



Kerikeri High School Principal's Report

Thursday 31 July 2014

At the Inaugural Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards Ceremony at Te Papa on Wednesday 25 June, Kerikeri High School was announced as Joint Winner of the Excellence in Teaching in Learning Award.

Two Celebration Assemblies were held on Tuesday to share the wonderful success with the students, staff, Board and Whanau.

Three Kapa Haka groups welcomed the official party in to the Gymnasium and the rousing Haka Powhiri reflected the significance of the occasion.

The Principal told the story of the application, the rigorous process once we were announced one of the four Finalists and the Awards Ceremony at Te Papa. Her speech is appended.

Two big screens with rear projection had been hired to play the short clip of Kerikeri High School filmed for and shown at the Awards Ceremony and the "Campbell Live" programme on the School.

The Board Chairperson's speech was really appreciated by the students, according to the Head Students. He said that he is often finding himself in the community saying that Kerikeri High School is a School for the community to really be proud of and now he has the Prime Minister to back him up. It is especially wonderful that it is the Award for Teaching and Learning. He said thank you to the fantastic Teachers and thank you to the students, the fantastic learners and how proud the Board were of the School. He reminded the school of WAKA, "we are learners," Whaia te Maturanga and Kia Manawanui "always proud," and that for "you the students," "you are at the coolest School in the country."

The Head Girl Lucy Ellingham and Head Boy Ciaran Mahood spoke last, inviting the Principal to take the trophy at the conclusion of the Assembly which ended with a huge haka "Ara Ngapuhi" with the Kapa Haka groups at the front of the gymnasium on one side and the Prefects on the other.

Students

The School roll as at 1st July 2014 stands at 1405 (being 700 male and 723 female) and includes 17 International Students (5 male and 12 female).

On Monday morning we had a Powhiri for the incoming international students, including our group tour from Guiyang Number One Experimental Middle School, ten agents from Brazil and the twenty Pernambuco students. The Board Chair joined the official party for the tangata whenua and Deputy Mayor Tania McInnes represented the Far North District Council with the manuhiri.

Susannah Colbatz, Sean Richards and Callum Patterson represented Kerikeri High School at the Northland Dragons Den showcase in Whangarei recently. They were judged Northland's Leading Team in their business presentation and Runners Up in the Business Plan Awards. Alysha Terrizzi and her business were judged to have produced the 3rd best Business Plan of the evening. Susannah Colbatz placed Third in the Global Enterprise Challenge and was made a Finalist in the Fedex Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge.

Additionally Sean, Susannah and Callum pitched their product, an NCEA App for students to Steve Bargh who was the NZQA responsibility for future state for NZQA.

Caitlin Thomas is one of ten students in New Zealand invited to attend the iGeo Essay Competition Event in Wellington on 17 August.

The Drama Department had a very busy Term Two, culminating two nights of devised performances from the Year 12 and Year 13 classes. Productions to look forward to this term are Year 9 "Tall Tales" in Week Two and the Year 11 major production of "The River" by Angie Farrow in Week Four.

The Music Department has also been very busy with the Junior Music Concert "Lollie Scramble" giving many new performers an opportunity to share their new talents with family and friends. Over 230 students are taking Instrumental Music Tuition through the School. In Term Three the big events are the Jazz Festival and the major Music Concert in week five. The Jazz Band will support Daffodil Day playing in town.

The first ever Far-North Regional Smokefree Rockquest was well attended by a very supportive crowd and students from Kerikeri High School and our School featured frequently in the acts on the main stage of the Centre's auditorium. Kerikeri High School won both the Band Section and the Solo/Duo as well as "Best Song" "People's Choice" and "Musicianship Award." Kate Sheldon and Danielle Hookway won the APRA Songwriting Award, Micah Vander Touw the MAINZ Musicianship Award, Tamati Webb and Tamati Te Wai Solo/Duo Section Winners, Back2back: Rawiri Webb, Manawa-Kaha Webb, Ryan Evans and Rachel Hall were Band Section Runners Up, Cyprus: William Blakely, Tanekaha Strongman, and Morgan Royal and Zoe Samuels were Band Section Winners.

Thirty two students travelled to Barge Park in Whangarei on Thursday 12th June to compete in the Northland Secondary Schools' Cross Country. Standout results were; Alexander Hull 1st Year 9 Boy, Scarlett Murray 3rd Year 7/8 Girl and Eli Molloy-Wolt 3rd Year 7/8 Boy.

On the 26th June 40 students travelled to Woodhills Helensville to defend the Top School Title we won last year at the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Tough Guy/Gal Challenge. Kerikeri High School won Top School for both the boys and girls. Standout performances were; Patrick Waller 1st senior boy, Callum Robertson-Barnes 2nd and Harry Pearson 4th, Storm Knight 1st senior girl, Samantha Polovinkoff 3rd and Alannah Rihairi 4th, Jake Murray 1st Junior boy and Sophie Morrison 2nd Junior girl.

In the third and final match of the Northland Secondary Schools' Mid-week Under 15 Rugby Competition, the Kerikeri High School side played Bay of Islands College. Both teams were undefeated coming into the game. The enthusiastic Kerikeri High School U15 Team won the game 36–13.

The first week back in Term Three we enjoyed our wonderful, trouble-free School Ball. Congratulations to everyone involved in making the 2014 Kerikeri High School Ball such a success. It was an outstanding event and a magical evening. A special thanks to the Year 13 Dean, Miss Collins for all her hard work, the Student Ball Committee, staff, PTA and everyone who helped during preparations and clean up.

Ballroom dancing started the week beginning 16 June for the senior students attending the Ball. Ballroom dancing practice is held in Tutorial time in the Gymnasium and is kindly run by Mrs Shona Gordon. To ensure the Ball is trouble free an assembly for students with Ball tickets is held including the Police and a letter from the Principal outlining our high standards is posted home to every student attending.

The School came through the big storm relatively unscathed however we had three vans of Year 12 students with their Dean Miss Johanssen, Mrs Carol Clemmet and Miss Ellie Liddington returning from an exciting week at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Turangi. Due to multiple road closures Deputy Principal Mrs Judy Cleaver organised accommodation for them in Whangarei on the Friday night. The comments from the moteliers follow. "I just wanted to let you know how brilliant your students were. A credit to the School they represented. Because of this I decided not to charge a late check out fee. I hope they all got home safely." The group finally got home on Saturday afternoon after getting the all clear to take the old Russell Road and catching the car ferry to Opua.

Staff

We have had some significant timetable changes at mid-year this year and we are working hard to minimize the disruption to our students and Teachers. We welcome Mrs Megan Prendergast, Teacher of Business Studies, Mrs Lisa Keilman, Teacher of English and Miss Charlotte Kneller to the Maternity Leave Position of Teacher of Spanish.

Curriculum

The Course Guides for 2015 are tabled containing a number of new courses including Social Studies at Year 11 and Dance. Option Forms are due now and student choices, once course counselled by their Dean, Guidance Counsellor and/or Careers Adviser form the basis for the 2015 staffing and timetabling process.

Te Kotahitanga Co Construction meetings for Term Three are organised. Plans are underway for the Mid Winter Christmas Te Kotahitanga Professional Development Hui.

Self Review and Innovation

Kerikeri High School has been invited to be a case study in a national report on schools with strong self review processes compiled by the Education Review National Office.

The Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative expressed as WAKA at Kerikeri High School has had a very significant and positive impact.

E A Forgie (Mrs)
Principal