

Rangitoto College - Community Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
Chinese Night	5 June
Kaos Week, Schoolwide Activity	8 - 12 June
Korean Night	12 June, 6pm
A Choral Confection	15 June, 6pm
Year 12 Ball	19 June

Principal's Update

Tālofa lava and welcome to Gagana Samoa (Samoan Language week). There are great resources available with [Te Papa](#) and the [Ministry for Pacific Peoples](#) if you want to try out some new phrases or build a better understanding of Samoan culture.

In assemblies this week I shared my perspective on the Māori concept of ako and how much more useful this is than the perspective I had on learning growing up. I thought that learning was transactional, where I would turn up, absorb information and demonstrate expertise through assignments and my exam performance. I prefer the concept of ako as it is closer to the reality of learning - it is much more reciprocal and ongoing. It recognises that learning is dynamic and we all have something to contribute as both learners and experts at different stages in our journey. I was encouraging students to approach their classes, sports teams and clubs with a mindset of ongoing learning, ready to learn from others while also being prepared to share their perspective. Who we are is formed by our culture, our values and our experiences in life and we all gain when we bring that knowledge into the learning environment.

This term at Rangitoto College, we have held a range of cultural celebrations so that students can see themselves in this place while also building an interest and understanding. Events through Term 2 include Japan Week, Samoan Language Week, Chinese Night, Korean Night, and Mātariki preparations ahead of the celebration on 10 July. The students have run games and activities, and an intense rehearsal schedule for the events. It certainly has made the campus vibrant and I look forward to showcasing this with you at the upcoming evening performances.

King's Birthday Honours

We want to congratulate Patrick Gale on being appointed as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition of his services to education in the latest King's Birthday Honours. True to form, when I reached out to congratulate Patrick, the first thing he did was to complement the school and its community. To an extent, he is right, this is a collective effort and we can be proud of the way our community and staff approach the learning opportunities at Rangitoto. It also requires outstanding leadership to shape this learning environment and this award also acknowledged the significant impact Patrick has had on secondary education, in particular with the recent advisory work on the reform of NCEA. A massive thank you, Patrick, from the Rangitoto College staff and community, for your contribution to education and congratulations on your well-deserved accolade.

ERO Visit

Last week we hosted a team from the Education Review Office (ERO). The team visited classes, met with staff, students and the leadership team to build an understanding of the education we offer here at Rangitoto College. At the end of the visit, ERO provided an informal debrief of their initial findings before they submit a final report to the school later in the year. This feedback session was an incredible affirmation of the high-quality learning environment we provide, and a tribute to the work of our leaders and staff in designing and delivering a remarkable range of opportunities for our community.

Attendance During Winter Terms

We continue to see attendance and engagement in school prioritised, which is pleasing to see. Parents play a key role in ensuring their child is best prepared for success with their education. The attendance support implemented by the school is also ensuring greater clarity and partnership between home and school. We would remind parents to access [this guidance](#) from Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora, which supports parents to know if their child is well enough to attend school.

Sport

Whether your child is competing at a local, regional, or national level, the Sports Department wants to celebrate their success! Student sporting achievements are recorded directly onto school profiles and form the essential database for our annual Sports Awards, so it is incredibly important that we are notified of all team and individual results via the Student Achievement form [here](#).

Because the form can only be submitted once per achievement, please provide full, comprehensive details to ensure our team can successfully verify the results. Please note that we are only able to officially record achievements that can be verified, so your thoroughness is greatly appreciated in helping us recognize and celebrate our hardworking athletes.

Japan Week

Last week, we held our annual Japan Week. What was once a one-day event has blossomed into a full-week celebration. Students watched an epic Taiko drum performance, sang their hearts out at karaoke, and feasted on some delicious Japanese food. This is just one of the many cultural events we hold to celebrate the diverse student population at our college.



A Choral Confection

Join us for a delightful evening for the whole family. Performances from the Rangitoto College choirs - The Minuettes, Serenata and Cambiata - interspersed with items from selected choral students and the Year 9 Vocal class.

