



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

March, 2019

COMING EVENTS

Monday 11 March

Class photographs taken

Wednesday 13 March

Parents' Association Meeting at 7.30pm in the staffroom

Monday 18 March

Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi meeting, 6.30pm in the staffroom

Wednesday 20 March

Careers Expo

Tuesday 19 & Thursday 21 March

Parent interviews 2pm to 7.30pm
School finishes at 12.30pm on these days

Monday 25 to Friday 29 March

Summer Tournament Week

Thursday 28 March

Board of Trustees' Meeting at 6pm in the staffroom

Wednesday 10 April

Parents' Association Meeting at 7.30pm in the staffroom

Friday 12 April

Last day of Term 1

Monday 29 April

First day of Term 2

Wednesday 8, Thursday 9, Friday 10 & Saturday 11 May

The Wizard of Oz, 7.30pm in the Renner Hall

2019 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 28 January to Friday 12 April

Term 2: Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July

Term 3: Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September

Term 4: Monday 14 October to Friday 6 December

We are now well into what is proving to be a busy Term One, and you will be pleased to know that our boys are settled and working well.

Visitors have commented on the very good atmosphere around the school. It was great to see so many parents at our Year 9 Parents' Evening.

INTERIM REPORTS

Your son's Interim Report accompanies this newsletter. It 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 the report with him, using it to assist him in his study programme. Copies of reports will also be available on the Parent Portal.

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.

Also included in your son's report is his academic goal for this year. Please read what your son has written and discuss his goals for this year with him.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent interviews will be held on Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 March

in 5 minute intervals from 2pm to 7.30pm. Students will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm on those two days as no formal classes will be held in the afternoons.

Parent interviews can be booked on-line. This can be done by going to the website www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and entering the event code **ehq3z** (for Rongotai College). You will need to know from your son (or from the parent portal) the subjects your son is studying and who his teachers are.

PARENT PORTAL

The Parent Portal allows you, via a secure log-in from the website, to check your son's attendance, personal details, results and groups with which he has registered. Daily notices are also found on the Parent Portal. Login information regarding our Rongotai Parent Portal for parents of Year 9 students was emailed to all new parents in early-February.

If your son is in Year 10-13 and you do not have access details to the Parent Portal, please email the.principal@rongotai.school.nz or contact the college office who will arrange for these details to be sent to you.

STAFF NEWS

Mr Regan McNab joined our staff recently as the teacher of Hospitality. Mr McNab has recently returned home from the UK with his family.



ACADEMIC NEWS

NZ SCHOLARSHIP

NZQA have released NZ Scholarship results. Four boys were awarded NZ Scholarships. Congratulations to **Angad Chauhan** (Statistics), **Ollie Galvin** (History), **Ethan Mills** (Biology) and **Tom van Lierop** (Geography) on gaining this prestigious award.

STEVENSON MEDAL

Congratulations to **Jonathan Reddell** who was awarded the Stevenson Medal recently at assembly. The Stevenson Medal is awarded annually to the top student in Level 1 Science. It is named after Rongotai College Old Boy, David Stevenson, an Astrophysicist at CalTech in the USA.



NCEA INFORMATION

By now, your son should have received an Assessment Statement in either paper or digital form from each of his teachers if he is studying for NCEA. These outline when all assessments are taking place. Copies of all the Level 1, 2 and 3 statements will be able to be downloaded from the website next week.

Please check that your son enters all his assessments in his diary or year planner. Alternatively, you can download a blank 'assessment calendar' from our 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.

CAREERS EXPO

Rongotai College will be holding its own Careers Expo on Wednesday 20 March. Each year level will have the opportunity during the day to visit this expo which will be held in the Renner Hall.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

The Rongotai College Board of Trustees meets regularly to provide governance oversight of the school. BOT elections occur this year in June and you will receive a nomination form in the mail in early May. Please consider standing or supporting someone to stand for the Board. Some of the current members are leaving the Board, so there will be new members elected. There are many skills that a Board requires so please offer yours.

People who want to understand what school governance looks like can attend a meeting which will be facilitated by a regional adviser from NZSTA (New Zealand Student Trustees' Association) who will talk about the reality of being a trustee, the support and training that is available and encourage existing trustees to tell their story. In the greater Wellington area these meetings are on 11 March at Hutt Valley High School, 19 March at Newlands Primary School, 1 April at Wellington High School. All meetings commence at 6pm.



CULTURAL NEWS

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Rehearsals have begun for the 2019 Rongotai College production of "The Wizard of Oz".

Mark this event in your diary now – show dates will be Wednesday 8, Thursday 9, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 May starting at 7pm in the college's Renner Hall.

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 1 April from the college shop - come and see our rendition of the show we all love! Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and students.

Opportunities still exist for students to play in the orchestra for this production. If you wish to be involved, or to know more, please see Mr Crayford or Miss Lindsay in the Music Department.

During the shows we will have raffles to sell, to assist with the

costs of the production. If you are able to donate vouchers or goods that could be included in the raffle, your donation would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be handed to Ms Honeyman.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Itinerant Programme

Music lessons are available for piano, keyboards, guitar, bass, drums, voice, woodwind and brass. Lessons are \$100 a year. This compulsory fee will be added to your school invoice and must be paid before Term One ends.

