



GOLFLANDS CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

20th March 2019



Updates from Murray Burton - Principal

Kia Ora Elim Community

This was a cool link I found over the weekend.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/384887/sydney-opera-house-lit-up-with-fern-as-tribute-to-terror-victims>

Apparently, they have promised to do this again when we win the World Cup.

Thank you parents and caregivers for your support since Friday. You have been looking after each other and looking after your children so well. Certainly this is not an easy time.

This is what we talked about as staff and have done as a school.

At a time like this it's important to proceed carefully and look to do things that will assist all students and their families. Many families and teenagers will be working through their responses, by tomorrow they may well have come to terms at least in part with this absolutely horrendous and despicable act of violence that has no place in our country or indeed anywhere in the world. Each campus will start with an assembly and normalise everything, proceeding step by step through the days and weeks. If you don't feel able to cope with any conversation you don't have to. This is not an opportunity to moralise. Please be wise, sensitive and find joy in being alive and another great day at Elim Christian College.

At BC the Prefects took leadership in assembly with scripture, prayers, flowers, sharing and worship. A number of students visited the local Mosque after school. MAC held a previously arranged powhiri for a group of students from overseas. Following that they had a minute silence, the flag was lowered to half-mast and Y9-13 then held a worship assembly. Y7-10 at GC gathered to worship then formed the word LOVE on the turf, filmed it and sent it to the Christchurch Muslim community. See our website. We asked GC primary and MAC primary to do what they would normally do so well and remember with worship and silence.



Primary students were encouraged to look at this Paper Doll Project something they might like to do if they wanted to: <https://educationcentral.co.nz/the-paper-doll-project-why-the-christchurch-mosque-shootings-wont-define-kiwi-values/>

The paper doll template can celebrate our diversity on one side, with a positive message to the mosques in Christchurch on the other side.

Here is a link from The Parenting Place families might find useful: <https://www.theparentingplace.com/how-to-talk-about/world-trauma/>

Here is some advice from our Counsellor, Mrs Britten: Factors that I would consider bearing in mind in the classroom: Students have vastly different responses to a terrorist attack. How can we respect all responses and keep school an emotionally safe space which right now must be the priority. Here are some ideas to consider...

Updates from Murray Burton - Principal

- Young people tend to introspect – while this is helpful, it can be all consuming for them emotionally. What I believe is helpful at this stage is for them to have a strong sense of regular routine stuck to with kindness. This brings stability and provides them with space to “give their emotions a break”. Learning maths or doing a science experiment will actually give their mind space to do “a normal” thing and will be surprisingly relaxing and emotionally safe.

- Young people can be gently encouraged to look outward at the right time...how can they help...send a letter to someone, give a little, invite someone for dinner to build a bridge in the community etc

- Reflection (on why and how this could have happened) is both an emotional and cognitive task. My sense is that it is too soon for many of our students to reflect on this. If the issues are going to be discussed in class, I would exercise real caution- perhaps only engage in it in small doses at this stage.... we don't want students going from Tutor to Social Studies to English to Christian Living and it is discussed everywhere.

- Young people are trying to make sense of a thing like this happening in our safe New Zealand- some will be experiencing a sense of real threat for the first time ever.

- Some of our staff and students (because of our background, history and life experience) have been exposed to similar kinds of levels of threat before and it feels “strangely familiar” which means that some reactions can happen- to name two (1) We can move through the emotional side of this event into the thinking about it (cognitive stage) more quickly or (2) We can be triggered by this event and how it connects with past trauma/circumstances...We need to be aware that “shock” and “numbness” and a dose of “fear” and “overload” might be where many remain for some time.

The Ministry of Education sent through information with some links below:

Helping children deal with trauma – Ministry of Health website
<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/emergency-management/managing-stress-emergency/helping-children>



Oranga Tamariki website:
<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/caring-for-someone/support-and-training/talking-about-traumatic-events/>

Children's Commissioner NZ Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/childrenscommnz/posts/2099610073454960?__tn__=-R

Finally – from our school to you: God has not changed and by HIS grace we get to be HIS hands and feet. We've seen the architect of the universe in operation before and, such is HIS faithfulness, HE will do it again! Real grief needs our practical come alongside down-to-earth real Christianity. Let's do life again together this week so that the gaze of all those we meet is drawn upwards to HIM....cause HE alone seriously knows!! Our love and prayers especially go to all our international students who are a long way from home at a time such as this. We understand how you will feel and we will all join together to do our best to keep you safe.

SCHOOL WIDE NOTICES

Beeswax wraps:

- A4 size comes folded into half, \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00,
 - Sandwich pockets \$10 for two.
- Please order through emailing soongjf@gmail.com or ringing 0211142680 and collect from 13, Hayes Place, Pakuranga.



Beeswax wraps are an eco- friendly alternative wrap verses using cling wrap which is not biodegradable. The beeswax has anti-bacterial properties and can be use repeatedly. Wipe down with cold wet paper towel and air it till its ready for the next use.

