



JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Where Have all the Teachers Gone?

I have a question for you... would you become a teacher?



In recent months there has been a great deal of media attention regarding the current teaching crisis particularly in big cities. What has not been as clear in the media is the fact that this issue is just as prevalent, if not worse, in some rural communities. Neither has it been shared that this has not suddenly appeared overnight, rather it is an issue that has been growing steadily over a number of years. Reporters, unions, politicians and principal's groups have all thrown in their two cents worth with little agreement on how 'real' this issue actually is.

Focus has now shifted to upcoming contract negotiations. News headlines have highlighted the fact that now Labour is in power, and 'they are friends of the unions', a request for a 16% pay increase is being demanded. Once again, our media have done a great job of simplifying and politicising an issue that stretches way beyond politics and governments of the day.

Coming back to my opening question I write to you today in an effort to provide insight into the issues facing schools outside of politics, the media or the world of spin doctors. I will endeavour to share the current reality faced in a large number of our

schools today with the simple aim of encouraging you to think critically about what you hear over the coming months. The issue of recruiting and retaining the finest teachers for our young people.

As a parent and as a principal I am confident in assuming that any parent would like their child to have a teacher who is well trained, highly qualified, highly skilled as well as being highly motivated, compassionate and caring.

Whilst we are currently fortunate to have a workforce where these attributes abound, many of these people are leaving the profession. The average tenure in teaching for a new graduate is around 4 years before leaving the profession to pursue other careers outside of education. People who may exhibit many of these attributes, are simply not choosing teaching as a valued or desirable profession. The number of adults training to become teachers is at an all-time low. The overall effect of these factors is a rapidly shrinking workforce and a real risk of diminishing quality.

What happens when the workforce diminishes to a point where no one applies for teaching roles? Last year I received the fewest applicants ever in my 15 years as a principal. We are extremely fortunate to be in a position to attract strong teachers here at RI however I believe that this may be short-lived if things do not start to change and soon. What happens next time when there are no applicants?

This is a reality already being faced by many schools across Auckland. Some are employing teachers from overseas, some are combining classes and some have resorted to placing learning support teachers and/or senior leadership members back into classrooms. The knock-on effects of this are clear, more teachers without an understanding of the New Zealand curriculum, larger class sizes, limited

support for students with additional needs, more children with behavioural issues remaining in class to be dealt with by classroom teachers, reduced support for teachers as school leaders become unavailable.

Whilst this may appear I am scare mongering or sensationalising I can assure you that this is the reality for more and more schools as this teacher shortage takes hold. How we got here is a conversation that serves little purpose at this stage. Where we go from here is of much greater importance at this point in time.

It would be naive to suggest that wages have little to do with the current situation however there are many other factors that go much deeper than money. Currently only 10% of those who apply to become teachers in Finland are accepted into the programme. There, teaching is seen as a desirable, prestigious and highly trusted profession where only the very best need apply and once you finally get a class to call your own, you are left to get on with the art and science of teaching in a highly collaborative and professional environment.

Surely what we all want would be a situation where the best and brightest are motivated and inspired to

get it into our classrooms. Classrooms where those with specific needs receive the support they need to be successful, where class size is such that teachers have time to really know and understand every child academically, socially and emotionally, where we have the utmost trust in those lucky enough to become teachers.

Would you become a teacher? In the coming months, I ask you to consider critically what sort of educational future you want for your children. If the reality I have shared with you does not fill you with much hope or optimism, I encourage you to share your thoughts with those who may be able to make a difference.

We cannot be drawn into the blame game or an us against them game. This is about identifying what would make a positive difference now and for the future and doing everything we can to achieve this. This is not about unions, politicians or attention-grabbing headlines...this is about our young people. What better place to invest than in our children.

Kyle Brewerton
Principal

2019 ENROLMENTS

If you have a Year 6 student who will be coming to RI in 2019, we encourage you to contact the school about starting the enrolment process early to ensure we are well prepared for the coming year.

If you have query regarding the enrolment process, please contact Ms Margaret Khoong at enrolments@remint.school.nz

Important dates for 2019 Enrolments

In Zone/Out of Zone Applications Open	Monday 7 May 2018 Forms are available on the school website/office Applications can be received via email, post or via the office Any applications that are not completed correctly or are missing documents will be rejected and returned to parents
In Zone Applications Closing Date	Friday 31 August 2018
Out of Zone Applications Closing Date	Wednesday 5 September 2018 at 4pm – no exceptions
Out of Zone Ballot	Wednesday 12 September 2018

COLLEGE ENROLMENT DATES 2019

- Auckland Grammar School
- Epsom Girls Grammar School
- Glendowie College
- One Tree Hill College
- Selwyn College

The deadline for the receipt of applications for the schools mentioned above is **Wednesday 5 September 2018** and the ballot will be held on **Wednesday 12 September 2018** at the individual schools.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 3

6 July	Term 2 Ends	28 August	Board of Trustees Meeting
23 July	Term 3 Starts	4 September	Boys Breakfast
31 July	Board of Trustees Meeting	11 September	PTA Meeting
09 August	Starburst Performance	18 September	Girls Breakfast
14 August	PTA Meeting	25 September	Board of Trustees Meeting
		28 September	Term 3 Ends

SCIENCE ROADSHOW 2018

On Wednesday June 13th and Thursday June 14th Remuera Intermediate School hosted the Science Roadshow. This travelling interactive science extravaganza came complete with 2 informative yet entertaining shows, as well as a raft of new interactive displays through which students were able to explore a wide range of science concepts. Twelve Year 8 student demonstrators, comprised mainly of science monitors and Polyscholars members, assisted the Science Roadshow staff by explaining the various exhibits that were set up around the school hall.

