



SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

VOTING FOR EDUCATION

As a parent and a principal, I have watched the recent education football being kicked around once again thanks to our upcoming election. Whilst I do not intend to impose my own political views upon you I do wish to take this opportunity to urge you to consider the various policies being promoted regarding education.



Many of you have children still in primary schools and for those who do not, you still have another five years minimum in the pre-tertiary education world. Whilst all governments must consider the balance of all portfolios I do consider education to be one of major significance for a host of reasons.

Perhaps the most significant in my opinion is the investment in our future leaders and the knowledge, skills and attributes we believe would best build a safe, productive and innovative society. One thing is certain, the future will be a complex, fast changing and challenging place.

As you consider your future government I encourage you to take a moment to consider what future you would like to see and how the various educational policies being promised may support that future.

The following website does a nice job of compiling the parties policies on all matters including education.
<http://www.interest.co.nz/news/election-2017-policies>

Happy voting!



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding work of the teachers and support staff here at RI. In a recent report, I tried to capture all the additional opportunities and experiences available to the students here at RI and in doing so was reminded once again how much our staff put into the lives of our students. Much of what our staff do is over and above their core responsibilities and most of it is in their own time or during lunch breaks.

More astonishing is the fact these same staff continue to deliver an excellent education as evident in our achievement results. In a recent progress review, I was very proud to see the vast majority of our young people making excellent progress across many areas of the curriculum.

Since my arrival here at RI last year I have heard the occasional conversation that academics take somewhat of a back seat during these intermediate years. The evidence I am seeing strongly contradicts this and in fact what is more incredible is that we continue to perform very well academically and yet we still manage to provide all these additional opportunities.

As Auckland slips deeper into a teacher shortage I am again reminded how lucky we are as a community to have such a committed, caring and positive group of staff.



STARBURST PERFORMANCE

The Year 8 Starburst Performers (up to 30 students), have been together as a group working closely with Mr Zemke since August 2016. Since that time they have become a very cohesive family-like group of singers, actors and dancers and their confidence to perform has greatly increased. This all came to an ultimate conclusion in the two performances of their show 'No More' on the 10 and 11 August.

'No More' is an original musical production with powerful themes of bullying, the negative effects it creates and helpful insights for how to handle these type of situations. The show was punctuated by strong musical numbers which followed the overall themes with choreography of various dance genres.

Ideas that were explored in the narrative of 'No More' related to cyberbullying, sharing personal stories, poetry and dance. These were expressed in conversations that happen in natural situations like the street, in a classroom, at school, at camp or online and were enhanced by dream sequences that guided the presented victims of the story with ways to alleviate their stress and help raise their confidence and self-esteem.

Our intention was to spread an empowering message, after reacting to the terrible statistics that we are constantly bombarded with related to the social disease of bullying that takes many forms. This type of abuse unfortunately continues to spread and be a very negative influence on our society but the group are still 'hopeful' that a positive change can happen and together we can all make a difference.

Please [click here](#) to follow the blog.



ABSTRACT BIRD CANVASSES

Artist Kirsty Nixon (mother of Ben Craig in year 8) has been working alongside the Tuesday Year 8 group, to support them in creating these abstract bird canvasses. The students spent several weeks looking at a variety of similar artists and then put their own spin on it. They were so proud of their work - and rightly so!



MATHEX 2017

What an incredible night we had! The noise, the cheering, the calculating, the running and the fantastic team spirit.

Thursday 24th of September saw 16 of Remuera Intermediates finest mathematicians battle it out with over 128 other Intermediate teams from across Auckland.

Year 7 Team Members

Zan Warren-Kazor (Runner), Cindy Kim (Captain), Phoebe Liu, Edward Joh
Jax Warren-Kazor (Runner), Ansh Gupta (Captain), Jasper Wu, Theibana Vignakumar

Year 8 Team Members

Eric Zheng (Runner), Oshan Premkumar (Captain), Lyam Chung, Ryaan Sidhu
Thomas Clark (Runner), Ethan Pinker, Amy Prebble (Captain), Tina Huang

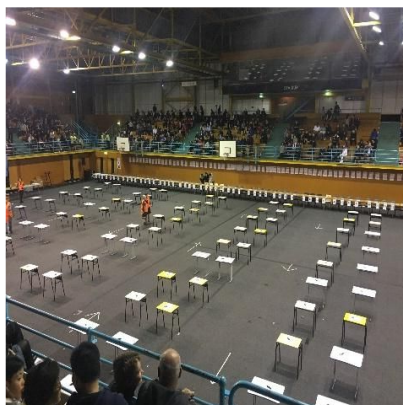
The competition was fierce with some questions pushing us to the limits. But the RI Teams persevered and kept going right to the last hundredths of a second.

