



We are delighted to be back into our busy hard working academic programme and an especially warm welcome to all of our new students, families and whānau.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR KERI NEWS

We are posting this Newsletter home to ensure that we have close communication right from the start of the year. Our notices come to you fastest by email and if you sign up for Keri News you will be connected to our news and notices – everything from letting you know when Parent Feedback Evenings are on to weather postponements, such as for our Raft Race last year. Look out for the enclosed flyer about how to sign up please. If you are a new family we will email you to invite you to join.

MEET THE FORM TEACHER EVENING

Please come. We meet in the Auditorium at 6.00pm and you will be introduced to our Pastoral Team – Form Teachers, Deans, Deputy Principal, our Guidance Counsellor and Principal. There is time with your Form Teacher and also at 7.30pm an NCEA Information Evening. We will incorporate an opportunity to see around the School. For parents of junior students, we will take you to the classrooms where your child has their classes. Parents of Year 10 and senior students, we encourage you to attend the NZQA Information Session in the Library at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Our PTA will provide a light supper.

TOP SCIENCE SCHOOL

We ended 2014 on a high note. Only 16 projects were selected in New Zealand for the National Science event 'Realize The Dream.' That means that a quarter of New Zealand's whole representation was from our School. At the Prizegiving at Government House our students won three of the seven National Prizes.

Georgia Putt – British High Commissioner's Award, all expenses paid trip to London, Paris and Switzerland.

Jason Leaming – IPENZ Award, all expenses paid trip to Taiwan.

Lucy Ellingham – Dairy New Zealand Award, all expenses paid trip to Taiwan.

Alex Edwards – 'Realize The Dream.'

TOP IN NEW ZEALAND FOR ICAS WRITING

Our Dux Lucy Ellingham was the top placed student and winner of the Year 13 Writing Award in the prestigious International Competitions and Assessments for Schools ICAS Awards, the fourth medal for a Kerikeri High School English student in as many years. Lucy was awarded her medal at a ceremony in Auckland University's Business School in December.

SURVEYS 2014

Still looking back at last year our major Board of Trustees Surveys for parents, caregivers and whānau, for staff and for students were overwhelmingly supportive of the

direction of the School. The Strategic and Annual Plans were updated to incorporate the feedback. The Survey results have been reported to the Board in detail and are on the School website.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF FOR 2015

Moving now to 2015. A very warm welcome to Mrs Nicky Andrews, Mrs Miriam Collins, Mr Adam Dougherty, Miss Katy Phillips, Mrs Kim Sainsbury, Mrs Phil Somers and welcome back to Mr Andy Dyson, Mr Russell Holmes, Mrs Lisa Kielman, Mrs Vivian Morris, Mrs Megan Prendergast, Mrs Lyn Sturge, Mrs Mo Fitzpatrick, Miss Kamila Wihongi and of course to Mrs Lemon.

WE ARE WIFI – BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY

This year, we are excited to be able to launch our new school-wide Wi-Fi Network. This the result of an approximately \$750,000 investment in our network infrastructure, funded in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. The Wi-Fi Network and state of the art firewall security will enable students to connect to a safe, filtered internet connection.

As a result of this, we are able to offer our students the opportunity to "Bring the Own Devices" to School. For 2015 this is completely voluntary, and no formal School-Wide programmes will operate. Over the next few weeks students will be shown how to connect their devices securely to the new Wi-Fi Network.

This year our Teachers will be taking part in professional development to help realise the potential of this exciting step forward to help improve outcomes for students. A set of minimum specifications has been developed to ensure devices brought to school are useful to students, while allowing for flexibility in the type of device. These can be found on our website.

WAKA

A reminder we would like everyone in our School community to uphold our values as we journey together in our Waka to success.

We are learners	Whaia te Matauranga
Act with respect	Manaaki te tangata
Keep ourselves safe	Tiaki tangata
Always proud	Kia manawanui

Our WAKA initiative grew out of the Positive Behaviour for Learning programme. It has certainly been positive at Kerikeri High School with rapidly declining numbers of students involved in discipline consequences due to our students' positive and appropriate behaviour.

We undertook a major survey about student wellbeing in the School in the second half of last year in response to the national concerns about bullying in schools. We carried out the survey with 774 students which included almost all junior students and samples of senior students at each year level. The Survey revealed that overwhelmingly our students feel safe both in and out of school and they feel a part of Kerikeri High School.

