

BOARD NEWSLETTER

Your Board of Trustees extends our warmest welcome to all current and new families and whānau. Our three year term started in June 2016 so for those of you new to our school this year, alphabetically we are:

- Martin Baker (Parent Trustee)
- Wendy Butler (Parent Trustee)
- Elizabeth Forgie (School Principal)
- Chris Galbraith (Parent Trustee)
- Mariaio Hohaia (Parent Trustee)
- Roger Ludbrook (Parent Trustee)
- Chris McLellan (Parent Trustee; Deputy Chairman)
- Sue Richards (Parent Trustee; Chairman)
- Jasmine Winikerei (Student Representative)
- Emma Wise (Staff Trustee)

This year we are delighted to welcome Jasmine and Emma to the Board table for what will be another busy year. Looking ahead, we'll be working with the Principal and Deputy Principals (the Senior Leadership Team) on reviewing our Strategic Plan and will be seeking student, staff and community input. The Strategic Plan is not a tick box exercise, it is the foundation for everything that Kerikeri High School is and aims to be.

The year started with a great first term, but has ended with some unacceptable student behaviour that was dealt with by the Board Disciplinary Committee. The Board has said before that we rely heavily on families to take responsibility and guide our students, but when it spills over into every day life at school we take a tough stand. Kerikeri High School is vigilant in dealing with drugs and bullying – we will not allow violence or drugs in our school in any form and we encourage families and students to follow suit.

At last year's senior prizegiving we talked about the importance of relationships and it is worth repeating here. Our school is about more than students, teachers and families. We are a big school in a small province, and we are right in the middle of town. For our school it is also about our neighbours: the shopkeepers, the police, the supermarkets, the businesses. When we say he tangata – the people – for us, it really is. It is all about the people and it is all about the relationships that we build and grow. These relationships make our school strong and on this strength we build success.

We encourage families to get involved with their children's education, to find out what your children are learning, and to see for yourselves how much teachers and staff at Kerikeri High School care about your children. Without doubt, our most valuable assets are the teaching faculty and staff; this includes the teachers, Heads of Department, Deans, Deputy Principals and the Principal, and the support staff who you see at reception and in the back offices. Come to the meet the teachers evenings and to the many other events that are held primarily for parents. If you have any questions you can email or phone your child's teacher or dean.

Our property and finance committees are working hard to ensure that the school operates within budget. We are fortunate to have the additional income from our great International Department, and their continued success flows through to benefit our own students. This includes, for example, the provision of extra support like the school nurse and sports assistant, and a number of COWS or Computers On Wheels – 20 Chromebooks in a lockable cupboard which can be wheeled from one class to another.

We were delighted to see last year's NCEA results which saw pass rates of 88% at Level 1, 92% at Level 2, 82% at Level 3, and our best ever result of 83% for our Māori students at Level 1. There is much for our community to be proud of at Kerikeri High School, and our students are always our number one priority.

Hei konā mai and goodbye for now.