Overall our Year 7 teams placed 4th and 5th equal and our Year 8 Teams placed 5th and 6th equal.

We would like to thank Cameron Olliff and Ian Chung for the hours that have been put into training our teams. Also to our teachers who came on the night to mark and score and our fabulous R.I. cheer squad for making some noise.

A special thank you goes out to all of the wonderful parents who battled traffic to ensure they were there to support us all on the night. We really appreciate you being there.

Roll on 2018!!



RI CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

Our cross country event took place on Wednesday 16 August 2017. The top 8 in each category go through to the Central Zones Cross Country held on Wednesday 30 August 2017. Well done to everyone who participated.

Year 7 Girls

Eva Hall
Linxi Lin
Keira Barlow
Kate Irwin
Dian Kun Yin
Tegan Feringa
Holly Lightbourne
Zoe Fon

Year 8 Girls

Milly Sceats
Heidi Stewart
Amelia Angus
Yuki Findsén
Nikki McKenzie
Emma Irwin
Phoebe Cotter
Kayla Shaw

Year 7 Boys

William Beny
Jacob McKinnon
Zach Schultz
Zachary Chung
Mathias Thompson
Lincoln Christensen
Taylor Ah Chee
Jack Muirhead

Year 8 Boys

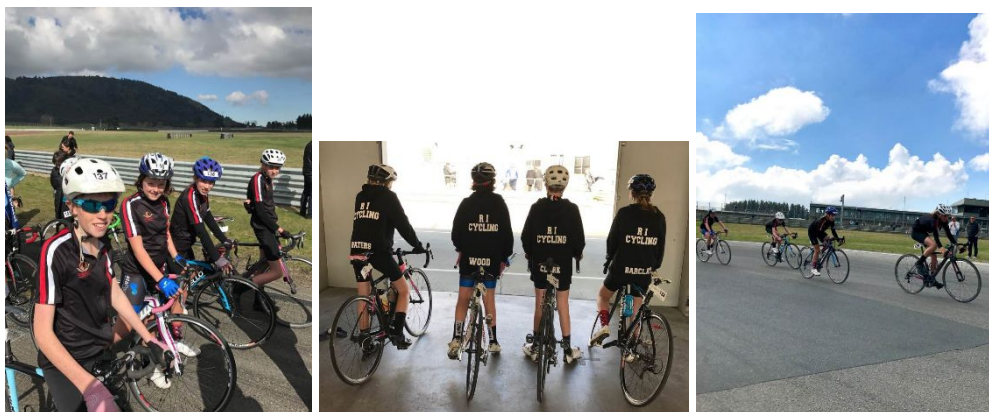
Thomas Holmes
Cameron Reeves
Kieran Cooper
Jacob Solomon
Jack Benney
Josh Gaze
Fredrick Rostron
Zaid Bharuchi

NORTH ISLAND INTERMEDIATE CYCLING CHAMPS

This is an annual event for Year 7 and 8 road cyclists from all over the North Island which takes place at the Bruce McLaren Motorsport Race Track Taupo, a fantastic location for cyclists and supporters. This year 185 students entered from more than 20 schools.

Team Time Trials (TTT) for teams of 3- 5 in the morning are followed by individual road races in the afternoon. Distances for both events are 13.2 km (4 laps) for Year 7 students and 16.5 km (5 laps) for Year 8 students.

Despite competing in the competitive Year 8 Boys division for the TTT Tom Clark, Maia Barclay, Kate Waters and Charlotte Wood achieved a very impressive 14th place out of 22 teams finishing in 32 minutes (average speed 31km/h). All riders rode extremely competitively in the road races in the afternoon with Tom 5 seconds off first place in his race, Kate 8 seconds from the front and Charlotte finishing just behind the second bunch in her race. Unfortunately, Maia crashed out responding to an acceleration from the leaders in her race but recovered well to join the team for a Indian meal in Taupo on Friday night! All pupils and parents had great fun.



WATER POLO

RI entered four teams into the Water Polo Winterfest Tournament. Congratulations to all players, especially the gold team for winning gold!! Connor Lock also got Most Valuable Player for the entire C grade.

