

## **Kerikeri High School Newsletter – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**

Dear Families and Whānau,

As we come to the end of Term Three we are grateful for the period of respite we hope to get with the spring holiday break. The students have shown great resilience however we have been supporting students as they keep trying to manage their academic workload after so much disruption, with anxiety and restlessness and with more emotional behaviour coming out at School, sometimes expressed as anger. It is hard for adults to keep coping in these Covid anxious and Covid uncertain times and it is especially so when you are younger and this year that promised so much, has been changed so dramatically. We also continue to mourn the loss of Aunty Bloss, Nana Bloss and we are doing our best to “do the mahi”, do the work to carry on as she would expect us all to do.

Our advice to our students and to our staff and to our families and whānau is where possible, to enjoy the simple things together – we are in rural Aotearoa New Zealand with our ability to go about our day largely as normal but with lots of hand sanitiser and good hygiene routines. Better weather is on the way. We live in a beautiful part of the country. Take some time out to rest up and re-gather and then take some time to plan out Term Four. For our senior students this means looking at the calendar and setting the goals, week by week, to achieve as much as possible. We will be saying to our students “come back prepared to take every opportunity”.

### **The Buses**

We thank Clarks Coachlines, Mr Neil Sorensen who administers all our School buses and our staff who have managed the extra requirements for safety with Covid Level 2. The students have been super patient as we have had to complete a register of every student on every bus and with the return to Covid Level One there was a lot of relief that this added demand was no longer required.

### **Fun Sport in the Last Week**

During lunchtimes in this last week of term our Physical Education and Sports Departments are putting on some sporting challenges for the students at lunchtime with fun staff versus students universal ball games, starting with our Year 7 and 8 students yesterday.

### **New Look Canteen**

It is going really well with our new Canteen contractors. We are able now with Covid Level One to have seated lunch again for our Year 7,8 and 9 students. We are trusting the Year 10 students who are not far from being seniors, to manage their own lunchtimes and they are able to join the seniors to be served at the Canteen before the junior students complete seated lunch. Remember that you can order online <https://www.libelle.co.nz/tuckshop-menu.html>

The students can also use cash or EFTPOS at the Canteen and we are steadily encouraging students to stay on site please, now we have a good Canteen. We were very understanding during the time when we did not have a food option on site.

### **Another Opportunity for Out of Zone Enrolments**

Covid and the loss of the New Students and Whānau Evening has caused problems for our Out of Zone Enrolment process. Please let family and friends know who missed out on the communication that we have offered another opportunity opening on Monday 12 October and closing on Friday 23 October, with a ballot date of Tuesday 27 October. We may be able to offer up to 5 places at each year level.

For the students already accepted as Out of Zone and for all other new students the Enrolment Evening is scheduled for Thursday 15 October. This is a lovely opportunity to meet us, for us to hear about your expectations for the High School and to have a guided tour with students from Year Seven who were new this year and students from Year Twelve who will be our leaders and Peer Supporters next year.

Just come along from 4.00pm to 7.00pm to our School Library.

### **School Speech Finals**

The move to Covid Level One has enabled our School Speech Finals to take place in front of a full audience. The Year Eleven Finalists delivered their outstanding speeches this morning to all of their Year Eleven classmates and the three Judges and we have Year 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 Speech Finals in the Auditorium tomorrow. We feel for the Finalists who have practised their speeches for several postponed events. The Year 11 audience were wonderful this morning and we will advise all the Winners in the next letter to you.

### **NCEA Change Information**

NCEA External Examinations have been planned to go ahead under every Covid alert level except Covid Alert Level Four and we will be working with each and every NCEA student in Term Four to help them achieve as much as possible this year and set them up as best we can for next year.

