



Principal's Update Friday 20 August 2021

Kia Ora one and all

I wish to thank you all so much for your support for teaching staff as they once again have engaged with online learning. Thank you for everything you are doing at home to navigate this abrupt new season.

1. The Prime Minister brought an update 3:00pm today, 20 August 2021. In that update I relay to you the following:
 - **Auckland remains at Alert Level 4 for 7 days**; the rest of New Zealand gets extended to 7 days as well.
 - All contacts are to please stay at home and isolate
 - Everyone is to stay at home and stick to your bubble
 - You must wear a face mask when you're out and about
 - You must wash your hands and scan-in where've you go

2. A word from our counselling team-

"I am very aware that many families may, for a variety of reasons, feel anxious and concerned about this latest outbreak. Please be encouraged to hold onto what is constant – your faith in Christ, your family and your connection with friends. Phil 4:7 says "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." At this time, some students are thriving and some are struggling. If your child would like to speak with our school counsellor please use the link to make contact: [Counselling Referral Form](#) or email yvette.britten@elim.school.nz. Encourage your children to reach out to each other and check in on each other. Having a sense of purpose, feeling helpful and having a sense of whanaungatanga at times like these are powerful resilience factors and a genuine help for getting through this together."

3. A word regarding testing:

There are probably a number of people in our wider school community who are getting tested due to being at a location of interest or because they have symptoms or are a close contact. Getting a test if you need to or are required to is the right thing to do and we all thank you for doing that. While it is wise to avoid causing panic, we also are here to support each other through those times. If information is shared, respect it. Information can be empowering, and it can produce fear. Here are some thoughts to consider: **Bear in mind...**

- People going for a test for whatever reason may feel vulnerable and need to chat for some support as they wait for the result.

- If anyone shares their personal medical info with you (eg. that they went for a covid test) because they are needing a bit of support through their worries, keep it to yourself as it is their info to share not yours.
- If you feel panicked by your own situation or something someone has shared with you about this- do give yourself permission to feel your feelings (it's okay to feel a little worried), then breathe deeply and pray, and support each other through this. We are in this together.

4. Commentary from the Principals' Federation President -

"The signs simply said, 'Stay Home, Save Lives'. That's it, in a nutshell. As the world struggles to contain the new COVID variants, we are so fortunate to live in this beautiful country of Aotearoa New Zealand, where everyone cares enough for each other, to comply with the health advice our government has issued. The COVID community cases we currently see won't be the last challenge we have to deal with in the ongoing management of this lethal virus. I enjoy following the Twitter feed of Dr Judy Melinek, a San Franciscan, who accepted a position as a pathologist in Wellington to escape the unfolding tragedy that is the management of COVID in the United States. It is ironic that she is a pathologist. She knows more than most the deadly dangers of this virus running rampant. Her Twitter feed is full of amazement that a country such as ours can call a national level 4 lockdown based on one case; that we are all subject to emergency alerts on our cell phones, informing us clearly about our responsibilities; and that we listen to the advice of Government because we know that we really are our brother's keeper. I am proud that in a time of significant crisis, New Zealanders continue to collectively care enough to act in the interest of others, especially our most vulnerable."

Fono News:

5. As a school we are here announcing two opportunities for our Pacific families to join us for a Fono.
 - The first is a **zoom session this Monday evening 23 August at 7:00pm** purely around a Covid-19 discussion and supports that are available for Pacific families.
 - The second is take place **face to face on Wednesday 22 September**, time and venue to be advised. We will send an invitation to each Pacific family for this Fono. We have been working with advisors and this promises to be a great time together

Invitation below for our Monday COVID discussion evening:

*Kia Orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Malo ni, Talofa, Fakatalofa atu, Mālō e lelei, Ni Sa Bula
Vinaka, Talofa lava, Noa'ia, Mauri*

Warm Pacific Greetings Pacific Parents/Guardians, we extend a warm invitation to you to attend our Elim Pacific Zoom Fono co-hosted by Murray Burton (Principal), Chhaya Narayan (Pacific Lead-school-wide) and Chermayne Gibson (Pacific Lead, Golflands Campus). We will

be sharing key information around the current COVID-19 National lockdown and supports in place for your learners. Please join us on the link given below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85629684305?pwd=K1lYQkg4QytLQWwwVkIEUDcwd09Edz09>

The COVID Lockdown is a crucial time, and we are working hard to ensure Pacific communities are well-informed, have the opportunity to ask questions, raise any issues and concerns, and receive feedback in this forum for clarification and reassurance.

And lastly

- 6. Hui** – we be shortly advise the date, venue and time for a hui for our Maori parents. This will be face to face. We have been working with advisors and this promises to be a great time together

Have a good weekend everyone and we will see you again Monday for more online learning.

Nga mihi nui

Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL