

Good morning Parents, grandparents, friends of Bayview School, distinguished guests, and our wonderful Bayview students. Can you believe another year has gone by!

It has been yet another full on busy year with many wonderful achievements and some challenges also. It has been a year of learning how to deal with life's challenges and building resilience, not just for the kids but for the adults also. It has been a year of reflection and prioritising. Education as we know it is changing, the emphasis has moved away from rote learning of lots of facts because with the internet now and Uncle Google we have all of those facts at our finger tips. Priorities have moved towards creativity, collaboration, students understanding what they are learning and why and using authentic contexts to do this. Another emerging priority is wellness and emotional intelligence.

We hopefully all know the meaning of life is to be happy. Happy means different things to different people. For some it is making lots of money and having a flash house, for others it is being surrounded by family and friends, whatever it is for each of us, it is what we strive for as we journey through life. The thing is, what makes us happy changes throughout our journey, what makes us happy at 10 is different from what makes us happy at 25, and continues changing the older we get. The thing about being happy is that to be happy we have to understand what it means to be content.

To be content we have to have a good understanding of what is important for ourselves as individuals and as part of society.

And once we know what is important for each of us we need to understand gratitude, because until we can be grateful for the big things and grateful for the small things we can't be truly happy.

Parents if there is one thing you should teach your child it is to be grateful.

This year at Bayview we have had a number of challenges some of them small and some of them big! But throughout all the challenges we have had a whole lot to be grateful for.

I am grateful for you the parents for choosing Bayview School and for being so supportive.

I am grateful for our Bayview staff for being relentless in making a positive difference in children's lives.

I am grateful for a very supportive Board of Trustees.

I am grateful for Erik Corbett our most outstanding caretaker and top human on the planet.

I am grateful for Mark Whitford the leader of our community of learning and great friend to Bayview School.

I am grateful to Steve Hurley and his Whanau for making our production a visual spectacular.

I am grateful for Rotary club Glenfield for supporting us this year.

I am grateful to have our wonderful Pauline Pictor working with our choir and for looking after all of us in her very special way.

I am grateful for Whaea Carol, Whaea Aarani and Hakopa for leading our kapa haka group to greatness this year.

I am grateful for Wendy Pye and Judy Stevenson for their ever continuing support of our school and for their drive to support raising student achievement.

I am grateful to Emily and Liam for understanding my vision and translating messages chosen by the staff and students into powerful images around our school. I am sure you have seen the 5 amazing murals painted around the school. I am so grateful that our paths crossed this year.

I am grateful to be working with and for such fabulous children who make me smile every day with their excitement for their learning and their great sense of humour.

I am grateful that it has finally stopped raining!

I am grateful for today. In the words of that very wise philosopher Macklemore "I wish somebody would have told me, that someday these would be the good old days. All the love you won't forget. Cause someday soon your whole life's gonna change, you'll miss the magic of these good old days".

I feel very lucky and very grateful and would like to thank everyone for your support over the year. I finish the year being happy.

There are lots of children who about to be very happy as they are awarded cups and certificates for outstanding achievements. I know they are grateful for the love and support each of them has received from you, their parents and from the staff and students of Bayview.

Just before we give out the awards, as we move into the holiday season my wish for you is to be safe, be well, embrace joy, celebrate the little things, laugh and love and be grateful.

Be happy.

Di ☺