NEW COURSES LAUNCHED

**AG&FARMING** is our new vocational pathways course and is open to our Year 12 students, although we will consider applications for this from Year 13s. The course will be run by Mike Ferguson who is joining us as an experienced VP teacher from Tikipunga High School. Students will work together for three days each week on health and safety, first aid, employability standards, small building and construction projects, literacy and numeracy. Students will also be working towards gaining their driving licences. Specific standards in pest control and all areas of primary industries will be completed during this time with a choice of Unit or Achievement Standards in all areas of the course so that students can also attain UE if they wish. Successful completion of the course will give students NCEA Level 2 with a vocational pathway award in Agriculture and Farming. Throughout the course of the year, students will also complete three work placements in areas of their choice, including areas of farming, fishing, food production, and sports ground maintenance. These placements will entail students being out of school for two consecutive days each week, so completing 20 days of work for each placement.

We have a limited number of places for adult returners or students who have previously left school but would like to return to Ruawai College to take this course. Please make an application directly to the Principal if you’d like more details.

**BUSINESS STUDIES/YOUNG ENTERPRISE** is our second new course and is open to all Years 11—13. Warren Keenan will be joining us in January from Greymouth High School and has had huge success in both Young Enterprise and the BP Business Challenge. This course will focus on areas of business and entrepreneurship and students can expect a very dynamic and practical course element which will involve them in setting up their own businesses. Of further interest is the Stockmarket Game which Warren will offer as an extra-curricular activity, and which enables students to learn about the stockmarket whilst investing virtual money in a competition to see who is the most successful investor. Warren will also run our junior financial literacy programme for years 7—10.

ART DEPARTMENT MINI EXHIBITION

This week’s feature artwork is by Year 10 student Bailey O’Sullivan. Students took a figure from a Maori myth or legend and developed this into a large A2 painted artwork. Bailey chose Tāwhirimātea, the God of Weather. According to legend, Tāwhirimātea sent wild storms to earth in anger when his parents, Ranginui and Papatūānuku, separated. Bailey has used textured layers of paint, combined with graphic lines to create the feeling of stormy weather and has cleverly integrated the wind element into the characters’ hair and tā moko designs.

**RUAWAI NOTICEBOARD: EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

**JMB Aussie Tour Ambrose Golf Tournament**
Matarua Golf Course, Sat 22/11 at 9.30—shotgun start. Teams of four - $40 per team. For more information please contact Rachel 0226308643 or Kylie 021611719

**Doctor’s Appointments**
Free doctor’s appointments for Ruawai College students — Mondays from 12.45pm to 1.15pm. Contact the office to make an appointment.

**RUAWAI RUGBY CLUB— are Seniors Rally Night**
Ruawai Sports Bar, Fri 28/11 at 6.30pm. BBQ and refreshments

**CALENDAR DATES:**
- 24th Nov: Year 9 Camp
- 28th Nov: NCEA Examinations due to end
- 29th Nov: BNZ Condors Tournament

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Petty and unfounded criticism is probably one of the most debilitating things we have to deal with in our personal and working lives. Criticism of how we look, how we act, the decisions we take, the things we do, or don’t do … these all take their toll and at times it can become very easy to succumb to that criticism rather than summoning up further strength to deal head on with what is being said. In this technological age, it is particularly easy to dole out criticism of others without any regard to the injury you may be causing. That is unfortunately where many people find themselves today. For our youngsters, websites such as Ask.fm are particularly toxic as they allow people to express their views of others completely uncensored, and with their potential ‘victim’ having no redress or right of reply. It is really important, therefore, that we attempt to protect our young people from the abuse of critics, or worse still, unfounded lies being spread about them, and we can do this by advising and helping them to protect the various online identities they may have. The back page of this week’s Torrent has some excellent advice from the Microsoft website on doing just that.

Of course, it isn’t only on internet sites that this uncensored and unwarranted criticism takes place. Often, it is the negativity of someone who feels they have been slighted in some way, or whose own sense of self-importance is so inflated that they feel a sense of entitlement to speak out about anyone in whichever way they please, without any sense of impunity. I’m sure that unfortunately we all know and have experienced someone like that. This kind of individual is a critic of the worst kind where no right of reply is possible. And in actual fact, they’re not looking for a reply otherwise they wouldn’t conduct their criticism in so insidious a manner. So how do we teach our youngsters to deal with people like that?

