



# **MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER**

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to take this opportunity to share my ongoing appreciation for the support that you continue to provide your young people and also our school. No doubt we were all hoping for a much better start to 2021 however it seems that was not meant to be. This week concludes our 6th week back to school however it feels like we only started yesterday.

Fortunately, despite these recent challenges things are really starting to gain momentum again and many of our clubs, sports teams, activities and academic groups are starting in earnest. I would encourage you to take some time to talk with young ones about what is on offer and perhaps give some gentle encouragement to get involved if they have not already. A big part of the Intermediate experience is about figuring out who we are, what excites us and what makes us happy. The more experiences they have, the clearer this becomes.

As life is starting to settle back into normal routines I would like to take a moment to remind everyone of some important expectations.

### **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. This is extremely dangerous.

PARENTS ARE NOT TO DRIVE INTO THE SCHOOL or block driveways to pick up or drop off students unless authorised.

Students should ONLY use the controlled crossings to cross the road.

We do our best to ensure your children leave our school safely. We appeal for parent cooperation.

In addition, students leaving during the school day must be collected from the school office and signed out by a parent or guardian.

### **PARKING**

Please do not park in the school grounds when picking up or dropping off your children. Parking is available on Ascot Ave or St Vincent Avenue. We have also had complaints from our neighbours around the 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.

### **CYBERSAFETY & 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 rare occasions, we become aware of student conflict taking place outside of school through social media. Parents are encouraged to regularly check on how their children are using the Internet and in particular, social media outside of school hours.

It is easy to feel like we are intruding into our children's privacy when we look at their interactions online however the significant difference between online communication and traditional diaries is that once posted online it is public, unlike the diary we may have had back in the day hidden in a shoe box for our eyes only. Rather than treat this as a 'snooping' exercise I encourage to use this as an open conversation about what your young people are up to and with whom. The more normal we make this from the beginning the less entrenched this sense of secrecy becomes.

## **MOBILE PHONES**

Mobile phones are NOT permitted to be used at school. Should your child bring a phone for after-school use, the phone must be turned off when entering the school site and handed to the class teacher for safekeeping throughout the day. The school takes no responsibility for any phone brought to school.

**Kyle Brewerton** 

Principal

### **WATERWISE**

Our Year 8 classes have been having a wonderful time at Waterwise in Orakei Basin. They've been given the opportunity to try kayaking, windsurfing, paddle boarding and sailing. Everyone worked as a team, following instructions and even helping those that fell out of their kayak or sailing boat!



### **CYCLING NEWS**

The RI Cycling Club is a parent-led group who train and race in all codes of cycling - road, mountain bike and track. RI registers students with Cycling NZ Schools enabling riders to compete in local, regional and national events.

Please find event dates for this year:

# **Road Racing**

North Island Road Champs - Saturday 10 July to Sunday 11 July 2021 – Cambridge

Northern Tour - Saturday 4 September to Sunday 5 September 2021 - Mt Wellington, Auckland

National Schools Road Champs - Saturday 2 October to Monday 4 October 2021 - Timaru, South Island

### **Mountain Bike Racing**

XC Race 1 - Sunday 7 March 2021 - Riverhead Forest (am)

XR (Relay) Champs - Sunday 7 March 2021 - Riverhead Forest (am)

North Islands - Sunday 21 March to Tuesday 23 March 2021 - Hunua Regional Park and 440 Bike Park

XC Race 2 - Sunday 23 May 2021 - Waitawa Regional Park

XC Race 3 - Sunday 20 June 2021 - Woodhill Bike Park

XC Race 4 [Final] - Sunday 8 August 2021 - Totara Park

### **Track Racing**

North Island Schools Track Champs - Monday 12 July to Tuesday 13 July 2021 - Avantidrome, Cambridge

If your child is interested in joining the RI Cycling Club please contact Sonja Potter - sonjap@remint.school.nz

## IN THE GARDEN

As part of the 2021 Food programme, students are learning to grow vegetables from seeds and seedlings, nurture and harvest these vegetables to use when cooking in the Foods room.

Recently the weather has been fabulous for gardening. The old adage 'many hands make light work' was proven when two classes of Year 8 students planted 85 seedlings including cauliflower, broccoli, cos lettuce, spinach, kumara and pak choy.



During the summer break a good crop of beans and zucchini were harvested and prepared for the freezer for students to use in the classroom.





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### A PEEK INSIDE OUR SPECIALIST CLASSROOMS

### Food - Mrs Potter

Wander along the upstairs corridor any time of the day and your senses will be tantalised by the aromas wafting from the foods room; baked potatoes, cauliflower rice pizzas, bagels, veg-up noodle stir fries and pasta bake are a few of the recipes being created in this busy space. In Year 7 it's all about having fun in teams, creating delicious food and building confident cooks who have the knowledge to make good food choices. Year 8 enjoys a similar experience plus they are made aware of a variety of food related career opportunities; food scientist, food technologist, nutritionist, chef. These students will also be involved in growing, harvesting and maintaining the school vegetable garden.







### Multi Materials - Mr MacCulloch

In Year 7 students are constructing a notepad and then designing and making laminated paua jewellery.

