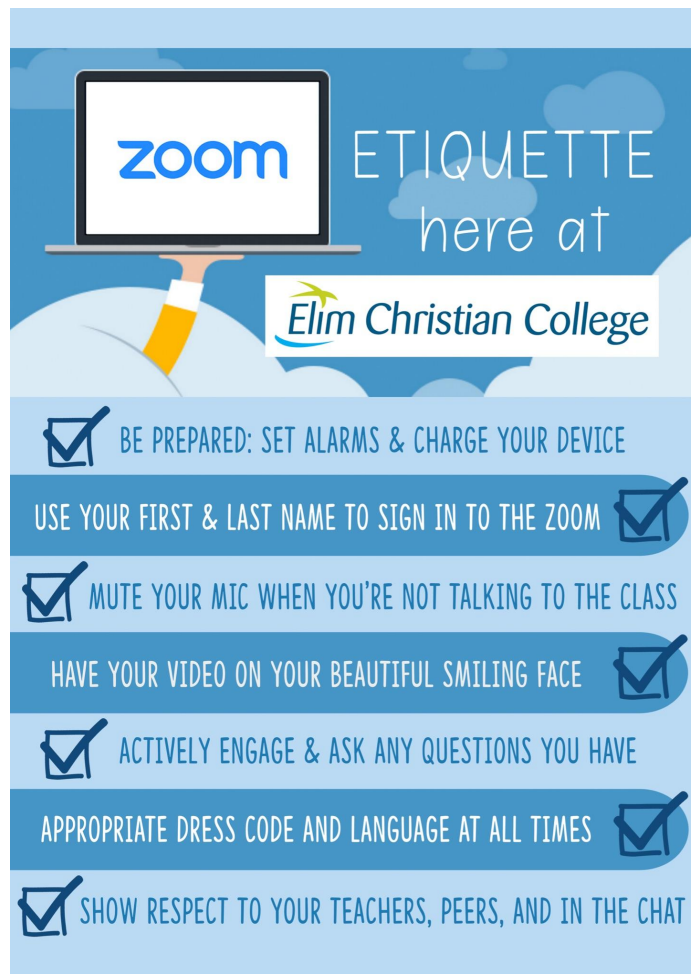


Middle Years newsletter 26th of August 2021- Lockdown LEVEL 4.

Kia Ora parents, caregivers & whānau. 🙋🏻 🙋🏻

Lockdown home learning sure has its delights and a huge dollop of challenges. Well done for completing a whole week! I use the analytics tool in Schoology to see the time various students spend in their courses. I can also see who the students are who have not been online and that is a concern. Thank you to those of you who message the admin team or myself indicating when your children are ill or for some reason unable to be online each morning. Remember that teachers at Middle Years only set zooms once or twice a week in their subjects. Attendance at these zooms is compulsory and students must have their camera on. Identifying our students online is important to us. Once the teachers have the students for the purpose of roll attendance they then allow the students to move away from the camera. Please have a read of these expectations - most students conform to these expectations.



Thank you parents and caregivers for all you do to facilitate the students in their lockdown learning. I along with many teachers are learning and relearning patience, self control and kindness. It is so easy to simply see a student in the school yard and have a chat. Online this involves more deliberate time and a commitment to spell correctly! Please encourage your students to attend every tutor devotion as this is a great time for relationship building.

Here is a resource you can use freely. There is a 24/7 helpline available..

<https://www.anxiety.org.nz/>

AnxietyNZ
TRUST

Middle Years and Junior Years sharing a devotion activity in week 4.



hope

We believe that as we lift up the name of Jesus, our hearts become hopeful.
PSALM 145



"Fearfully & Wonderfully Made" Year 10 Science students make nucleotides in Genetics.

Nucleotide (biology definition): the fundamental building block of nucleic acid; an organic compound made up of a nitrogenous base, a sugar, and a phosphate group. Etymology: "nucleo"- ("nucleus") + -ide (chemical suffix).

(Source: <https://www.biologyonline.com/dictionary/nucleotide>)

Knowing about this is how the epidemiologists working on the Covid-19 virus can do research, modelling and make predictions on how they think the virus will respond and how we can fight against it.



Here we have our delightful year 7's busy with a maths investigation task with Mrs Dorcas Pak. The students were given toothpicks to show spatial patterns. These hands-on photos were taken last Tuesday just before the Level 4 lockdown was announced.



Year 7 students with Mrs NicolaVoisey - Making Ginger beer, two days before Lockdown!





The bottling has been taken care of and once we are all back on sight there will be lots of fizzy sampling.

Please note these Upcoming dates

OUR next Middle Years **online assembly** is **Friday 3rd September- 8.40am-9.10am** please join us.

