



# A FUTURE & A HOPE

## GOLFLANDS CAMPUS MIDDLE YEARS

Kia ora Parents, Whānau and caregivers,

As we enter into the final two weeks of school, the busyness of this time of year can seem to take over. In our staff devotions recently, Mr Dave Fern reminded us of Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest".

What an important reminder for this time, and for the holiday period ahead. We must first go to Jesus, that starting point will always give us rest.

The past two weeks have seen some wonderful activities and events in the Middle Years. On Monday we had our Middle Years Athletics day, make sure you have a look at the photos below - it was a truly amazing day and a huge thank you must be given to Mrs Kim Borthwick for all the organisation that goes into the day. A huge thank you also to all our staff, parents and Botany Campus student leaders who helped out on the day.

We are very much looking forward to next week. We start the week with our Service Certificate and Affirmation assemblies to recognise all students. And then our Year 10's are off on their end of year camp to Raglan.

The following week we have the Year 9 Fun day and our grand finale the Middle Years Prizegiving. I look forward to seeing you all at 6:30pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December to celebrate our outstanding students.

The last day of school will see lots of moving of desks and materials around the school site to make way for some classroom changes and building over the summer break. Because of this we ask students to wear PE uniform on the last day of school (11<sup>th</sup> December).

This will also be a momentous day for both our Year 9 and Year 10 cohorts as they say farewell to the Middle Years campus and make the exciting move to the Botany Campus for next year. We will make sure to celebrate them and send them off with prayer, encouragement and good memories of their time here.

What an exciting two weeks we have ahead of us!  
Have a wonderful weekend and God bless,

Ngā mihi nui  
Mr Michael McKenzie  
Deputy Principal

### TERM 4 UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Year 7 Zoo Trip**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December

#### **Service Certificate and Affirmation Assembly**

Y9/10 - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 8:40am

Y7/8 - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1:40pm

#### **Locker Returns**

Y10 - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December

All other years - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Year 10 Camp**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Year 9 Fun Day**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Middle Years Prizegiving**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Golfland Campus Hall

6:30pm

#### **Last Day of Term 4 for Y1-10**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

### 2026 START OF YEAR DATES

#### **Second hand uniform sale**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January

#### **First day of school for all student**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

#### **Waitangi day**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February



# WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

## Year 7 & 8 Career Afternoon

Our Year 7 and 8 students recently had an invaluable opportunity to look ahead and explore diverse career paths during our highly anticipated Career Afternoon. The event offers students a chance to connect directly with six talented guest speakers who generously volunteered their time to share their unique professional journeys and insights.

We were privileged to host professionals from a wide array of fields, and we extend our deepest gratitude to our six inspiring guests: Karen Symons (Artist), Lisa Greening (Nurse), Sean Milnes (Businessman), Zac Snary (Chef), and Marchand Jooste (3D Animator).

The students engaged our guests with thoughtful questions, delving into the practical realities of professional life. Beyond daily routines and qualifications, the discussions were refreshingly honest, covering the aspects the speakers love about their jobs, the inevitable hard parts they face, and crucially, how they handle and learn from mistakes in their respective fields. Our speakers also shared that changing careers or paths mid-life is a normal and often positive development, highlighting that their professional journeys are dynamic. Hearing about facing setbacks, maintaining resilience, and embracing change provides valuable, real-world context and guidance as our students begin to consider their pathways and future studies.

We were especially proud to welcome back one of our own: Zac Snary, the Chef, who is an ex-student! Zac came through our Middle Years program just five years ago and is now finishing his Level 4 culinary qualification. Seeing one of their own so recently pass through our halls provided incredible motivation and inspiration to our current Year 7 and 8 cohort, proving that their dreams are highly achievable. The Career Afternoon has undoubtedly sparked new interests and offered valuable guidance to our students, particularly around the importance of perseverance, professional growth, and adaptability. We are deeply grateful to all our speakers for their time, wisdom, and for showing our students the exciting possibilities that await them.



# WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

## Sports in the Middle Years

### Touch Rugby

Our touch rugby boys performed spectacularly at the SEZ Competition, coming in third, we were led expertly by our co captions Cole Fox and Elijah Vosloo. The team worked well together and grew in their communication and team work throughout the tournament. We went through to the semi-finals with two wins and two draws. We unfortunately drew in the semi-final and as being the 2nd ranked team, went through to the 3rd and 4th playoff.



