



A FUTURE & A HOPE

GOLFLANDS CAMPUS MIDDLE YEARS

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

It's the last day of Term 1! This term has gone incredibly fast. Firstly, apologies for the gap in Middle Years Newsletters this Term. As I had said at the Welcome to the Middle Years event earlier this term, my wife and I were expecting a baby and that little blessing arrived three weeks ago, so I have had some paternity time off.

This does mean that we have a bumper newsletter this week, jam packed with amazing things that have been happening at school.

This morning we had a wonderful Easter and Heritage assembly for all Year 6-13's at the Botany Campus. It's always special to join together in worship and remembrance of what this coming weekend means.

Even though it is the end of the term I would like to remind everyone that the toilets in the Middle Years area are only for students. If you are on site and need the bathroom, please make sure you go to the bathroom located by reception.

I would also like to remind everyone to follow all road rules during drop off and pick up time. No cars should be stopping in the front of the school bus bay, or on yellow lines and by the zebra crossing.

As we enter into Easter and the holiday break, I pray God's peace will rest over you and your household.

May this be a time of connection and joy for you and your family.

See you all on the 20th April for the start of Term 2.

Ngā mihi nui, God bless,
Mr Michael McKenzie
Deputy Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 3rd April:

Good Friday, first day of Holidays
School Closed



Holidays

3rd April - 19th April

TERM 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 20th April

First Day of Term 2

Monday 27th April

ANZAC day observed -

School closed

Year 7 Camp

Wednesday 20th May - Friday 22nd

May

Please make sure you have filled out your camp form if you have not done so yet.

INTRODUCING THE MIDDLE YEARS PASTORAL TEAM

Kia ora koutou name is Shane Hutchinson.

This is my 18th year teaching at Elim Christian College. I am so honoured to serve in the Elim team. At school, I especially love maths because of all the patterns, and with work, you can find an answer. Science is also great because of all the amazing things you can do and learn to know more about God's creation. If I'm not at school, hopefully I would be out surfing, wing foiling, swimming, gardening, or reading with a coffee in my hand.

In my family we have three children who all have been students at Elim Christian College. Joshua is now at AUT studying Electrical Engineering, Daniel is in Year 11 and Hope is in Year 9. My amazing wife Jen is a nurse, church leader and a wonderful mum. Our family arrived back in New Zealand six years ago after a year away in Nepal. We had incredible experiences, made special friends, and saw God's miraculous provision and protection in many ways. We're excited to be in New Zealand, in our beautiful country. What an amazing place it is!

What a year it's going to be. I am most looking forward to our Year 7 camp this year. I love the 'challenge by choice' at Camp Adair where all students can take on a challenge and push themselves to succeed.

Blessings,
Shane



Mr Shane Hutchinson
Year 7 Pastoral Leader

My name is Lydie Granat, and I am a trained Primary and Secondary school teacher with 12 years of teaching experience. I have been part of the team at Elim Christian College for the past six years. Prior to this, I was the Head of French at Howick College. I was born in France and lived in Nouméa, New Caledonia, for seven years before moving to New Zealand. I am fluent in both French and English and am passionate about sharing language and culture with my students. My husband, Mr Granat, is the Deputy Principal at the Botany Senior Campus, and we have been married for nearly 13 years. We have a beautiful daughter, Millie, who has just turned five. As a family, we love to travel, experience new cultures and food, enjoy good coffee, snowboard, surf, and spend time at the beach or in the snow. With family spread around the world, we often travel to California in the United States and Australia during the school holidays. I have always had a heart for worship and a passion for the arts, and I have been involved in singing and dancing throughout my life.

Year 8 marks a significant turning point in a student's journey, serving as the bridge between being a learner and becoming a leader. This year, our focus is on encouraging every student to embrace the process of maturing by stepping out of their comfort zone and into the wider life of the school. Whether it's captaining a sports team, joining the worship Team, or organising a charity bake sale, these extracurricular opportunities are where character is built. More importantly, these moments provide a platform for our school values to truly come alive. As students reach for new goals, serve their community, and influence those around them for the better, they develop a profound sense of lifelong confidence. By taking on leadership roles, no matter how big or small, our Year 8s are doing more than just representing the school; they are discovering exactly who they are and who God has called them to be.



