

Friday 8th March 2024

Rangitoto College Week 6 Term 1 Newsletter 2024

Upcoming Community Dates

Important Community Information	Date
Year 9 Kotahitanga Day (new date)	Wednesday 13 March
Scholarship Information Evening - Auditorium	Wednesday 13 March 6:30 pm

Principal Update

The school has been a busy place in the past couple of weeks. In week 5, we were delighted that our first Pasifika whanau meeting and Y12-13 Information evenings were very well attended, enabling us to share progress and discuss future options with our community. This week we have hosted 96 trainee teachers from the Auckland Secondary Schools Training programme and over 270 students from Zushi Kaisei, our sister school in Japan. My thanks to our community for supporting all these initiatives. If you are aware of people who may be interested in a secondary teaching career in 2025 and beyond, we would welcome them to contact us at Train.Teach@rangitoto.school.nz. This year we have been able to support in-school trainee teachers with a stipend and fees-free study and hope to continue this in 2025.

Student Leadership and Service

Rangitoto College is proud to support a wide range of services within the school and to the wider community. Taking part in service is a great way for students to explore their interests whilst gaining great experiences and developing leadership skills. Last year students in the kura logged over 5000 hours of service across the 33 service opportunities available to them. The school works closely with groups such as the Red Cross, SPCA, and Auckland Council, and we have a growing partnership with our local retirement village, Knightsbridge. We offer services in the form of ecological restoration, coastline cleanups, music performances, baking, IT aid and so much more. If students would like to find out more about the services we have on offer, they can visit our website for details on how they can become involved <https://www.rangitoto.school.nz/service-opportunities/>

We are proud to offer these services so students can gain real-world experience and learn about future career opportunities. An amazing example of this is with Year 11 student, Olivia Li. She has developed a strong connection with Te Hōnonga an Iwi and is now a leader and overseeing seed restoration. You can read more about her successes here: <https://www.restoringrosedalepark.org.nz/post/seedling-our-environment-s-future>

Huge congratulations to all service students who are eager to grasp new opportunities and demonstrate amazing values.

Kotahitanga Day - new date

Year 9 Kotahitanga Day has been rescheduled for Wednesday 13 March. Kotahitanga represents unity, togetherness, and solidarity of people, which is what we hope for this day to encourage and build in our Year 9s, their teachers, their Peer Support Leaders, and in Rangitoto College. Students will be participating in a variety of challenges as a tutor class across the day, and need to come to school dressed in non-uniform clothing in the colour of their house (red, white, or blue). They should leave valuables, including laptops, at home, and bring a hat, water bottle, sunscreen, and a packed lunch.

Student Leave Requests

Parents/caregivers who wish to request advanced extended leave/absence for their child, should email the Principal's Executive Assistant at norah.brennan@rangitoto.school.nz. A response will be forwarded to parents/caregivers indicating whether this leave is considered justified or unjustified based on Ministry of Education guidelines.

The Ministry of Education is clear on a school's responsibility to code student absence. Holidays during term time are unjustified leave and parents/caregivers should not be booking holidays for their child which impacts the school term.

Dental Planet

We continue our partnership with Dental Planet to provide free dental services to our students. Mobile units will be on-site during the Term 1 holiday. If your child is not currently receiving regular dental checkups and treatment we would encourage you to seriously consider this opportunity. You will find further information and an [enrolment link here](#). Dental Planet will provide booking information by email to those students who are already enrolled.

Illness

We are aware of cases within the community presently of whooping cough. If your child is experiencing symptoms of an ongoing hacking cough, fever, high high-pitched intake of breath; please seek a medical opinion and have your child remain at home until they are fit to return to school. As the seasons change, we will experience more illness and preventing the spread of this in school is important.

Year 12 and 13 Parent Information Evening

Last week the kura hosted a successful Year 12 and Year 13 parent information evening. The evening covered many aspects of life within the College, and beyond College that are pertinent to our young people as they begin to think about their future beyond Rangitoto College. The evening covered many seminars on everything from 'Uni 101' through to how to apply for Scholarships. We have uploaded these seminars to our careers page and can be accessed by all parents [here](#).

School Uniform Consultation

In response to discussions with students, we are seeking community consultation feedback on four potential amendments to the current uniform expectations at Rangitoto College.

We would ask parents/caregivers to complete the Google form [here](#) by 25th March to assist the school in our decision-making.

Decision 1: Skirt length

- a) Remain with status quo: Junior knee-length school skirt, Senior mid-calf length school skirt.
- b) Include the option of a mid-calf skirt for all year 9-12 levels.

Decision 2: Sandals

- a) Remain with the status quo of one option of school shoes and socks for Year 9-12 students.
- b) Include the option of a buckle style, smart sandal for students at any year level. The sandal style would be buckle straps which overlay the front of the foot and include a minimum of two straps. No backstrap sandals would be allowed.

Decision 3: Earrings

- a) Remain with the status quo of one earring per ear (plain stud or sleeper)
- b) Include the option to wear a second set of earrings per ear (plain stud or sleeper)

Decision 4: Trousers

- a) Remain with the status quo of shorts and skirts only for juniors and short skirts or trousers for seniors.
- b) Include the option for Year 9-12 students to wear shorts, skirts or trousers all year round.

Parent Presentation - Building Resilience in our Children

The school is pleased to announce the return of Darren Pereira to Rangitoto College after two highly successful presentations in recent years. Due to the sell-out nature of these presentations in the staffroom previously, the 2024 presentation will take place in the school's auditorium on the 27 March from 7-8pm.

Parents will be required to obtain tickets through this [link](#) which allows the school to manage numbers for this event. There is no cost for parents for the presentation. The presentation by Darren is focused on supporting parents in helping their teenagers develop resilience, becoming more adaptive and dealing with their current challenges. It also aims to cover how to deal with disappointment and failure, rectify poor sleep habits and the benefits of positive psychology.

The parent presentation is aimed at parents of Year 9 students and follows the messaging which will be presented to Year 9 students during the day. We have also engaged Darren to speak with our Year 13 students with his 'Achieve Your Best' presentation. This supports our Year 13 students in focusing on independence beyond school.

Golf Day Fundraiser 2024

We are gearing up for our annual Golf Day Fundraiser on Friday 5 April at Pupuke Golf Club. There are only a few team entry spots still available so please register now if you're keen to play! You can also sponsor a hole and promote your business at this extremely popular event. Click here to register or sponsor:

<https://community.rangitoto.school.nz/event/GolfDay>

School Buses

From Monday 11th March an extra bus called the 044 will start from Browns Bay at 8.00am & go via Rothesay Bay, Murrays Bay, Sunrise Ave to Rangitoto College. This should alleviate the pressure on the 043 bus for all students.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Gale', with a stylized, cursive script.

Patrick Gale
Principal