

Kerikeri High School Newsletter – 20th August 2020

Dear Families and Whānau,

At Kerikeri High School our warm, strong values and our high expectations are expressed as WAKA. Having these values to fall back on in challenging and uncertain times is important and we are taking every opportunity to reinforce our key WAKA messages across the school.

Our WAKA focus here at school for Weeks Five and Six is Kia Manawanui – Always Proud. As a School and as a community there is much to be proud of. Our collective response to the Covid 19 situation has been strong and together we can beat the virus. The latest setback which has seen us back at Alert Level 2 probably took New Zealand by surprise, but it is a stark reminder about how dangerous this virus is.

We are also keeping a strong focus here at School on Tiaki Tangata – Keep Ourselves Safe. Please keep reiterating our good hygiene messages to your children – they can't hear it enough. We have attached again our WAKA for Covid for your information. This has been widely shared across the school for all students, in all our classrooms and to every student's individual school email account.

The move to Alert Level 2 meant that we were unable to proceed with our scheduled Parent -Teacher -Student Interview Evening last week. However, we did use the time well, with staff staying long after school to work together in Departments, preparing resources and materials for students should we find ourselves moving to Alert Level 3 and having to resume Learning from Home. Hopefully our planning for Alert Level 3 won't be needed, but as we have seen the situation can change very suddenly and so it's wise that we are prepared. We have reflected on our previous experience of Learning from Home and this has shaped some refinements in how we would do this in future.

Several Departments across the School were ready to begin distributing hard copy learning materials to students on Friday, however we chose to slow down on this, pending Friday evening's announcement by the Prime Minister. The thinking behind that had to do with the practicalities of copying off that much material in a short space of time, and also the possible negative impact on student wellbeing – it was quite possible we would not move to Alert Level 3 at that stage, and so we felt it was not worth causing more unsettledness for our students. However, we hope you will be reassured we are prepared should things take a turn for the worse.

A lot of our School events are unable to happen under Alert Level 2. All Secondary School Sport has been cancelled, and we have reviewed our whole School calendar through until August 26 thinking of alternatives and postponements; we are in a holding pattern until the Government reviews the Alert Level settings.

The opening of our new Canteen is also held up again due to Alert Level 3 in Auckland, however our new Canteen people are keeping in regular touch with us, and we will get the Canteen up and running as soon as possible.

We do ask that if your child needs to leave the grounds during the School day to purchase food that you provide them with a note to give this permission and that they sign out and in at Te Puna Waiora, our Student Centre, and that they return to school in time for the beginning of their next lesson. Overall, our students have coped very well with having no Canteen on site this year. Lately we are seeing students leaving the grounds without permission to purchase food in town. We have been lenient on this situation to date, allowing students with a note from home to go to town to purchase food. However, once our Canteen opens this will not be appropriate.

School uniform in the middle of winter, especially with all the rain we have been having, is always a challenge. To support our students who from time to time have incorrect uniform we do have a supply of second-hand uniform at Te Puna Waiora which we issue to students who need it. This uniform is always thoroughly washed after each occasion it is returned, and we are very grateful to those families and whānau who have been kind enough to donate uniform to us.

All visitors to the School are required to sign in at Reception, for contact tracing purposes. We also have the Ministry of Health Covid QR code on display and require you to use this when you visit. For parents dropping off and picking up students, we ask that you remain in your car, especially if you are on site in the School Carpark.

We also ask that you err on the side of caution if your child is unwell and we require that you keep them at home. If they become unwell at School, we will be contacting a parent or caregiver to come and collect them urgently.

One event that is going ahead is Daffodil Day, on Friday 28 August. This will be a Mufti Day and we ask students to make a \$2.00 donation and show their support for this good cause by wearing yellow, orange, or green. There will also be a bake sale and a sausage sizzle for students at lunchtime that day, with all proceeds going towards Cancer Research. Any parents who wish to contribute baking for the Bake Sale can drop items off at Reception during the morning of Friday 28 August.

Congratulations to Faith Hohepa and Charlie Potter who represented Northland in the New Zealand Debating Championships recently. This competition had to be held online this year and our Northland Team won two debates and narrowly lost two debates.

Congratulations also to Joe Howells who has been selected as one of three Finalists for the Keep New Zealand Beautiful Young Legend Award. We look forward to the October 29 winner announcement.

The regional Youth Enterprise Trade Fair has been rescheduled for Saturday 29 August at the Kerikeri Packhouse. This is a great chance to support our young entrepreneurs and maybe get a bargain.

And a big thankyou to our Teachers and to all of our Support Staff who keep us all going. Like everyone, our Teachers are having to be adaptive, to rework the material so that Senior Students can get as many credits as possible and to respond

and support when our students are shaky or unsettled. These are anxious times and we are doing our best to ensure that the busy day to day life of our School is reassuring for our students.

This year we accepted the Government's Donation Scheme which means we are now only requesting payment for voluntary Extra Curricular activities and donations towards overnight Curriculum trips. We are pleased to advise we have now introduced a payment portal to allow you greater control over your payments to your account. The link for this payment portal was included in your last Statement issued last Friday. You can access this link at any stage to view your account and purchase optional items, including bus tickets. Please contact accounts@kerikerihigh.ac.nz if you have any queries.

Finally, a new Ministry of Education initiative across New Zealand is the establishment of Te Manawa Tahī 'hubs'. These hubs are drop-in centres where parents, caregivers and Whānau can speak to education professionals about your children's learning needs and or behaviour. No appointments are necessary and there is no cost associated with this. Attached to this Newsletter is a flyer with more information. The next Mid North Hub is Wednesday 26 August, 9.30am – 12.00pm at the Kerikeri Sports Complex.

As always please feel free to contact us if you have any worries or concerns. We are here to help and happy to hear from you. Very best wishes everyone.

Warm regards
Ngā mihi Nui



E A Forgie (Mrs)
Principal



M Clent (Mr)
Associate Principal