Mrs Lydie Granat
Year 8 Pastoral Leader

INTRODUCING THE MIDDLE YEARS PASTORAL TEAM

Tena koutou katoa,

My name is Mr. Paul Gray, and I have the privilege of serving Elim this year as a Year 9 Science teacher, the Year 9 Pastoral Care Lead, and the coordinator for our Year 7 & 8 sports program.

I am passionate about the pursuit of truth—encouraging my students to understand the world by asking the big questions and engaging in respectful, rigorous debate. Beyond the classroom, I am a firm believer in the power of sport; I see it as a vital arena for young people to develop the social skills and resilience they'll carry for life.

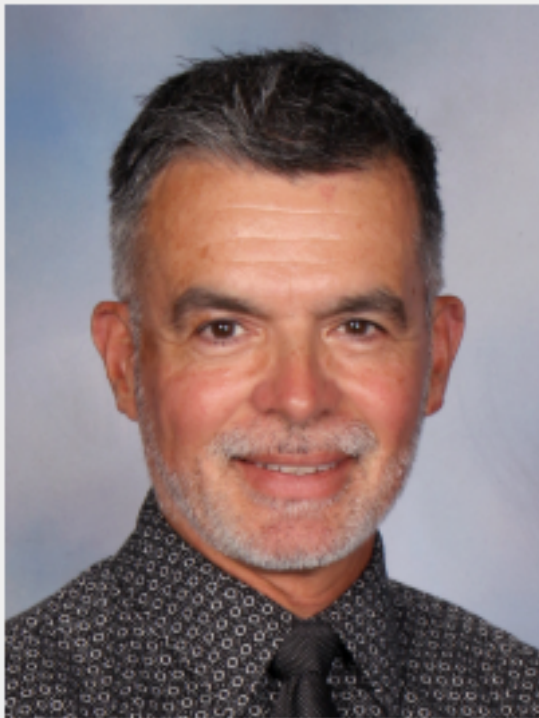
What drives my work most, however, is a deep respect for the individual. Drawing from the scriptural understanding of being created in God's image, I view every student as an "image-bearer"—someone born with innate dignity and value. My greatest hope for our Year 9s this year is that they truly understand their own worth. I want them to know that exactly who they are—without any changes—is someone of immense value who has a unique and necessary contribution to make to our society.

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa



Mr Paul Gray

Year 9 Pastoral Leader



Mr Andre Loubser

Assistant Lead Middle Years

I started at Cascade Christian College in 2001. Over the years, I have seen the school grow from a small school with about 150 students or so.

Today I have the privilege to work at a multi-site school with about 1070 students. I have taught years 7 to 13 over the years, covering subjects like Social Studies, Science, Math, Digital Technologies, Geography, Christian Living, and PE. I love working in the Middle Years area because of the zest for life our students have and the love for God they and my fellow colleagues have.

I enjoy seeing how our students mature into confident young people as they find their voice and direction in life. Our praise and worship assemblies are my favourite thing we do at school. I feel blessed to see some of my previous students now walk through the gates of our school as parents and colleagues. It is no doubt a sign of me getting old, but also that I have been part of something very special.

WHATS GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

On Tuesday 24th Feb we had a Y7&8 Boys and Girls team compete in the SEZ Tag Rugby tournament.

Both teams competed against 5 other local schools during the day. The competition was tough, but our students showed grit and resilience as they played each game. There was great team work, communication and skilled gameplay from all our players. A huge thank you to Mr. Gray and two Year 9 students, Amelie Butendach and Braelee Morales, for coaching and inspiring our teams. Both teams found joy in playing the sport, growing in their abilities and having fun even when you don't win every game, plus the venue and sunshine made for a great day out of class!