We were able to learn about some negative behaviours that some students experience such as some name calling and we have targeted these through our WAKA lessons and resources.

PEER SUPPORT IN ACTION

One of the great advantages of a Year 7 to 13 school is the interaction between the oldest and most mature and caring students and the youngest newest students to the school. We talk about “eyes up” to the senior role models and believe this is one of the keys to the very high retention rate we have at Kerikeri High School right through to the end of Year 13.

On Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th of January, our Year 13 students took part in a two day Leadership Camp organised and run by Deputy Principal and Peer Support Leader Mr Mike Clent, Year 13 Dean Mrs Emma Wise, Guidance Counsellor Mrs Gill Luke as well as Mrs Eileen Andrews and the Year 13 Form Teachers.

The Leadership Camp was a huge success with students training to be warm, knowledgeable Peer Support Leaders for our new Year 7 students. A very special thank you to the parents who helped out. Peer Support at School began on the second day with our Year 13 students supporting the Year 7 students in their transition to Kerikeri High School in an enthusiastic and caring way. The organisation is also well under way for the Year 7 Camps which will be held at Urupukapuka Island again this year.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

The Student Handbook is based on our WAKA values and it is designed with and especially for our students. It is packed full of useful information about the School – all you need to know such as bell times, school calendar, student support and services, our Honours system, NCEA and What to do if...(frequently asked questions).

The Handbook incorporates a diary. All Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will be issued a Handbook and it will be used continually and consistently across all of their classes. The Student Handbook is \$12.50 available from the school Stationery Shop.

2015 SENIOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Kerikeri High School 2015 Senior Athletics Championships will be held on Tuesday 25th February. This event is open to year levels 11, 12 and 13. Entries for this event must be placed at the Sports Office.

Long distance running events will be held on the dates notified below. As we will not be running these distances in Term 4 should your child be in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 and wish to have these distances count towards their Championship points can you please ensure they register at the Sports Office and run them on these set dates:

Friday 19th February 1500m

Tuesday 23rd February 800m
Wednesday 27th February 3000m

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is critical to good school performance. Kerikeri High School works hard with our students, parents and community to achieve high levels of attendance. When a student is going to be absent please contact the School as soon as possible to let us know. The School may contact you to double check at times as we make our best efforts to keep all our students safe and engaged in their education.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- **13 February** Class Representative Applications Close
- **16-17 February** Prefect Leadership Training
- **18-19 February** School Photos
- **24 February** Meet the Form Teacher/NZQA Evening
- **4-6 March** Year 7 Camp 1
- **11-13 March** Year 7 Camp 2
- **18-20 March** Year 7 Camp 3
- **18 March** Senior Music Concert
- **24 March** Parent Feedback Evening 4.00-7.00pm
- **26 March** Sports Meeting 7.00pm Library
- **30 March** Parent Feedback Evening 4.00 – 7.00pm
- **31 March-1 April** Tai Tokerau Festival
- **2 April** Last day of Term One

We are pleased to extend a very warm welcome back to everyone for the 2015 school year. We have had a busy start as always, and the School is settled, energetic and in good heart. We have been looking forward to the students starting the 2015 year and have been working hard during January to be well prepared for them.

Please visit the School Website www.kerikerihigh.ac.nz where there is plenty of information about the School. We enclose “Helpful Information About Our School” and “School Bus Information.” These contain information that you may find helpful during 2015.

We hope that your family will really enjoy 2015 with Kerikeri High School and that you will join us as often as you can for School Report Nights, Concerts, Drama Performances, trips and sporting events. You are always welcome at School.

Our School roll is up reflecting a lift in our local economy and families moving in to the district. Thank you for all the efforts you have taken at home to get your young person set up for the year with their enrolment paperwork and for all students, to be set up with their gear and their uniform.

We are looking forward to another great year.

Kia ora

**EA Forgie (Mrs) M.A. (Hons), Dip.Ed .Admin,
Dip.Tchg.**

Principal:	Mrs Elizabeth Forgie
Deputy Principals:	Mrs Judy Cleaver, Mr Mike Clent, Mr Julian Cosgrove, Mr Daniel Wise
Administration:	Jolanda, Lyn, Sue, Susan, Lorraine, Loree, Faye, Joanne
Guidance Counsellors:	Mrs Gill Luke and Mrs Maria Salinas
Careers:	Miss Eileen Andrews
Board of Trustees Chairperson:	Mr Rick Palmer
Parent Teachers Assoc:	Tessa Taylor, Justine Strang
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