



Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
New Zealand

NEWSLETTER

Number 1 | Friday 23 January 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
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 Manakō
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

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

A very warm welcome to all our students, staff and whānau—those returning and those joining us for the first time—as we prepare to launch into the 2026 school year. This is one of my favourite moments in the school calendar; the sense of energy, promise and opportunity is always inspiring, and I'm excited to see everyone back over the coming weeks.

Our school vision, 'Empowering lifelong learners in the pursuit of individual excellence', is at the heart of everything we do. It speaks to our commitment to developing confident, capable lifelong learners; to empowering our people; and to ensuring that students and teachers alike strive for their personal best across our Four Cornerstones.

As I've said before, I am incredibly proud of our kura, and my aspirations for Kerikeri High School continue to be that we are:

- A place where our people—students, staff and community—experience genuine connection and belonging (whanaungatanga).
- A place where learning is visible in every classroom, every day.
- A proudly bicultural school, where culturally located, relational pedagogies are consistently woven into our practice.
- A kind, caring school where people come first.
- A school that values academic excellence and supports everyone to reach their full potential.
- A community that lives our WAKA values.
- A school that upholds the philosophy of a Balanced Education, with students actively engaged in our Four Cornerstones and growing into well-rounded young people.
- A school committed to continuous improvement.

We want every student to feel successful, connected, safe, positive, and fully engaged in the breadth of opportunities offered here. Our Four Cornerstones framework helps guide students toward a rich, diverse and meaningful school experience.

Our WAKA values are well understood across the school, and we continue to teach what these values look like in practice. Because expectations are clear, students are supported to make positive choices throughout each day. High expectations, strong relationships, kindness, and clear boundaries all contribute to the calm, focused and positive learning environment we are known for.

The beginning of the year always brings optimism and excitement, and 2026 is no different. The momentum built in previous years continues to carry us forward, and there is much we are looking forward to achieving together.

Our staff are here to support you and your children. If you have questions or concerns at any point, please get in touch. Our Deans, Form Teachers, Subject Teachers, School Counsellors and Senior Leadership Team are all available via school email, or our friendly reception staff can connect you with the right person.

I am proud of our students and proud of our staff, who work tirelessly to create an environment where young people feel settled, safe, connected and ready to achieve at the highest level. Their dedication is unwavering.

I wish all our students—new and returning—a positive, successful and inspiring year ahead. Make the most of every opportunity, work hard, and strive to reach your full potential in all your classes.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Mike Clent
Principal

BARFOOT & THOMPSON
LICENSED REAA 2008

Starting Dates 2026

Year 7 Monday 2 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 3 February
Year 9 Wednesday 4 February
Year 10 Wednesday 4 February
Year 11 Wednesday 4 February
Year 12 Tuesday 3 February
Year 13 Monday 2 February

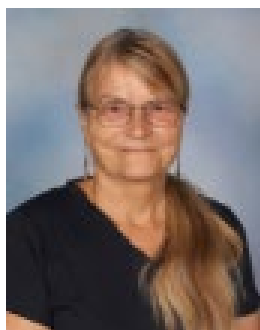
Friday 6 February - Waitangi Day – School closed.

Pōwhiri for New Students and Whānau

We will formally welcome all our new students, with Pōwhiri on Monday 2 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.

Celebrating Excellence at Kerikeri High School



Mrs Jacqueline (Jackie) Robertson Awarded the King's Service Medal

We are incredibly proud to celebrate a momentous achievement by one of our most dedicated and inspiring teachers. **Mrs Jacqueline**

(Jackie) Robertson, our Head of Science since 2008, has been awarded the King's Service Medal (KSM) in the New Year Honours for her outstanding services to science education.

This national recognition reflects Jackie's unwavering commitment to nurturing curiosity, innovation, and excellence in young people across

the Far North. For more than a decade, she has been a driving force behind science education in our region, making learning not only rigorous but deeply engaging and meaningful for thousands of students.