Thank you to all the parents and coaches for supporting our kids.



ROCKSHOP BANDQUEST



Red Smoke performed at the BandQuest held at AGGS last week. Kids put a lot of effort into their performance and overall everyone had fun. Theo Monk did a great job and got Rocking Drummer Award for his excellent performance.

RI SKI TEAM 2017

The two RI Ski teams – the RI Racers and the RI Rockets – enjoyed glorious weather for the North Island Intermediate Ski Champs held between August 20-23. Both RI teams did very well in a competition featuring 75 teams. The A team of Matt Barclay, William Cotter, Mia Douglas, Phoebe Cotter and Ben Smith came 11th overall, and the B team of Braden Jones, Olivia Jones, Hamish Sherlock, Rory Cohen and Kate Robinson came 38th.

It was fantastic that all our skiers in both teams recorded times on at least one of their Giant Slalom runs, which allowed us to be positioned well for the day 2 dual slalom. The courses were tough and fast, and many crashes occurred. In the dual slalom we had a mixed bag of wins, losses and crashes, but all the RI skiers earned points for their teams. A very credible outcome.

Staying right up on the mountain was a highlight, and provided for a great venue for evening snowball fights.



FOOD TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

At the conclusion of the second cycle of the Year 8 Food Technology programme, once again family members and teachers were invited in to sample products the students had developed. This included a presentation of the students' work; the product development of a Creamy Vegetable Pasta dish using seasonal vegetables and based on the Roux sauce method, Scones with Jam and Cream and for some classes Fruity Ice-cream. Wall displays showing exemplars of student work were shared, along with Google Classroom work which was viewed on the Food Tech Chromebooks.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Student wellbeing is a key indicator of the health of our School. One of the crucial things for a Board is to ask “what is the evidence” when reviewing whether we are achieving our strategic goals. We have recently seen results from two annual student surveys aimed at gaining an insight into student wellbeing. As a result, new strategies have been introduced aimed to help teachers to know their students better and enhance students' sense of belonging and engagement.

Strategies include student letters to teachers at the beginning of the year, twice yearly student wellbeing reflections and formation of a wellbeing student leadership group that feeds back class suggestions on improving wellbeing.

Year 8 classes also have wellbeing lessons incorporated in the Health curriculum including modules on bullying, nutrition, physical activity, cyber-bullying, stress and resilience.

We will be following up with a further student survey later this year to measure the impact of this work. In the meantime, I encourage you to ask your young people about these strategies – if they are anything like my children, the chances are they have not come home and shared this with the family!

Nga mihi

Liz Schellekens
Board Chair
BOTchair@remint.school.nz

COLLEGE ENROLMENT DATES 2018

Glendowie College – Out of Zone enrolments by 6 September 2017

Epsom Girls Grammar – In Zone enrolments applications need to be submitted by Wednesday 7 September 2017 and Out of Zone enrolments by 4pm on the 30th August 2017.

Auckland Girls Grammar – Out of Zone applications close on 6 September 2017

Enrol now

If you have a year 6 student, we encourage you to contact the school about starting the enrolment process early to ensure we are well prepared for the coming year. You can request enrolment packs at enrolments@remint.school.nz

All out of zone siblings – cut off is Wednesday 13 September 2017 4pm – no exceptions

DATES TO NOTE / IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 3

12 September	PTA Meeting
12 September	Boys Breakfast
13 September	Enrolment – Out of Zone applications close
19 September	Trials for 2018 Boys 1 st Cricket Team
19 September	BOT Meeting
19 September	Girls Breakfast
20 September	Enrolment – Out of Zone ballot
20 September	Trials for 2018 Boys 1 st Cricket Team
21 September	Trials for 2018 Boys 1 st Cricket Team
29 September	Term 3 ends at 3pm

REMUERA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL APP

We have launched our mobile App for important school messages. This new App will form 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 the apple and android phones.



Features of the new App:

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

We know how busy parents are these days, so we hope this new App will make things easier for parents to communicate with the school and vice-versa.

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 may 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.

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. We 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

PARNELL CRICKET CLUB

New season's enrolments now open for both boys and girls. For further information including all enrolment registration details please visit: www.parnellcricket.co.nz

PARKING

A reminder to all parents that you need to pick your children up from outside the school. Please also **do not** use the parking at Ascot Mercy Hospital to wait for your children.