

## **KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Greetings All.

In many ways a School is a large family with all the range of emotions that can be involved with that. It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of one of our students, Chelsea Heihei late last month following a period of illness. Chelsea was well known in the School, both as a lovely student and also as a wonderful member of our Kapa Haka group. Our condolences to her whanau. It is every parents' worst nightmare.

At the other end of the emotional spectrum the Board was delighted to learn of Derry Godbert receiving a New Zealand Order of Merit in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. Derry is well known for his incomparable coaching of youth sailors, and for many years was the heart and sole of sailing at Kerikeri High School. The Order was richly deserved.

The Senior Leadership Team has been formulating the High School Response Plan in the event that there is an outbreak of Swine Flu either within the School or the Community. Currently the direction of the Ministry of Education is that schools would close in the event of an outbreak and the High School is sending out information to parents either at the same time as this newsletter or within the next few days. Please take the time to read it.

The High School uniform review is well under way and some exciting new designs and fabrics are being considered by representatives from the Board, staff and student body. The process is always one of evolution rather than revolution and the Board is also conscious to balance quality and cost factors in any uniform decided on. There will be a phase in period for any new uniform, during which time the current uniform will still be able to be worn, to seek to minimise cost impact on parents.

The Property Committee, having finalised the large classroom building project is now moving on with its balancing act of where to spend the limited property funding resources available. In addition to ongoing maintenance, which may not be particularly exciting but which is absolutely necessary to protect the assets we have, the Board is continuing a project of installation of heat pumps in classrooms to provide climate control in all teaching areas. The Board believes the benefits both to teachers and students will be well worth the investment.

Students from Years 9 to 13 were no doubt delighted to see the back end of exams. It has been a busy time for teachers with marking and the preparation of School reports. We are now right in the thick of the academic teaching part of the year and speeches are also on the horizon.

Deputy Principal Mike Clent gave an excellent presentation at last month's PTA meeting on the High School's Gifted & Talented Programme. While it is clear, as with most state schools, this is a developing area and is work in progress, it is interesting to see the steps that have been made. The Gifted and Talented Programme will be implemented in the main through ongoing professional development for all teachers.

As we approach the halfway stage this year it is worthwhile reminding ourselves that our key aim is the raising of student achievement. Every member of the High School community plays its part in that but I hope our students remember the biggest impact comes from the attitude and application of the student him or herself.

Naku noa  
The Board