



Kia Ora everyone

This is my final Principal's Update for 2022.

School finishes for 2022 for all students tomorrow at 2.50pm

It has for a variety of reasons, been a very challenging year for our nation and as a subset of that, our school community. There remains still, much physical unwellness such as we hadn't seen to the same extent before COVID. Additionally, and most importantly some students and their families have faced significant mental wellness issues while students having demanding gaps in their learning remains a goal for home and school.

It would be irresponsible to dismiss the above when I go on to say that God in HIS providence has guided, directed, protected, and graced us all throughout the year. Yet the truth is HE has, and we will never know just how blessed we have been by HIM until someday in the future. As a school we have, alongside you, daily committed everything to God's faithful care.

Thank you to our school community for walking the journey with us, thank you for trusting us with your tamariki's care, their learning, and the shaping of character. We appreciate each and all our families and what is done in the home. It is a partnership worth developing further in 2023. We look forward to doing this.

The list is endless of the help we have been given by the Elim whanau. The fundraising, transport, coaching and managing teams, running cultural groups, the work of the Board, the ARISE prayer, the working bees and as I say ...the list is ongoing!

It was a very special time at GC this past week as GC staff provided a morning tea for parent helpers - the sense of community was very strong, and much mention was made of doing all that we do so that our blessed tamariki grow in Christ.

Each campus has thrived and moved from in some cases 58% attendance, to almost all students being back on site and completing the year well. I thank our Campus Leads for their stunning resilient leadership superbly supported by our Teaching and Learning Assistant teams' week in week out.

It has been a year in which we have been challenged by external vandalism and stealing - this has not been a feature of our properties ever before. Our reviews have hopefully brought a tightening of security and we pray that we will not continue to be subject to this again in 2023.

Most certainly over the past few weeks it has been such a delight to hold face to face prize giving events, celebrating student progress and achievement. If your child is returning next year and you would like to review their progress and achievement with us at the earliest possible opportunity, we would welcome and provide for that in the new year.

As we said at the start of 2022, this year for us as school, was always going to be a financially challenging one and this has proven to be the case. Climbing out of difficult times financially is hard for us and for you as families also. With huge gratitude and humility, we thank all those whanau who have been able to contribute the special character donation, the camp fees, the subscriptions for such things as mathex, the contributions for Seesaw, schoology and education perfect ...wow we so appreciate this.

If any families can still make the special character donation (tax deductible) it will dramatically help and of course there is the legislative requirement to pay the proprietor the attendance dues.

There are however quite a number of sport fees remaining unpaid and if the sports dept is to continue its equitable provision and winning way, fees from everyone are needed. If your child wishes to play in 2023, the fees for 2022 must be paid this week.

Please would you take time this week to return all school property if you haven't already. We particularly need textbooks and readers back for storage, cataloguing and repair. Sports and/or music equipment must come in and sports uniforms should come back urgently, washed and in good repair.

We sadly farewell a number of staff this week. Mention was made of this in some prize giving ceremonies and in campus newsletters, but I would like to thank all who are moving on for their stellar and significant contribution to the life of this school. With no intention to leave staff out I would however like to mention:

- Mrs Ruth Scott - retiring from MAC after 34+ years
- Mr Jon McPhail, GCJY Campus Lead has won an Associate Principal position
- Mr Luke Rutland... to an Assistant Principal position in Australia

God bless all departing staff in their new season.

Here are a few final notices and key dates for 2023 (also found on our website)

1. All campus offices close this Friday **16 December** at 2:00pm
2. Campus offices reopen Tuesday **24 January** from 9:00am - 2:00pm
3. Campus Leadership teams meet **26/27 January**
4. Monday 30 January is Auckland Anniversary Day
5. **Tuesday 31 Jan - Thursday 2 Feb:** All staff participate in professional development 2023 set up
6. **Friday 3 Feb is Week 1:**
 - All **Y1-10** students start at **MAC** for the full day
 - All **Y1-6** students start at **GCJY** for the full day
 - **All Y7 and Y9 students who are new to GCMY** attend all day
 - Y11-13 at both Botany and MAC attend only to sort their options as needed

7. Monday 6 February is Waitangi Day - a **public holiday**
8. **Tuesday 7 February Y1-13 students all attend for all day!**

If over the break there are any enrolment enquiries, families wishing to apply for enrolment or any current Elim families who are suddenly not returning - please use our website to email our enrolments team. Emails will be cleared from January 9th.

Meri kirihimete whanau

*We weren't expecting. We weren't interested. We weren't involved.
We didn't ask. We didn't deserve. We didn't help. We didn't even imagine.
And yet: "To us a child is born; to us a son is given."*

Face of God on spotify

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6DEve01Q8cnzt698HJyl9D?si=xsKtTijQB6VTzkzZ-9rjA&context=spotify%3Aplaylist%3A37i9dQZF1DX6vY2LqhGLU1>

Jude 24-25

"And now to him who can keep you on your feet, standing tall in his bright presence, fresh and celebrating—to our one God, our only Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Master, be glory, majesty, strength, and rule before all time, and now, and to the end of all time. Yes."

***Nga mihi nui
Regards***

Murray

***Murray Burton MNZM
B.Ed Dip Tchg
PRINCIPAL / TUMUAKI***