### Basketball

Our Bulls Boys team competed in the top Y7/8 Grade (Challengers). They were coached this term by Mr Gray and played against the strongest Intermediate Boys teams in East Auckland. They played their 3rd/4th playoff game last night and after a gritty game, gained a final placing of 4th.



Our Tuatara Boys team competed in the Y7/8 Foundational Grade this term. For many of the players, they are just getting started in Basketball and have come a long way this term developing their skills. They placed 1st in their grade and were presented Medals and Certificates following their final game. Big thanks to Coach Bruce McKay and Manager Rachel Arnold.

Our Kāhu Girls team have been playing in the Phoenix girl grade this year. They too placed 4th. It has been very pleasing to see Girls Basketball growing and greater numbers of girls having a go. A huge thanks to Luther Gray and Brad Bailey in particular for the support they have given the team both this term and through the year.



## Middle Years Athletics

This past Monday we held the Middle Years Athletics day, it was previously postponed, but we couldn't have asked for a better day to have athletics.

Students rotated through track and field events with their year groups, each student had the chance to compete in events such as 100m sprint, shot put, discus, high jump and long jump. We even had students compete in the 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m! Some of which still went on to compete in the team relays to end the day.

It was superb to see everyone getting involved and having fun. It was also great to see some school records being broken! A big congrats to Daniel Whānau who won with the top points overall.





# Year 9 & 10 Market Days

Each semester our Year 9 and 10 Business classes hold their 'Market Day'. This is an opportunity for students to put some of their learning to the test. In groups they decide on products, they calculate costs, set margins and even create advertising.

Mrs Laurene Dessoulavy did an excellent job of setting up our students up for success through teaching in class as well as supporting and monitoring each group as they navigated this task.

There were plenty of treat out for sale, and even some hand made goods.

I have no doubt that experiences like this will inspire some of our students to become leading businessmen and women in the future!





*please*  
**DONATE  
YOUR  
OLD** *but still in  
good condition*  
**UNIFORMS**

**DROP OFF YOUR UNIFORMS TO THE  
BOTANY OR GOLFLAND CAMPUS OFFICES  
BY 11TH DECEMBER.**

The ARISE PTA will sell the uniforms at a uniform sale on the 21st January 2026. The proceeds will help fundraise for future school projects, and help other parents at Elim.

 *Elim Christian College*

# BACK TO SCHOOL STATIONERY - ORDER NOW

We've teamed up with OfficeMax MySchool to make your back to school shop super easy. And if you order in December, you'll go in the draw to WIN 1 of 5 \$1000 cash prizes\*.

Your child's class list is already loaded. Just go to [myschool.co.nz](https://myschool.co.nz). Simply add your details, check that you want everything on the list, then click and confirm - and OfficeMax MySchool will get it underway, with free delivery on orders over \$70\*.

We encourage you to order early to ensure your child has all their stationery requirements ready to go in plenty of time for the start of Term 1.

So go ahead and beat the back to school rush, order today with OfficeMax MySchool and give them the best start possible.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

A gentle reminder to our families;

Please help us keep our school grounds safe for everyone. We kindly ask that you do not use the staff carpark for dropping off or picking up students, as this area is reserved for our staff.

Also, please remember to keep the bus lane clear at all times. This is essential for ensuring our school buses can safely and efficiently pick up and drop off students. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us ensure a safe environment for all our children.

## SUMMER UNIFORM - HATS

As Term 4 approaches a reminder that all students need to be wearing the regulation school hat if they are playing out in the sun at lunchtime.

The regulation school hat can be purchased from John Russell Schoolwear in Howick for \$16.

<https://shop.johnrussellschoolwear.co.nz/shop/product/elim-middle-cap/>

Students will be required to wear this hat on the field or courts during lunchtime in Term 4 (and Term 1 2026).

# AIMS Games Tournament Week - Student Highlight

Last term, a dedicated group of our Year 7 and Year 8 students represented our school at the AIMS Games Tournament Week in Tauranga. This event is the pinnacle of intermediate-level sports tournaments in New Zealand, hosting thousands of students from across the country and internationally to compete in 25 different sports over one highly competitive week.

