

Kerikeri High School Newsletter 1 – Feb 2021

Dear Families and Whānau,

Welcome to 2021.

We were going to wait a couple of days while our Deans got their letters of welcome out to each of their year levels however the change to Covid levels in New Zealand has hastened our Newsletter.

We write to reassure you that our systems are well tested and we have immediately activated our Covid Alert Level 2 response to ensure that our students and our staff are safe.

Wellbeing, kindness and looking after everyone remains front and centre to how we get through this together. These are unsettling times and being sensitive to that will help us all manage our way through. We have heard it a lot, but it is worth repeating – He waka eke noa – We are all in this together. Let's all look out for each other.

We are well experienced here at Kerikeri High School to manage this situation. Our Covid Level 2 arrangements have been reinstated this morning. We are taking all the daily cleaning precautions which includes the cleaning of all high touch surfaces such as tables, door handles and keyboards. Our contract cleaners, OCS are aware of what is necessary and did an excellent job for us during our previous Level 2 and 3 situations.

Toilets are being checked and cleaned on an hourly basis, and we continue to remind students of the good hygiene practices to keep everyone safe. Our WAKA Keep Ourselves Safe information was shared with all our students today, which details hygienic coughing and sneezing, hand washing, and social distancing. We also have reminders about this in the Daily Notices. We will keep our focus on communicating those important messages, including using the Covid Tracing App, in the coming days and weeks.

Students who are feeling unwell or who are sick are required to stay at home. Please contact us if your child is unwell to explain their absence.

Students who become unwell during the school day will report to our Student Centre, Te Puna Waiora and we will contact Families and Whānau to arrange for them to be collected.

Some students and staff may choose to wear face masks at school. We are very comfortable if students and staff make the choice to wear a mask.

Under Alert Level 2 we are required to keep morning and afternoon lists of all students who travel on school buses. It becomes important again that students have their ID cards on them when boarding buses, most especially in the mornings when the drivers will be checking names off from our bus lists. Our students were very patient and well behaved when we did this last time and we have no doubt they will be the same this time around.

It would be great if you could download the School App. Today we will attach the Daily Notices as all the important messages for the students are there. If you had the App you could check the Daily Notices every morning, the Contacts are easy and you would be able to see the up to the minute School Calendar.

We are already postponing the Kerikeri High School Swim Champs that were to be tomorrow, the weather forecast is for more blustery rain and we have a lot of wonderful Family and Whānau who come along. The Ministry of Education in Wellington were swift in their support and communication to schools last night. For Families and Whānau the messages are that School is open and students must attend, we should restrict events that brings people on site who are not on the staff, sick people must stay at home, and we keep going with our Contact Tracing system and our good hygiene practices.

We are hoping for the best and planning for the “ just in case “. Our wonderful new Year Seven students have loved their first exciting days and will have their school Log In organised by Wednesday in case we need to move to learning from home. We will gather in the new students at other year levels and refresh the process for all of our students.

We are looking forward to the “Meet the Form Teachers Evening” the week after next at 6pm on Tuesday March 2nd at 6pm and we will get information out nearer the time. It is a great way to make a connection with your student’s new Form Teacher and the School right at the beginning of the year.

We are very very pleased with our provisional NCEA results. Despite the disruptions of Covid last year the students and the staff worked harder and smarter to achieve great results. We rank above all like decile schools on every measure. Our Level One students have a pass rate of 81% and it was hardest for them being new to NCEA. We had a best ever result for our Year 12 students with a pass rate at Level Two of 92%, including a best ever for our Māori students of 87.5%. NCEA Level Three is challenging and Covid particularly disrupted our most senior students. Their pass rate of 71% was the second best in the last five years so well done to our students and our staff for all of their hard work and perseverance. 100% of our Year 13 students achieved NCEA Literacy and 99.4% NCEA Numeracy.

And finally just a mention about our Canteen, which provides an excellent service and healthy and nutritious food for our students. Menu items can be ordered on line and paid for in advance and we have attached Canteen details to this email for you.

A big thankyou for all of your support getting your students to school so positively prepared, and we are looking forward to year ahead. We will keep in touch.