

Thursday 2 February 2023



Kia ora Mānuka Whānau,

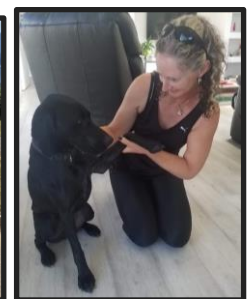
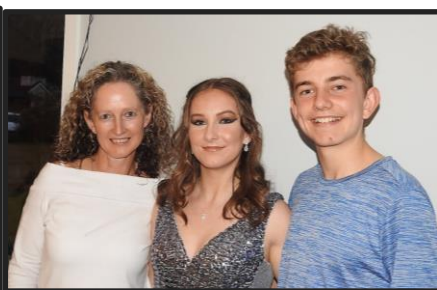
Welcome to the Mānuka teaching team for 2023! We thought it was a good time to share a little bit about ourselves with you. Next week we will send out a syndicate newsletter outlining some of our awesome learning experiences we will cover in Term 1 and our plans going forward.

Meet Our Mānuka Teachers for 2023!



Room 13

Hi everyone. My name is Vanessa Burn and I teach in Room 13. I have taught at Adventure School for the past 3 years (this will be my fourth). I have a daughter Chloe who is 18 (nearly 19) and is in her second year at Otago University doing a Bachelor of Health Science. She wants to be a physiotherapist. My son Ryan is 15 and he is at St Patrick's College Silverstream in Year 12. 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 long time 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 Thursdays. 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 2-3 better.

Room 14

My name is Karen Freeman. I am married to Garth and we have four children and live in Whitby. Aimee, 21 and Patrick 19 are our oldest two children and they are both studying at Otago University in Dunedin. Jack and Sam are identical twins and they are in their third year at Kapiti College. We have been lucky all our children have attended Adventure since they were 5 years old. I have been associated with the school as a parent since 2006 when Aimee started school. I started teaching at Adventure in 2014. I also enjoy coaching basketball for the Seniors.

We have an incredibly cuddly golden labrador who is getting old but thinks he is still a pup. 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 14's teacher every Friday (and working with the lovely Karen for our third year as a team). I've been a teacher in New Zealand since moving here in 2008 from Canada with my husband Blaise. We have one child, an 11-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.

Karen and Carly

Mrs Freeman and Mrs St-Laurent



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 20 (Aidan) and 21 (Karlín) years of age and are out in the workforce. I also have a 12 year old son, Charlie who is Year 8 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 took up last year was adult ballet and it has proven to be a very good opportunity for me to laugh at myself! I have been teaching for 20 years now and I have been at Adventure School since 2013. I am really looking forward to teaching Year 2 and 3 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.



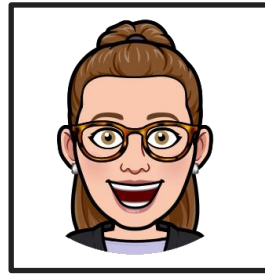
From your awesome Mānuka team,



Vanessa Burn
(Team Leader)
Room 13



Karen Freeman
Room 14



Cathy Murray
Room 15



Vanessa Clark
Room 13



Carly St-Laurent
Room 14