



Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
New Zealand

NEWSLETTER

Number 1 | Thursday 23 January 2025



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

Ki ngā Mātua to our parents

Ki ngā kaiako to our teachers

Ki ngā tamariki to our students

Tenā koutou

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Tenā koutou katoa

A very warm welcome to parents and whānau, students and staff as we near the beginning of our 2025 school year. An especially warm welcome to those students and whānau who will be new to Kerikeri High School this year. I have no doubt that there will be a range of emotions as our new students begin their time with us, from excitement and enthusiasm to some nervousness and uncertainty. We pride ourselves on being a warm, caring and friendly school and I want to assure you that we will do everything we can to make sure everyone settles into school quickly and finds their place and their people in the first few weeks of Term 1.

As we start the year, I want to share my vision for Kerikeri High School with you all, just as I have the previous two years, to offer you assurance and certainty about Kerikeri High School.

My vision for Kerikeri High School is

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

A school where learning happens for every student, every lesson and every day.

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.

We want all 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. Our students understand this as involvement across the Four Cornerstones of a Balanced Education.

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 our students know what is expected of them which enables them to make appropriate decisions as they make their way through each school day.

High expectations, strong positive relationships, kindness and caring, and well understood boundaries all contribute to our focused and positive learning environment.

The start of the school year is always a time of excitement, anticipation and energy. I love this part of the school term, there is a feeling of optimism and positivity and that anything is possible. We have a lot of momentum across the school from 2024 and there's a lot to look forward to in 2025.

Our staff are here for you and your children. If you have any questions, concerns or issues, please reach out to us and we will help. Our Year Level Deans, our Form Teachers, Subject Teachers, School Counsellors and Senior Leaders are all contactable through school email, or you can call Reception, and our friendly staff can point you in the right direction.

I am proud of our school, and of our students. I am also proud of our educators and staff; they are a dedicated, motivated and hard-working group of people who day in, and day out do their very best for all of the students in their care. They work relentlessly to create the conditions in which your children can thrive, feel connected, settled, safe and happy and achieve to the best of their potential.

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

Nāku iti noa, nā



Mike Clent

Principal

Starting Dates 2025

Year 7 Monday 3 February

Staff and Peer Support Leaders will assist Year 7 students as they arrive at school. Students and whānau will gather in the Boulevard for the Pōwhiri starting at 9.00am.

Year 7 students, please bring your togs.

Year 8 Tuesday 4 February
Year 9 Wednesday 5 February
Year 10 Wednesday 5 February
Year 11 Wednesday 5 February
Year 12 Tuesday 4 February
Year 13 Monday 3 February

Thursday 6 February - Waitangi Day – School closed.

Pōwhiri for New Students and Whānau

We will formally welcome all our new students, with Pōwhiri on Monday 3 February at 9.00am in the Gymnasium. Please assemble in the Boulevard at 8.45am. Ushers will be available in the carpark and Boulevard for any questions. Parents, whānau and Caregivers are most welcome to join us.

At the end of the pōwhiri, students and whānau from Years 8 – 12 will be able to leave. Students, please wear full school uniform.

Meet the Form Teacher and NCEA Information Evening

On Wednesday 5 February at 6.00pm we will host an opportunity for you to meet with your child's/children's Form Teacher as we begin to build the important relationships between home and school. We will begin in the Auditorium, before breaking into Year Level and Form Class meetings.

Following this at 7.00pm in the Library, will be an opportunity to hear from our Principal's Nominee, Deputy Principal Mr Daniel Wise, about how NCEA works and what is involved. Parents of students new to NCEA, and perhaps especially parents of Year 11 students will find this presentation particularly informative.

Staff News

At the end of 2024 we said farewell to several staff members including Miss Lydia Anderson, Mrs Shelley Ash, Mr Ryan Barker, Ms Erica Collins, Mr Daniel Conti, Mr Peter Kee, Mrs Shona Gordon, Mrs Lisa Keilman, Mr Elijah Molloy-Wolt, Ms Armanya Potatau and Matua Taua Kemp.

We are excited and fortunate to welcome several new teachers and staff members to Kerikeri High School.

Mr Adam Horgan	Health & Physical Education
Ms Paddi Hunt	Specialist Teacher
Mrs Melissa Jurisich	Wellbeing Admin
Mr Brett Nugent	Social Studies
Mrs Kylie Pate	Commerce

We are also pleased to be welcoming back to our staff:

Mrs Karlene Kitchingman	Social Studies
Mr Jay McKechnie	Science
Mrs Kate Montgomerie	Mathematics
Miss Shantay Ruru-Tana	Teacher Aide
Mrs Kim Sainsbury	English

Our Gymnasium

Unfortunately, our Gymnasium suffered significant flooding damage during the recent weather event we experienced. The Health and Physical Education office, the PED1 classroom, the Sports Department Office, the internal changing rooms and the weights bay were all significantly damaged.

