

Kerikeri High School Newsletter – 21st October 2020

Dear Families, Whānau, Students and Staff,

We have embarked on Term Four and we are looking forward to it despite the setback we have had with the fire.

It will be a busy time as we push to incorporate as many events and assessments as we reasonably can now we are in Covid Level One.

For our senior students, it is a testing time with 3 weeks to go until Senior Prizegiving. This is a moving and uplifting occasion, please make a note of the time, 11.30am on Wednesday 11 November. Early notification, junior students are not required at Senior Prizegiving but of course if you wish to send your students normal classes will not be taking place; however, we will look after them.

In regard to moving and uplifting, our last Honours Assembly of the year was today. The Honours recipients were welcomed with a Haka Powhiri by our Kapa Haka students of the Te Pou O Manāko Kapa Haka Roopu and as part of the Assembly our Head Boy Will Whiu and Head Girl Anna Yarrall spoke to the students, their last speaking occasion before they give their speeches to us at Prizegiving on the final school day for our departing Year Thirteen students.

Thank you for your support after the fire

We have been shocked and disrupted when a fire in a toilet block took hold and spread to two neighbouring classrooms and across the walkway and up the side of the Business, Enterprise and Social Sciences building.

Fortunately, the new alarm system did its job and the students and staff evacuated calmly and safely. All of our fire drills paid off. The students and staff waited patiently in form classes while our Fire Brigade put out the fire and we were able to safely re-enter the other buildings and the students able to catch their buses and head for home.

The Kerikeri Volunteer Fire Brigade did an amazing job, saving so much, especially the BES building. We are very grateful for their service to our community.

Our thanks also to the Police and the Fire Investigators. We do not have an answer yet and the investigation is ongoing.

We feel especially for the three Teachers and the classes in the three rooms affected and a re-timetable has enabled the classes to be in other rooms, spreading the load so that those classes can have some stability.

We are well underway with the remediation work with our Project Managers Arcline, the Ministry of Education and the insurance assessors for the buildings and the contents. It is going to take some time and we will have fewer classes to look after once the senior students go on examination leave. However, we are mindful of the need for quiet, should demolition be required, during our external examinations.

We will keep you informed and we thank you for all the information and care that has come. Just a reminder that if you do have any information about the fire could you please contact our Associate Principal, Mr Mike Clent.

A lot happened in the Holidays

We were very pleased that our Dean of Year Ten organized a second trip to the Outdoor Pursuits Centre as so many students had applied to be able to have this experience. Thank you to Miss Collins, Mr Clent and Mrs Scott for each taking a van of our students to enjoy all of the challenging opportunities at Turangi in the first week.

We also had our Mountain Biking Team competing in Wellington and thank you to Mr Pilling and Mrs Yates for taking those students to the Nationals. We had some great results with Lily Wilson third in both the Downhill and Enduro for Under 20s and Tyree Robinson, Fourth in the U16 Cross Country. Our Team came in 23rd out of the 103 schools competing.

Having won our local Auctioneering Competition our three Auctioneers including our School Winner for 2020 Nimish Singh were invited to Auckland to compete in the National Schools' Auctioneering Competition run by the Real Institute of New Zealand. The Winner against very tough competition was Nic Powell from Year 11.

On the last day before the holidays our Boys' First Eleven Football Team travelled professionally presented in Number Ones to the big final of the season – up against Whangarei Boys' High School. They had a great win and brought home the coveted trophy.

National Winner

Congratulations to Year 13 student Emma Rogers who won the 2020 Mental Health Awareness Week Photo Challenge with her photograph responding to the theme of Whenua.

STANZA National Spanish Speech Competition

Congratulations to Nimish Singh who placed 2nd at Level 2 and Gilda Tejada who won the Scholarship category in the STANZA National Spanish Speech Competition held in September.

Motocross Success

Well done to Logan Denize who competed at the Rotorua Schools Motocross Challenge in the very competitive 15-19 age group 125cc placing First overall. Logan also raced at Tauranga in the Schools Motocross Challenge placing 3rd for Kerikeri High School.

Outstanding Editing in ShowQuest

Noah Crooks has been recognised for this outstanding editing in his ShowQuest piece. Noah has been offered Zoom mentoring by industry Professional Shae Sterling as a Prize.

Gardening Tools Wanted

Do you have any gardening tools at home that are not being used? The Year 8 Gardening classes would put them to good use, especially small hand tools such as trowels and forks but anything is appreciated.

And our SAVE members are working on our gardens during lunchtimes on Tuesday and Friday this week – a great way to put some aroha back into their School.

We Are Learners

At Kerikeri High School we express our Values as WAKA

We are Learners – Whaia te Matauranga

Act with Respect – Manaaki te tangata

Keep ourselves Safe – Tiaki tangata

Always Proud – Kia manawanui

After a term when we have emphasised Keep Ourselves Safe we are now encouraging all our students and especially at the moment, our seniors, to concentrate on these last days as there is still time to make a real difference. Our advice in the Daily Notices is to make every day and every class count, be organised and deliberate, work hard and with focus, ask questions and do your very best. Your Teachers are there wanting to help each of you – please ask them for any assistance you need. Plan your time and remember to include time to switch off and relax – take care of yourself.

Pink Shirt Day

This day to make a visible stand against bullying was postponed nationally earlier in the year and has now been disrupted by the fire at our School. We made an effort to support Pink Shirt Anti Bullying Day on the day our seniors were here and we have plans for the junior students to get their opportunity.

Labour Day

The last National Holiday for the year takes place on Monday 26 October.

Our Busy Calendar

On the calendar for the next two weeks we also have Outdoor Education Classes Sea Kayaking, Enrolment Evening for our students for next year, Dargaville Run/Walk, Northland Secondary Schools' event Kiwi Tag for Year 7 and 8, Transition visits from Riverview and Kerikeri Primary students, the Young Enterprise Company

Regional awards, a visit from the New Zealand author Garth Ward, Year Nine Drama Performances, Northland Secondary Schools' Year 9 and 10 Touch event, Careers speakers and the ASB Secondary Schools' Sports Awards. And the Cricket season is starting to gear up.

Year 9 Drama Performance

"Scenes from a Quarantine" is on 28 and 29 October. Tickets are available from Reception and there are only 60 seats available.

The Daily Notices

Please remember to download the School App if you haven't already. On the App you can read the Daily Notices, for example, the opportunity to learn an instrument through the School is still open in Term Four, there is Bronze Duke of Edinburgh meeting, Junior Debating, a senior and junior creative writing competitions, a Jazz Band meeting, Year 9 and 10 Girls' and Boys' Volleyball, Sevens training and information about a NSSSA Swimming event from our Sports Office.

You also have Term Dates, Reception Contact, Links such as to our School Website and Canteen Orders, and our School Calendar at your finger tips. You can download the SchoolAppsNZ app for free from the app store.

Senior Prizegiving

We look forward to welcoming you to our Senior Prizegiving on Wednesday 11 November at 11.30am in the Gymnasium. We are having a longer performance from our Kapa Haka Roopu than usual as they lost the Tai Tokerau Festival to Covid and Prizegiving is always memorable and moving.

Warm regards



E A Forgie (Mrs)
Principal



M Clent (Mr)
Associate Principal