We are incredibly proud of all our athletes who showcased their skills, sportsmanship, passion and dedication to their sports. Representing Elim we had a team in Boys Basketball and Girls Netball, alongside individual competitors in Mountain Biking (Enduro), Swimming, Gymnastics (Artistic and Tumbling), and Badminton.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to our dedicated coaches and managers, the parents who supported our individual athletes throughout the week, and every single family who invested time, resources, and unwavering encouragement to ensure our students could proudly attend and compete. Your investment and support make opportunities like this a reality.

A massive congratulations to every student for who represented our school over the week! Below are highlights and personal recaps from our fantastic athletes.



## Swimming Success: Dedication Pays Off!

We are thrilled to acknowledge the incredible commitment of our two individual swimmers, Sophia Balong-e (Year 7) and Evelyn Loh (Year 8). Their incredible dedication led to outstanding results in the pool.

Sophia Balong-e competed in 5 events for Year 7 Girls - achieving Personal Best's in all 5 events!

Well done Sophia on your accomplishments in swimming!

These were: 100m IM, 50m Free, 50m Back, 100m Free, 50m Fly.

Sophia said: "Competing in AIMS games was an experience I won't forget, I felt excitement and definitely a lot of pressure. I was racing in swimming, and as an individual competitor I was definitely anxious during the first race, knowing if I dived too early or made an illegal movement, I could get disqualified. After the first race I felt more relaxed, I had two races that day and before racing I never knew how long it would actually take, maybe thirty minutes? Four hours later, finally they called up my race, and after sitting for a very long time I got up and prepared."

Evelyn Loh competed in 13 events for Year 8 Girls. Special congratulations for earning a Silver Medal in 100m Butterfly, 200m IM, and Bronze in 200m Backstroke.

Her additional results are: 4th (200m Free), 6th (100m IM, 50m Butterfly, 100m Back), 7th (50m Back, 100m Free), 8th (50m Free, 200m Breaststroke), 10th (100m Breaststroke, 50m Breaststroke).

Along with her Silver and Bronze placings - she achieved Personal Best's in 12 out of 13 of her events!

We are immensely proud to celebrate Evelyn's truly exceptional achievement in swimming while representing Elim! It showcases an extraordinary level of talent, coupled with the huge commitment and countless hours of dedicated training she puts in.. We extend a massive and well-deserved congratulations to Evelyn—her hard work has paid off spectacularly, and we look forward to supporting her future successes.

Evelyn said: "Over the four days that I was at AIMS games, I participated in 13 events in total. I enjoyed the experience that I gained at AIMS, being able to socialise with the friends I do not usually see often. Being at Tauranga was not the most ideal location to be at as there were not many food options. Days were very long and warmups were extremely chaotic. AIMS was a lot different to the usual competitions that I go to because we would usually have another pool to be able to warm down after races, leading to me feeling very fatigued after the tough four days. Although I did not reach my goal of getting a gold medal, I am happy with my results as I did many personal bests. Overall, my experience at AIMS was amazing and I would love to do it again if I could.."

## Badminton: Joel Gunawan

Congratulations to Joel Gunawan who represented our school in the Badminton tournament!

Joel competed in the Year 8 Boys where he was seeded into Division 3 based off his pool round results. He then went into an elimination round, where he played and won two games which placed him in the Quarter Final play off.

Congratulations Joel on a stellar performance.

Joel said "I had one of my best sporting experiences when I went to Aims Games because I did my favourite thing to do, which is badminton. Since the Aims Games is one of the biggest sporting tournaments in NZ, I had to train really hard to improve my skills. I trained on Friday for one hour and thirty minutes, then on Saturday I trained for two hours, and I did this for a whole term. When I arrived at Tauranga, my dad and I explored the area but at 4:30 pm I was so nervous because I played my first game, thankfully I won. I played the rest of my games over three days and in between those three days I played against five other people two of them I lost against and three of them I won. I made a lot of memories when I finished the tournament and I had a wonderful time spending three days playing the sport that I love."



## Gymnastics Highlights

Our gymnasts, Danika Henderson (Artistic) and Chloe Taylor (Tumbling), showed great skill and sportsmanship in their events at AIMS Games.

Danika competed in Open WAG Step 3, in Beam, Ubar, Vault and Floor achieving an overall result of 8th place. Well done and congratulations Danika.

It was Chloe's first year competing in tumbling and she entered into the Open Novice division where she placed 2nd overall! Huge congratulations Chloe!

