



Thursday 10th March, 2022

Kia ora Year 2 Whanau,

Now that we have settled into our Year Two classes for 2022, we thought it was a good time to share a little bit about ourselves with you. Please see some details below about Learning from Home. In a couple of weeks we will send out another newsletter outlining some of our awesome learning experiences covered in Term 1 so far and our plans going forward.

Meet Our Year Two Teachers!



Room 11

For those of you who do not know me, here is a little about me. My name is Karen Freeman. I am married to Garth and we have four children and live in Whitby. Aimee is our eldest child, she is 21 this year and is at Otago University in her third year. Patrick, our second child and oldest son, is nearly 19 and is heading down to Dunedin this year to attend University as well. Jack and Sam are identical twins and they are in their second year at Kapiti College. We have been lucky all our children have attended Adventure since they were 5 years old. I have been a parent help at the school on and off since Aimee started at 5.

I started teaching at Adventure after our twins were in Year 2 and have taught in the Kowhai syndicate for 9 years. I also enjoy coaching basketball for the Seniors at school.

We have an incredibly cuddly golden labrador. His name is Ted and you may see us out walking the Whitby walkways. I enjoy watching my children's sports and activities outside of school, catching up with my big family and crafting when I get the chance. I also love to take photos.

Kia Ora, hello and bonjour. My name is Carly St-Laurent and I'm looking forward to being Room 11's teacher every Friday (and working with the lovely Karen). I've been a teacher in New Zealand since moving here in 2008 from Canada with my husband Blaise. We have one child, a 10-year old boy named Ben.

I've loved working with kids since I was 11 and helped my neighbour in her classroom, even on weekends. Many of my relatives were teachers so it all fell together perfectly when I went to teachers college in 2007. I've taught a variety of ages and classroom styles over my 10+ years in New Zealand.

I am a nerd and proud of it. I love gaming; both board games and video games. I have a crafty brain but have discovered a passion for harakeke (flax) weaving over the last couple of years. I grew up playing softball but now I tend to enjoy chasing my boy, attempting mountain biking with my family and scuba diving.

I feel one of the most important jobs a teacher has is to form relationships with their students. We spend a large amount of time with students and when a child feels comfortable with their teacher they are willing to try anything; and I love showing tamariki new things! I look forward to making new relationships with all of you, your children, your families and my co-workers at Adventure School.

Mrs Freeman and Mrs St-Laurent



Room 13

Hi everyone. My name is Vanessa Burn and I teach in Room 13. I have taught at Adventure School for the past 2 years (this will be my third). I have a daughter Chloe who is 17 (nearly 18) and has just gone down to Otago University to do a Bachelor of Health Science. She wants to be a physiotherapist. My son Ryan is 14 and he is at St Patrick's College Silverstream in Year 11. We have a beautiful short haired pointer named Jewel. She keeps us very active and needs to be walked or run everyday!! I have been teaching for over 20 years. Most of my teaching has been at Paremata School. I love teaching 5, 6 and 7 year olds. I have been doing it for a while now and it is super rewarding. I really enjoy exercising, mainly through walking and going to the gym to do yoga and pilates. I also like to bake, read, listen to music and chat to my friends. I am an active relaxer so I don't sit down too much! All of my family live in Christchurch, so I am often flying down there during the holidays to hang out with them.



Hello everyone. My name is Vanessa Clark and I am lucky to be teaching in Room 13 most Wednesdays. I have taught at Adventure School for over 15 years. I am married to Vaughan and have two adult daughters and a cat called Brian. I have recently moved to Paremata and I am enjoying lots of walks and bike rides around Pauatahanui Inlet. I love Art and Music and am looking forward to getting to know the awesome kids in Year 2 better.

Room 14

Hello all. For those who do not know me, my name is Alesha Wilson and I can be found in Room 14. I have 2 fur babies, Gizmo the cat and Maizee the dog whom I adore and who love each other (most of the time!). I live in Te Marua, Upper Hutt in a semi rural location so am also fortunate enough to have a small brood of chickens and a flock of ducks that visit daily. I raised a couple of these ducklings a few years ago when they were orphaned, and they made many visits to the class that Term!

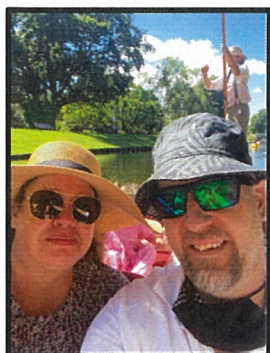
I come from a family of four, I have two wonderful parents who work for the Air Force and are based in Blenheim at the moment due to my Dad's current posting, and a younger sister who lives in Tasmania, Australia working for the New Zealand Red Cross. This is my eighth year of teaching and fifth year teaching at Adventure School. I previously taught Years 0-3 in Matiere, Central King Country in a small rural school but grew up and studied in Auckland.



Room 15

Hi there, for those who do not know me, my name is Cathy Murray and I teach in Room 15. I am married to Mike and I have 2 stepsons who are currently 19 (Aidan) and 20 (Karlin) years of age and are out in the workforce. I also have a son, Charlie who is Year 7 in Room 26 this year. We have a small very fluffy dog named Bella who likes to bark at anything including leaves and the wind. We live in Whitby and have done so since 2013. We love to do things as a family and spend a lot of time exploring New Zealand together. A new hobby that I have recently taken up is adult ballet and it has been proving to be a very good opportunity for me to laugh at myself!

I have been teaching for almost 20 years now and I have been at Adventure School since 2013. Up until this year I had always taught New Entrants and Year 1 but I am loving teaching my fabulous class of Year 2's this year. I always wanted to be a teacher from the age of 5 and if I was not a teacher I would be an archaeologist.



Home Learning

Kowhai teachers have created a parent guide to support your child whilst isolating at home. We will provide this to children who are isolating because they are a household contact and children who have recovered from Covid but haven't completed the isolation period. Please contact your child's class teacher to access our Kowhai online learning if your child requires this.

From your awesome Year 2 team,



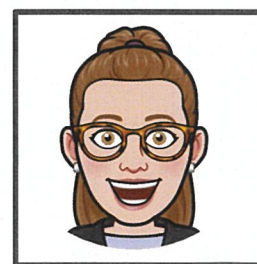
Vanessa Burn
(Team Leader)
Room 13



Karen Freeman
Room 11



Alesha Wilson
Room 14



Cathy Murray
Room 15



Vanessa Clark
Room 13



Carly St-Laurent
Room 11