

Rangitoto College - Community Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
Teacher-Only Day (MOE-directed)	3 September
Rangitoto Day - School Closed	4 September
Senior Exams (Years 12 and 13)	9 - 18 September
Te Reo Maori Language Week	14 - 18 September
CAA (Years 10 - 13)	17 - 18 September
Filo Night Show	18 September
Dance NZ Made Nationals	18 - 20 September
Dental Planet on site	18 September - 9 October

Principal's Update

I have been fortunate to see our students in action with the Big Sing finale and sports in Winter Tournament Week. Although it is too early in the week to share all of the results, we have just concluded badminton where we are national champions for boys and girls, and the team golf format, where we placed third nationally. It has been incredible to see our students perform at such a high level, competing with the best sports people from around the country. We can be incredibly proud of their achievements and also how they have represented our community. They have been exceptional this week, upholding our school values, enhancing the school reputation and, importantly, they have been fantastic company. Winter Tournament Week is a great way to finish the season and a wonderful opportunity for students to build friendships around a shared passion. It is the highlight of the year for so many of our students. I want to thank the coaches, managers, parents and supporters who have helped make it possible, enabling our students to perform at their best and make the most of this incredible week. We will share a full run down of results shortly, but until then, keep an eye on our socials for updates as the excitement builds into the final days.

Big Sing National Finale

Last week, Serenata travelled to Christchurch to compete at The Big Sing Finale, joining just 24 of the top secondary school choirs from across New Zealand. After months of dedicated rehearsal and preparation, the choir performed two competition programmes and also performed at the Gala Concert on Saturday evening.



Serenata was awarded a Bronze Award, recognising their achievement among the country's leading secondary school choirs. Reaching the Finale itself is a phenomenal achievement and a wonderful reflection of the students' hard work and commitment. The students were a credit to our school throughout the entire trip. Their behaviour, attitude, camaraderie and enthusiasm made them an absolute joy to take away, and we are exceptionally proud of the way they represented our school. Finale provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to share their music, listen to and learn from other exceptional young choirs, and celebrate the joy of singing together at the highest level. You can watch all of the performances [here](#).

Teacher-Only Day / Rangitoto Day

A reminder that there are no classes for students on Thursday 3 September due to MOE-directed teacher-only day. School is also closed on Friday 4 September for Rangitoto Day.

CAA Testing for Years 10 to 13

CAA testing for literacy and numeracy occurs on 17 and 18 September. This link [here](#) that was presented at the Year 10 assembly this week is useful for Year 10 students and parents to ensure you are ready for testing days. Year 10 students must have set up their NZQA learner login account before the testing day.

Entrance Exams

Exams for Year 12 and 13 students begin on Wednesday 9 September running through until Friday 18 September. All students will receive an individualised timetable that they access through FACTS, with their examination room and time. Exam attendance is compulsory. Given the importance of these exams and the opportunity they provide to give students feedback prior to the November NCEA exams, students who do not attend *without a justified reason* will be followed up by a senior staff member (dean or senior leader) and allocated a catch-up time. For students in this situation, their exams cannot be used for derived grade purposes.

The exam timetable is now live and students will receive a printed copy of their exam admission slip and timetable in Tutor Period closer to the exams; they must bring a copy of this with them to each exam, students without their admission slip will not be allowed to enter the examination room. These slips can be reprinted from FACTS at any time from Week 7 onwards. Students in Year 12 and 13 need to attend school for the times they have examinations, as well as any timetabled classes (at Year 9 to 11) they are in. Normal school rules around uniform and dress apply. Year 10 or 11 students who have an exam still attend normal classes when they do not have an exam on. While the entrance exams are running, all Year 9, 10 and 11 classes operate as normal, although room changes will occur to accommodate examinations.

Year 12 and Year 13 Exam Preparation Tool (NCEA, IB)

The school has developed a Gemini Notebook that Year 12 and Year 13 students can access to get targeted, carefully-curated advice about strategies for effective exam preparation. All Year 12 and Year 13 students have access to this Notebook via their school account and we encourage parents of these students to support their children in accessing and utilising this in preparation for the Entrance Exams and NCEA exams.

Winter Illness

We understand that some parents may find it tricky to know when their child is well enough to attend school and when an unwell child should be kept at home. Please refer to the [following guidance](#) provided by Health New Zealand.

Ministry of Education Healthy School Lunches Programme

In the last newsletter, we advertised the Ministry of Education Healthy School Lunches Programme designed to deliver nutritious, appealing lunches to students whose economic circumstances mean it is difficult to buy or bring a nutritious lunch from home. Next week sees students beginning to receive their free lunches. There is still space available for others to join this initiative. As a reminder:

- Students in the pilot will remain **anonymous**. This will be protected through a private and secure online ordering system with collection from our tuckshop, in the same way that all students collect online and kiosk orders.
- The pilot will run through until the end of the year. To confidentially register, email lunch@rangitoto.school.nz and provide the name of your child and their school ID number.
- The pilot will be used to guide budget decisions and future support. To help get it right across the country, we will ask for feedback on student experiences with the pilot programme. This will be discrete and anonymised.

Kind regards,



Greg Thornton
Principal