If you're interested in signing up, be quick! These are always very popular and from Term Two onwards are usually restricted to Music option students.

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

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to **Hamish Goodhue** (Year 13) who was recently awarded the Muriel May Musical Performance



Scholarship. This is a scholarship which provides \$10,000 towards tertiary study. To gain the scholarship, Hamish performed at a concert in New Plymouth and was subsequently chosen to be the recipient by an independent judge.



SPORTS NEWS

Summer sports are well underway and we are being represented in 13 different summer codes.

Winter sports registration will take place from 7 March after which trials and preseason trainings for most teams will begin.

Summer Tournament Week

Good luck to the nine teams who will be participating in summer tournament week:

- **Basketball 3x3 Junior** – Tauranga, 27-29 March
- **Basketball 3x3 Senior** – Tauranga, 27-29 March
- **Cricket** – Wellington Cricket 20/20 Tournament, 25-27 March
- **Floorball (Junior)** – ASB Stadium, 30 & 31 March
- **Floorball (Senior)** – ASB Stadium, 30 & 31 March
- **Futsal (Junior)** – ASB Stadium, Wellington, 27-29 March
- **Futsal (Senior)** – ASB Stadium, Wellington, 27-29 March
- **Softball** – Mizuno Ballpark, Christchurch, 25-29 March
- **Waka Ama** – Rotorua, 26-30 March.

Athletics

Athletics is a major focus of the summer and it started off with the Rongotai Inter-House Athletics Day on 4 February at Newtown Park. Renner was crowned as the overall house champions, with Heron in second place, and Lock in third, Mackay was fourth.



Athletics Finals Day

Athletics Finals Day was held on Tuesday 12 February, and saw

selected athletes compete at Newtown Park.



There were many highlights with some very determined athletes hitting personal best results.

Well done to all competitors and a special thank you to the staff and prefects who helped make this day a success.

McEvedy Shield

Rongotai College hosted the 97th Annual McEvedy Shield athletics competition on Tuesday 5 March, at Newtown Park. The overall result for Rongotai was an improvement on 2018 and our students performed to the best of their abilities, giving it their all on the day.

I would like to thank the coaches and managers from our staff for their dedication to improving the result, and we look forward to another improvement in 2020.

I would also like to thank staff and our student volunteers for their excellent organisation and running of the event on the day – the feedback on their work has been extremely positive.



Volleyball

Our senior volleyball team recently competed in the Wellington Regional tournament. The team won its three pool matches then lost a hard-fought quarter-final to Mana College in 5 close sets. The team finished in 7th place.



SPORTING SUCCESSES

Basketball

Congratulations to **Riley Manu** who has been named in the Under 13 New Zealand Basketball Academy to travel to Las Vegas in July to participate in two tournaments.



Cricket

Congratulations to Captain of Cricket **Bevan Cox** (Year 12) who is having a great season with the bat, scoring 327 runs in his six innings to date, at an average of 65.40.



Bevan recently scored 138 NO for the 1st XI against St Patrick's College, and then followed this up three days later by scoring 94 in the first innings of the two day traditional against Wairarapa College, and taking 5-15 in Wairarapa's first innings, leading the 1st XI to a win by an innings and 25 runs.

Floorball

Four of our students will compete in the Under 19 World Floorball Championships in Canada in May. Congratulations to **Jack Cobden-Cox, Liam Fisher, Jackson Lewis and Alex Stewart.**



Jack Cobden-Cox



Liam Fisher



Jackson Lewis



Alec Stewart

Softball

Congratulations to **Ciaran Bolger** and **Dylan Jackson** who have both been named in the New Zealand Junior Men's Softball World Championship squad.



Ciaran Bolger



Dylan Jackson

FEES and DONATIONS

You may be aware that our funding from the Ministry of Education barely covers our running expenses and in fact, this year there has been no substantial increase in government operational funding to schools. Community support is therefore essential for us to continue offering a high quality education for your son.

Enclosed as part of this newsletter, is a request for payment of the annual school donation and a range of other subject and activity-related costs. The annual donation at Rongotai College for 2019 is \$300 for the first son and \$200 for each other son. School donations paid before 31 March may be claimed in your 2018-19 tax return.

If you require assistance in setting up an automatic payment, please contact the college office. We are only too happy to help.

RAILWAY STATION BUS CONNECTIONS

We have a number of boys who commute by bus from the Railway Station. Recent changes in bus services have led to congestion on the Number 3 public bus, resulting in some boys arriving at school late.

Metlink has advised that the dedicated school bus service 751, departing from the Old Government Building stop at 8.15am and 8.16am are the best solutions, arriving at Rongotai College grounds 8:40am.

We ask that you encourage your son to use this service to ensure he arrives at school on time.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

Homestays Required

Do you have a spare room and would like to host an international student attending Rongotai College and earn you some money?

Join our homestay community and become part of our international student family. We are looking for warm, safe and supportive homestays within a 25 minute bus ride or walk to Rongotai College.

Our hosts come from all walks of life: young / old, singles, couples / families with children, male and female. From late January to early December and for 4 weeks to 11 months.

If you have a spare room in your home, sign up today for possible choices and start hosting international students attending Rongotai College! Enquiries to: international@rongotai.school.nz

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