A Wellington led Ministry of Education redevelopment appears to have been poorly managed which has led to this situation. I would like to share with our community that no local businesses or contractors were in any way responsible for this, nor was our Regional Ministry of Education office. No Kerikeri High School staff were involved in the management of this project either. As a school, alongside our Board of Trustees, we will be working closely with our Regional Ministry of Education team to rectify this very challenging start to our school year. Repairs look likely to take a considerable amount of time. Management of the recovery is being led by our Regional MoE office.

The actual Gymnasium playing area is unaffected and so thankfully we will still have access to the court surface for Physical Education lessons, and

sport trainings. However, PED1 and the adjoining office spaces will be out of action for some time.

Phones at School

Everyone is aware now that 'Phones Away for the Day' is our requirement at school. Our students overwhelmingly embraced this in 2024, and we were well supported by parents and whānau as we came to terms with this new requirement. Ngā mihi nui.

This year our process will be that if students have their phones out of their bags, and/or are using their phone, including wearing headphones or earbuds, the devices will be confiscated. Parents will be able to collect these devices from Reception. We will not return devices directly to students. For clarity, a reminder that students are not allowed to have their phones out of their bags from the time they arrive at school, and throughout the school day. We are happy to allow students to access their phones after school.

A word on why we allow students to bring their phones when they cannot access them during the school day; we understand that in a community like ours, with a lot of after school activity, employment and bus travel, being able to keep in contact with parents is important. That contact should wait until after school.

We have good systems in place to get messages to students from parents that do not interrupt lessons or learning; please contact Reception if you need to get a message to your child.

Attendance

In our last Newsletter for 2024 we again signalled our concern about poor attendance rates. Every hour and every day of school counts. Attendance has a strong impact on connection, engagement, learning and consequently achievement. This year we will be implementing an attendance requirement of at least 80% regular attendance before students will be considered for opportunities to represent the school; this includes school sport but extends beyond that to cultural, extracurricular academic and leadership opportunities. For students in Years 11, 12 and 13 it also includes the opportunity to attend the School Ball. Your child's overall attendance rate is regularly reported in our school reports so you will be able to keep an eye on how they are tracking.

80% regular attendance should not be too onerous for anyone and is in fact still below the level that we would think appropriate for success and high achievement. The Government's target is for 80% of students to be attending more than 90% of the school term.

Uniform

Last year we signalled that wearing our school uniform fully and correctly was a focus. Our expectation is that all students in Years 7 – 12 are wearing correct school uniform every day. Please support your child and us by ensuring students have correct school shoes, are not wearing non uniform items, and that skirts are the appropriate length. We require skirts to cover three quarters of the thighs. If your child wears a skirt to school, please ensure it fits, and is not rolled or taken up or worn incorrectly.

If there are hardship issues which make purchasing school uniform difficult, please contact your child's Year Level Dean in confidence and they will assist.

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.

Students must have their feet sufficiently covered in Science Laboratories and Technology areas including Hospitality and Automotive.

Jandals, scuffs, work-boots, beachwear, collarless T-shirts, singlets, beanies and knitted hats, bare midriiffs and clothing with large advertising 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.

Chewing Gum and Energy Drinks

We have an ongoing issue with students bringing chewing gum to school. Chewing gum is not allowed at Kerikeri High School and we will be reminding our students of this. Likewise, students are not to bring energy drinks to school. These have an unhelpful effect on students' ability to settle, concentrate and learn. Chewing gum and energy drinks will be confiscated from students if they choose to bring them to school.

Reporting to Parents

Progress reports for students will be issued regularly throughout the year; there will be two reports in Term 1, and three in each of Terms 2 and 3. In Term 4 students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will receive one report, and students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will receive three.

These Reports will give you ongoing feedback on your child's academic progress, their attitude to learning, and their attendance, as well as detailing their Four Cornerstones involvement. You will be able to track trends in their progress and attitude in real time. You will also be able to see their overall school attendance rate, and their attendance for each of their subjects. Parents, whānau and caregivers can email subject teachers with any queries or concerns about progress via hyperlinks in the subject report; we believe it is reasonable that all parent queries are responded to within five working days of them being received by teachers.

Property Developments

Over the holidays our school Library has had a full internal repaint, and we have also had external areas of the school repainted, as we do every Christmas break. We have also had two Beach Volleyball courts built on the Bottom Field, which we are sure our students will enjoy. These courts have been funded by Student Council, using Workday funds from last year and we thank them for their support. We encourage students to bring hats and sunglasses when they use the courts – there is a lot of glare from the sand!

Coming Soon – Our New Website and a Parent Portal

A new, more modern Kerikeri High School website has been built and will go live later in Term 1. Included will be a prominent section with school news which will showcase student achievements and success, as well as containing all the information about our School which parents and those in the community would expect.

We also have a Parent Portal in development, which we anticipate will go live early in Term 2. Parents will be able to sign in and access your child's attendance (in real time), school finance accounts, NCEA results and progress, Four Cornerstones participation, your child's timetable and school progress reports. We will share more about this nearer to the Portal going live.

NCEA Results are Now Available

A reminder that 2024 NCEA results are now available for students through their NZQA learner logins. This includes any 2024 Year 10 students who sat the Literacy and Numeracy corequisite assessments during Term 4. Students can log in using the username and password they have previously set up to check their results at this link [Log in to NZQA](#).

If students have forgotten their passwords, they can also reset these on the NZQA site.

Who to Contact

If your child is having issues or you are concerned about something at school, there are a range of people you can contact.

For curriculum issues, the best first contact is your child's teacher, and/or the Head of Department for the subject. For issues to do with interactions with other students, your child's Form Teacher and/or Year Level Dean are the best points of contact. For issues that are significant and urgent, an Assistant and/or Deputy Principal will be the best people to contact.

Year Level Deans

Mrs Jess Lowe	Year 7
Mr Kaleb Adams	Year 8
Matua Jordan Westerlund	Year 9
Mr Seth Brown	Year 10
Ms Davina Derecourt	Year 11

Mr Paul Boardman Year 12
Mrs Roz Client Year 13

Assistant Principal

Mr Rolf Weight Years 7 - 10

Deputy Principals

Miss Dana Boisen (Terms 1&2) Year 9, Year 10
Mrs Renae Rakena Year 11, Year 12
Mrs Justine Strang Year 7, Year 8
Mr Daniel Wise Year 13

If your child needs guidance, our School Counsellors Mrs Fleur Kellaher and Miss Komisi Bloomfield in our Wellbeing Department are both outstanding, caring, warm and experienced. Please reach out to them if you feel your child needs their support.

Please feel free to call us at school and our friendly Reception staff will be able to put you in contact with the right person you need to speak to.

School Policies

All our school policies are publicly available and can be accessed here: [Kerikeri High School Policies](#)

Our Community Username is: kerikerihigh
And our Community Password is: waka

Stationery

Year Level stationery lists are available on our website [Kerikeri High School Stationery Lists](#). Stationery items can be ordered from a range of online and local suppliers. Purchase now to ensure delivery before school starts.

The Uniform Shoppe, Waipapa, Extended Hours

Thursday 23 January 12.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday 24 January closed
Saturday 25 January 9:00am – 1:00pm

Monday 27 January closed public holiday
Tuesday 28 January 10.00am – 3.00pm
Wednesday 29 January 10.00am – 3.00pm
Thursday 30 January 12.00pm – 5.00pm
Friday 31 January 10.00am – 3.00pm
Saturday 1 February 10.00am – 3.00pm

Monday 3 February 8.00am – 12.00pm

Tuesday 4 February 12.00pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday 5 February 12.00pm – 4.00pm
Thursday 6 February closed public holiday
Friday 7 February closed
Saturday 8 February 12.00pm -4.00pm

Normal hours will resume after this date.

Monday 12:00pm – 4:00pm
Wednesday 2:00pm – 5:30pm
Saturday 9:00am – 12:00pm

Communication – School App

We use our School App to get urgent messages out to you all in real time and so we strongly encourage you to download it and set it up to notify you when we post to it.

Download our App from the Playstore on Android or the App Store on Apple. Search for School Apps New Zealand and once you have downloaded it you add Kerikeri High School as your school.

From the front page there are several useful links including Absentees, Daily Notices, the School Calendar, and the App pushes out Alerts to you.



Download the Kerikeri High School App

Our School app is an essential communication tool to stay in touch.

- Send absentee notifications
- Find the Daily Notices and school newsletters
- Use our Helpful links
- Receive important alerts - ensure notifications are enabled

Available through the Apple App Store, or the Google Play Store - search for School Apps NZ and select Kerikeri High School.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be at 5.30pm on Wednesday 26 February, in the Boardroom.