



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 11 (April) Term 1, 2022

COMING EVENTS

Thursday 14 April
Last day of Term 1

Friday 15 April
Good Friday

Monday 25 April
ANZAC Day

Monday 2 May
First day of Term 2

Friday 6 May
School Cross-Country

Wednesday 11 May
Parents' Association Meeting at 7.30pm
in the staffroom

Monday 16 May
Rongotai College Pasifika Parents'
Asosi at 6.30pm in the staffroom

Thursday 19 May
Teacher only day - NCEA

Thursday 26 May
Board of Trustees' meeting at 6pm
in the Mackay Library
Parents' Association Quiz Evening

Monday 6 June
Queen's Birthday holiday

Friday 10 June
Rongotai Experience

Tuesday 14 June
Open Evening

snapshot of your son's attitude and progress so far this year. Copies of reports are also available on the Parent Portal.

NCEA RESULTS 2021

NZQA have now released the confirmed NCEA results for 2021. You will be pleased to hear that NCEA results for our school were significantly higher than boys attending all the higher decile Wellington co-educational schools, and also exceeded the achievement of boys in similar schools nationally and also all boys nationally.

We are delighted with the continued improvement in achievement of our students across all NCEA levels, and I congratulate our 2021 cohort and their teachers for the outstanding results.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

With the cooler months approaching it is timely to remind you that it is expected that your son will wear his uniform in a correct manner and with pride. This means that only black jackets are permissible and NO HOODIES of any description (including those with Rongotai logos on them are allowed). Rongotai College puffer

THURSDAY 19 MAY is a teacher only day for all college students in the Greater Wellington area, as teachers get up-dated on future changes to NCEA. Therefore there is no school for all students.

and school jackets are available for purchase from the college shop.

YEAR 9 OPTION CHOICES

During Term 1, Year 9 students have had the opportunity to experience the range of our option subjects, prior to selecting their two option choices for the remainder of the year. These option subjects will start at the beginning of Term 2. If you have any questions about options or wish to discuss your son's choices, please contact the Year 9 Dean (Mrs Rawlings) or your son's form teacher.

PHYS ED UNIFORM

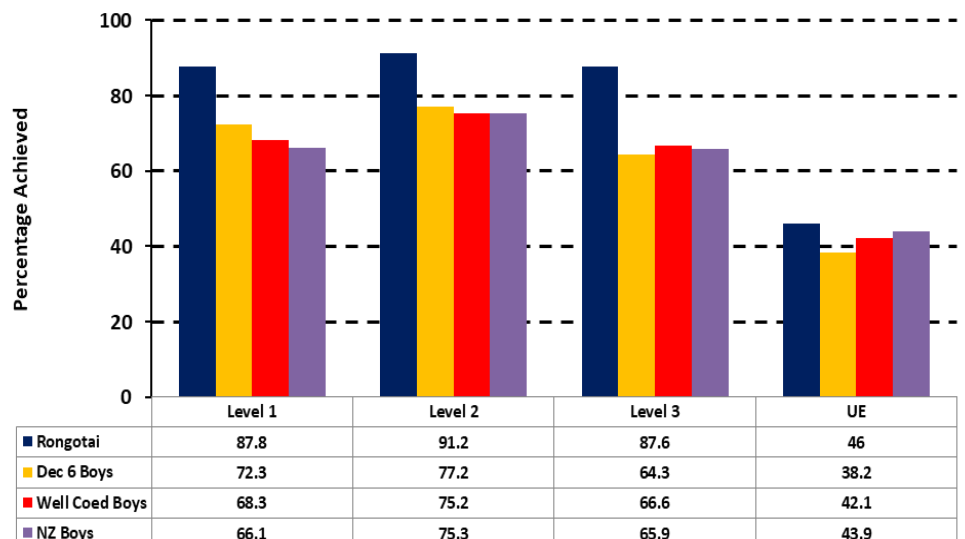
All Year 9, 10 and 11 students are required to wear the Physical Education uniform. This consists of the school PE top and blue shorts. It has been pleasing to see the majority of students are wearing

As we come to the end of Term 1, it is a good time to take stock and reflect on what has been a difficult and somewhat disruptive term.

Overall, most students settled down to work well during Term 1 and have made good progress. Many kept up with their work well while isolating by using GOOGLE Classroom effectively.

