



## RANGITIKEI COLLEGE

Building an engaged, empowered, and flourishing learning community that knows no limits, and where we honour ourselves, each other, and the world around us.

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Kia ora koutou,

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the work of students, whānau and staff that has ensured a great start to

the year. New students appear to have settled in well, and sound routines have been set. Thank you.

I am also very pleased with the launch of the Healthy Lunches programme, and the positive reception this has had from students. It has been quite an undertaking getting it off the ground, but it has been worth the wait.

I had really hoped I could talk about something other than COVID this time around, but the situation as it now stands gives me little option but to reinforce some key messages. But before I do I want to thank everyone for the Respect, Endeavour, Aroha and Perseverance they have shown as we have made adjustments to the way we do school. From distancing, reshaped school events, limitations on visitors, wearing masks and so on, your understanding and patience with this situation has been very much appreciated.

#### Rising cases – what it means for us

In the meantime, nothing changes. We will still remain vigilant and undertake all practical precautions to keep the virus from being transmitted.

You have probably seen headlines in the media about the numbers of COVID cases being seen in schools. Please don't be alarmed by this. It is only natural as cases in our community increase, they will also appear in our school. We have really good systems in place to respond to this and to keep any spread of the virus – should it appear – to a minimum.

I see in the media that Dr Jin Russell noted [research from New South Wales about their recent Omicron outbreak](#) showed onward transmission within the school setting is very low. For every child who is infected and attends school only 3.7% of their close contacts at school subsequently tested positive. We have seen that in New Zealand too – public health teams have seen that even though cases pop up in schools, there has been very little onward spread through the school because of the protective measures we have in place.

This is why we will continue to remain open at Red. It's far better for young people's wellbeing and learning to be at school with their friends and teachers.

Therefore, it is highly unlikely school will be closed because of rising numbers. We will do our best to keep things operational and learning to continue - safely. Our staff are preparing now to continue teaching your child from home should they or their students be required to isolate or contract the virus.

But there is also a possibility that should large numbers of staff be unable to come to work, we may have to consider reduced hours onsite or rostering different groups of students home on different days. I hope we don't get to that, but if we have to we will be ready.

## March 2022

### Key points about Phase 3:

- it is only confirmed cases and their household contacts who need to self-isolate. Everyone else, including those who may have had close contact with the case but aren't in the household, must continue to monitor themselves really closely for any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) are now being used to diagnose COVID-19 as well as PCR tests. This means that you will get an almost immediate test result back if a RAT is used.
- If anyone in your family is confirmed as having COVID-19, you will be asked to notify your close contacts yourself. *Please get in touch with us as soon as you can if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 or is required to self-isolate.* We will not be told by the Ministry of Health, and we will not act on unconfirmed rumours.
- Schools will no longer be involved in contact tracing

Remember that transmission of COVID-19 is still most likely to happen in your home – so please keep doing all those things to keep your whānau safe. Wash your hands, get lots of fresh air, cover any coughs and sneezes, clean surfaces regularly, and seek advice if anyone is not feeling well. More than a third of people who have COVID-19 will not have any symptoms if they have had three doses of the vaccine – but they are still able to pass it on. If unwell, please stay at home and get advice about getting a COVID-19 test.

If you have any concerns about sending your child to school, please do get in touch. We are always here to help.

Stay positive, test negative.  
Tony Booker, **PRINCIPAL**

## INTRODUCING...

**Mr Grant Gowan**- Technology



Kia ora, ko Grant Gowan Toku ingoa. I am filling in for Mrs Jorgensen as Head of Technology for the year while she is on leave. I am currently teaching Design and Engineering. I have been teaching in these areas for the last 21 years, firstly at Manawatu College in Foxton and for the last 16 years at St Peters College in Palmerston North.

Prior to teaching I completed my Cabinetmaking apprenticeship in Hawera, I spent 10 years in the Police in the Wairarapa and spent a few years as a bike mechanic. I live in Feilding with my wife Megan and dog Wilbur. Our 3 kids have all grown up and left home.

