

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings all.

Firstly an apology that this is the first Board Newsletter for 2014 and we are in the last week of the Term 1! Time does seem to fly by.

It is still a warm, if belated, welcome to the families who are new to Kerikeri High School this year. For those of you who have Year 7 students we hope that your child has settled in well and enjoyed some of the special events in the first term like the Urupukapuka camp. Our Year 7s and Year 13s have a special bond through the Peer Support scheme which gives a lot to all the students involved, the Year 13s as much as the Year 7s.

While the Four Cornerstones approach taken by the High School is fundamental to its culture there is no doubt that the academic cornerstone is larger than the other three. The best barometer of the academic health of the High School is the annual NCEA results. These have improved hugely over the last 10 years, particularly in terms of the results achieved by boys and our Maori students. Our girls continue to flourish but the boys are closing the gap! The bar is forever being set higher and it gets to a point where sustaining past results needs to be viewed as the success that it is. Following on from the extraordinary success of the High School in terms of scholarships awarded to universities at the end of last year it was great to see a record number of NCEA Level 3 passes endorsed with Excellence. 15.8% of our students achieved this feat compared with a national average of 11.2%. In recent years the National Government has advised that it wants secondary schools to aim at an 85% pass rate for NCEA Level 2. This is an aspirational target. Last year Kerikeri High School's Level 2 pass rate was 92%!! Congratulations to those students who achieved that amazing statistic and to our hardworking teachers who got them there.

Term 1 always appears a veritable maelstrom of activity. As well as settling in the new students at the School there is always a plethora of sports and extracurricular activity filling up the diaries. It is a very busy and long term both for students and teachers and the impending holidays will no doubt be a welcome rest and break for all.

One of the most exciting developments in recent years from the Board's perspective is the implementation of the Positive Behaviour for Learning model (PB4L) which is pervading the School at all levels. It has been a fabulous initiative led by Mike Clent, Emma Wise and Erica Collins. Those three have put a huge amount of time and effort into implementing the programme which appears to have fantastic "buy in" from staff and students alike. Most of you will have heard about WAKA.

**We are learners
Act with respect
Keep ourselves safe
Always proud**

These are great values and it appears that they are having a demonstrable effect on the culture and attitude at the High School at all levels and in all sorts of ways.

In terms of Board business we are in the process of finalising a survey to be sent out to all parents next term. In addition all staff and a random selection of students will also be surveyed. A very comprehensive survey was sent out to those groups a few years ago and helped the Board to shape the development and path of the High School over recent years, including the physical amenities around the School. It enabled good long term planning to be undertaken. The impending survey will be a good barometer and check for the Board in

terms of the strategic direction that the Board and School is taking. We would be grateful if as many of you as possible take part in the survey so we get a good cross section of views.

The High School's finances are stable, but as ever in the state education sector funding is always very tight. For those of you who are not aware, the voluntary contribution makes a massive difference to the amenities and opportunities that the School is able to offer the students. The contribution is tax deductible and can be paid by instalment. The High School Reception can provide any parent who has not yet paid with the relevant forms and the Board would be grateful if those who have not yet paid the contribution would make arrangements to do so.

Thanks to all staff members for a massive effort over Term 1. Many staff put in a huge amount of effort outside hours which helps make the High School the fabulous School that our community should be proud of.

Happy Easter to all and for those of you having a break, enjoy your holiday.

Naku noa

The Board