Teachers have reported on your son's progress, and his school report is included with this Newsletter. These reports are designed to provide you with a

Boys NCEA Achievement, 2021



theirs. Students who have yet to purchase the Physical Education uniform are required to purchase theirs from the college shop as soon as possible. If there are any issues in meeting this expectation, please communicate this to your son's PE teacher or Dean. I encourage your son to label their uniform so that it is easily identifiable.

TE RAMA 2021

The decision was made to produce Te Rama in the first term of each school year. This way we can include in it such things as the prize winners, Year 10 camp and other things that happen at the end of the year and usually miss out on making the Te Rama. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the 2021 edition will be available for distribution early in Term 2.

ACADEMIC NEWS

NCEA INFORMATION

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

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. Please encourage your son to look at his diary or calendar often and help him to organise himself to prepare for his assessments.

REWARDING READING

The Year 9 Rewarding Reading programme has got off to a great start in 2022 with many of the students earning their first reward, the Rongotai College water bottle.

We are pleased to have local business, Burkes Cycles as the sponsor of these water bottles.

The water bottle reward runs all year so all Year 9's have the

potential to earn one during 2022. We appreciate the continued support from families with the Rewarding Reading programme. Thanks Burkes Cycles!!



(from left) Max Gregory, Boone Houghton, Mr Armstrong, Mane Tulili and Rawiri Taana-Wilson

CAREERS

You may like to visit the Careers Department website for more information about career planning, tertiary studies, apprenticeships and more.

<https://sites.google.com/rongotai.school.nz/careers-rc/home>

HOMEWORK HUB

A number of teachers run a very successful Homework Hub. This takes place after school, in the Library, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (with a Maths focus on Wednesdays). All students are welcome to attend, to do their homework or revise, with teachers present to help when needed.

HOMEWORK HUB

After school in the library
Tuesdays + Wednesdays

Come along to do your homework or revise - all are welcome



SERVICE NEWS

BLOOD DONATIONS

As part of our service to the community, we had NZ Blood Service visit the college earlier this term. Staff and students (16 years or older) were invited to donate blood. This has now become a regular event at Rongotai College.



SPORTS NEWS

The summer sport season has now concluded.

ATHLETICS

Xavior Sola represented Wellington in the U18 Men's at the 2022 NZ National Championship held in Hastings competing in the Shot Put and Discus.

This was Xavior's first ever Nationals and he competed against New Zealand's best who were 2-3 years older than him. He finished 4th in the Shot Put and 5th in the Discus with a PB throw of 39.58m with a 1.5kg Discus.



Xavior is now ranked 8th in New Zealand in the U18 Youth grade in the Discus at the age of 14!

Congratulations to **Desmond Reddy** who won the U13 1500m Wellington Open Championships at Newtown Park recently.



FENCING

Congratulations to **Sidney Tickle** who won the Fencing Central U15 and U17 Championships, hosted at Rongotai College.

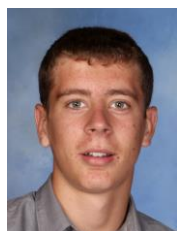


Also congratulations to **Ethan Cui** who won the Mixed Cadet Foil at the Regional Cadet Championships recently.

Thank you to coaches Vicci Lamb and Daniel Chan who also run the Rongotai College fencing programme on Saturdays in the school hall.

SOFTBALL

Congratulations to **Cooper McCuan** and **Rylan Stephen** who were named in the Under 15 New Zealand Softball squad.



SUMMER TOURNAMENT WEEK

This year Summer Tournament Week was a little different due to COVID restrictions and the events being reduced to Regional ones. Our Junior and Senior Futsal teams had a series of quality games, some being high scoring, and finishing second and sixth overall. The Juniors lost to a polished St Pat's Town team 1-4 in the final.

Our Senior Volleyball team travelled to Porirua and after dropping the first game and sitting in the bottom half of the draw, they went on to win all their remaining games to finish ninth.

The 1st XI Cricket team played in the Wanderers Premier T20 Hunt Trophy at the Petone Rec. It was a tough few days for the boys against some quality opposition. The boys had moments of quality but not enough consistency and finished ninth equal.

SPORTS 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 Hemant Lala, Sports Director. The fees are vital to the operation of sport, and can be paid online or at the college shop. All summer codes fees **MUST** be paid prior to participation in winter sport.

PROACTIVE PHYSIO

The physio will be back at school in Terms 2 and 3. Physio appointments will be on Tuesdays beginning in the first week of next term. Boys with injuries are encouraged to make an appointment through the school office. The service is free and we are grateful for the continued support of Proactive.

