



Kerikeri High School Principal's Report

Thursday 17 October 2013

There have been some more huge achievements in the school over this period. We are extremely grateful for our hard working and innovative staff.

Examples of this are the English Department taking public speaking to another level, the Life Technology Department medal success and the Science Department with "a clean sweep" at the Regional Science and Technology Fair.

An indication of the commitment of our staff to the students are the many additional Study Sessions (Pre-NZQA Exam Revision) that are scheduled. The Schedule is tabled.

Students

The Kerikeri High School Senior Hospitality students achieved unprecedented success at the Culinary Fare held last week in Auckland. For the first time since the school began entering the Hospitality Competitions in 2001, all eight competitors gained medals, including an individual Gold Medal, the first time since 2009. A celebratory "Winner's Dinner" featuring their medal-winning creations will be held in the school's new Training Restaurant in Term 4.

Kerikeri High School put in an amazing effort for this year's Daffodil Day achieving one of the top totals in New Zealand. Mrs Libby Irving is thanked for her coordination of a group of students who decorated and collected and counted the Mufti Day money. The total donation amount was \$2,700.00.

Kerikeri High School had outstanding success at the Top Energy Regional Science Fair at the Turner Centre on 29 August. Kerikeri High School Prizewinners took 19 Bronze, 12 Silver, 10 Gold, 7 Special Awards and 5 Excellence Awards.

It is that time of year again when comprehensive confidential references are provided by the Principal for Scholarship applicants. The scholarships range from the Universities of Auckland, Massey, Waikato, Victoria and Otago to Russell McVeagh and AMP and amounts from \$3,000 to \$50,000 are intensely competitive with many more applicants nationally than Scholarships available.

Deputy Head Girl Samantha Scahill was awarded the Lions Young Ambassador Award by the Opononi and District Lions Club. Deputy Head Boy Jesse Prendergast was placed second.

This year Tournament Week began on 2 September 2013 and Kerikeri High School had six teams away with staff and parents. The Principal was able to meet up with the Open A Netball Team at Howick Pakuranga Netball Centre, the Girls' Football Team at McLennan Park in Papakura and the Boy's 1st XI Hockey at TET Stadium in Stratford. We thank all the staff and parents who made this opportunity possible for the students, including all those staff at school who covered for the staff travelling.

The Junior Kapa Haka Group and the Jazz Band were requested to perform at the Probus Club 300th Meeting on Tuesday 3rd September. President Mr Les Rockel asked for performances by two groups from the High School and the Probus Club were grateful and delighted. Thank you to Mrs HeiHei, Mrs Silich and Miss Thomson for their organisation on the day.

Unfortunately after an enormous effort by the Kerikeri High School Mathematics Department with 42 Teams competing in the Kerikeri High School Mathex the organisation of the Regional event was very poor, disappointing many of our high calibre contestants.

On Wednesday 11 September and Thursday 12 September Kerikeri High School's Music Department performed to the public, "Free To Be Me," a showcase of our senior bands, soloists and ensembles. The concerts featured the Jazz Band, Concert Band, Jazz Combo, Choir, Back2Back and our senior music stars, and they were student led and organised.

New to Term Three has been the organisation of the Junior Concert Band ("Baby Band") designed for first year players to get involved in a band as soon as possible. The donated brass instruments are also slowly finding players as students become interested.

The Music Department has also featured in a CD created for the "Play It Strange" competition entered by the Business Enterprise Department. One of the students' assessments is to create original compositions for assessment. Songs were chosen for the CD, recorded and just recently performed at a launch concert, with Mike Chun from Split Enz being the special guest.

This is the first year where a Market Day was trialled to include products and services produced by students from Years 9 to 12. Students had worked to create top quality products and to present them in the best possible way. An invitation was extended to all parents to visit the market anytime between 12.30 and 2.00pm on Wednesday 25 September.

Kerikeri High School Year 13 Drama performed "AM I SAM?" Absurdist Theatre by Samuel Beckett to the public on 10 and 11 September. The Year 9 Drama students created and performed three class plays, based on traditional fairytales "Twisted Tales" at the Turner Centre on 19 September. These curriculum performances are part of the year level course for assessments, making the cultural calendar very full, especially in regard to additionally mounting any major school productions.

