



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE 21 NOVEMBER 2024

Kia ora one and all

As we near the end of another action-packed school year, firstly I wish to thank you all, our Elim school community, for all you have done to enable us to partner with you in this amazing treasure called Christian Education. As with every year, we have all had our ups and downs, our celebrations, and our challenges. But we all committed daily to do our utmost to provide stunning character building, knowledge building and skill extending opportunities for our tamariki.

Secondly we have a few reminders and announcements:

PSCD (proprietor's special character donation): if you have not been able to contribute this donation so far this year but would be in a position now to contribute, we would appreciate this immensely. The proprietor enables us through your donation to pour into our curriculum, the biblical worldview and this is the heartbeat of who we are and what we do. Your donation is tax deductible, and March 31 is just around the corner now.

From our Proprietors: could you also please let the parents know the good news that we've decided to postpone the planned 2025 increase to support the parents/caregivers in the current challenging financial climate.

Prayer: thank you for praying for our school and please keep praying. We also appreciate the weekly prayer times spent by our ARISE Parent Prayer group. We need the work of the Holy Spirit - discernment, wisdom, insight and foresight. Please join with us in being the guardians and shepherds God has called us all to be at this school.

Please also pray against the work of the enemy ... he is not to be feared but is not at all happy with us lifting the name of Jesus high, taking time to pray together, he dislikes prayer walks and Hosanna Weeks - he is not all happy that you have chosen a Christian education. But let's do it anyway!!!! Don't look at the enemy, instead look at your King!

Here are our 2025 Dates

Term 1: Monday 3 Feb - Friday 11 April

Term 2: Monday 28 April - 26 June

Term 3: Monday 14 July - Friday 19 Sept

Term 4: Monday 6 October – Friday 12 December

Confirmed Staff Only Days

Term 1: MOE approved TOD 7 March - Structured Maths Day 1 (Years 0-8) TBC

Term 2: June 3 Kahui Ako, and June 27 Christian Schools Conference

Term 3: MOE approved TOD 8 August - Structured Maths Day 2 (Years 0-8) TBC

National Holidays

Term 1: 6 February Waitangi Day

Term 2: 2 June King's Birthday; 20 June Matariki Day

Term 4: 27 October Labour Day

Welcome to Mrs Amy Knott who has joined our Junior Years at Golfands this week. What an excellent addition to our staffing team.

Resignations:

(1) It is with immense appreciation but real sadness that we announce the resignation of **Mrs Mandy Heim** our Deputy Principal Middle Years. After 27 stellar years at our school, Mandy and Grant move to Australia at year's end. Following success as one of our Y9-13 English teachers and Senior Dean, based at our Botany Campus, Mrs Heim was appointed to lead the Middle Years. This she has done superbly well and with the support of our wonderful MY staff she has broken much new ground, providing a superb, enriching and challenging learning curriculum for our Y7-10 students. Her unwavering commitment to the Lord has shone through constantly in her work and she leaves an incredible legacy.

(2) **Mrs Lyn Mckenzie** also leaves at year's end, bringing to a close, 20 years of faithful, inspired and passionate teaching at Elim Christian College. Mrs Mckenize has been an absolute anchor in the delivery and administration of our Y7/8 curriculum and such a delightful person to work with.

(3) **Mr Michael Lowe**, Y11-13 Chemistry teacher and 'Mr Popular' has recently married and now leaves us to enable his wife to take up a placement as a Doctor at Whakatane hospital.

Recent Deputy Principal Appointments: having advertised nationally, we congratulate both Tody Granat and Michael Mckenzie on their appointments as Deputy Principals.

Mr Granat takes over the leadership of Botany Campus (BC) in the position left vacant by Mr Briscoe; and **Mr Mckenzie** takes over the leadership of Golfands Middle Years (GCMY) from Mrs Heim.

Together with our incoming Principal Mr Julian Adamson, Mr Johnstone and our 3 Deputy Principals, not forgetting to mention the amazing Mrs Groenewald, will form a stunning, adventurous, dependable, faith-filled, highly professional and God-loving leadership team in 2025.

Advanced Notices

- Botany Campus will shortly conclude external exams and then an internal and external repaint will start for Rooms 1-17; over the holidays we hope to install our first electronic scoreboard in the gym and later in February see the installation of some new lockers.
- Work is underway for the planning of an additional science room at GC, the installation of new lockers for middle years and repairs to the flooring in the hall.

- Three planning meetings have now been held regarding the building of a second Y1-6 playground area and Y7-10 confidence course. Funds will need to be raised and although it will take time, we are very enthusiastic about adding to the facilities of our wonderful Golflands Campus. Huge appreciation for our ARISE PTA team and to all parents for your support of our fundraisers this year.
- We pray God's blessings on our senior student mission trip which leaves next week for the Philippines under the leadership of Mr Charman and Mrs Chellan.
- Both campus offices open on Tuesday 21 January
- New staff are inducted on Friday 24 January
- All staff are involved in our '3-day staff preparation intensive 29-31 January
- All students start classes on Monday 3 February

In conclusion: we hope many parents, caregivers and grandparents will join us for our many upcoming Prize Giving and certificate assemblies.

"Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favoured by God] is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of scoffers (ridiculers). But their delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law [His precepts and teachings] they [habitually] meditate day and night."

Nga Mihi nui

Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL