

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2022

We hope everyone has had a great Term 3 and are looking forward to the school holidays next week. This is the last newsletter from your current Board of Trustees. The election results will be announced on Friday 30th September and the new Board will be officially welcomed at the school on the first day of Term 4. So before we leave you, here's our final update.

This newsletter addresses the four pou in the Strategic Plan – our vision – that we developed in 2018.

Our Students (Tahi)

It has been another hard year for our Students, staying future focused and optimistic about where to from here in an uncertain world. As it is for all our rangitahi – our young people – in New Zealand, the world has changed, our foundations have been rattled, but we have all come together to keep them, and each other, safe.

Our School values are expressed as WAKA: We are Learners, Act with Respect, Keep ourselves Safe and Always Proud. Our Students have embraced this further and formed a Student WAKA Team. One of their first initiatives was to collaborate on 'WAKA for Phones' and develop a set of expectations for phone usage and behaviour, both in and out of classes.

Our Staff (Rua)

Our Staff too have been under constant pressure this year, with the faculty working to cover their own (and frequently their colleagues') classes, let alone the issues experienced whilst isolating at home with their families. Ensuring their well-being has been continually front of mind for the Board, and our Senior Leadership Team have been tireless in caring for all Staff. We have around 140 Staff at our School, an incredible group of people who have done an amazing job to educate our Students.

Earlier this term we carried out the most important work a School Board will complete, and appointed a new Principal. Elizabeth Forgie retires at the start of the new year, and Mike Clent takes over as the Principal in 2023. It was an extensive and thorough process, and we know our Staff and Community join with us to wish them both the very best.

Our School (Toru)

We acknowledge the work done by our Property Committee, led by Wendy Butler, who is retiring after 21 years on the Board. Wendy has invested a huge amount of time in our School over the years. She has overseen the development of a large number of major building works and ongoing maintenance; her influence can be seen in every part of our School.

We also acknowledge the work done by our Finance Committee who have worked hard to keep the school finances in check. One of the highlights for the Committee this year was managing the due diligence process to finance the largest solar installation in a school in New Zealand, and they were delighted that after the installation earlier this year, it's more than paying its way.

And we acknowledge the work done by the core members of our Disciplinary Committee who have worked hard over the last six years to further develop and embed a sensitive process that continues to ensure our decisions for the young person are balanced against the safety and welfare of all students and staff. This year we had to adapt to using technology for some of our meetings which didn't allow our usual face to face interactions.

Our Community (Whā)

Kerikeri High School is a leader in Aotearoa New Zealand in developing relationships of mana oritē or respectful partnership with mana whenua. We are the only state secondary school in our area and as such have a special responsibility; every student resident in zone has the right to attend and the School must look after every student and their families and whānau.

The pressures in 2022 meant that things have not always been perfect, but the School communications with the Community have been regular and thorough. As we have often said before, we are very proud of our School, here in the heart of our community, and everyone in our School works hard to ensure that your children will be able to achieve success, in whatever shape that may be for them individually.

And to close, while our Board acknowledge each other as individuals, we have always worked united, and our successes have been as a collective. Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari kē he toa takitini.



Sue Richards (Parent Trustee; Board Chair)
Chris McLellan (Parent Trustee; Deputy Board Chair)
Roger Ludbrook (Parent Trustee)
Emma Wise (Staff Trustee)
Jacob Fewtrell (Student Representative)

Elizabeth Forgie (School Principal)
Mariao Hohaia (Parent Trustee)
Wendy Butler (Parent Trustee)
Haylee Rhodes (Parent Trustee)
Wai Muunu (Ngāti Rēhia representative)