

BOTANY CAMPUS

Friday 21st June 2024

Term 2: Week 8

GARY JOHNSTONE - ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents and caregivers

Last night after arriving home from a busy day, I sunk into my favourite chair. Then, with laptop on my knees, I navigated to the AI (Artificial Intelligence) Web site, *Chat GP*, and typed the following command in the dialogue box.

"compose a brief introduction to the newsletter for caregivers of students attending the senior campus of Elim Christian College"

Seconds later, the following message appeared on the laptop screen.

"Dear Caregivers,

Greetings in the name of Christ! We are delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of the Elim Christian College Senior Campus Newsletter. This publication is designed to keep you connected with the vibrant life and ongoing activities at our senior campus.

At Elim Christian College, we are committed to fostering an environment where students not only excel academically but also grow spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Our senior campus is a place where young adults are prepared to face the world with strong Christian values and a deep sense of purpose.

Through this newsletter, we aim to share with you the latest news, achievements, and important updates. You will find highlights of student accomplishments, information about upcoming events, and insights from our dedicated faculty and staff. Our goal is to keep you informed and engaged, strengthening the partnership between school and home.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of our community. Together, let us inspire and guide our students to shine brightly in their faith and future endeavors."

Who could disagree with the content of the AI response? The only clue perhaps that the greeting was penned by a machine, was the Americanised spelling of the last word – endeavors.

Increasingly, our students are bombarded with messages on social media, television, advertising, influencers – the list goes on -that are misleading, false, and manipulative. Others like the one produced by AI undermine and cheapen the quality of close and trusting relationship. Messages that are **almost** right can be the most dangerous and seductive.

DATES

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

School closes for students at 12.50pm

Thursday 27th June (1.30-6.30)

Matariki Public Holiday

Friday 28th June

Last day of Term 2

Friday 5th July

Term 3 Starts

Monday 22nd July

Scripture has much to say about the need for discernment. Paul wrote, *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing, you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”* Romans 12:2

It is a privilege to partner with you to teach discernment and truth to students in these most challenging of times in which we all live.

“Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.”
Charles Spurgeon

BC MUSIC EVENTS

Our recent Uxbridge community concert was a great success, highlighting the incredible talent and dedication of our students across various musical genres from both campuses. This concert featured performances from our chamber orchestra, Elim Voice choir, chamber music, lively jazz combos, and worship team. On the same day, our mixed-age group of advanced chamber music musicians also competed in the chamber music contest. They delivered a performance that captivated both the audience and adjudicators, receiving exceptional feedback for their musicality and cohesion. Their achievement is a testament to their hard work and the outstanding support they receive from our music department. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishment and look forward to their continued growth in the field of music.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Tree Planting in Cascade reserve

Thanks to our Yr 13 OED students and Yr 11 volunteers for helping plant 200 native grasses and trees in the Cascade Reserve behind the school. This activity was part of our partnership with the Auckland Council Adopt-a-Parks program. As a school we are committed to playing our part as kaitiaki or guardians of our local environment and to contributing to the restoration and protection of our local reserve.



Weed Control at Duders Regional Park

Again, well done to the Yr 12 OED class for their contribution in helping eliminate woolly nightshade and other environmental pests within Duders Regional Park. A recent trip to the regional park allowed us to work alongside the park ranger and other volunteers to help remove this invasive and noxious weed.

Poetry in Action

On the 6th of June, we welcomed the Poetry in Action Theatre Company from Australia to our Botany Campus. Known as one of Australia's truly global and innovative theatre companies, the company has performed for hundreds of different communities and entertained hundreds of thousands of young people.

Thank you to those parents of years 10, 11 and 12 students who supported us in hosting this event. It was captivating to learn about Wilfred Owen's life and the show provided valuable insight into the way in which war impacts men, women and society. The title of the show is 'Words of War' and, having watched this live performance of his poetry, it is easy to see how Owen became one of the most striking and influential voices of his era. The dynamic show took students through the horror, heroism and hopelessness of conflict. By developing a broader appreciation of people's attitudes to war we can better appreciate, and try to give voice to, the tragedy and suffering caused by war today.