SEZ SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Recently, our boys' softball team proudly represented the school at the SEZ Tournament. The team showed great determination and skill throughout the day, with all games closely contested.

In their opening match against Sir Edmund Hillary School, the boys narrowly went down 5-4 in a thrilling finish, with the opposition scoring the winning run as the hooter sounded. Their second game against Ferguson Intermediate was equally intense. After taking an early 4-0 lead, the team fought hard but were edged out 5-4 in the final innings. Despite a number of close calls not going their way, the boys demonstrated impressive maturity and self-control, earning praise from all those supporting them.

In their final game, the team faced Farm Cove Intermediate and, although they were defeated 10-4, they continued to show resilience and teamwork.

Congratulations to Callan Bailey for being named Player of the Day, and to David Nickoley for achieving the biggest hits of the tournament.

Well done to all players for their effort, sportsmanship, and positive attitude throughout the competition.



SPLASHING SUCCESS AT SOUTH EASTERN ZONE SWIMMING

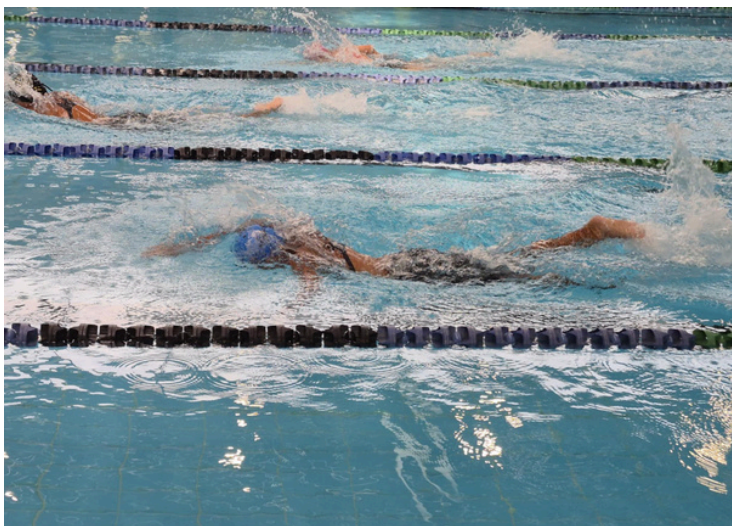
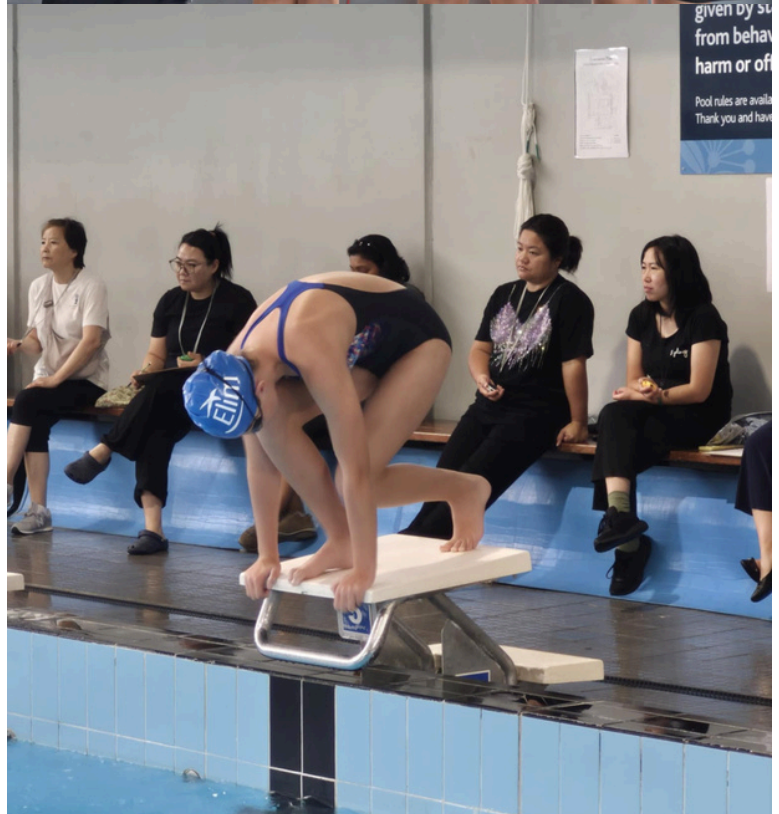
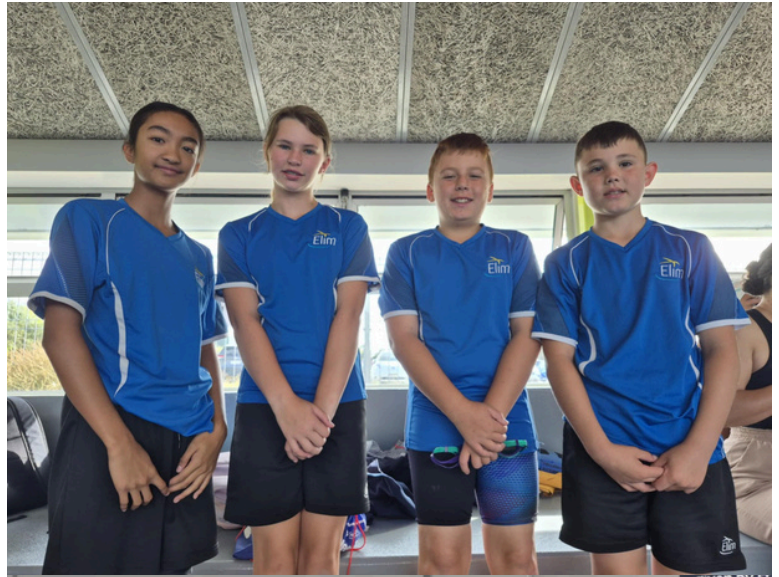
On Tuesday, 24th March, four of our talented Year 7 and 8 students headed to the South Eastern Zone Swimming competition at Lloyds Elmore. It was an action-packed day at the pool, with our small but mighty team diving into numerous events against some very tough competition.

