



# Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands  
New Zealand

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Wednesday 6 April 2022

Dear Families, Whanau, Students and Staff

*E tangi hotuhotu ana te manawa i tēnei wā pōuri. E ngā taonga o te mate, moe mai rā.*

By now many of you will be aware that our local community was touched by tragedy over the weekend.

One of our school families was involved in a fatal car accident just north of Kaeo on Saturday afternoon, and very sadly a mother and her son, who is a Year 7 student here at school, both passed away.

Two other brothers, one in Year 8 and one in Year 10 here at School, were seriously injured and were flown to Starship Hospital in Auckland.

We can share with you that both boys in hospital are doing well, although one will have a longer road to recovery than the other. It goes without saying that we wish them a full and speedy recovery.

Our deepest condolences have been passed to the Whānau, and they are upper most in our thoughts at this difficult time.

We became aware of what had happened on Sunday afternoon. Throughout Sunday afternoon we made personal phone contact with all parents of the students in the Year 7 Form Class affected by this tragedy, so that parents could share the sad news with their children at home before they arrived at school on Monday morning. We also did our best to identify any other Year 7 students in other classes who may have needed the same contact home.

At the same time, we personally phoned all the teachers of the three boys involved in the accident, and any other teachers who had prior connections with them, to advise them of what had happened.

In our Staff Briefing on Monday morning, we began with karakia led by Matua Taua Kemp and waiata to acknowledge what had occurred.

On Monday morning the Associate Principal Mr Clent, the Year 7 Dean Mr Brown, and one of our School Counsellors Mrs Atkinson started the School day with the Year 7 Form Class and offered them support and comfort. Those who needed time were able to access support in the Wellbeing Centre throughout the day as they needed it.

Deputy Principal Mrs Strang, the Year 8 Dean Mr Willis and School Counsellor Mrs Kelaher started the day with the Year 8 class which the injured student is in and also offered them support and comfort. On Tuesday Deputy Principal Mr Walker, Year 10 Dean Mr Weight made the same visit to the Form Class of the injured Year 10 boy (the Year 10 students were rostered home on the Monday).

We have been impacted across the school and we acknowledge the grief and upset this causes for our students and staff. Our Wellbeing Centre has been open for anyone who needs some time or support on a no questions asked basis, and it has been well attended over these last two days.

On Tuesday a group of staff and students travelled to the tangi at Taiao Marae in Pawarenga to pay our respects and offer our support to the grieving Whānau. Our kōrero and waiata were greatly appreciated and offered some comfort during this distressing time.

Cards and notes of support for the boys in hospital are being created and gathered in our Wellbeing Centre and anyone at school who wishes to contribute is most welcome.

We are continuing to support students and staff who are affected by this event. Please feel free to contact us for help if your child needs support through this time. We understand that people are impacted by these sad and difficult events in different ways, and sometimes regardless of whether they knew those involved. We are here to help and do everything we can to assist.

A Givealittle page has been set up however the whānau have advised that there is an issue with this page; for those in our school community who would like to support this family, please feel free to make a donation securely via the school bank account of 12-3091-0120756-00. Please use a reference of Herbert Donation. We will pass on all funds raised at the end of next week when the school term concludes.

Living in a small town like Kerikeri means we often share and enjoy successes and achievements across our community. It also means when tragedy happens, we all feel it. It has been reassuring to see the care, warmth and concern for everyone who has been affected by this terrible accident.

*Nō reira, ka huri ki a koutou e te whanau pani. Ko te aroha nui e rere atu ana ki a koutou i tēnei wā.  
Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.*



EA Forgie (Mrs)  
Principal



M Clent (Mr)  
Associate Principal