



**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

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

A CURRICULUM OF DEPTH AND BREADTH

At Remuera Intermediate we are frequently reviewing our approaches to curriculum to ensure we offer a rigorous academic experience whilst also providing a high quality co-curricular programme. We believe this is a particularly formative time in a young person's life and as such we aim to keep traditional subject area learning at the fore whilst providing opportunities to explore passions, interests, life skills and to experience character building challenges.



As the year gets underway I encourage you to keep an eye on the notices and the website to see what opportunities are coming up. Recently we commenced a number of enrichment and extension groups in English, Maths, Science, Technology, and the Arts. For those families wishing to enter their children this year, the ICAS

Assessments will begin soon. More information about this will be coming home this week.

With the change in seasons, we are now moving into winter sports. Trials have gotten underway for a number of sports this week with many more to follow.

We have also just confirmed our commitment for another year to the Trees for Survival Initiative. This is great opportunity for students to get involved in planting thousands of new trees around the greater Auckland area.

Camps for both year 7 and 8 are underway with year 8's heading out in small groups over the next few weeks and Year 7 heading to Camp Adair in early April. There is a parent evening on Wednesday the 22nd March to outline the details of the Year 7 camp.

As you can see, the students of RI are exposed to a rich academic experience that also provides broader opportunities to grow and develop in a variety of other ways. This balanced approach to education ensures children are motivated, challenged and excited about school and learning in general.



STUDENT LEADERS

Last week we announced our Deputy Head and Head students. I would like to congratulate the following students.

Head Boy	Zaid Bharuchi
Head Girl	Lulu Lance
Deputy Head Boy	Tasman Christensen
Deputy Head Girl	Vanessa Evans



YEAR 7 CAMP MEETING

When: 22 March, 2017
6:30pm
Where: RI School Hall
Who: All year 7 Parents



Please come along and hear how we operate our year 7 camp and what you can expect for your children as they head out on their next big adventure.

FINAL DECISION YEAR 7 CAMP

No doubt many of you have seen the impact the recent storm has had on Camp Adair. The camp staff have indicated they are confident they will be operational by the time we are due to arrive. Before any final decision is made, myself and a few staff will visit the camp in person to check for safety and readiness.

As a school, we have committed to making a final decision regarding whether or not the camp will go ahead on Monday the 27th March. This decision will be communicated via our website and email on the 27th.

RECENT SCHOOL LOCKDOWN

As most of you will be aware we recently experienced a reported incident in our local community that resulted in a school lockdown. Our internal processes as outlined in our Emergency Plan worked very well and all students and staff were secure in less than three minutes from the initial police directive to place the school in lockdown.

On this occasion, we were given no details by the police other than to place the school in lockdown. Throughout the period of the lockdown we were given no further information other than what we could glean from the media. As such we remained in lockdown as outlined in our procedures for a little over an hour. Upon receiving the all clear classes were notified to return to business as usual.



As you can imagine communication during a lockdown is an important consideration for students, staff, families and the wider community. We have a notification system built into our school website. On this occasion, we immediately posted the alert message on our homepage and once the lockdown had ceased we left a message on the site for the remainder of the day to outline the events of the day.

By relying on this single point of contact we can turn our attention to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of your children as these events can certainly be a source of worry and fear. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the staff for remaining calm throughout this recent lockdown. Feedback from our students has been very positive and they felt very safe and calm throughout this event. Coincidentally we do have a review booked this month with our consultants for all our emergency procedures and to train staff who have joined the school since the last review.

In relation to this a number of people have asked about a school notification system like those used by many other schools. We are currently looking into a school based app which would support greater communication in addition to providing other relevant and timely information. This may be an extension of the parent portal or a standalone system. We will update you on this matter as decisions are made.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our website is constantly being updated with upcoming events and news. Most 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



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.

ABSENCES

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



PTA PICNIC

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our PTA for organising our recent community picnic. It was great to see so many families enjoying the fantastic weather and taking the time to get to know our teachers a little better. I would also like to acknowledge the support of Hellers and Remuera Bakers Delight who supplied sausages and bread for our sausage sizzle.



TERM DATES 2017/2018

We now have confirmed dates for 2017 and 2018. These dates are also available on our website.



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

2018

Term One

- Tuesday 30 January – Friday 13 April

Note: Easter falls during Term One (Fri 30 Mar – Tues 3 Apr)

Term Two

- Monday 30 April – Friday 6 July

Term Three

- Monday 23 July – Friday 28 September

Term Four

- Monday 15 October – Friday 14 December

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

BOT Meeting	Tuesday 21 March 7:30 pm staffroom
Year 7 Camp Mtg	Wednesday 22 March 6:30pm Hall
Dental Visit	Monday 29 March
Awards Assemblies	Friday 31 March
Year 7 Camps	3 - 7 April
Year 8 Camps	Weeks 6, 8, 9, 10

PARENT PORTAL

Thank you very much to everyone for your perseverance and patience as we move our systems online. We have managed to work through many of the challenges faced by various families over these early weeks and the vast majority of families are now actively using the portal to make payments for various activities including camp, music, sports teams etc.

I would encourage anyone who has not signed up to try and do so. The address is <https://parent.musac.school.nz/>

If you have any difficulties please contact Helen Masters at helenm@remint.school.nz for technical support.

By the end of 2017 we will be moving all payments online via our parent portal. 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 back through this year's annual tax return if you make your donation by 31st March 2017.



ICAS Testing

You will be receiving an entry form this week to sign up your child for one or more of the ICAS assessments. Many of you will be familiar with these assessments from primary school or from last year. This is an external assessment facilitated by University of New South Wales in Australia. New Zealand schools have had a long history of involvement in this annual competition. This is an excellent opportunity for those students who have particular strengths in certain subject areas to participate and challenge themselves. Last year we had a number of students do exceptionally well with one student being awarded medals in more than one area.



UNSW Global
AUSTRALIA



OPEN DAY/ENROLMENTS

On Friday 31 March, we have our annual open day for year 6 students and their families. Please let friends and families know that this is taking place. We will be advertising in local papers, however we know word of mouth is often the most powerful form of communication.

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

BUILDING UPDATE

As it stands our new building is really starting to take shape now. With the recent installation of the roof trusses we can really see the overall form. We are still anticipating a move into this space in term 4. Should this change we will update you as we learn more.

