

Friday 9th February 2024

Rangitoto College Week 2 Term 1 Newsletter 2024

Upcoming Community Dates

Important Community Information	Date
Year 11 Parent Information Evening	Thursday 15 February
Year 9 Meet the Teacher Evening	Tuesday 20 February
Year 9 Kotahitanga Day	Monday 26 February
Year 12 and Year 13 Parent Information Evening	Thursday 29 February

Principal Update

We have had an excellent first two weeks back at Rangitoto College. Our new students and staff have been warmly welcomed and are quickly finding their feet. Many new friendships have been formed and returning students have been pleased to see their friends and school staff. Our current roll has just pushed past 3800 students; we have been planning for this increase and are pleased that places at the school continue to be in such demand. My thanks to the Rangitoto College Board and various leadership teams that have provided exceptional support to ensure that we continue to provide an outstanding state education for our community.

Mobile Phones

We wish to publicly thank our students for the manner in which they have responded to new expectations regarding mobile phones within the school. It has been really pleasing to see an increase in students engaging with one another in the grounds with the level of noise and energy certainly increasing at break times with students more communicative and active. Students have been superb in putting their phones away at the school gate each morning and getting into good habits with regard to not needing to use them during the day.

Thank you also to parents and caregivers for supporting us in reminding your children of these expectations. If you do have concerns regarding the need for your child to use a phone at school please communicate with your child's Deputy Principal to discuss this. If there is an emergency for parents or caregivers to contact their child during the school day, please make contact with our school office.

Forgotten Items and Deliveries for Students

The school office/reception is unable to accept deliveries for students from either caregivers or companies. We do not take lunch, cash, books, projects, devices, musical instruments, and/or sports equipment; it is the student's responsibility to learn to manage themselves. The school's vision is to actively support students to achieve their highest ability and this includes organisation of self, therefore unless it is an urgent medical or exam-related item, the office/reception will be unable to assist with deliveries.

Year 9 Update

We were delighted to welcome our Year 9 cohort last week; they have conducted themselves with pride and have made a great start to life at Rangitoto College. Our priority is to ensure all our Year 9 students transition positively into high school. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's transition, please contact their dean in the first instance and we will be happy to assist. The contact details for each of the Year 9 Deans were outlined in our first Year 9 newsletter which was sent in week one. For information on how you can support your young person through this time of transition, we encourage you to access [SchoolTV's resources on school transitions](#).

We warmly invite parents and caregivers of Year 9 students to attend our **Year 9 Meet the Teacher Evening** on Tuesday 20 February at 6.30 pm. We will be sending a further email with details about the evening to our Year 9 whānau directly.

Year 11 Diploma

We are excited to introduce the Rangitoto Diploma to Year 11 students this year. The alternative programme to NCEA Level 1 will encourage academic success and personal growth to develop well-rounded students who have the skills and knowledge to be successful. We have modelled the Diploma on the success of our Junior Summit Diploma, which students are familiar with; using four of the six Junior Summit categories in the Year 11 Diploma:

- Academic excellence
- Extra-curricular & Leadership & service involvement
- Excellent attendance
- Engagement in classes

All courses will offer 15 'Rangitoto' credits. Credit-based assessments (summative assessment) will be supported by additional 'non credit' based assessments (formative assessment) which will allow teachers to give constructive and informative feedback to enhance student success. Every subject will have an end of year exam and/or portfolio submission, in the same way this currently occurs in Year 11 programmes.

Sporting Success

Rangitoto volleyball teams have followed up from their gold medal performances in the Australian Schools competition with success at the National Beach Volleyball Championships. Our senior girls, Kalea Norton and Devyn Golaboski retained the national title and the senior boys finished a creditable 4th. In water polo, Gabrielle Doyle is currently playing for the senior NZ womens team in Doha, Qatar, hoping to secure one of the remaining team places at the Olympics. Our sailors have had amazing success over the summer break with Joe Leith and Josh Ferrisey gaining an exceptional 3rd place at the Open World 420 Champs in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Chloe Turner won the 2024 New Zealand U18 Female ICLA 6 Sailing Championships, with further success going to Arran Bejic who placed 5th overall in the P class Nationals, also taking out the Craig Monk trophy for top sailor over 55kg in the fleet. Recently, Gemma Hebbard also podiumed, with a 1st at the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta. Y10 golfer Junwon Kim won the Danny Lee Springfield Open with rounds of 66, 74, and 75, playing off an incredible +3.2 handicap. At the end of 2023, Rangitoto students competed at the athletics nationals, with gold medals for Talayah Vorster in the pole vault, Nadja Kumerich in the Hammer and Joe Dolphin in the 100 metres. Reid Davidson won a bronze in the Senior Boys shot. In swimming, Nick Cowen competed at the NZ Swimming Open Water Championships, placing second in the 5km swim and first for his age group. In artistic swimming, Vincy Tsang represented NZ at the Singapore Open, winning a gold and bronze medal. Congratulations to all for these exceptional achievements.

Rhodes Scholarship

We are proud to have heard from past student, Charlie Wang (leaver in 2017), that he has been awarded a prestigious

Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford to study a PhD in International Relations in 2024. Charlie graduated with a BSc in International Economics from Georgetown University in Washington DC, in May 2022. Subsequently, he was awarded the Schwarzman Scholarship, which enabled him to study at Tsinghua University in China. After graduating from Tsinghua in June 2023, Charlie has been attending the University of Cambridge and is completing an MPhil in Politics and International Studies. Selection for Rhodes scholarships are extremely competitive, with thousands of students each year applying. Our congratulations to Charlie for his exceptional achievement and we look forward to Charlie working with some of our Rangitoto students this year.

Zushi Kaisei Junior High Visit 05 – 09 March - Host Families Needed

Zushi Kaisei students from Japan have visited Rangitoto since 2004 and most recently in 2019. They are now resuming their annual trip. As with previous visits, there will be two groups of students arriving two days apart, requiring two nights' homestay and spending one activity day at school interacting with Rangitoto College buddies from Year 9 and 10.

The students are all aged 14 – 15. The dates are:

Group 1 (160 boys): Tuesday March 05 to Thurs March 07

Group 2 (120 boys): Thursday March 07 to Sat March 09.

Families may host up to two students from either group or both groups. For further information and boarding allowance, please contact: Paddy O'Grady ogrady@xtra.co.nz

Pick up and drop offs

Thank you to our parent and caregiver community for your support with not dropping off or picking up students from the top car park before and after school. As you can appreciate, the volume of buses we have requires careful traffic management and eliminating any non-essential traffic on site minimises safety concerns.

Now that school is underway we would encourage parents to support their child's growing independence by speaking with them about transport plans to and from school. We are fortunate to have good public buses which service our community and at secondary school this is an appropriate age to begin self-management in this regard. Many of our students also have the ability to walk home within acceptable kilometre ranges which would reduce traffic congestion around the school. We are conscious to support our local community and neighbours by encouraging those who need to be dropped off or picked up from school to be done so in a manner which does not create significant traffic congestion in local streets. If you are picking up your child in a nearby street, please treat the homeowners with the utmost respect, allowing them to access their properties as required.

Notification from Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Measles cases are expected in Tāmaki Makaurau this year, which could result in an outbreak across the region so there are a few points for us all to be aware of. We remind whānau to check if their children have had two MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccinations. Whānau can ask their doctor or practice nurse or check their children's Well Child Tamariki Ora books. MMR vaccinations are free from GPs or some pharmacies. If there is a measles case at school, then children exposed to the virus and who are not immune are at high risk of developing measles. They will have to stay home in quarantine.

Kind regards,



Patrick Gale
Principal