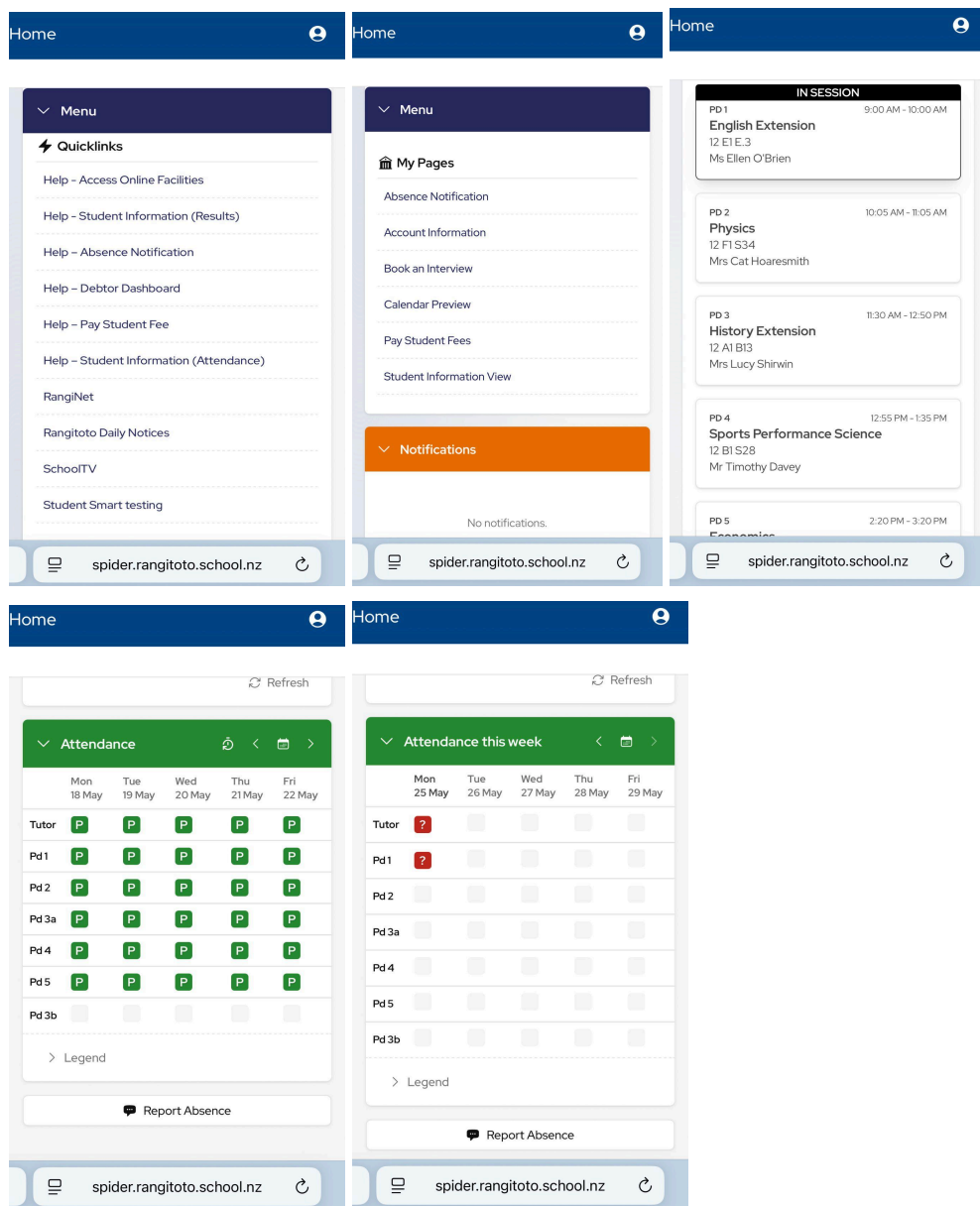
Tickets are available from the College Finance office, and the audience will be given a sweet treat on arrival.

Lost Property

We are experiencing a high volume of uniforms and other items (drink bottles and HOP cards) that have been handed into lost property and due to not being named are unable to be returned to the students. We encourage parents to name their child's property (this also applies to secondhand uniform items to be renamed) so that it can be promptly returned to them.

Parent Portal

Improvements have been made by our Student Management System provider (FACTS) with the interface of our Parent Portal when viewing on a mobile device. Please see below images of the home screen which includes key attendance details for your child. The first screen shot below shows the home menu, which includes 'Quicklinks' for help material in using the Parent Portal. The second shows pages parents will use for various functions, including notifying of student absences and viewing details of your child. The third gives an example of a student's active timetable on a particular day, while the final two screenshots show live reporting of absence. Note Period 3b attendance is recorded for Year 9 students only. (P=Present in class, ? = Absence from class without reason). We would encourage all parents to use the Parent Portal to access key information for your child and to monitor their attendance. Please do not share login details with your child as this compromises the integrity of the system.



Kind regards,

Greg Thornton
Principal