



## Principal's Special Newsletter

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Whanau

You will see in the Main Newsletter that Kerikeri High School is one of four national Finalists in the Excellence in Teaching and Learning Category in the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards. This is a huge achievement and great recognition for our School.

The Award celebrates teaching that transforms the learning of all young people and achieves improved outcomes for them all.

The School hosted a Film Crew on Tuesday 27 May who were there to compile three videos on the School so the best practice at Kerikeri High School could be shared with other Schools.

Two Judges spent a whole day in the School on Thursday 29 May visiting classrooms, meeting with parents, present and past students, teachers, the Board Chairperson and observing the students in the School.

At the Powhiri to welcome the Judges we told them that preparing for the judging visit was a great experience as it required us to reflect on and document how far the School had come and to celebrate what a huge difference we have made and will continue to make.

The Kerikeri High School data was scrutinized by the nine members of the Judging Panel and the nine members of the Education Expert Panel. The School's data shows a dramatic improvement.

Kerikeri High School has transformed achievement for Maori students and in doing so, proven that what is good for Maori is good for all, the School's overall pass rates rising significantly, NCEA Level Two from 58% in 2005 to 91% in 2013.

The pass rate for Maori students rose from 28.6% to 82.4% over the same period. While pass rates for the whole school have risen the gap has closed between Maori school leavers and other school leavers at Kerikeri High School using the benchmark of NCEA Level Two or higher. The gap has closed from 40% to 10%. Maori school leavers at Kerikeri High School perform 17% above the national average, academically and with student retention.

The transformation at Kerikeri High School has also made a huge impact on boys' achievement, the NCEA Level Two pass rate rising from 48% to 91%.

Becoming a Finalist in the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching and Learning Excellence is a milestone for the whole community to be proud of. Well done Kerikeri High School.

Yours sincerely

E A Forgie (Mrs)  
**Principal**