

**JASON TAYLOR**  
*Leave it in a better place*



All Black legends Sir Graham Henry and Richie McCaw have a mantra – “*leave the jersey in a better place.*”

They were inspired by the Maori concept of *whakapapa* – meaning - a responsibility on the current generation of adding to ‘the legacy’.

With the fast pace of life it’s sometimes a challenge to do but my wife, Susie, and I try our best to instil this concept in our son, Eric (Year 7), and our daughter, Ashley (Year 5 at MBS).

So, it was awesome to find out that Eric’s Intermediate’s is also focused on *whakapapa* – with its four core values of; Respect, Kindness, Resilience and Honesty. That’s one of the main reasons why we specifically choose to find a home in MBIS’s school zone.

Our children are new to Murray’s Bay, having lived a world away in an Asian schooling system. Believe it or not, they haven’t attended a school for the last 12 months. So, their life had been put on hold.

Mine too. I’ve been waiting to sell my ESL English Education business, which I started from scratch, and return home after 13 years.

So, the brakes are well and truly off for our family unit and we are looking forward to getting involved and do our bit to help our local community’s *whakapapa*.

That’s why when I got the email in my inbox the other week about parent trustee positions, I thought, here’s an opportunity not to be missed.

5 reasons to vote for me:

- Like Ritchie, I’m always willing to ‘sweep out the sheds’
- Time and Energy: Having just arrived back from overseas, I’ve got loads of it
- I’m local and here to stay
- I’m a teacher and a business person
- I have a ‘personal stake’

With my kids going through our school for the next few years, I have a vested interest in making sure our shinning Intermediate’s future is as bright as it possibly can be.

Not just for Eric and Ashley, but for all children who are lucky enough each morning to slip on their school uniform, carefully consider MBIS’s four core values and ask themselves, “how can I leave this jersey in a better place?”

There’s the ‘legacy’ aspect for sure, but there’s another important reason to leave it in a better place. So, mum doesn’t shout at them for leaving it lying around the house again!