



## **Kerikeri High School Principal's Report**

**Thursday 22 August 2013**

The new Board of Trustees were introduced to the staff at a Morning Tea on Friday 2 August. Unfortunately the tour of the school had to be postponed due to the inclement weather, however the staff really appreciated the opportunity to welcome the new Board.

Staff changes have necessitated a major re-timetable at mid year, this year. We welcome Mrs Barker and Miss Crawford back from maternity leave, we wish Ms Langman all the best as she takes maternity leave and farewell Miss Amanda Henry for a year's leave and Mr and Mrs Magon as they take up positions overseas. We have done our best to minimize the impact on both students and staff.

We are very pleased to welcome Miss Choat, Miss Sturge, Mrs Miller and Mrs Rakena to positions in Mathematics, Economics and Enterprise and Social Studies as well as Mrs Kelly who is continuing in Technology into Term Three.

### **Students**

We had a strong presence at the Year 12 YES Regional Awards last term in Whangarei. Kerikeri High School took most of the honours coming third and second in the Business Plan category. In the most prestigious category (Dragons' Den) Kerikeri High School was first and third. The Teams who have done particularly well are:

The Prefects' Self Review Mid-Year Leadership Seminar was held on 3 July at the Kerikeri RSA and was very successful. Mr Frank Leadley's motivational address was again a highlight.

On Friday 5th July 25 students and three Teachers competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Tough Guy/Gal Challenge held at Woodhill Sands in Auckland. This was the first time this event was run solely for secondary school students. Year 9 to 13 students were invited to train for the event. A team of 23 students were eventually selected through a gruelling process based on a variety of different training methods.

The extreme 12km and 6km race was an off-road running event that challenged the students to run through canals of chest deep mud, crawl along the ground while avoiding barbed wire and army camouflage netting, climb over walls and walk along wire bridges while at the same time run up hill and down. In a field of 1000 students Kerikeri High School won the following divisions: 1st Senior Boy, Patrick Waller, 2nd Senior Boy Callum Robertson-Barnes, 1st Senior Girl, Samantha Scahill, 2nd Senior Girl, Saraya Lindsay and 1<sup>st</sup> - Tough Guy and Gal Secondary School making Kerikeri High School the Tough Guy/Gal National Champions.

The Regional Final Results for the 2013 Smokefree Rockquest saw Kerikeri High School's Back2Back take 1st Place in the Band section. 1st Place in the Solo/Duo went to Summer Ash. The Smokefree Award For Women's Musicianship was awarded to Rachel Hall, backing vocalist and guitarist of Back2Back from Kerikeri High School and the Skinny Mobile People's Choice voted by text was Back2Back.

The Year 13 Hospitality students hosted an Apprentis Breakfast on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 July 2013 from 7.15 – 8.15am in the Training Restaurant, for the dual purpose of students attaining both culinary and hospitality credits.

Two Mid-Year Reporting Evenings were held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. They were extensively advertised, including in the envelope of information that was posted with each student's Report at the end of the term. Included also were the Newsletter, a Board Newsletter and a flyer about how to sign up for the Keri News and Sports News. The statistics taken on the Wednesday night showed the following; overall capacity was 35%, 8 Teachers over 60% capacity, 2 Teachers over 80%, most busy Department at 47% capacity, most busy large Department was at 45% capacity and least busy Department at 15% capacity.

The Jazz and Blues musicians gathered from all over New Zealand and overseas for the annual Bay of Islands Jazz and Blues Festival held on 9-11 August. The Kerikeri High School Jazz Band performed at the Duke in Russell on Saturday and the Haruru Falls Resort on the Sunday, attracting a lot of positive support from the audiences.

On the first Saturday of Term Three the School Ball was hugely successful and trouble free. Congratulations to everyone involved in making the 2013 Kerikeri High School Ball such a success. It was an outstanding event and a magical evening. A special thanks to the Year 13 Dean, Mrs Wise for all her hard work, the Student Ball Committee, staff, PTA and everyone who helped during preparations and clean up.

The Kerikeri High School Speech Finals took place on Monday 12 August. The English Department, especially Head of Department Mrs Haydock and her Department team are thanked for the months of preparation into this very important and assessed skill. Congratulations to all of our wonderful entertainers, presenters and finalists and of course to our winners; Lucy

Ellingham, Grayson Javins, Rueben Topzand, Oskar Harding, Marcella Neale and Max Hart.

The weekend preceding the Speech Finals the Northland Debating Team, three of the four from Kerikeri High School, Jesse Prendergast, Samantha Scahill and Lucy Ellingham attended the Nationals in Wellington, narrowly missing out on being placed.

On Wednesday 14 August The Course Choice Evening was very well attended with subject displays in the Business, Enterprise and Social Sciences building and in some of our many specialist classrooms where teaching staff were available to provide information about their Option/Subject. Students have been issued with Course Guides and will be asked to make their subject choices for 2014 early next term. Copies of the 2014 Course Guide for Juniors and Seniors were given out at Tutorial on Tuesday 6 August. Teachers went through these Course Guides with the students and reviewed the dates for Option Evening and the due date for option forms as well as the University Entrance requirements as there are some changes from previous years. At Kerikeri High School the new timetable for 2014 is completely rebuilt using the students' course selections for 2014 so this process is important to both the student for their future and for School staffing and budget.

