

25 July 2017

Dear Fergusson Intermediate Families

Back in May, I passed on the news that our long serving Principal, Paul Patterson was retiring at the end of term 3. Following Paul's announcement, the Board of Trustees began a recruitment process to appoint a replacement. Obviously, with such big shoes to fill this was no easy feat. We engaged with the Fergusson Intermediate staff and students to ensure that many viewpoints were considered when determining what we were looking for in our next Principal.

Our recruitment process has now concluded and I am pleased to let you know that we have appointed Simon Kenny as the new Fergusson Intermediate Principal. Some of you may know Simon as he is the current Principal at Birchville School and has previously taught at Fergusson. I asked Simon to write a short blurb introducing himself to our community and his introduction is included below (along with a family photo).

Please contact me if you have any questions about the appointment process. I will send out communications about our farewell function for Paul Patterson closer to the time.

Kind regards, Ros Connelly
Chair, Board of Trustees, Fergusson Intermediate



Kia ora koutou, my name is Simon Kenny.

I grew up in Blenheim and moved with my family to Wellington at the age of 14. For the past 6 years I have lived locally in Upper Hutt. My wife Kaylene Macnee is the Principal of Pinehaven School and our son, Marshall is 10 years old.

I started my working life as a cartoonist, illustrating a few publications before finding myself working in the graphic design industry. After enjoying a great career in design I felt that I needed to do something that brought me closer to working with people so at the age of 26 I applied for teachers college and trained at Wellington College of Education for three years to receive my Bachelor of Education degree.

"high expectations for all"

My first teaching job was at Raroa Intermediate School where I taught Year 7 and 8 classes for 4 years. Two of these years were spent in a collaborative teaching space. After 4 years at Raroa Intermediate I moved to gain experience teaching in a primary school. I taught at Brooklyn Primary School with Year 3 and 4 students. After Brooklyn I returned to Raroa Intermediate in the role of ICT specialist and led the technology syndicate (Visual Arts, Performing Arts and ICT). Part of the reason for this change was the birth of our son Marshall and the opportunity to be out of a classroom to spend every Wednesday as a stay at home Dad. (An opportunity I relished and am incredibly grateful for.) From Raroa I went to Fergusson Intermediate for two years before becoming the Associate Principal at Discovery School. At Discovery I led the senior syndicate of Year 7 and 8 before applying for the Principal position at Birchville School in 2013.

I have been the Principal at Birchville School for the past 4 and a half years where I have enjoyed working closely with amazing staff, a focused and committed BOT and a very supportive community. I have always had a love of intermediates and see my knowledge of the local schools and the strong sense of collaboration in the Upper Hutt Cluster as a real advantage when transitioning from Birchville School to Fergusson Intermediate. An interesting fact is that Paul Patterson was on the appointment panel at Raroa Intermediate when I won my first ever teaching job many years ago!

I am looking forward to getting to know the wide community that Fergusson Intermediate represents and working in the Intermediate environment again alongside passionate and dedicated staff. I am really excited about going back to Fergusson Intermediate and look forward to meeting you all in person in the near future.

Simon Kenny