

Rangitaiki College

Te Kura Tuarua ō Rangitaiki

Te Karere

February 2025 issue

Pānui from the Tumuaki (Principal)

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our parents and whānau who have joined our kura this year. It has been an exciting start this term with the official celebration of our name change from Edgecumbe College to Rangitaiki College – Te Kura Tuarua ō Rangitaiki. We are invigorated with the challenges and opportunities presented by this shift – now the real journey begins as we explore what it means to be at Rangitaiki College while retaining the mana and history of Edgecumbe College. We will be going through a strategic process this year to review our vision, values, strategic direction, and curriculum and we invite you along on our journey.

We already have much to celebrate, while our results at Level 1 and Level 3 NCEA have dropped, largely due to the challenge of the new corequisites for literacy and numeracy at Level 1, our Level 2 results were sound, near national, and well above equity comparisons. This year we are part of a national initiative to improve our achievement in these corequisites and we are also working hard to identify a broader range of opportunities for students to succeed in 2025.

Earlier this month, I attended the awards ceremony for the Eastern Bay Trust and Acorn Foundation, and I was very proud to help celebrate the achievements of Samantha Balthazar who received the Bay of Plenty Education Trust Scholarship, and Erin Macadangdang who received the Acorn Foundation scholarship. Paipa Edwards also received the Acorn Foundation Scholarship although she was unable to attend the ceremony.

Our school roll is stable – remaining at 160 – although we continue to see a steady stream of new enrolments – 5 this week alone. One of our strengths as a Kura is our size – we have small classes in the junior school and our kaiaairahi know their students and their needs. For a small school, our student body is very diverse and we work hard to meet the needs of each individual and celebrate who they are and what they bring to our kura.

We are also very lucky to be fully staffed – although there is a current vacancy for a Gateway Coordinator, all teaching positions are filled -something which schools cannot take for granted these days.

We were pleased to welcome the following staff at our powhiri on January 30 this year:

Mrs. Amy Lewin has joined our staff as the Head of Art. Mrs Lewin held the position of HoD Art at Te Puke High School and was working at Aquinas College in Tauranga before joining us. We are very pleased to have her experience and expertise here at Rangitaiki College.

Mrs Te Koiuru Sydney has taken the position in Food Technology while Mrs Esterhuizen is on maternity leave. She has a great deal of experience in catering and was working as a relief teacher with us in Term 4 2024.

One of the key pieces of work for our staff this year lies in the redevelopment of our curriculum. We will be connecting closely with our local community and Ngāti Awa as part of the process and we will also be going out to visit other schools to look at innovative approaches which have produced student-centred and engaging learning experiences for students. As part of this process, we will be running a Teacher Only Day on March 31 and there will be other Teacher Only Days throughout the year.

On March 13, we have a whanau/ teacher evening which will follow the issuing of the Interim Reports for Term 1 the previous week. We invite all whanau of our Year 9 students to join us at 5.00pm for some kai and a chat with Senior Leaders and staff and then all parents will be able to book appointments with teachers from 5.30 until 7.30pm.

One of the things that many manuhiri have commented on this year has been the colour and variety of the flowers in the wildflower meadow that we planted in the building site at the heart of the school. It has been a joy to see life and colour coming out of a space that has been a source of sorrow for many of us. We continue to work with the Ministry to complete the design of the new Admin buildings which will be the gateway into the new school that will take shape here over the next couple of years.

We were pleased to get the pool open to the community – even if it was a short season. We partner with Whakatane District Council each year to achieve this and it is provided through their funding and the support of the Whakatane Aquatic Centre. We would like to acknowledge their support in providing a lifeguard and the necessary expertise for us to operate the pool safely.

Finally, a couple of things that I would like to remind parents and whanau about. Firstly cellphones – as we all know students were banned from having these in schools in a law change in April last year. This has not changed. In general, students should not be bringing them to school. Unless your child has a specific reason for needing access to a phone outside of school hours we ask that you ensure that they remain at home. If there is a reason why your child might need access to a cellphone outside of school hours then they must be ‘Away for the Day’ – we should not see or hear them between 8.30 and 3.00pm.

If you need to contact your son or daughter between these hours then please do so through the College Office.

Secondly – attendance. Students need to be at school to learn – every day does matter. Last year we introduced text notifications to parents of students who had been marked absent at the start of the day. We are continuing with this, this year. We will also be continuing with the draw for whānau of students over 90% attendance for a meat or petrol voucher each term. Get your rangatahi here whānau!

The unveiling of the new 'school name' was held at the start of the school year.



Congratulations to Samantha Baltazar who received the Bay of Plenty Education Trust Scholarship and Erin Macadangdang who received the Acorn Foundation Scholarship. We are proud of you!

