

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings All

It was fantastic to start Term 2 2009 with the new Business, Enterprise and Social Sciences Centre now open and providing the School with ten new much needed classrooms. In recent times our long-suffering staff have been carrying their possessions and teaching materials from class to class. The teachers now have their own rooms that they can make their own. Congratulations to those involved in the building project and in particular to Wendy Butler who chairs the Property Committee, Elizabeth Forgie who has also been closely involved with the project throughout, David Keys the Property Manager retained by the School and our own Property Manager Richard Pilling. It has been a long-running project and the result really is something the High School can be proud of in terms of amenity.

Exams are on the horizon for all Year 9 to 13 students. Many thanks to Di Eastwood for running some excellent study evenings for the “novices” (both students and parents!) as to studying tips and exam technique. For those sitting NCEA it is an important time and the Board hopes that the recent run of strong NCEA results will be continued this year.

Many of you will be aware that the Ministry of Education proposes constructing a new primary school in Waipapa Road. The matter is currently with the Far North District Council, effectively for Resource Consent. Kerikeri High School hosted a couple of meetings for the Ministry, which advised us that as the proposed school is for Year 1 to 6 students we were seen as “neutral territory”. There does seem some doubt as to whether the proposed school will be for Years 1 to 6 or Years 1 to 8. Irrespective of that the High School will continue to offer a Year 7 to 13 education. The High School believes that it is not only of benefit for the Year 7 and 8 students at an educational level to have specialist teachers, equipment and classrooms available to them, but that also it helps to bring students into the culture of the High School from an early stage meaning there are fewer difficulties with Year 9 and 10 students.

A working group has been set up to review communication of all levels within the School. The group includes the following:

Elizabeth Forgie (Principal)
Mike Clent (Senior Leadership Team)
Tim Rea (Senior Leadership Team)
Su Neave (Staff)
Manu Baines (Student)
Nigel Cane (PTA)
Haana Barker (Board – Maori Liaison)
Rick Palmer (Board - Chair)

In addition to all the useful information you provided in the Survey, if you have any suggestions as to any aspects of communication within the School please feel free to pass that to any of those mentioned above.

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Congratulations to Nigel Cane on being appointed Chair of the PTA. The Board wishes Nigel well with leading this group which provides so much support to the School and serves as a vital School/Parent link.

There were a few grumbles in the survey about constant references to payment of the School donation. I am afraid there is no apology for that here. The funds raised through parents' payment of the school donation are absolutely crucial for continuing the level of education that is currently given to the students. The Board takes no pleasure from asking (repeatedly) that the donation be paid and it would be wonderful if that were not necessary. The reality is the additional funds required are a very real factor in determining the financial health of the School.

Thanks to all those who have already paid the donations. If you have not already paid please be aware that every donation paid makes a difference to the School. Please remember that the donations are tax deductible, and also can be made by way of weekly automatic payment with forms available from reception.

Winter sports are now well underway and the High School is well represented in all the major winter codes as well as having a large number of students involved in other sports. It is great to see how many students are involved in sport in one way or another. The entry numbers for the Cross Country sound healthy so lots of students are involved there again this year.

All the best to students who are sitting exams over the next few weeks. Thanks to the teachers who are putting in extra time and effort to assisting students with revision prior to those exams.

Naku noa

The Board