A Champion for Science in the Far North

In addition to her leadership of our Science Department, Jackie has served as the organiser—and, since 2011, the Convenor—of the Top Energy Far North Regional Science Fair, an event that has become a highlight of the academic year for schools across our district. Through this role, she has built strong partnerships with major scientific organisations, including NIWA, Dairy New Zealand, and Massey University, ensuring that our local students have access to authentic, enriching scientific experiences and opportunities.

Her ability to connect students with real-world science, industry expertise, and future pathways has had a transformative impact on science education in Te Tai Tokerau.

Jackie's leadership in our Science Faculty has been marked by her passion for inquiry-based learning, her mentorship of young teachers, and her continuous drive to raise the profile and quality of science education within our kura. Her work embodies our school values and shows what it means to lead with both heart and purpose.

This honour is a well-deserved recognition of her tireless service, her vision for equitable science opportunities, and her deep belief in the potential of every student she teaches.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Jackie on receiving the King's Service Medal (KSM)—an outstanding acknowledgement of her contribution to education. Her dedication has enriched not only Kerikeri High School but the wider Far North community, and we are privileged to have her as part of our team.

Ngā mihi nui, Jackie. Your achievements inspire us all, and we look forward to continuing this journey of excellence together.

Staff News

At the end of 2025 we farewelled Mrs Bronwyn Thompson, Mr Malcolm Bignell, and Mrs Anna Mabilin.

We also acknowledged and thanked Mr Hal Walker, who has returned to the classroom after serving six years for us as Deputy Principal. Mrs Huia Kingi and Mrs Sarah Davis have both won Study Awards for 2026, and Mrs Kate Moss is on Refreshment Leave.

Mr Weight remains on leave in Term 1, and we wish him all the best as he recovers from his surgery.

Over the Christmas Break we had two further staff move on. We farewell Miss Marama Baker (who has been appointed Principal of Matauri Bay School) and Mrs Devri Tipene.

We are thrilled to welcome several new and returning teachers to our staff in 2026.

Miss Jezena Gilmore	Deputy Principal
Mrs Tirion Barrett-Jones	English
Ms Joy Dong	Science
Miss Sophie Gendreau	Hospitality
Mr Ben Martin	Mathematics
Mr Eli Molloy-Wolt	Art
Miss Sharmaine Roch	History/Social Studies
Mrs Rebecca Sharp	English

Returning to us after a number of years teaching in the South Island and in Northland is Mrs Leanne Ray Geography and Social Studies, and also returning is Miss Karalee Whiu as Leader of Learning Māori.

Mr Ben Martin arrives to us from the United Kingdom in early.

Phones at School

Everyone is aware now that 'Phones Away for the Day' is a requirement at schools across the country.

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 before 2.30pm if you need to get a message to your child.

Attendance

Every hour and every day of school counts. Attendance has a strong impact on connection, engagement, learning and consequently achievement. This year we will continue to implement 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.

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 Beth Clarke	Year 7
Mrs Jess Lowe	Year 8
Mrs Roz Clent	Year 9
Matua Jordan Westerlund	Year 10
Mr Seth Brown	Year 11
Ms Davina Derecourt	Year 12
Mr Paul Boardman	Year 13

Assistant Principal

Mr Rolf Weight	Years 7 - 10
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Deputy Principals

Miss Dana Boisen	Year 13
Miss Jezena Gilmore	Year 9
Mrs Renae Rakena	Year 11, Year 12
Mrs Justine Strang	Year 7, Year 8
Mr Daniel Wise	Year 10

If your child needs guidance, our School Counsellors Mrs Fleur Kelaher, Miss Komisi Bloomfield and Mrs Amy Powles in our Wellbeing Department are all 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.

NCEA Results are Now Available

A reminder that 2025 NCEA results are now available for students through their NZQA learner logins. This includes any 2025 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.

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.

Uniform

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 midribs 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.

School Uniform Donations

If you have items of school uniform no longer needed by your whānau and would like to donate these to school, they would be gratefully received. Any donations of school uniform can be dropped off to Reception.