Sports Coaches

We are looking for volunteers in the community to coach winter sports at our school (ie, Basketball, Rugby, Netball, Football, Hockey). If you can help out please email, Lisa Robertson, Sports Coordinator:

lrt@rangitaikicollege.school.nz

Gateway Coordinator

We seek an enthusiastic individual to perform the Gateway Coordinator role at our school. The position comprises 20 hours per week during term time only. The role would involve, placing students into work placements. Must have a full, clean driver's license.

Closing date: 3pm Friday 28 February. Please send your cv with a cover letter to:

Caro Amai- **Principal's PA**

Email: ami@rangitaikicollege.school.nz

School Photos

These will be held on Tuesday 11th March and taken by Photolife (<https://photolife.co.nz/>). Student's photos will be taken in whanau ako groups as well as individually.

The cost for various packages is shown below. Photo packages can only be paid for online.

Details of how to order the school photos will be sent to parents/Caregivers via email.

INTERMEDIATE / COLLEGE PACKAGE OPTIONS

Class / Group Photograph

For **ONLY** an extra \$2 upsize your Class/Group photo



25 x 20cm \$18

32 x 25cm \$20

Value Portrait Pack

2 Medium 13 x 18cm
1 Postcard 9 x 13cm
2 Small 6.4 x 9cm

Individual Photographs \$20



Premium Portrait Pack

- 1 Large 20 x 25cm with mount
- 2 Medium 13 x 18cm with mounts
- 1 Postcard 9 x 13cm
- 1 Postcard 9 x 13cm Black & White
- 1 Small 6.4 x 9cm
- 1 Small 6.4 x 9cm Black & White
- 4 Swappa 4.5 x 6.5cm
- 1 Calendar 18 x 13cm



Individual Photographs \$25

Ultimate Portrait Pack

(Premium Pack
PLUS digital download of portrait image)

Individual Photographs \$30



Digital Download of Portrait Image



Digital Download \$20

Digital Download \$5

(Purchased with pack of photographs)



Students can order an ID card by paying \$12 to the front office by Monday 24th March. Please could parents and caregivers support the school by checking that your child(ren) are in uniform for the school photos. These photos are included in the school magazine at the end of the year, so it is important that everyone looks their best.

Formal Uniform code for the photograph

- Y9 to Y12 Black school polo tops only (no jerseys or thermals).
- Y13 white dress shirt
- Facial piercing needs to be discrete (Mr Murphy will make that decision).
- No bracelets
- No necklaces showing, unless religious or Taonga (Mr Murphy will make that decision).
- No hats.
- If a tee-shirt colour/writing shows through your black polo or dress shirt you will be asked to remove it.
- All other uniform needs to be correct including shoes.

School photos are formal and uniform requirements need to match. To avoid issues, wear studs or sleepers in the ears and a stud in any facial piercing for the day. If your uniform is incorrect, you may not be allowed in the Whanau Ako group

Details of how to order the school photos will be sent to parents/caregivers once they have been processed. This usually occurs sometime in April once Photolife has processed the photos and set up the schools online site.



Labo In-Japan Homestay Program 2025-2026

This programme is a must for students keen on travelling, meeting new people, and being interested in Japan. Students do not have to be studying Japanese or be able to speak Japanese, however, it would be an advantage. The program does require a level of resilience and a positive attitude.

All the information is at

<https://nzstudytours.co.nz/labo/>

For information about Labo see <https://labo-exchange.com/>

Key points about the program

Applications close Friday 30th May 2025

Departs Thursday 11th December 2025

Return Tuesday 6th January 2026

\$8,495 per student, including return flights on Air New Zealand, accommodation throughout, all meals, 3-night winter youth camp, homestay with a host brother or sister, and the support of the Labo International Exchange Foundation.

Day Relievers

If you are:

- A recently retired teacher
- A teacher returning from leave
- A teacher aide

and interested in relieving at our school, please email, Mandy Irwin on:

irw@rangitaikicollege.school.nz

Upcoming Events Calendar

February 2025

Wed 26th: Athletics Day

Thu 27th: Back up Athletics day

Fri 28th: Tawera Nikau Visit

March 2025

Mon 3rd: Proposed Swimming sports
2PED/2OED Otanewainuku

Wed 5th: Swimming sports

Tue 11th: School photos

Wed 12th: Lincoln University visit

Thu 13th: Parent/teacher evening

Wed 19th: NZ Defence Forces visit

Thu 20th: 3PED journey

Fri 21st: 3PED Journey

Thu 27th: 2OED Journey

Mon 31st: Teacher Only Day