

BOARD NEWSLETTER

From all of us on your Board of Trustees, a very warm welcome to all our families and whānau. Our Board have been working together since June 2016 when our three year term began. For those of you new to our school this year, we are:

- Wendy Butler (Parent Trustee)
- Elizabeth Forgie (School Principal)
- Chris Galbraith (Parent Trustee)
- Mariaio Hohaia (Parent Trustee)
- Issy Joe (Student Representative)
- Roger Ludbrook (Parent Trustee)
- Chris McLellan (Parent Trustee; Deputy Board Chair)
- Sue Richards (Parent Trustee; Board Chair)
- Emma Wise (Staff Trustee)

We have already had two Board meetings this term, and at our first we were delighted to welcome our new Student Representative for 2018, Issy Joe, who is also the school's Head Girl.

We have another busy year ahead, and the Board acknowledge the massive efforts put in by the Senior Leadership Team, staff and students towards the Tai Tokerau Festival this week. We were very excited about the Festival and hoped all families had an opportunity to come along and be a part of this Northland gathering.

Our Property Committee are very busy as you can see. Work is well underway on Te Puna Waiora, our hub for the pastoral care of all our students. We are trying our best to keep disruption to a minimum during construction and have asked that contractor vehicle movements be outside the particularly busy start and end of the school day. Our entrance to Reception has been moved during this stage of the building process, well sign posted to the right of the building site. We thank everyone for their patience during construction and look forward to everyone enjoying the new facility on completion.

The Finance Committee are working to ensure that the school operates within budget. Even with the additional income from our very successful International Department, we are still heavily constrained by the operational funding from the government that is always stretched to the limit.

Many of our students' parents will remember going to school where class sizes were well over 30 and on occasion in the 40s. Teachers then were stretched to give any individual tuition and students – especially those to whom academic success didn't come easily – suffered as a result. At Kerikeri High School, our average class sizes overall are low to mid 20s and in these times that is in part thanks to our wonderful International Department, because government funding does not pay for every teacher in the school. But we don't take it for granted.

The voluntary parent contribution is something we rely on heavily to bridge the gap between costs and income. It has helped us to provide (amongst other items) COWS or Computers On Wheels – 20 Chromebooks in a lockable cupboard which can be wheeled from one class to another. In a year when we have undertaken the major building project at the heart of the school, the Student Centre 'Te Puna Waiora', we really are having to count every cent. This year we really are looking to our community for support, and we are asking every family to do what they can to help financially.

Hei konā mai and goodbye for now.