



Rongotai College

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 7, Term 1, 2010

COMING EVENTS

Monday 22 to Friday 26 March
Summer Tournament Week

Wednesday 24 March
PPTA Paid Union Meeting – school finishes at 12.30pm

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
Samoan Parents' Association Meeting, 6pm in the college's staffroom

Friday 23 April
Board of Trustees nominations close

Thursday 29 April
Board of Trustees' Meeting, 6pm in the college's Mackay Library

Wednesday 5 May
Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm in the college's staffroom

Friday 7 May
Board of Trustees voting closes

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

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 Rongotai College ABCDE which identifies the five areas we believe are essential for good learning i.e.

Attend every lesson and be on time.

Bring everything you need and begin work straight away.

Complete all classwork and homework.

Do as you are asked and behave properly.

Expect to do the best that you can.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent interviews will be held on Tuesday 30 March (surnames beginning A – M) and Wednesday 31 March (surnames beginning N – Z) from 4.00pm – 7.30pm in the Renner Hall. 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.** Your son is most welcome to come with you. An invitation to attend and interview booking sheet is enclosed with this mailout.

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 Bill Baird, your son's form teacher, or speak to option teachers who will be available at our parent interviews on Tuesday 30 March and Wednesday 31 March.

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.

YEAR 9 CAMP

Our Year 9 students enjoyed the outdoor education experience at Palm Grove Camp over the days 10-12 March. Students participated enthusiastically in the range of activities provided by camp staff and our teachers and supporters. I would like to thank all our staff and the parents who attended and helped at camp, and in particular would like to mention to Mr Bill Baird (Year 9 Dean) and Mr Tim Fox (Assistant Principal), who organised the camp.

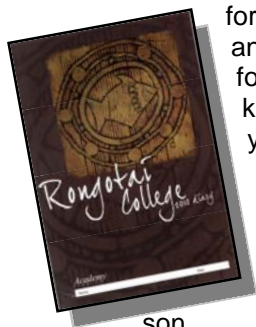


STUDENT DIARY

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 academic 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 Year 11, 12 and 13 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

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 cost is \$80 a year with

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS, 2010

Elections for the Board of Trustees are being held in May 2010.

Rongotai College has been well governed in recent years, and we have been fortunate to have had continuity on the board. However this year, most of the members of our current board are standing down, as their sons have now left the college.

For the continuing good governance of the college it is necessary to have trustees with a wide range of skills, experiences and perspectives. We encourage all parents and caregivers to consider if they are able to participate in this important process. There are three ways you can participate:

- Standing for election
- Nominating someone for election
- Voting in the election.

Please consider how you are going to participate. For those considering or intending to stand (or even having a curiosity as to what is involved) please feel free to contact any member of the board via the school.

A nomination form and covering notice will be posted to all eligible voters in the week beginning 22 March. Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office. Nominations close at noon on Friday 23 April 2010 and may be accompanied by a signed candidate's statement (*up to 400 words*). Voting papers will be distributed by 28 April, and voting closes on 7 May.

invoices being sent out in the first term (\$20 for first term only) then in Term Two (\$60 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

We currently have a jazz group, a singing group/choir, a barbershop quartet and several bands preparing for RockQuest. If your son would like to be involved in any of these he should contact Mr Crayford at the Music department.

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



SPORTS NEWS

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 2010.

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 Myles Scholey, Co-Curricular Co-ordinator by phone (939 3050) or by email sport@rongotai.school.nz.

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.

Chantra Khoun – 1st in Senior Long Jump.
Hassan Roble – 3rd in Senior 3000m

Canoe Polo

Our Canoe Polo team won the Regional Tournament last week,

beating Wairarapa College 5-4 in the final. Congratulations.

Cricket

Well done to Oliver Fredrickson of the Year 10 team, who scored an impressive 107 in their recent game against Wellington College.

Dragon Boating

After having their day cancelled due to the tsunami warning, the regatta was rescheduled to the following week. Rongotai College paddled their way to win the Petite Final.



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, 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.

WEBSITE

Parents will be pleased to know

that our new website is now live. (www.rongotai.school.nz).



Hopefully, you will find it appealing and user-friendly, but most importantly, a resource of up-to-date information about the school and what is happening here. Your feedback on the website would be appreciated.

BUILDING PROGRAMME

Stage 1 of our renovation programme is due open at the start of Term 2. The main reception and school shop (stationery and uniform) will be located in this Administration Centre. Stage 2, involving the renovation of the Senior Management Suite, will begin during the holidays.

We apologise for any inconvenience that this has caused, but we are sure that the end result will be worth it!



March



What the Administration Centre will look like on completion.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

PPTA PAID UNION MEETING Wednesday 24 March

The Board of Trustees has been advised by the Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA) that there will be a meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 24 March involving all members of the PPTA. This is an entitlement under their Collective Employment Contract and it impacts on the teachers at Rongotai College.

Please note that normal timetabled classes will not operate from 1.30pm on Wednesday 24 March due to this PPTA Paid Union Meeting, and your son will be excused from attending the college in the afternoon. Students will be released at 12.30pm for the day.

Classroom supervision will be provided by teachers who are not PPTA Union Members so the college will remain open for instruction. Should you require your son to be supervised please contact the office by email (the.principal@rongotai.school.nz) or by phone (9393050), so we are aware of your requirement for us to supervise your son during the afternoon.

The buses will run as normal at 3.30pm so if your son travels by bus, in order to return home earlier in the day, you will need to arrange alternative transport, or he may travel home at 3.30pm as usual.

NOTICE BOARD

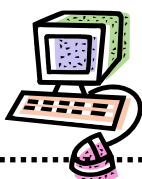
ANNUAL DONATION

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 2009 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.

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.



Jackets

The new school jackets (a black shell jacket) will be available from the Uniform shop from the beginning of Term 2. 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.

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 will be available.



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.