

Murrays Bay School & Murrays Bay Intermediate School

On 19th October, 2006, Murrays Bay School & Murrays Bay Intermediate in North Shore, Auckland were awarded accreditation as International Safe Schools. This award is the result of several years of work to improve safety for students and staff at Murrays Bay Intermediate and Primary school. Both schools reported being *"delighted that our joint application for all students and staff to be declared an international safe school was successful"*. Dr Carolyn Coggan of SCFNZ led the formal accreditation ceremony, and she was joined by two other members of the International Safe Schools movement, Tania Peters and Graeme Barber.



Student leaders at the ceremony reminded us all that *"our schools aims are to have a clean, comfortable, safe, relaxed, enjoyable, inviting environment"*. They also acknowledged the need *"to keep evolving and improving our schools because we live in an ever-changing society"*.

It was further acknowledged that Murrays Bay Intermediate and Murrays Bay Primary *"by becoming internationally designated safe schools will allow students to experience high levels of personal challenge, achievement and growth in a safe environment and also gain appreciation and understanding of ethnic diversity"*.

In their application for designation, 81 programmes covering emotional intelligence, road safety, eliminating violence, water safety, fire safety, sun-smart, leadership and other life skills, fitness, nutrition, cultural awareness, self-esteem, property management and cyber safety were outlined. A 2006 Safety survey highlighted the strong sense of belonging among students and staff at these two schools.

Student leaders at the ceremony concluded by reminding us all that *"this is the beginning of an exciting and on-going process that will benefit our schools' communities for all the years that lie ahead"*.



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