



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 11 (April) Term 1, 2024

COMING EVENTS

Friday 12 April

Last day of Term 1

Monday 29 April

First day of Term 2

Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 May

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – School Production 7pm each night

Monday 20 May

Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi at 6pm in the staffroom

Thursday 30 May

Board meeting at 6pm in the Staffroom

Friday 31 May

Teacher only day – NCEA

Monday 3 June

King's Birthday holiday

Friday 7 June

Rongotai Experience

Tuesday 11 June

Open Evening

2024 TERM DATES

Term 1 Wednesday 31 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 13 December

As we come to the end of Term 1, it is a good time to reflect upon how most students settled down to work well during Term 1 and have made good progress to date.

Teachers have been reporting on your son's progress each week. These reports are designed to provide you with a snapshot of your son's attitude and engagement from week to week.

These weekly reports were followed up this term by two Whānau-Teacher interview events. It was great to see so many families, with 75% of all families attending. I am sure you appreciated the feedback.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board has been developing its new Strategic Plan. Thank you to those who responded as part of the consultation. The finalised 2024-25 Plan and 2024 Annual Plan will be available on the school website early next term.

JAMIE HUNTER OUTWARD BOUND SCHOLARSHIP

Rongotai College Old Boys Association recently announced that **JACK LEONG** and **RICO TAYLOR** are the 2024 recipients of the James Hunter Outward Bound Leadership Scholarship. Jack and Rico will attend a 3-week course at the end of term with all fees, transport costs, and necessary equipment provided.

These scholarships were presented by Jeremy Simpson (Scholarship Coordinator) and Jimmy Fiso (Association President) at a recent assembly. Jeremy's address to the Assembly touched on the importance of leadership and how leadership can take many different forms.

The Scholarship was established in 2018 following the sudden passing of 1980 Head Prefect, James Hunter. His family, supported by the Association, wished to honour James' love for his school and for outdoor experiences by establishing a fund to support Rongotai's future leaders. The Association is extremely grateful to the Hunter family and Old Boys Jeremy Simpson and Dean Galt for their support in ensuring the continuation of this Scholarship.



from left, Rico Taylor, Jeremy Simpson and Jack Leong

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 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 (Mr O'Connor) 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 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.

ACADEMIC NEWS

NCEA INFORMATION

If your son is studying for NCEA, 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

Literacy is a big concern across the country and has had significant media attention recently. One of our strategies to help is through encouraging boys to read – something you can also do at home.

Year 9 Rewarding Reading in 2024 has begun, with many students earning their first reward - the Rongotai College water bottle sponsored by local business, Burkes Cycles.

The water bottle reward runs all year so Year 9 students have the potential to earn one over the entire year. Support at home from families helps to improve our boys' literacy in all subjects!

On Wednesday, over 35 students gained the second reward – a pizza lunch. Thank you to Mr Armstrong (who leads the Rewarding Reading programme) for organising this.



HOMEWORK HUB

A number of teachers run a very successful Homework Hub. This takes place after school, in the Library, on Tuesdays and 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



CULTURAL NEWS

2024 PRODUCTION

Our 2024 production is Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

Rehearsals for this great show are well underway and the finishing touches are being put on what will be a show packed with fantastic dance numbers, fun and humour as well as a few moving moments.

The show will be performed in Term 2, with performances on Wednesday 15, Thursday 16, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May in the Renner Hall starting at 7pm.

The cast consists of 33 of our boys and 17 girls from Wellington East Girls' College, Wellington Girls' College, St Mary's College and St Catherine's College, as well as a choir of boys and girls from local primary schools plus a live orchestra.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, \$50 for a family (2 adults and 2 children). Tickets are now on sale on-line through trybooking.com/nz. There will be limited door sales.

The key themes are brotherhood, revenge and forgiveness.

Make sure you mark your calendar as "Joseph" is definitely a Rongotai production not to be missed!



