

Rangitoto College - Community Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
Zushi Kaisei Japanese High School Exchange Visit	3 - 6 March
NZQA Scholarship Information Evening, 6.00pm	11 March
Year 13 photograph	13 March

Principal's Update

We have had a busy few weeks with opportunities for students across the school evident on a daily basis. We have enjoyed hosting a number of events including our first Māori and Pasifika whānau hui for the year, our Year 9 Meet the Teacher evening, Year 11 Information evening outlining the Rangitoto College Diploma and the Year 12 - 13 Information evening, which were all well attended. These information evenings enable us to share details on programmes and update students and parents on opportunities available.

Due to the College's roll growth, we now have two Ministry of Education prefab classrooms onsite and functional which allows classes to be back in classroom teaching spaces. Two more will be functional next week. I thank those students and teachers who have been accommodated in temporary classroom spaces, such as the staffroom and library reading rooms to begin the year. We are excited that beyond the Technology block new build, which is well underway and scheduled to be finished by the end of 2027, we also have a 10-classroom Art and Maths block scheduled to be in place for the beginning of 2027 due to our increase in roll in recent years.

I would also like to thank our parent community for supporting the school by avoiding driving into our East Coast Road entrance before and after school. This has allowed us to manage students with a greater degree of safety when arriving and departing the school. I would ask parents who need to pick up their child from the bottom car park area, to be conscious of student movement in this area and to avoid parking over neighbouring driveways and creating traffic issues. We have wonderful neighbours who are supportive of our school and we wish to support them by considering the access to their homes, and avoid queuing or parking across driveways.

Attendance

As previously indicated, the government has a target of raising regular student attendance to 90%+ in schools throughout New Zealand. To achieve this, schools are required to put processes in place. One of the first parts of this process is to contact home. Throughout the year you may receive a phone call from our Attendance Support team following up absences. This is an additional support for attendance monitoring. Thank you in advance for your support with maintaining good attendance for your child.

Requesting Approval for Leave

In situations where a student requires pre-approval for an absence, in cases where you wish for your child to be absent from school for justified Ministry of Education (MOE) reasons (such as representation in a cultural/national event), approval should be requested by email to the Principal's EA nedda.chaplin@rangitoto.school.nz outlining the reason before awaiting a response. Please give clear details as to the reason for your child's absence to allow an informed decision as to the type of MOE leave this will be coded as. Please note that holidays during term time should not be undertaken. The MOE is very clear on this.

Scholarship Information Evening

We'd like to invite students and parents in Year 10 to 13 who are interested in becoming involved in our NZQA Scholarship Exam and Portfolio programme to our annual Scholarship Information evening on Wednesday March 11th, starting at 6:00pm in the college auditorium.

In 2025, Rangitoto College students gained 348 Scholarship passes, an increase of 24 on the previous year and, for the sixth time ever, the most of any school in the history of these NZQA exams and portfolio submissions.

Presentations will be from a range of staff as well as Rangitoto Alumni, Dux & NZQA Premier Awards Scholar, Lianne Kim, who will talk about various aspects of the Scholarship programme and cover some insights into the benefits of the Scholarship examinations and how to be successful in them. This event is suited to students who are academically driven, possibly within extension and acceleration programmes and are motivated to achieve at the very top of their subject areas of interest. Involvement in the Scholarship examinations and portfolio submissions is generally best suited to senior students in Year 11 to 13; however, a range of the 29 subjects on offer do provide support and preparation programmes to students in Year 10. If you would like to hear more, please come along; we'd love to see you there.

Junior Assessment Weeks 2026

Rangitoto College will be running junior school assessment weeks each term across 2026. These assessments, for Science, Junior Social Science, Maths, and English, will be conducted on the same day and at the same time for each subject. This approach, similar to our junior examinations, is in place to ensure the academic integrity of the assessments. The first assessments for Junior Social Science and Maths began in Week 5 of this term.

Buses

While Auckland Transport has put on additional afternoon buses to some school routes, we are aware that some morning services are extremely full. We have been working closely with Auckland Transport and have managed to secure an extra bus for the 043 service (from Torbay, via Browns Bay, Rothesay Bay and Murrays Bay) in the morning. Please be aware that this additional bus is likely to arrive approximately 10–15 minutes after the Route 44 service. From Monday 2nd March there will also be an additional bus added to the 048 service in the morning. This service will do exactly the same route as the current 048 bus and will depart from the first stop at 8.00am. To ensure that there is an even distribution on both 048 buses, it would be appreciated if you could encourage your child to not overload the first bus.

Performing Arts

Our Drama Company is currently deep in rehearsals for our upcoming production of *Lord of the Flies*, featuring four performances from 26 to 28 March, while other students sharpen their wits for Theatresports and the upcoming Shakespeare Competition. The music wing is equally vibrant; our Jazz combos are preparing for a performance at Knightsbridge on the afternoon of 22 March, shortly before three combos and the Big Band travel to Tauranga for the National Youth Jazz Competition. This sits alongside the dedicated weekly rehearsals of our many other music ensembles. Meanwhile, the dance studios have been overflowing with energy as hundreds of students auditioned for co-curricular spots. Orchestrating the magic behind the scenes is our biggest Tech Crew yet—a supremely organised team that is already making every technical element fall perfectly into place.

PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Shop

Opening hours:

- Friday 1.30pm – 2.30pm (term-time only)
- Wednesday 1.30pm – 2.30pm (first week of each term only): 22 Apr, 22 Jul, 14 Oct
- Sunday 1.30pm – 2.30pm on the following dates: Mar 1, May 3, Jun 7, July 26, Aug 30, Oct 18, Nov 15

Volunteers Needed:

The PTA is currently short several adult volunteers for the Friday opening hours. If you can spare an hour from 1.30 - 2.30pm on Fridays, every other week, we would love to hear from you. Our shop cannot run without your support. Please email: uniformshop.rangitotocollege@gmail.com for more information, or follow our Facebook Page: Rangitoto College Parent Teacher Association

E-Day at Rangitoto College

Recently over a weekend, the school supported an e-waste recycling day in our bottom car park. During the course of the day, 164 vehicles dropped off e-waste, contributing to a total of 2468kg of recyclable material. Thank you to those in the community who made the most of this opportunity.

Through various other partnerships, Rangitoto College students provide service opportunities that drive better environmental outcomes for our community.

One such opportunity is our partnership with Te Hononga a Iwi in Rosedale, where students provided 1252 hours of service in 2025 restoring land with native planting, water-quality testing, growing kai in the community garden, and growing seedlings for future planting. Rangitoto College is committed to continuing to support environmental initiatives in 2026 and proud of our student involvement in these.



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Morton'.

Peter Morton
Acting Principal