

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings All

We had been looking forward to doing a newsletter which was full of the positive things that have been happening in Term 3 at the High School, where things have been running smoothly. Unfortunately over the last week or so we have seen some rare levels of stupidity from some of the students, with fire alarms being set off on two occasions. It is the sort of mindless prank that not only significantly disrupts the High School but also leads to disruption for the local volunteers in the Fire Brigade. Fortunately all those involved have been identified and are currently going through the disciplinary process.

Things became even more serious yesterday when a fire was lit during school time in one of the boys toilets. This took hold and damage was done to a wall, ceiling and equipment. It was only the quick action of some members of staff that stopped us having a major fire on our hands. To give an idea of the seriousness of the matter two of the teachers involved were treated for smoke inhalation. There was a full class in the adjacent room at the time the fire was lit. The possible consequences are not nice to contemplate. Once again the student involved has been identified and is facing the consequences. The Police are also involved.

In terms of more positive things the Board was delighted to attend the open rehearsal of the Te Roopu Kapa Haka o Kerikeri before its performances in the Northland competition this weekend. The performance was truly stunning. There was some wonderful original work written for the Group, which was being performed for the first time and which was full of passion, poignancy and wit. The Group is something of which the School can be justifiably proud.

The report on the Parent Survey has now been completed. Copies are available at reception at the School and also will be sent out to you either via email or by post. Please either phone reception on 407 8916 or email them at enquiries@kerikerihigh.ac.nz if you would like a copy. The report on the Staff Survey will be available to all staff within the next few days.

The Parent, Staff and Student surveys provided the Board with some great information in respect of the strategic planning exercise that has been undertaken by the Board in the first part of this term. Effectively this is looking at the strategic direction for the High School over the next five years. One of the priorities for the Board is ensuring that heat pumps are installed into all classrooms so that both teachers and students won't have to put up with heat extremes while trying to teach or learn.

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Other priorities include redevelopment of the life tech/hospitality area. We single this out for mention because the Board was delighted to learn last week that our Hospitality Team had won Best School at the National Culinary Competitions. This is a fantastic achievement by the Team and the Board's congratulations to Simon Hart and all those involved.

You may recall that the Ministry of Health has been running a vaccination programme for HPV. This was initially offered for Year 8 girls and the Ministry is continuing with a one off programme for girls aged 13 to 18. Consent Forms have earlier been sent out to parents. The Ministry wish to follow up in respect of girls where Consent Forms were not returned (either accepting or declining the vaccination). The Ministry has asked that we notify parents that the Ministry will be requiring contact information from us in respect of those students. Please note that unless the High School is instructed by any parent to the contrary that information will be provided to the Ministry.

The uniform review has almost been completed. After wide consultation the only major areas of change will be to the sweatshirt (the jade one finding little favour with students) and the policy with regard to shoes and sandals which is being widened. The changes are being undertaken with a view to ensure that costs to parents are being kept to a minimum.

Speaking of financial matters, while appreciating this is not a popular topic, a reminder to parents about both subject fees and the school contribution. Thanks to all those who have paid the school contribution and also paid any outstanding subject fees. The Board accepts that the contribution is voluntary but does emphasise that payment of the contribution enables us to provide additional facilities for the students at the School that otherwise simply would not be available. Contributions can be made over a period of time and in small amounts by automatic payment, and all contributions are tax deductible. If you are able to make the contribution but have not yet done so please contact the School to arrange it. It really does make a difference.

Many of the High Schools winter sports teams are currently away at winter tournaments and the Board wishes them all well. Once again we thank the teachers and parents who are prepared to give up their own time to enable these events to take place.

Wishing you all the best for Spring.

Naku noa.

The Board