The NCEA changes made for the senior students of 2020 are very good, balancing the credibility of our excellent New Zealand NCEA qualification with additions for this year's students, recognising the disadvantages they have suffered as a result of the lost teaching and learning during the Covid levels. It was not just during Lockdown but all the loss of all the assessment events that required greater numbers than could gather during Covid Alert Level Two. We have had sensible guidance from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority about assessing work that was completed but the final assessment event or demonstration of the work was unable to go ahead.

External NCEA examinations will now start later on Monday 16 November.

Portfolio deadlines for subjects such as the Visual Arts and DVC have been extended to allow students additional time to work on these.

Students working towards an NCEA can gain additional credits, based on the number of credits they achieve during the 2020 school year. These additional credits will be known as Learning Recognition Credits. For every 5 credits a student achieves towards their NCEA either through internal or external assessment, they are entitled to an additional 1 credit. Students at NCEA Level 1 are eligible for up to a maximum of 10 additional credits, and Students working towards Level 2 and 3 can earn up to 8.

As our Deputy Principal with responsibility for NCEA Mr Wise says about NCEA Credits in 2020 ... “buy five, get one free”.

Students will be awarded a Certificate Endorsement if they achieve 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50. Students achieving 12 credits at Merit or Excellence level in a course – rather than 14 – will be awarded a course endorsement.

Changes have also been made to University Entrance. For students working towards this in 2020, these requirements have been reduced from 14 to 12 credits in three UE-approved subjects. Students still need to attain NCEA Level 3 and meet literacy and numeracy requirements to be awarded University Entrance.

Reflecting these changes, we have reviewed our Academic Honours criteria for the 2020 academic year. For students in Year 11 working on Level 1 this year, it means that the criteria for Kerikeri High School Academic Honours will be 72 credits at Excellence, rather than the usual 80.

### **ICAS Science**

Our students are still making the most of the Academic cornerstone extension opportunities in the 2020 Science ICAS Assessment, Congratulations to Caitlin Renner-Austin (Distinction), Cade Lumkong (Credit) and Lola Scott (Merit).

### **Show Quest**

Show Quest this year has gone online – and Kerikeri High School have placed Nationally 2nd Overall in this Competition and have won the following Awards; Most Effective Use of Live Sound, Most Innovative Use of Lighting and Best Use of Wearable Art. Well done Drama and Performing Arts.

### **Opportunities in the School Holidays – from Mrs Crawford in the Careers Office**

A one-day First Aid Course, Monday 28 September 7.45am to 4.30pm

Level 3 Health and Safety Course, 15 credits at Level 3 - Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th 8.45am to 3.00pm each day.

Learner Driver's Licence - Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th September here at School for students who are 16 years old and do not have their Learner Driver's Licence.

### **Learn A Musical Instrument**

Because Covid disrupted our Music learning, Miss Thomson has taken the great step of providing an additional opportunity for any students wanting to learn a new musical instrument in Term 4. Have your student see Miss Thomson for a form to register.

### **What Term Four Looks Like**

To prepare for Term Four we know that we will have longer to teach our senior students as the External Examinations have been pushed back. It is our intention to continue to offer some classes after Examination Leave starts for our senior students. We will not be closing off any opportunities that we can still access for our students.

Prizegiving will take place on Wednesday 11 November – it was 6 November last year. Senior Reports are given out on that day. The first NCEA External Examination begins on Monday 16 November.

### **School Holidays**

The holidays are over the next two weeks from Monday 28 September and we return to School on Monday 12 October.

Remember Daylight Saving starts this weekend.

We will all stay vigilant over this time as some will be travelling and our Covid tracing, hand sanitising and careful coughing will be foremost in our minds as we travel, enjoy staying at home or welcome visitors to the Bay of Islands. We all rely on each other to keep us safe and to keep us in Covid Level One, most especially here at School for the good of our senior students as they complete a very disrupted year as best they can.

We will all be coming back for Term Four prepared to take every opportunity.

Warm regards



E A Forgie (Mrs)  
**Principal**



M Clent (Mr)  
**Associate Principal**