

3 November 2021

Dear Parents, Whānau, Students and Staff

Term Four is well underway now and while our school calendar has been greatly impacted by the pandemic, we are working hard and at pace to get our senior students prepared for their final NCEA assessments and examinations. We are also doing our best to ensure we provide as many authentic extracurricular opportunities in the Four Cornerstones to our students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 as well as making sure their academic programme remains on track.

Level 3 Lockdown in the Far North

Much of this newsletter was prepared prior to last night's 5.30pm announcement about the northern areas of the Far North moving into Alert Level 3. Our thoughts are with our staff, students, and their families and whānau who are impacted by this, and we have begun working today to arrange distance learning for those students who are affected.

Once again, we are faced with a unique situation; most of our students are attending classes and being taught by their teachers. Providing distance learning in addition to classroom teaching and learning does put an extra load on our Teachers in what is already an exceptionally busy time, and we will do our very best to get on line learning to those students who are unable to attend due to the Level 3 situation as soon as we can.

Identifying who is currently affected by this Level 3 lockdown is not straightforward given our size. If your child or children require distance learning because of the Level 3 Lockdown can you please contact us at enquiries@kerikerihigh.ac.nz and we will notify their relevant teachers and make this learning available as quickly as we can.

Student Achievements

The Top Energy Regional Science Fair was held recently, albeit without visitors and without being open to the public. Science Fair projects were submitted and judged, and our Kerikeri High School students have once again won a large number of prizes across a wide range of categories. The full list of Prize Winners is appended to this Newsletter. Special mention and congratulations to:

William McNulty (Year 7)	Outstanding Top Energy Premier Overall Excellence Year 7
Sam Weston (Year 8)	Outstanding Top Energy Premier Overall Excellence Year 8
Caitlin Renner-Austin (Year 9)	Outstanding Top Energy Premier Overall Excellence Junior
Gillian Toala (Year 13)	Outstanding Top Energy Premier Overall Excellence Senior

Congratulations to **Tiree Robinson** (Year 12) for selection in the Cycling New Zealand Road Cycling Junior Development camp in Invercargill. Tyree then competed in the Yunca Under 19 Women's Junior Tour of Southland. The tour was 6 stages around Invercargill and Tiree finished the tour with the Polka Dot Jersey (Queen of the Mountains) and third overall on the General Classification.

Congratulations to **Lucas Casey** (Year 13) and **Toby Bell (Year 12)** who were selected into the Auckland Blues Under 18 Rugby squad.

Congratulations to the following students who took part and gained recognition in the Australasian Language Competition:

Level 1 Spanish

Phoebe Williams (Year 9), High Distinction in Reading and Distinction in Listening

Braeden Leung (Year 10) High Distinction in Reading,

Izzy Robinson (Year 10) and **Alice Fairhurst** (Year 9) Distinction in Reading and Listening,

Ciara Andrews (Year 10), **Emma Betts** (Year 10) and **Michelle Horsfall** (Year 9) Distinction in Reading

Level 3 Spanish

Nimish Singh (Year 13) High Distinction in Listening

Level 3 German

Anika Green (Year 13) Distinction in Reading and Listening

Congratulations to **Sky Gundry** (Year 12) who was successful in her grant to Tu Manawa Aotearoa Fund. She received \$10,000 to fund up to 8 girls for her Young Enterprise Scheme 'Sky's Surf School'. Sky will be using this money to help fund her surf programme and to purchase more boards for the girls she teaches to use.

Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees 2022

All students in Years 9 – 13 were eligible to vote for the 2022 Student Trustee on the Kerikeri High School Board of Trustees. We had 5 excellent candidates standing and we commend each of them for putting themselves forward for this important role. Congratulations to our Student Trustee for 2022, **Jacob Fewtrell** (Year 12).

Prizegivings

We are aware many of you will have been wondering about the implications of Covid for Senior Elite Prizegiving. Prizegiving as we have always known it, cannot happen in the current situation, and so we have a plan to share with you.

Our starting point has been to ask ourselves what we can do for our students to recognise and celebrate their achievements, rather than what we cannot do, bearing in mind we should not have more than 100 people in a bubble.

Students who receive Academic Excellence will have their Academic Excellence certificates sent home in the post and can enjoy their moment with their family and whānau.

Students who are awarded Cultural and Sporting Prizes, as well as the recipients of University Scholarships will be individually presented with their prize by the Principal in her office and have a formal photo taken to record that moment. We will email those photos to family and whānau.

Years 11, 12 and 13 Top Scholars will join the Prefects in the Auditorium (socially distanced appropriately) and be presented with their Awards, and we will also present the Community Study Awards at that time. We will conclude that process with the naming of our two most prestigious prizes, Proxime Accessit and Dux for 2021.

To enable this to happen we will not be able to have a wider audience unfortunately. The Year Level Deans for Years 11, 12 and 13, and the Senior Leadership Team will be present.

Our Years 7 – 10 Junior Prizegivings at the end of the Term are also unable to proceed as normal. We are planning to recognise our top achievers across the Four Cornerstones in those junior year levels in a similar fashion to our seniors, with WAKA Awards for Attitude, and Academic Excellence prizes mailed home. Year 9 and 10 Top Scholar Awards will be awarded in a similar fashion to the Senior Top Scholars, and prizes for Sport and Cultural will be made individually by the Principal. We will keep you updated with our arrangements.

Vaccinations

You will be aware of Government's decision that all staff and workers who may have contact with children and students in schools and kura must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 1 January 2022. This measure has the support of education entities including the representative bodies of teachers and principals.