We are incredibly proud of how all four students conducted themselves. They showed great sportsmanship, determination, and school spirit throughout the meet.

FINALIST SPOTLIGHT

A special mention must go to Sophia Lavin Balong-e, whose hard work in the water truly paid off. Sophia's speed and technique earned her a well-deserved spot in the finals for Butterfly, Backstroke and Breaststroke –fantastic effort, Sophia!

Making it to the finals at SEZ level is a huge achievement, well done everyone.



DESIGN IN THE REAL WORLD: YEAR 9 IKEA TRIP

On Monday, March 23, our Year 9 Product Design students stepped out of the workshop and into the aisles of IKEA for an immersive hands-on experience. Having already navigated the design process in class—moving from initial research and brainstorming to developing prototypes—this trip was the perfect opportunity to see professional manufacturing up close. Students spent the morning completing a Common Assessment Task (CAT), where they applied their classroom knowledge to evaluate real-world products.

The engagement was fantastic; students were seen testing furniture to understand ergonomics, analyzing different aesthetic finishes and exploring kaitiakitanga. To finalize their assessment, they got hands-on with measuring tapes, physically recording dimensions to ensure their technical drawings are accurate. Of course, no IKEA trip is complete without the iconic Swedish meatballs, providing a great chance for the class to relax and hang out with friends before diving back into their research.

The afternoon was dedicated to pure inspiration as students explored the showroom to kickstart CAT 03, a self-directed project where they will design their own original products. The feedback was positive, with students noting: "It was so cool to do a CAT outside of school and see the real thing" and "It was fun, inspiring and executed well."

