

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
TE KURA TIAKI, WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO
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Shelley Vaile
Master's Degree of Education Student
Victoria University of Wellington

The Principal,
All Primary School,
Wellington

April 2014

Dear sir/madam,

My name is Shelley Vaile, I am a practising teacher. As part of my studies to complete a Master's degree at Victoria University of Wellington, I am conducting research into teachers' application of assessment criteria when making judgments of students' achievement in mathematics against the national standards. The research will focus on teachers who teach mathematics at Year 5 and/or Year 6 from schools in Wellington during 2014.

Due to the nature of the research, I need to include teachers from as many schools as possible, so would be very keen for teachers from your school to be involved.

The research involves teachers completing a questionnaire about their views on the teaching, learning and assessment of mathematics. All of the Year 5 and 6 students taught by teachers involved in the research would complete three 30-45 minute general mathematics assessments (one each in Terms 1, 2 and 3). The teachers' initial and final judgments against the national standards in mathematics for 2014 for their Year 5 and 6 students would also be collected.

This research will give an indication of the range in teachers' judgments of year 5 and 6 students against the mathematics national standards. Any relationships between teachers' views on the teaching, learning and assessment of mathematics and their application of success criteria will also be elucidated.

A small group of teachers (4-5) will be invited to participate in an in-depth component of the research. This component will involve being observed by the researcher while teaching mathematics and interviewed about their teaching and assessment of mathematics. This component of the research will take place between May and August 2014.

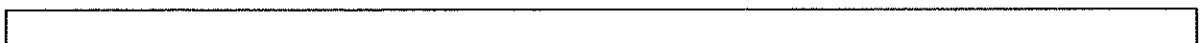
Please reply with the names of the Year 5 and Year 6 teachers interested in being involved in this research. Participation in the research is voluntary, teachers have the right to withdraw from the study at any point before the data is analysed and the identities of all participants will be protected.

A summary of the findings of this research will be given to all participants.

If you are happy for teachers to consider being participants in this research, please pass on the attached letter of introduction to the Year 5 and Year 6 teachers at your school. For further information please contact me at the e-mail address below.

Yours sincerely

Shelley Vaile
Master's of Education Student
Victoria University of Wellington
vaileshel@myvuw.ac.nz





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Shelley Vaile
Master's Degree of Education Student
Victoria University of Wellington

Year 5 and/or Year 6 Teacher,
Wellington

2 April 2014

Dear Teachers of Year 5 and Year 6 students,

Thank-you for considering taking part in this research project.

My name is Shelley Vaile, I am a practising teacher. As part of my studies to complete a Master's degree at Victoria University of Wellington, I am conducting research into teachers' application of assessment criteria when making judgments of students' achievement in mathematics against the national standards. The research will focus on teachers who teach mathematics at Year 5 and/or Year 6 from schools in Wellington during 2014.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. The research will take place throughout the 2014 school year. All teachers participating in the research will complete a questionnaire in Term 1, the Year 5 and 6 students in their classes will be given 3 parallel tests to complete throughout the year, one each, in Term 1, at the end of Term 2, and the beginning of Term 4. Teachers will also supply their initial and end of year judgments of students' achievement against the mathematics national standards. All teachers have the right to withdraw from the study at any point prior to **14th November 2014**.

I will also approach a small group (4-5) teachers for a more in-depth study to take place late in Term 2 and Term 3. This will involve observing them teach a mathematics lesson and interviewing them about their teaching and assessment in mathematics. I will ask permission to record the interviews and any recordings taken will be destroyed at the end of the study. I may ask permission to take photographs of the teachers while teaching mathematics, and any photographs taken will be destroyed at the end of the study. Once again participation in this part of the research is voluntary and teachers will have the right to withdraw prior to **Friday 26th September**. The identities of all participants will be protected.

A summary of the findings of this research will be given to all participants.

For further information or to agree to participate in this study please contact me at the e-mail address below.

Yours sincerely

Shelley Vaile
Master's of Education Student
Victoria University of Wellington
vaileshel@myvuw.ac.nz