GREEK CLUB

We now have a Greek Club that runs weekly at lunchtime. Students have got to know each other's ties to Greece and they are learning some language and how to confidently communicate in Greek. This week was a shared lunch. Students, teachers, parents and grandparents had baked baklava, spanakopita, kourabiedes and other specialities.



SERVICE NEWS

CAN APPEAL

A recent can appeal was held with students and their families donating cans for Women's Refuge. A massive 1,201 cans were donated. Thank you to all those who donated to this very worthy cause.

This was done as a house competition with the winners being Heron House.



WEETBIX KIDS TRIATHLON

The Interact Cub is student-led and has been a special part of the school's culture for many years, with volunteering at the forefront. Every year the club assists at many events and services around the eastern suburbs. The club provides a great opportunity for students to be involved in our local community.

The Weetbix Kids Triathlon is an important annual nationwide event that the Rongotai College Interact Club takes part in every year. Thank you to all 38 students who volunteered at this event recently.



BLOOD DONATIONS

As part of our service to the community, we had NZ Blood Service at the college for the second time this year. Staff and students (16 years or older) were invited to donate blood, and 70 arrived to donate. This has now become a regular event at Rongotai College.



Head Prefect, Nysi Soulis, making a donation.



SPORTS NEWS

At the end of Term 1 it is good to reflect on the Summer Season and celebrate in the successes of our teams at Summer Tournament Week.

ATHLETICS

Although we finished in fourth place at McEvedy Shield, we congratulate our athletes who performed so admirably, scoring a total of 87 points, which is our highest total since 2007.

Some of the outstanding performances came from:

Gyan Wilson – 1st in the U14 100m, 200m, 400m & long jump and 2nd in the hurdles and 4th in the discus. (A combined total of 20 points.)

TK Maladina – 1st in the U14 high jump

Desmond Reddy – 1st in U16 3000m and 2nd in U16 1500m

Aston Burwell-Garratt – 1st in the open hurdles and 4th in triple jump

Va'a Tui – 1st in the Open discus and shot put

Zach Aitken – 2nd in the U14 100m, 200m, long jump and 3rd in triple jump

Mataio Davidson – 2nd in the U14 javelin

Leo Powdrell – 2nd in U16 javelin

Seb Champion – 3rd in the 3000m.

Rylan Stephens – 3rd in Open 400m

Xavior Sola – 3rd in the Open shot put

JJ Popham – 3rd in the U14 Hurdles and 4th in the 400m

Mesi-Junior Sauaga – 3rd in U14 shot put

Hugo Champion - 4th in the U15 1500m & 3000m

Oscar Politini – 4th in U14 800m

Hunter Taylor – 4th in U15 800m

Remy Boswell – 4th in the U14 triple jump

Ari Bulman-Johnson – 4th in U14 high jump

Charlie Crawford – 4th in Open long jump

Codie Tawhiri – 4th in U14 javelin

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ATHLETICS

We have had some outstanding results in Athletics recently with the students below medalling at this event:

Zachary Atkin - 1st in the Junior long jump, 2nd in the Junior 100m and 3rd in the Junior 200m

Aston Burwell-Garratt – 1st in the Senior 110m hurdles

TK Maladina – 1st in the Junior high jump

Oscar Politini – 3rd in the Junior 800m

JJ Popham – 1st in the Junior 300m and 2nd in the Junior 800m hurdles

Desmond Reddy – 2nd in the Intermediate 3000m and 3rd in the Intermediate 1500m

Xavior Sola – 2nd in the Senior discus
Rylan Stephen – 3rd in the Senior 400m

Codie Tawhiri – 1st in the Junior javelin

Tui Va'a – 1st in the Senior shot put and 1st in the Senior discus

Gyan Wilson – 1st in the Junior 100m and 1st in the Junior 200m
Junior Relay – 1st

NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETICS

A number of students attending the North Island Championships last weekend. Congratulations to the following students who gained podium places at the event:

Gyan Wilson – 2nd in the Junior 100m and 200m, 3rd in the long jump.

