



Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands  
New Zealand

# NEWSLETTER

Monday 23 January 2023



Tū mai tōku maunga ko Pōkākā  
E rere atu nei te awa o Wairoa  
Riporipo tau ana ki te awa o ngā Rangatira  
Tiro kau atu ki te pā o Kororipo  
Raro nei i te mana o ngā tupuna  
Ko Hongi, ko Rewa, ko Tāreha  
Te marae ko Te Pou o Manakō  
Te kura ko Te Kerikeri  
Tihewa mauri ora

Standing majestically is my mountain Pōkākā  
Where the stream of Te Wairoa flows down  
Entering into the river of chiefs  
Swirling at the base of Kororipo Pā  
The ancestral fortress of Ngāpuhi  
Immortalised by Hongi, Rewa and Tāreha  
Our marae is Te Pou o Manako  
Embraced by the school of Te Kerikeri  
Behold, the essential life force

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## Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou

This is our first Newsletter for 2023, and my first as Principal. I am tremendously excited about what's ahead for our school, and I am looking forward to working with our Board of Trustees, my colleagues, our students, parents and whānau as we move Kerikeri High School forward.

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new students, parents and whānau who are joining us this year. The start of the year in a new school is always a time of excitement and perhaps a bit of nervousness. Kerikeri High School is a warm, caring and friendly place, and I am confident our new students will settle in and make positive connections quickly.

Welcome back also to all our returning students, staff, parents and whānau. There is a sense of optimism that 2023 will be a much less disrupted year than the last three years have been, and I know we are all looking forward to our school activities and routines returning to a sense of normality.

When I interviewed for the Principal's position, I outlined my vision for our School and I would like to share that with you now, so you understand my thinking, and where I am coming from.

My vision for Kerikeri High School is

A school which our people - staff, students and our community feel positively connected to – whanaungatanga.

A school that is genuinely bicultural, and where we consistently model culturally located and relational teaching and learning across our classrooms.

A school that is kind and caring - where our people come first.

A school that strives for, and values, high academic achievement – a school where everyone can reach their potential.

A school that lives our WAKA values.

A school that promotes our Four Cornerstones of a Balanced Education philosophy, where students are engaged, positive and contributing, leading to the development of well-rounded young people.

A school focused on continual improvement.

As teachers of your children, we want all of our students to experience success, to achieve to their highest potential, to be positive, to feel connected and safe, and to be actively engaged in the diverse range of school activities we offer.

As always, we will encourage our students to participate widely in the Four Cornerstones of a balanced education: Academic, Sporting, Cultural, and Leadership with Service. Students who are involved widely in all aspects of school life feel connected to their school, experience a wide range of success and make strong, positive and often lifelong connections with friends. Kerikeri High School enjoys a strong reputation for producing balanced and well-rounded young people because of this focus.

As a Positive Behaviour for Learning School (PB4L) we have a strong and well-articulated understanding of our school values, which are expressed using the acronym WAKA. We expect everyone in our school community to respect these values, and we explicitly teach our students what they look like in our various school settings. As a result, all of our students know what is expected of them and this enables them to make appropriate decisions as they make their way through each school day.

We have a big year ahead. There are several changes to the school curriculum underway at a national level which are complex and will take time for teachers to work with and through. Changes include the literacy and numeracy requirements to access NCEA, the ongoing review of NCEA standards and assessment, the long overdue introduction of Aotearoa New Zealand Histories, the place of Mana orite mo te Mātauranga Māori, and a curriculum refresh! All of these changes are positive and will keep us busy.

Our teachers are a talented, hardworking, and diverse group of people who all share a love of working with young people and teaching. I am extremely proud of our teachers and staff and all that they bring to our school. Our staff create the conditions in which your children will thrive, feel connected, settled, safe and happy and achieve to the best of their potential. I acknowledge the hard work that goes into their demanding and complex roles, and I thank them for their commitment to your children – our students.

I wish all our students, new or returning, a very successful, exciting and stimulating year, and I encourage each and every one of you to work hard in all your classes to reach your potential.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Mike Clent  
**Principal**

## Staff News

At the end of 2022 we said farewell to several teachers, including Mrs Florence Smith, Mrs Jessica Gibbs, Mrs Miranda McMurtry, Whaea Kara Whiu, Mrs Dianne Anson, Ms Caroline Moss, Mr Darren Kitchingman, Mrs Barbra Stevenson, Mrs Michelle Robinson, Mrs Laura Prickett and of course our Principal Mrs Elizabeth Forgie.

We are excited to welcome our new teachers to Kerikeri High School:

Miss Lydia Anderson	DVC/ Art
Mr Paul Boardman	Mathematics
Mr Henry Dunckley	Science
Mrs Jenni Edwards	Maths/ Science
Miss Brooke Hawkins	English
Miss Lilli Kolo	Te Reo Māori
Ms Cath MacKay	PE
Mr Sam Rogers	Maths
Mrs Devri Tipene	Maths
Mrs Amanda Wharton	English
Mr Tristan Wharton	Maths

There have also been some important changes to our Senior and Pastoral Leadership Teams. Mrs Renae Rakena joins the Senior Leadership Team as Deputy Principal. And three new Assistant Principal positions have been created in our Pastoral Leadership Team. These positions were won by Ms Dana Boisen, Ms Erica Collins and Mr Rolf Weight.

Each of the Assistant Principals has an 8 hour a week teaching programme (2 classes), and they will work closely with the Deputy Principals and the Year Level Deans.

Mrs Dianne-Robson Clark has been appointed Head of Department Mathematics. Mr Andy Willis has been appointed Head of Department Geography. Mrs Jane Jarman has been appointed Head of Department Social Studies. Mrs Huia Kingi has been appointed Head of Department Māori. Mr Richard Forstner has been appointed Acting Head of Department Art.

## 2023 Start Dates

Friday 3 February	Year 7 and Year 13
Monday 6 February	Waitangi Day
Tuesday 7 February	Year 8 and Year 12
Wednesday 8 February	Year 9, 10 and 11
Thursday 9 February	All year levels

## WAKA for Phones

Our WAKA messaging will continue in 2023. The first big change our students will notice when they return to school will be our new attitude towards the use of phones in classrooms. WAKA for Phones will be introduced to all students on their first day back, and we ask that parents support us in our efforts to keep students engaged and focused on their classwork and learning, and not their phones. Our expectation will be that all phones are either turned off or on silent and kept in school bags. Please do not contact your children with phone calls or messages during lessons. If there is an emergency, please contact the school office and we will collect your child for you.

I know parents and teachers will welcome this change, and while it might be a shock to the system for some students in the short term, they will quickly come to realise they don't need to have their phone at the end of their arm all day!

## Attendance

School attendance rates have been a topic of concern in the national media recently, and with good cause. Every day of school missed has an impact on student learning and progress. The start of the year is a good time to rebuild routines and good habits and we expect all students, in all Year Levels to be attending all their classes regularly.

While there is a mixed message when we ask that students who feel unwell stay at home, we do ask parents and whānau to make every effort to make sure your children are getting to school every day, on time and attending all of their classes. Form Teachers and Year Level Deans will do everything they can to keep in touch with families and whānau about attendance issues, and we will follow up quickly with students who are truant.

For our Year 13 students in Term 1 we will require them to attend Form Time each morning at 8.40am. We feel this is important as we reconnect with them and as they establish their more independent routines around their Study line in their timetables.

## School Uniform

Our school uniform providers, SAS have opened 'The Uniform Shoppe' at Waipapa where our

uniform items can be sized and purchased. We do require all students to begin the year in full and correct school uniform. For those who do come to school wearing incorrect uniform items, our Student Centre, Te Puna Waiora has a good supply of uniform spares, including shoes, which we will lend to students for the day.

If there are financial issues making the purchase of school uniform a challenge, please contact your child's Year Level Dean confidentially and we will do what we can to help and assist.

From this year we have made the decision to allow students to wear black 'Birkenstock' style sandals to school. Black is the only colour we will accept. If you are uncertain about the suitability of this style of sandal, please contact your Year Level Dean prior to purchase to check. And for students in Science Laboratories and hard materials workshops, for Health and Safety reasons they will be required to wear shoes with covered toes. Teachers in those subjects will give students further advice and guidance about this.

From 2023 we are pleased to share that we have updated our Physical Education uniform. Unfortunately, the new PE shorts and tops will not arrive to our new supplier until the end of February. As a result we will allow our students to wear a suitable tee shirt and shorts of their choosing for Physical Education lessons through February. Once the new stock has arrived at 'The Uniform Shoppe', we will let you know so that you can make your purchases. We would anticipate all of our students studying Physical Education to have their PE uniform by the end of March 2023.

## School Stationery

Year Level stationery lists are on our school website and stationery can be purchased from local suppliers or by using the online options on our website.

Scipad Workbooks can be purchased from School when students return.

## Timetables and Option Choices

For students in Years 9 - 13, any requests for subject option changes can be made on the first day of school. We ask that a note from a parent is presented requesting any change so that we are assured that parents and whānau have had an

opportunity to discuss and consider any changes a student is making to their programme.

## Year 13 Dress Code

We allow our Year 13's to wear mufti, recognising their growing maturity and independence. With that right comes some responsibility. We encourage our Year 13's to consider school as their place of work, and as such present themselves in a neat, clean and tidy fashion and take pride in their appearance. And so we have a well understood Dress Code for Year 13 students.

Jandals, scuffs, slippers and work-boots are not to be worn at school. Students should be aware that footwear must meet OSH regulations and be safe to wear around school and in the classroom. Students must have their feet sufficiently covered in Science Laboratories and Technology areas; including Hospitality and Automotive. Beachwear (including board-shorts), collarless t-shirts, beanies and knitted hats, bare midriffs and clothing with large or inappropriate advertisements logos as well as ripped denim are not permitted. If any further clarification is needed regarding the Year 13 Dress Code, please do not hesitate to ask us for guidance.

## Who to Contact

From time to time things go wrong. Please be assured we are here to help and welcome your approaches to us when you need help or assistance with an issue. Our Reception staff are warm and friendly and can direct you to the best person to assist you. Form Teachers, and Year Level Deans, Assistant and Deputy Principals are all willing and able to help you.

Our Year Level Deans in 2023 are:

Year 7: Matua Jordan Westerlund

Year 8: Mr Seth Brown

Year 9: Mr Andy Willis

Year 10: Mrs Kate Montgomerie

Year 11: Mrs Roz Clent

Year 12: Mrs Jess Lowe

Year 13: Ms Erica Collins

## Our School Website

Later this term we plan to unveil our new school website. Our current website has served us well for a long time, and we know it is due for a refresh. We will keep you informed of this change as it gets nearer.

## Non-returning Students

If you are receiving this newsletter and your child is no longer attending Kerikeri High School, please let us know or email [enrol@kerikerihigh.ac.nz](mailto:enrol@kerikerihigh.ac.nz) so we can update our roll.

## Next Board of Trustees Meeting

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be at 5.00pm on Thursday 16 February, in the Boardroom.