

Rangitoto College - Community Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
IB Examinations	11 - 20 May
Parent Teacher Interviews	13 May
Non-Uniform Day - Pink Shirt Day	15 May
Careers Week	18 - 22 May
Blood Drive	18 & 19 May
CAA Assessment (Years 11 - 13)	20 - 22 May
Welcome Wednesday Tour	20 May
Year 11 Attitude "Hardwired" Presentation	20 May
North Shore Careers Expo	20 & 21 May

Principal's Update

As you can see from the important dates listed above, Term 2 is well-underway with a lot going on over the next few weeks. I have just finished my first parent-teacher interviews evening at Rangitoto and it was great to see the large numbers of parents who came out with their children to talk about their progress this year and the next steps in their learning. I want to thank our staff and the team of student volunteers who made the night such a success.

The quantity of volunteer hours from students at Rangitoto College has been a real highlight from my first weeks. There are so many ways we contribute positively to our community, including environmental work, coaching, tutoring, and engaging with the elderly. Alongside this, the winter sports season has started. It has been great to see so many students getting involved in the wide range of sporting opportunities we offer here; please click on the link to our [Sports Weekly](#) to keep up to date with all of our sports teams and find links to draws. With this and our incredible arts programme, I am really looking forward to seeing our students in action over the term.

As we do get into the winter season, we will host more events and more visitors to our campus, like with last night's parent-teacher interviews. It is great to see such high levels of support although it can also mean that we need to use neighbouring streets for parking - for both parents and students. Can I ask for your support with this from home, parking with consideration for our neighbours and in a manner that enables them full access to their property.

Attendance

We have received our school MOE attendance report for Term 1 which indicates a 3% improvement in attendance from Term 1 2025 to Term 1 2026. I would like to thank parents and caregivers for ensuring attendance at school is a priority where possible and enabling your child to be best prepared for success with their education. We have seen a significant decline in parent/caregiver requests for MOE-coded 'explained but unjustified leave', including requests to be absent for holidays during term time. The attendance support implemented by the school is also ensuring greater clarity and partnership between home and school. As we head into winter months, Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora provide [this](#) guidance supporting parents to know if your child is well enough to attend school.

SMART & CAA Testing

Reminder that all Year 9 & 10 students will be involved in the new [SMART testing](#) across Week 5 this term. Parents have been sent an email with further details about this.

[CAA testing](#) is also taking place in Week 5, with parents and students across Years 11 to 13 having been sent an email if they are enrolled to sit this. This testing covers three reading, writing, and numeracy assessments, which must be passed to gain any level of the NCEA, the Year 11 Rangitoto Diploma, and University Entrance. An additional opportunity takes place in Term 3.

For the CAA online testing, the Polly (text-to-speech tool) will be available to all students sitting the Writing (32405) and Numeracy (32406) digital assessments. Polly converts text into audio so they can listen to text in the assessment being read aloud. Polly also reads students' responses back to them. Polly is not available for the Reading (32403) standard. More information can be found [here](#). Students must bring headphones to the assessment if they are using Polly, and can practice using Polly with [past writing and numeracy assessments](#).

For both sets of testing, students will need to ensure they bring their examination slip with them, which they will be given a paper copy of, but can also print these through their student information in FACTS.

Careers Expo

The North Shore Careers Expo is coming up on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st May from 4pm to 7.30pm at North Harbour Stadium. We encourage all Rangitoto College senior students and their families to attend. This free event aims to provide young people with an opportunity to explore future education, industry training, and career options.

Check out the website www.northshorecareerexpo.nz for further details of exhibitors and seminars.

Sport

History in the making: Boys Netball debuts at Rangitoto College

Wednesday 29th April marked a milestone for Rangitoto College sport as we fielded our first-ever boys netball teams at the Auckland Netball 'Have a Go Day.' Representing the College for the first time in this code, three teams took to the courts with impressive skill and infectious enthusiasm. The highlight of the day came from the Blue Team, captained by Finn Mikkleson, who finished their campaign undefeated. Their standout performance was a nail-biting 15–14 victory over Kelston Boys, secured by a spectacular 'buzzer-beater' goal with two seconds left on the clock.

Following the success of this tournament, a representative team will be selected to join our Girls Premier, 9A, and 10A teams for the Combined Points Tournament in Term 3. This is a fantastic development for netball at Rangitoto College. We look forward to this being the foundation of a thriving and successful boys netball programme; congratulations to all the players who made history.



Dental Planet

Dental Planet had their mobile unit on site for the last two weeks of Term 1 and across the holidays. During their visit the team successfully provided dental care to 396 students. Of these, only 13% require follow-up appointments or further examinations, reflecting a strong overall standard of oral health and excellent participation among the students seen. Appointment times were coordinated directly with parents and carefully scheduled around students' academic timetables to minimise disruption to learning and classroom participation. The success of this process was made possible through the ongoing support of parents and the positive attitude and cooperation shown by the students who attended. If your child is not currently receiving regular dental checkups and treatment, we would encourage you to consider this opportunity.

You will find an enrolment link [here](#).

Property Update

The construction of the new Library/Technology Block is progressing well and reached an important milestone this week with the pouring of the concrete base slab. Over the next few weeks, the scale of the building will become evident as the steel frame takes shape. The project is expected to be completed in July next year.



I look forward to seeing you at next week's parent teacher interviews.

Kia pai oo raa whakataa,
Have a good weekend,

Greg Thornton
Principal