Fun and learning was had by teachers and students alike!



EUROPEAN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

A couple of weeks ago Robby Turnbull (Room 18) travelled to Scotland and managed to win the European Golf Championships for 11 Year Old Boys. He was up against 80 Boys from all over the world. He shot 70, 69, and 70 for a 7 under total and a 3 shot win!

Robby has been presented with a Remuera Intermediate School Ferns Badge. He is the only athlete so far in 2018 to be awarded this. You must officially represent New Zealand in an overseas sports tournament.

Congratulations Robby!



RI CYCLING CLUB

We were thrilled with the final results of the Auckland Schools Cycling, Points Race series, at Pukekohe Raceway. The Boys (U13) Teams placed 1st & 4th and the Girls (U13) Teams placed 2nd & 3rd.

Boys #1 Team - Jonny Barclay, Ben Stewart, Richie Wood and Finn Houghton - 1st place

Boys #2 Team - Aidan Murray, Michael Zeng and Reeve Innes - 4th place

Girls #1 Team - Alex Clark, Tegan Feringa, Charlotte Wood and Charlotte Fehl - 2nd place

Girls #2 Team - Anja White, Elsa Murray, Jenna Chapman and Olivia Jones - 3rd place

Good luck to all riders competing in the North Island School Road Champs being held in Cambridge in the first weekend of the holidays.



CENTRAL ZONES TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 21 June 2018 nine excited team members descended on the Auckland Table Tennis Centre in Gillies Avenue to play in the Central Zones Tournament.

Our team comprised of 6 Boys and 3 Girls:

Justin Chao and Omesh Gupta - Year 8 Boys Doubles Team Came 2nd in the finals. Lost by one point to ANI in the 5th game

David Li and Jayden Cheung - Year 7 Boys Doubles Team Won all their 5 round games to enter the quarter finals

Monique Lewis and Emily Mitchell - Year 8 Girls Doubles Team After coming runner up in 2017 they went away with the 1st place trophy this year

Taylor Yi - Year 8 Boys Singles Won all 5 round games to qualify for the quarter finals

Keanu King - Year 7 Boys Singles 1st place

Holly Lightbourne - Year 8 Girls Singles

Everyone had a great time, showed great skill and excellent sportsmanship.



BOYS HOCKEY 2018

On Monday 18 June the Boys Hockey Team were part of 10 schools playing in the Central Zones Competition at North Harbour Hockey Stadium. Our Boys played hard and fair but unfortunately lost their first two games. They came 6th. We thank our parent coach Grant Rumble for giving us this opportunity to participate.

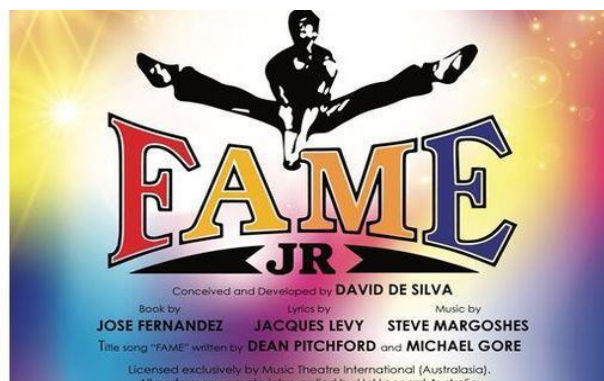
GIRLS HOCKEY 2018

On Tuesday 19 June the Girls Hockey Team joined 14 other teams playing in the Central Zones Competition. In the rounds they won 3 games and drew 1 game. That led us to play St Cuthberts for a 1st or 2nd place opportunity. Sadly, we lost 1-0. We played Kowhai A Team for 3rd or 4th place. We achieved our goal and gained 3rd place on the podium after Diocesan and St Cuthberts. Our parent coach Steve Irwin and the girls were thrilled.



FAME JUNIOR

Joshua Douglas in Room 24 has a lead role in the Santarelli School of Dance production of Fame Junior. The show is on during the first week of the school holidays at Te Oro in Glen Innes. They are on during the day and are only an hour long from 11:30am – 12:30pm so perfect for a young audience. Tickets are available here: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2018/fame-the-musical-jr/auckland/glen-innes>



WILLIAM PIKE CHALLENGE

Term two has been a massive term for the students involved in the William Pike Challenge - Three outdoor trips, three epic memories, three challenges that put the students outside their comfort zone.