Cancellations and postponements of significant events will be emailed to the respective parents of the various groups and teams. This is so unfortunate and disappointing BUT we are all in this together. Updates on these events will be posted by the respective subject teachers on the various course pages.

- **Spelling Bee** postponed to Sunday 19th September
- **Y8 Science Stream and marine exploration and assessment-** postponed
- **AIMS Games** - cancelled, email has been sent to the respective parents
- **Middle Years student conference** - Postponed- email will be sent to parents late next week, some details are still needed.
- **Cultural camp** postponed at this stage BUT we will still have a cultural day
- National monitoring program for select Year 8 students - to be advised.
- Dental truck- postponed- new date tbc.

PLEASE remember to check the updates, newsfeed in Schoology.

Welcome to Miss Laurené Jooste

We welcomed Miss Laurené Jooste online on Friday. She is the one with the bookcase on the right shoulder. Mrs Ashleigh Booyesen our Art Teacher (in the pink jumper) has left a great curriculum legacy and her students will be in good hands. Pictured to the bottom right is our fabulous Painting teacher Mrs Annami Blom. God bless you Miss Jooste as you embark on a great teaching journey here at Elim Middle Years.



ICAS - Independent Assessments run by Kip McGrath

Dear Parents,
We are waiting for ICAS to let us know what the situation is regarding the exams and possible postponements. As soon as they let us know we will pass the message on to everyone.

Thank you for your patience with this matter.

Kia Kaha everyone.

Theresa Bosch Director
Kip McGrath Howick

FUN Cube Competition- more details on Schoology Puzzle Cube Group



Welcome to the first FUN Cube competition.

This inaugural competition is **ONLY** open to Year 7, 8 and 9 students. (Just because Mrs Heim is new to this.)

Only enter this competition if you really know what you're doing, because:

1. Mrs Heim is NOT a member or teacher or believer in the WCA
2. Mrs Heim a dummy -useless cuber.
3. All instructions must be slow and clear
4. Mrs Heim is old and slow and doesn't know anything about the block or pyramid of colours.
5. Mrs. Heim has never successfully solved a Rubik's Cube or a Sudoku on her own.

There are **four categories**: You may only enter ONE category this time.

- A. Complex speed performer
- B. Simple and dramatic performer
- C. Creative speedcuber
- D. Freestyle twisty puzzles

Entry criteria:

1. **Creativity and Covid words will be a HUGE help in this event**
2. Each category has a time limit of **60 seconds!** 1 second over will disqualify you.
3. **All entries must be filmed in one unedited take- the contestants face and hands must be visible at all times.**
4. **Entries must be filmed at a home lockdown address - not at a park or supermarket!**
5. Speech must be clear.
6. Say your name and surname at the start.
7. All entries must only be uploaded in Schoology, to Mrs Heim in the message tab.
8. **Competition opens on Wednesday night 25th August and closes at 10.59pm on Sunday 29th August.**
9. **PLEASE Do not try to upload any videos before then!**
10. Mrs Heim will invite you into the Puzzle and Cubing Student group
11. Mrs Heim and a consultant will select the semi finalists
12. Mr Burton is the Chief judge but Mrs Heim's decision could be final!
13. Winners will be announced on **Friday morning 3rd September** - in the online assembly.

14. You may use any brand of mechanical 5x5x5, 4x4x4, 3x3x3 or 2x2x2 Rubik's cube. Stickered, tiled, or speed cubes.
15. No blindfold entries are allowed this time.

PRIZES: 4x \$25 Botany Vouchers and random draws.

If you have questions, ask them here. This way all contestants have the same information.

QUESTIONS:

1. Can my video be 2 minutes? NO
2. Can I explain random fun stuff while I'm solving my cube? YES
3. Will I be disqualified if I am dramatic (in category C) and tell a COVID story but don't complete my cube? NO not at all. A completed cube is only a requirement for category A .

SCHOOLOGY. Access to the Gradebook:

We have now been using our Middle Years **online Gradebook** since late 2019. This has been a massive learning curve for all involved and our Middle Years leadership team remains confident of this system. I want to thank you for your patience and support of myself and the teaching team on this journey.

The Online Gradebook allows teachers to share grades, missed deadlines, incomplete notifications and **curriculum level achievement** with you as work is marked. Small tasks or **formative grades** and larger more comprehensive assignments and assessments or **summative grades** are all important for effective learning at Middle Years. This system allows you to see your child's work and progress as it happens.

This means that we do not issue paper reports. We no longer need to share mid- year and end of year reports because you have the information available at all times. In **December** your child's gradebook can be **downloaded as a complete record of learning.**

Comments in the gradebook show attitudes to learning and relationships as well as the next step in the learning journey.

If you have a question please email me or your child's subject teacher who will respond within 2-3 days.

Mandy Heim, Middle Years Lead