



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 6, Term 1, 2018

COMING EVENTS

Monday 12 March

Class photographs taken

Saturday/Sunday 17/18 March

Relay for Life – Frank Kitts Park

Monday 19 to Friday 23 March

Summer Tournament Week

Tuesday 27 & Wednesday 28 March

Parent Interviews in the Renner Hall

Thursday 29 March

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

Friday 30 March

Good Friday – Easter holiday

Monday & Tuesday 2 & 3 April

Easter holiday

Friday 13 April

Last day of Term 1

Monday 30 April

First day of Term 2

2018 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 29 January to Friday 13 April

Term 2: Monday 30 April to Friday 6 July

Term 3: Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September

Term 4: Monday 15 October to Friday 7 December

We are now just over half way through Term 1, and despite distractions caused by sports, field trips and the hot weather, the school is settled and the boys are working well. Teachers have provided feedback on how your son is progressing in his Interim Report, which is included in this mailout.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

It is important that you follow up these reports 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 which will be held in the Renner Hall on **Tuesday 27 March** (surnames beginning A – M) and **Wednesday 28 March** (surnames beginning N – Z) from 4.30pm – 8pm.

We encourage your son to come with you. An invitation to attend and an interview booking sheet was enclosed with his report last week. If you have lost yours, you can download another from the website.

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.

If 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.



ACADEMIC NEWS

SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

It is a busy time for senior students in the Social Sciences department.

In preparation for their assessment on Shark Cage Diving in Stewart Island, our **Level One Geography** students recently had a presentation from NIWA marine biologist Warrick Lyon. Warrick shared his research on Great White Sharks that roam the waters around the island. He revealed this research has a link to Rongotai College: one of the sharks tagged and tracked by Warrick is called Dave, named after his dad, Dave

Lyon, an old boy who attended the school in the 1950s.



(from left) Neenab Isaac, Evyatar Tabor and Warrick Lyon

On Sunday 11 March, **Level Two Geography** students will travel to Turangi for several days. In addition to completing the Tongariro Crossing, they will undertake two days of fieldwork on the geography of the Tongariro volcanic environment for two Achievement Standards.

At the end of the term, a group of **Year 12 and 13 Geography and History** students will travel to Vietnam and Cambodia for a trip they have been planning since early 2017.



CULTURAL NEWS

RONGOTAI COLLEGE BIG BAND

The Rongotai College Big Band will perform at the Kilbirnie Fair this weekend. Their performance will be in the St Patrick's College hall at midday on Sunday.

As a fundraiser for their upcoming trip to the National Youth Jazz Competition in Tauranga, they will be selling raffle tickets at the parent interviews. Remember to bring cash with you! Tickets are \$5 each. Prizes include vouchers for Capitol

Restaurant, The Larder, The Realm Restaurant & Bar, The Old Bailey Restaurant & Bar, Noble Rot Wine Bar, Carello Del Gelato, a gourmet food hamper from On-Trays, Mojo Coffee, Next Stop Earth Florist and bottles of wine.



SPORTS NEWS

Registrations for winter sports are now open. Please register as soon as possible as trials and preseason trainings for most teams are beginning.

McEVEDY SHIELD

Rongotai College hosted the 94th Annual McEvedy Shield athletics competition on Tuesday 6 March, at Newtown Park. While the overall result didn't go the way we would have wanted it to, our students performed to the best of their ability and gave it their all.

I would like to thank the coaches and managers from our staff and community for their dedication.

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 has been extremely positive.



BASKETBALL

Jaylin To'o has been named in the New Zealand Under 17 Basketball team to play in the Asian Championship from 2-8 April in Foshan, China. Congratulations Jaylin!



SOFTBALL

Congratulations to our senior softball team on winning the Wellington Regional tournament, which qualifies them to attend the national tournament. They went through unbeaten, winning the final 5-1 over St Pat's Silverstream.



VOLLEYBALL

Our senior volleyball team recently competed in the Wellington Regional tournament. The team won its three pool matches and a quarter-final against St Pat's Town. After losing a hard-fought semi-final to St Pat's Silverstream in 5 close sets, the team went on to beat Porirua College and finish in third place. They have now qualified for the national tournament. Congratulations also to **Steven Va'a** for being named in the tournament team.



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 2018 is \$300 for the first son and \$200 for each other son. School donations paid

before 31 March may be claimed in your 2017-18 tax return.

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

UP-COMING EVENTS

Waka Ama

Saturday 10 March, the Waka Ama boys will compete in the regional competition on Porirua Harbour. Racing starts at 10am.

Dragon Boating

Sunday 11 March, Rongotai College will have two boats competing in the dragon boat regatta at Lambton Harbour.

Relay for Life

200+ boys will participate in this fundraising event for the Cancer Society over the weekend Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March at Frank Kitts Park.

Summer Tournament Week

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

- **Basketball 3x3 Junior** 3x3 – Tauranga, 22-24 March
- **Basketball 3x3 Senior** – Tauranga, 22-24 March
- **Croquet** – Lower Hutt, 21 March
- **Floorball** – Walter Nash Stadium, 24 & 25 March
- **Futsal** – ASB Stadium, Wellington, 19-23 March
- **Softball** – Fraser Park, Hutt Valley, 19-23 March
- **Volleyball** – Palmerston North, 18-23 March
- **Waka Ama** – Rotorua, 20-23 March.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL