



REMUERA
INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL
RELIABILITY INTEGRITY SERVICE

Ascot Avenue, Remuera 1050
Email: admin@remint.school.nz

Phone: 09 522 9890 Fax: 09 520 6455
Web: www.remint.school.nz

AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

Principal's Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Remuera community for such a positive and inviting welcome. By day three I really felt like I was home and that I was very much in the right place. I am sure you can appreciate that after 6 years living abroad this was a fantastic relief but also extremely motivating. In an effort to quickly get up to speed with the various systems, structures, school culture and most importantly the people I have developed a process whereby I will be concentrating on specific aspects of the school week by week. This strategic approach will ensure I have a deep understanding and appreciation of the way things are currently running before going forward.



Some of you may have seen the article in last weeks local paper introducing my arrival. In this article I shared some thoughts regarding education. You may be curious what else I value and believe and what this might mean for the future of RI. The following is a statement regarding my philosophy around education and leadership. Hopefully in reading this you will get a greater sense of who I am and what I hope to bring to the Remuera community.

I believe education today is a multidimensional journey requiring those involved to be acutely aware of and responsive to the social, emotional and academic needs of all concerned. Education is no longer confined to the classroom or the lecture hall. Relationships with families, local communities and the greater global community are essential in providing a well-rounded internationally minded education. Schools today should have their sights set on the future and as such the education they provide should aim to prepare students to live a happy, fulfilled life in a world that is changing daily.

To succeed in a world that is no longer predictable or stationary we must provide more than just knowledge and skills. Understanding and empathy should also be the focus of education and such we must teach students to make connections to their world; to think both critically and creatively; to communicate openly and honestly; to reflect on their actions, experiences or decisions; to inquire into the world around them, and perhaps most importantly; to consider the impact of their findings on both them and others now and into the future. Once developed, the ability to inquire can be applied to all aspects of life and through a self-awareness of the learning process, students can continue to grow and learn in any situation they may find themselves.

Although one can have knowledge without understanding, understanding cannot exist without knowledge. For real understanding to be possible students must possess a solid foundation of knowledge with which to inquire and in turn develop a real sense of the world and all its wonders. I believe firmly that a constructivist pedagogy that provides students with the opportunity to develop understandings requires the explicit teaching of skills and knowledge with which to inquire about their world. Just as discovering the Earth was round presented a host of possibilities for explorers in the past, knowledge provides students with the resources to explore today's, and more importantly for them, tomorrow's world. Understanding is the application of knowledge and as such both hold significant importance.

Inquiry as a means of developing deeper understanding has become all the more possible with the digital revolution. At no time in human history have students and teachers had such direct access to information, news, ideas and resources. Information technology has provided educators with a vast array of tools to assist students in gathering, processing and presenting this plethora of information. In addition the opportunities made possible to create and share new learning through the use of IT are extraordinary. With students being such digital natives we must embrace their strengths to connect to the real world whilst supporting them to navigate this new environment.

Education for the future must also take a holistic view. In order to become well-rounded members of society students must be provided with opportunities to develop in all aspects of life. In addition to striving for academic excellence, schools must provide opportunities for students to develop and discover their passions, whether they are on the sport field, the stage, the debating chamber or in the art studio. These are often the places where we truly discover who we are or who we want to become.

As an educational leader I believe it is essential to develop an environment built on trust and respect in which people can communicate openly and honestly. A strong leader must ensure policies, procedures and expectations are in place and clearly communicated to ensure all members of the school community feel safe and supported. In fostering such an environment, it is possible to develop an innovative culture in which everyone is inspired and motivated to learn, an environment where student's individuality, wellness and success are at the heart of all decision making. As such, leaders must have the courage to make challenging decisions whilst having the intuition to seek understanding and gain awareness of the expectations and aspirations of those they serve.

Kyle Brewerton
Principal

Befu Elementary Japanese Exchange

Last week we hosted 30 students and teachers from our Sister School Befu Elementary in Fukuoka, Japan. A huge thank you goes out to all the families who hosted our special guests. Our students did an excellent job of welcoming these young people and teachers and providing them a slice of kiwi life.



Netball Champions

Congratulations to both our boys and girls netball teams who each won the central zone competition. A special thank you to Mrs Hayley Buckley for both teams.

Secondary Enrolment Dates

We have had a number of notifications from secondary schools regarding enrolment dates. If you have not yet contacted your child's secondary school you may want to view their websites regarding relevant deadlines.



Building Update

As many of you will be aware we are about to commence building a new classroom block. All preparations have been made and we are just waiting for final consent form the council at which time the contractors will get under way.

2017 Enrolments

A reminder that enrolment forms for younger siblings are in the school office now.

If you are out of zone please ensure that you have the completed forms returned by 12 October.

Thank You

We would like to say thank you to Countdown Meadowbank for their sponsorship towards our recent Arts Evening.



Dunedin Trip

We currently have 30 students and 3 teachers visiting our Sister School, Tahuna Intermediate. The group will spend 4 days with host families in Dunedin before travelling to Queenstown for 2 days skiing and returning to Auckland next week.

ICAS Digital Technologies Winners

Huge Congratulations to Michelle Guan – Year 8 who received a High Distinction Award at the recent ICAS Digital Technologies exam, the highest mark in New Zealand!

Further congratulations go to those who received Distinction awards –

YEAR 7

Mishaarni Aravinthan
Tianling Lu
Eric Zheng
Thomas Candy
Oshan Premkumar
Tasman Christensen
Ben Macsweeney
Ryaan Sidhu
Rhys Chittenden
Yuting Guo

YEAR 8

Ilya Blinov
Peace Yin Ai-En
Luke Cameron
Sean Hollier
Sahan De Silva

Science Roadshow

At the end of last term The Science Roadshow visited the school. They had a great time exploring various science and technology concepts by 'touch and feel'. It provides a unique, informal learning opportunity that includes live shows and hands-on exhibits that broaden students' knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The mission of the Science Roadshow is to support science education in New Zealand schools through science outreach.



Art Show

The end of last term also saw our annual Art Show which is a highlight on the school calendar. The evening also incorporated the Wearable Arts Fashion Show and was well attended by many families who all had a great evening. Congratulations to Mrs Sturgiss and her team who coordinated such a successful evening.





R.I. Art Exhibition July 2016