The Kerikeri High School Science Fair is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their understanding of an area in Science that they are particularly interested in. Students are encouraged to challenge and extend themselves with their projects. It is an opportunity for students to manage their own learning and to develop their organisational and time management skills. Students are expected to write up each part of their project and present their findings on a professionally presented board that is displayed as part of the Kerikeri High School Science Fair. This is the base event that leads through to the School's outstanding successes at "Realize the Dream".

The very best and most innovative projects are then entered into the Top Energy Far North Regional Science Fair held at the Turner Centre, Kerikeri on August 29th.

For the past three years The Recycling Action Group has facilitated the transfer of old school journals from Kerikeri High School to the Pacific Islands with the help of cruising yachties. Hundreds of boxes of journals have been gifted to outer island communities where resources are scarce and greatly appreciated.

We now have access to container space that will transfer books free to The Cook Islands. The Recycling Action Group also recycles old phones for the Starship Hospital Appeal. Mrs Ria Bright and her team are currently working on a very innovative school wide litter initiative that aims to increase awareness and reduce waste, beginning with a viral litter sculpture.

Out of Zone Applications close on 13 September 2013, the Out of Zone Ballot will be held on 23 September 2013.

Ten students from Year 11, 12 and 13 went to visit our sister school, Taikyu High School, for 10 days in the July holidays accompanied by Miss Kerri Williams and Miss Lauren Mulcahey. Seven of the students were Japanese language students. Without exception they all had a wonderful time and are keen to promote this experience to other students in the school.

Two School groups have attended the Outdoor Pursuits Centre for a week of challenging winter outdoor activities. In the school break Mrs Erica Collins and Ms Annette Riedlinger accompanied the Year Twelve group and the large Year Ten group were taken by Mr Seth Brown, Mrs Mo Fitzpatrick and Mrs Carol Clemmet.

### **Staff**

No appointment has been made to the Guidance Counsellor position after one round of national advertising lateral measures have been taken, putting five extra Deans' hours in to the Student Centre staffing and employing a Guidance Assistant. Presently advertised is a long term relieving position for a Counsellor or Guidance Counsellor Assistant.

### **Staff Professional Development**

The Principals' Notes from the last Executive meeting of the Secondary Principals' Association of New Zealand are tabled.

Following the release of the New Zealand Teachers Council Review Report, Education Minister, Hon Hekia Parata initiated a further consultation process to inform the transformation of the New Zealand Teachers Council into a new professional body. The Principal attended a presentation by Dr Graham Stoop (Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group) to discuss what is being proposed and how it affects teachers.

On Thursday 1st August, Gavin Price (NZPF Life Member) presented Senior Leadership and the Finance Manager with a very informative presentation on the best way to manage our banking staffing. He provided some very useful tips in making the most cost effective use of our teacher staffing processes and how we can improve on our data capture to the Ministry.

The whole staff undertook professional development with the International Department, led by the Principal and the Director of International Students before school on Thursday 15 August, part of the requirements of the Code of Practice. The Powerpoint is attached.

## **Curriculum**

At a recent Staff Forum the holders of Positions of Responsibility reviewed New Course Proposals for 2014, the staffing situation and the Annual Reporting and Appraisal cycle for Heads of Departments and the member of the Senior Leadership Team working with each of the Curriculum Leaders. Last year approved was Rural Studies and this year the new courses approved are Outdoor Education in partnership with NorthTec, English Media Theory, Spanish Advanced Level 1, Spanish for Year 11, 12 and 13, Year 13 Performing Arts Technology (Kerikeri High School is the only school that offers this) and Year 13 Hospitality Essentials. Like all classes, these classes will only run if they reach the minimum numbers thresholds.

On Tuesday 30 July Mr Mike Clent and Mrs Erica Collins ran an Induction session for 30 domestic and 34 International students, all of whom are new to Kerikeri High School since the last New Student Induction session in Term One. Students were introduced to our school WAKA values and were given an overview of a range of school systems and processes. They watched the WAKA video we show all of our students and staff. The Head of Guidance Mrs Gill Luke and the Sport Coordinator Mrs Bettina Simpson were also introduced and both spoke about their roles in our school.

Students were encouraged to be engaged and positive, and to look for as many opportunities to be involved in the wider life of the school. We believe this induction process is a positive way to introduce new students to our school values and expectations.

One focus of our Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative is to reinforce positive behaviour. The staff were given the challenge to reward positive behaviour by making some positive phone calls home to parents. Over the last week of Term 2, 50 phone calls were made from the staff. The feedback from parents was extremely positive.

## **Self Review and Innovation**

The School has hosted the first group tour of 15 Chinese students from 7 August for two weeks. They are 14 and 15 years old and will be in years 10 and 11, shadowing their kiwi buddy to their classes beginning Thursday 8 August until Monday 19th August (except Fridays when they will be at Academic Plus Golf and Equestrian). This is an exciting international initiative and is to be followed by another Tour from the same school next year.

Unilaterally the University of Auckland have imposed new entry standards requiring students to have 17 credits in English at Level one or two. This flies in the face of the direction of NCEA where literacy could be gained in other subjects requiring demonstrated literacy. The article is tabled.

E A Forgie (Mrs)  
**Principal**