



Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
New Zealand

NEWSLETTER

Number 2 | Monday 23 February 2026



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
Tīhewa 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 Manakō
Embraced by the school of Te Kerikeri
Behold, the essential life force

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Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou

Our school year is now well underway, and students have settled quickly into their new classes and learning routines. We enjoyed a lot of positive energy around the school as everyone came back together after the summer break, and I'm pleased to see that evolving into purposeful focus across the school and in our classrooms.

It was a pleasure to welcome new students to school with Pōwhiri on our first day back; we had close to 1000 people present and it was a special occasion, most especially for our new students in Year 7 and for our 64 newly arrived international students from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland.

We also had the privilege of hosting the Minister of Education, the Hon Erica Stanford, visiting us to announce a significant national investment in te reo Māori education, launching Te Ataarangi, a new professional learning and development programme designed to support 50,000 teachers across Aotearoa to build practical, everyday classroom capability in te reo Māori. Her visit was also a great opportunity for us to share our property plans, and to discuss issues impacting secondary education at present.

We have been impressed by the leadership of our Year 13 students; 111 gave up two days of their school holidays to train to be Peer Support Leaders, and they will head out to our famous Peer Support Camps on Urupukapuka Island over the coming weeks, with the first Camp heading out this Wednesday. We thank the Year 13s for their leadership, and we wish all our students, staff and parent helpers safe and thoroughly enjoyable Year 7 Camps.

We have appointed and trained our 2026 Kerikeri High School Prefects. Selection was rigorous and our new leaders have been presented to the school at Celebration Assemblies on Friday. Our Deputy Head Boy is Dillan Blithe-Drake, and our Deputy Head Girl is Willow Cochran. Our Head Boy is Joe Jackson, and our Head Girl is Molly Para.

As we move further into the term, I want to reaffirm our expectations that students arrive at school each day ready to learn. This means coming prepared with a great attitude, the right equipment, and a commitment to giving their best effort. And one of the most important foundations for success is regular attendance. Each day at school matters, and even small patterns of absence make a difference to learning progress, confidence, and connection. We appreciate the partnership of whānau in supporting students to be present and engaged every day.

A further way families can help set students up for success is by ensuring they are wearing our school uniform correctly. Wearing our uniform with pride contributes to a strong school culture and helps students feel a sense of belonging. We ask for your support in making sure all our uniform expectations are met, including skirt lengths, which should be three-quarters to the knee. These standards are part of maintaining consistency and fairness across our school, and we appreciate the encouragement you give your children in meeting them.

We talk a lot at the start of the school year about the value of getting involved widely in the extracurricular life of the school. We offer many opportunities across the Four Cornerstones of

Academic, Sporting, Cultural and Leadership with Service, and now is the perfect time for students to sign up for activities. Research consistently shows that students who participate in extracurricular activities tend to perform better academically and feel a stronger sense of belonging. We encourage everyone to find their place outside the classroom.

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 staff 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 2026. 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

2026 Prefects

At Kerikeri High School Year 13 students can apply to be considered for the position of Prefect, writing a letter of application, and preparing a formal CV which describes their skills and experience, details their Four Cornerstones involvement, and describes why they believe they are suitable for the position of Prefect. Every applicant has a panel interview with their Year Level Dean, the Deputy Principal of Year 13 and the Principal. The selection process is competitive, challenging, and rigorous.

Our Prefects work hard for us. They exemplify Leadership with and through Service. They take on their leadership responsibility willingly and they understand they are role models for so many of our students.

Congratulations to our 2026 Prefects:

Lucas Anderson, Ben Andrews, Charlie Andrew, Peyton Baker, Lucas Bell, Dillan Blithe-Drake, Isabelle Cannon, Willow Cochran, Natalie Collins, Ben Couchman, Kaia Derbyshire, Pieter Du Plooy, Zoe Fisher, Stanley Hayes, Nikara Holmes, Amelia Horsfield, Hannah Huddert, Joe Jackson, Tyler Keehn, Jessica Keil, Davahn King Rudolph, Finlay Ludbrook, Carlito-Rey Maregele, Whakahotu Marino, Hannah McGlinchey, Sienna Molloy, Molly Para, Bosco Robinson, Skye Robinson, Lisa Schofield, Zane Scott, Makurangi Smith, Keira Smith, Yi Ming Sok, Zach Trautz, Luka Ulrich, Sam Weston, Craig Wilson

At our Celebration Assembly to introduce the Prefects to the school, our Deputy and Head Students were named.



