

## **KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER**

Greetings all.

It is hard to believe that we've reached the halfway stage of the school year and in fact for the senior students we are now well past that point. Both staff and students are no doubt looking forward to a break from it all for the next couple of weeks.

In a newsletter earlier this year the last Board advised that it was likely that the School Contribution would increase next year. At a recent Board meeting this has now been decided and please note that in 2014 the School Contribution has been set at \$180 per student.

The School Contribution is a voluntary payment for parents and caregivers. The school cannot demand it be paid. Having said that the Board wants to stress that without it we would have a fundamentally different school. The reality of being a Decile 7 state school is that we would have no hope or chance of functioning as the school does now based on government funding alone. The school is heavily reliant upon two additional sources of income to provide the level of amenity and education that it currently does.

The first is the ongoing success of our International Department. Not only do the international students bring a great deal of economic benefit to the wider community, but the fees paid to the school allow us to provide a better education for all students. The second key source of income is the School Contribution. This goes towards all sorts of things that are not funded by the state including additional spending on information technology, sporting activities, cultural activities, teacher aides, and the school nurse.

Many parents and caregivers pay the School Contribution annually. For some, particularly given the additional expenses associated with education such as uniforms and course material, this is not easy. Some people pay the fees by direct debit weekly spread across the year to ease the burden. This reduces it to around \$3 per week this year. The point is every dollar counts. Some parents and caregivers do not pay the contribution and it is accepted for some of those it would be a real struggle to do so.

As a Board what we can say to parents and caregivers is that the School Contribution is of fundamental importance to Kerikeri High School's continued ability to provide the level of education that all its students benefit from. If you haven't paid the contribution this year please give real consideration to whether you are able to do so now, or indeed to spread payments over the balance of the year. Please remember that the voluntary contribution is also tax deductible so some of it is refunded when you complete your tax return.

To all those parents and caregivers who have paid already, thank you. The Board will continue to endeavour to ensure that every dollar is well spent for the benefit of the students.

Naku noa

The Board