

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings all

The High School is suddenly at the business end of the school year. Teachers and students have been revising hard in readiness for NCEA exams which start next week. One of the problems with a string of fantastic academic results in recent years is that the bar seems to always be getting higher. It's a good problem to have!

Prior to the last Board Meeting the Board was taken on a tour around the High School buildings. It is wonderful to see the significant build projects undertaken over the last ten years providing such a good learning environment for our students. The tour also highlighted some of the areas still needing work. One of those, the gym complex, will be having a much-needed refurbishment over the coming Christmas break.

One of the functions of the Parent Trustees on the Board (Parent Trustees being those elected by the parent body – not necessarily parents of current students themselves) is sitting on Discipline Hearings when students haven't made great decisions and end up being suspended from the High School. While the Board is often looking for increased numbers in terms of statistics it has been great to see a significant reduction in this particular statistic. There have been fewer referrals to the Student Centre, stand-downs and suspensions than in any of the previous eight years and probably for many years before that. It appears that the introduction of WAKA, a positive behaviour for learning model, has had a dramatic and tangible impact in this area as well as many other facets of High School life. It is exciting to see the students themselves buy into improved behaviours and codes of conduct within the School.

2014 also saw the completion of surveys of parents, teachers and students. While some analysis of individual comments is still to be completed the survey has enabled the Board to "take the temperature" of how the High School is faring as perceived by those groups and it is pleasing to note that in general people feel the patient is in good health.

Finances, as ever, remain tight. Many thanks to those parents who have paid the voluntary contribution this year. It makes an enormous difference to what the School can provide. Thanks to all the teachers who have maintained strict budgetary controls. We are very fortunate in having such a successful International Department which contributes to the School in terms of opening local students' eyes to a wider world as well as providing additional funds which benefit all the students at the High School and indeed the wider community.

Given that this will be the last Board newsletter of 2014 the Board wishes all students good luck for the impending exams and all the best to those leaving Kerikeri High School this year for life in the wider world. Many thanks too to our Principal Elizabeth Forgie, the Senior Leadership Team and all the teachers and staff at the High School for making it a school your community can continue to be proud of.

Naku noa

Rick Palmer
Board Chairperson