

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings All

The year is flying past and apologies that this update from your Board has been so long in coming.

The students are getting into the business end of the academic year with mock exams for Seniors being held early given what to many is an extraordinary decision to completely alter the structure of the four terms this year around the Rugby World Cup. The event has been, and hopefully will continue to be, a huge success but you do have to question priorities when you start to play around with education for the benefit of the tournament!

A huge highlight of Term 2 was the opening of the new Science, Mathematics and Information Technology Centre. This project rose phoenix-like from the ashes of last year's arson at the High School and especially given the pace at which the design and then construction had to take place it was a great credit to all concerned. It is a wonderful addition to the modern learning environment that the Board is seeking to ensure is available to the students at Kerikeri High School. Property matters rarely stand still and the Property Committee is already moving on to the next big project – the new Life Technology block.

Over the last four years or so concern has been expressed by the Board, as well as nationally and internationally, about boys' academic achievement. This is, of course, a generalisation as some of our top scholars are boys, but overall there were concerns. The Board asked the Senior Leadership Team to review this at Kerikeri High School and despite this apparent worldwide trend asked the High School to do what it could to reverse this. The Board has been delighted to watch a steady and significant improvement in boys' achievement figures over the last four years. In part this appears to be due to the effects of Te Kotahitanga which, while initially brought in primarily to seek to address concerns about achievement of our Maori students (in which it has succeeded admirably) appears also to be having a beneficial impact on boys' achievement levels as well.

Deputy Principal Mike Clent recently presented to the Board on the anecdotal evidence that has been collected and collated from male students at the High School and the ongoing work that is being undertaken to seek to continue the improvement with the achievement of boys. Mike's presentation was really exciting and gives the Board reason to hope for a continued improvement. The Board stresses that every time this topic is raised everyone associated wishes to ensure that any changes in this area are not to the detriment of our incredibly successful levels of achievement for our girl students.

The High School has had scares this term with meningitis with one student being seriously ill but thankfully having recovered fully. A nationwide campaign of vaccination is to start shortly and Kerikeri High School will be at the forefront of that

with more information to be sent to parents by the High School on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

The Board of Trustees is also in the process of reviewing the High School's Policy on Bullying following the Ministry of Education's request for a nationwide review of bullying in schools. The Board would like to hear your views on this important area and invites you to have input into its policy review by emailing Barbara Klinac, Board Secretary at bklinac@kerikerihigh.ac.nz to do this.

Best of luck to the Seniors for their mock exams. To everyone else, enjoy the spring.

Go the All Blacks!!

Naku noa

The Board