

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings all.

Welcome to the fourth and final term of 2007. How the years fly by!

The start of the new term also heralds the start of a new era at Kerikeri High School as we change from a dual Principal system back to a single Principal, with Elizabeth Forgie at the helm. The Board has decided to change the structure of the Senior Leadership Team with the addition of a further Deputy Principal and interviews for that role will be taking place over the next month.

A plea from the Board in respect of our Principal. Kerikeri High School is the largest year 7 to 13 co-ed school in New Zealand. The demands on a Principal are many and diverse. There are over 90 teachers at the High School, in excess of 1300 pupils, parents or caregivers for all those pupils, the Ministry of Education, the Board and the community, all with different requirements. While Elizabeth has tried in the past to operate an open door policy it simply isn't feasible for either teachers, pupils or parents to be able to just "pop in" to speak to her whenever they wish.

The building project continues apace with stage 1, the car park, well on the way to completion. Designs have been finalised for the new classroom block and for refurbishment of the administration block. The Board appreciates everyone's cooperation and patience throughout the construction period. The new (and badly needed) classrooms should be completed some time during the second term of 2008.

Although the year is charging by in excess of 30% of the annual parent contributions are still to be paid. This represents a total of around \$35,000. State school education funding is not generous and the High School has to cut its cloth in line with funds received. The bottom line is that additional funding does make a difference to the learning environment that the school is able to offer to your children. Every single contribution paid helps. If you have overlooked or deferred paying the contribution the Board asks that you arrange to make the payment now. **IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!**

The Sport review is continuing with discussions being held with the major sports codes to see how the High School can have beneficial partnerships with clubs. The Board is also looking at the introduction of a sports jacket in 2008 and how to encourage participation by more pupils at school sports events. It was great to see some fantastic sporting results during the course of the last term in all kinds of sports.

Term 4 is always an important one for our senior students. It is the business end of the year for many and is a stressful time for both pupils and teachers as final preparations for exams takes place. Good luck to all those taking internal and external exams.

For the Board Term 4 will see some strategy meetings to set the framework for the targets the Board will set for the High School for 2008. There is always room for improvement and the Board will seek to ensure that student achievement across all areas of the High School continues to improve.

Naku Noa

The Board