

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings All

Term Two 2010 is well under way with a plethora of winter sports and activities and the prospect of exams for Years 9 – 13 on the not too distant horizon. The “endless summer” may actually be coming to an end.

One thing definitely coming to an end is the current Board which is finishing its term of office. Three years has passed quickly but a lot seems to have happened in that period. For the new Board eight candidates have put their names forward for election as one of the six Parent Trustees and two staff members have put their names forward for the election of the Staff Trustee. Whatever the results of the election it will mean that the new Board has a mix of current and new members which is healthy in terms of succession for the ongoing governance role the Board is required to take.

There has been some interest in the recent Herald league tables for NCEA Level 1 results. The subject was raised at the last PTA meeting. While of interest the table can be a little misleading in that, understandably, it oversimplifies a far more complex underlying set of results. It is a bit of an “oranges and apples” scenario with the tables not breaking down the results into Unit Standards and Achievement Standards, nor the numbers of students involved. Further with regard to Achievement Standards where passes with merit or excellence are available it does not record that data. The Board requires the production and provision to it of detailed data in respect of NCEA results, including results on a gender and ethnic background basis. The Board has been delighted to note the ongoing improvement in academic results that the School continues to achieve and which are second to none in the North.

The Board has finalised and adopted the Kerikeri High School Charter and Strategic Plan 2010–2015. This document was the culmination of an exercise that began with the detailed surveys taken of parents, staff and students in 2008 and 2009, a number of strategic meetings held by the Board and strategic meetings held with staff. It will be a guiding document for the High School for the next five years. Copies are available at Reception should any parent wish to view it.

The Board has also completed a review of the prize-giving format following last year’s changes which were in response to concerns about the system as it then was. On the whole the feedback received from parents on the new format was very positive and the Board has recommended that the same format be retained for 2010.

Around 40% of the voluntary contributions have been paid to date. Thank you to all those who have paid the contribution. To the 60% who have not yet paid the Board would be grateful if you would either make the payment or arrange with Reception a payment instalment plan. The contribution, which is tax deductible, makes an enormous difference to the amenity that the High School is able to provide to your

children. Your efforts in that regard are appreciated not just by the Board, but more particularly by the students who receive the actual benefit. The drum may be an old and recurring one but the beat goes on!

At the final meeting of the current Board the current Trustees undertook a self-review of its operation throughout its 3 year term. This Review, which will be available to the new Board, provides a background document of areas that have been developed over the last few years and areas for further improvement.

Also at the meeting the Board received an update on progress with preparation for the implementation of the new curriculum from Deputy Principal Glenys Ross who leads the team in charge of that. It is a huge task involving all departments at the High School. Interestingly the new curriculum, which in part is about how you teach not just what you teach, bears some similarities to some of the Te Kotahitanga principles of teaching so will be less of an adjustment to teachers and staff than would otherwise have been the case.

The Board notes that PTA elections have been held and congratulates and thanks those officers who have been prepared to step forward and take on the officiating roles for that important group. Please remember that the PTA email "tree" is a great way to keep abreast of events at the School that may be of interest to parents. If you want to be added to the list please email Kartini Martin at skmartin@slingshot.co.nz

Finally, given that this is the last Board Newsletter from the current Board, heartfelt thanks to our Principal Elizabeth Forgie, the Senior Leadership Team, and all teachers and staff at the High School who give so much both during and out of school time to make Kerikeri High School the excellent place it is for our students. The Board appreciates the breadth of effort that you all put in. Special thanks also to Barbara Klinac, our wonderful Board Secretary, who is a marvel at keeping us organised and always does so with a smile.

Our best wishes to the new Board which will be formed following the election and we wish it success with its efforts to continue to raise the bar of student achievement at Kerikeri High School.

Naku noa

The Board