

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings All

Firstly apologies that this newsletter is not reaching you earlier in the term. Time flies and it is certainly a busy time at Kerikeri High School.

A warm welcome from your Board of Trustees to the 2011 school year. A particular welcome to new staff members, students and parents. We hope that 2011 will be a great year for the High School.

It was wonderful to start the year with the 2010 NCEA results and congratulations to all those who achieved so well. The results really were exceptional and it is worth looking at how they have dramatically improved over the last five years. Below is a brief comparison of the 2005 results with those just received for 2010:

	2005	2010
Level 1	64.9%	86.6%
Level 2	57.8%	75.1%
Level 3	48.2%	61.6%

As you know the School's Te Kotahitanga programme has been aimed at increasing the academic performance of our Maori students. In 2005 43.2% of our Maori students passed NCEA level 1. In 2010 this figure had increased to 75.6%. In Level 2 our pass rate rose from 28.6% in 2005 to 73.7% in 2010. The High School has also been focusing on improving boys' achievements. In 2005 55.7% of our boys got NCEA Level 1, and in 2010 this figure had climbed to 86.4%.

As stated these remarkable figures are something of which the High School can justifiably be proud, and congratulations from the Board to all the students and teachers who made those results possible. One of the difficult things about great results is that it raises the bar even higher for every year. It presents a real challenge for this year's students!!

The School is in full swing for 2011. We have a great new bunch of Prefects, the Peer Support Programme between year 13 and year 7 is a great success as usual and Year 7 camps at Urupukapuka Island are under way. Summer sports are everywhere to be seen. By way of example it was great watching a number of students take part in the recent school triathlon, either entering the event as individuals or in a team of three. It was particularly heartening and inspiring to see the level of encouragement given by all the students to each other.

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For the Board and the Senior Leadership Team at the School it is a busy time leading up to a visit this month by the Education Review Office. The last ERO review was in late 2006 and the Board is looking forward to ERO completing a thorough review of progress made at the High School and the identification of any areas which require additional focus. It is a great check for us by a fully independent and very knowledgeable organisation.

The Property Committee has been very busy since last year's arson and it is nice to see the fruits of its labours rising from the ashes in the form of the new Science and Maths block. The new block will be a fabulous asset for the School and continue the ongoing process of ensuring that modern learning environments are available to all our students.

Funding for the operational side of the School is separate from any property funding and, as ever, the School is heavily reliant on parents paying the school fees. These fees are voluntary. The Board understands that, particularly in the current economic climate, payment of them is not feasible for all families. The fees can, however, be paid by a regular small automatic payment and even if a full fee cannot be paid, any contribution received assists us with the amenities that we are able to offer the students at school and the funding which we are able to put into both curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Unfortunately we had some serious incidents at the School last week when an ex-pupil of Kerikeri High School entered the School grounds on two occasions and assaulted year 9 students. On the second occasion the 13 year old female offender was accompanied by a number of youths from outside of the school and a dog. The School is working closely with the Police to seek to resolve the issues relating to the particular individual and extra security has also been employed together with an increased staff presence around the School grounds during the before school, morning interval, lunchtime and after school periods. The safety of students is paramount but the School is heavily reliant on the Police when outsiders trespass onto the School grounds.

There is a further Board Meeting this coming Thursday so a future newsletter will bring you up to date with that.

Wishing you all the best for this wonderful long summer.

Naku noa
The Board