

7 February, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and to let you know some key pieces of information for the year ahead.

Your children will have the benefit of two teachers this year: Mrs. Michelle Webster on Mondays-Thursdays and Ms. Gwen Taylor on Fridays. This is Michelle's third year teaching at MBS, and she also has seven years of experience teaching in the USA, England and elsewhere in NZ. She enjoys the outdoors, art, maths, reading and photography. Gwen has plenty of experience at our school as she has been a consistent reliever and classroom teacher. She spends her free time pursuing her interest in Psychology by tutoring Under and Post- Graduate students. She also enjoys playing the guitar and gardening. This is our second year working as a team in this way. The main areas of focus on Mon-Thurs will be reading, writing, maths, our topic and art. On Fridays the focuses will be on spelling, handwriting, oral and written language, Physical Education skills and drama.

We strongly believe that an open line of communication between parent, student and teacher is imperative in order to maintain a healthy and supportive learning environment. The best way to communicate with us is to contact Michelle by email (she checks these daily - although not necessarily *during* the school day). If you can stop in, please do, but be aware that Michelle has teacher meetings at 3:10 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, so she will be unavailable immediately after school on these days.

As you are the leading expert on your own child, we ask that you take a moment to fill in the attached survey "What's the Buzz?" to strengthen our understanding of his or her unique strengths and needs. You may even wish to complete this with your child. Kindly **return the survey before** the "Meet the Teacher" appointments on **Wednesday 27th February** as we may use some of your observations as a springboard for our discussion (appointments are also available on Thursday 28th).

We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming weeks and months and we are also looking forward to a fun, challenging and productive school year ahead.

Kind regards,

Michelle Webster and Gwen Taylor

Email: [michellew@mairangibay.school.nz](mailto:michellew@mairangibay.school.nz) and [gwent@mairangibay.school.nz](mailto:gwent@mairangibay.school.nz)

P.S. This is sent out in case you didn't receive the paper copy. Also, thanks to those who have already sent back their "What's the Buzz?" form.