Mario Andretti is a retired world championship racing driver. In the course of his career, he won the Indianapolis 500, the Daytona 500, and the Formula One World Championship. During one of many interviews, he was asked for his number one tip for success in his driving. Andretti replied, “Don’t look at the wall. Your car goes where your eyes go.” He talked about young drivers at the start of their racing careers, and that this is one of the most important and critical lessons they will ever learn. He went on to say “when you are driving at 200 miles per hour (over 300km/h), you need to focus on the road in front of you. If you look at the wall, you’ll end up hitting it.” Another way of looking at this is in terms of looking in the rear-view mirror. We don’t drive constantly looking backwards.”

Our lives are like a long journey; most of the time we spend looking forward. If we’re very disciplined then we’ll spend an equal chunk of it living in the present. What we can’t do is focus constantly on the past or out of the side windows at distractions. Whether we drive looking in that rear view mirror, or looking at the wall which Andretti spoke about, if we focus too much on it, there’ll be carnage. If we continually listen to the criticism or the negativity, the same thing happens as we become more and more debilitated by negative emotions, anger, and self-doubt. It infuriates me when our youngsters are stopped in their tracks by unwarranted criticism, or bullying, so we need to teach them to use the negative emotions they’re feeling as signals to refocus and concentrate on what’s ahead of them.

We also need to teach them that sometimes it doesn’t matter what they do in life, there are individuals who are determined to take things the wrong way, over-react, and attempt to tear down the work of others. We need to remember that in most cases, unwarranted criticism isn’t about the person being criticised but a reflection of what’s going on in the critic’s own life, and so is ultimately a criticism of themselves. That’s not something we can fix. I tell our students in this situation to hold their heads high. Time will pass and the critic’s attention will no doubt soon turn to a new victim. Our youngsters need to be positive and focus on their goals, their ambitions, and ultimately, their destination. Ofentimes, only their successful arrival at that destination will silence those critics.
YEAR 9 CAMPERS

Just a few reminders and things to consider when preparing and packing for the year 9 camp, next week, at Lonsdale Outdoor Education Park.
We will be leaving school at approximately 9.00am in vans and vehicles, so get to school no later than 8.45am. The students’ bags will be loaded into the large Kaipara Kumara trailer attached to Mr P’s wagon. Please keep your day packs with you and give any baking or meat to one of the teachers (Marsha Parker, Charmaine Lulich or Lance Panoho).
There are also three parents and four senior students joining us to assist with the running of the camp. Parents: Helene Blundell, Debbie Blythen and Scott Wallace. Senior students: Head Girl for 2015 Megan Brewster, Ashleigh Ashford, Taylor Blythen and Bradley Beattie. There will be an adult and a senior student with each of the four cabin groups.
MONDAY – High and low ropes courses at Tree Adventures Glenbervie.
⇒ Pack a lunch including morning and afternoon tea snacks and a water bottle
⇒ Wear comfortable clothing – not too loose, lace up shoes and hair tied back.
⇒ Pack a windbreak and a jacket – just in case of poor weather
⇒ Hat and sunblock – in case of lots of sunshine.
TUESDAY – Sea kayaking and hiking (Mahinepua Peninsula) (The students will be doing both activities over the course of the day)
⇒ Sea Kayaking – day pack to carry lunch and water bottle, sunscreen, rash-shirt, swimwear, hat, towel etc
⇒ Hiking – dry clothes including underwear, sturdy shoes and walking socks, daypack with lunch and snacks, water, hat, sunscreen, windbreak/rain jacket.
WEDNESDAY – AM Initiative games and camp courses and PM hike and overnight camp. Morning will be at the camp completing initiative games, commando courses, blind-fold courses etc The afternoon will be spent learning survival skills, building bevies and preparing for the overnight camp. We will then drive to the starting point of the hike to our overnight campsite. Students will need to carry all their personal belongings as well as sleeping bag, bed roll, food, water etc So, we suggest a reasonable backpack, sturdy/supportive shoes, water bottle, comfortable, warm clothes for night. Prepare for possible wet weather too. Students will also be cooking their dinner on an open fire.
THURSDAY – AM hike out of camp and clean up PM – more camp courses and preparing to cook dinner on an open fire using camp-ovens (purpose built amphitheatre and open fire pit) at Lonsdale Outdoor Education Park.
FRIDAY – AM Amazing Race PM pack up and head back to Ruawai College.
The students will complete an Amazing Race course set up around Lonsdale, then clean up, have lunch and head back to Ruawai College. We aim to leave approximately 12.30pm with the aim of getting back to school around 2.30pm in time for buses.
If you have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact the school and speak to any of the teachers in charge of organising the camp.

LIFE AT RUAWAI

With the 2014 school year drawing to a close, we asked Matthew Blundell (Year 7) to share his perspective on school and how his experience has shaped his first year at Ruawai College.

My name is Matthew Blundell. I am a Year 7 student at Ruawai College and I want to tell you about my experience in Year 7.

