

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings all.

Firstly an apology that this is the first Board Newsletter for 2016 and we are in the last week of the Term 1! Time does seem to fly by.

It is still a warm, if belated, welcome to the families who are new to Kerikeri High School this year. For those of you who have Year 7 students we hope that your child has settled in well and enjoyed some of the special events in the first term like the Urupukapuka camp. Our Year 7s and Year 13s have a special bond through the Peer Support scheme which gives a lot to all the students involved, the Year 13s as much as the Year 7s.

While the Four Cornerstones approach taken by the High School is fundamental to its culture there is no doubt that the academic cornerstone is larger than the other three. The best barometer of the academic health of the High School is the annual NCEA results. These have improved hugely over the last 10 years, particularly in terms of the results achieved by boys and our Maori students. Our girls continue to flourish but the boys are closing the gap! The bar is forever being set higher and it gets to a point where sustaining past results needs to be viewed as the success that it is. This year we had outstanding results in Level One with 89.9% and best results in Level Two 91.1% and Level Three 82.4%. Congratulations to those students who achieved great results and to our hardworking teachers who got them there.

Term 1 always appears a veritable maelstrom of activity. As well as settling in the new students at the School there is always a plethora of sports and extracurricular activity filling up the diaries. It is a very busy and long term both for students and teachers and the impending holidays will no doubt be a welcome rest and break for all.

One major event for the Board in 2016 will be the end of the current Board's term of office with new elections in early June. Some of the existing Board members have indicated they are prepared to stand for re-election but it is also an opportunity for new blood and enthusiasm and the Board urges parents to consider throwing their hat in the ring when nominations are called for in the course of the next month or so.

The High School's finances are stable, but as ever in the state education sector funding is always very tight. For those of you who are not aware, the voluntary contribution makes a massive difference to the amenities and opportunities that the School is able to offer the students. The contribution is tax deductible and can be paid by instalment. The High School Reception can provide any parent who has not yet paid with the relevant forms and the Board would be grateful if those who have not yet paid the contribution would make arrangements to do so. The contribution can be paid by regular instalment if preferred.

Thanks to all staff members for a massive effort over Term 1. Many staff put in a huge amount of effort outside hours which helps make the High School the fabulous School that our community should be proud of.

In terms of someone our community can be proud of the Board was delighted to learn that our Principal Elizabeth Forgie has been honoured by SPANZ which is the Secondary Principals' Association for her fabulous service to New Zealand education. The Award is not bestowed often or lightly and is yet another reminder of how lucky we are to have one of New Zealand's top performing Principals leading our School.

For our staff and those of you having a break over the next fortnight, enjoy your holiday.

Naku noa

The Board