SPORTS COACHES

We would like to thank and acknowledge all the sport volunteers who have helped make sport possible in Term 1. Parent and staff support continues to be the driving force behind sport and without it, sport simply would not exist. Every parent who coaches, manages, transports or helps in any capacity, is appreciated and we sincerely thank you for your support.

Whether playing sport for fun with friends or competitively, it remains an important part of life at Rongotai College and it was great to again see such high sport participation rates in Term 1. We hope all boys play at least one sport each year and it is not too late if your son hasn't registered for winter 2022. Please contact our Sports Department (sport@rongotai.school.nz), to discuss what might be a good fit for your son and appeal to his interests.

Thank you to all those who have offered to help in winter too. We still need more volunteers so please contact the sports office if you can coach, referee, manage or help with transport in any of our winter codes.

We have boys competing in over 30 different sports at both senior and junior levels nationally, regionally, locally and socially.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. We understand that for a range of reasons, boys may not come to school having had an appropriate breakfast. Consequently, we have partnered with Fonterra and Sanitarium (as part of their "Kick Start" programme) to provide breakfast for boys who require it in the Hospitality Room each morning.

Boys are able to have breakfast from 8am each morning. Weet-Bix and milk are free, and boys can purchase toast if they choose to.

We hope this allows all our students to have a 'Kick Start Breakfast' each day.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday and best wishes for Term 2!

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

2023 TERM DATES

The Board recently confirmed the following dates for 2023:

- Term 1** Monday 30 January to Thursday 6 April
- Term 2** Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June
- Term 3** Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September
- Term 4** Monday 9 October to Friday 8 December

FEES AND PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

You will have already received an invoice for payment of a range of fees and school contributions. Thanks to all those families who have already paid these.

Your fees and donations are important, as our Operations Grant from the Ministry of Education only just covers our running expenses, making your annual donation essential for us to continue offering a high quality, well-resourced education for your son(s). Your contributions help us to fund additional Teacher Aides for in-class support of students, admin support and equipment for sports (including uniforms) and resources used in classrooms. Your contributions have allowed the school to spend considerable sums of money in recent years in ICT infrastructure to meet the needs of 21st century learning. For example, we have purchased a number of laptops and over 135 chromebooks for students to use in class if they do not have one.

When invoices are sent they include a number of compulsory fees (for example, costs associated with particular subjects and sports fees). The invoice also has a request for payment of the annual school donation. The annual donation at Rongotai College is \$300 for the first son and \$200 for each other son. School donations paid now may be claimed in your 2022 tax return.

Many families opt to set up an automatic payment to spread the cost of their fees and donations. If you require assistance in setting up an automatic payment, please contact the college office. We are only too happy to help.

Some of our families cannot afford to pay fees, and if you would like to support another family by making a further donation on their behalf, it would be much appreciated.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Rongotai College has Emergency Evacuation Procedures which have been developed with input and feedback from Civil Defence. We hold regular evacuation drills and have outlined our procedures for students.

In the event of an emergency such as major destructive earthquake or fire at the school, students will be held at school and not be allowed to leave the school grounds until dismissed by myself or a Deputy Principal acting on behalf of the Principal, and a decision made if they can go home directly or if they should be collected by their parents or a person listed as an emergency contact. For the safety of all, it is important in these circumstances that parents check with the school office or administration before collecting students and taking them off-site. The school holds stocks of water as well as medical equipment and blankets in case we are required to keep students safe at school and a skeleton staff will remain with the students.

In the case of an evacuation for a tsunami, our procedure will be to evacuate to the west, heading to Melrose Park, where toilet facilities are available. Again, a skeleton staff will remain with students until they are collected by parents.

If and when it is deemed appropriate by the school that students need to be collected from either the school (in the event of an earthquake) or Melrose Park (following a tsunami evacuation), this will be communicated to parents by:

- An announcement that will be made on the local radio stations (Newstalk ZB, The Hits, More FM).
- A message left on the school phone (939 3050) asking parents to collect their children immediately.
- If we have access to our servers, we will send a SMS and/or emails to all parents for whom we have cell phone or email contact details.
- A message sent via the school calendar app.
- A message on the school website and Facebook page
- A telephone call by form teachers if it is practicable.

RONGOTAI COLLEGE

170 Coutts St, Kilbirnie, Wellington
PO Box 14-063, Kilbirnie, Wellington, 6022
PHONE: +64 4 939 3050
EMAIL: the.principal@rongotai.school.nz



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