As pictured:

Deputy Head Girl – Willow Cochran

Head Boy – Joe Jackson

Head Girl – Molly Para

Deputy Head Boy – Dillan Blithe-Drake

Student Achievements

Congratulations to the following students who gained a Scholarship in last year's Year 13 Scholarship examinations. Being awarded a Scholarship is an outstanding achievement and reflects their hard work, dedication and commitment to education.



Ben Burges –
Photography (Outstanding
Scholarship)

BARFOOT & THOMPSON

LICENSED REAA 2008



Annaliese Brewer – History

Congratulations to **Paige Lewis** (Year 12) on her selection as a youth co-designer for the Curative Collective. Chosen from applications submitted from across Aotearoa, Paige will work alongside the Curative creative agency throughout 2026 to support their development of design-solutions and creative responses to some of the complex social issues facing communities across the motu. We are excited to see the insight and creativity Paige will contribute to this important mahi.

NCEA Provisional Results

While still provisional, our NCEA pass rates for 2025 are below, as well as the provisional national pass rates. We know that regular school attendance is a significant factor in student success.

2025 Overall NCEA Pass Rate		
	KKHS	National
Level 1	73.2%	72.1%
level 2	79.6%	72.7%
Level 3	80.8%	70.4%



Freddy Jarman – History



Richard Norton – Biology

Update on the National Senior Curriculum Rewrite

Phase 5 of the Ministry of Education’s work on refreshing the senior curriculum (Years 11–13) is now underway. This phase involves 189 teachers from across Aotearoa who have been selected to help shape the future of senior secondary learning.

We are proud to share that four of our own Leaders of Learning from Kerikeri High School have been chosen to contribute to this important national project. Their role includes working alongside the Ministry to:

- Support the writing and development of new subject content.
- Provide expert guidance to ensure the curriculum is high-quality and knowledge-rich.
- Collaborate with other subject specialists from around the country.

This is a significant achievement and a wonderful recognition of the expertise within our staff.

Congratulations to **Charissa Morris**, Year 13 student in 2025, who has been awarded a prestigious scholarship to Duke University, ranked sixth-best university in the United States. The rare international scholarship worth \$500,000 covers tuition, accommodation and some meal costs for her four-year theatre course.



Year 7 Camp Change to Departure Time

All Year 7 parents will have received an email with the following important information regarding a change in departure time from Doves Bay for all camps.

Every student must meet at 5.45am, at Doves Bay marina for roll call.

Boarding time is 6.15am. Departure time is 6.30am and the ferry will not wait past this time due to scheduling commitments.

Apologies for any inconveniences caused by this change.

Kerikeri High School Parent/Caregiver Signin To FACTS



FACTS is Kerikeri High School's student management software. It holds all the necessary records on students and Caregivers for running the school.

Applicable valid Parents and Caregivers of current students are able to sign in to FACTS to view:

- Details held regarding your current children and to update current contact information
- School Calendar detailing upcoming events and activities
- Current Timetables, Subjects and Reports
- Attendance records and the ability to inform us about absences
- Co-Curricular cornerstones your children have achieved
- Debtor Dashboard and pay accounts

Signins will only work with the Caregiver email address we have recorded for you in FACTS, that has then been set up by us and activated by you from your email. This recorded email is the one we are emailing you on now. Should you wish to amend your email address, please contact the school.

FACTS can be used on a mobile device but is much more readable and user-friendly on a larger screen.

Account Activation and First Signin

For applicable Caregivers new to the school, you will have received an email inviting you to activate an account that has been created for you. This account is based on your email address and will be used for signing into FACTS, via our Microsoft 365 space.