As the employer, we are responsible for ensuring the Government's Health Orders are put into practice.

The health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and everyone involved in the safe operation of our school is something we take very seriously. As with other diseases that many of us are vaccinated from (measles, meningitis, pneumonia, tetanus and polio), without vaccination we are at risk of serious illness, disability and in extreme cases, even death.

Because not everyone can be vaccinated – including very young babies, those who are seriously ill or have certain allergies – they depend on us to be vaccinated to ensure they are also safe from vaccine-preventable diseases. By getting vaccinated against COVID-19, we are protecting ourselves and protecting those around us.

By getting vaccinated, we're less likely to get sick from COVID-19, and we're also less likely to pass it on.

A large number of our teachers and staff have already chosen to vaccinate to protect themselves and their learners and whānau. We are working with the remainder of our team to ensure they have the information and support they need to get their first dose by 15 November and to be fully vaccinated for the New Year.

Many other countries, including Australia and the United States, have mandated that their education workforce be vaccinated to assist in the safe reopening of schools.

A fully vaccinated education workforce provides reassurance for parents and whānau that it's safe for their children and young people to attend school, and benefit from being with their friends and face-to-face learning with their teachers.

We appreciate all the efforts of parents and whānau to keep children and young people safe and engaged in their learning.

We will continue to update you with the latest public health and other information as it becomes available.

NSSSSA Events cancelled for Term 4

Unsurprisingly we have been advised that all Northland Secondary School Sport for the remainder of Term 4 has been cancelled due to the impact of Covid 19. This advice was received shortly after we were advised that all New Zealand Secondary School regional sport was also cancelled for Term 4.

Our Sport Department are commended for the opportunities they are providing for our students to experience sport throughout the remainder of Term 4 'in house' here at school, to compensate for the loss of inter school sport:

11th Nov Fast 5 Netball 7 & 8

12th Nov Fast 5 Netball 9 & 10

16th Nov Junior Girls Cricket 7 – 10

18th Nov Touch 7 & 8

24th Nov Tennis Doubles 7 – 10

25th Nov Touch 9 & 10

26th Nov Outdoor Volleyball 7 & 8

29th Nov Athletics 7 & 8

1st Dec Croquet 9 & 10

3rd Dec Outdoor Volleyball 9 & 10

Year 13 Graduates Dinner

Sadly, our Annual Year 13 Graduates Dinner has also been cancelled for this year because of the Covid pandemic. We know our Year 13 students will be disappointed about this as it is a much-loved event as they conclude their time with us.

Solar Power Project

We are excited and proud to share with you that our new Solar Power project has come to fruition, with installation of solar power panels on the roof of the Business, Enterprise and Social Science building happening currently. More panels are being added to the roof of the Gymnasium over the coming weeks.

The 178.88kW PV Solar System, by SuperPower will produce an estimated 209,918 kWh of power in its first year of production.

Once installed and operating, Kerikeri High School will be the owners of the largest solar power system of any Primary or Secondary School in New Zealand, generating up to 43% of our electricity.

Historically Kerikeri has been amongst the towns of New Zealand with the highest sunshine hours per year. Given that the school is open during sunshine hours the School is ideally suited to generating and using solar power.

This is an exciting and innovative initiative for our school. Kerikeri pays the highest price for power of any town or city in New Zealand, more than 34% above the national average and with prices increasing locally by at least 4% annually. The financial savings for the school over the coming years will therefore be significant and are estimated to be about \$1,385,000.00 over the next 25 years.

Over the 25-year life span of the system, the use of solar power at Kerikeri High school will reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 675 tonnes.

The use of data monitoring software also has significant application to student learning across a range of curriculum areas including Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. This learning will increase awareness of power usage, energy conservation, the impact of energy use on the environment as well as providing a real-life context for mathematical and scientific learning across all levels of our local curriculum.

We acknowledge and thank Mr Gerry Buxton for his expertise in assisting and guiding us through our very detailed and thorough work to bring this project to completion.

This environmentally friendly use of sustainable power makes a significant contribution towards Kerikeri becoming a carbon neutral town, and we are proud that Kerikeri High School is playing a leading role.

Automated External Defibrillator

In collaboration with St Johns Kerikeri, we are pleased to share with you that we have installed an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on the front facing wall of the Administration Building, opposite the Bus Bay. This AED is publicly accessible for all in the event of someone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest. We are grateful to St Johns Kerikeri for making this available to us.

Cricket Nets Replacement

Cricket is a sport which is growing in popularity in Kerikeri and here at school, and we are pleased to have been well supported by Grassroots Trust and Pub Charities to enable us to replace our school cricket nets. This rebuild is currently underway, and we are extremely grateful to Keriland Earthworks and Classic Concrete, two local companies who have made generous contributions which have enabled this project to be completed within our sponsored budget. We are extremely grateful.

Wednesday 30 Nov Tai Tokerau Teacher Only Day

Some advance notice to assist your planning, Wednesday, 30 November is the next Secondary Teacher Only Day across Tai Tokerau, as part of the NCEA Change Programme. These Teacher Only Days are happening across all regions in the country through November and December. Students will not be attending school on that day, however the scheduled NCEA Examinations will continue that day for Senior Students.

2021 School Magazine

Our annual School Magazine will be digital this year and will be available for viewing on our school website from Monday December 6. This is a significant innovation, and we expect to make the record of our school year more accessible for a wider number of our school community.

Finally, thank you everyone for your ongoing support and care. We wish everyone in our school community our very best wishes.

Ngā mihi nui



EA Fergie (Mrs)
Principal



M Clent (Mr)
Associate Principal