The Real Art Roadshow visited Kerikeri High School and kindly agreed to open for the public on 14 September. The Real Art Roadshow is a giant unfolding truck that contains a mobile art gallery with a multi-million dollar Art collection.

Nominations were invited for the election of one Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. Nominations closed at noon on Friday 13 September 2013 and there were two valid nominations. The Principal explained the Student Trustee Position and about the Board of Trustees and both Nominees addressed the student body at assemblies on Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 and Friday 27 September. Voting took place on Friday 27 September and Sean Richards was the successful candidate.

The Kerikeri High School Sailing Team, consisting of Harris Bindon (Captain), Matt Bindon, Alex Bryning, Nik Black, Shae Donahoe, Brons Gerrish, Alex Harris and Chris Smith travelled to Brisbane over the break to compete in the Inter-Dominion Teams Racing Championships. The competition pits the top three New Zealand and Australian schools teams against each other for top country and top school honours. They were accompanied by Mrs Florence Smith, Mrs Kristine Donahoe, Mr Reuben Corbett and the Principal. The Regatta was hosted by the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. Kerikeri High School was the only school to stop, with two races, Port Lincoln's unbroken run. Port Lincoln placed first and the countries were tied at 18 races each, Australia winning despite Kerikeri High School placing second and third, fourth placings being taken by Westlake Boys' High School and Mahurangi College.

The Prospective Parents' Evening was held on Monday 9 September. The Evening gave the families a chance to hear from our Prefects who spoke to the audience of parents and prospective students about the opportunities available to students at Kerikeri High School, sharing their personal experiences. Mr Mike Clent spoke about the enrolment and induction processes that the school has in place to support new students and the Board Chairperson and Principal also spoke. The Prefects were outstanding ambassadors for the School.

Staff

Due to the resignation for 2014 of Mrs Glenys Ross, Deputy Principal, the process of appointing a new Deputy Principal has begun. Education Gazette Advertising commenced online from Monday 16 September and in the published edition on 23 September 2013. The closing date for applications is Friday 18 October at 4.00pm. Short listing and Referee checking will commence on Monday 21 October and the interviews are tentatively scheduled for the short listed applicants on Friday 8 November or Saturday 9 November or Monday 11 November.

The positions for Dean Junior Cycle (Year Seven) and Dean Senior Cycle (Year Nine and Year Eleven, maternity leave) were advertised on Friday 20 September in the Education Gazette online.

Mrs Maria Salinas was appointed to the Full Time Fixed Term Position of Guidance Assistant commencing on 27 August and continuing until the end of the year being 12 December 2013. The process of readvertising for a Guidance Counsellor to begin Term 1, 2014 has begun and applications for this position close on 27 October.

The School was very saddened at the passing of Mrs Valerie Josey. Mrs Josey worked at Kerikeri High School for 35 years, teaching generations of Kerikeri children. She was much loved and respected by many of her students and colleagues. Mrs Josey's funeral took place at the Catholic Church on Thursday 5 September. Large numbers of Kerikeri High School staff attended the funeral and farewelled Valerie with a Waiata following a short speech requested at the Service from the Principal. The school day was shortened for Years 9 to 13 students to enable the school to pay their respects.

Staff Professional Development

Teachers who attended Staff Professional Development and Professional Learning Seminars were; Mr Mike Clent and Mr Daniel Wise (NASDAP Conference), Miss Kathryn Thomson (Music), Mrs Judy Cleaver and Mrs Susan Manning (PCSchool Conference), Mrs Bridget Crooks (Google Advance Event) and Mr Mike Clent, Mrs Kim Rogers, Mrs Emma Wise and Mrs Erica Collins (PB4L Conference).

The Principal attended the NSSPA Meeting in Omapere on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 September, the SQAG Meeting in Wellington on Wednesday 18 September and the SPANZ Executive Meeting on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 September. The Chatham House rules notes for the SQAG and SPANZ Meetings are appended.

