

The Board of Trustees (BOT) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Melinda Bennett to the position of Principal of Murrays Bay Intermediate School. Ms Bennett will commence the position on 27 November, 2017.

In March 2017, following feedback from students, staff and parents of MBIS, the BOT developed a common set of criteria for the appointment of the new principal, following Colin Dale's retirement. A large number of high quality applications were received, from around New Zealand and overseas, and many demonstrated leadership and experience at the highest levels. After a robust process and extensive due diligence, the BOT is confident that Ms Bennett has the skills and experience to meet the needs of our school and community.

Ms Bennett brings 12 years of experience in the role of Principal - currently at Devonport Primary, and prior to that, Ahuroa Primary School. She is a visionary, collaborative, educational leader and demonstrates the strong business acumen which is required to successfully lead a large and complex school like MBIS. She is passionate about MBIS and committed to the school's invitational ideology, having taught, and been involved in the leadership team, here between 2003 - 2005. She has strong connections with other schools in our community as an Executive Member of the North Shore Principals Association, serves on the Westlake Boys High School's BOT, and is one of 10 Principals nationally who mentor and support other schools in the implementation and use of an assessment tool, PaCT. She speaks Te Reo Māori and holds a first class Bachelor of Music (Honours) from Auckland University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Leadership and is currently enrolled at the University of Auckland to complete the last stage of a Master of Educational Leadership.

From Ms Bennett, Tēna koutou katoa,

I am delighted to be returning to Murrays Bay Intermediate as the Principal. I grew up on the North Shore, attended Rangitoto College and now live locally with my two teenage children. Murrays Bay Intermediate has always held a special place in my heart and is the place where my passion for working with intermediate aged students was first ignited. My teaching experience since then has been almost exclusively with students in years 6-8.

MBIS has a long standing reputation for excellence. I am honoured to have been selected as the next principal to lead the school into the future, on a continued journey of excellence.


I am very much looking forward to connecting with students, staff and the wider community; developing a deeper understanding about what makes MBIS so special; and then working together with you to shape how the future at MBIS looks.

Naku te raurau, nau te raurau, ka ora ai te iwi.

The BoT would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and ongoing support of Shannon Robinson, currently in the role of Relieving Principal, and the capable and committed team supporting Mrs Robinson. The BoT continues to work alongside the MBIS leadership team to govern MBIS through

this period of transition and growth. We are sure that the entire community will join us in warmly welcoming Ms Bennett back to the MBIS whanau.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darren Tolmie".

Darren Tolmie
MBIS Board of Trustees Chairperson