good progress. May I offer my thanks to you and your son(s) for your help and co-operation in bringing this about.

At our first assembly, I briefly outlined the NCEA performance of our students in 2009. While I will give a more detailed review when NZQA releases the final results to the public in Term 2, you will be pleased to know that our students showed improvements in the percentage of students gaining:

- NCEA Level 3
- University Entrance
- NCEA Level 2
- NCEA Excellence endorsements

In all these areas, our students are performing above or at our benchmarks.

Of course, these school-wide results are the consequence of a number of individual successes. At that first assembly, we awarded Academic Excellence and Merit Awards to those students who gained endorsed certificates for NCEA.

An Academic Excellence certificate was awarded to Josh Wright (Year 13 2009 – Level 3), while the following 2009 Year 11 students were also awarded Academic Excellence Certificates: - Jake Buck, Fionn Cahill-Fleury, Simon Cross, Paresh Dayal, Saif Fawzi, Cameron Goodman-Martin, Jed Harland, Jarrod O'Brien and Joshua Rippon. Congratulations also to the large group of boys who gained Merit endorsements.

NCEA INITIATIVES

We will be putting a concerted effort into helping your son to achieve to his best in NCEA. I held an NCEA Information Evening on Tuesday of this week. Thank you to those who attended, particularly parents of Year 11 boys. I hope you found the evening informative and useful.

For those of you who did not attend the evening, it is vital that you help your son organise himself for NCEA. Included with this newsletter is a booklet(s) of all assessments taking place this year in all classes for Year 11, 12 and 13 students. Please check that your son enters all his assessments in his student diary, which was issued free to all students at the start of the year. Alternatively, if you email me at the.principal@rongotai.school.nz I can email a blank calendar that he can enter his assessments on. This can also be downloaded from the college's website

(www.rongotai.school.nz). Please encourage your son to look at his diary or calendar often and help him to organise himself to prepare for his assessments.

We have introduced initiatives such as this to maximise your son's chances of success in NCEA. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any of them further explained.

Good attendance is vital for success at school. NCEA results, for instance, clearly show a relationship between attendance and the number of credits gained. If your son cannot attend for medical or family reasons, please telephone the office between 8.00am and 9.00am, and write him a note to bring to

his form teacher when he returns to school. As an alternative, you can email details of his absence to attendance@rongotai.school.nz

HOME / SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Establishing and maintaining good communication between parents and the college is essential for your son's learning. If you have any concerns or questions, you should contact his form teacher, in the first instance. If further communication is necessary, please contact the appropriate year level dean. Our deans for 2010 are:

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

For serious concerns contact should be made with myself, Ms Suze Randal, the Deputy Principal, or Mr Tim Fox, the Assistant Principal. We welcome contact from you.

INTERIM REPORTS

Rongotai College sends home an early report on how students are progressing in all their subjects. This report is called our Interim Report and will be posted home on Friday 19 March. This will be followed by **parent interviews** on Tuesday 30 March (for surnames A – M) and Wednesday 31 March (for surnames N – Z).

REWARDING READING

In 2009, the English Department introduced the Rewarding Reading programme to encourage boys to read. Based on providing incentives, the programme was hugely successful. Over 2000 books were read by our Year 9 and 10 students last year and we gave out over 450 individual prizes ranging from Subway vouchers to school blazers.

I am pleased to announce that, with the support of the Parents' Association and Lions Club, we will once again be running the programme in 2010. This year we will be offering even more prizes for students who read.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2010

Rongotai College has a prefect system to give leadership and support to other students in the school. Our prefects have an important role and may well instruct your son to follow proper rules when this is not happening. However, their main role is to provide an example to other students and to assist with the smooth running of the school and organisation of events. We are pleased to announce our prefects for 2010:

Head Prefect

Reuben Davidson

Arts Captain

Nathan Wells

Sports Captain

Chantra Khoun

House Captains

Jordan Aquila (Renner)

Divesh Prakash (Mackay)

Prefects

Isaac Barnett

Rhys Hopkin

Deputy Head Prefect

Geordie Mansford

Deputy Arts Captain

Timmy Melesala

Deputy Sports Captain

Luke Bryant

Wei-Jie Lim (Lock)

Callan Tapine (Heron)

Michael Cook

Saumani Taimalelagi



Senior Prefects Group 2010 – from left to right: Timmy Melesala, Nathan Wells, Geordie Mansford, Reuben Davidson, Chantra Khoun, Luke Bryant

Please take an active interest in your son's reading and encourage his progress - let's see if this year's students can beat that figure of 2000 books!

YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

All parents / caregivers of Year 9 students are invited to the college on the evening of Wednesday 3 March. This evening is held to give you the opportunity to understand our college's structures and systems, so that you can best assist your son in his learning. The evening also gives you the opportunity to meet all your son's teachers and establish contact with them. The

evening will begin at 7.30pm in the college's Renner Hall.

YEAR 9 CAMP

A highlight of the year for staff and Year 9 students is Year 9 Camp, which this year will be held from Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 March. The aims of the camp are to build good team spirit and support amongst our Year 9 students and to encourage them to show leadership. Students will take part in a range of outdoor, team and confidence building activities, with an emphasis on them enjoying themselves. The cost of the camp is \$130 which includes transport, accommodation and all meals.

Information sheets regarding camp have been given to your son(s), but in case they have been lost, I have included copies of all material related to the camp with this newsletter.

YEAR 13 STUDY CLASSES

Year 13 students may leave the college during their study periods. **This applies to Year 13 students only.** They will, of course, be in uniform during this study time and normal school rules apply. All Year 13 students leaving the college during their study period must sign out at the school office.

McEVEDY SHIELD ATHLETICS

This is an annual athletics competition contested between Rongotai College, Wellington College, St Patrick's College (Town) and St Patrick's College (Silverstream). **This event will be held on Tuesday 2 March at Newtown Park. All students are required to report to Newtown Park at 8.55am on this day to compete or to support our team. Students are required to wear school uniform.**

Travel arrangements are the same as for our athletics sports. Please also make sure that your son dresses appropriately for the weather conditions, and, if it is sunny, please provide him with sun block and water to drink.

PACIFIC PROGRAMME

The annual Pacific Year 9 Family Day will be held on Saturday 20 March from 10am to midday in the Renner Hall. All are welcome, especially new Pacific students and their families.

Level 1 NCEA day for Pacific students is on 17 March. They will learn about NCEA qualifications, and goal setting and there will be guest speakers.

Aoga Afiafi (Homework Club) is held in Room B22 every Wednesday from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. All Pacific students are welcome to attend.

A Year 9 Pacific students' book club will start on Monday 8 March

at lunchtime in B22. it will run every second Monday.

Poly Club will start from Tuesday 9 March and will meet at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

SAMOAN PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Samoan Parents' Association meets every third Monday at 6.30pm in the college's staffroom. All Samoan parents are welcome to attend these meetings. The next meeting will be on Monday 15 March. Future meetings are scheduled for 15 March (AGM), 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 16 August, 20 September, 18 October and 22 November.

SPORTS NOTICES

Summer Sports

A huge thank you to the coaches and managers who have worked with our summer sports teams over the last few months. Without your support much of our success and high participation rates would not be achieved.

Winter Sports

Winter sport registration is fast approaching and, as a result, expressions of interest are being called for coaching, managing and assisting with our college teams. If you are interested in being a part of this rewarding experience, please contact our Co-Curricular Co-ordinator, Mr Myles Scholey, to register your interest.

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 Myles Scholey, Co-Curricular Coordinator or Mr Ross Findlay, Sports Director. The fees are to be paid to the Stationery Office.

Please help support sport at our college.

WEBSITE

Parents will be pleased to know that the re-development of our college website (www.rongotai.school.nz) is almost complete. Hopefully, you will find the new website

appealing and user-friendly, but most importantly, it will provide you with up-to-date information about the school and what is happening here. It should be "live" in the next few days.

BUILDING PROGRAMME

As you can see from the following images, the re-development of our main entrance is continuing. The first stage is on schedule for completion at the end of this term.



December – before alterations commenced



January



February



What it will look like when completed

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

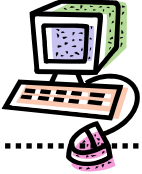
NOTICE BOARD

ANNUAL DONATION

You will receive a request for payment of 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).

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.

UNIFORM SHOP

Our Uniform Shop will be open at the college during the following hours during term time:

Mondays and Thursdays
12.30pm to 1.30pm.

The Stationery Shop will not be open during these hours.

BOOK STALL

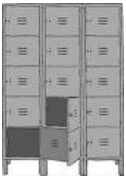
Our Librarian, Robbie Wathne, has organised a book stall for the Parent Interview Evenings on 30 and 31 March.

You will be able to buy a book and donate it to the library or buy one to take home. If you donate a book to the library you may have a bookplate with your name on it in the front of the book.

Eftpos and credit card facilities available.



STUDENT LOCKERS



The Parents' Association provides a limited number of lockers for student use. Students can hire a locker for the year by bringing \$20 to the Deputy Principal. They must provide their own padlock.

CANTEEN

The school canteen is now open with great food on offer including daily specials.



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.