I've had a great start at Rangitikei College and have enjoyed getting to know some of the awesome students. I'm looking forward to building relationships with the wider school community. Thanks to everyone for making me feel so welcome.

## IT'S A GIRL



Congratulations to **Mrs April Bliss** and her husband **Tony** on the arrival of their baby girl, **Penelope Elizabeth Cuttle**. Best wishes from us all.

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## CONGRATULATIONS



**Mr Ayden Hancy** and **Miss Leah Viles** were married last month. They had a wonderful day, and we wish them well for their future together.

## I AM HOPE



**Tai Tupou** from 'I am Hope' spoke with students last week about mental health. Tai talked about having two voices in our head - an 'overactive inner critic' which is a voice in our head that undermines our critical thinking and then the 'voice of reason' which is a more influential positive voice.

For more information visit their website: [www.iamhope.org.nz](http://www.iamhope.org.nz)  
There are resources available to download such as

- 15 things you should never say
- A parent's guide to depression
- Teenager's guide to depression

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A reminder that we do have our own school counsellor, **Emma Gordon** who students and parents can email [egordon@rangitikeicollege.school.nz](mailto:egordon@rangitikeicollege.school.nz)  
Thank you, **Mrs Komene**, for organising this presentation for our young people.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES



Congratulations to the following students who have received leadership roles this year:

Head Prefects

**Harvey Gardner**

**Waiatatia Ratana-Karehana**

School Prefects

**Erin Wigglesworth** (sports)

**Jordan Hughes** (House competitions)

**Lisa Cruywagen** (Community Engagement)

**Joanna Pangarotan** (Pathways)

**Melanie Beagley** (Logistics)

**Makayla Vaa** (Student Support)

**Maddi Marriner** (Arts)

**Katherine Hine** (Promoting REAP)

**Mikayla Allison** (School Spirit)

**Xavier Port** (Social Justice)

Kaiarahi - **Waiatatia Ratana-Karehana**

Board of Trustees School

Representative - **Makayla Vaa**

House Captains

Kaimanawa - **Harley Whitford** and

**Tahlia Simeon**

Kaweka - **Niva Manulua Lafi** and

**Amy Gust**

Ruahine - **Alec-Zelda Alderson** and

**Thomas Whitton**

Tararua - **Maddi Marriner** and

**Harvey Robin-Wolland**



## SPORTS' REPORT



Rangitikei College is off to a cracking start with increased levels of participation across all our summer codes. It's refreshingly positive to see students taking up the opportunities being provided and choosing to give new options a go. This too was obvious at the swim sports day with an overall positive increase in student participation throughout the day.



Congratulations to our overall swim champs:

Junior Boys - **Tavita Orum**

Junior Girls - **Samantha Rooke**

Intermediate Boys - **Kruze Jansen**

Intermediate Girls - **Jessica Sutton**

Senior Boys - **Jordan Hughes**

Senior Girls - **Lara Watson**



Also, a special mention to our staff relay team who have regained their title of champion over the Year 13 relay team!



Along with Cricket, Rowing, Volleyball and Golf, this year the College has introduced Archery to its options of summer sport. Students will travel to Whanganui to receive instruction from the Marangai Archery Club. Originally planned for only 11 students once a week, the program was overwhelmed with interest and now will cater to 49 students across two nights after school in Term 1.

Rangitikei College students live and breathe Volleyball and the outdoor court is rarely empty at break time during the week. This year the college will enter three teams into the Whanganui league as well as offering a social league back at school for those unable to travel to Whanganui. It is essential that we provide as many opportunities to our students as possible. Especially in a time where leagues and competitions are being cancelled. If we can't play in a league because of restrictions or cancellations, we'll make our own fun at home.

Golf has also been popular amongst our students with 17 students wishing to give the sport a go. The college is grateful for the opportunity provided by Marton golf club which will permit them to travel out for a round of golf for a four-week period commencing in the beginning of March.

The cricket season is yet to get underway as Whanganui cricket look to rebuild their secondary school program. Some friendly games are planned with high schools in Whanganui and an all-day Cricket Festival to summarise the season will take place at the end of term for our players. Our learn to row program is also in its infancy stages of planning as we work alongside Aramoho Rowing Club in Whanganui to provide instruction to our students.