The first trip was our overnight survival challenge, the students had to plan and organise their packs for the hike to and from camp. This challenged them to pack lightly, but efficiently, where some students excelled and some learnt how heavy a pack can be after 10km! The students learnt outdoor survival skills, cooked their dinner over an open flame and set up their own campsite to sleep in. The students got to hear wonderful and hilarious stories around the campfire from our bigfoot instructors while roasting marshmallows.



Our second trip was surfing out at Muriwai Beach and exploring Maori Bay and the Gannet Colony. Surfing on a sunny day in small waves is a good amount of fun but surfing in 6-foot west coast swell in the middle of winter is a ridiculous amount of fun! The students learnt about surf lifesaving skills, how to read a beach for rips and currents and how hard it is to stand up on a surfboard!



Our third and last event of the term was mountain biking out at Woodhill. This is an action packed, adrenaline fuelled day racing up and down the mountain bike trails. Even for the expert riders in our group this is a challenging day, testing their courage and skills as they deftly navigate the runs at Woodhill. The students learnt all about safety while on the trails, how to position themselves correctly while going downhill and most importantly how to lead and support each other in group situations.



POLYSCHOLARS TRIP TO UNIVERSITY

On Friday 22nd June Mr Nicholls and the Polyscholars crew were lucky enough to spend the morning in the Anthropology Department at the University of Auckland. The students learned about colonisation of the Pacific through an engaging board game designed and constructed by Anthropology staff and graduate students. They also re-assembled broken pottery much like archaeologists do, sorted through shell midden remains and learned about human and pre-human skeletons. Fun and learning was had by all! RI would like to thank Ashleigh Fox for hosting this group and sharing with them the exciting engaging world of Anthropology.



WANTED - INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOMESTAY

We have several International Students who are due to start our school in the new term.

They would love to stay with an RI family who live reasonably close to the school.

One boy is from Korea he is aged 12 and has great English. He would love to have a kiwi experience where he stays with a family for one or two terms. He will pay around \$280 per week.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Robert Rasmussen, International Student Director to discuss robertr@remint.school.nz

TALENT QUEST 2018

Wednesday 27 June saw the second annual RI Talent Quest. Many acts of various genres showcased their talents including dancers, acrobats, musicians and singers. There was even a staff act which delighted the crowds! What a lot of talent we have at RI!



THE PARENTING PLACE – INTERMEDIATE YEARS TOOLBOX COURSE

300 Great South Road, Greenlane. 6 August 2018 7:15pm - 9:30pm for 6 weeks \$75.00 per person or \$110 per couple



EARLY TEXT NOTIFICATION

We have launched our early text notification message service. The aim of this service is to ensure the safety of all our students and being able to notify parents of unexplained absences in a timely manner. We are aware many parents are simply very busy people and forget to notify the school, and we believe this service will be beneficial to all parents / caregivers. **Should your mobile number change, please notify the school immediately so that we can update our records accordingly.**

REMUERA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL APP

We have launched our mobile App for important school messages. This App forms a big part of our school communications. If you have not downloaded the App, please click this link <http://remueraint.apps.school.nz/share/> You can also download the App for free from the App store or Google Play. It works on both Apple and android phones.



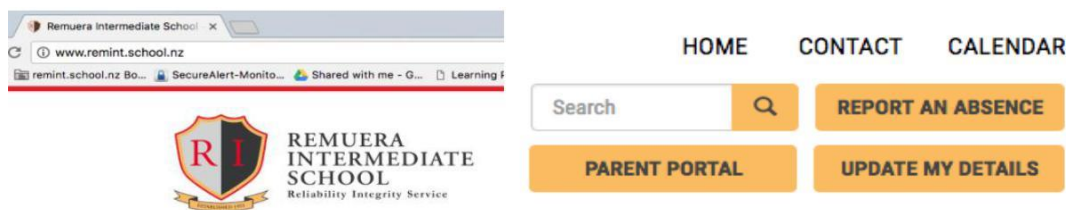
Features of the App:

- You can subscribe to alert groups of interest to you and your child
- You can complete the absentee form directly from the App
- You can access the school calendar, news and events directly through the App
- We can send out targeted alerts to everyone with the App or to specific groups

ABSENCES

To report an absence please use the link on the school website homepage www.remint.school.nz OR Telephone the school directly and leave a message on the absentee line indicating the room number, students name, reason for absence and when expected back at school.

Please note parents **must** report their child's absence from school before 9.00am. Please DO NOT email the teachers directly regarding your child's absence as they do not always get to check their emails first thing in the morning. Instead notify us via the website, the App or by telephone 522-9890 option 1.



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 towards more online communication and sharing of student records.

PARENT PORTAL

Thank you very much to the parents who have signed up to the parent portal. I would encourage anyone who has not signed up to try to do so. The address is <https://parent.musac.school.nz/>

SCHOOL WEBSITE

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

PARKING

Please do not park in the school grounds when picking up your children. Parking is available on Ascot Ave or St Vincent Avenue. We have had complaints from the neighbours around our school regarding parents parking across their driveways when picking up students from school. Please do not park and wait across any driveways in the vicinity of the school. Also, please do not park and wait at Ascot Mercy Hospital Carpark to pick up your children.