



14/8/2025

Principal's Update

Kia Ora parents and caregivers,

This week, I have been reflecting on the meaning of **Righteousness**. The first mention of this in the Bible is when God invites Abram to count the stars (if he can!) and then promises that Abram's descendants will be as numerous as the stars. The next verse tells us that "*Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness*". This powerful, yet simple statement speaks to us of the power of choosing to believe in the promises of God. Abram didn't need to perform great deeds, or even to make sure he was following the law codes to be counted as righteous - only to choose to believe that God always speaks the truth and to accept God's word.

Today, as we go about our lives, it is still so important that we accept the word of God as trustworthy and true. As we base our lives on faithful obedience to God, He is always faithful to us.

Later in Jeremiah 22, God sends his prophet to the king of Judah to proclaim to him that the Lord says, "Do what is right and just". We might reasonably ask what it means to do what is right and just - does this mean making sure that I am in God's good books? Jeremiah is clear with the king about what God is asking - "*Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place*". To God, being just and right is about more than just our relationship with God; it is about how we treat those around us, especially those who are low in society's eyes and who have less power and resources than us.

Jesus also speaks about this in His sermon in the book of Matthew. There he tells us that "*if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift*". Jesus wants us to be living in right relationship with our brothers and sisters as a paramount priority.

To be righteous is to be in right relationship with God **and** with those around us. My challenge to us all (definitely including myself!) is to take another look at how we treat each other and how we put things right when we have caused hurt to our brothers and sisters. It is not only important to be "right with God". We must also be "right with each other" as much as is possible.

Notice of Strike Action - This does not include Elim Christian College

You may have seen in the media this week that Secondary school teachers will be taking strike action next week. This action does not include our school, as we are an Area school and operate under a different collective agreement. All levels of our school will continue to operate as normal.

Celebrations and congratulations

Over the last week, I have been fortunate to see several sports teams in action. I would like to congratulate the 1st XV boys' Basketball team for making the final in their competition. While they sadly were defeated in that game, I am so impressed by the hard work they have put in this year and the integrity and focus with which they play. It was inspiring to see them win with integrity in the semifinal, but then continue to show that integrity in the final. Well done!

The under-15 boys' football team will be playing in their final this weekend against Macleans College, and I look forward to supporting them as they try to top their competition.

I would like to congratulate Kaleb Arnold and Miriam Wallace. Kaleb won the Year 7 and 8 Rehu Tai Flashtalk competition, and Miriam won the Year 6 Rehu Tai rap competition. Congratulations to both of these students for their hard work and excellent communication skills!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who coach and manage our sports and cultural teams. Without your time and effort, our students would miss out on these important opportunities. I am personally very grateful for what you do - thank you!

International Students this term - farewell and Haere ra!

We have had a great month in August, hosting a number of international students from China and Japan. These students are finishing with us over the next two weeks and I would like to thank them for their contribution to our school life during the time they have been here. Thank you to all of you who have hosted students and made their time in New Zealand such a success.

Ngā mihi nui



Mr Julian Adamson
Principal