We are aware that there has been a change to Vaccine Passports and their requirement in extra co-curricular sport. *The Minister*

*announced that My Vaccine Passes will not be required for school students participating in a school representative team, on or off school sites. This announcement requires a change to legislation, and this will take time. The current guidance applies until the legal paperwork is done – expected in the next fortnight. Once we receive the guidelines from Sport NZ, we will communicate this change to all families so that their children may make the choice to now participate in school teams and clubs.*

This year we have been generously supported by **Linda Harris** at Watson Integrity Real Estate. Linda has provided a drink bottle for every student that participates on a college team. Thank you, Linda, for keeping our athletes hydrated!

With the positive increase in participation this year we as a college are now facing a dilemma in supporting all our students with transport to their sporting venues. We are fortunate to have access to four school vans, however, it is often a struggle to find a driver who can take our students out of town to their sporting commitments. We do not want to have to begin to limit the number of students due to a lack of transportation and so we are seeking parental assistance to solve this issue. We do not expect parents to take on an entire season of driving but if you are able to help in at least one driving session we would be extremely grateful. Geographically we are disadvantaged compared to most other schools who have the luxury of living in the town where their sport is offered. If you are available to help on a van roster for your child's sporting code please do get in touch with Emily Rayner, Director of Sport. If we all work together, we can continue to offer exceptional sporting opportunities for our students to participate in.

**Mrs. Emily Rayner**  
**Director of Sport**

## SCHOOL LUNCHES



**Mrs Caroline Brotherson** - School Lunches Team Leader

My name is Caroline and I moved here with my husband from Wellington in 2015. You may see us around town with our two Rhodesian Ridgebacks. I have been a qualified Chef since 1985 and have worked in a variety of establishments. This job is one of the most satisfying.



**Mrs Fale Pese** - School Lunches Assistant

My name is Fale and I moved here with my husband and daughter from Auckland in 2020. I worked with Caroline in the kitchen at Ohakea Air Force. I have a diploma in Catering and Food Hygiene and have experience in the hospitality industry.



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## ART TRIP TO RATANA PA



Last Friday the senior art students ventured out to Ratana Pa under the guidance of **Whaea Vanessa** and **Whaea Sonata**. We were all so excited to visit the community of Ratana, the house of Ratana and of course the Temple. We would like to thank the Ratana community for having us and being so hospitable and of course thanks to Whaea Sonata, our resident Morehu, we are forever grateful for the knowledge and narratives you shared. Students will work towards resolved paintings or prints by the end of the term so watch this space.

*Mrs. Vanessa Buerger*  
H.O.D of Arts



## VALENTINE'S DAY



Year 13 **Mikayla Allison** (pictured left) saw an opportunity to spread some aroha amongst her peers at school this Valentine's Day. Students and teachers placed their orders, and the roses were delivered to happy recipients.

Mikayla and her helpers **Erin, Katherine, Lisa** (pictured right),

**Joanna, Melanie, Mikayla's Mum** and boyfriend **Conor** all helped to make 150 paper roses by hand and raised **\$185.00** for Starship Hospital.

## 2022 BUILDING ACADEMY



Our 2022 Building Academy are underway with the build of a new house on site. The programme is run through AGC Training. To keep updated on their progress, keep an eye on our school Facebook page.

## EX-STUDENTS SHARE THEIR ART TALENT LOCALLY



**Jade Gray and Morna Collie** have been

contracted to paint a variety of power boxes around the town. Here is Jade sharing her talent. Doesn't it look fantastic!



## IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

**Wed 2 Mar** Athletics  
**Fri 4 Mar** WSS Swim champs  
**Thu 3/Fri 4 Mar** Learning Conferences (no school on Friday)  
**Fri 11 Mar** Staff only day  
**Tue 15 Mar** WSS Athletic champs  
**Tue 15-Fri 18 Mar** Year 13 Camp  
**Thu 14 Apr** Last day of Term 1  
**Fri 15 Mar** Good Friday

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