



28 January 2021

Kia Ora koutou

We are looking forward to welcoming your tamariki to school at the start of Term 1. What a great year it will be at Elim Christian College. We trust the summer break has been good for you and that as families you are gearing up to embrace a new school year.

I would like to specifically encourage you to 'celebrate, celebrate, celebrate' as we look to the year ahead. Yes, 2020 was most challenging and for many - exceptionally tough in so many ways but I want you to know as a school community you were incredible last year. As a staff we really appreciated all the support you gave us, the way you navigated quite a different landscape with us, and we publicly celebrate you! Collectively the Elim Christian College community was above and beyond, and we praise God for this.

I welcome all the new families to our school; you are joining somewhere close to 850 families who call this school their educational home. Thank you for choosing us and we look forward to the partnership.

Unfortunately, again this year we must expect COVID cases to emerge, but we can be reassured by the speed, breadth and depth of the health response.

According to the [Lowy Institute](#), New Zealand has been ranked the best at responding to the COVID-19 outbreak out of nearly 100 countries.

New Zealand remains at Alert level 1 and everyone is doing the right thing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, so we're pleased to say that so far, it's business as usual.

For our school we will continue to

- display QR code posters and ask that everyone coming on site uses this
- reinforce the importance of good hand washing and drying
- reinforce good cough and sneeze etiquette
- ensure our sites are daily and thoroughly cleaned
- ask that if you as parents and/or your children are sick please, stay at home
- stay calm, be careful care for each other

Welcome to the following new staff: Yesterday we held a powhiri to welcome Miss Jessica Kidd, Mrs Merrin Zoutenbier, Miss Emma Sheppard, Mrs Amanda Ray and Miss Melissa Diprose (all to our Mt Albert Campus); Mr Anthony McLeod, Mr Shane Froud to our Middle Years at Golflands; Mr Jonathan McPhail as our new Assistant Campus Lead at Golflands Junior Years and Mrs Brigitte Bagg as our new Gateway and Careers Administrator at Botany.

We also welcomed back Mr Michael McKenzie from London (he will lead GCMY Science and also teach Y12 Biology at BC), Mrs Wendy Van der Worp (GCMY) and Mrs Kareena Martis (BC) - both back from maternity leave.

In other staffing news – Mrs Anna Hemsley has been appointed to teach Maths at MAC and will join us later this term, Mrs Milla Jing has been appointed to an LA position at MAC and is awaiting to return from overseas. Congratulations to Mr Andrew Bergh graduated with a Masters 1st Class Honours. Two staff married their sweethearts over the holidays and sadly two staff lost their fathers over that period too. At the end of Term 1, Mrs Suzie Morris will go on maternity leave and Mr Darron Gedge will relocate to Australia. Mrs Sandra Palmer will leave her LA position at MAC in the coming weeks and we will be advertising that role.

Notice for Year 5/6 using Schoology this Year

Please refer to this link: <https://www.elim.school.nz/wp-content/uploads/Schoology-Y5-6-2021.pdf>

Start back to School

- **Monday 1st February** is Auckland Anniversary Day and there is no school.
- Last week you will have received another copy of the **start-back-to-school routine** and instructions. We therefore trust you are fully informed as to next week. We can't wait to see our students and begin the year in earnest!
- We do expect all students to be **correctly dressed in our school uniform**. It's a good looking uniform and we want all details to be correct every day of the year. All staff have been asked to assist this to happen so we ask for parent support as well. We will be outlining this to students in the first week.
- We will also be reinforcing the need for the use of sunscreen and sun hats. Certainly, for Y1-8, no hat no outside play.
- Starting next Tuesday, we will be publishing class lists and you will see this on your arrival at school. Middle and High school students will be placed in Tutor classes.

- Kelly's After school programme at GC will again be in full swing 5 days per week for every school week in 2021. Brendon runs an amazing programme from 3.00-6.00pm. Why not see how it can work for your child. At MAC we support Carpe Diem and they can arrange a pick-up from MAC to their school centre.
- **Monday 8 February** is the observation of Waitangi Day and as such there is no school.
- Please check our website for upcoming events, emails with links and reminder messages via Schoology and Seesaw.

Regards

Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL