



REMUERA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

RELIABILITY INTEGRITY SERVICE

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FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to Remuera Intermediate. For those of you returning to RI, welcome back. We have had a great week getting settled into new classes and getting acquainted with peers and teachers.

At the end of last year we took some time to review our mission as it relates to educating emerging adolescents in this day and age. As a consequence, we have written a new mission statement that we believe will drive our strategic plan and subsequent decisions over the coming years.

Our new mission statement now reads;

Remuera Intermediate School will provide a rigorous and enriching education in an environment that supports the unique social, emotional and academic needs of emerging adolescents. The aim of this education is to develop resilient, compassionate and responsible members of a global community.

As you can see, our aim is to cater to the unique needs of this age whilst maintaining a strong focus on academic growth and achievement. To achieve this aim Remuera Intermediate has built a solid reputation for being a school that encourages strong relationships with everyone involved in your child's learning including families, staff and the wider community.

We consistently encourage students to get involved in the many opportunities on offer here at Remuera Intermediate whether it is in the art studio, on the stage or the sports field or in one of the many academic enrichment and extension programmes. We believe that this is a time in one's life when we start figuring out who we are and where our passions lie. It is these early experiences that may begin to set us on a future path of success.

We encourage you to take every opportunity to get involved in your child's journey. We enjoy the support and involvement of an active PTA and an experienced Board of Trustees. Our doors are always open and we look forward to partnering with you as your child embarks on another successful year.

Kyle Brewerton
Principal



YOU AND YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

*The most important relationship with your child after your own
is the one between your child and their teacher.*

Don't be a Stranger – take a moment to introduce yourself to your child's teacher, and stay in contact.

Learning doesn't stop at 3.00 pm – support the teacher by encouraging your child to talk about the school day and what they are studying.

Keep your child organised – check for newsletters, permission forms needing a signature etc. Encourage your child to have a timetable displayed so they know when PE gear is needed.

Teachers are on your side so give them support – some parents go into 'attack mode' when their child complains about a teacher. Try to get the full story by contacting the teacher in a positive way, and working together on the situation.

Let your child make mistakes – teachers want students who try hard, and not all students are going to get all work correct all the time. Support your child but don't put too much pressure on them to be perfect. Our greatest lessons often come from the mistakes we make.

If the teacher is doing a good job let them know – working with a large group of young people is highly demanding. It's incredibly uplifting and appreciated when someone takes the time to say thank you

NEWSLETTERS – WHAT TO EXPECT

There is a monthly Newsletter issued to all students, usually on the first Friday of each month. Class teachers may also issue Newsletters to parents of their students, stating information about programmes and class events. Notes will be sent home regarding camps, class trips etc.

MEET THE TEACHER EVENING

Thursday 16 February

6:30 pm The school's Mission Statement
Principal's Welcome
BOT Chairperson/PTA Chairperson

6:50 pm Introduction of staff in hall

7.00 pm Meet the teachers in classrooms

Please note: *This evening is designed for you to meet the staff and for teachers to outline their teaching programme. Should you wish to discuss your child's progress, please make an appointment with the teacher for some later date.*

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

Full details of all events can be found on our website

Meet the Teacher	Thursday 16 February 6:30 pm in Hall
Photolife photos	Monday 20 February
BOT Meeting	Tuesday 21 February 7:30 pm staffroom
RI Swimming Sports	Wednesday 1 March
Awards Assemblies	Friday 31 March
Year 7 Camps	3 - 7 April
Year 8 Camps	Weeks 6, 8, 9, 10



TERM ENDS 3.00 pm THURSDAY 13 APRIL

ABSENCES

To report an absence please use the link on the school website homepage www.remint.school.nz

EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

Remuera Intermediate School has a sister-school relationship with Befu Elementary School in Fukuoka, Japan and Tahuna Normal Intermediate School in Dunedin. Each year 30 students are chosen for each trip.

The objectives set for these exchanges are:

- To provide an opportunity for our students to develop understanding, knowledge and an appreciation of other cultures.
- To provide opportunities for comparing lifestyles.
- To foster ongoing friendships.
- To develop skills of interdependency and social integration. All families will receive information about the Japan



trip in March and the Dunedin trip in May.

CYBERSAFETY and RESPONSIBLE USE

All students have access to ICT to support learning. They have their own Remuera Intermediate email and login to our network.



All students are required to sign a responsible use agreement prior to accessing ICT here at school.



All computers are protected against inappropriate websites and the school has its own internal audit procedure to monitor website use. On some rare occasions, we become aware



of student 'conflict' taking place through home email, chat rooms etc. Parents are encouraged to regularly check on how their child is using the Internet and in particular Social Media outside of school hours.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOMESTAY OPPORTUNITIES



Remuera Intermediate School has some International Students this year. These are students who do not qualify for free education in New Zealand. Remuera Intermediate does not arrange accommodation for these students. From time to time we are asked by Ministry of Education approved agents to identify families who would like to homestay such students. If you are interested in being a homestay family (with financial reward), please contact Robert Rasmussen at RI (phone 522 9890). Your name can then be forwarded to agents who will contact you.

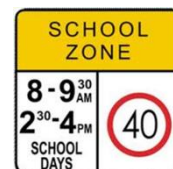


ROAD SAFETY

The school has safety rules that our staff strictly enforce, particularly at the end of the school day. We are very aware of the dangers the students face crossing the road at the Ascot Ave/Greenlane lights, and there are concerns about the traffic congestion along both Ascot Ave and St Vincents Ave. We expect parents to support our "safety rules".

- **Parents should not call out to their children to run across the road at points that we consider extremely dangerous.**
- **PARENTS ARE NOT TO DRIVE INTO THE SCHOOL or block driveways to pick up or drop off students unless authorised.**
- **Students should use the crossing at Ascot Ave/Greenlane Rd to cross, not the crossing on Greenlane Road close to St Vincents Ave.**

We do our best to ensure your children leave our school safely. We appeal for parent cooperation. During school hours if children have arranged to leave the school, they **must** be picked up from the school office and signed out.



SCHOOL STAFF 2017

Note: Contact details for most staff are available on our school website

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Principal: Kyle Brewerton
Deputy Principal: Tom Beckett
Senior Managers: Robert Rasmussen – Yr 7, Robin Gatfield - Yr 8

CLASSROOM TEACHERS:

Yr 7: Anne McDonnell (11), Hayley Buckley (12), Shane Dalton (13), Katrina Earl (14), Debbie Peninsula (15), Cameron Olliff (16), Megan McGaw (17), Shirley Christie (18), Carl Maskell (19), Natalie Park (20), Angela Karl (21), Kelly Lynch (22), Harmony Weston (23), Deborah Bartlett (24),
Yr 8: John Houston (1), Jason Waite (2), Juliet McGarry (3), Debbie Western (4), Alan Whitehouse (5), Alaric Nicholls/Kristin Roscherr (6), Julie Miller (7), Rebecca Collins (8), Holly Hunter (9), Jacqui O'Donnell (10), John van Mulbregt (25), Linda Shaw (26), Pip Faulknor (27), Lewis Wallace (28)

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Bio Technology:	Natasha Jeffrey	Soft Materials:	Lorraine Herbert	Hard Materials:	Geoff MacCulloch
Food Technology:	Sonja Potter	Media Studies:	Kris Zemke	Music:	Sharon Kearney
Art:	Billie Sturgiss	Drama:	Kris Zemke	Violin:	Dr John Thomson
French:	Jane Gordon	Japanese:	Joanne McNeil	Te Reo:	Odie Johnson
Learning Support:	Richard Peters				
Special Needs:	Rosey Dodson				
ESOL:	Jan Hedges				
Part time teachers:	Christine Teesdale, Marguerita Muirhead, Rainey Nicholls, Claire Bentley, Janet Lowe.				

SUPPORT STAFF

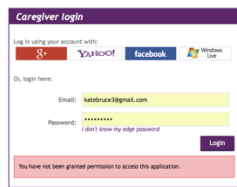
Reception:	Mandy Brynes/Lorraine Lusia				
Administration:	Paula Hughes	Enrolments:	Christine Cranfield	Finance Officer:	Giok Choong
Resource Manager:	Jossie Dunlop	Systems admin:	Helen Masters	Finance Assistant:	Jan Covacich
Library:	Jenny Inverarity				
Teacher Aides:	Rachel Lovrich, Claudia Thomas, Briar McCagney, Sanji Mulleviahana, Shauna Towers, Kim Mercer, Sarah Vujcich, Peter McErlane, Linda Blackmore, Josh Christensen				
Property Manager:	John Smyth	Caretaker:	Keith McCreedy		

DONATIONS/FEES/STATIONERY

During the first week of school the students should have received a notice explaining the 2017 fee structure. The stationery packs provide the basic requirements for the start of the year. The Activity Fee covers the cost of a range of schoolwide events involving transport and additional tuition costs. The materials fee covers the cost of the materials used and taken home as end products.



By the end of 2017 we will be moving all payments online via our parent portal. I would like to extend a big thank you to those who have utilised this facility already this year. This will ultimately make payments a great deal easier for families and for our staff here at school. In the meantime, credit card and EFTPOS facilities are available here at school.



I would also like to thank those families that have contributed a donation to the school. This goes a long way to providing the many additional programmes we have on offer here at Remuera Intermediate. Do remember you are able to claim a good portion of this donation contribution back through your annual tax return.



MOBILE TELEPHONES

Mobile phones are **NOT** permitted to be used at school. We ask that you actively **discourage** your child from bringing his/her phone to school. However, should your child need to bring a phone for after-school use, the phone must be turned off when entering the school site and we strongly recommend that it is handed to the class teacher for safekeeping throughout the day. The school will take no responsibility for any phone brought to school.

CHANGE OF DETAILS

Please update any changes in contact details or address via the link on the front page of our school website. This is critical as we move toward more online communication and sharing of student records.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our website is constantly being updated with upcoming events and news. Most questions we are asked have the answer in the A to Z section of our website. Please take advantage of this fantastic resource.

www.remint.school.nz

Term Dates 2017

Term One

- Tuesday 31 January – Thursday 13 April

Term Two

- Monday 1 May – Friday 7 July

Term Three

- Monday 24 July – Friday 29 September

Term Four

- Monday 16 October – Friday 15 December

Home and School Email Communication

Over the last few years the use of email has allowed us to communicate more efficiently and effectively within our Remuera Intermediate School environment and as a community.

To ensure all parties (staff, students, parents and the wider community) find that email continues to be effective we have developed school guidelines around its use. Thank you for joining staff in following these guidelines.

E-Mail Guidelines

- Decide if you are sending this email for the purposes of information giving or some other reason. Organisation of events, meeting requests and information giving are the best use of email as a form of communication.
- Try to keep emails brief and include a clear subject line as a header so people can identify swiftly if it is relevant to them.
- Make sure that it is clear in your email what the purpose of the email is - do you require specific action or is the email for information only?
- Avoid using email for complaining or venting - this is not an appropriate use of the medium. If you have a sensitive issue or challenging situation, please do not hesitate to make a time to speak to your child's teacher or one of our school leaders in person.
- Avoid using email as an excuse to avoid personal contact. A simple 'rule of thumb' is to ask yourself if you would say what you have written to the person's face.

Parents to Staff E-Mail

- If you have any concerns about your child you need to contact your child's classroom teacher to make a time to meet to discuss your concerns. This can be done via email. Please inform your child's teacher of your concerns before the meeting to support a positive outcome.
- Please do not expect a reply from a teacher immediately as our expectation is that they will be working with children during the school day. Teachers will reply to emails within three working days.

School Building Update



Our new classroom block has been making steady progress over the summer break. We anticipate the roof going on towards the end of March and final completion to be sometime around late term 3. This would see us moving in over the term 3 break. Once classes have moved into the new building we will have the prefabricated classes on the field removed as soon as possible. In addition, the two older rooms alongside the driveway will be moved off site shortly thereafter.

This will free up space and provide us with an excellent facility for future students. As an added bonus, being a flexible space will allow us to use it after hours for training and for meetings with larger groups

Late Arrival/Early Departure

To ensure the safety of all students we ask that all students follow these procedures.

- If your child arrives after 8:45 they will need to sign in at the office and collect a late pass. If they go straight to class, the teacher will redirect them to the office to sign in.
- If you are taking your child out of school early you must personally collect them from the office and they must sign out.

Daily Notices

We are currently trialling a new daily notices system. Once we are confident this system is working well we will inform families how they can view these notices. In the meantime, teachers are making sure notices are shared daily with students and printouts are posted around the school to support students to access the many events taking place.

