



**KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NEWSLETTER – April 2008**

Greetings all

In some ways the first term seems to have flown past while in others it seems to have gone on for ever. I think that staff and students alike are ready for the holidays at the end of this week. Hopefully the glorious Autumn days will continue into the holidays.

Congratulations to all the sports teams who represented Kerikeri High School down at the annual Easter tournament held in Rotorua. Not only were a number of the team results, details of which are included in the accompanying newsletter, excellent, but equally pleasing to hear was the fantastic sense of school spirit enjoyed by all those who took part, with teams supporting other High School teams from the sidelines.

As you may be aware one of the first major projects undertaken by the current Board is a review of sport at the High School. The Board considers that sport plays an important and integral part of the education of our students. The review by the sports sub-committee is virtually complete. A new policy will be placed before the full Board at the next meeting for its approval. Approval has also been given for a “representative jacket” which will be available to students who represent Kerikeri High School in teams and individually. The criteria for eligibility will be made known to all students, but will not just be restricted to sports.

One of the consequences, possibly not well understood, of the increased role that sport is playing in the life of the High School is the associated costs that go with that. As well as direct costs issues arise such as teachers who are away with teams during the term needing to be covered by temporary staff, all of which comes at a cost. Given the benefit to students the Board is prepared to deal with that, but it underlines how funding is such a pervasive factor in so much of what we seek to do.

On the well-worn topic of finances, as stated in the past balancing the budget is a fraught job for the Board and the School’s senior leadership team. It is not easy for our hardworking teachers to be told that less funding is available this year for classroom materials than was available last year but that is a harsh reality. Concern has been expressed by some about the inclusion of the additional voluntary contribution of \$50.00 per student. As a community we rightly demand that our children are given a good education. Given the fact that the central funding which the school receives is not sufficient, in the Board and management’s view, to provide such an education, additional funds have to be raised. The Board feels strongly that, before our local business community is approached for sponsorship and funding, the first port of call should be the people whose children receive the direct benefit of that education. The Board is hopeful that central funding will be increased in the course of the year.

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The Board anticipates that next term will see the start of construction of the new classroom block in the heart of the school. While it was hoped that the classes would be available from the start of 2009 the design and consent process has not been a fast one and time is looking very tight. It is an incredibly exciting project and one which will make a significant improvement to the teaching facilities available to the school.

The Board is delighted to announce that Su Neave has been elected staff trustee following on from the departure of John Olson. Congratulations from the Board also to our newly appointed Head Boy Joshua Rewha and Head Girl Cara Telea, and also to all appointed School Prefects. Our prefects play a key role in the running of the school and the role provides a good learning experience for all involved.

In terms of appointments the Board also notes that at the recent PTA AGM Mrs Kaye Neely, Kartini Martin and Susie Oliver have all been elected as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the PTA. The PTA provides a key link for parents to the School and the Board thanks all three together with the rest of the committee of the PTA for all their hard work on all our behalves.

While one sometimes questions the sanity of having thrown ones hat into the ring to be a parent trustee there are some moments that make it all worthwhile. Some of us have just had the great fortune of watching the school's Kapa Haka group perform at the school prior to next week's Tai Tokerau Festival. At the end of a spellbinding performance, as the Kapa Haka group left the gymnasium, they were challenged by another group of students and the two groups ended up with a face to face haka that was spine tingling to watch. Such things determine the great spirit of a school.

Given that this will be the last Board newsletter for the term a heartfelt thank you from the Board to all our hardworking teachers, support staff, and the senior leadership team. It seems that 2008 has started well and we hope that it is going to be a vintage year. Happy holidays to all those fortunate enough to be getting one!

Naku noa

The Board