Danika said: "At AIMS Games, gymnastics was such an amazing experience for me. The atmosphere was really exciting, with so many schools coming together and so many talented athletes competing. At first, I felt quite nervous because the competition looked really tough, but once I got started, I reminded myself of all the training I had done and just focused on doing my best. Some parts of my routines were challenging, but I was proud that I stayed confident and didn't give up when things got hard. It was also really inspiring to watch other gymnasts perform because they showed different skills and styles that gave me ideas on how I can improve. Being able to represent my school at such a big event made me feel proud, and I think I came away not just as a better gymnast, but also with more confidence. Overall, gymnastics at AIMS Games was really fun and I would love to do it again if I could!"

Chloe said: "My experience at aims was really good. The community is amazing, everyone is sweet and can answer questions at any time. The atmosphere is good because it's a friendly competition, cheering other people on while still staying competitive. Seeing people I know made me feel less alone even though everyone is so friendly.."

## Mountain Biking Thrills

Congratulations to Joshua Wilson who competed in the Year 8 Boys Enduro Race. He tackled the challenging courses at Summerhill Bike Park. Joshua achieved a fantastic result, finishing 17th in the Year 8 Boys category and 19th overall—a truly fabulous achievement! He has been working hard at it and was praying for top 20 without injury. Well done on achieving your goal Josh!

Joshua said: "I had lots of fun at Aims games as I got to do my favourite thing all week. I was slightly disappointed there was no downhill mtb. At Aims I got to represent our school in mountain biking at Summerhill bike park. The conditions were a bit wet but overall summerhill was good. In Papamoa I stayed right next to a dirt jump park which was really fun on my mum's ebike. We stayed with my grandparents and I went to the hotpools with them and we went to rotorua for a while. Overall It was a great week"

Team Sports Highlights: Basketball and Netball

Our team sports demonstrated excellent teamwork and school spirit! They demonstrated sportsmanship, determination, teamwork and grit during the week. We are incredibly proud of our teams and the way they represented themselves and Elim.

A huge thank you must go to the incredible coaches, managers (Mrs. Borthwick, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Dunn, Tracey Carville, and Candice Wilson), and supportive parents who dedicated their time and effort behind the scenes to make this week a success for our students. We are incredibly thankful to our supporters.

## Boys Basketball

We are thrilled to announce that our Boys Basketball team placed 36th overall out of 86 teams! Congratulations, Boys.

Josh said: "My Aims games experience was really good for me and the boys had a really nice stay at a Airbnb. We had good sleeps there and fantastic dinners. We all had great team talks where we talked about the day we had ahead of us and game strategies. When we went to the games we had a warm up plan and when the game before us ended we went straight to the warm up. When we finished the warm up we had a starting five we put them on but if someone wanted a break Mr Gray would do a different start team he was such a passionate coach caring for our aims team. Mrs Dunn made the best dinners and we helped with cleaning up. In the backyard we would practice some of our moves. The atmosphere was exhilarating when our proud parents cheered us on and when the netball team came they were excellent cheerleaders for the basketball team. The experience felt astonishing because our team work was really good. We passed so much and we played as if we all had been together for a long time. For some of us this was the first year of playing with each other but we play extremely well. It was a once and a lifetime experience. I would just like to thank Mrs Borthwick, Mr Gray , Mrs Dunn and all the others that helped behind the scenes.

## Girls Netball

Our Girls Netball team placed 57th out of 102 teams.  
Well done, Girls!

Ciara, Team Captain said: "AIMS games was such an amazing experience and one I'll never forget! The netball competition was really fun, and the teams we played showed great sportsmanship. Our accommodation was awesome, we had a pool and a spa, and getting to stay with all our friends felt like a big sleepover. We also got to go to the hot pools which was really fun. Even though our coach Tracey had to go home early because she was sick, Mrs Borthwick stepped up and did a great job at coaching us for the rest of the week. And Candice, who was our manager, was amazing, she made all our meals, did our washing, and did so much behind the scenes. My favourite memory from the whole trip was playing beach volleyball on the last night and having pizza with everyone. Overall, It was a really awesome week and I was so lucky to be a part of it!



# IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS



 **No Adults Permitted**   
**in Students' Toilets - Strictly  
for Student Use Only**

 **成人禁止进入**   
**学生厕所 — 仅限学生使用**

**ARISE PARENTS IN PRAYER**

**ARISE**

Parents in Prayer

*Tuesdays @*

**8:40am Botany cafeteria**

**2:30pm Golflands courtyard**

*Come join our team!*

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