If you have not received an email, or for parents who may have lost their original email invite, please reach out to us by email at FACTS@kerikerihigh.ac.nz

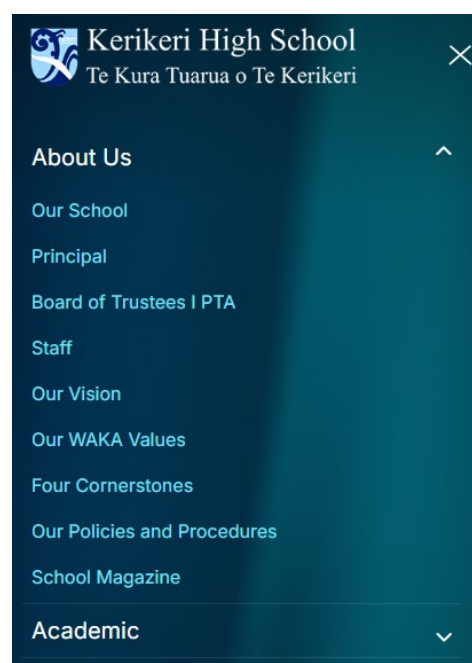
School Policies and Procedures

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

Policies that are being reviewed in Term 1 are:

- Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances
- Sun Protection
- Digital Technology and Online Safety
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices
- Safety and Welfare for Students on Work Experience
- Firearms Policy



School Based Vaccinations - Year 7 and 8 Student Details

Every year Te Whatu Ora runs a nation-wide School Based Vaccination (SBV) programme for Year 7 and 8 students. 2026 is a transition year for the SBV programme and Year 7 students will be offered both the Boostrix and the HPV vaccination. Year 8 students will be offered the HPV vaccination this year as they have in previous years while the catch up takes place.

Information about both vaccinations will be sent home attached to the consent forms. Families will be offered both the paper version of the consent form and this year, an electronic option, to email back to the Public Health Nurse.

To ensure complete accuracy in the checking process for students, the Public Health Nurse requests information from Kerikeri High School – student’s full name, date of birth, gender and contact phone number. These details are used to check that each student consented is due for the vaccination and has not previously received it elsewhere. Parents/caregivers can also be contacted if the form has not been completed correctly or clarification is required. This information is kept confidential and under a ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

If you would like to opt out of sharing your child’s details, please email enquiries@kerikerihigh.ac.nz before Thursday 26 February.

Parents and caregivers also have an option of having their child vaccinated at their Medical Centre.

Please email or return the completed form to school as soon as possible. Students will only be vaccinated if the consent form is completed and signed. If you decide not to have your child vaccinated, please indicate this on the consent form and return it to school.

Vaccinations for consented students will take place on Tuesday 24 March and Wednesday 1 April (for those absent on 24 March).

Your Public Health Nurse: Marie Swanson
Email: marie.swanson@tewhatauora.govt.nz
Ph: 021 586 463

2025 School Magazine

Copies of the 2025 School Magazine, showcasing our students’ activities and achievements throughout the year are available for purchase from Reception for \$10.00.

Staff Emails

On our School website you will find the Staff page in the dropdown menu under About Us. Contact emails for our Senior Leadership Team, Year Level Deans, teaching staff, and some support roles are listed here.

Parenting in an Online World 101 – Parents’ Evening

Tuesday 24 February, hosted jointly by Kerikeri High School, Kerikeri Primary School and Riverview School.

We all want our schools and community to be safe places for our tamariki. But in a rapidly changing digital world, the risks our children face online are growing—more frequently, and more seriously. That’s why we’ve invited filmmaker, author, and speaker **Rob Cope**, producer of the powerful documentary *Our Kids Online*, to deliver a humorous, eye-opening evening talk for our parent community.

His talk will cover:

Cyberbullying - How bullies can reach our kids 24/7

Social media - How social media is affecting the mental health in 3 out of 5 children. FOMO, depression, anxiety

Gaming and the developing brain – An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy

Naked Selfies - The pressure to send nudes from intermediate up through high school

Online predators - The methods they use, how to spot them

Online porn vs healthy sexuality - How consuming online pornography as a child or teen can create a sexual template where violence, aggression, and dominance are seen as normal and consent can become very blurry.

AI - Growing concerns around Companion bots, Deepfakes, Voice Cloning, Algorithmic Radicalisation

Solutions:

Filters - Which filters are best and how to install them

Smartphones - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone

Boundaries - How to put good boundaries in place around device use

3 golden rules - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe

Talking to your kids - How to have difficult conversations with your kids

Challenging our own phone and device usage - Reconnecting as a family.

Here is a promotional video for you to watch [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#).

The talk will be held in the Kerikeri Primary School hall on **24th February from 6.30pm**. Please note this talk is for **adults only** and is not suitable for children or teens to attend.

We encourage at least one representative from each family attend and hope you can prioritise this within your busy lives. This topic is too big for us not to pay attention.

"We have now reached the point where it is irresponsible of us as parents, teachers, health professionals, and policymakers to continue to put these devices, which are designed to elicit addictive-like qualities, in our kids' hands and then expect them to be accountable for their own wellbeing." Dr Samantha Marsh - University of Auckland Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, July 2023

Included in your ticket is a one-year complimentary subscription to *Parenting in an Online World 101* valued at \$99. Created by Rob and Zareen at Our Kids Online, this practical, no-nonsense course is designed specifically for kiwi families and is already being used in thousands of homes across the country.

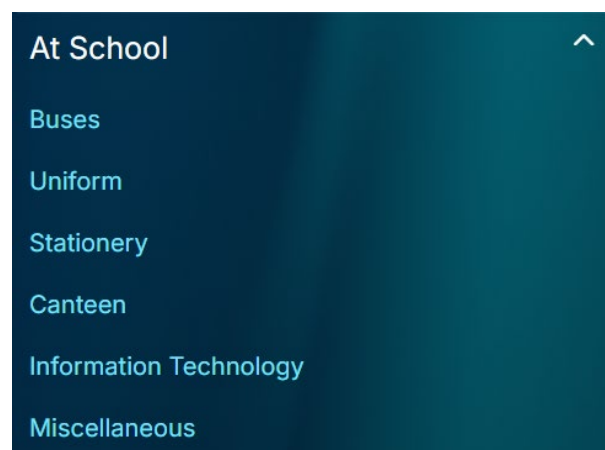
Please note: simply buying a ticket does not give you access to the course—you must attend on the night to receive it. So don't miss out!

You can check out the course here: [Parenting in an Online World 101](#)

Tickets are available to purchase at Reception from for \$10.00.

School Canteen

From the start of the year, tuckr online ordering moved to kindo. Nothing else changed: same menu, same team, just an online ordering platform. Tuckr is still Kerikeri High School's lunch provider. Kindo is simply the online ordering platform. Use the link on the Canteen page under At School on our School website.



Next Board of Trustees Meeting

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be at 5.30pm on 25 February, in the Boardroom.

Upcoming Dates

- Rob Cope Presentation – 24 February
- Board Meeting – 25 February
- Board Meeting – 25 March
- PTA AGM – 25 March
- Whānau Feedback Evening – 26 March
- Whānau Feedback Evening – 30 March
- Te Tai Tokerau Kapahaka Festival – 31 March & 1 April
- Term 1 Ends – 2 April
- Term 2 Starts – 20 April

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Kerikeri High School

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL FAMILIES

WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE UNIFORM SHOPPE?

POP INTO OUR STORE:

MONDAY : 12.00PM – 4.00PM | WEDNESDAY : 2.00PM - 5.30PM
SATURDAY : 9.00AM - 12.00PM

SHOP 2, 2044 STATE HIGHWAY 10, WAIPAPA 0295

CALL US:

027 336 0660

EMAIL US:

KERIKERISHOP@SAS.CO.NZ

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE:

THE UNIFORM SHOPPE KERIKERI

MAKE SURE TO "FOLLOW" OUR PAGE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON ALL THINGS FOR YOUR SCHOOL

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO SERVE OUR
COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES

THE UNIFORM SHOPPE
THE SMART CHOICE