

## KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings All

Welcome to the 2008 school year from your Board of Trustees. A particular welcome to new members of staff and new parents to Kerikeri High School. We hope you will thoroughly enjoy your time with the School.

The Board has held its first monthly meeting for the year. It was wonderful to be getting together just after the publication of the NCEA results for last year. The School had a record year in terms of NCEA achievement. Congratulations to the staff and students who worked so hard to achieve those results.

There is a good feeling of anticipation in the Board in respect of the coming year. While 2007 was an excellent year of achievement for the High School there is a feeling of purpose amongst the Board and senior leadership team that in 2008 we can do even better. It is a great challenge for all of us. At its meeting the Board was joined for the first time by new student representative Zac Painting. The High School is currently having an election process in respect of a new staff trustee.

The greatest challenge your Board faces is trying to balance the books while endeavouring to ensure the students at Kerikeri High School are given the type of education that the Board, staff, and no doubt the parents, want them to have. The Board wishes to make one point very clear. Education in New Zealand currently is not free. If the politicians say it is they are distorting the reality. While there is a base level of funding that is provided by central government this is not enough pay for the proper operation of the High School, or the provision of a proper education for your children.

At Kerikeri High School we are very fortunate that we have a successful international school component. The additional fees brought in by the international students help to subsidise the education of our local students. The school contribution, which is currently \$100 per year per student, is absolutely essential for the continued operation of the school.

As parents you need to be aware that the Board is responsible for the School's budget. We have to cut our cloth to suit what we anticipate receiving. Based on our budget for 2008 all teachers are being asked to make a 20% cut for curriculum materials to those they had in 2007. Put simply this means less amenity available to your children in the classrooms. The Board, and certainly the teachers, are not at all happy about this, but at present the Board has little choice. The situation really is untenable, and while all schools are hoping that the government will increase the level of central funding provided this year there is no guarantee of that.

This letter is therefore a plea for all parents to pay the school contribution and all subject fees, and to pay them as quickly as possible. If you are unable to make a lump sum payment then Reception will happily arrange for the fee to be paid by way of direct debit over the course of the year. In addition your Board is asking all parents to consider making an additional voluntary school contribution of \$50 per student. This would mean a total contribution of \$150 per student. The Board can advise that every cent that is received in respect of the additional voluntary payment of \$50 will be spent on curriculum materials for the benefit of the students at the school. The Board appreciates that \$150 is a significant sum, although broken down

it is less than \$3 per week. THE CONTRIBUTION DOES MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE EDUCATION THE SCHOOL CAN PROVIDE. IT IS ALSO A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION. If you make it before 31 March you can therefore get tax relief on the payment for this year.

The Board is having an additional meeting this week specifically concentrating on strategic planning. In the course of the coming months the Board and Management of the High School will be surveying parents, staff and students about a wide range of issues relating to the School. The theme of the survey and review is "Further Raising Student Achievement". We believe that while there is a lot for the High School to be proud of there is always room for improvement and the survey will be an important tool in how you can have input into that process. We are looking for assistance with the preparation of the survey so if you have experience and skills in survey construction and analysis and would be interested to be involved in the process please contact the School.

The survey will include your chance to give feedback in respect of the school uniform which is due this year for its five yearly review. This process is one of evolution not revolution so that parents are not forced to buy a new uniform every time a review is undertaken.

The building projects have continued at the High School unabated over the Christmas holidays. The refurbishment of the administration block is virtually complete and hopefully will provide a much improved environment within that area. The commencement of the exciting new 8 classroom project is getting closer and will provide much needed additional teaching space for staff and students. All the building projects are funded separately by the government and have nothing to do with the annual operations grant. The Board makes this point so that you know that your contributions aren't being swallowed up by these projects.

Should you wish to keep more in touch with happenings at the school the PTA is an excellent way of doing this. The PTA meets regularly, and the minutes of those meetings and other information can easily be obtained either by email or post. Should you wish to receive these please contact either the High School or the PTA's secretary Kartini Martin on [skmartin@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:skmartin@slingshot.co.nz)

There is a good feeling in the air about 2008 at Kerikeri High School. Energy and optimism abound. There is a great new bunch of prefects and some wonderful new teachers. As you can probably gather by the contents of this newsletter funding is our biggest hurdle. The Board asks that you do your piece to help the High School help your children by making the contributions payments as quickly as possible.

Naku noa

The Board