Curriculum

As part of a suite of initiatives under the heading of Youth Guarantee Kerikeri High School has been invited to join another initiative called “Achievement, Retention and Transition” (ART) 2013-2017. The initiative is headed up Mr Bruce Ritchie, Principal of Massey High School on secondment. He and two Ministry officials met with the Senior Leadership Team. They described Kerikeri High School as very high performing and needing one more student to pass NCEA Level Two to meet the 2017 Government target. They provided good Leaver Data, never provided to schools before and a big step ahead of the Benchmark Indicators, and a template (unfortunately that has to be populated manually as it does not mesh with PC Schools or NZQA databases) that would be useful for tracking students. This work came out of a project in 16 schools to track and accelerate students in danger of failing to achieve NCEA Level Two.

Tracking at Kerikeri High School is already extensive, with Deans, Guidance, Careers and STAR and Gateway, Te Kotahitanga and Heads of Department (especially in English and Mathematics with Literacy and Numeracy credits) all involved. If the template is found to be useful all staff could share the one data base.

The Ministry team provided the powerpoint slides about the project and invited the School to develop a plan specifying what strategies and resources that would be used to support an identified group of students to gain NCEA Level 2 in the year ending December 2013. Mrs Glenys Ross is heading up a pilot for Kerikeri High School to determine the usefulness of the initiative over and above what is already done and a small group of students are targeted in the pilot. These students were already on the radar.

Self Review and Innovation

The Kerikeri High School Out of Zone Enrolment applications closed on Friday 13 September. The Enrolment Evening will be held on 24 October. Mr Mike Clent, Deputy Principal for Year 7 took personalised copies of our Prospectus and Enrolment Forms to contributing Kerikeri Primary School and Riverview Primary School.

Following our Self Review of the Enrolment Process last year Mr Clent took junior Kapa Haka students and Year Seven students to speak to the prospective year Seven 2014 students. Mrs Susan Manning is thanked for creating a streamlined administrative process for the new Year Seven student's coming to Kerikeri High School next year.

Kerikeri High School has been invited to the Hui Whakanukunuku, described as a day of celebrations and new directions, on Wednesday 13 November at Hopuhopu. The Hui is firstly to celebrate the activities and results of Te Kotahitanga and secondly the future directions will be presented and discussed. The keynote speaker will be Dr Adrienne Alton-Lee, Researcher best known for her work on the Best Evidence Synthesis documents.

Te Kotahitanga is one of the winners six for an international award. The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) aims to transform education by fostering innovation and linking education to global issues and leading fields of development. WISE holds an annual summit in Doha, Qatar, that brings together leaders in education and experts from different sectors to share practical new approaches. In addition to this forum, WISE is a year-round action-orientated initiative devoted to promoting innovation in education. WISE has just announced the 6 winners of the 2013 awards. Te Kotahitanga has been named as one of the 6 winners for 2013. The six 2013 WISE Awards winning projects and the other finalists will participate in the fifth annual WISE Summit taking place in October 2013 in Doha under the theme "Reinventing Education for Life".

The English Department has made oral presentation a particular focus over the last two years with the aim of encouraging more students to participate in regional competitions. Miss Lauren Mulcahy has established a Public Speaking Club working with students to develop confidence in speaking skills and promote peer evaluation and support. The Department now competes not just in the Rishworth Competition run by Whangarei Rotary but also the Lions Public Speaking Competition (won this year by Lucy Shand), Race Unity and the ANZ RSA Cyril Bassett VC Speech Competition.

In addition Head of Department Mrs Maddy Haydock has worked collaboratively with the HOD English of another local school to establish a Regional Speech Competition for the Intermediate and Junior age group for Years 7-10, a group for whom previously there had been no opportunity to compete beyond school level. This competition was sponsored by Waipapa Rotary Club and Kerikeri High School are delighted to have taken first place in all four categories this year as well as the Trophy for Best Overall Speaker.

The Principal was awarded a prestigious Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Kerikeri at their Meeting on the evening of Monday 23 September.

A group of analysts from The Treasury is visiting Northland as part of their ongoing effort to talk to groups that are important to New Zealand's economy. The main focus of this visit is to support work they are doing on lifting Maori Living Standards and they see that education is an extremely important part of that picture. Some of the issues for discussion are how Te Kotahitanga has worked in practice at raising achievement and the impact on the school culture and community and broader issues that are important to address across the education system. The analysts will visit Kerikeri High School on Wednesday 16 October to meet with and listen to the views of the Senior Leadership Team and review our data which demonstrates significant and sustained improvement.

E A Forgie (Mrs)
Principal