It’s been a long journey through this year but I have made it! I have seen a lot of students come and go and different teachers along the way. But I am going to start at the beginning. When it was my first day at Ruawai College I was a bit scared of all the students. It’s not so easy being the little one again but I got used to seeing all the students’ faces.

My favourite subject is Art because it’s full of creativity and passion. The subjects I take are Language, Maths, Social Studies, Science, Art, Physical Education (P.E), Drama, Music, Maori, Health, Information and Communications Technology (I.C.T), Food Tech, Sewing, Fabric Technology, Wood Tech and Graphics. These aren’t all at the same time because some of them are taught to us in modules.

There are three Houses, Totara, Rimu and Kauri and I am in Totara. I have lots of fun in all the events at Ruawai College, e.g, Athletics Day, Socials and Top Form. It’s been so fun in Year 7 and I cannot wait until next year. By the way, if someone was thinking of coming to Ruawai College but they weren’t too sure, my advice would be a big yes!
I thought Ruawai College was just going to be all about work—well, it isn’t.
You have lots of friends that you can have fun with and heaps of teachers you can laugh with. At Ruawai College, 50% is about work, the other 50% is about experiences. Experiences happen all the time with students here at Ruawai College and guess what? You never forget them. Like this one, I will never forget it. So if you Year 6 ‘s are thinking about coming to Ruawai College, don’t be scared, be joyful.

Let the refining and improving of your own life keep you so busy that you have little time to criticise others.

H Jackson-Brown Jr
As mentioned in last week’s Torrent, Year 7 students will be required to have a personal computing device to use at school while all other year levels will be encouraged to bring their own computing device. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) is an innovative way to ensure students are getting the most out of their learning through new media such as technology and access to the internet.

Here are some options regarding a suitable BYOD device for your child for 2015.

Please note that the device does not have to be an Apple iPad/laptop. Our network can accommodate any device that has wireless capability.

**Laptops**

Minimum specifications for a suitable BYOD device:

- Screen size: 11 inch or greater
- Processor: Dual core [i3, i5, or i7 recommended]
- RAM: 2GB minimum [4GB recommended]
- Hard Drive: 500 GB or greater
- Built in wireless: 802.11g or 802.11n
- Protective Case

Some potential models could be…

**Apple Laptops**

- Macbook Pro
- Macbook Air

These are the two models that are recommended. They both have robust specifications that would suit a wide range of uses.

**Toshiba Notebooks**

- Toshiba Satellite
- Toshiba Ultrabook

These come with Windows 8 operating system.

**HP Notebooks**

- HP Pavilion
- HP Envy

The Pavilion X360 comes with a 360 degree hinged screen that converts the laptop to a stand or tablet model.

Amanda King, Deputy Principal

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**BYOD UPDATE CONTINUED**

**TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR REPUTATION!**

With the introduction of BYOD, it’s probably a good time to think about what you actually post about your friends, family and yourself online. Over the next few editions of Torrent, we’ll reproduce some well grounded advice about looking after your online reputation, and keeping yourself safe. You may have heard this all before but even if you think you know it, it’s well worth looking at this information again!

Chances are you already have an online reputation, even if you don’t know it. On the Internet, you create an image of yourself through the information you share in blogs, comments, tweets, snapshots, videos, and links. Others add their own opinions (good and bad) and contribute to your reputation. Anyone can find this information and use it to make judgments about you. For example, Microsoft research* found that 79 percent of job recruiters surveyed said they routinely review online reputational information when considering job applicants. Most of them count online reputation as one of their top selection criteria. In fact, that same study showed that 70 percent of hiring managers surveyed had rejected candidates based on what they found. Top disqualifiers included unsuitable photos and videos, concerns about the applicant’s lifestyle, and inappropriate comments. You need to discover what is on the Internet about you…

**Search engines**

* Type your first and last name into several popular search engines. Search for images as well as text.
* Search all variations of your name—other names you have used, nicknames, or middle name or initial. Include personal domain names (yourname.com) in your search.
* Search sites you visit frequently such as organisations you belong to, even your own pages. Discover what is out there about you.

**Evaluate your online reputation**

Think about the story this information tells.

* Does it reflect the reputation you want to have? If not, what is missing?
* Is it accurate? If not, what should be deleted or corrected?
* Do you need more than one online profile—whether personal, professional, or for an area of interest, like a hobby or volunteer work? If so, is it okay to mix info from different profiles?
* Do you want your profiles to be public or more private?

Because information online is searchable, often permanent, and may be seen by anyone on the Internet, your answers to these questions are important. They may determine what personal information you share.

* Reprinted from Microsoft.

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