



Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
New Zealand

NEWSLETTER

Number 2 | Friday 7 February 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

Kia ora koutou e te whānau

A big welcome back to all our students, staff, parents and caregivers. It's great to have school underway again, and I've enjoyed seeing our students return with energy and positivity. I've also enjoyed seeing how happy they are to reconnect with friends and their teachers. There's a lovely warm vibe around the school as we get the academic year underway.

An especially warm welcome to all our new students, including 203 Year 7 students, 44 new Year 9 students and 51 new International students. Our new intake of International students come to us from around the world: Germany, Italy, Japan, Brazil, Belgium, Columbia, Chile, the United States of America, Hungary, Belgium, China, Austria, and Switzerland. A big thanks to all our local Homestay whānau for your care and for helping our new students quickly settle into life in New Zealand and in Kerikeri.

We also welcome our new staff to Kerikeri High School for 2025, and you will be pleased to hear that we are fully staffed for the beginning of the year. We're very fortunate to have teachers in all our classrooms. Our new teaching staff are:

Mr Malcolm Bignell	Science
Mr Adam Horgan	Health & Physical Education
Ms Paddi Hunt	Specialist Teacher
Mrs Karlene Kitchingman	Social Studies
Mr Jay McKechnie	Science
Mr Brett Nugent	Social Studies
Mrs Kylie Pate	Commerce/ Māori
Mrs Kim Sainsbury	English
Mrs Jude Young	English

Our new students across all Year Levels were welcomed on Tuesday with Pōwhiri. This was a significant and special occasion, with over 1000 people present as either Tangata whenua – our full staff and all our Year 13 students, and as Manuhiri. My thanks to everyone for participating with such warmth and dignity.

Our school roll will take another week or so to settle, however currently it is looking like being about 1680, give or take. We will have a more definitive roll number once we confirm departures, and last-minute enrolments. Students in Years 9 – 13 have been completing course counselling this week and we are continuing to work hard to balance class sizes across the option lines. For this reason, student timetables remain draft for the next week.

Last week, 124 Year 13 students committed two days of their school holidays to attend our Year 13 Leadership Camp, training to become Peer Support Leaders for our new Year 7 students. We are delighted that so many Year 13 students step up to this leadership role and contribute to their school.

Poor school attendance rates have attracted a lot of attention lately. Like most schools across New Zealand, our rates of attendance are not good enough. I have messaged strongly to our students this week that every hour and every day of their learning matters and makes a difference.

To encourage improved attendance rates, we have set an 80% minimum attendance requirement for students to be eligible to be able to participate in extracurricular Four Cornerstones activities, and for Senior students in Years 11, 12 and 13 to attend the School Ball. You can track your child's attendance rate on the top of their regular school reports.

80% attendance is not unreasonable. To be below 80%, a student would be missing more than two weeks of school a term. In fact, our goal is to have students attending more than 90% a term, which is also the current Government target. Every hour and every day of learning matters and makes a difference.

It's been wonderful to see our school uniform being worn so well. Thank you, parents and caregivers, for the efforts you have gone to with ensuring correct school uniform is being worn.

We continue to get concerned feedback about the short lengths of school skirts. I agree that there are number of students, mostly in Years 10, 11 and 12 who are choosing to wear their skirts far too short for school. Skirts need to be worn to $\frac{3}{4}$ length on the thigh. I have spoken to students about this in all of our Return to School assemblies this week, and asked students to rectify short skirts over the weekend. There may be some awkward conversations next week if skirts remain too short. If students do not want to wear their skirts to $\frac{3}{4}$ length on thighs, they do have the option of wearing shorts or trousers. I ask that school and parents work together on this to get our students wearing this uniform item correctly and appropriately for school.

Our Gymnasium repairs are now well underway and while we are significantly inconvenienced by the damage, things are moving quickly, and we hope to have access to PED1 and the PE staff office early in Term 2. Other repairs are likely to take longer.

We will share two Newsletters a term with our community, and they will include information about student achievements and important information and notices about what is happening at school. I encourage everyone to read the Newsletters to keep informed and aware of what is happening in our busy school.

Finally, if parents, whānau or caregivers have any worries, concerns or are upset by something that hasn't gone as expected at school, please don't hesitate to contact us; we are here to help. You can contact our friendly people at Reception, and they can put you in touch with the best person to assist you.

I want to wish everyone all the very best for 2025. We have a busy and exciting year ahead, and by working together we can help all our young people thrive and experience success.

Mauri ora



Mike Clent
Principal

Upcoming Dates

Whānau Feedback Evening – 3 April

Whānau Feedback Evening – 8 April

Term 1 Ends – 11 April

Term 2 Starts – 28 April

Next Board of Trustees Meeting

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