From our Board of Trustees

Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce Review
You may be aware that the NZ government appointed an Independent Taskforce to assess and recommend changes to the NZ education system. The Taskforce produced a substantial report and they are now asking for submissions to their recommendations from any interested people or organisations. The Elim Christian College Board of Trustees will be submitting a submission and we encourage individuals in our community to do likewise.

There are plenty of places where you can get information to help in gaining knowledge. Here are two good reference sites:
<https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/tomorrows-schools-review/resources/>
<https://www.nzsta.org.nz/our-organisation/publications/tomorrows-schools-education-reform/interactive/1016>

Submissions must be completed by 31st March, 2019 and can be submitted online at:
<https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/tomorrows-schools-review/>

The key driver for the Taskforce Report is a desire to make our education system more equitable to all and improve performance particularly for our struggling 30% of students, an objective that no New Zealander would disagree with. There are recommendations in the report that radically change the way we govern and operate our schools, leading to more government control and seeking to remove competition from our education system. Some specific areas of concern are:

1. Many of the aspirations of the Taskforce could be achieved simply by providing better funding for the existing system, particularly the 30% not achieving in our system. NZ spends 3% of its current schooling budget on learning support areas as opposed to 6% on average for other OECD countries.

SCHOOL WIDE NOTICES

2. The Education system would see a HUB system introduced around NZ where a local education office will oversee a cluster of approximately 125 schools. They would replace many core Board functions including appointing and employing the Principal and staff, management of property and buildings, overseeing the operational budget and Health & Safety. The premise is that a lot of Boards are struggling around NZ and removing these functions will assist them. A few thoughts around this recommendation:

- a) This is a significant change and places a lot more control in the hands of education officials and reduces the influence of school communities.
- b) Many Board of Trustees operate very effectively around NZ, only around 6% ever needing MOE intervention.
- c) If a BOT is struggling with finance, employment, property and H&S issues a better option may be for the Ministry of Education to have professional Trustees it can add to these Boards rather than diminishing the power of many effectively run Boards.
- d) There is concern regarding the effectiveness of a HUB's relationship with a school due to continual staff turnover, underfunding and beauracracy.
- e) The Taskforce mentioned the possibility of delegating functions back to the Board where the BOT had the acumen and desire to take them on – something we would want if changes were to occur to a HUB system.

3. The HUB will employ the principal for a school and review their role every 5 years. A Board will have the right of veto and be involved in the process.

The concerns are:

- a) How will a HUB shortlist candidates for a position? Who is available and who can apply?
- b) How does a special character school like Elim ensure a Principal is a great fit for their special character?

4. They seek to restrict donations/charges for schools to fund additional activity. This is unworkable unless the government adequately fund activities such as special character events, camps, sports, music and cultural activities.

5. State Integrated Schools will be subject to the same Transport and Zoning requirements as State Schools. The Taskforce were not able to clarify what this actually meant – so a potential area of concern.

6. Kahui Ako / Community of Learnings are already increasing collaboration across schools without the need for decreasing healthy competition. Competition and cooperation do not have to be mutually exclusive.

Further points that may want to be addressed in any submission are:

- 1. Any significant change to our education system should be a cross-party accord and not determined by the current government.
- 2. Improving the pay and conditions of our teachers and support staff in our schools would attract and retain high performing professionals, improving outcomes for all.
- 3. Funding our education system properly may solve many of the issues seeking to be addressed through this review.

We encourage the Elim Christian College community to have their say on this critical change to our education system.

You might also find this link useful. Brother Pat Lynch is a wise stalwart and authority of education.

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2019/03/14/475661/be-careful-what-you->

Student Celebration

We saw our largest group of Elim students at the Counties Manukau Eastern Zone swimming competition in the last two weeks. Our students did us proud with a few 'Personal Bests' in individual timed finals.

From the front here are the names:
Alena Elmore, Serisha Palmer, Katie Eagleton, Cassandra Els, Isabella Dunn, Sophie Mackenzie, Matthew Loh, Jerome Stow, Douglas Gould, James Fong, Ethan Pope, Regan Ong



Student Celebration



Division 2 National Swimming competition was held last week in Dunedin. We had three students qualify to attend. Marsha Sayarath, Nathan Joe and Matthew Palmer. Marsha and Nathan both swam really well and did PBS (personal bests) in their events.

Matthew Palmer (pictured) qualified for finals in all 9 events he entered and won two bronze, two silver and two gold medals. He also has qualified to swim at National Age Groups in April.

A huge well done and congratulations to all the students. And we can't wait to hear about National Age groups in April.

Student Celebration



Jack Foreman took part in the Auckland MTB series starting at Riverhead on Sunday 3rd March. Jack came 8th in the U20 category. A good result, but even more pleasing was how he stopped and helped a rider who had broken their collarbone until a Marshall took over. Proud of you Jack!

Next race will be the North Island champs on 31st March, we look forward to see how you do.