



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

3 March, 2023
Week 5, Term 1

COMING EVENTS

Monday 6 March

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

Tuesday 7 March

McEvedy Memorial Shield Athletics at Newtown Park

Wednesday 8 March

Whānau Hui, 6pm in Tangi Te Keo

Tuesday 14 March

Talanoa Ako, 6pm

Thursday 16 March

Teachers' strike
Board Meeting, 6pm in the Staffroom

Wednesday 22 March

Rongotai College Careers Expo

Monday 27 to Friday 31 March

Summer Tournament Week

Tuesday 28 March

Talanoa Ako, 6pm

Thursday 6 April

Last day of Term 1

Friday 7 April to Tuesday 11 April

Easter

2023 TERM DATES

- Term 1** Finishes 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

We are now well into what is already proving to be a busy Term One. The boys are settled and working well in class; a number of visitors to the school have commented on the very good atmosphere around the school.

It was great to see so many parents at both our Year 9 Parents' and the NCEA Information evenings.



ACADEMIC NEWS

NZ SCHOLARSHIP

NZQA has released NZ Scholarship results for 2022. Four boys were awarded scholarships; 2022 Dux **Reuben Ballara** was awarded scholarships in English and Classical Studies, while Proxime Accessit, **Jacob Inch**, gained scholarship in Physics. **Quinn Marshall-McCaskey** (History) and **Callum Mackay** (Media Studies) also gained scholarships. Congratulations to our NZ Scholarship recipients!

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 sent to you early in 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 staff who will arrange for these details to be sent to you.

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 are able to be downloaded from the website.

TEACHERS STRIKE

The PPTA has advised that teachers will be on strike on **Thursday 16 March**. Accordingly, there will be no lessons for students on that day, but we will be able to provide limited supervision for students under 14 years of age. Please contact the office if your son needs to be supervised on that day.

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 (<https://www.rongotai.school.nz/academic/senior-qualifications-assessment-guide/>). Please encourage your son to look at his diary or calendar often and help him to organise himself to prepare for his assessments.

HOMEWORK HUB

A number of teachers run a very successful Homework Hub. This takes place after school, in the Library, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and it usually runs till about 5pm. All students are welcome to attend to do their homework or revise, with teachers present to help when needed. It's very flexible, so students can come and go as they please. Food is provided, and computers are available too. This is a great opportunity for our young men to develop a good work ethic.

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 the NZ Blood Service at the college for the first time this year. Staff and students (16 years or older) were invited to donate blood, and 69 students and 6 staff arrived to donate. This has now become a regular event at Rongotai College.



CULTURAL NEWS

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.

Lessons have largely started but if you're still 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

BIG BAND

The Rongotai College Big Band is currently preparing for the national youth jazz competition in Tauranga at Easter. The band is looking for new members on trumpet and trombone. If your son already plays the trumpet or trombone, he might be interested in joining. It is an awesome experience.

We are also always looking to the future, so if your son is keen to start learning a suitable instrument see information on the itinerant programme in this newsletter. Standard big band instruments are saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, drums and voice.



SPORTS NEWS

Summer sports are well underway with over 350 boys representing the school in 10 different summer codes.

ATHLETICS

Athletics takes centre stage in Term One. A very successful participation day was held at Rongotai College on Wednesday 8 February. Participation numbers were good and the students and staff enjoyed a fun day out with some great performances.

Mackay was crowned House champions, with Lock in second place, and Heron in third. Renner was fourth.



Athletics Finals Day

After having to postpone this event due to Cyclone Gabrielle, we eventually held this joint event with Wellington College on 23 February at Newtown Park. It was another great outing for our athletes with some outstanding performances, in particular from **DESMOND REDDY**, **NICO METUARIKI**, **XAVIOR SOLA** and **TUI VA'A**.

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

Congratulations also to **XAVIOR SOLA** who won 2 gold medals in the

U18 shot put and discus at the recent Wellington Athletics Championships - awesome work Xavior!

McEVEDY SHIELD

This is a highly anticipated annual athletics competition contested between Rongotai College, Wellington College, St Patrick's College (Town) and St Patrick's College (Silverstream). The 100th McEvedy Shield event will be held next Tuesday (**Tuesday 7 March**). 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.



Students must make their own way to the park; if your son is travelling by bus, he should ask his bus driver to drop him as near to Newtown Park as possible.

Students are required to report for a roll call at 8.55am, and they should report to their form teacher who will be located near the finish line.

Students will be dismissed from Newtown Park at the conclusion of the day (approximately 2.30pm) and are required to make their own way home.

Please make sure that your son wears his uniform appropriately for the weather and, if it is sunny, provide him with sun block. Limited food will be available at the park, so he should also bring lunch and something to drink.

We would ask you to talk to your son about his behaviour both at the ground and on the way to and from the event. With over 2000 students

attending the special event, we would hate for your son to be the boy who, through his behavior, jeopardises the event in the future.

CRICKET

The 1st XI are on a roll having won their last five matches including beating Wairarapa College in the Annual Traditional held at Rongotai, as well as in the Premier 2 grade

In the annual fixture, electing to bat, Wairarapa were bowled out for 139 with **RICO TAYLOR** taking 5 for 18. Rongotai then made short work of the target, winning by 6 wickets with **EDDIE HOBEN** scoring 41 and well supported by **HARRISON JARVIS** with 30.

SOFTBALL

Congratulations to **Arron Gollan** who has been selected in the New Zealand Junior Black Sox squad. Good luck to Arron and to Ciaran Bolger (an RC old boy 2018-22), who has also been named in the squad.



TAG FOOTBALL

Congratulations to **James Raemaki** who has been named in the Cook Island U16 Tag Football Team to play in the Junior Oceania Tournament in Auckland in late March.



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.

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

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Lastly, staff have noticed that a number of boys are currently not living our school value of 'TAKING PRIDE' in the way they are wearing our school uniform. I would therefore like to remind you that it is expected that your son will wear his uniform in the correct manner and with pride at all times. This means that only black jackets are permissible and NO HOODIES or sweatshirts of any description (including those with Rongotai logos associated with sports teams). Shoes should be black leather and be able to be polished. Crocs are definitely NOT an acceptable item of footwear at school, and socks are not to be worn with sandals.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission slips

Have you downloaded our School app yet?

Never miss important school information again!

Simple free download:
In Google Play and App Store search 'Skool Loop' and choose our school once installed.

RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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www.rongotai.school.nz
www.facebook.com/RongotaiCollege
www.youtube.com/RongotaiCollegeNZ

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.

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.