In Year 8 students are designing and constructing a Co2 dragster car which they will race on completion.



### Year 7 Performance Arts – Mr Zemke

Near the St Vincent's foyer lies the purpose-built Performance Room. Over several lessons Year 7 students are given multiple opportunities to perform and boost their confidence to act, sing and dance in front of others.





# Year 8 Performance Media – Mr Zemke

Next door to Performance is the Media Room. Inside students are given opportunities to create several projects including video productions, that will involve green-screening effects and animation. In addition, they will also be given the option of creating video or stage performances. They will be able to choose many of the elements for their final project.





# Digitech - Miss Yu

Year 7s are learning to code using online tools and apps. We are also using Sphero robots to complete tasks and challenges. We have built and raced chariots using the drive feature and followed an algorithm or set of instructions using programming blocks.

Year 8 students are building and programming EV3 robots which are advanced robots that can be customised to move a certain way and perform complex tasks. The main objective for Year 8s is to find a problem within their everyday lives, which they can solve using digital technology.







# **Visual Art – Mrs Sturgiss**

Year 7s create a variety of pieces each cycle that give them the opportunity to try several art mediums. They learn how to blend and shade using colour families, use watercolours, acrylic paint and basic printing techniques.

Year 8s carve their lino fish, print onto backgrounds and then roll them in clay. After firing and glazing they will become a 'School of Fish' to be exhibited at Sculpture On Shore at the end of the year. We missed out on this wonderful exhibition last year, so are grateful to have another opportunity to present our students ceramic art works.









### French - Mrs Gordon

Year 7 and Year 8 students alike learn to have a conversation in French using a variety of greetings, introducing themselves, spelling their names, asking how they are feeling and thanking and responding to thanks. Students also learn where France is in the world and create a hand-drawn map showing many geographical features and the names of France's neighbours. Students even share French dishes like les crèpes et du fromage and eat them in the French café, listening to French music.







### Music – Miss Weston

Year 7s main learning outcome is to be able to play Keyboard, Ukulele and Drum parts in groups of 3 or 4 students, creating a small 'Rock Band'. Music students learn to play a song called "Counting Stars" by OneRepublic. They spend several weeks mastering the Keyboard and Ukulele chords, as well as learning several drum patterns to be able to provide a steady beat.





### THE FIRST FEW WEEKS AS AN RI STUDENT

Wow - what an amazing group of Year 7 students we have this year!!

They are all getting used to our busy school life and enjoying the variety of subjects and learning experiences they are participating in! Year 7's first unit is entitled "Success Starts With Me" and here they look into how the brain works, what we can do to help us take care of ourselves and ways we can contribute to our positive school culture.

We kick all of this off by getting to know our classmates and forming new friendships that we know will last well after our RI days are over.

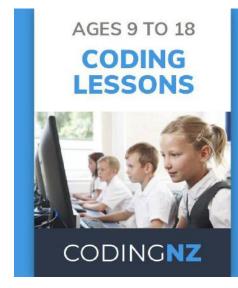
Congratulations on a fantastical start to Year 7 - we are in for an incredible year!!







### **CODING NZ**



# **Coding NZ Lessons**

- Learn coding languages to create technology.
- An expert tutor is online to help during lessons.
- 1 hour per week at 4pm, 5pm or 6pm weekdays.
- Try a free trial lesson at codingnz.com

### **ORDERING SCHOOL LUNCH ONLINE**





IMPORTANT DATE	ES		
23 March	BOT Meeting	09 April	Awards Assemblies
24 March	Year 7 Parents Camp Meeting	13 April	PTA AGM
01 April	Photolife	16 April	Term 1 Ends
02 – 06 April	Easter Weekend – School Closed	03 May	Term 2 Starts
08 April	Mufti Day		
(For a full list of important dates, please see the calendar on the school website.)			

### REMUERA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL APP

You can download the free app from the App Store or Google Play. It works on both android and Apple phones. It sends important school messages and forms a big part of our school communications. If you have not downloaded the App, please click this link <a href="http://remueraint.apps.school.nz/share/">http://remueraint.apps.school.nz/share/</a>

# **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**

All absences need to be reported by 8:45am at the latest.

To report an absence please:

- Use the 'Report an Absence' link in the top right corner on the school website homepage http://www.remint.school.nz
- Use the school app or
- Phone the office on 09 522 9890 Option 1

Please do not email absence notifications to classroom teachers

### **ABSENCE TEXT NOTIFICATION**

Your children's safety is of paramount importance to us. In order to ensure the safety of all our students, at 9:30am if your child has not been marked as Present we will send out a text notification to alert you of his/her absence.

We are aware many parents are simply very busy people and forget to notify the school so please respond with a Y and a reason for the absence/lateness.

Respond with an N if you have dropped your child at school or know that he/she was coming to school and we can investigate this promptly.

Should your mobile number change, please notify the school immediately so that we can update our records accordingly.

### PARENT PORTAL

Parents are able to use our portal to pay for their child's donations and fees. We encourage anyone who has not already signed up to do so. The address is <a href="https://parent.musac.school.nz/">https://parent.musac.school.nz/</a>