

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OR TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings all.

The 2007 Kerikeri High School year has certainly entered the final straight. Everything seems to be at a sprint!

There are a lot of very tired, but no doubt very relieved, senior students out there who have finished external exams. There is still, however, a lot going on within the school and it is a busy time for many of the teachers.

Senior Prizegiving was a great occasion and well done to all students who received recognition that day. One very striking chord on the day was the disparity between the sexes in terms of the top end of academic achievement. With a few notable exceptions boys were notable mainly by their absence. There have been murmurings for a while of disparity in terms of academic achievement between the sexes. This is not particular to Kerikeri High School and is regarded as a national and even international trend. Your Board has nonetheless made it a top priority for the balance of its term of office to seek to address some of the imbalance in academic achievement between the sexes. We will ensure that this is not done at the cost of girls continued success, nor of the ongoing success, with Maori students in particular, of the Te Kotahitanga project.

Thank you to all those parents and caregivers who have paid the school contribution and subject fees this year. There are, however, still a significant number of outstanding contributions and subject fees and we would be grateful if those who haven't yet paid could do so now. These are crucial to enable us to meet our budget for the current year.

Speaking of budgets the finance committee of the Board are working hard on the 2008 Budget. It is, frankly, an impossible job trying to operate the school in a way that our community expects, based purely upon central government funding. This is one of the reasons why it is so important to us to get contributions and subject fees in. Budgeting is extremely difficult when the number of students is often not finalised, and the senior management team at the school do a fantastic job of ensuring that class sizes at the school are kept as small as possible within the constraints of the available funding.

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As this is the last newsletter for 2007 it is an opportunity to relay a few thanks.

Firstly to our PTA members for all the support they give the school. The PTA is an integral part of the school community and is often an important interface between parents and the school. Even if you are unable to attend PTA meetings please note that you can receive regular Minutes and correspondence from the PTA if you either give an email address in at the front desk or email direct to Kartini Martin at skmartin@slingshot.co.nz

To our hardworking staff thank you for your efforts over the past year. We hope you enjoy a good summer break and return refreshed and ready to inspire your charges in 2008.

To Elizabeth Forgie our principal and her team of deputy principals Mike Clent, Tim Rea, Judy Cleaver and Glenys Ross our thanks for keeping the whole show together and on the road in what has been a year of significant change. We look forward to a more settled year of strategic reviews in 2008.

And finally to many of the unsung heroes, those parents who put their hands up to help with all sorts of school activities, whether as drivers, coaches or general helpers. You know who you are! Many thanks for all your efforts over the past year.

Seasons greetings to one and all and here is to a 2008 which continues some of the successes Kerikeri High School has achieved in 2007 and continues to raise the bar across the School.

Naku noa
The Board