

Respect, Responsibility, Arohe, Self-discipline, Honesty

Phone: 07 862 8602 Absentee Messages: 027 9523203

#### 20th August 2020

Kia ora tatou katoa.

Ko Richard Wilkinson toku ingoa, toku wahine, ko Maude Ruaine Mani, ko Zion toku pepe, no Tamaki Makaurau me Awanui hoki.

As the NEW Principal at Miller Avenue School, I bring a diverse range of skills and expertise across a plethora of experiences.

Originally from Auckland, my wife and I've spent the previous 8 years in International Education as the Primary Principal of Leman International School in Chengdu China, prior to this, I was in middle management in Amman, Jordan at the International Academy Amman.

While in NZ, I was the Principal of Herekino School in the North Hokianga and the Deputy Principal of Pompallier Catholic School. I've been privileged to work in special character schools and have strengths in assessment and curriculum development. I've been warmly welcomed by the staff and tamariki since arriving, it really is a testament to the school's culture and climate. There was a small hui whakatau (welcome) held last Friday and then a handover at MAS, unfortunately numbers were restricted because of the level 2 restrictions.

I am thankful to the Board of Trustees ably led by our Board Chair, Kelly Te Moananui – Judd for their support and patience during my relocation period. The school is in good stead in terms of its governance.

We are in challenging times, shrouded in uncertainty. COVID has reshaped the way we act and think while impacting on individuals, whanau and communities. One thing that remains absolute though, our tamariki and staff are living through a time that will build resilience and tenacity.



Here are a few quick reminders:

- If your tamariki are mildly unwell please keep them home.
- Remember to advise the school office if your child is unwell, please be specific about your child's absence. (cough, feeling unwell, doctors appointment etc.)
- <u>Level 2 restrictions</u> are in place, while your child/ren are at school, this means that parents are not permitted onto the school grounds, thank you for observing this practice.
- Masks are optional, if you'd prefer that your tamariki wear a face mask while at school, please advise their classroom teacher.
- The school is open every day for teaching and learning, parents who choose to keep their children home during this time of uncertainty will not be provided with online work or learning during alert level 2. We would prefer to have your children at school enjoying face to face instruction. Thanks for your understanding.
- Totara Springs Sports camp has been cancelled.

We always welcome feedback from our parents, please ensure that when arriving at school, should we return to level 1, in the near future parents are expected to sign in at the school office.

I look forward to meeting many of our parents once we are free from the current restrictions. Life continues for many of our tamariki, they seem unfazed by the situation. It's imperative that the words we choose around our tamariki is thoughtful and deliberate. Focus on the positive aspects of COVID – we still live in a beautiful country that is the envy of many globally, we have whanau there to support us and finally, the staff at MAS are always thinking about ways that we build positivity with our whanau and tamariki.



Regards

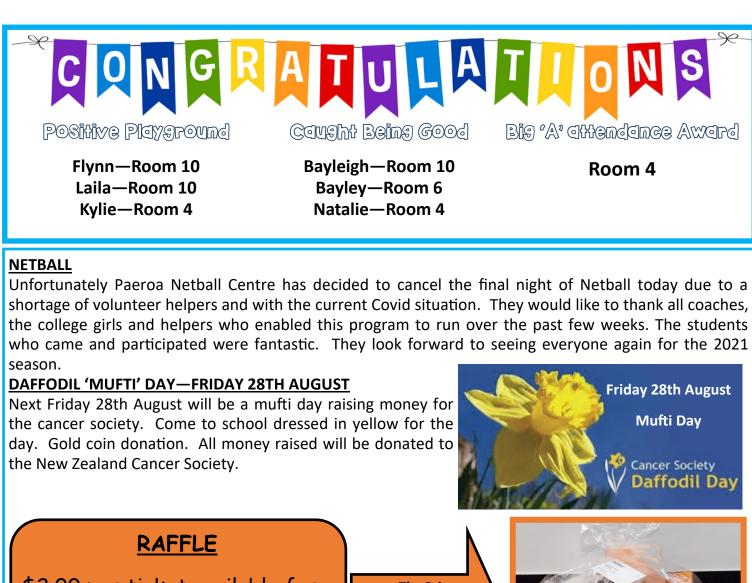
Richard Wilkinson Principal Miller Avenue School

**Miller Avenue School Contact Information** 

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Website: www.millerave.school.nz

Bank Account: 03-1572-0010292-00 (please put in payment details) Westpac, Paeroa



\$2.00 per ticket available for purchase at the school office.

All proceeds raised are getting donated to Starship Hospital.

The Prize Gift basket to the value of \$200 kindly donated by Unichem Pharmacy, Paeroa



Can you help??

donations

Four of our senior students are organising a mini-gala to be held at school in a couple of weeks (date to be confirmed) to fundraise money for 'Starship Hospital'.

If you have any unused or unwanted children's toys, games or children's books at home please bring them into our school office.

We will be having a mystery bottle stall and we ask for any donations of unused, non-alcoholic, bottles (eg. Juice, sauce, vinegar)

Please bring any donations into the school office.



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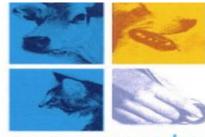
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