

Room 1
Mairangi Bay School

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Room 1 community.

Firstly, let me introduce myself. I trained as a teacher in Hamilton and graduated from the University of Waikato in 1973. Until the early 1990s, all of my teaching was in intermediate schools in the Waikato and Hawkes Bay, firstly as a classroom teacher and then later as a team leader, apart from three years as a sole charge principal in a small rural school. In 1991 my wife and I, along with our two sons moved to Torbay so that I could take up the position of Deputy Principal at Long Bay School. The next move was to Pasadena Intermediate as Deputy Principal before I won the position as Principal of Paremoremo School which was renamed RidgeView School in 2000. As our boys had grown up it was time to leave home so my wife and I spent several years (2004 – 2009) in the United Arab Emirates where I taught Year 6 students in an international school for three years and then taught in the brand new Emirates National School as a Year 5 and 6 coordinator. On returning to New Zealand in June of 2009 I was fortunate to be appointed to Mairangi Bay School. My personal interests are travel and photography.

I believe that children learn best when they are happy and feel safe and secure. We will have a lot of fun in Room 1 but there are high expectations for learning and behaviour. Children are encouraged to think, display confidence and curiosity as well as taking responsibility for themselves and their belongings. Room 1 is a place where children should feel comfortable about taking safe risks and as a result they will be challenged to step outside their comfort zones.

Behaviour is managed using a “four-colour peg based system” where children move their peg from one colour to another if their behaviour is inappropriate. The first two moves serve as warnings to the child that their behaviour or learning is not as it should be. There is no consequence other than the student knowing that something needs to improve. If there is a need for a third move during a day, the child will need to write a letter home advising you that they didn't have a good day. Each new day means a new beginning for all children.

Homework.

I encourage all children to read daily and for those children who have not yet mastered basic facts or essential spelling lists this should be a regular part of their home learning. During term 1 I will be asking children to prepare mini speeches to deliver to the class to help them build confidence. At times, specific homework to support the class programme may be given. This is discussed in class before being emailed to the children.

Digital learning (eLearning)

We have sufficient digital devices (one for every two children) to allow students to complete some of their work without pencil and paper. The Chromebooks and desktop computers will also be used for researching items from the Internet and then analysing, using and presenting in a variety of ways. Please rest assured that our system is safe and has filters in

place which prevent children from visiting inappropriate sites. All children have their own Google accounts and can communicate and share information with others. Children's accounts may be suspended if they use the Internet inappropriately. Digital citizenship is constantly being emphasised.

If you need to communicate with me I can usually find five minutes before school for a quick discussion. I will also respond promptly to any emails you may send to me. I am more than happy to arrange a time to meet with you after school but please arrange a time. The home-school partnership is really important so please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns even if they seem trivial.

At parent-teacher interviews in week 4, I will be able to share with you how your child is working in Room 1 and give you my initial impressions of them based on what I have seen and what I have read in their 2018 end of year report and cumulative folders. You will be able to share with me any information you feel is important for me to know. I am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Kind regards
Stuart Dean