

*“TO SEEK TRUTH AND PEACE”
KIMIHIA TE PONO ME TE
RANGIMARIE*



**RONCALLI COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Obviously, the big news at the moment is the devastating earthquake in Christchurch; a city where many of us have visited, lived or have family/friends/relations. It has been heart-wrenching to watch the news and see scenes of destruction, death and despair right in our own back yard. It looks like a war zone. I wonder how many of you have climbed up the stairs to the top of the cathedral spire. I guess the only good that has come out of this tragedy has been the community response. It has truly brought out the humanity in people. I have been particularly impressed with the response of many Roncalli students who have been actively looking for a way to be of service to those affected. Consequently, they have organised a **mufti day** for Tuesday with a 'red and black' theme. There will be a \$2 gold coin donation and a box in the main office for those who wish to donate more. The money raised will go directly to some of our worst hit Catholic schools in Christchurch. I have been in contact with the Principals of these schools and they are appreciative of the help. There will also be a **food collection** on Tuesday for any families wishing to donate some non-perishable food items. We will send a van load of food to Christchurch on Wednesday morning. We encourage you to support this worthy cause. As of this morning, we have accepted 15 new students from a number of Christchurch schools on a temporary basis until their school is up and running. Tomorrow we will observe the national **2 minutes of silence** to remember the earthquake victims (12:51-12:53). We will assemble in the school quad at 12:45. Members of the public are most welcome to join us. On a somewhat more positive note, I returned to school late last week after spending 5 days sea kayaking in the Abel Tasman National Park with the year 12

Each time we face our fears, we gain strength, courage, and confidence in the doing.

HELP AVAILABLE

Federated Farmers are offering to help any Christchurch families who have had to leave their homes – to store furniture, and clear liquifaction from properties – please call Vicky on 0274 320 218 who will help you.

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Short-Stay Accommodation for International Students

We have received some enquiries regarding temporary relocation of international students from some Christchurch schools. If you are able to accommodate a student, please contact Cathy Shearer – phone 688 6003 extension 809.

Outdoor Education class. We had terrific weather the whole time and the 20 students were truly outstanding. We camped along the golden shores, were surrounded by awesome scenery and saw a variety of wildlife. If you haven't had the opportunity to go there, put it on your bucket list. A special thanks goes to Mr. Sutherland our Outdoor Education teacher for his successful handling of the trip.



Other matters to note:

- Thank you to all those families who attended the Yr 9 BBQ. We had good weather, a large turnout and positive feedback. I hope that families enjoyed the opportunity to meet others.
- Last week we farewelled Kate Burt, a long-serving staff member who worked in the front office for 10 years. Kate will be missed and we extend our best wishes to her as she begins a new job. We welcome Vanessa Shearer who has started in the office this week.
- The new Performance Music Block (formerly the Presbytery Annex) is up and running. It has been painted, carpeted, decorated and outfitted with guitars and keyboards. This will give a significant boost to our performance music programme.
- School Athletics was cancelled today due to the inclement weather. The postponement date is Thursday March 3rd. We will keep students advised.

Chris Comeau, Principal



Calendar and Upcoming Events to Note

March 2011

1	Mufti Day – Red and Black Theme - \$2
3	Athletics Sports
8	AGM Netball Meeting 7pm
9	Uniform shop open 3.30-4.30pm
14-18	Year 10 - Camp 1 Boyle River
15-16	St Bede's Cricket - Timaru
16	Aoraki Schools Volleyball Champs
21-25	Year 10 - Camp 2 Boyle River
22	Aoraki Swimming
22-25	Yr 13 Geo trip Mt Cook
23	Aoraki Athletics
	Uniform shop open 3.30-4.30pm
28 Mar-3 Apr	Summer Tournament Week



Helping Children Through Trauma From Nigel Latta

The family is the most important part of a child's life. Parents give them their security and confidence. What trauma means to children depends to a large extent on how their parents react to it. Often this is more important than what happens to the children themselves. Parents can help their children by sorting out their own reactions and feelings. Do not be surprised if children's reactions seem out of keeping with their experiences, they may be reacting to family members' distress. Children (even infants and toddlers) can know more than you expect. Children think about things a great deal even when they are not talking about them, but they can only put them in perspective with adults' help.

The Child's Experience

Reassurance is important, but does not help until the child has an accurate idea of the event and its causes, and their misconceptions have been corrected. Parents also need to find out what reassurance the child needs. This is not always what children ask about at first. When someone they know is involved in a trauma, children may be distressed and imagine how it would have been for them to be involved in the trauma, but they usually express. They may feel their own security is threatened and that it could happen to them, however unlikely this may be.

How to help

It is better to tell children what has happened. Giving them the facts (but without unnecessary detail) helps prevent their imagination taking over. Encourage them to express emotions. Fear and sadness are their way of coming to terms with what has happened. Hold them or stay with them, offer support while they are upset and then talk about it afterwards. Keep communication open by asking questions to find out what they are thinking or imagining. Tell them how adults feel and what the actions of adults under stress mean. This will prevent children blaming themselves. Give children time to sort themselves out with your support. Make time for just being together. Take seriously all their concerns, complaints and questions. They may be trying to express something important which they don't have the right words for. Parents may need to get support to work through their own reactions first to be able to help their child.

Further help:

School Guidance Counsellor: Ms Adrienne Quartier
a.quartier@roncalli.school.nz or 688-6003 x811

FamilyWorks - 688-5029

Anglican Care S.C - 688-9291

Catholic Social Services Oamaru - 434-0913

Lifeline 24 Hr Counselling Services - 0800 543 354



Prep Periods Term 1

Friday 11 March

Year 13 Careers Session with AQU

All Year 13 students to attend

Monday 21 March

Massey University liaison visit –
Tom Music Room 27, lunch time

Wednesday 6 April

Careers Expo of particular interest to Maori students but open to all. Day and evening session. Transition from school to work/further study. Arowhenua Marae (information in Careers Rm)

Monday 11 April

Otago University Liaison Visit – Steve Walker 1:20 – 2:20pm. **Impt session for all Year 13 students intending to go to any university.** Bring your lunch. Room 27.

Thursday 14 April

University of Canterbury Liaison visit – Nichola Blue. Period 2 (prep), Room 27. For all Year 13 students considering university.

*Please feel free to ring me if you have further queries:
Adrienne Quartier
Careers Adviser/Guidance
Counsellor ☺*