Desmond Reddy - 2nd in the Intermediate 3000m

Xavior Sola – 3rd in the Senior discus.



Gyan Wilson – long jump

Gyan, JJ Popham and Zach Aitken were part of the winning Wellington Junior 100m relay team.

Well done to all our athletes – it has been a very successful summer!

SUMMER TOURNAMENT WEEK

Three weeks ago a number of our teams competed across New Zealand at Regional and National tournaments.

Basketball 3x3 finished 7th at regionals.

Cricket – 1st XI finished 5th in their pool and the junior team finished 4th in their pool.

Floorball - Nationals, Wellington
Congratulations to our senior team who won the NZSS Championship in a close fought final against St Patrick's Silverstream. Also to our junior team who were silver medallists.



Codie Tawhiri had an outstanding tournament and was named to Junior Most Valuable Player.



Futsal - Nationals, Wellington – seniors 18th and juniors 11th

FENCING

Several Rongotai students do fencing and are affiliated with The Wellington Sword Club. Mr William Bishop, their coach, has been selected as the Manager and Coach of the New Zealand Junior team who will be participating in the Junior World Championships in Saudi Arabia in April.

Coaching at Rongotai College is on Saturday mornings from 9.00-10.30am and free membership and equipment are available for Rongotai College students. If you are interested or want further information, please see Ms Wilson in B43.



From left – Year 9 students Jasper Raymond, Isaac Franklin, Gagan Yadav and Coach Bishop

FLOORBALL

Congratulations to our Junior A Floorball team for winning the CSW

League by defeating WC 9 - 6 in the final.



FUTSAL

Congratulations also goes to the Junior A Futsal team for winning the CSW Championship by defeating Wellington College 2 - 1 in the final with goals from **NICKY MELLAS** and **ZACHARY ATKIN**.



WINTER CODES

Winter Sport is now swinging into action and over the next week all teams will be finalised. Just a friendly reminder that you needed to register for the code using the online portal and you will need to have paid your Summer Sports fees AND your Winter Sports fees to play in Term 2.

SPORTS FEES

Students 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 our Sports Department. 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.

SPORTS COACHES

We would like to acknowledge and thank all the sport volunteers who have helped make sport possible in Term 1. Parent and staff support continue to be the driving force behind sport and, without it, sport simply would not advance. 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 2024. 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.

BREAKFAST

We want our boys to be successful everyday so we encourage them to "win the day" by being on time and with the right attitude. One way to help achieve this correct attitude is to ensure that they are well 'fuelled' and this is the reason we have restarted the 'RC Breakfast Club'. We are looking to provide the boys who arrive between 8.20am and 8.40am on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a 'Big Cooked Breakfast'.

This initiative is run by the Prefects and while it has only been going since Easter, the numbers have grown with each breakfast. We will continue to encourage boys to come along.

"Breakfast is an opportunity to nourish not just the body, but also the soul."

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday and we look forward to Term 2!

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

AFS EXCHANGE

Manawa Mitcalfe Matthews (Year 13 student and Prefect) is undertaking an AFS exchange to Greece later this year. He will be the first New Zealander to go to Greece on an AFS exchange. While he is there, he will be living with a Greek family and attending a Greek school.

Manawa is selling olive oil gift packs as part of his fundraising for this exchange. Please support him. Orders can be placed on <https://forms.gle/iJZLa1bybCqNKY6cA>

SCHOOLBRIDGE

From the start of Term 2, we will be using a new app called SchoolBridge. You can download this app via the app store. From here you will be able to report absences, view newsletters, access the Parent Portal, permission slips and a range of other functions.

Alternatively for absences you can email the school direct on absences@rongotai.school.nz

RONGOTAI COLLEGE



Download Our App



- Scan the QR Code to download. Or
- Search "**schoolbridge**" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.



Once you have downloaded the app, you can sign in using your school account information. Please contact the school if you need help with your account details.

RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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