The Uniform Shoppe, Waipapa, Extended Hours

Friday 23 January closed
Saturday 24 January 10.00am – 2.00pm

Monday 26 January closed public holiday
Tuesday 27 January 10.00am – 3.00pm
Wednesday 28 January 10.00am – 3.00pm
Thursday 29 January 10.00am – 3.00pm
Friday 30 January 10.00am – 2.00pm
Saturday 31 January 10.00am – 2.00pm

Monday 2 February 12.00pm – 4.00pm
Tuesday 3 February 12.00pm – 4.00pm
Wednesday 4 February 12.00pm – 4.00pm
Thursday 5 February closed
Friday 6 February closed public holiday
Saturday 7 February 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Normal hours will resume after this date.

Monday 12.00pm – 4.00pm
Wednesday 2.00pm – 5.30pm
Saturday 9.00am – 12.00pm

Chewing Gum and Energy Drinks

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.

Parent/Caregiver Logins to FACTS, our Kerikeri High School Student Management Software



Access to view your student details and information through your Parent/Caregiver Sign in to FACTS has currently been reduced while we import the 2026 timetable. This will be reinstated once school has started and details have been finalised.

For those Parents/Caregivers who are new to the school, we will be issuing further details of how to create a login next month.

For current Parents/Caregivers who currently do not have access and would like a login, please email FACTS@kerikerihigh.ac.nz

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

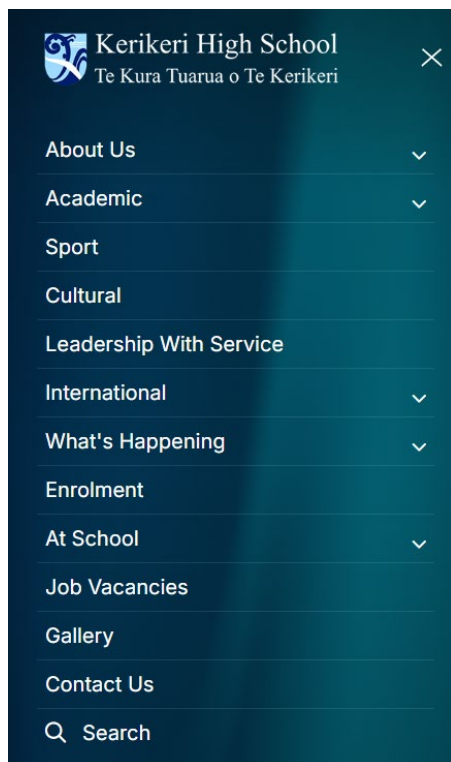
Our School app is an essential communication tool to stay in touch.

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

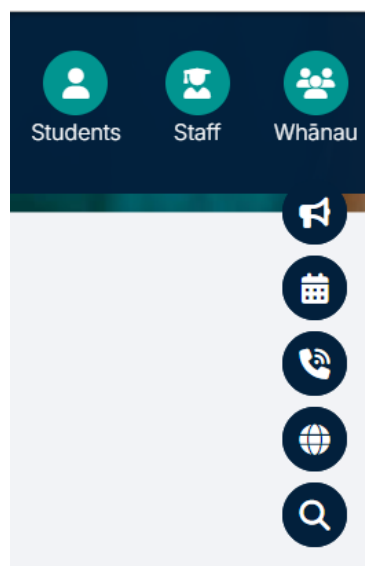
Available through the Apple App Store, or the Google Play Store - search for School Apps NZ and select Kerikeri High School.

Kerikeri High School Website

Our school website is a great place to find helpful information for students and whānau. We encourage you to take some time to explore the site and make use of the resources available. The menu on the left-hand side includes additional drop-down options to help you easily navigate to what you need.



The Whānau Quicklinks icon on the right-hand side takes you easily to the most used links including FACTS, Daily Notices, Newsletters, Prospectus/Parent Handbook, Uniform and Stationery Lists.



The School logo takes you back to the Home Page which has a lot of links to pages within the website and also features School News which is updated regularly and highlights students activities and achievements throughout the year.



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

Next Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Parenting in an Online World 101 – Parents' Evening

Tuesday February 24, 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 29 January for \$10.00.