



1 May 2020

Kia Ora parents

Another week in the very different season has now been completed. Every day is filled with delights, discoveries, learning curves and quite a few challenges. This is so for teachers and will be the same for your homes no doubt.

Thank you again to our school community for your ongoing commitment this short week to learning by distance. Your feedback is highly useful, and we are listening. This is most certainly a time where self-management is upper most in the measure of success. The ability to teach and learn by distance places unforeseen demands on our senses, emotions, personal dispositions, family and corporate dynamics to name but a few aspects.

### **Finance**

Yes, as expected these are challenging times for all families regarding finances and the same applies to the school. I am forever grateful for the Board of Trustees Finance team who provide superb wisdom and guidance year on year regarding our financial position. We collectively value and appreciate that our families continue to invest in the education we provide. So, thank you parents for the attendance dues you pay to the Proprietors and for the PSCD (Proprietors Special Character Donation) that is passed onto us here at school.

**Reflection on Initial learnings** – one of the many aspects brought to my attention is the positive and strategic impact of software such as *'Education Perfect'* and other such offerings in this time of distance learning. The same applies to *Schoology* being used increasingly across our school. Such digital tools have really come even more into their own during this time and in many respects, education has been forever changed. Under MOE rules, we can no longer charge you for such tools which on an individual basis are not at all expensive but the combined cost for our school is beyond our budget. It is something we are grappling with because of the effectiveness of such offerings. We are also signalling that tools such as *Schoology* will open learning for all families, providing transparency for parents like never before. More to come on this later.

### **Next Week**

The majority of our families have chosen to continue guiding and working with distance learning. Although the pressure is there, thank you for doing this as it is by far the most helpful, we believe to the quest for nationwide eradication of the virus. Having said that, we will continue to work with the approved number of students we have at our Golflands Campus and we understand why they are there. I am grateful to the GC admin team who have set up what is essentially a quarantined site and although extremely restrictive, we are getting by.

### **Learning by Distance**

Again, thank you for your support. Please note the following:

1. Some teachers are teaching face to face and by distance – this may preclude them from getting back to your query immediately

2. There are a few students we have not seen online. For Y9-13 it is the student's firm responsibility to connect and self-manage; for Y1-8 there will be various factors at play for the parent and we know it is not always easy but do encourage your child to connect daily
3. We will gather everyone and everything together on our return to face to face schooling and build on what has been done, complete those things yet to do and fill in any gaps....this is all really doable with the collective will of the Elim community!

### **Well Being**

During this time of Coronavirus, many of us have experienced a variety of emotions ranging from fear to anxiety. This is especially true for our young people, making it more important than ever for adult carers to remain vigilant for any signs of distress.

### **This week we are sending you 2 Special Reports:**

#### **Wellbeing - Checklist for Primary**

Whilst most children are resilient and seem to be demonstrating a remarkable capacity to manage during this challenging time, others are not faring as well. Some are experiencing a variety of emotions ranging from fear to anxiety, all of which are considered normal or natural responses to this current situation.

Adult carers should remain vigilant for any signs of unusual distress or behaviour. In this Report, adult carers will be provided with a checklist that can be used as a guide in determining if there is any cause for concern.

[https://schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-wellbeing-checklist-primary](https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-wellbeing-checklist-primary)

#### **Wellbeing - Checklist for Secondary**

The global pandemic is having a profound impact on our adolescents with many being forced to miss out on so many rites of passage. Some are becoming more anxious or depressed which is completely understandable given the current situation but it may be a cause for concern.

Adolescents are considered to be more at risk of anxiety and depression disorders which may affect their mood, thinking and behaviour. It can impact their ability to function and perform normal activities. Early intervention, diagnosis and treatment is more important than ever. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Report.

[https://schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-wellbeing-checklist-secondary](https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-wellbeing-checklist-secondary)

If you have concerns and would like to talk it through confidentially with a counsellor, please contact Yvette Britten directly on [Yvette.britten@elim.school.nz](mailto:Yvette.britten@elim.school.nz). She can also point you in the direction of further support if you feel that would be helpful.



We conclude this update with the following prayer.

Thanks to Jiun Singh for these powerful words:

*“Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love and care to our nation and our Elim community. Your protection is in full displace in our nation and the lives of Your people. Lord, we have many confessions to make, and right now we kneel our hearts before you in petition. We confess our helplessness in this unfamiliar and uncertain pandemic climate, please forgive our ignorance, self-centeredness, conceited, atheism and agnostic beliefs. In this climate, we see the fragility of human bodies, our arrogant self-proclamation of the greatness of the economy that we have built, the advancement of the technology that we created and our hoarded resources and materials.*

*Lord, you promise that when we turn back to You and we choose to seek Your FACE, You will forgive us, You will show us Your mercy and grace. Lord, You are a good God who forgives and is slow to anger. Right now, in the presence of Your love, we seek You. Have mercy on us all, help us to believe and reveal Yourself to us Jesus, so in our souls and spirits, we will know that You will make a way where there seems no way. Let our faith build in the work that we cannot see, bless our spirits to trust in You and our souls to know that You are holding us close to Your side. Each day You give us manna of guidance and strength to face new days. In our financial desert, You will provide our needs, in our wilderness, You are making something new! We thank you and give you all our praises in our redeemer's name Jesus Christ we pray, amen!”*

*Nga mihi  
Regards*

*Murray*

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*“.....courage is contagious..”*