A huge thank you to Mr. Loubser and Mrs. Booyesen for joining us and supporting the students throughout the day. We also extend our gratitude to the parents for supporting these opportunities for learning outside the classroom; these real-world experiences are invaluable for our young designers as they move into their next project.



OUR JUNIOR MASTERCHEFS HEAT UP THE KITCHEN!

By Mrs Nicole Kho

It's been a sizzling two weeks in the kitchen as our Year 7, 8, and 9 students competed in our MasterChef challenge! With a tight 75-minute window, students put their planning and adaptability to the test, learning the vital skill of substituting ingredients. Year 7s mastered the delicate Eggs Benedict, Year 8s showcased the versatility of Rīwai and Kūmara, and Year 9s focused on nutritional precision by crafting balanced meals. This focus on healthy eating reminds us of 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, where we are taught that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; by learning to cook nutritious food, we are honouring our health that God has given us.

Beyond the delicious results, it was a joy to see students collaborate and troubleshoot right until the final buzzer. Judging was incredibly tough, with teams evaluated on their use of staple ingredients, taste, garnishing and the "perfect plate" balance of 1/2 vegetables, 1/4 protein, and 1/4 carbohydrates. A huge thank you to Mr. André Loubser and Mr. Paul Gray for their expert (and difficult!) deliberation at the judging table!



PETIT DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS - FUN IN YEAR 9 FRENCH WITH MRS GRANAT





STUDENT SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS

THIS IS A COURTESY NOTICE ON BEHALF OF THE ELIM CHRISTIAN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ASSIST THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY IN TRAFFIC MOVEMENT AROUND THE GOLFLANDS CAMPUS DURING DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIME.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN. THROUGH OUR COLLECTIVE ACTIONS AROUND THIS MATTER, WE ENABLE POSITIVE LEARNING DEVELOPMENT FOR STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THEIR SAFETY AND OTHERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

SOME TIPS TO ASSIST WITH IMPROVING ROAD USER SAFETY:

WE APPRECIATE CHILDREN BEING ON TIME TO SCHOOL BUT IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE WITH YOUR CHILDREN, SAFETY IS STILL MORE IMPORTANT. YOU CAN SIMPLY TAKE THEM TO THE OFFICE TO SIGN IN.

PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE U-TURNS, RATHER USE THE SIDE STREETS OR LOOP AROUND BOB CHARLES DRIVE TO GO THE OTHER WAY.

MIDDLE YEARS STUDENTS WITH SIBLINGS IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THE SIDE ENTRANCES: SIMON OWEN AND MONTECITO PLACE. PLEASE ADHERE TO ROAD RULES IN THESE RESIDENTIAL ROADS.

IT IS AGAINST THE TRAFFIC LAWS TO PARK WITHIN 1 METRE OF A DRIVEWAY.

YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARK ON YELLOW NO-PARKING LINES.

NO DOUBLE PARKING IS PERMITTED.

NO VEHICLES ARE TO ENTER THE SCHOOL BUS BAY DURING PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF TIMES.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS MORE DIFFICULT WHEN THE WEATHER IS WET, HOWEVER PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL OTHER FAMILIES ARE ALSO BATTLING THE POOR WEATHER. CHILD SAFETY REMAINS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AND SO ROAD RULES STILL MUST BE ADHERED TO. ENSURE YOUR CHILD EXITS YOUR VEHICLE ONTO THE PAVEMENT SIDE, NOT THE ROADSIDE.

ALL ADULTS AND CHILDREN SHOULD BE USING THE DESIGNATED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING TO CROSS THE ROAD SAFELY AT ALL TIMES.

KINDO - LUNCH ORDERS

Elim Christian College

Ordering your
SCHOOL LUNCH
is easy via **KINDO APP**

**MON &
FRI**

SUBWAY



**TUES,
WEDS &
FRI**



U-SUSHI

THURS

PITA PIT



NEW

k

MYKINDO APP
IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FOR BOTH ANDROID AND IPHONE